Inequality & Social protection in Asia and the Pacific

Kaveh Zahedi
Deputy Executive Secretary for Sustainable Development
ESCAP

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Progress & challenges in Asia-Pacific

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

- China: 731 million
- India: 168 million
- Indonesia: 83 million
- Others: 173 million

- Pakistan: 49 million
- Viet Nam: 38 million
- Myanmar: 34 million
- Bangladesh: 18 million
- Nepal: 11 million
- Philippines: 7 million
- Thailand: 5 million
- Others: 11 million
Income inequality is on the rise

- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- Western Asia
- Africa
- Latin America and the Caribbean

Inequality of opportunity also rising

The most unequally distributed opportunities in Asia-Pacific are:

- Clean fuels
- Higher education
- Full-time employment
- Bank account
- Secondary education
- Basic sanitation
- Professional help in...
- Electricity
- Modern contraception
- Basic drinking water

Average D-indices in Asia-Pacific countries, grouped by subregion:
Social protection is an effective tool against poverty and inequality.

- Investment in social protection
  - Promotes economic growth
  - Reduces inequality
  - Fosters social cohesion
  - Mitigates shocks and minimizes losses in production
  - Strengthens labour force and decent job creation
  - Drives demand and economic activity
Asia Pacific investment in social protection below global levels

Public spending on social protection as share of GDP

- SOUTH AND SOUTH-WEST ASIA
  - Turkey
  - Iran (Islamic Republic of)
  - Sri Lanka
  - Bhutan
  - Nepal
  - India
  - Pakistan
  - Bangladesh

- SOUTH-EAST ASIA
  - Timor-Leste
  - Viet Nam
  - Thailand
  - Malaysia
  - Indonesia
  - Philippines
  - Myanmar
  - Lao People's Democratic Republic
  - Cambodia

- EAST AND NORTH-EAST ASIA
  - Mongolia
  - China

- PACIFIC
  - Papua New Guinea
  - Fiji

- NORTH AND CENTRAL ASIA
  - Kyrgyzstan
  - Georgia
  - Azerbaijan
  - Armenia
  - Kazakhstan
  - Tajikistan

GLOBAL AVERAGE: 11.2 PER CENT OF GDP

PERCENTAGE 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:
1. Azerbaijan
2. Malaysia
3. Thailand

**2025**

People in the region lifted out of poverty: 167 million

Countries ending poverty:
1. China
2. Mongolia
3. Turkey

**2030**

People in the region lifted out of poverty: 233 million

Countries ending poverty:
1. Armenia
2. Fiji
3. Tajikistan
4. Viet Nam
ESCAP’s three service lines aligned to support member States delivering on their social development ambitions

Policy-oriented research & analysis

Inter-governmental convening and consensus building

Technical support and capacity building