

# The future of Economic Statistics

## Assessing prospects of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific

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## Outline

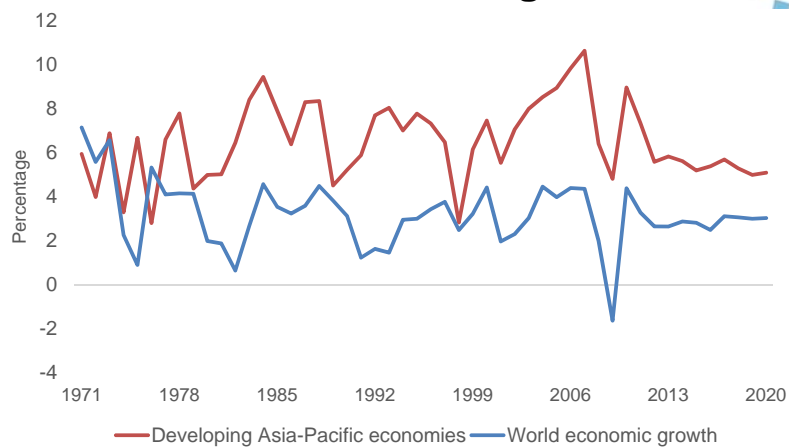
- Using statistics for analyzing sustainable development
  - SDG progress
  - SDG investment needs assessment
- Data issues





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

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



**But does strong economic performance bring sustainable development?**

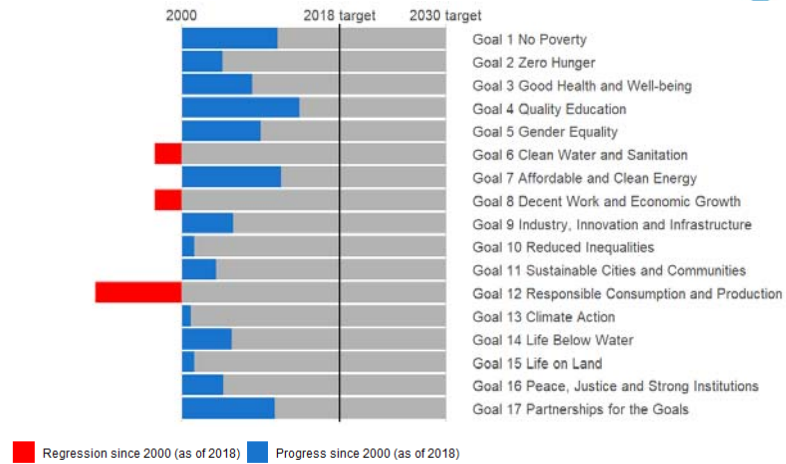


**2030 Agenda: A roadmap towards sustainable development**



## Asia and Pacific is **NOT** on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda...

SDG progress status in Asia and the Pacific (as of 2018)

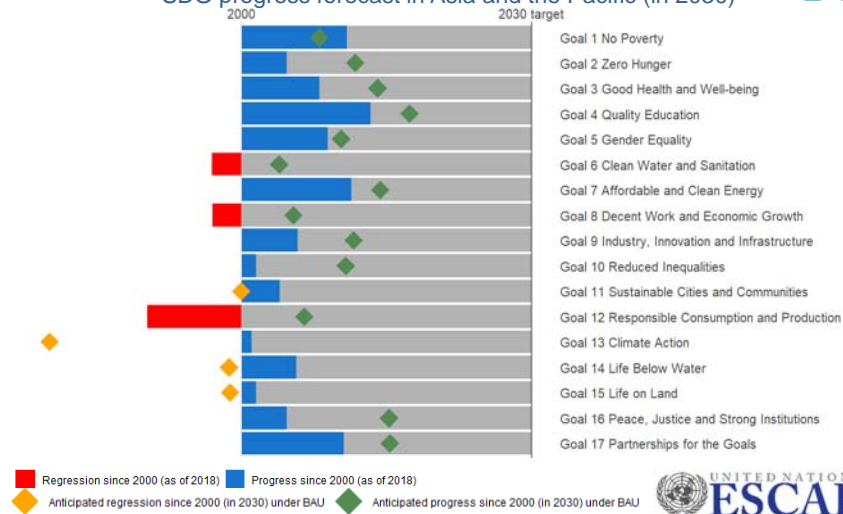


Source: ESCAP. (2019) SDG Progress Report 2019.



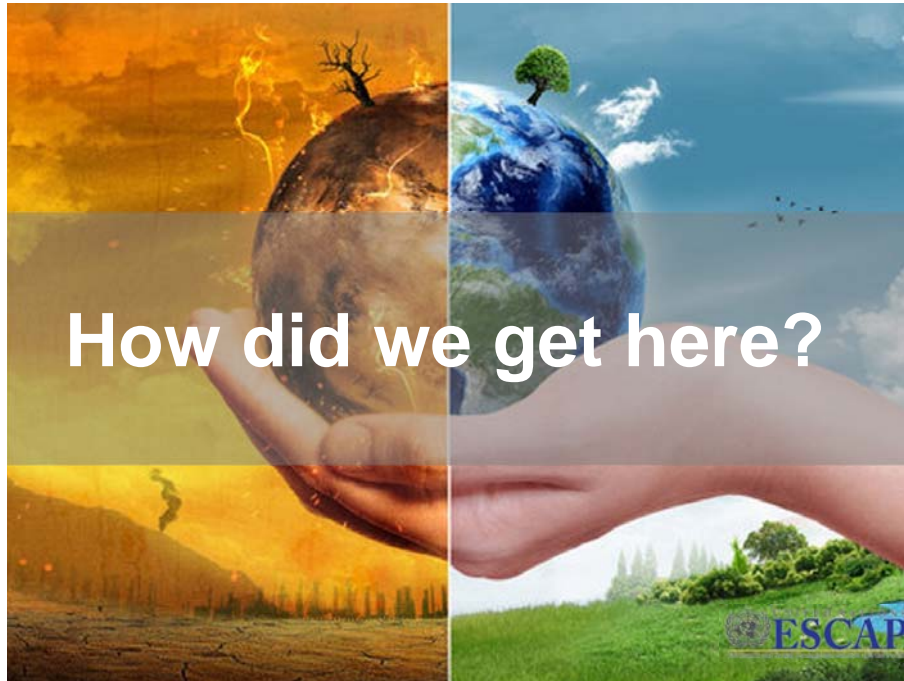
## Business-as-usual is not promoting the well-being of **people** and the **planet** ...

SDG progress forecast in Asia and the Pacific (in 2030)

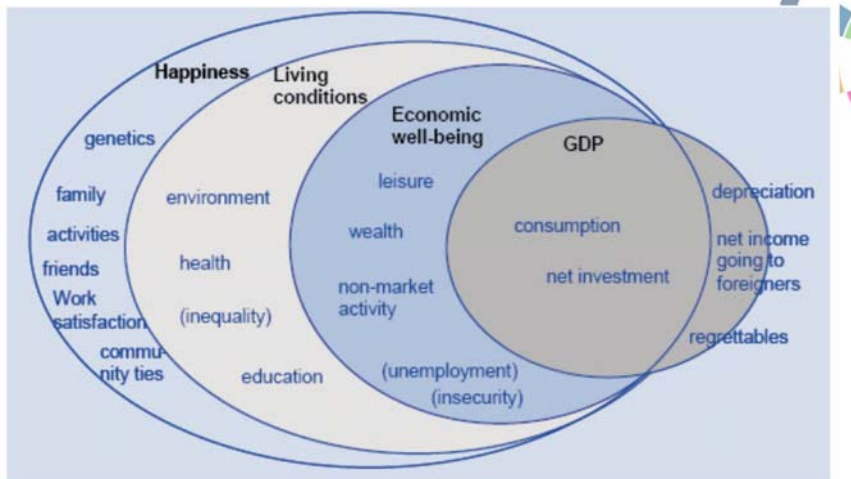


Source: ESCAP based on methodology from ESCAP (2019).





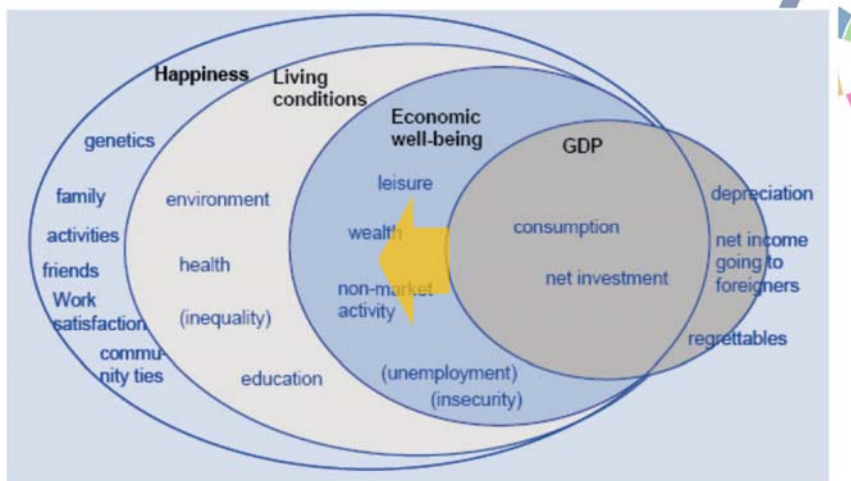
## It's the **economics**, Stupid!



Source: Deutsche Bank Research, 2006

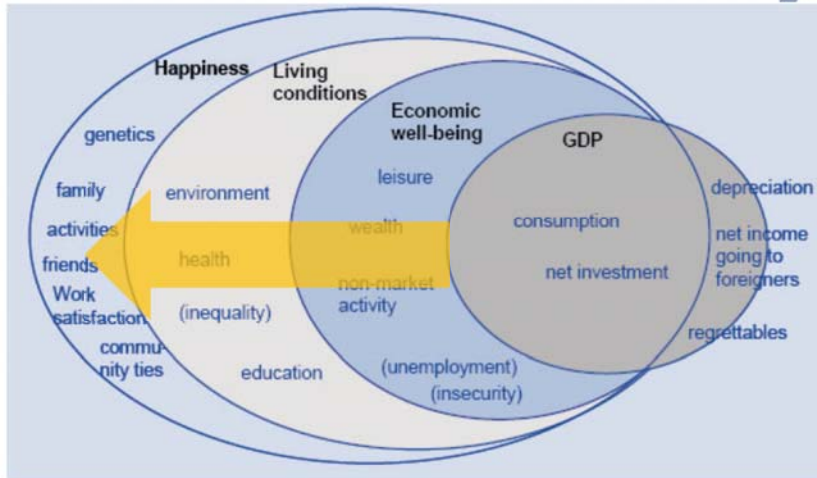


## Thinking beyond GDP



Source: Deutsche Bank Research, 2006

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## Thinking beyond GDP: Alternatives to GDP for measuring progress

- **Adjusting GDP:** include monetized environmental and social factors to traditional

**Goal 17.19** By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that **complement** gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

- **Complementing GDP:** GDP is not adjusted or replaced, but complemented with additional environmental and/or social information e.g. SEEA, Ocean Account, Decoupling indicators, SDG indicators



# Thinking beyond GDP – some examples

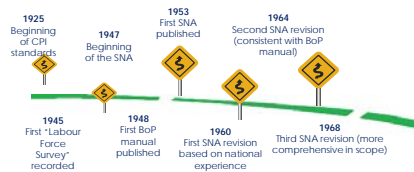


## Complementing GDP

Indicator	Social	Environment	Economic
System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA)			
Ocean Account			
Decoupling indicators			
Sustainable Development Indicators			

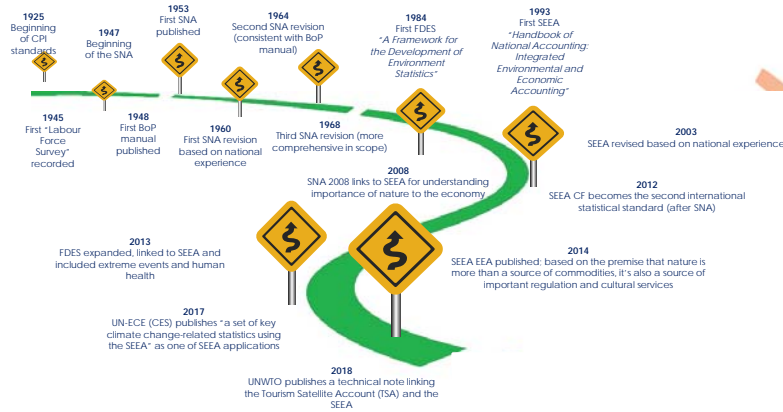


# Journey of economic statistics & environmental-economic accounts





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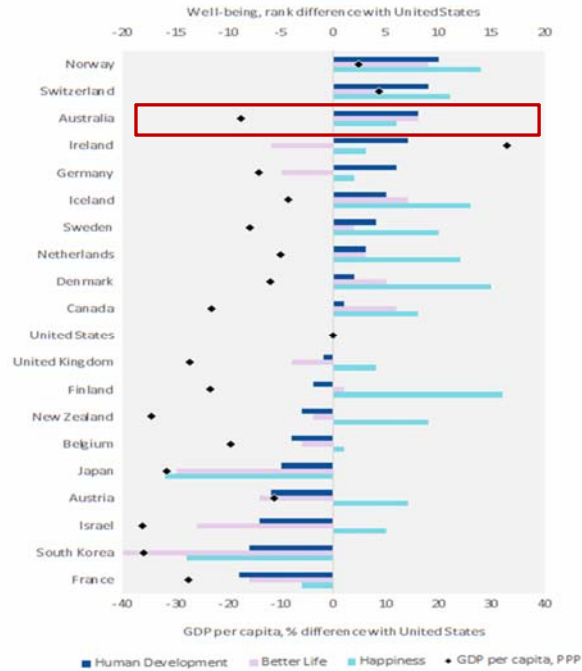
# Journey of economic statistics & environmental-economic accounts



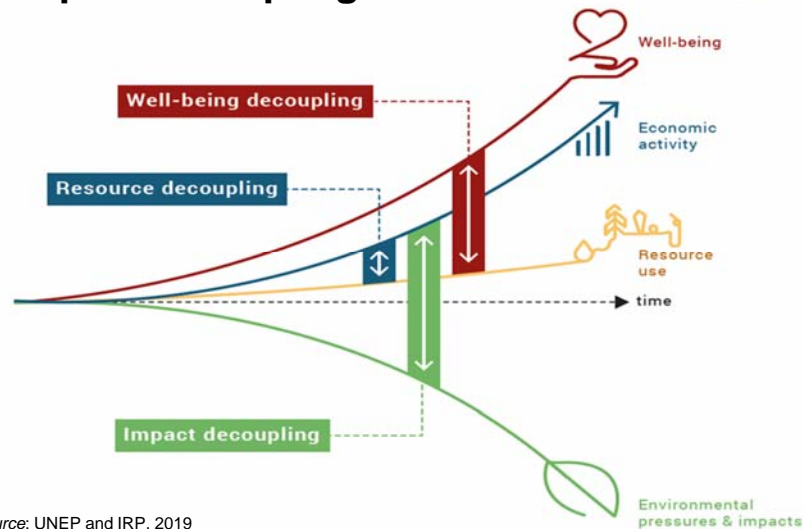
## Thinking beyond GDP – some attempts:

### Comparing well-being indicators and GDP

Source: UN DESA, forthcoming



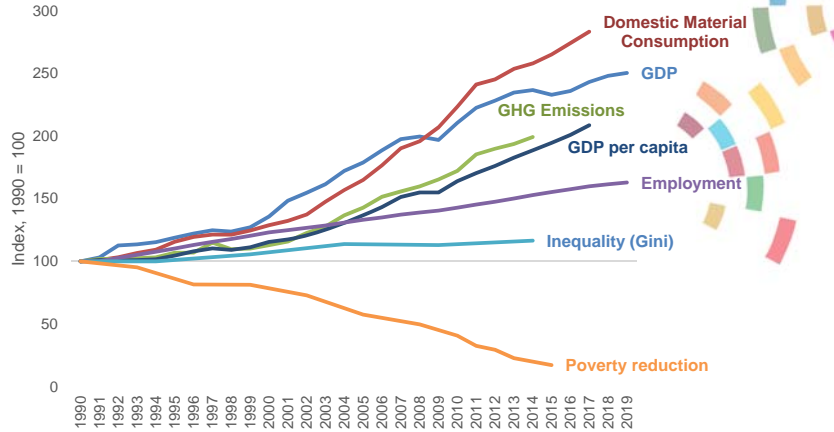
## Thinking beyond GDP – some attempts: decoupling indicators



Source: UNEP and IRP, 2019

# Thinking beyond GDP – some attempts: decoupling indicators

## Decoupling in Asia and the Pacific

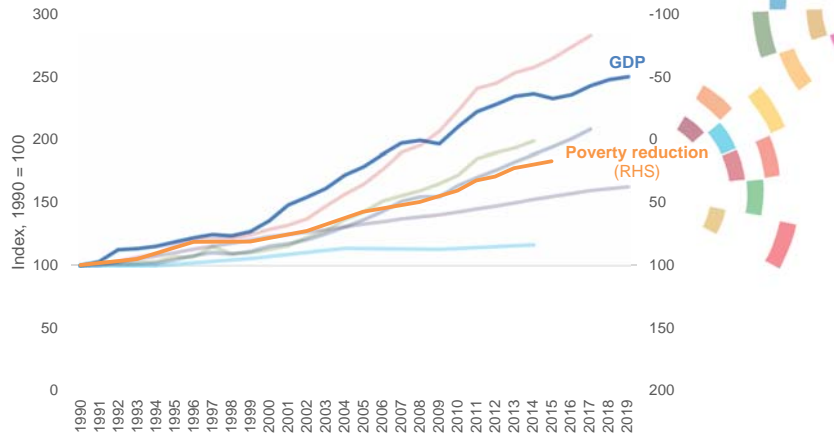


Source: IMF, WEO database, October 2019 (accessed 4 December 2019); ESCAP data portal (accessed 4 December 2019); ILOSTAT (accessed 4 December 2019); WRI CAIT database (accessed 31 October 2019).



# Thinking beyond GDP – some attempts: decoupling indicators

## Decoupling in Asia and the Pacific



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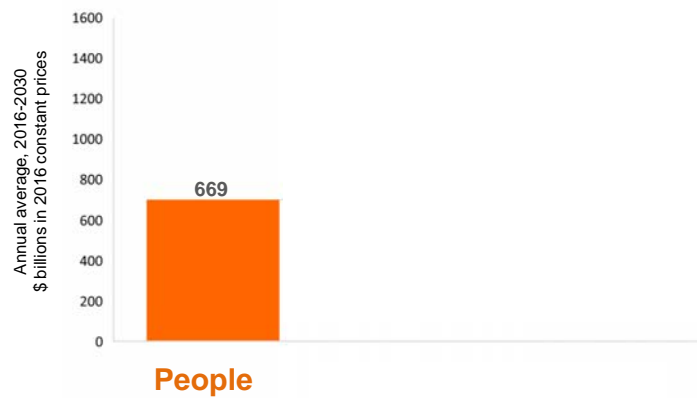
From 17 Goals to 3 dimensions...  
spanning **people**, **prosperity** and **the planet** ...  
supported by good governance and strong partnerships



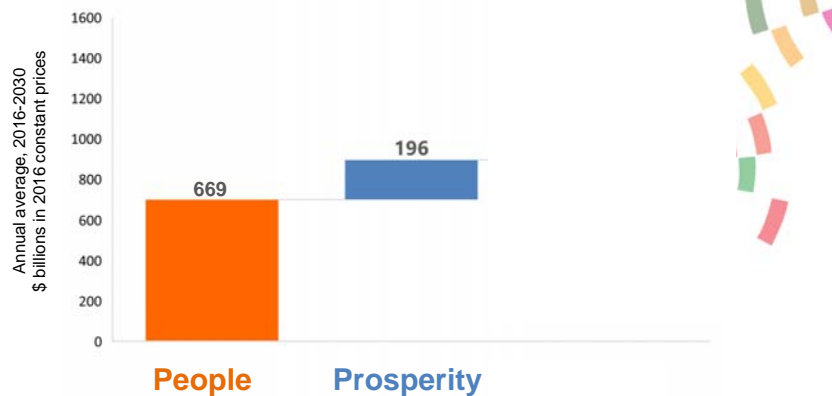
**Survey 2019** estimates an investment gap of **\$1.5 trillion per year** or 5% of GDP for developing Asia-Pacific ...



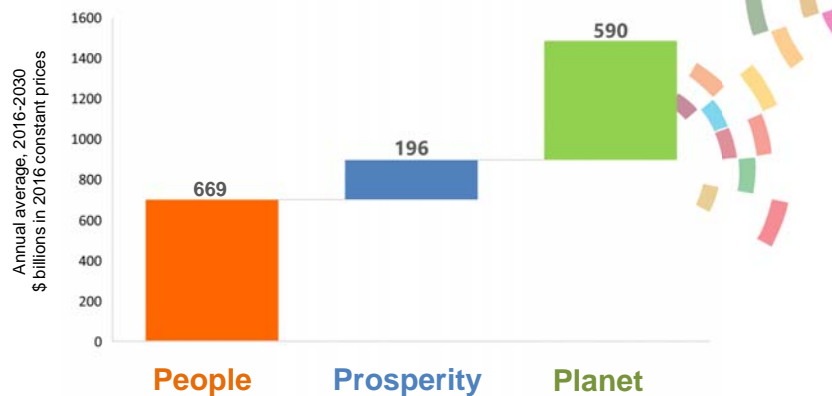
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**Prioritizing Goals: considering both progress and investment gaps**



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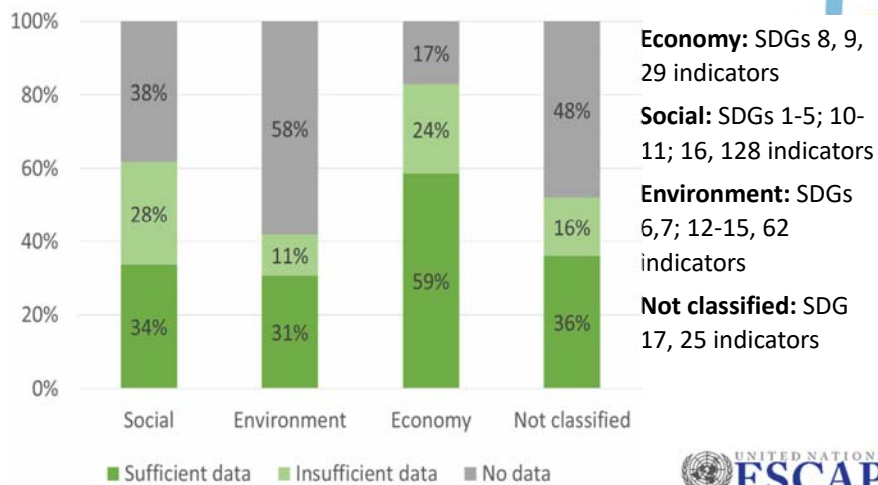
## Prioritizing Goals: considering both progress and investment gaps





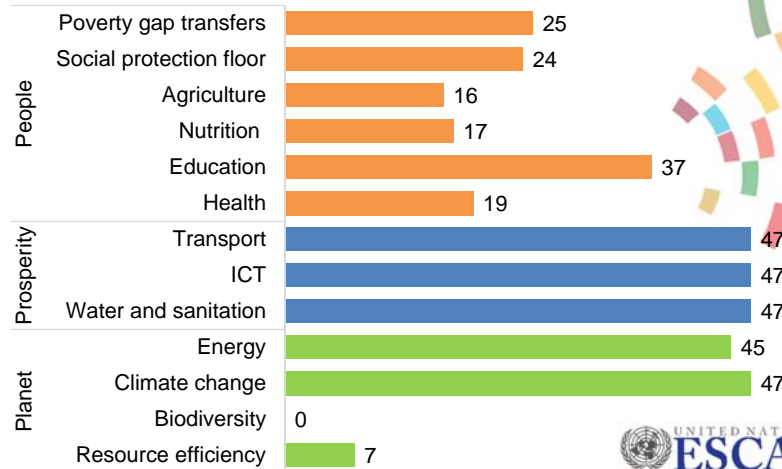


## Data availability: tracking SDG progress



## Data availability: estimating SDG investment needs

Number of Asia-Pacific countries with available data for each SDG costing area



## Data quality

- More disaggregated and aggregated data
- Time series
- Timeliness

## Challenges for data users

- Difficulty to compare data and assess progress overtime
- Need capacity to understand broader sustainable development indicators and their interlinkages
- Lack of clarity to aggregate and interpret data for policy analysis
- Need knowledge of models to identify future trends and run scenario analysis  
E.g. Central Banks attempt to include climate indicators into macroeconomic models
- Require better coordination between Government agencies in using data for policy initiatives



## Takeaway messages



# TAKEAWAY MESSAGES

- **New economics of sustainable development will need to think beyond GDP**
- **Various efforts have been made to explore alternatives to complement GDP and assess progress**
- **Good statistics can allow policymakers to operationalize SDG framework, e.g. identify needed interventions, and prioritize SDG investment areas**
- **Actions are needed to improve availability and quality of data and to enhance the capacity of data users**



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we want!**

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[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)

