

## SDG 17

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## SDG 16

Social protection **promotes peaceful and inclusive societies** by strengthening social cohesion and building a social contract.

A universal pension was introduced in Nepal during its conflict in 1997, strengthening trust between citizens and the State.

## SDGs 12, 13, 14 and 15

Social protection **protects the environment** by building resilience to environmental shocks and promoting environmental conservation.

The Asia-Pacific region consumes more than half of the world's natural resources and the environment in the region is under severe pressure. Social protection and labour market policies led to the reforestation of 27 million hectares in China, an area twice the size of Bangladesh.

## SDG 10

Social protection **reduces inequality within and among countries** by tackling both income inequality and unequal access to opportunities. SDG Target 10.4 calls on countries to adopt social protection policies to achieve greater equality.

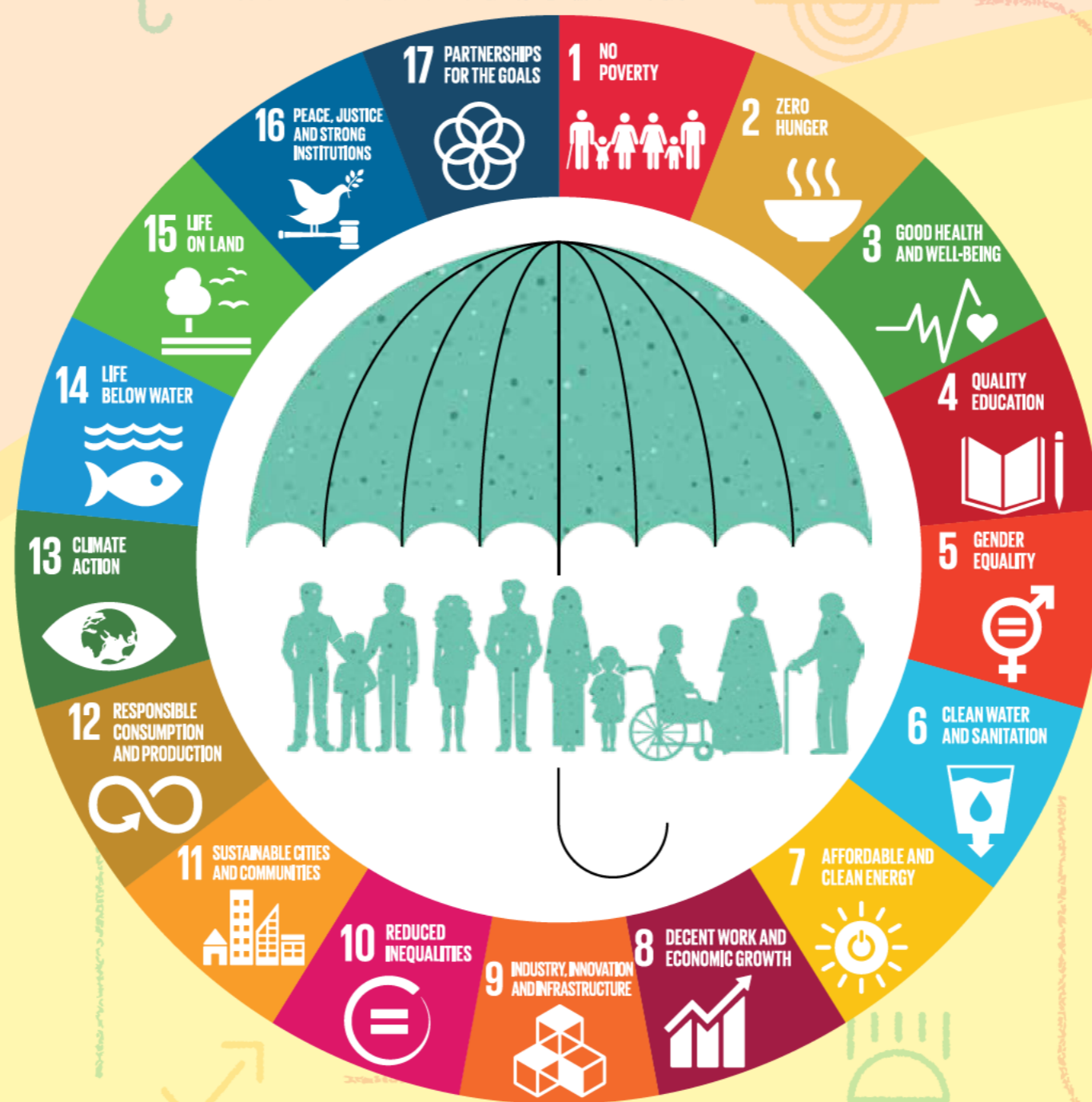
The gap between rich and poor is growing in Asia and the Pacific. The five countries with the highest wealth inequality in the world are all in Asia and the Pacific. Cash transfers and taxes reduces income inequality in OECD countries by about 28 per cent.

## SDGs 8 and 9

Social protection promotes **economic growth, decent work, innovation and inclusive industrialization** through investing in human capital, reducing insecurity for workers, and injecting cash into communities.

Informal workers make up 60 per cent of the labour force in Asia and the Pacific. Every dollar invested in social protection multiplies by 1.3 to 2.4 when cash enters communities.

# Why is social protection key to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?



 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

## SDG 1

SDG Target 1.3 calls on all countries to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, to **end poverty** by 2030.

In Asia and the Pacific, 1.2 billion people live in poverty. The Child Money Programme in Mongolia is responsible for a 12 per cent reduction in the overall poverty headcount ratio.

## SDG 2

Social protection contributes to **ending hunger** through regular and reliable cash transfers that allow people to buy more nutritious and healthy food.

Over half a billion women, men and children in Asia and the Pacific go hungry every day. On average, half of Thailand's universal pension payments are spent on food.

## SDG 3

Social protection contributes to **healthy lives**, by increasing access to affordable health care and also to nutrition, clean water, sanitation and basic shelter. SDG Target 3.8 calls on all countries to achieve universal health coverage.

At least 4 out of 10 people in Asia and the Pacific have no health care coverage. Two-thirds of those receiving the Disability Allowance in Nepal indicated a positive health impact with increased access to health care.

## SDG 4

Social protection contributes to **ensuring inclusive and quality education**, by enabling families to absorb the costs of sending children to school.

There are more than 17 million children of primary school age who are out of school in Asia and the Pacific. Pakistan's Punjab Female Secondary School Stipend has increased enrolment by 32 per cent.

## SDG 5

Social protection contributes to **gender equality and women's empowerment**. SDG Target 5.4 calls on all countries to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services and social protection.

The gender gaps in economic participation have barely changed over the last 20 years in the Asia-Pacific region. Social protection has shown to increase women's involvement in household decision-making by up to 90 per cent.

## SDGs 6, 7 and 11

Social protection **empowers households** to realise their right to an adequate standard of living – increasing the access of marginalized populations' to safe and adequate housing, clean water, sanitation and energy.

250 million people in Asia and the Pacific live in slums without access to basic services, such as clean water and basic sanitation. Cash-benefits, in-kind benefits and subsidies can increase access to such services.

Why is social protection key to implementing ...

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