# Inequality & Social protection in Asia and the Pacific

Kaveh Zahedi
Deputy Executive Secretary for Sustainable Development
ESCAP

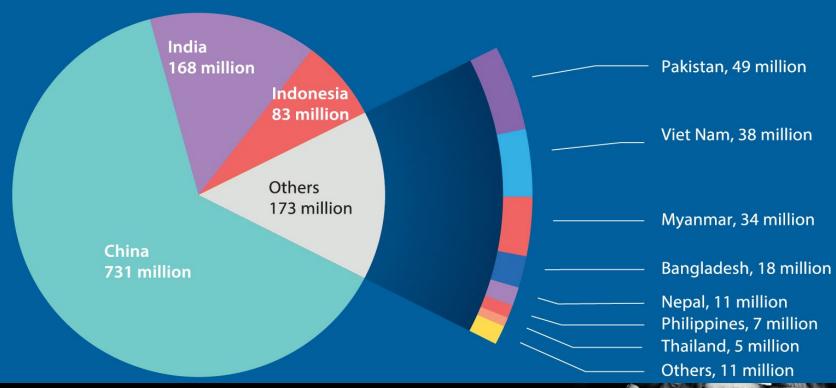
Commission for Social Development, 57<sup>th</sup> session, 13 February 2019





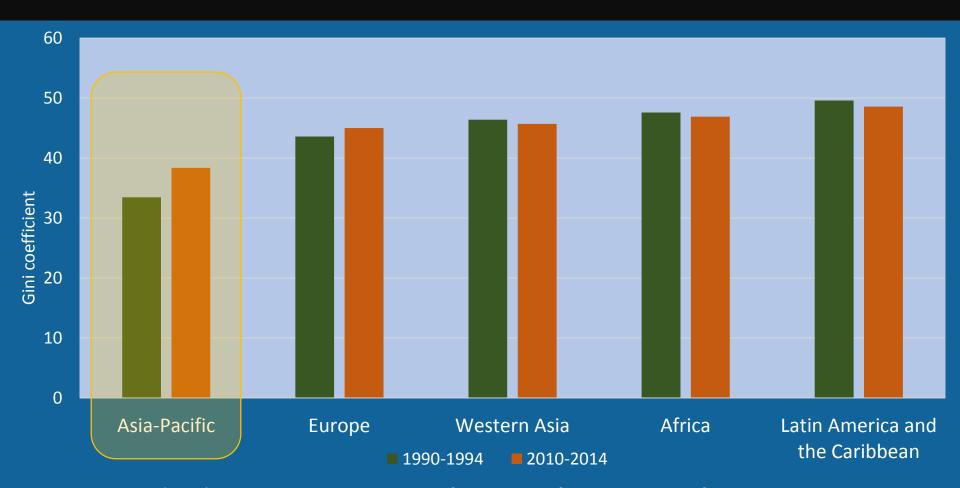
### Progress & challenges in Asia-Pacific

Number of people lifted out of extreme poverty in the Asia-Pacific region between 1990 and 2013





## Income inequality is on the rise



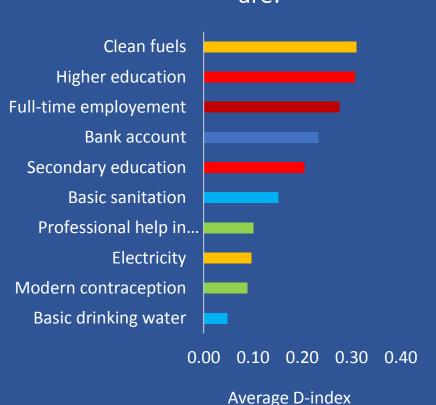
Source: ESCAP (2018). *Inequality in Asia and the Pacific in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.* 



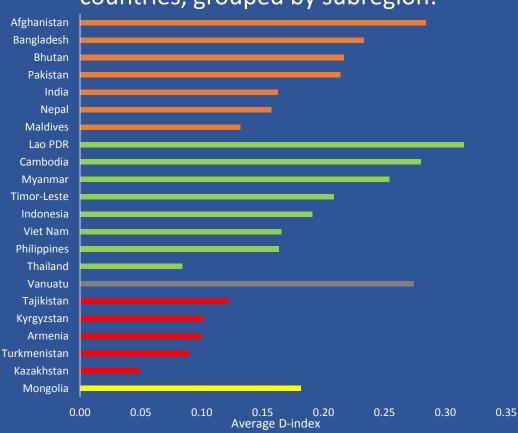


### Inequality of opportunity also rising

The most unequally distributed opportunities in Asia-Pacific are:



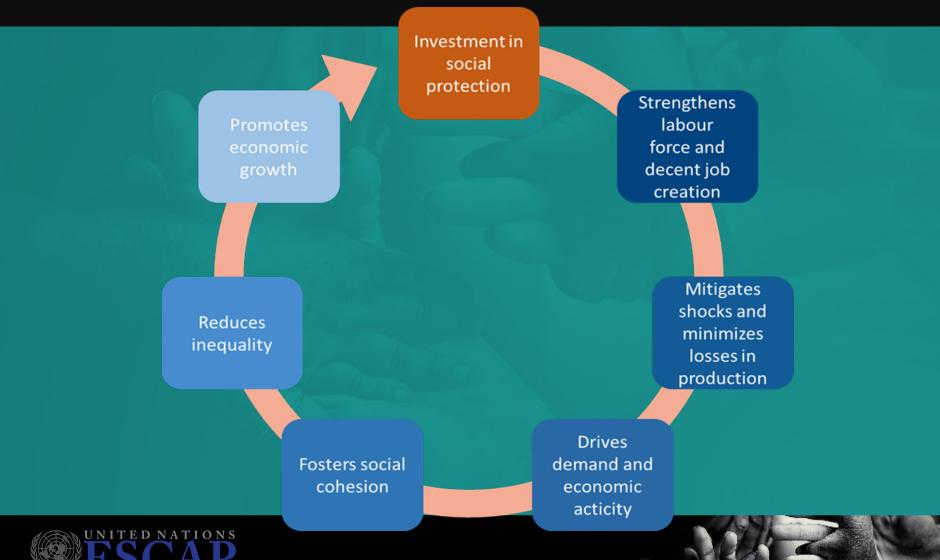
Average D-indices in Asia-Pacific countries, grouped by subregion:







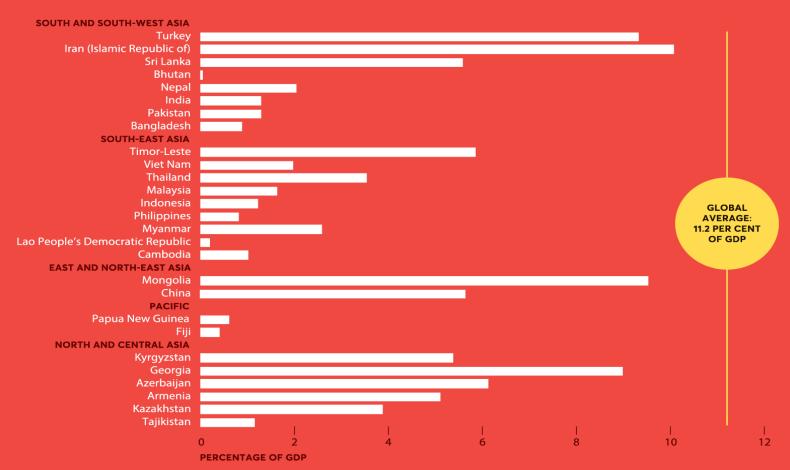
# Social protection is an effective tool against poverty and inequality



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

## Asia Pacific investment in social protection below global levels

Public spending on social protection as share of GDP





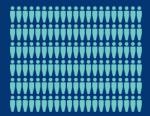


#### Many more people could be lifted out of poverty with increased social protection



**2020** 

PEOPLE IN THE REGION LIFTED OUT OF POVERTY



126 million

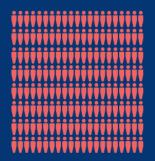
**COUNTRIES ENDING POVERTY** 

- **Azerbaijan**
- Malaysia
- **Thailand**



YEAR 2025

PEOPLE IN THE REGION LIFTED OUT OF POVERTY



167 million

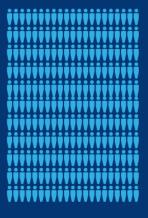
COUNTRIES ENDING POVERTY

- China
- Mongolia
- **Turkey**



YEAR 2030

PEOPLE IN THE REGION LIFTED OUT OF POVERTY



233 million

COUNTRIES ENDING POVERTY

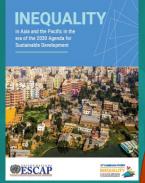
- **Armenia**
- Fiji
- **Tajikistan**
- **Viet Nam**





# ESCAP's three service lines aligned to support member States delivering on their social development ambitions





Policyoriented research & analysis Intergovernmen
tal
convening
and
consensus
building

Technical support and capacity building













#### Keep up to date at http://www.unescap.org



twitter.com/unescap



facebook.com/unescap



youtube.com/unescap











