

BUILDING INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

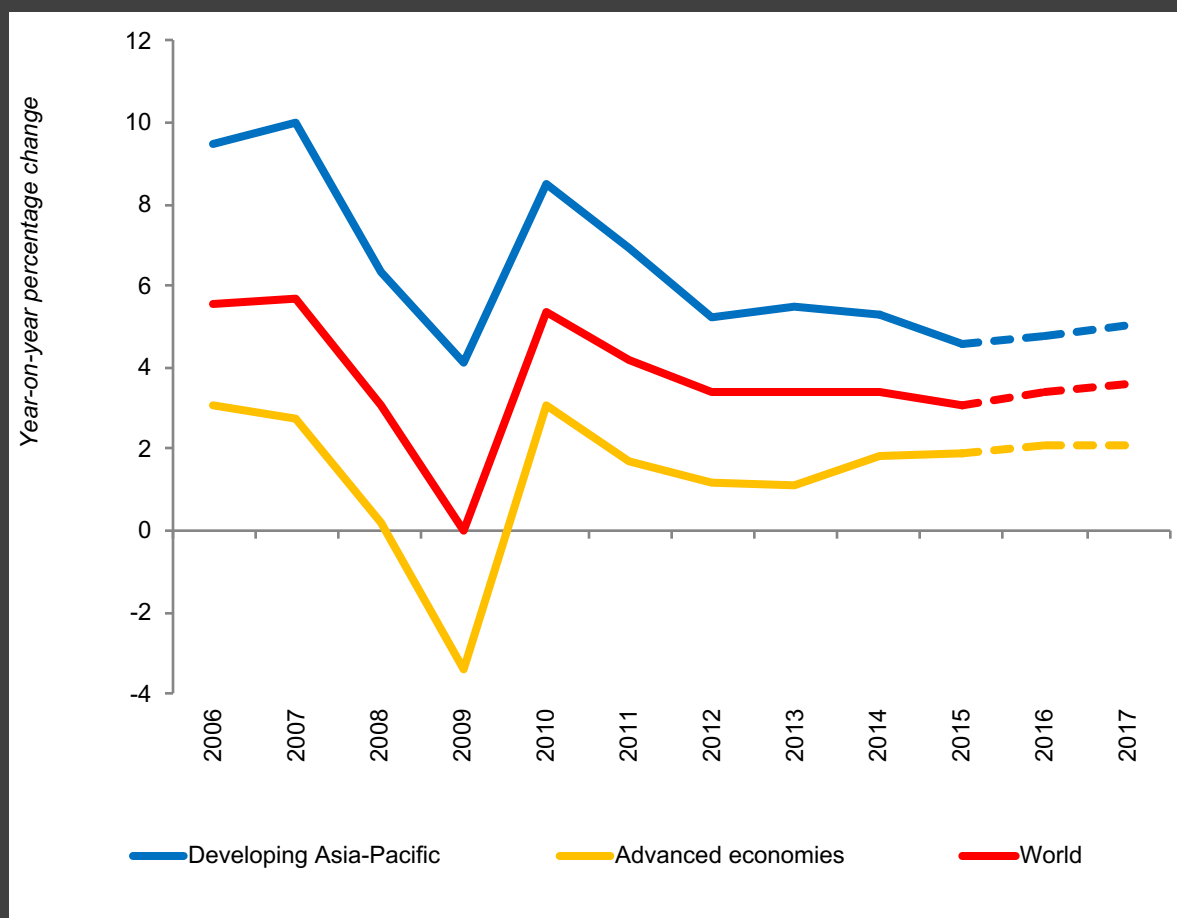
Nagesh Kumar,
Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP

at
UNESCO/ MOST Conference
Kuala Lumpur

22 March 2017

Asia and the Pacific is the fastest growing region in the world

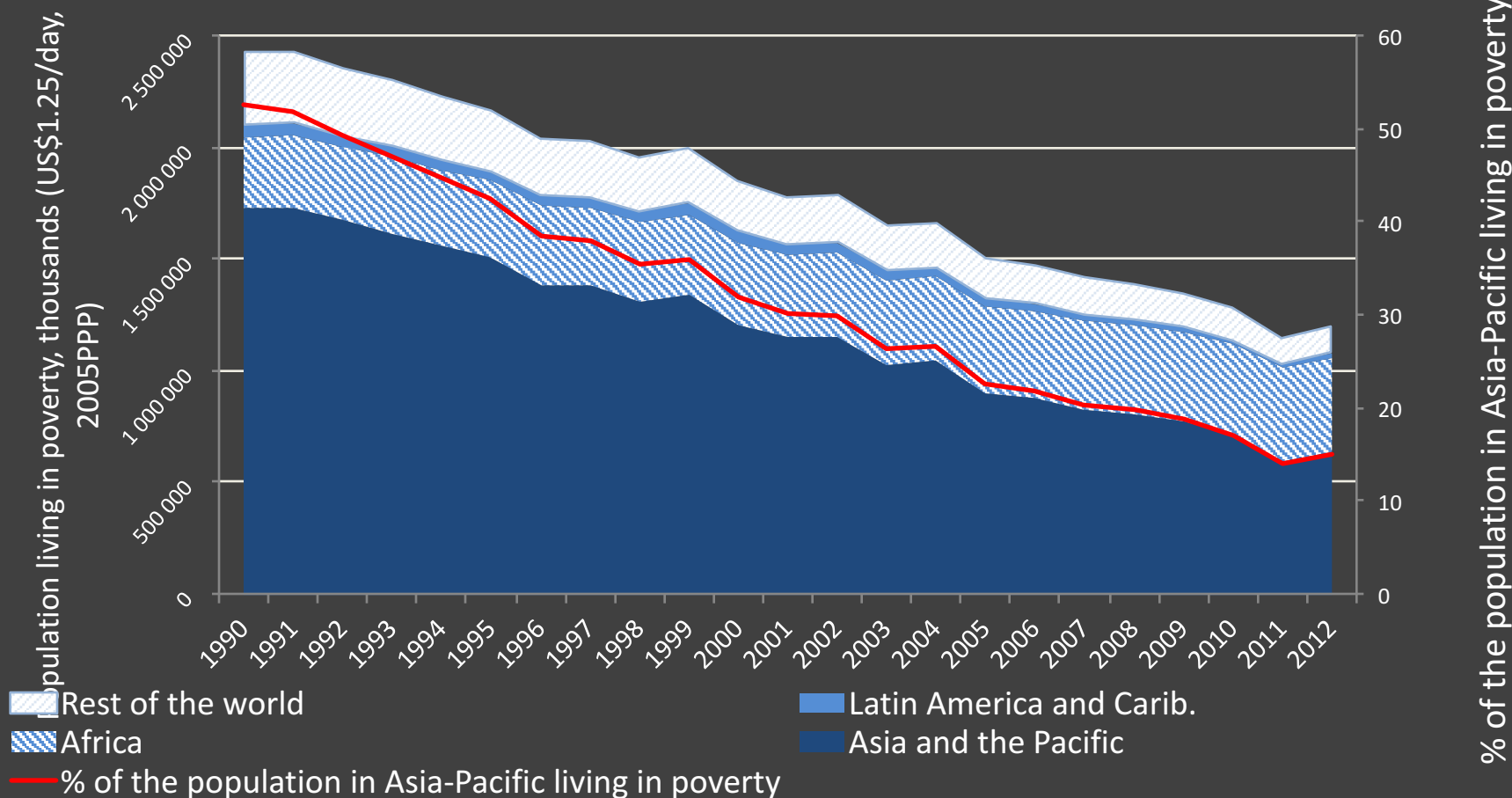
Real GDP growth in developing Asia-Pacific, advanced economies and the world, 2006-2017



A-P has also led the world in poverty reduction

Yet over 500 million people living in extreme poverty

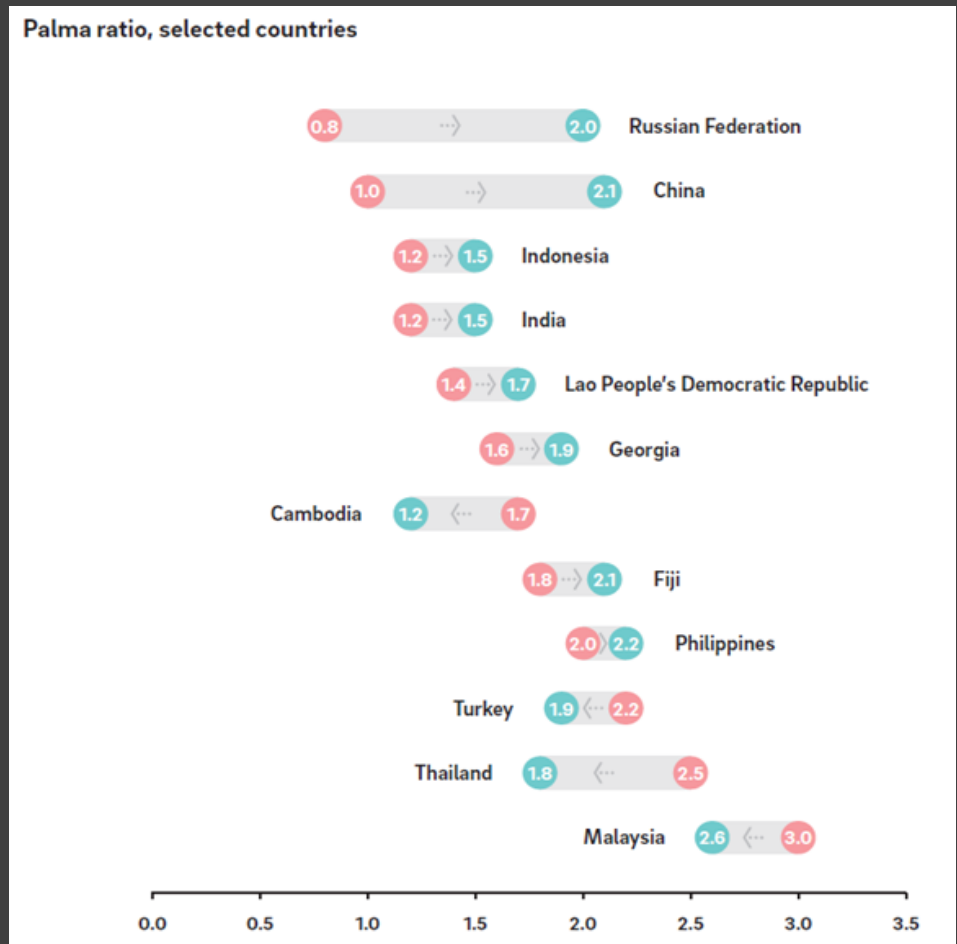
Population in poverty, by region (1990 - 2012)



Data: ESCAP (2015) Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2015.

Inequalities increased in many countries

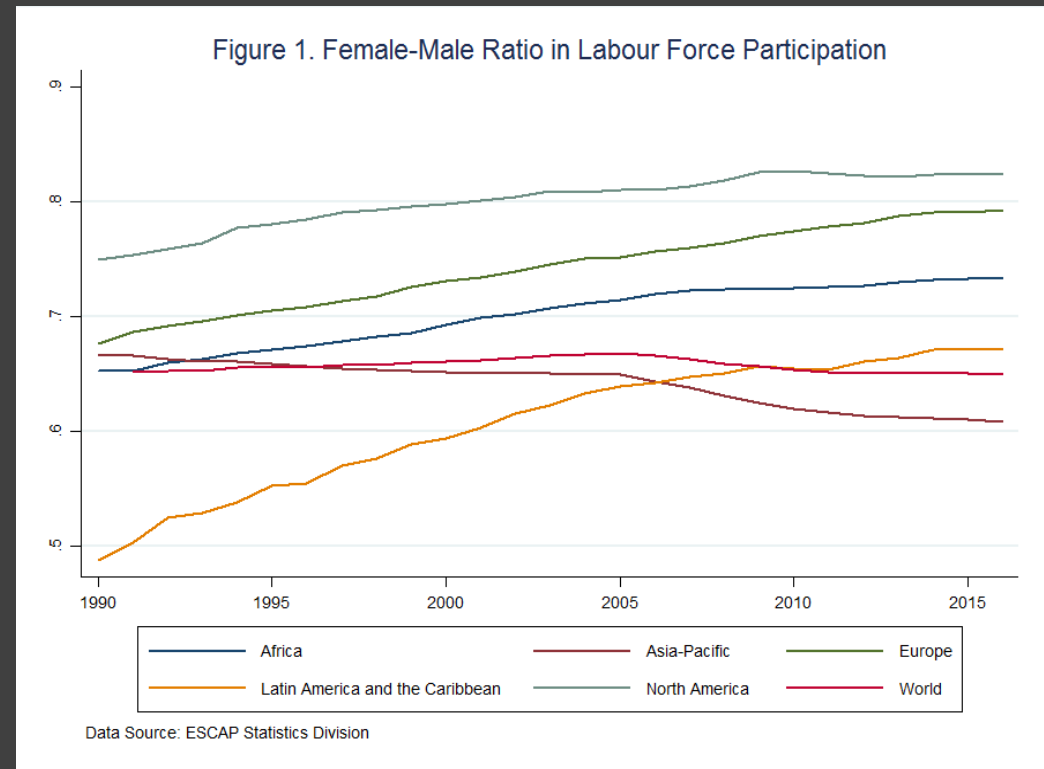
- Richest 10% have almost twice the income of poorest 40%
- Inequalities have increased in most countries over the past two decades
- Concentration of wealth is even sharper with top 20% upto 80% of wealth



Source: ESCAP, based on World Bank, World Development Indicators

A-P is lagging behind in terms of women's economic empowerment

Increased gender parity in education and economic growth have not translated into higher Female Labour Force Participation (FLFP) rates



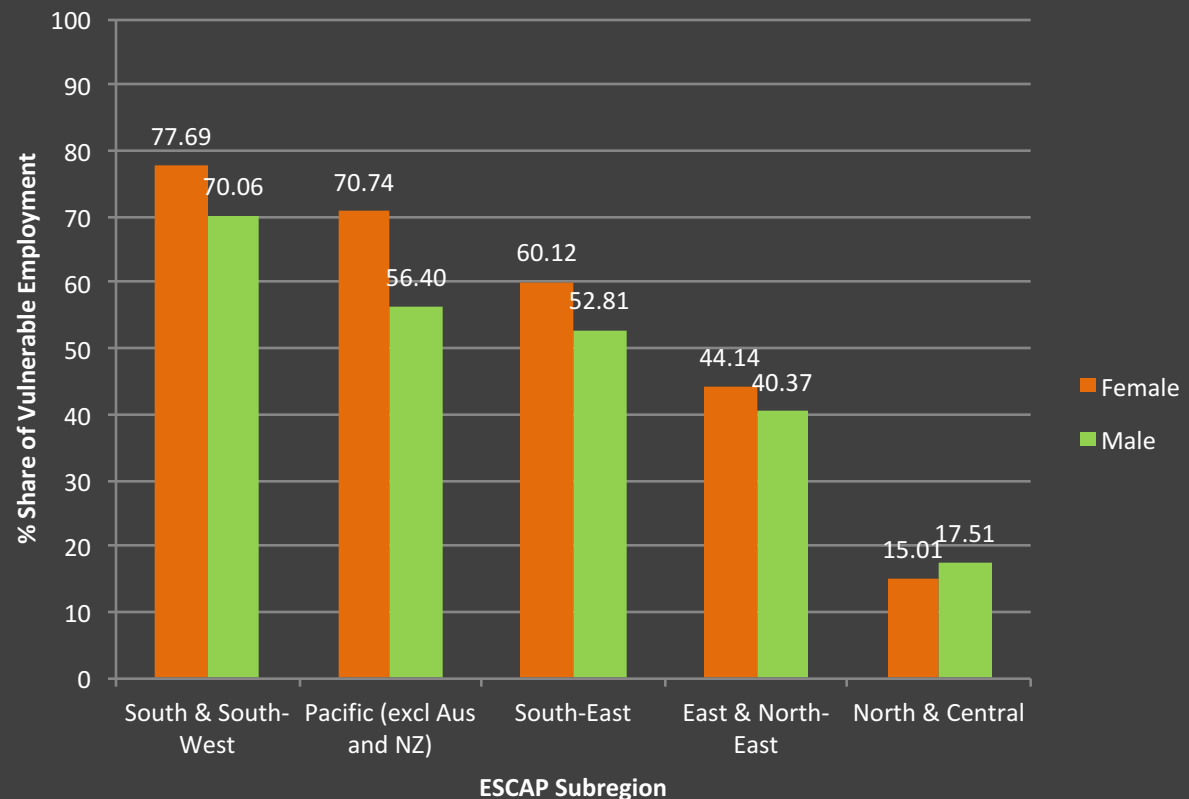
Asia-Pacific also lags behind in women's political representation

- Asia-Pacific has very low parliamentary representation in 2016 compared with other regions.
- In Asia Pacific, only 19% of all seats in national parliament were held by women.
- Women below global average of ministerial representation.
- Women are also less likely to move up the corporate ladder.



Vulnerability characterises the work of women in Asia and the Pacific

- The predominant forms of work for women are in vulnerable, low- and middle-skilled jobs
- As economies shift to higher-skills based economies, women are more likely to lose jobs.
- The lack of social protection will further entrench women in cycles of poverty and vulnerability

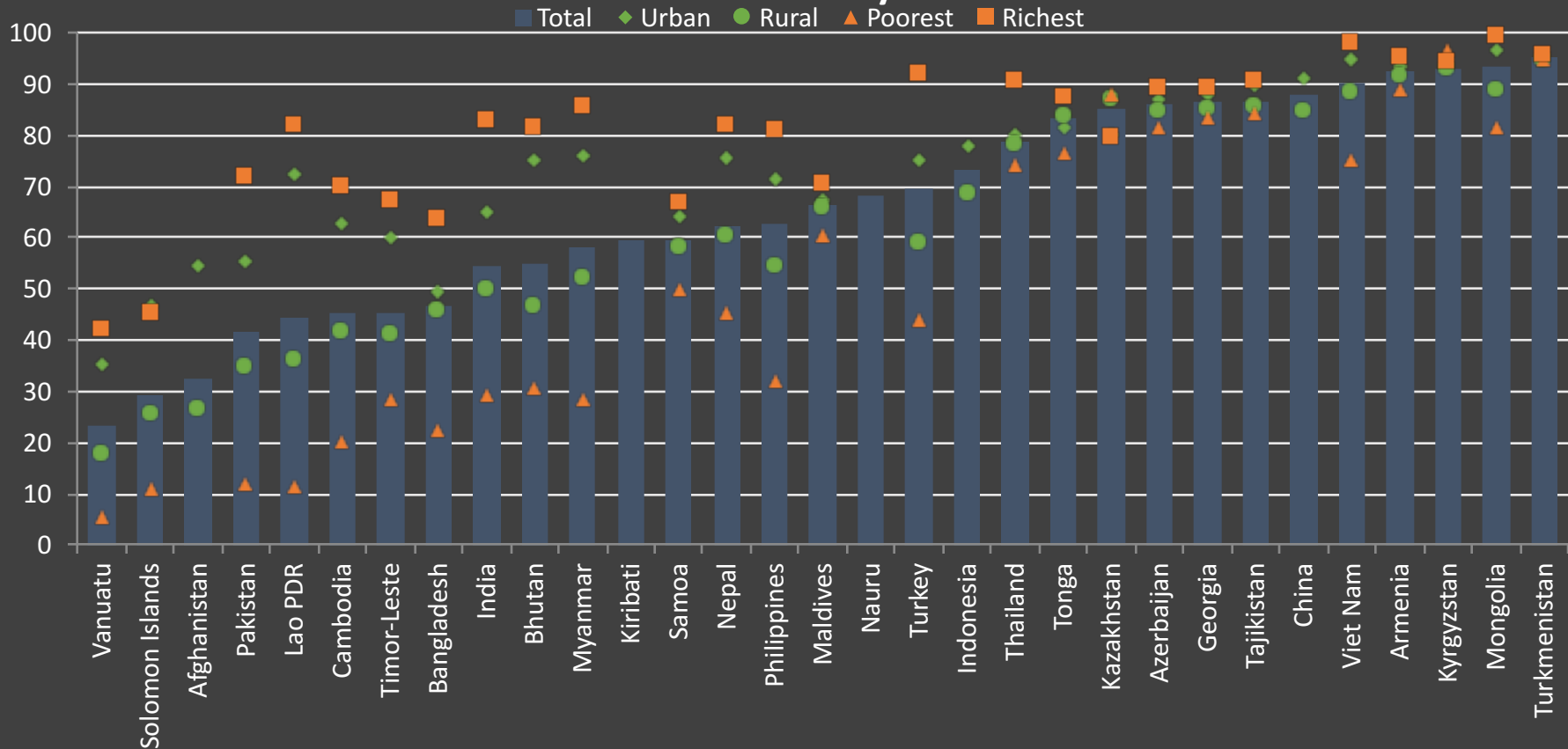


Share of male and female vulnerable employment in 2015 (as % of working men and women), by ESCAP sub-region (excluding Australia and New Zealand), based on ESCAP Statistical Database

Youth exclusion is a serious concern

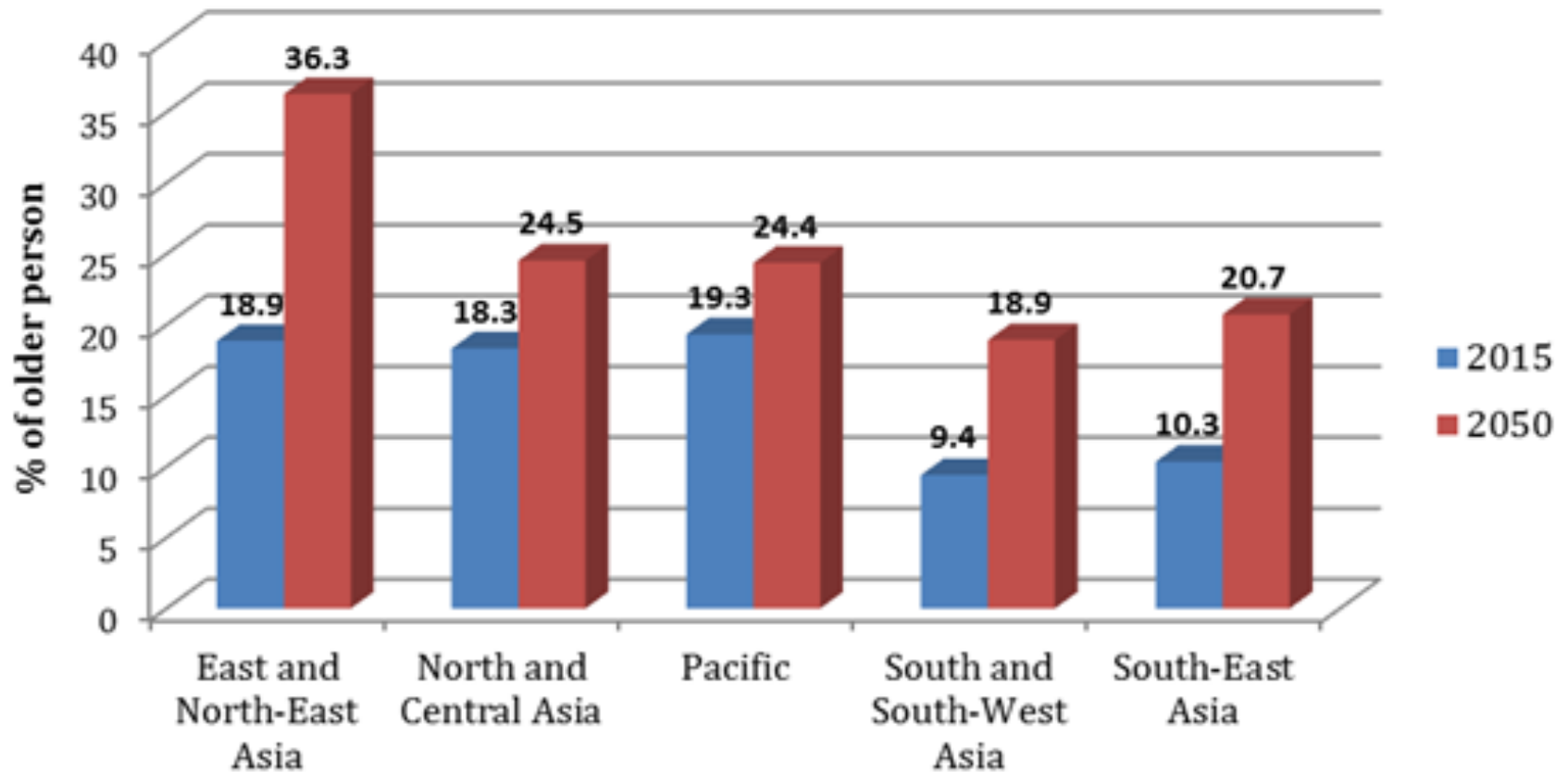
starts with education and higher youth unemployment rates

Variations in net secondary education attendance ratios



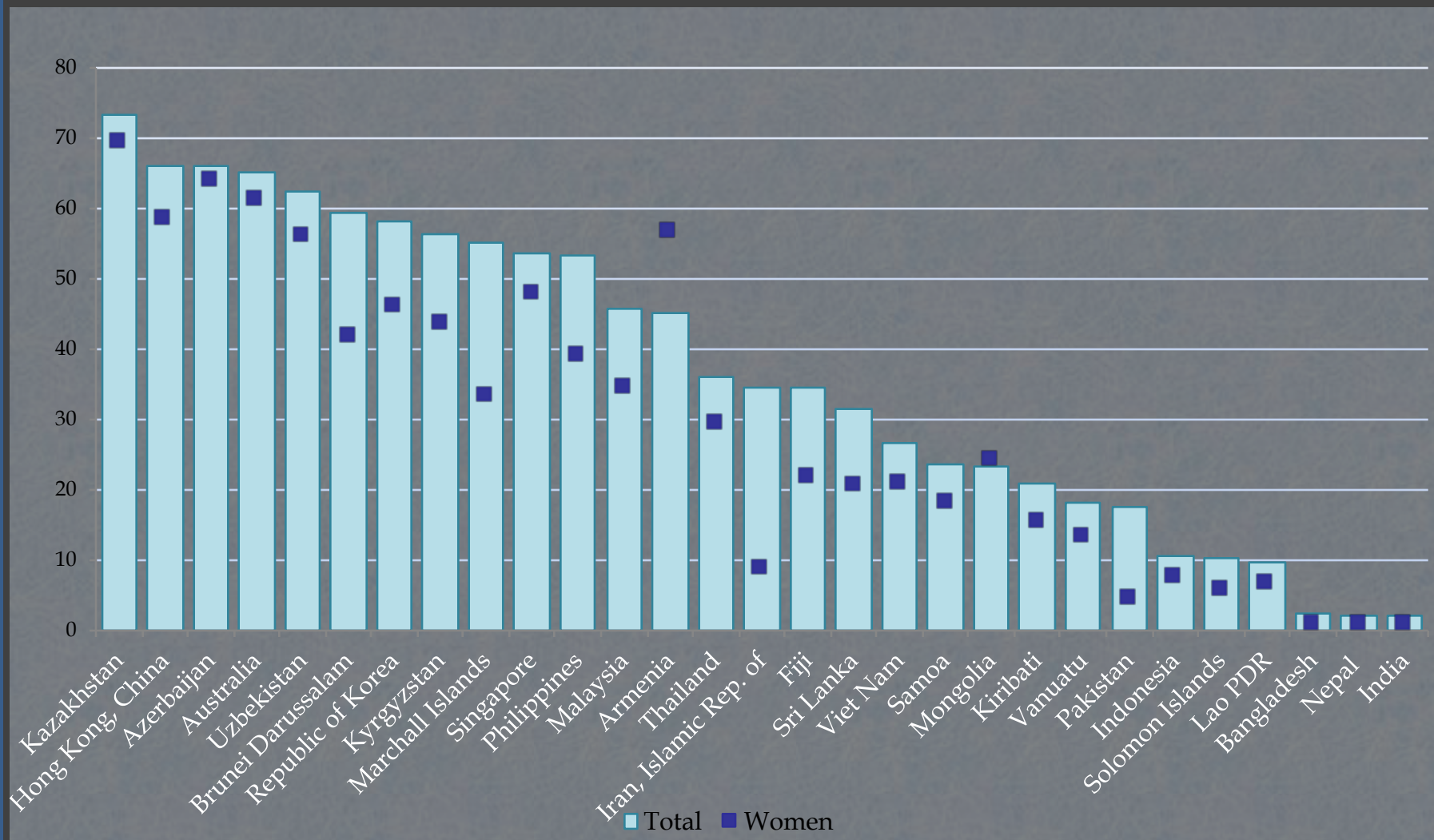
Source: UNICEF online statistical database. Secondary net attendance ratio data were disaggregated by wealth quintiles and location

Rising proportion of older persons who risk being left behind



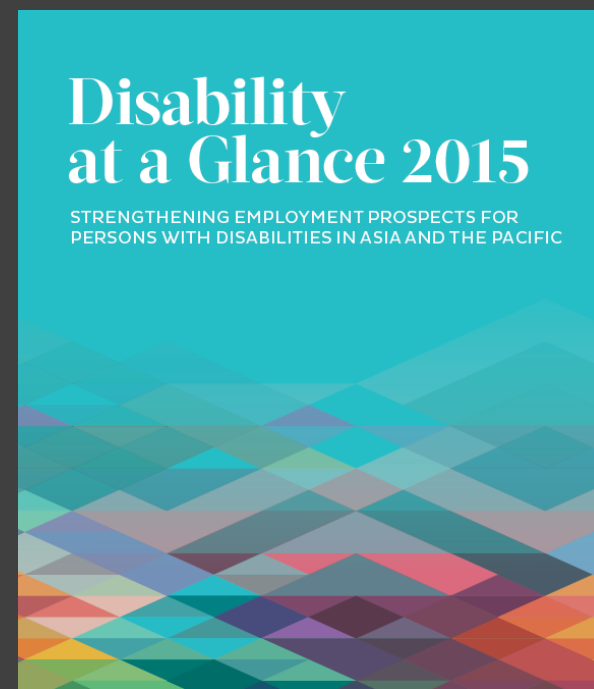
Low coverage of pensions and other types of social security for the working-age population

Coverage of women generally even less



Over 650 million persons with disabilities in A-P at higherrisk of exclusion

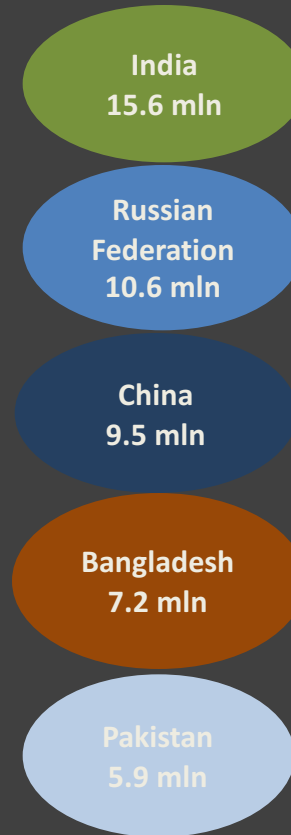
- Persons with disabilities are likely to be less employed
- Employment gaps become higher in higher income countries
- When employed, persons with disabilities tend to work in the informal sector, self-employed
- There is double discrimination of women with disabilities
- 1 to 7% GDP loss because of exclusion of persons with disabilities



A-P is a major source as well as the destination of migrants who remain highly vulnerable

- Migrants from Asia-Pacific: 98 mln
- Migrants to Asia-Pacific: 60 mln
- Lack of legal and social protection leads to vulnerability and unequal treatment:
- Women migrants are particularly vulnerable, given demand for female labour is typically in jobs with lower levels of protection, such as domestic work
- Regulatory constraints often prevent family reunification

Main Countries of Origin in the Region



Main Countries of Destination in the Region

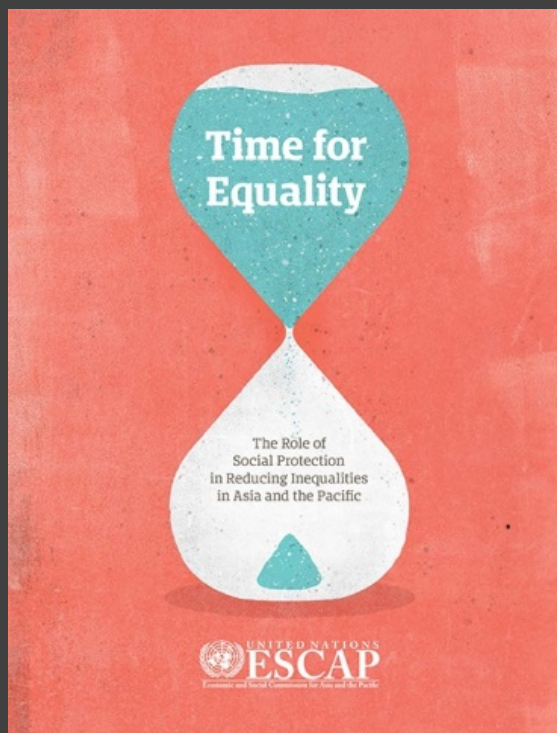


*Source: UN DESA, 2015

UN-ESCAP's interventions for building inclusive societies in Asia-Pacific

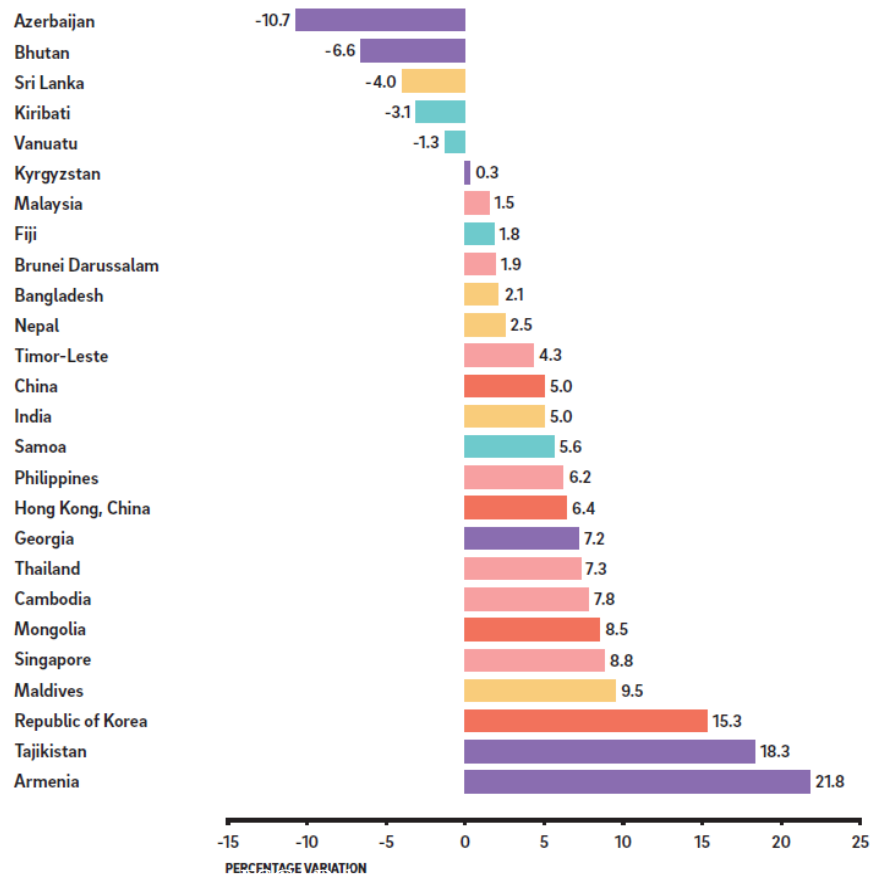


ESCAP advocates for social protection and policies for equality



Increased spending on social protection

Percentage change in spending on social protection as a share of total government expenditures, selected countries, earliest and latest available year



for Asia and the Pacific, 2014

ESCAP supports inclusion for women by



- Promoting **women's entrepreneurship** as a pathway to economic empowerment.
- Promoting women's economic empowerment through **gender responsive budgeting**.
- Examining how **women's leadership** can make **transformative change** to achieve the 2030 Agenda.
- Strengthening role of ICTs as an **enabler for women's empowerment** in e-government and entrepreneurship (ESCAP WIFI Programme)
- **The Asia-Pacific Gender Equality Portal** (www.asiapacificgender.org)
- Fostering **intergovernmental consensus and partnerships**



ESCAP advocates for greater investments in young people and promoting youth participation

- Undertaking research on school to work transitions
- Assisting Governments to develop comprehensive national youth policies
- Working closely with youth organizations and other stakeholders

YOUTH POLICY TOOLBOX

HOME ABOUT LEARNING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

GOOD PRACTICES IN POLICY

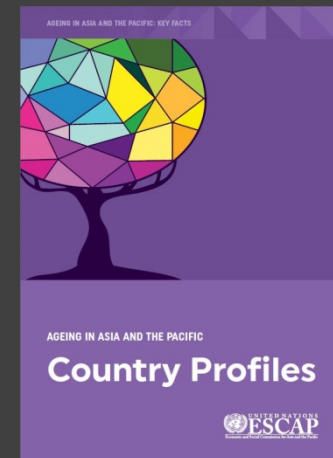
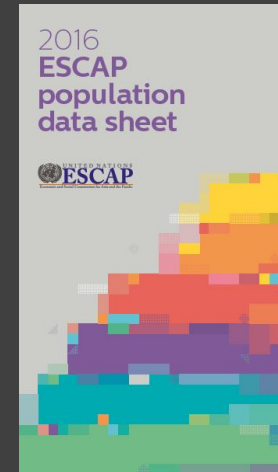
GET INSPIRATION THROUGH CASE STUDIES OF GOOD PRACTICES IN YOUTH POLICY REGIONALLY AND GLOBALLY

ALL WORKS CAREER COUNSELLING DISABILITIES EDUCATION
GREEN JOB COACHING & SUPPORT JOB MATCHING JOB PLACEMENT
RURAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE TRAINING WORK-ST

ESCAP supports addressing population ageing by

Supporting the implementation of the **Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing**, particularly

- Periodic review of progress in implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (3rd regional review in 2017)
- Data and research on population ageing
- Research and training on the design of income security systems for older persons
- Research and capacity-building on long-term care for older persons



ESCAP supports inclusion for persons with disabilities by

- Implementation of the Incheon Strategy to 'Make the Right Real' for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific
- Forging regional consensus and partnership to promote disability: **High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Incheon Strategy** (27 Nov -1 Dec 2017), Beijing.
- Research on good practices on accessibility at a policy and practical level to promote Disability-inclusive development.
- Building capacity to mainstream disability perspectives

**Incheon Strategy to
"Make the Right Real"
for Persons with
Disabilities in
Asia and the Pacific**

**ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL:
GOOD PRACTICES OF ACCESSIBILITY
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC TO PROMOTE
DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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Providing regional forum for Global Compact on Migration

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a comprehensive roadmap for gender-focused policy responses to the issues of migration and human rights
- A number of national, bilateral and regional initiatives are underway to promote international cooperation for the rights and empowerment of migrants in sending, transit and receiving countries:
- Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
 - 2018 Intergovernmental Conference that follows up from New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants
 - Throughout 2017 UNESCAP will facilitate a forum for discussion of the Global Compact as an open and inclusive dialogue, involving governments and civil society

Thank you

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