



TECHNICAL COOPERATION HIGHLIGHTS 2020-2021



UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



*The shaded areas of the map indicate ESCAP members and associate members.**

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in the Asia-Pacific region. The Commission promotes cooperation among its 53 member States and 9 associate members in pursuit of solutions to sustainable development challenges. ESCAP is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations.

The ESCAP secretariat supports inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in the region by generating action-oriented knowledge, and by providing technical assistance and capacity-building services in support of national development objectives, regional agreements and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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FOREWORD



Technical Cooperation Highlights 2020-2021 tells the story of how ESCAP has drawn upon several decades of experience in fostering regional cooperation and deepening partnerships to support its member States over the past two years towards recovering sustainably from the pandemic and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Highlights provide a diverse selection of projects that ESCAP has implemented with impact at the regional, subregional and country levels and, as such, paints a portrait of ESCAP as a strong development partner and provides a reference for good practices to achieve shared development goals.

It is now clear that unless we can activate transformative and accelerated change in the countries, Asia and the Pacific will fall short of reaching many of the SDG targets come 2030. Certainly, since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has derailed much of the progress made by the region towards sustainable development, widened inequalities and added further layers of complication and cost to the achievement of the SDGs. Seeing this risk in the early days of the pandemic, ESCAP repositioned its offer to the region by devising the ESCAP Framework: Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19. The Framework has three pillars: (i) protecting people and enhancing resilience; (ii) supporting economic recovery, and (iii) restoring supply chains and supporting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

In the same vein, the Commission adopted two resolutions during its last two sessions emphasizing the need to respond to the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic through multilateral cooperation and solidarity. Since then, in ESCAP's intergovernmental, analytical and technical cooperation work, sustainable recovery from the pandemic has become an objective and a constant lens through which its capacity development operations are conducted. Actions under these three streams of work all contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and complement the Regional Road Map for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

Our member States recognize that the development challenges they face are too big and too complex to address alone, on their own. As ESCAP celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary, the importance of multilateralism and enhancing targeted South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the region is even more pronounced. As a region, we need to take away lessons from our experiences as vigorously as we look back and celebrate our achievements. The Technical Cooperation Highlights 2020-2021 is an opportunity for us to do just that based on rich evidence and data.

A blue ink signature of Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana.

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

United Nations Under-Secretary-General
and Executive Secretary of ESCAP



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ACRONYMS

AICHR	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
APCICT	Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APDIM	Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management
APFSD	Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
AP-IS	Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
COP26	United Nations Climate Change Conference (26th Conference of Parties summit)
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease of 2019
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CSAM	Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems
DA	United Nations Development Account
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRS	Disaster-Related Statistics
DRSF	Disaster-Related Statistics Framework
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EFC	Energy Foundation China
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FEALAC	Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEM	Gender Marker
GEEW	Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

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