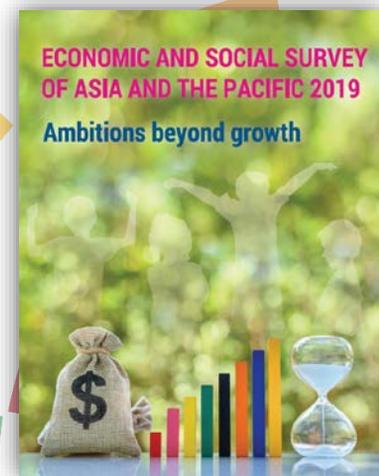


Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2019

Ambitions beyond growth

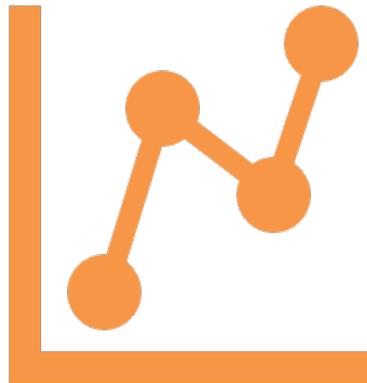
Washington, D. C.

Sweta C. Saxena



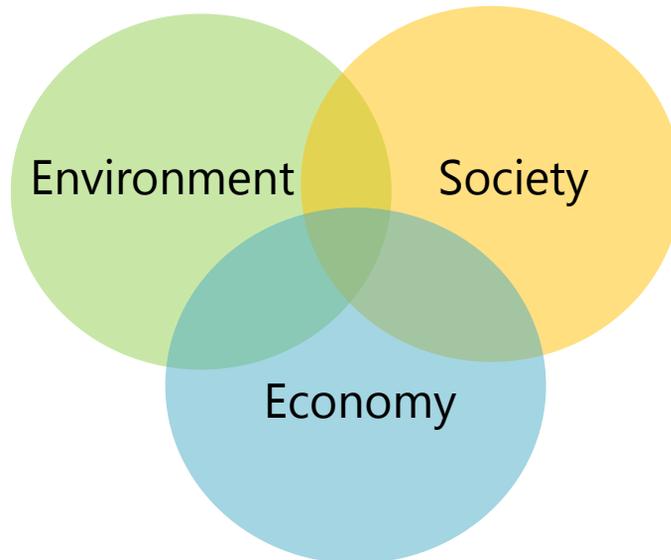
MAIN MESSAGES

- Economic growth in the region has come at a cost of social inclusiveness and environmental degradation



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- Time to raise our ambitions beyond economic growth



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MAIN MESSAGES

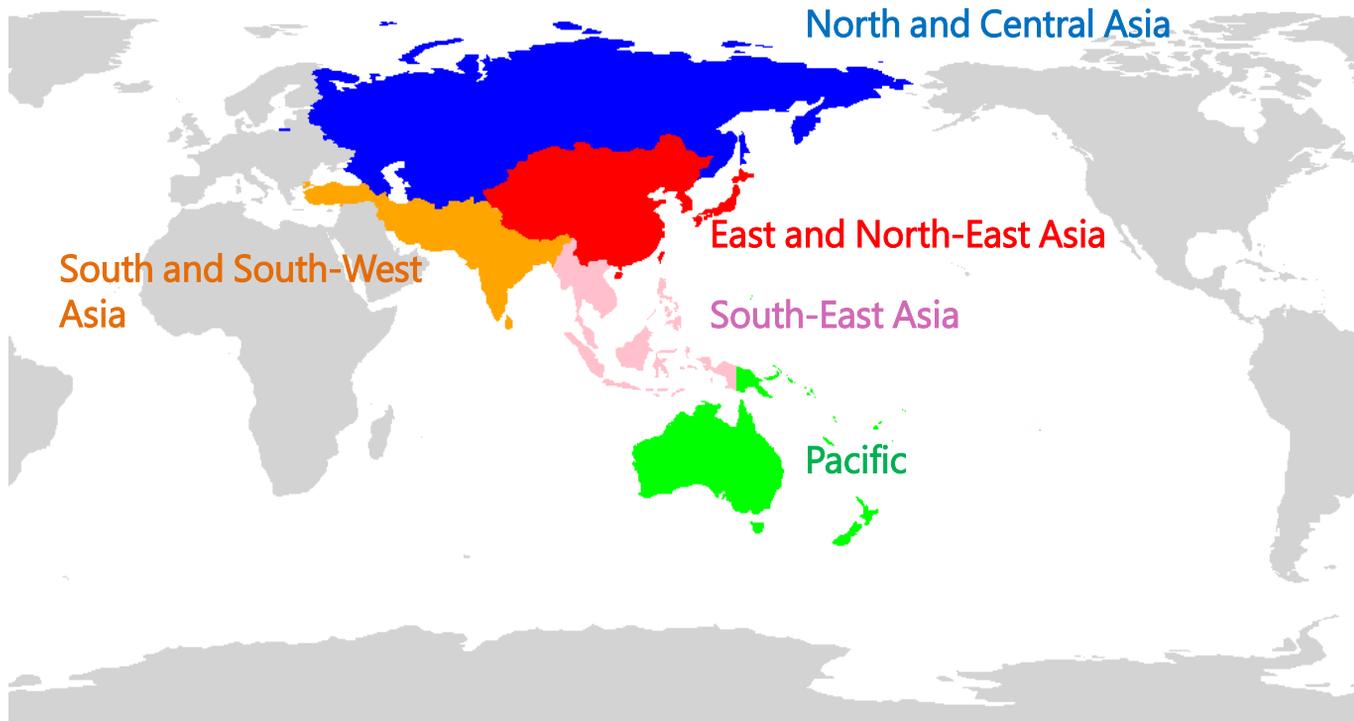
- Economic growth in the region has come at a cost of social inclusiveness and environmental degradation
- Time to raise our ambitions beyond economic growth
- Need an annual additional investment of **\$1.5 trillion \approx \$1/person/day \approx 5 per cent of GDP** to achieve 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Requires a shift in mindset – putting the well-being of people and the planet first!
- These ambitions are largely affordable with strong development partnership



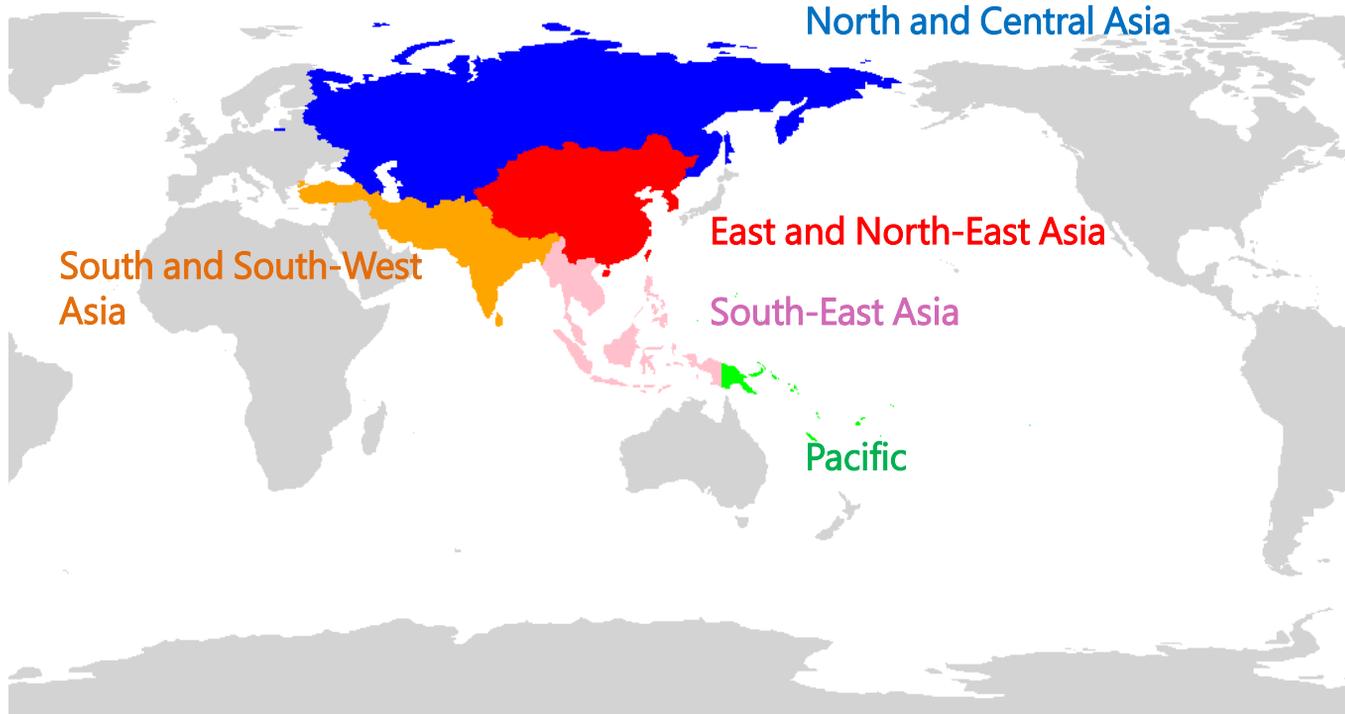
An aerial photograph of a city, likely in Asia, showing a stark contrast between modern high-rise buildings and a dense, low-rise residential area. The modern buildings are tall, with glass facades and white facades, while the residential area consists of many small, closely packed houses with red-tiled roofs. The text 'About Asia-Pacific region' is overlaid in the center of the image.

About Asia-Pacific region

ESCAP's definition of the Asia-Pacific region

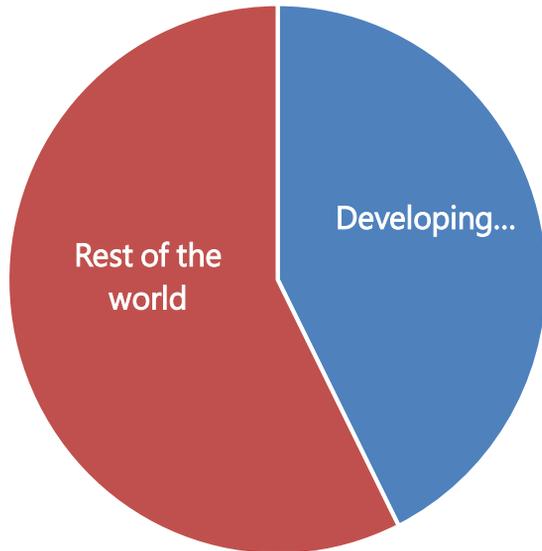


ESCAP's definition of the developing Asia-Pacific region



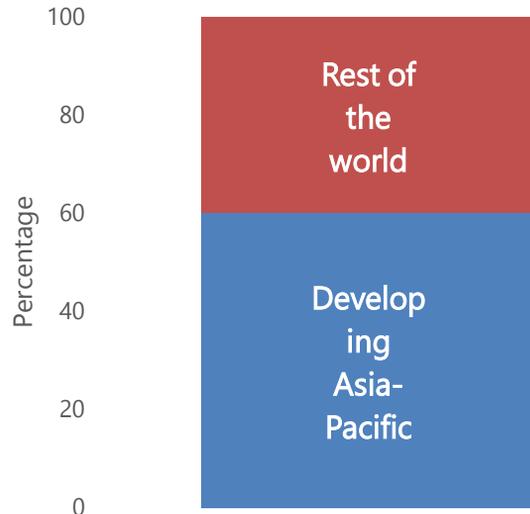
Asia-Pacific region has become the world's economic powerhouse

The region accounts for about 40 per cent of the world total output (as of 2017)...



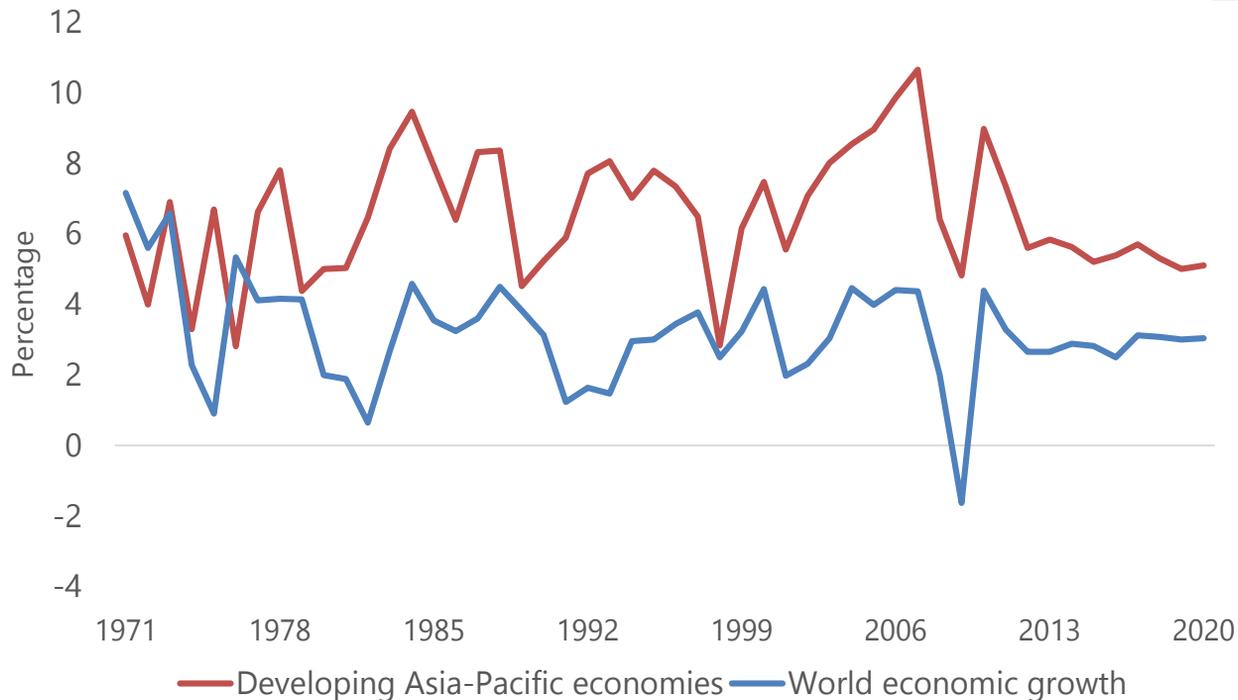
Source: World Bank data (accessed 8 April 2019)

... and contributes to over 60 per cent of global economic growth

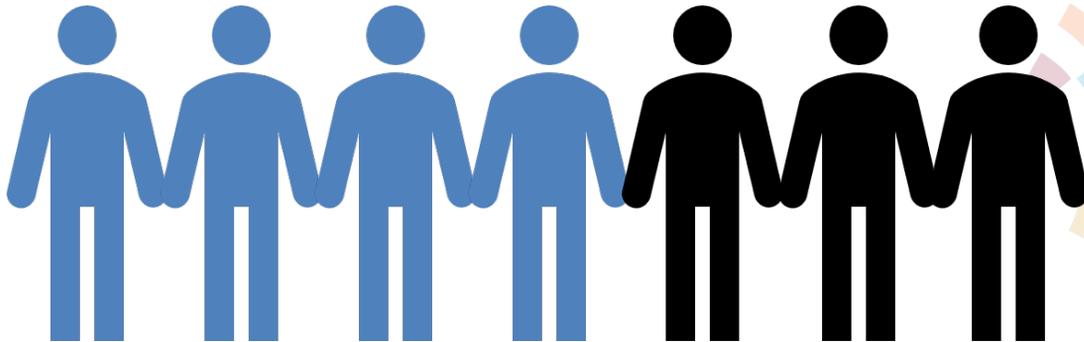


Source: ESCAP, 2017

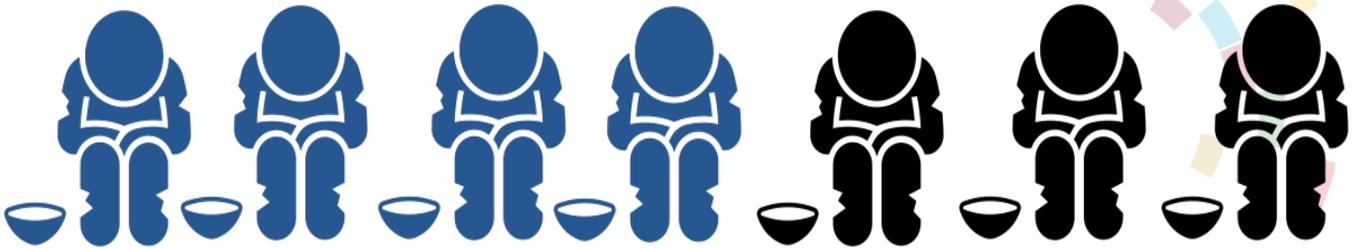
Asia-Pacific region has continued to drive the world economic growth



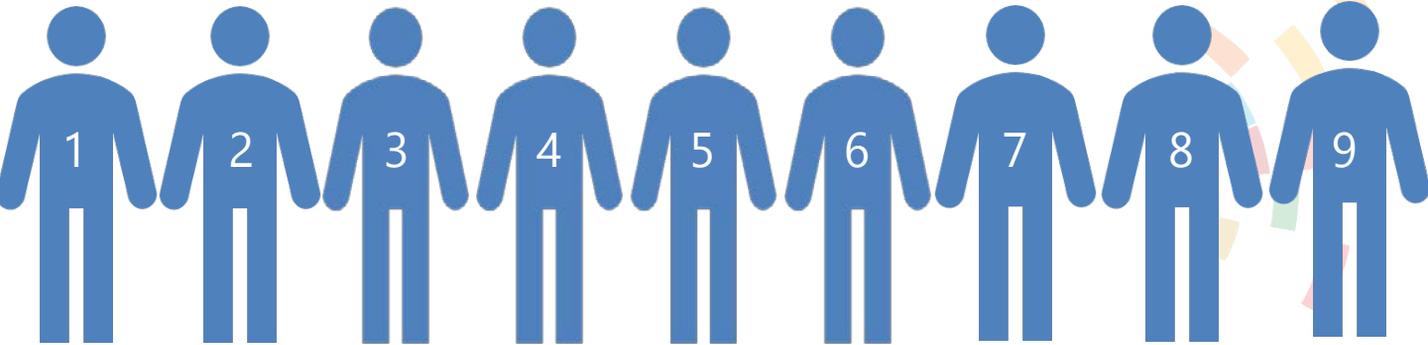
4 out of 7 people in the world live in
the Asia-Pacific region



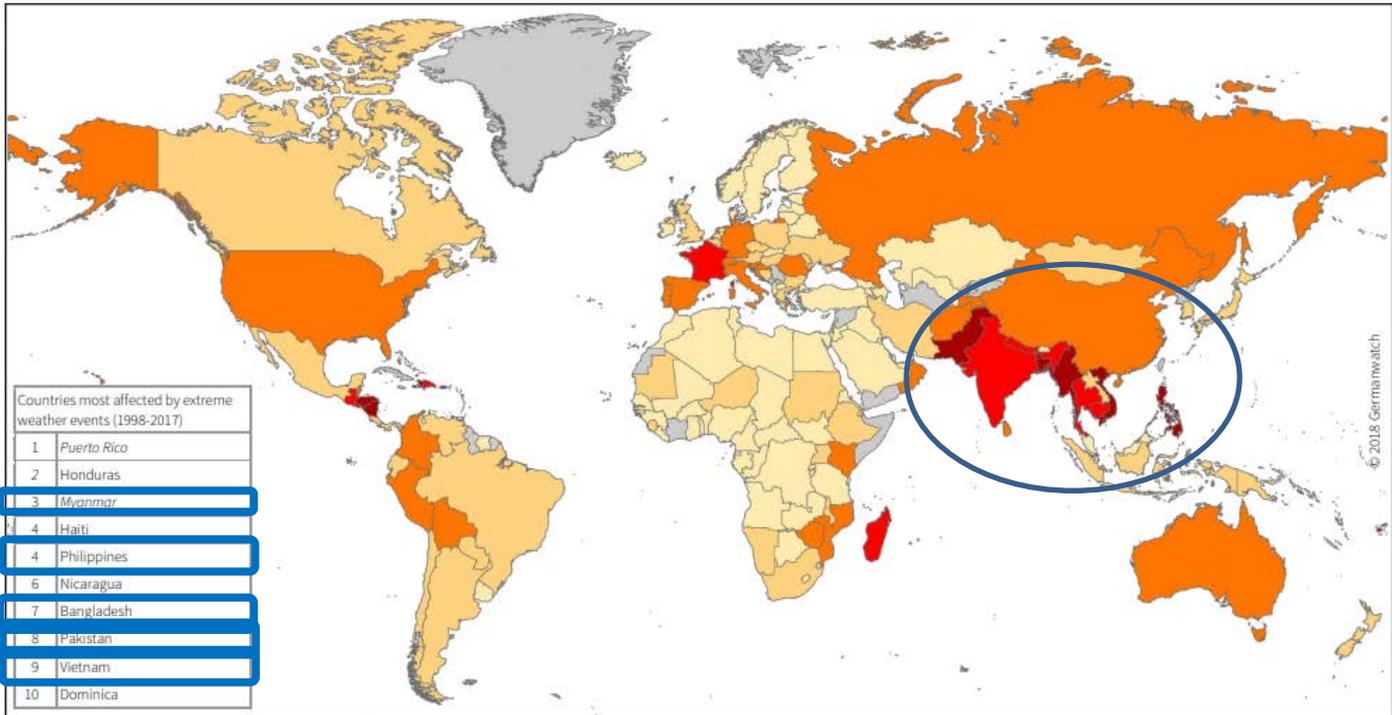
4 out of 7 people in extreme poverty in the world live in the developing Asia Pacific region...



...1 of 10 people from the region lives in extreme poverty



5 out of the top 10 countries in the world that are most severely affected by climate change are located in the region



Italics: Countries where more than 90% of the losses or deaths occurred in one year or event

Climate Risk Index: Ranking 1998 - 2017 1-10 11-20 21-50 51-100 >100 No data

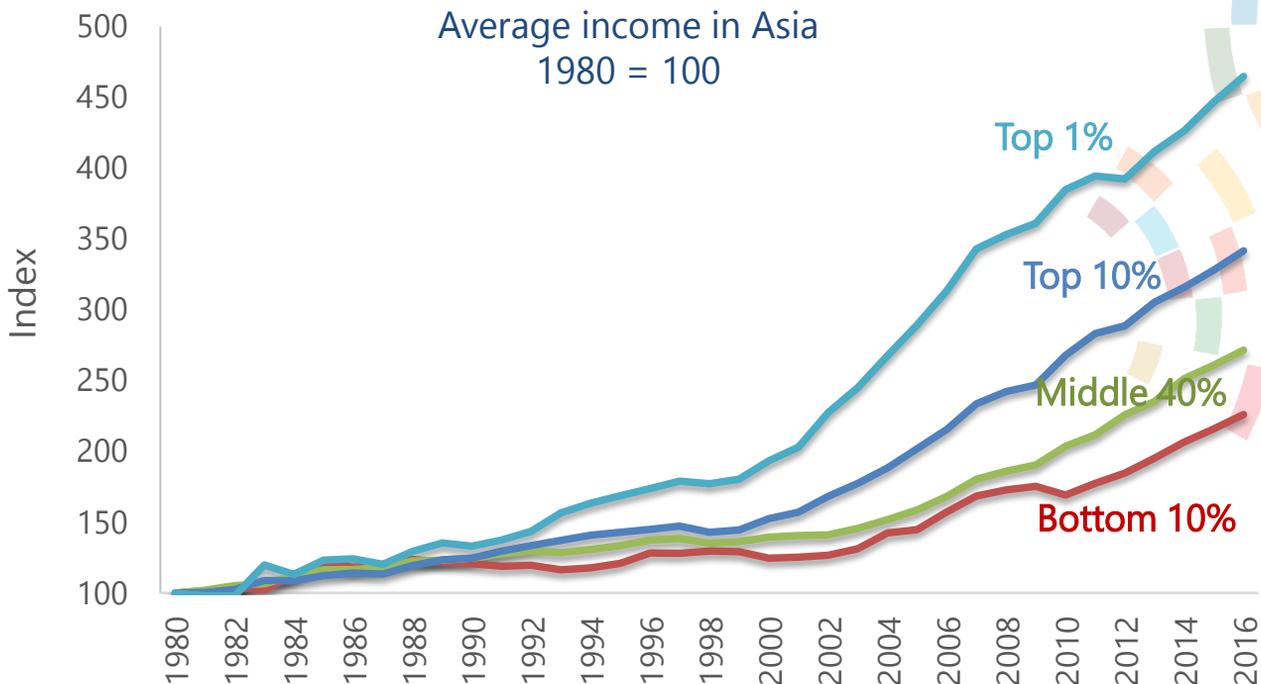
Figure 1: World Map of the Global Climate Risk Index 1998–2017

Source: Germanwatch and Munich Re NatCatSERVICE

Future economic policies **CANNOT** focus on growth alone



Focusing on growth alone has come at a cost to social inclusiveness ...



Source: World Inequality database (accessed on 31 January 2019)

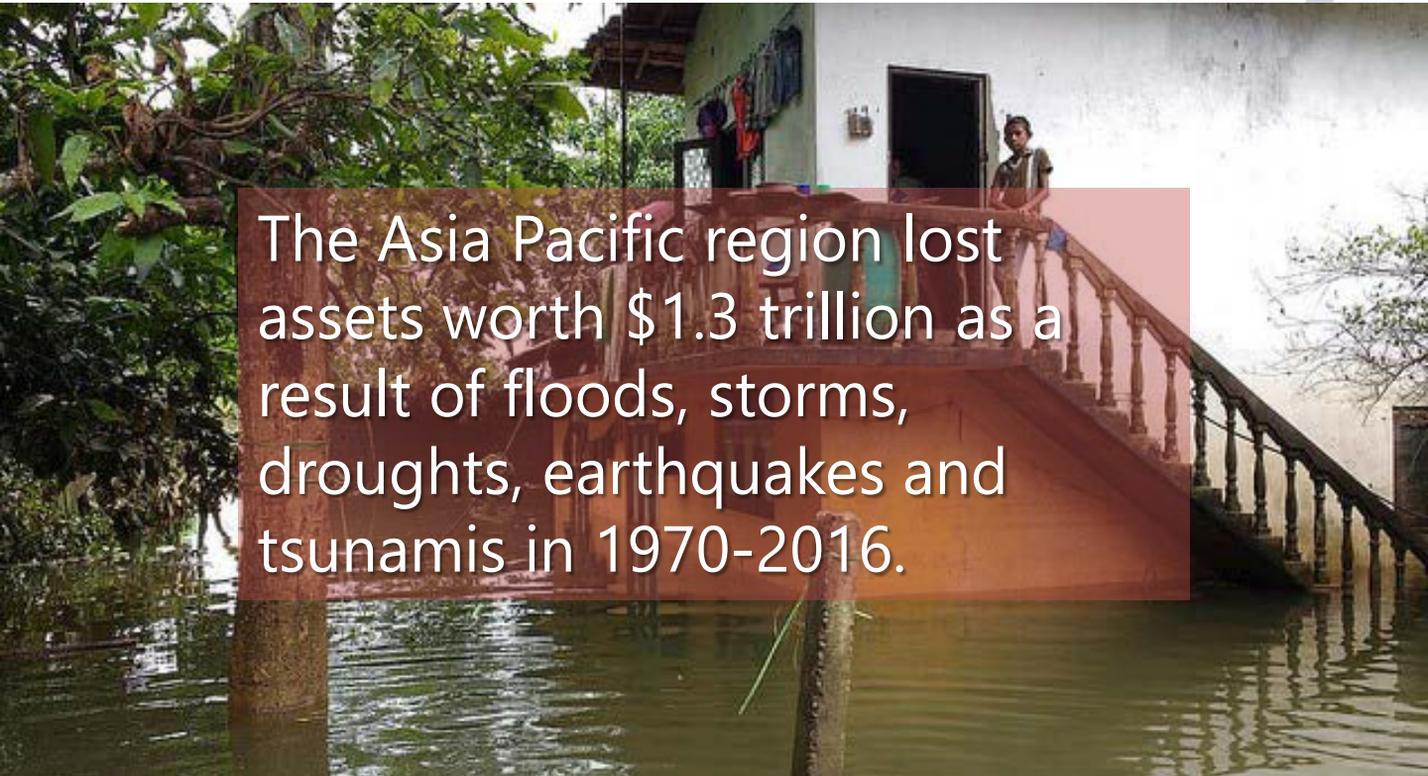
Air Pollution

The region witnessed the sharpest increase in premature deaths as a result of ambient air pollution between 1990 and 2015.

Climate risk

In 2017, carbon emissions from Asia-Pacific consumption of oil, gas and coal alone rose to nearly 49 per cent of the world total.

Climate disasters

A photograph showing a flooded area. In the foreground, there is a wooden staircase leading up to a house. A person is standing on the stairs. The water is murky and reflects the sky. There are trees and foliage on the left side of the image.

The Asia Pacific region lost assets worth \$1.3 trillion as a result of floods, storms, droughts, earthquakes and tsunamis in 1970-2016.

A hand is shown holding a small green seedling over a stack of coins. In the background, there is a bar chart with four bars of increasing height, colored yellow, pink, blue, and green. The entire scene is set against a dark, textured background that looks like soil. The text "For a future that we want: Investment in Sustainable Development Goals" is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

For a future that we want:
Investment in Sustainable
Development Goals

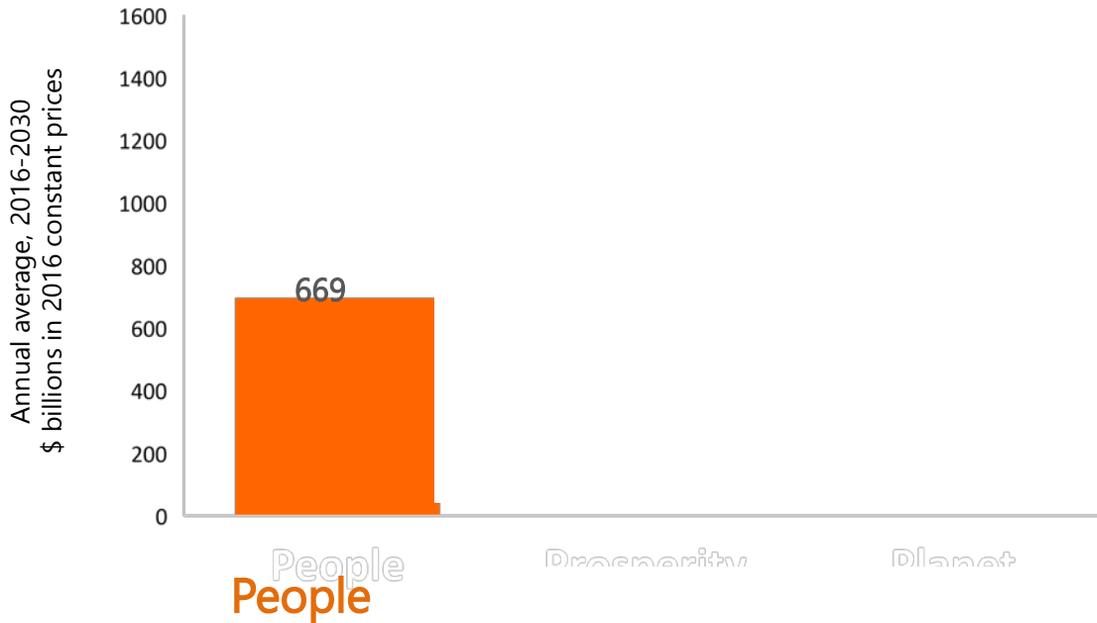
From 17 Goals to 3 dimensions...
 spanning **people**, **prosperity** and **the planet** ...
 supported by good governance and strong partnerships



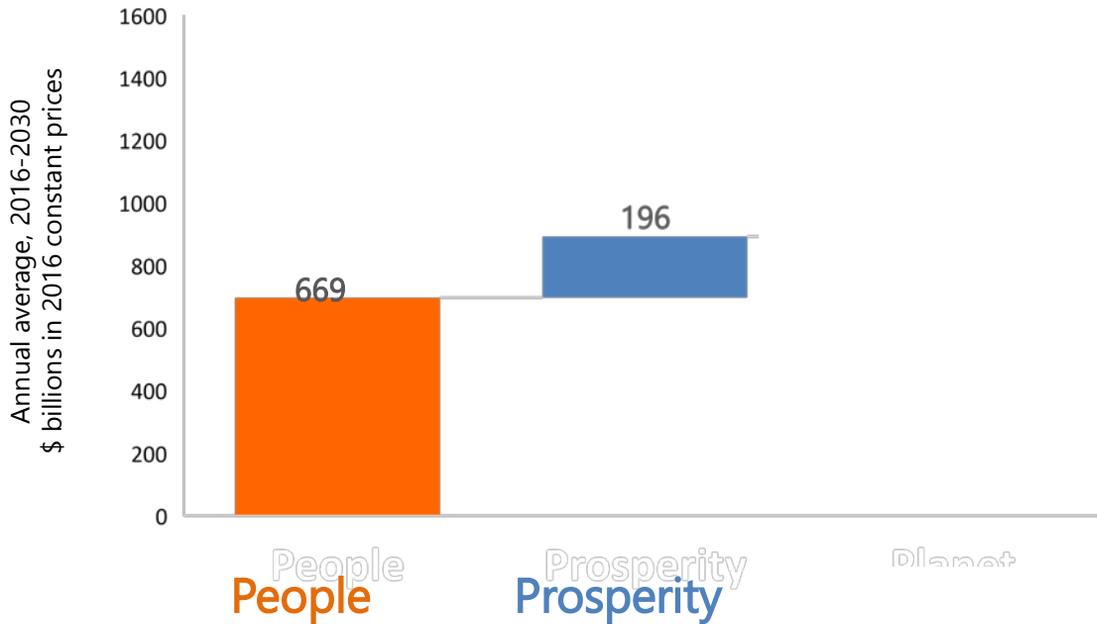
Survey 2019 estimates an investment gap of **\$1.5 trillion per year** or 5% of GDP for developing Asia-Pacific ...



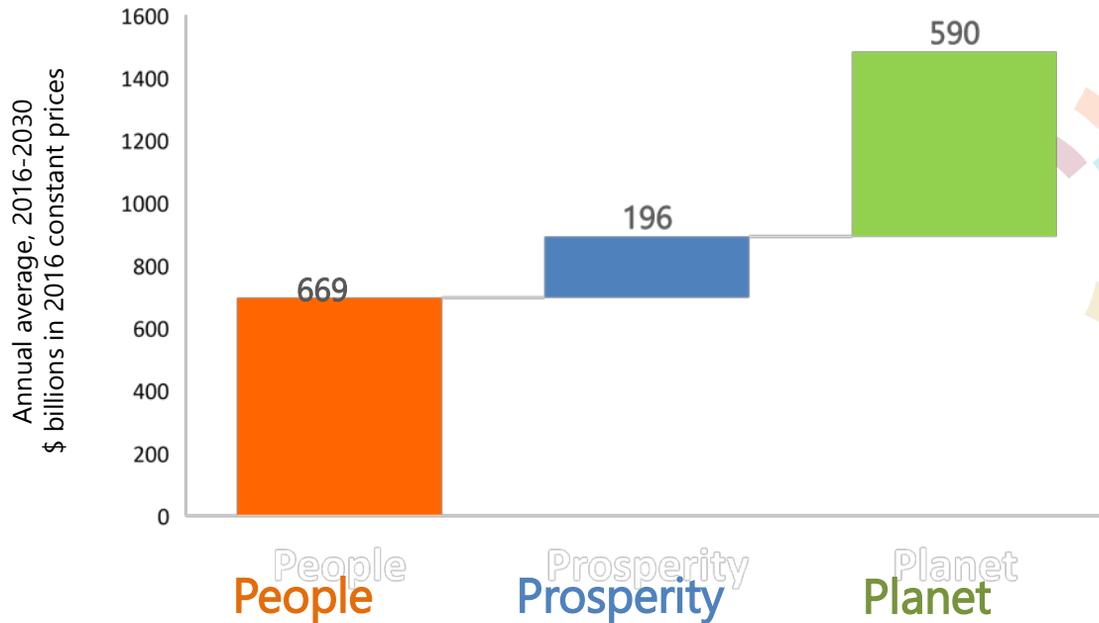
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... or \approx \$1 per person per day

It's within reach!



CLEAN ENERGY
FOR ALL

PROTECTION FOR
NATURE

37¢

\approx \$1

43¢

NO POVERTY &
ZERO HUNGER

HEALTH AND
EDUCATION

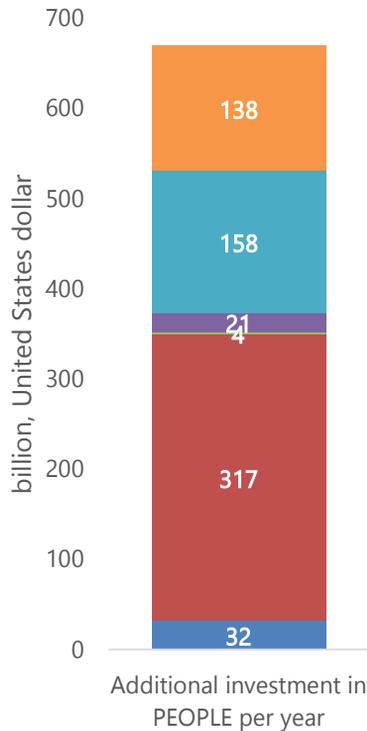


12¢

SUSTAINABLE
INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR ALL



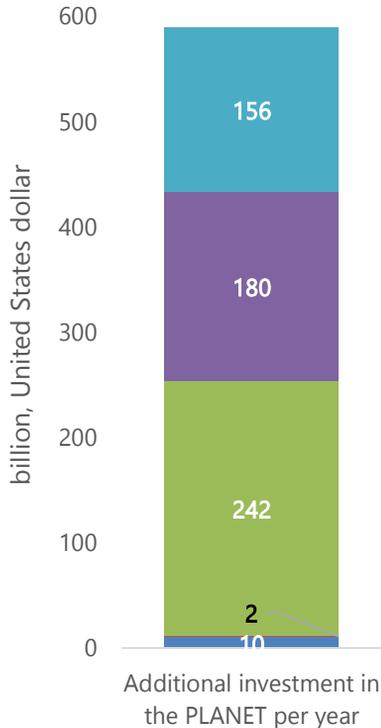
Investing in **PEOPLE** to realize basic human rights and human capacities



- Universal access to quality education
- Universal health coverage
- Agricultural productivity
- Nutrition-specific interventions
- Social protection floor
- Targeted cash transfer



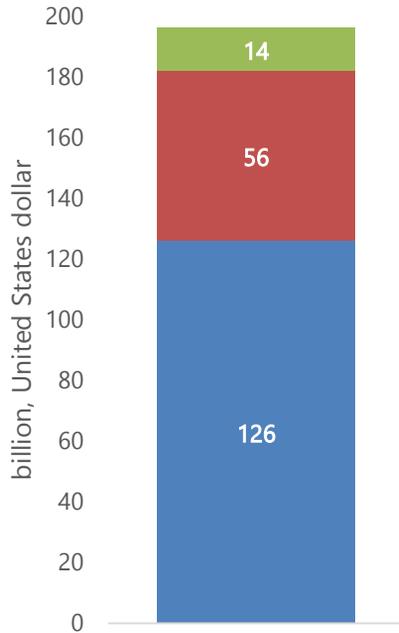
Investing in **PLANET** to secure our future through clean energy and climate action and living in harmony with nature



- Biodiversity
- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Universal access to clean cooking
- Universal access to electricity



Investing in PROSPERITY to improve access to infrastructure



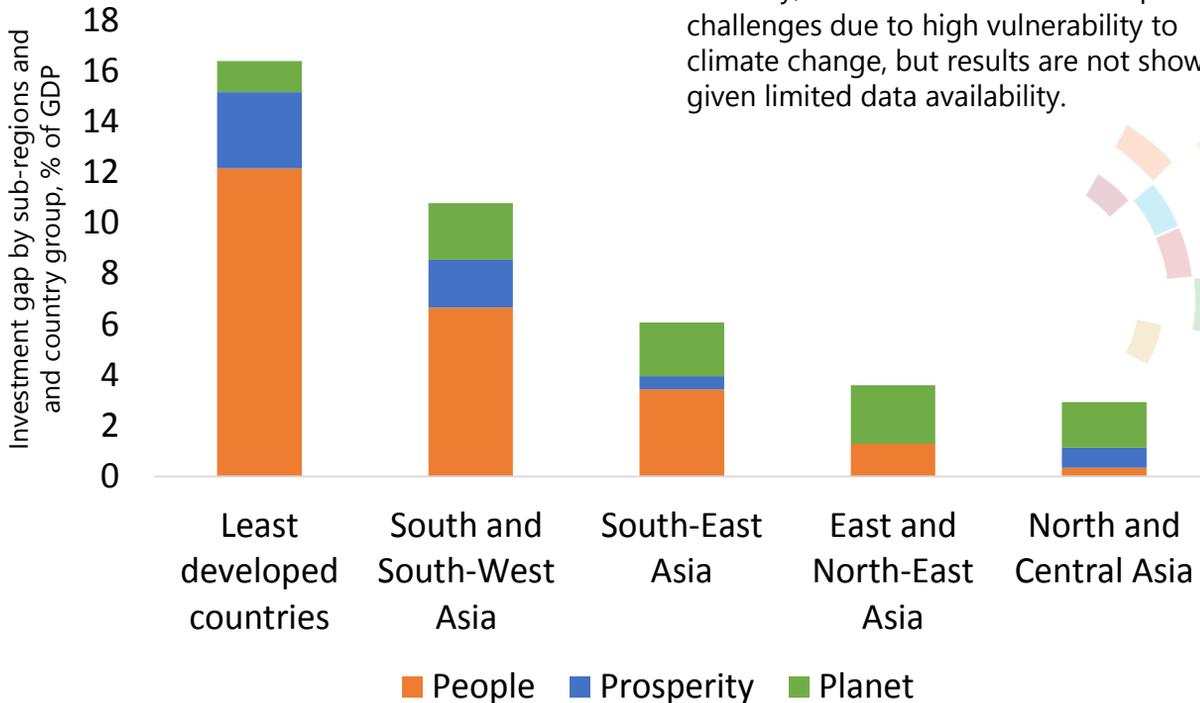
Additional investment in the PROSPERITY per year

- Water and sanitation
- Information and communications technology
- Transport

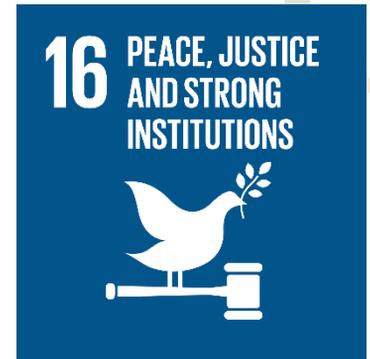


Investment gap varies significant across the region, rising to 16% of GDP in LDCs and 10% in South Asia

Similarly, **Pacific SIDS** face steep challenges due to high vulnerability to climate change, but results are not shown given limited data availability.



However, achieving the Goals is **NOT** **JUST** about money



Goals whose achievement depends heavily on other factors (e.g. laws and regulations) but nevertheless benefit from other SDG investments

The image features a hand holding a small green seedling over a stack of coins. In the background, there is a bar chart with three bars of increasing height, colored yellow, blue, and green. The entire scene is set against a dark, textured background that looks like soil. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the image, containing the text "Can we work on a goal plan?".

Can we work on a goal plan?

Prioritizing Goals: considering both progress and investment gaps



Prioritizing Goals: considering both progress and investment gaps



Prioritizing Goals: considering both progress and investment gaps



Prioritizing Goals: considering both progress and investment gaps



A hand is shown holding a small green seedling over a stack of coins. In the background, there is a bar chart with four bars of increasing height, colored yellow, purple, blue, and green. The scene is set against a dark, textured background that looks like soil.

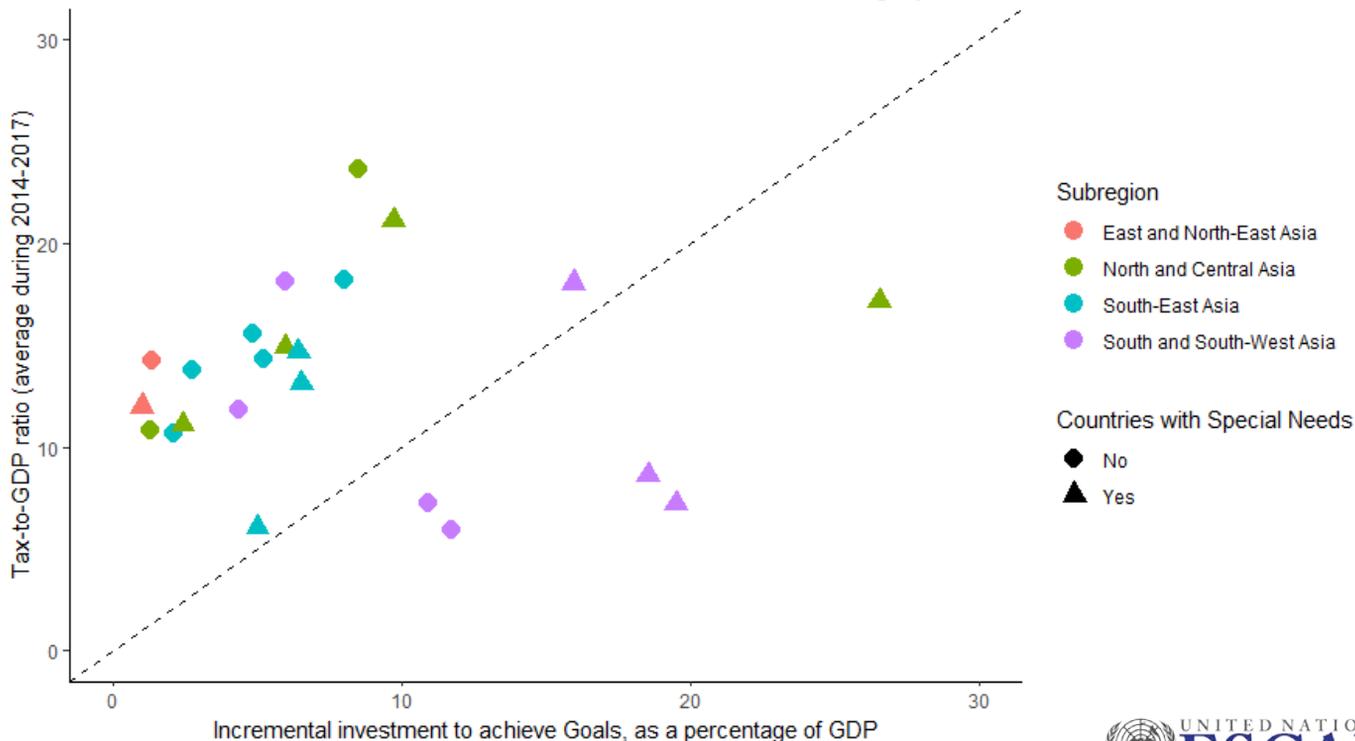
Can we afford the required investment?

...YES, WE CAN!

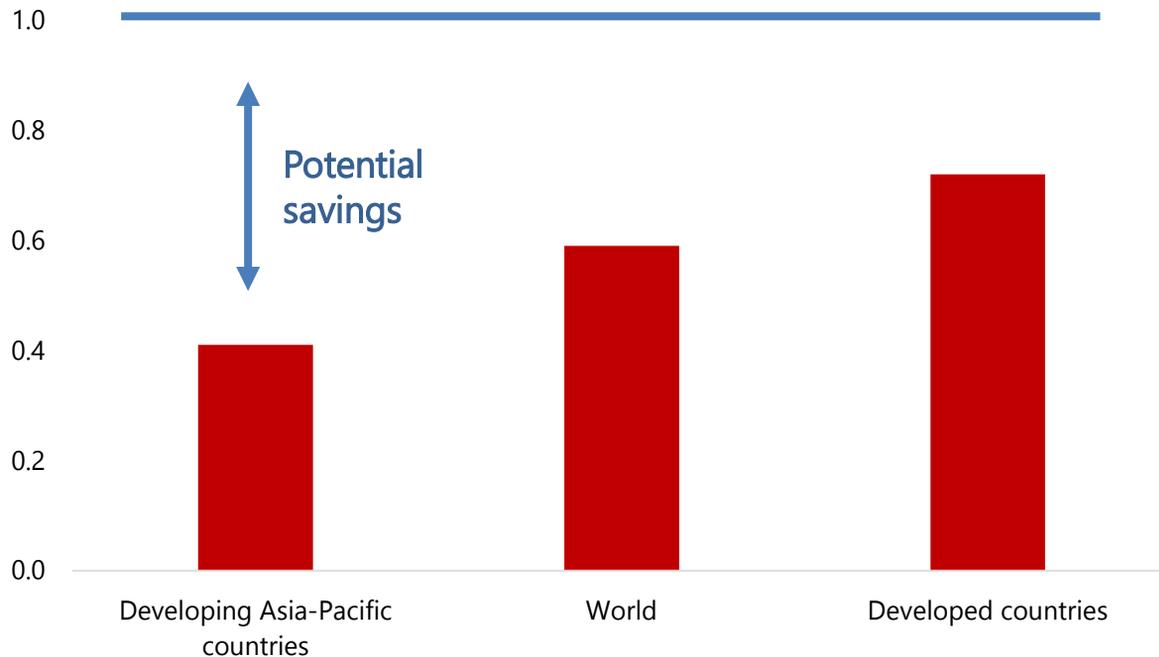
...with development partnerships

Most Asia-Pacific countries have the **fiscal space** to invest in the Goals

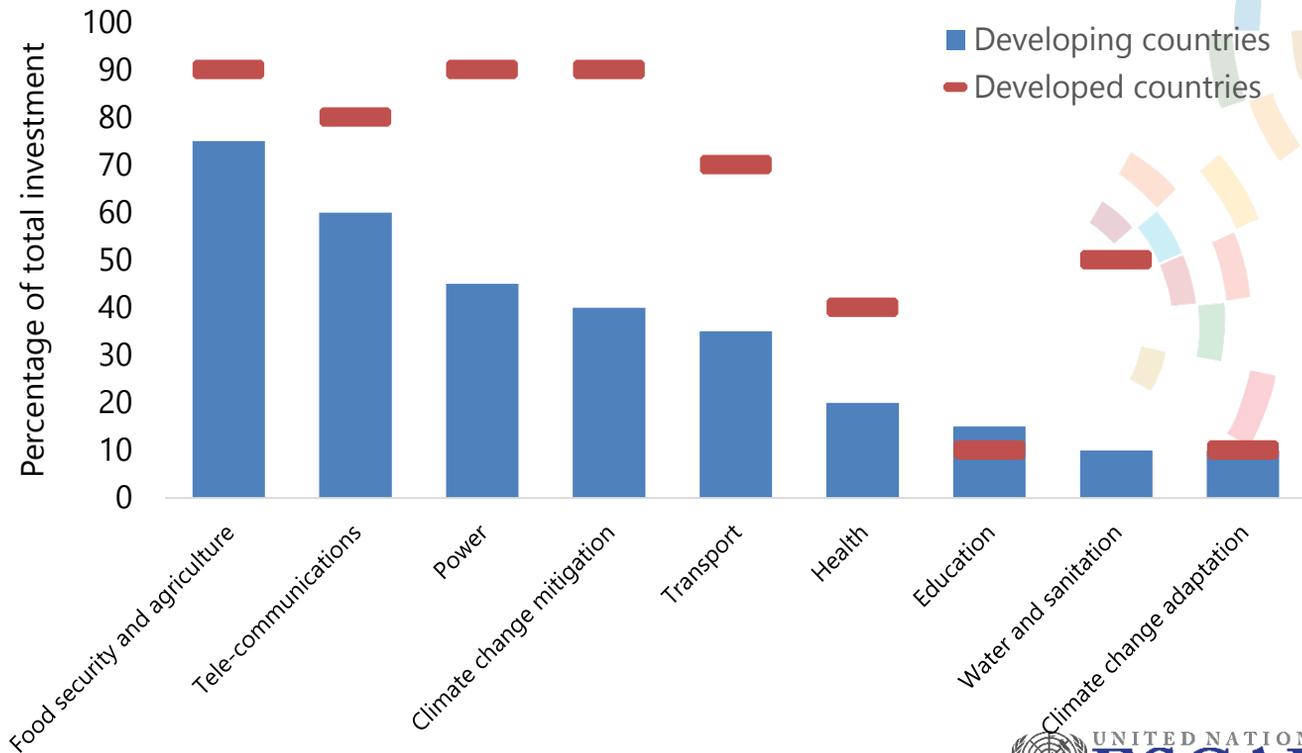
Tax revenue vs. investment gap



Investment needs can be reduced substantially through improved efficiency



Governments could actively engage **private sector** to meet the required investment



Source: UNCTAD (2014)

Takeaway messages



TAKEAWAY MESSAGES

- **In the journey towards sustainable development,**
Prioritize ambitions beyond economic growth and invest in people and the planet first.
- **The ticket is affordable**
at an additional \$1.5 trillion per year \approx \$1/person/day.
- ...if we harness synergies through integrated approaches...
... and strengthen development partnership to ensure **NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND!**

For a future that we want!

Please visit
[www.unescap.org/publications/
economic-and-social-survey-
asia-and-pacific-2019](http://www.unescap.org/publications/economic-and-social-survey-asia-and-pacific-2019)

