ASEAN
SDG baseline

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Drawing on the analyses of a limited number of indicators with available data, this snapshot aims to support discussions by policy makers on priorities in ASEAN region and actions required to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The snapshot presents analyses to address the following two sets of questions regarding progress in ASEAN towards achieving SDGs 1-16, benchmarked against the Asia-Pacific regional target values:

Baseline status: ASEAN in 2015

- Where did the ASEAN region stand in 2015?
- How much unfinished work was left in 2015?

The answers to these questions are based on an index representing the progress ASEAN made during the period of 2000 to 2015, relative to the progress needed over the entire period of 2000 to 2030.

Anticipated progress: ASEAN in 2030

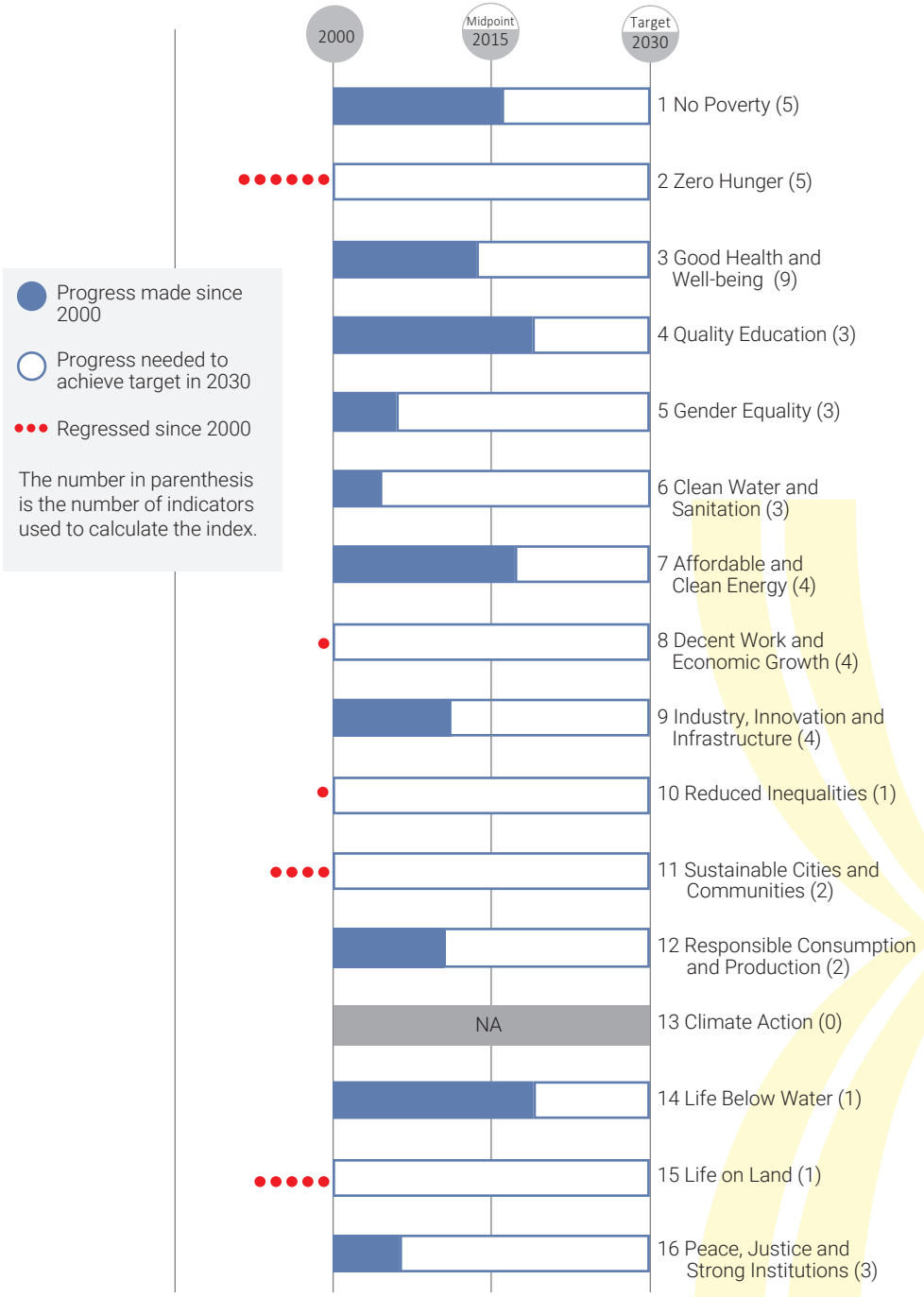
- To what extent is ASEAN projected to achieve the various SDG targets in 2030?
- Which are some of the SDG target areas which ASEAN needs to prioritize additional efforts in order to achieve the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda?

Answers to these questions are based on a metric of the gap between where ASEAN is expected to be assuming the same pace of progress over the period of 2000-2015 and the progress targeted by 2030.

Note: The current assessment is based on a subset of 50 (out of 232) SDGs indicators for which sufficient data for ASEAN Member States are available from ESCAP SDG database[1]. In a few cases proxy indicators have been used. As more data become available, the progress and gap measures may change. Therefore, results should be interpreted with caution. The assessment leaves out SDG 17 on means of implementation.

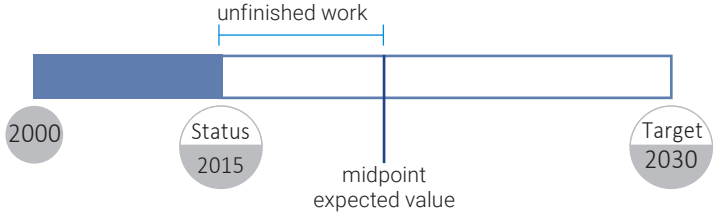
[1] http://www.unescap.org/stat/data

Where did the ASEAN region stand in 2015?



Where did the ASEAN region stand in 2015?

Technical note



Each bar or dotted line indicates :

The average progress for each goal is normalized to a scale of 0 to 10. In principle, because by 2015 half the time had elapsed, the region should already have progressed up to the midpoint. The distance from the farthest left point on each bar/dotted line to the midpoint can therefore be considered "unfinished" work. For some goals, there were few (or no) indicators with data available. The results could change significantly if more dimensions (indicators) were covered. Therefore, results should be interpreted with caution.

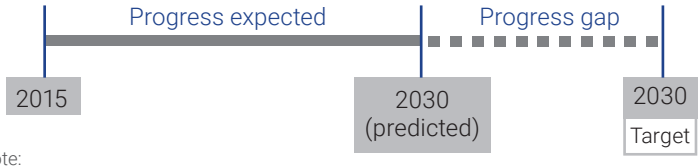
Baseline status: ASEAN in 2015

- ASEAN as a whole made great progress in four goal areas between 2000 and 2015: poverty eradication (Goal 1); quality education (Goal 4); affordable and clean energy (Goal 7); and life below water (Goal 14). For instance, extreme income poverty as measured by headcount ratio at $1.90 a day (2011 PPP) dropped from 26% to 9% during 2000-2015, more than halved.
- In six goal areas, the progress was slow or stagnant in ASEAN between 2000 and 2015. They are: good health and well-being (Goal 3); gender equality (Goal 5); clean water and sanitation (Goal 6); industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9); responsible consumption and production (Goal 12); and peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16).
- On the other hand, the situation in the region deteriorated in five goal areas. They are: food security and zero hunger (Goal 2); decent work and equitable economic growth (Goal 8); reduced inequality within and between countries (Goal 10); sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11); and life on land (Goal 15). Although progress was made on some of the targets under these goals, the sub-region as a whole regressed across the goals, according to the data available.
- Lack of sufficient data has limited progress assessment towards the goals. There was no data for any of the indicators under Goal 13 (climate action), making it impossible to assess progress. The assessment for the rest of the goals was based on the analysis of only a subset of indicators for which data was available. In particular, only one or two indicators were used to assess baseline status for Goals 10-12, and 14 and 15, constraining the accuracy of the results.

GOAL	Target area				
GOAL 1	Employed poor	International poverty	National poverty	Expenditure on education	Expenditure on health
GOAL 2	Undernourishment	Stunting	Agriculture investment	Overweight	Wasting
GOAL 3	Maternal mortality	Under-5 mortality	Neonatal mortality	Tuberculosis	
	Family planning	Malaria	Health workers	Adolescent fertility	
GOAL 4	Organized learning (primary)	Teachers' training (primary)			
GOAL 5	Women in parliaments				
GOAL 6	Improved water	Improved sanitation			
GOAL 7	Renewable energy	Energy supply	Clean fuels and technology		
GOAL 8	Unemployment	GDP growth	GDP per employed		
GOAL 9	Mobile-cellular	CO_2 emissions	R&D investment	Manufacturing % in GDP	
GOAL 10	Labour share of GDP				
GOAL 11	Urban slums	PM10 Concentration			
GOAL 12	Material consumption	Material Footprint			
GOAL 13	NA				
GOAL 14	NA				
GOAL 15	Natural forest area				
GOAL 16	Intentional homicide				

- Current rate of progress needs to be MAINTAINED to meet the target (progress gap less than 10% of progress needed)
- Need to ACCELERATE current rate of progress to meet the target (progress gap is more than 10% of progress needed)
- Current trend needs to be REVERSED to meet target

How far will the ASEAN region be from achieving the SDGs?



Note:

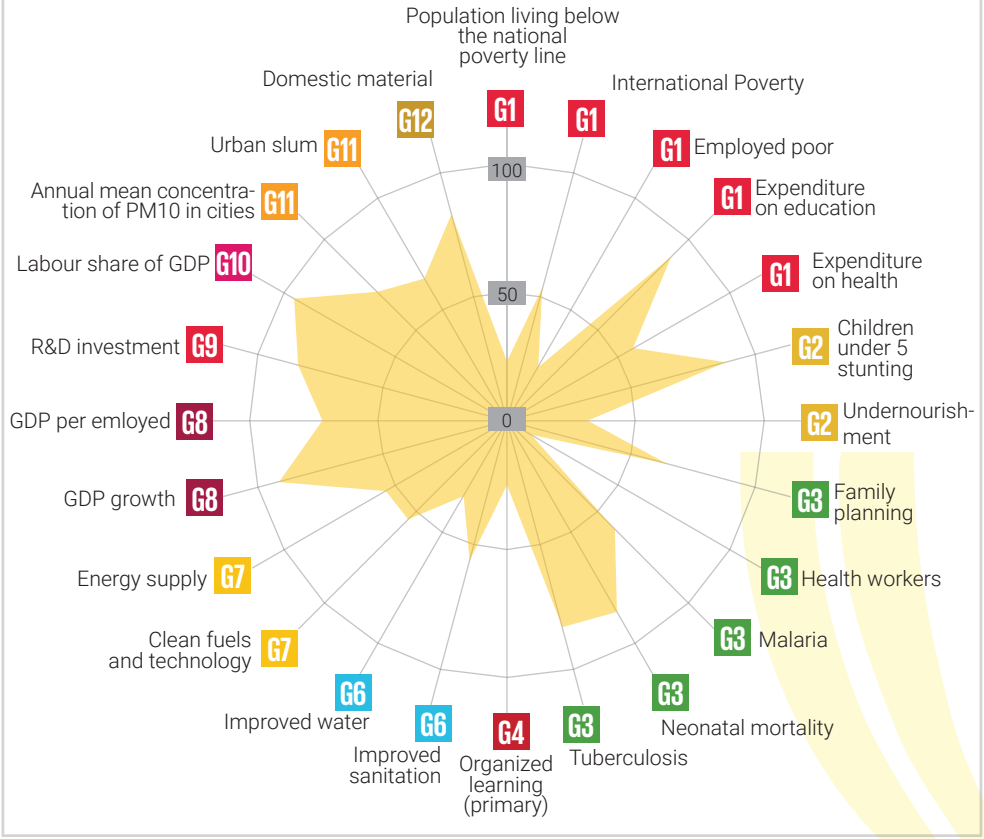
Each focus area above corresponds to one indicator which is classified into one of three groups, depending on the progress expected and the progress needed. This assessment is based on 40 indicators for which sufficient data were available to allow extrapolation to 2030. Note that the 40 is a subset of the 50 indicators used in the baseline status index measure, so the results of the two different measures for each goal are not comparable.

Dashboard of SDG targets: ASEAN in 2030

- The SDG dashboard provides an in-depth assessment for selected target areas across the SDGs. It highlights target areas where the ASEAN sub-region needs to maintain (green) or accelerate (yellow) progress, or entirely reverse the trends (red) in order to collectively achieve the targets of the 2030 Agenda.
- ASEAN has been making good progress in a number of target areas under Goals 3 (good health and well-being); 5 (gender equality); 7 (affordable and clean energy); 8 (decent work and economic growth); and 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure). In order to achieve the goals in 2030, ASEAN as a whole needs to maintain its current rate of progress in some of these target areas and, at the same time, significantly enhances efforts in other target areas under these goals.
- Specifically, ASEAN can expect to meet the 2030 targets by maintaining the past trends in reducing under-5 and maternal mortality, ensuring women's equal opportunities for leadership, increasing access to renewable energy, enhancing employment, increasing access to mobile network, and reducing CO_2 emissions.
- In contrast, ASEAN has to reverse the trend in several targets areas (highlighted in red colour), including increasing investment in agriculture, reducing overweight and wasting among under-5 children, reducing adolescent fertility, increasing supply of qualified primary school teachers, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, achieving the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, conserving natural forests, and reducing all forms of violence and related death rates.

Magnitude of extra efforts that are required across target areas

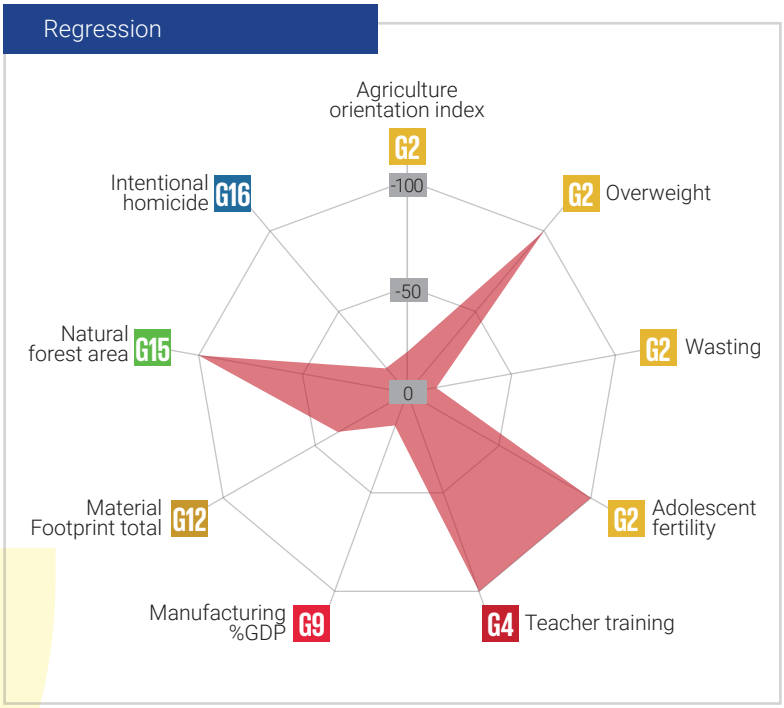
Progress gap



Sizing progress gaps:

- The two spider charts each present the magnitude of extra efforts that are required to accelerate progress (for target areas in YELLOW on the dashboard) or reverse the trend entirely (for target areas highlighted in RED on the dashboard). The magnitude of extra efforts represents the size of progress gaps for target areas where the rate of progress in the past has not been sufficient (progress gaps exist) or trends need to be reversed (regression occurred). It was based on numeric estimates of the progress gap (progress gap ratio) for target areas, normalized to the scale of 100.

Magnitude of extra efforts that are required across target areas



- Specifically, ASEAN needs to accelerate progress in 25 target areas across 11 goals. The distance from the yellow point to the center of the circle represents the extent of acceleration needed in the rate of progress (see graph labelled "Progress gap").
- At the same time, ASEAN needs to reverse trends in eight target areas where the situation has worsened since 2000 (see graph labelled "Regression"). The distance from the red points to the center of the circle indicates the extent of regression since 2000. For instance, although the area of natural forest as percentage of total land in ASEAN region is above its regional target value, this indicator decreased by two percentage point since 2000. During the same period, both overweight and wasting became more prevalent among under-5 children.

Note:

Progress gap ratio is calculated as the relative size of progress gap in relation to the total progress needed (progress expected + progress gap). The extent of regression is the deviation of progress gap ratio from 100 in negative terms.

- Asia and the Pacific 2016 SDG baseline report
http://www.unescap.org/publications/statistical-yearbook-asia-and-pacific-2016-sdg-baseline-report

- Tracking progress towards the SDGs: measuring the otherwise ambiguous progress
http://www.unescap.org/resources/working-paper-series-sdwp05may-2017-tracking-progress-towards-sdgs-measuring-otherwise

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