

CHILDREN AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL TARGETS IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC:

*UPTAKE AND USE OF CHILD-FOCUSED INDICATORS IN VOLUNTARY
NATIONAL REVIEWS AND DATA AVAILABILITY*

UNICEF EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE (EAPRO)
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Preface

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, building upon decades of work by all countries and the United Nations. This universal agenda founded on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), calls for urgent action by all countries, developed and developing, in a global partnership. To monitor the progress made towards achieving the SDGs, a global framework has been developed, with 231 unique indicators. To support the measurement of progress, and to ensure that no one is left behind at national (and sub-national), regional and global levels, quality, accessible, timely, and reliable disaggregated data is of primary importance.

UNICEF is the custodian agency for eight SDG indicators, and the co-custodian for another ten indicators. UNICEF has also identified 26 additional SDG indicators that are important for monitoring the progress of rights for children. However, potential challenges remain in monitoring these 44 child-focused SDG indicators due to data gaps and the adoption of these indicators by the Member States. Therefore, a better understanding of data gaps and the adoption of child-focused SDG indicators is key to defining the increased support required by Member States to strengthen data collection and facilitate capacity-building. Acknowledging such importance, this report aims to present an analysis of the adoption of the 44 child-focused SDG indicators, and the data availability in the 29 countries in the East Asia and the Pacific region with at least one Voluntary National Review (VNR).

UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific (EAPRO)

Bangkok, Thailand

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Abbreviations

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CO	Country Office
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DPR	Democratic People's Republic
EAP	East Asia and the Pacific
EAPRO	East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HDI	Human Development Index
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSO	National Statistical Office
PDR	People's Democratic Republic
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USD	United States Dollar
VNR	Voluntary National Review



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Executive Summary

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their uptake in national strategic development plans is important to ensure the commitment of Government ministries (and other key stakeholders) towards gathering data on, and reporting on, SDG indicators. They are also essential for social mobilization, as well as for creating awareness and peer pressure.

The primary objective of this analysis was to map the uptake of the 44 child-focused SDG indicators in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of 29 countries in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region. Finally, by conducting a data availability/data gap analysis of the 44 child-focused SDG indicators, this report also aimed to clarify some of the reasons behind the low uptake of certain indicators.

Methodologically, this was a secondary data analysis consisting of a desk review of available and published VNRs. In addition, SDG global database and UNICEF data portal were reviewed for the availability of 44 child-focused SDG indicator data.

The uptake of the 44 child-focused SDG indicators is good, with an overall uptake average of 64 percent in the EAP region and 71 percent in UNICEF program countries across the region. There is, however, a notable variation in the uptake of child-focused indicators across SDG areas and across countries (and groups of countries). More specifically, in total, the study found that uptake is more than 70 percent for child-focused indicators in SDG2 (Zero hunger), SDG6 (Clean water and sanitation) and SDG13 (Climate action). The uptake is less than 60 percent for SDG5 (Gender equality), SDG7 (Affordable clean energy), SDG8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG16 (Peace, justice, and strong institutions). The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and Pacific Island States (PIS) have higher uptake of child-focused SDG indicators compared to Non-ASEAN and Non-PIS countries. However, the level of uptake varies by SDG areas, for instance, upper middle-income countries have higher uptake of child-focused SDG indicators in the SDG1 and SDG2 areas, and low/lower middle-income countries have higher uptake in SDG3 and SDG5 areas. Considering the country grouping according to human development index (HDI), medium HDI countries were found to have a higher uptake of child-focused indicators (72 percent) compared to very high HDI countries (49 percent). However, no pattern is observed in the uptake of child-focused indicators by SDG areas according to the HDI. For example, the uptake in SDG3, SDG4, SDG6, and SDG7 areas is higher in medium HDI countries, whereas the uptake in SDG1, SDG2, and SDG13 area is higher among high HDI countries.

The data availability and data gap analysis revealed that, to some extent, the uptake of the selected indicators correlates with data availability. As evidenced by the analysis, the uptake of child-focused SDG indicators is higher for countries with better data availability¹. Additional reasons for the uptake of indicators include the capacity of National Statistical Offices (NSOs), as well as the relevance of some indicators to national contexts.

¹ It may well be the case that this could be also driven by government policy priorities, resulting in better monitoring mechanisms and better availability of data. However, determining this claim would require an additional analysis that goes beyond the scope of this work.

Against this background, there are several policy recommendations that national authorities should consider in the future. These include: i) strengthening the capacity of NSO's; ii) increasing data availability, enhancing data disaggregation, data accessibility, data integration and use of existing data (while also giving importance to indicators previously seen as 'not applicable or not relevant' to national contexts), and iii) harnessing the momentum of the data revolution to couple the more traditional approach of data generation/collection with new and innovative modes for data generation, without compromising on data quality (for example, mobile phone data could be used to estimate poverty rates, while satellite data could also help with geographic poverty mapping).



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Introduction

Since 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the primary guiding framework for equitable growth and development, with targets to be achieved by 2030. It is a broad set of 17 goals covering areas relevant to economic growth, such as improvement in health and education, as well as eradicating poverty, while leaving no one behind.

As written by Jeffrey Sachs, the SDGs are important for a number of reasons. Firstly, the goals are essential for social mobilization, by focusing on what matters for our future. Secondly, the function of the goals is to create 'peer pressure', similar to the adoption of the original MDGs, under which political leaders were questioned on the steps they were taking to end hunger and extreme poverty. Thirdly, the adoption of the SDGs is important as it spurs bold ways (based on knowledge and practice) to recommend practical pathways to achieve results. Finally, such goals also serve to mobilize stakeholder networks, in particular government ministries, but also other stakeholders. Through such a framework, many organizations and groups (international organizations, donors, non-governmental organizations) come together to work as one towards a common purpose (The Project Syndicate, 2015).

However, bringing stakeholders together towards achieving the Agenda 2030 is not enough. Reliable and available data is also required to measure track and report on the progress towards achieving the goals. Moreover, and building on the concept of peer pressure, it requires adoption of the SDGs within national development plans as well as their periodic tracking systems. Yet, as current evidence suggests, data availability and accountability remain significant challenges for the implementation of the SDGs. Without adequate data, assessing and monitoring progress towards the achievement of SDGs is difficult for many countries. Existing evidence underscored that also during the MDGs era, data was not easily accessible, and the quality of data was not reliable (Bhattacharya et al., 2016). Additionally, continuous monitoring of progress was also absent (Rahman et al., 2016). It has been estimated that USD 1 billion is required annually to implement an appropriate statistical system to support and monitor SDG implementation in low-income and lower-middle-income countries (Espey, 2015). This is particularly important for the wider East Asia and the Pacific region, which includes a sizeable number of low and middle-income countries.

Uptake of the 44 child-focused SDG indicators is of particular importance for a number of reasons. Firstly, from UNICEF's perspective, children deserve to be empowered as agents of change, making progress, and ensuring they are included within the concept of 'leaving no one behind' (LNOB). Additionally, health and education are key elements of each individual's human capital². Thus, focusing attention on improving health and education development outcomes (by tracking the relevant indicators) will help to improve the human capital of future generations, feeding into more robust economic growth and supporting development in the medium-to-long term.

² This feeds further into the UNICEF's rights-based approach, which is broader.

Aims and Objectives

The overarching aim of this report was to map and analyse the uptake, data use and data availability of the selected 44 child-focused SDG indicators in countries across East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) region.

The following specific objectives guided the work in this report:

- (i) To map the uptake and use of the 44 child-focused SDG indicators in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in the EAP region; and
- (ii) To conduct a data gap analysis of the 44 child-focused SDG indicators.

Methodology

In order to meet the above objectives, this report utilized the review of available VNRs from 29 countries in the EAP region, the SDG global database and the UNICEF data portal. In addition to providing a summary on a country-by-country basis, the report also aggregates summaries by a number of country groupings, including - Pacific Island States (PIS); Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) vs. the rest of EAP countries, and level of development determined by both GDP per capita and HDI.

The 44 child-focused SDG indicators represent long-term changes in the lives of children and the realization of their rights. UNICEF contributes to these high-level changes across all countries, in accordance with the principle of universality inscribed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the SDG Agenda 2030. Furthermore, UNICEF has led the development of internationally agreed definitions and measurements for 18 SDG child-focused (custodian or co-custodian) indicators and has worked closely with partners to improve the availability and quality of data. These indicators frequently measure changes in system or institutional performance at scale, and/or changes in behaviour, norms, practices, and beliefs. Some outcome indicators also track coverage at the population level, rather than service delivery, if and where it is relevant to do so.

When reviewing the VNRs, after distilling and reviewing the use of data, this report further examined the availability of 44 child-focused SDG indicator data in the SDG global and UNICEF data portals. A full list of the 44 child-focused SDG indicators is provided in Appendix A. The uptake of the indicators is analysed based on the broader (any) and specific reference to the indicator. For example, specific reference in the VNR of an indicator representing the national poverty line include “Children living below the national poverty line”, but any reference includes mention of the national poverty line regardless of population classification. The process of VNR verification included both the uptake of the indicator and the use of indicator’s data in the relevant report. These indicators are further classified into SDG areas to understand the uptake of the indicators and the use of data in the VNR related to the specific

SDG area. The indicator uptake as well as the use of data is envisaged as a percentage to the total number of indicators and number of countries.

The second objective entailed taking stock of the availability of data for the 44 child-focused SDG indicators in the Global SDG Database as well as in the UNICEF global data portal and conducting a data gap analysis of the availability versus uptake of these indicators³. Analysed the availability of data to know whether data for these indicators are available for multiple time periods since the year 2010.

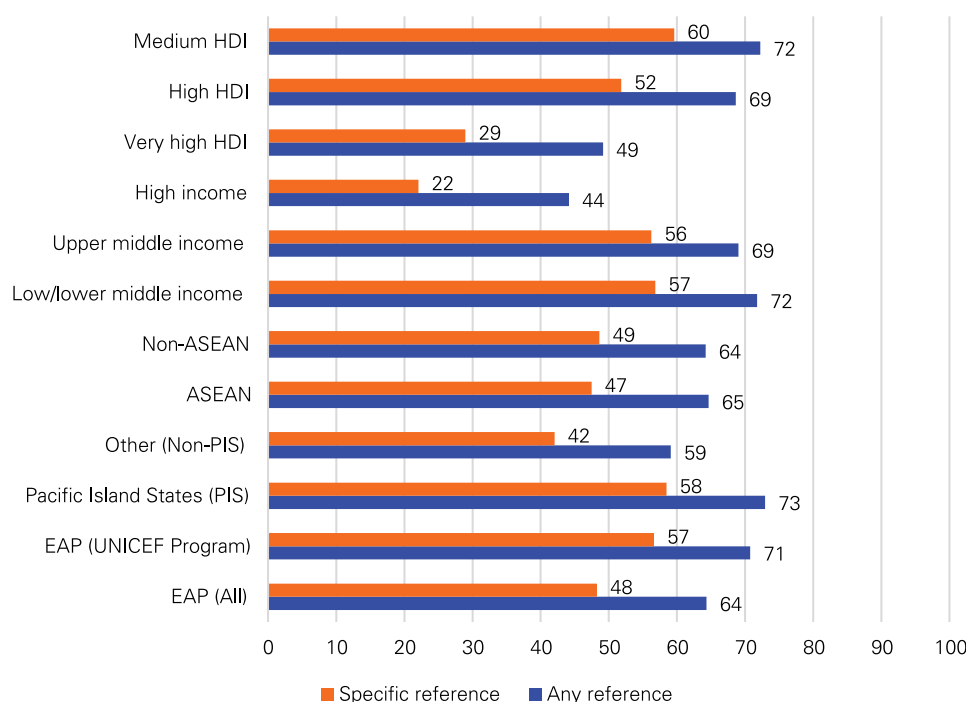
Data Analysis and Findings

Uptake of child-focused SDG indicators in the VNRs

Based on the report's primary objectives, the first set of results is related to the uptake of the child-focused SDG indicators in the VNRs. As it is difficult to present the specific findings on all 44 child-focused SDG indicators, this report summarizes them by SDG areas and for all 44 child-focused SDG indicators. On average, **the cumulative uptake of the 44 child-focused SDG indicators in the 29 countries in the EAP region is 48 percent and 64 percent according to specific and any reference of the indicators, respectively.** However, the cumulative uptake of child-focused SDG indicators is slightly higher in the 23 UNICEF program countries in the EAP region, at 57 percent and at 71 percent, respectively according to the two references of the indicators used in the analysis. Similarly, the uptake (any reference) of all the 44 child-focused indicators according to various country groupings (see Appendix B) suggest that it is higher in Pacific Island States (PIS) at 73 percent, in low/lower middle-income countries at 72 percent and in medium HDI countries at 72 percent.

3 SDG Global data base <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal>
UNICEF Data portal <https://data.unicef.org/sdgs/>

Chart 1. Uptake of 44 child-focused SDG indicators by any and specific reference (percent), according to different country groupings



The findings of the uptake (any reference) of 44 child-focused indicators for the entire EAP region on a country-by-country basis for the different SDG areas are shown in Table 1. More specifically, the table presents the uptake of child-focused SDG indicators by SDG areas, which are reported in each country's VNR. As described earlier, in this study, the analysis is carried out separately according to any reference and specific reference (Table 2) of the indicators. As the averages at the bottom of the table suggest, there is a significant variation in the uptake of child-focused indicators by SDG areas.

There are a number of broad findings that stem from the data in Table 1 and Table 2. At the time of writing this report and analysis, of the 33 countries in the EAP region, the VNR is available at least for one year for 29 countries⁴. These averages are, to a large extent, driven by a wide heterogeneity in the uptake of the indicators between countries in the EAP region. For example, the uptake of all the 44 child-focused indicators according to any reference is greater than 90 percent in Timor Leste (95 percent), Marshall Islands (93 percent), Kiribati (93 percent), and Lao PDR (91 percent). In seven countries, such as New Zealand (18 percent), the Republic of Korea (20 percent), China (22 percent), Australia (34 percent), Vanuatu (41 percent), Brunei Darussalam (45 percent), and Singapore (48 percent), uptake of these indicators was found to be below 50 percent. Furthermore, six countries, namely Cambodia (50 percent), Vietnam (55 percent), Micronesia (61 percent), Solomon Islands (64 percent), Thailand (64 percent), and Tonga (64 percent) have uptake of these indicators below the average observed for the EAP countries. In addition, there are wide variations in the adoption of indicators according to the 10 SDG areas of the 44 child-focused indicators across countries in the EAP region irrespective of the reference point of the indicator such as specific or any reference.

⁴ Four countries (Cook Islands, Myanmar, Niue and Tokelau) with no VNR are not included in the analysis.

Table 1. Uptake of child-focused SDG indicators in VNRs (percent) – any reference, by SDG areas

Country	SDG1: No poverty	SDG2: Zero hunger	SDG3: Good health and well-being	SDG4: Quality education	SDG5: Gender equality	SDG6: Clean water and sanitation	SDG7: Affordable and clean energy	SDG8: Decent work and economic growth	SDG13: Climate action	SDG16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions	All
Australia	42.9	0.0	15.4	60.0	50.0	66.7	100.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	34.1
Brunei Darussalam	28.6	100.0	61.5	40.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	45.5
Cambodia	57.1	66.7	69.2	40.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	50.0
China	57.1	66.7	15.4	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.7
Fiji	85.7	100.0	84.6	60.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	77.3
Indonesia	85.7	66.7	84.6	80.0	75.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	83.3	81.8
Japan	42.9	66.7	92.3	80.0	75.0	33.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	72.7
Kiribati	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	93.2
DPR Korea	42.9	66.7	100.0	100.0	25.0	66.7	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	65.9
Lao PDR	100.0	100.0	92.3	80.0	75.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	83.3	90.9
Malaysia	85.7	100.0	92.3	100.0	25.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	72.7
Marshall Islands	85.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	95.5
Micronesia	57.1	0.0	84.6	80.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	16.7	61.4
Mongolia	71.4	100.0	76.9	60.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	72.7
Nauru	85.7	100.0	53.8	100.0	75.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	70.5
New Zealand	14.3	33.3	0.0	40.0	50.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	18.2
Palau	71.4	100.0	92.3	80.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	83.3	81.8
Papua New Guinea	71.4	100.0	100.0	60.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	79.5
Philippines	57.1	100.0	76.9	80.0	75.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	75.0
Republic of Korea	28.6	100.0	23.1	0.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.5
Samoa	71.4	100.0	76.9	80.0	100.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	79.5
Singapore	42.9	66.7	38.5	100.0	50.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	0.0	16.7	47.7
Solomon Islands	71.4	66.7	92.3	60.0	50.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	63.6
Thailand	100.0	100.0	61.5	60.0	25.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	16.7	63.6
Timor-Leste	85.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	95.5
Tonga	100.0	100.0	53.8	80.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	63.6
Tuvalu	85.7	100.0	61.5	80.0	75.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	75.0
Vanuatu	14.3	0.0	61.5	60.0	50.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	40.9
Vietnam	85.7	33.3	61.5	20.0	50.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	50.0	54.5
Total	66.5	77.0	69.8	68.3	54.3	73.6	51.7	55.2	72.4	44.8	64.3

Table 2. Uptake of child-focused SDG indicators in VNRs (percent) – specific reference, by SDG areas

Country	SDG1: No poverty	SDG2: Zero hunger	SDG3: Good health and well-being	SDG4: Quality education	SDG5: Gender equality	SDG6: Clean water and sanitation	SDG7: Affordable and clean energy	SDG8: Decent work and economic growth	SDG13: Climate action	SDG16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions	All
Australia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Brunei Darussalam	28.6	100.0	61.5	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	34.1
Cambodia	42.9	66.7	46.2	40.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	38.6
China	28.6	66.7	15.4	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.2
Fiji	57.1	100.0	46.2	60.0	0.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	33.3	52.3
Indonesia	85.7	66.7	61.5	80.0	25.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	83.3	70.5
Japan	28.6	66.7	69.2	80.0	25.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	100.0	50.0	54.5
Kiribati	57.1	100.0	76.9	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	75.0
DPR Korea	28.6	66.7	76.9	100.0	25.0	66.7	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	56.8
Lao PDR	85.7	100.0	69.2	80.0	75.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	83.3	81.8
Malaysia	57.1	100.0	69.2	100.0	25.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	61.4
Marshall Islands	28.6	100.0	76.9	100.0	100.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	79.5
Micronesia	42.9	0.0	61.5	80.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	16.7	52.3
Mongolia	71.4	100.0	38.5	60.0	25.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	54.5
Nauru	42.9	100.0	53.8	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	56.8
New Zealand	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3
Palau	57.1	100.0	69.2	80.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	83.3	72.7
Papua New Guinea	28.6	100.0	76.9	60.0	50.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	63.6
Philippines	57.1	100.0	38.5	80.0	25.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	33.3	54.5
Republic of Korea	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Samoa	42.9	100.0	53.8	40.0	50.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	33.3	54.5
Singapore	0.0	0.0	23.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.8
Solomon Islands	28.6	66.7	69.2	60.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	45.5
Thailand	85.7	100.0	38.5	60.0	25.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	16.7	52.3
Timor-Leste	57.1	100.0	76.9	100.0	50.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	79.5
Tonga	42.9	100.0	53.8	80.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	54.5
Tuvalu	42.9	100.0	53.8	40.0	75.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	33.3	59.1
Vanuatu	14.3	0.0	61.5	60.0	50.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	40.9
Vietnam	28.6	33.3	30.8	20.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	27.3
Total	40.9	70.1	50.7	57.2	29.3	64.4	44.8	48.3	72.4	34.5	48.3

In order to get a better sense of this heterogeneity across groups of countries, this report also summarized the uptake of child-focused SDG indicators by different country groups (see Appendix B for country grouping). Chart 2 presents the findings of the uptake of child-focused indicators in the individual SDG areas, summarized through wider groups of countries, that is, EAP countries (UNICEF program), Pacific Island States (PIS), Non-PIS, ASEAN, and Non-ASEAN countries, in addition to the EAP region. More specifically, based on the specific reference, the uptake of child-focused indicators is particularly high for SDG13 (72 percent in EAP countries and 87 percent in EAP UNICEF program countries, SDG2 (70 percent in EAP countries and 81 percent in EAP UNICEF program countries and SDG6 (64 percent in EAP countries and 77 percent in EAP UNICEF program countries). However, based on any reference of the indicators, overall, the uptake is high for SDG2 (77 percent in EAP countries and 81 percent in EAP UNICEF program countries) followed by SDG6 (74 percent in EAP countries and 81 percent in EAP UNICEF program countries and SDG13 (72 percent in EAP countries and 87 percent in EAP UNICEF program countries). In the EAP region, according to any reference, the uptake of education and health related indicators (70 percent and 68 percent, respectively) are also relatively high, while the uptake of the remaining child-focused SDG indicators is much lower. According to any reference, the share of child-focused SDG indicator uptake is particularly low among the SDG16 and SDG7, while uptake of child-focused indicators related to SDG5 are also similarly low.

The classification of countries according to PIS indicated that for all child-focused indicators in the relevant areas of the SDGs, the uptake according to any reference was higher for PIS as a whole, compared to Non-PIS. However, the variations are less for the uptake of child-focused indicators in SDG2 and SDG16 areas between PIS and Non-PIS countries. Country groups according to ASEAN indicate that, for child-focused indicators relevant to the SDG areas of SDG1, SDG2, and SDG6, the uptake of indicators was higher in ASEAN compared to Non-ASEAN countries. But for the SDG areas of SDG5, SDG7 and SDG13, the uptake of child-focused indicators was higher in Non-ASEAN countries as compared to countries belonging to ASEAN. However, the uptake of child-focused indicators in the remaining SDG areas were relatively similar between the ASEAN and Non-ASEAN countries.

Chart 2. Uptake of child-focused SDG indicators by any and specific reference by SDG areas (percent), according to different country groupings

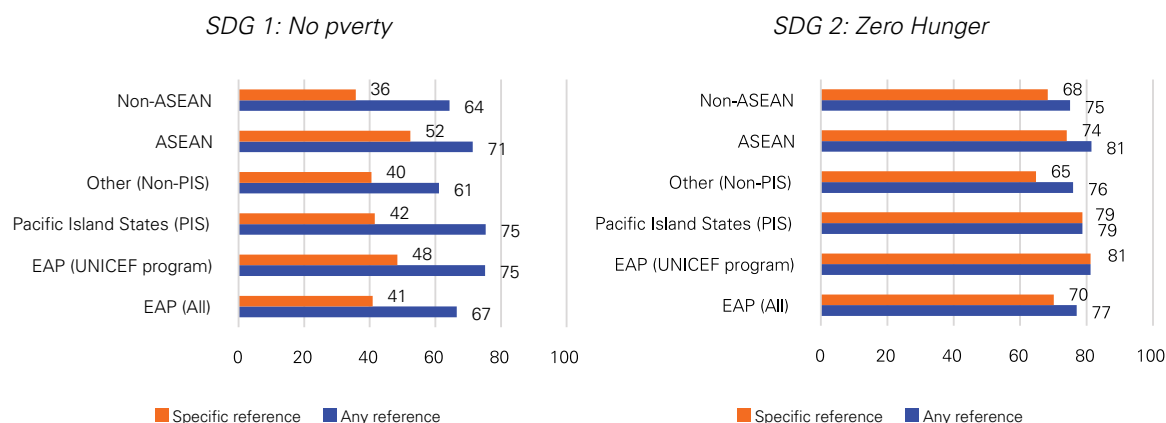


Chart 2. Uptake of child-focused SDG indicators by any and specific reference by SDG areas (percent), according to different country groupings (Conti...)

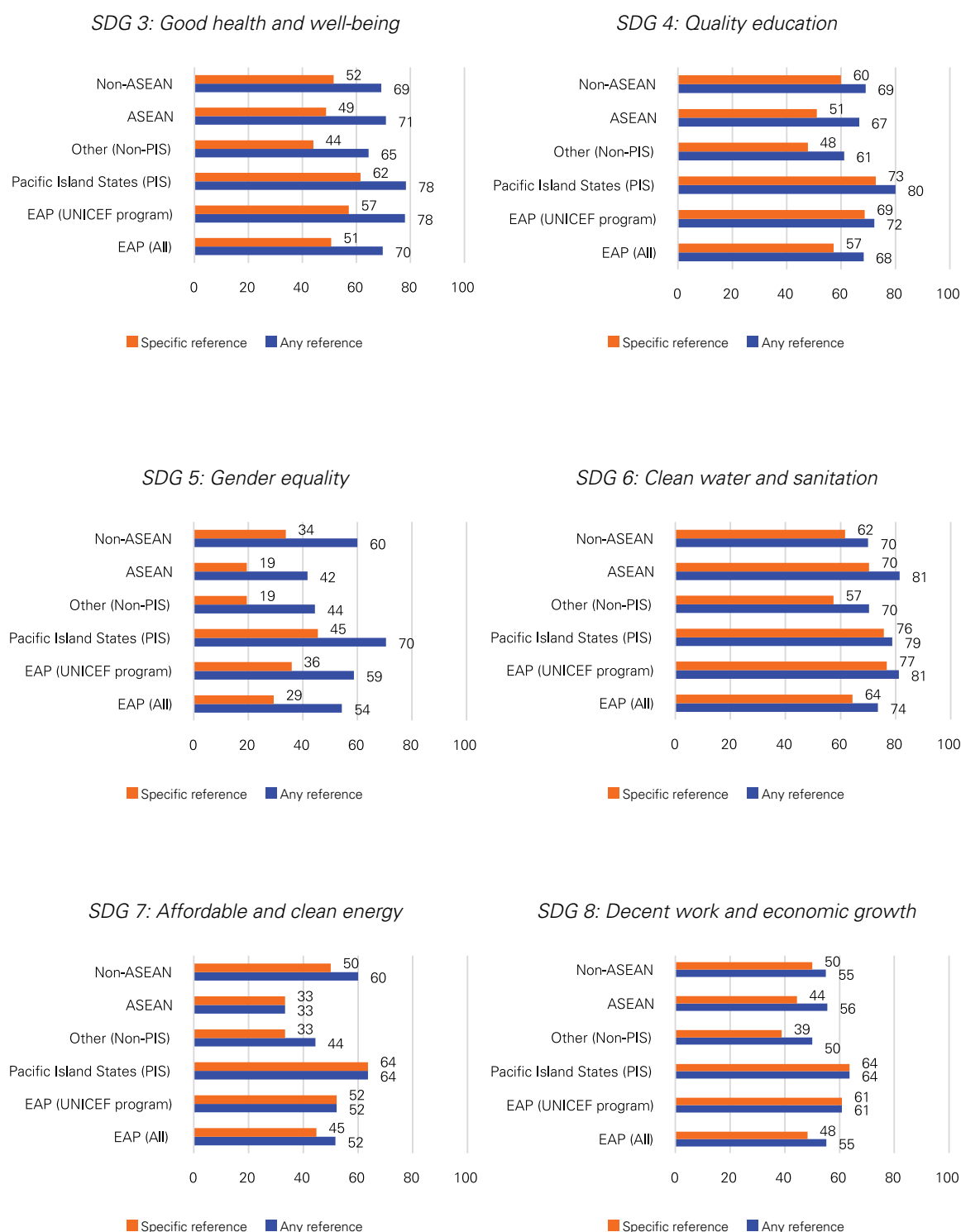
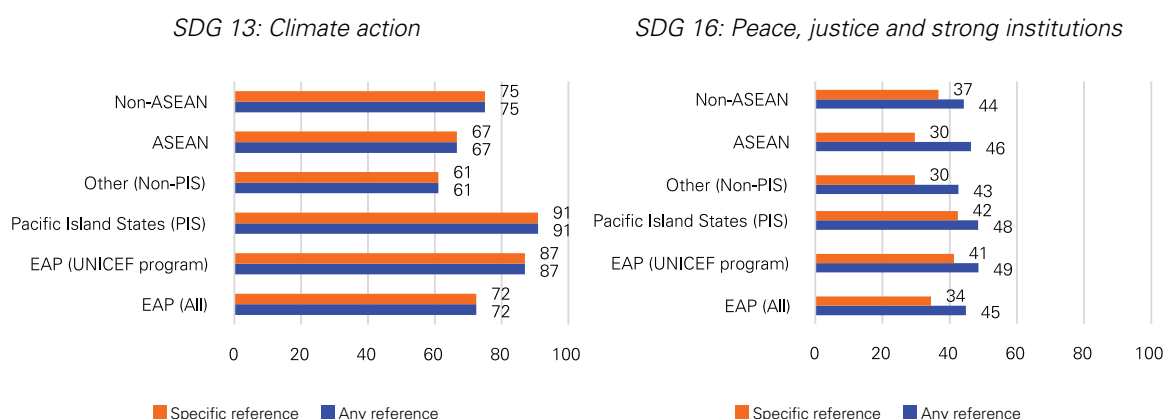


Chart 2. Uptake of child-focused SDG indicators by any and specific reference by SDG areas (percent), according to different country groupings (Conti...)



Summarizing the results of countries according to income groupings also reveals some dichotomy (Chart 3). As evident from the chart, the uptake of the child-focused indicators is higher for the SDG areas of SDG1, SDG2, and SDG13 in countries classified as upper middle income as compared to countries in the low/lower middle income and high-income groups. On the other hand, for child-focused indicators in SDG3 area, the uptake is relatively higher in low/lower middle-income countries. The uptake of child-focused indicators is comparatively lower for high income group countries in almost all SDG areas except for the SDG7 area. Relatively similar uptake was observed in child-focused indicators between low/lower middle income and upper middle-income countries for the goal areas related to SDG4, SDG6, SDG8, and SDG13.

Chart 3. Uptake of child-focused SDG indicators by any and specific reference by SDG areas (percent), according to income grouping of countries

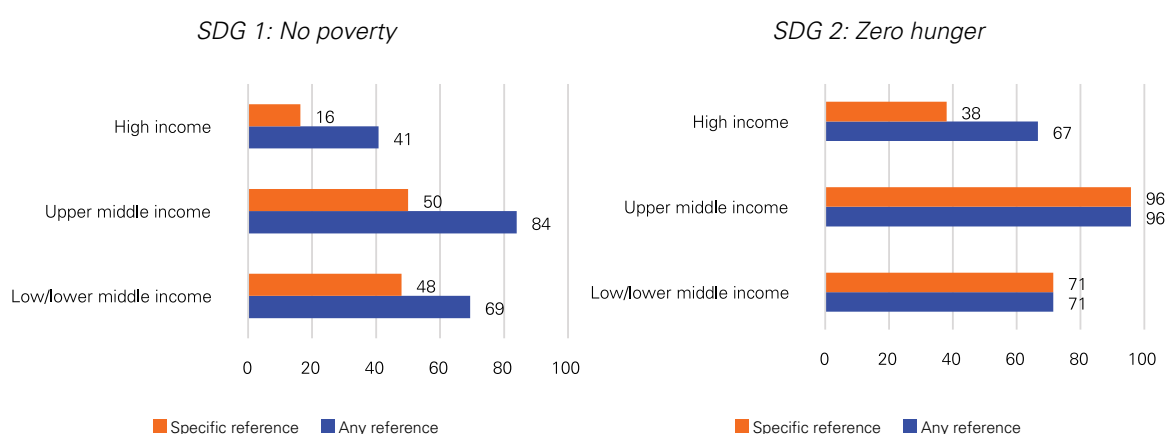


Chart 3. Uptake of child-focused SDG indicators by any and specific reference by SDG areas (percent), according to income grouping of countries (Conti...)

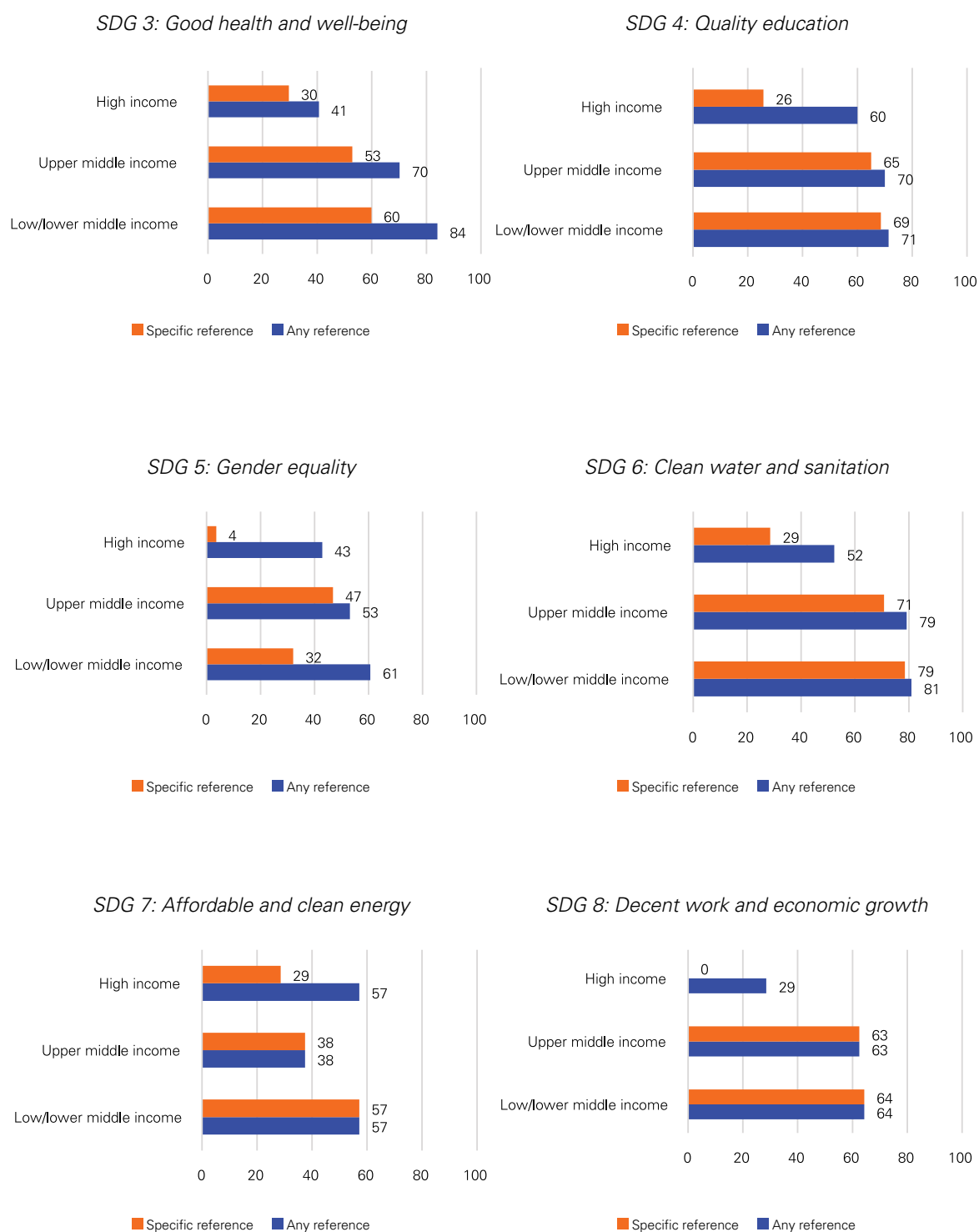
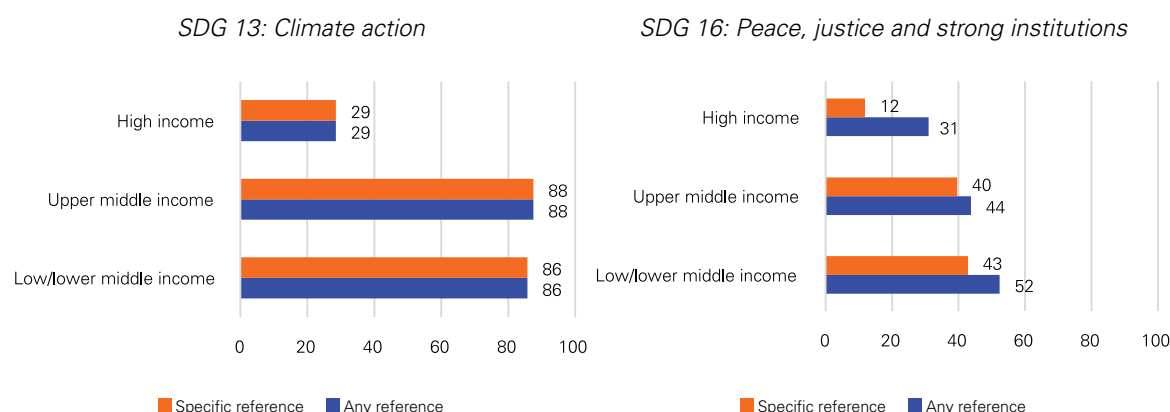


Chart 3. Uptake of child-focused SDG indicators by any and specific reference by SDG areas (percent), according to income grouping of countries (Conti...)



Similar type of results was observed for the classification of the countries according to the level of economic development as defined by HDI (see Chart 4). As Chart 4 illustrates, the uptake of child-focused indicators in almost all the SDG areas was lower for countries grouped as very high HDI, except for the SDG2 and SDG4 areas. The uptake of child-focused indicators was higher in case of countries grouped as high HDI for SDG areas of SDG1, SDG2, SDG5 SDG8, SDG13, and SDG16 as compared to medium HDI and very high HDI group of countries. In comparison, the medium HDI group of countries has the highest uptake of child-focused indicators in the SDG areas of SDG3, SDG4, SDG6, and SDG7.

Chart 4. Uptake of child-focused SDG indicators by any and specific reference by SDG areas (percent), according to HDI grouping of countries

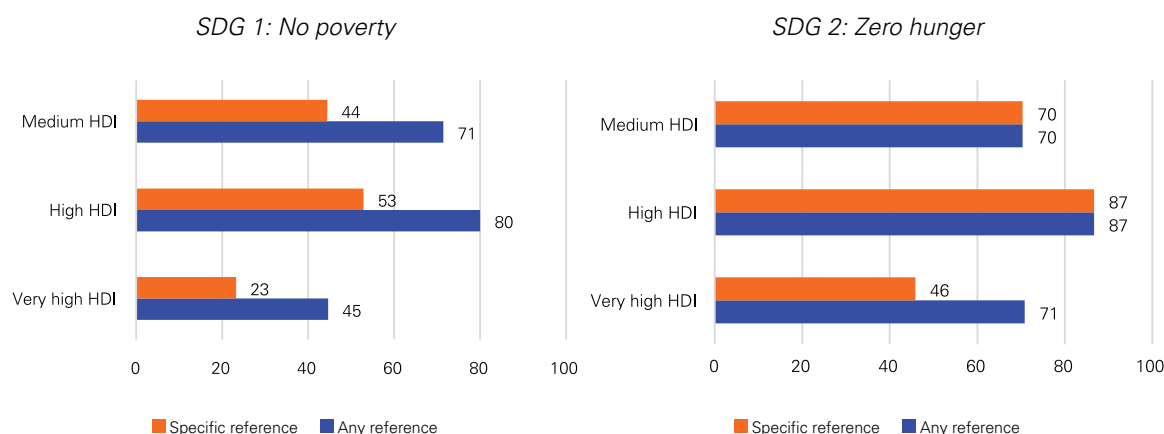


Chart 4. Uptake of child-focused SDG indicators by any and specific reference by SDG areas (percent), according to HDI grouping of countries (Conti...)

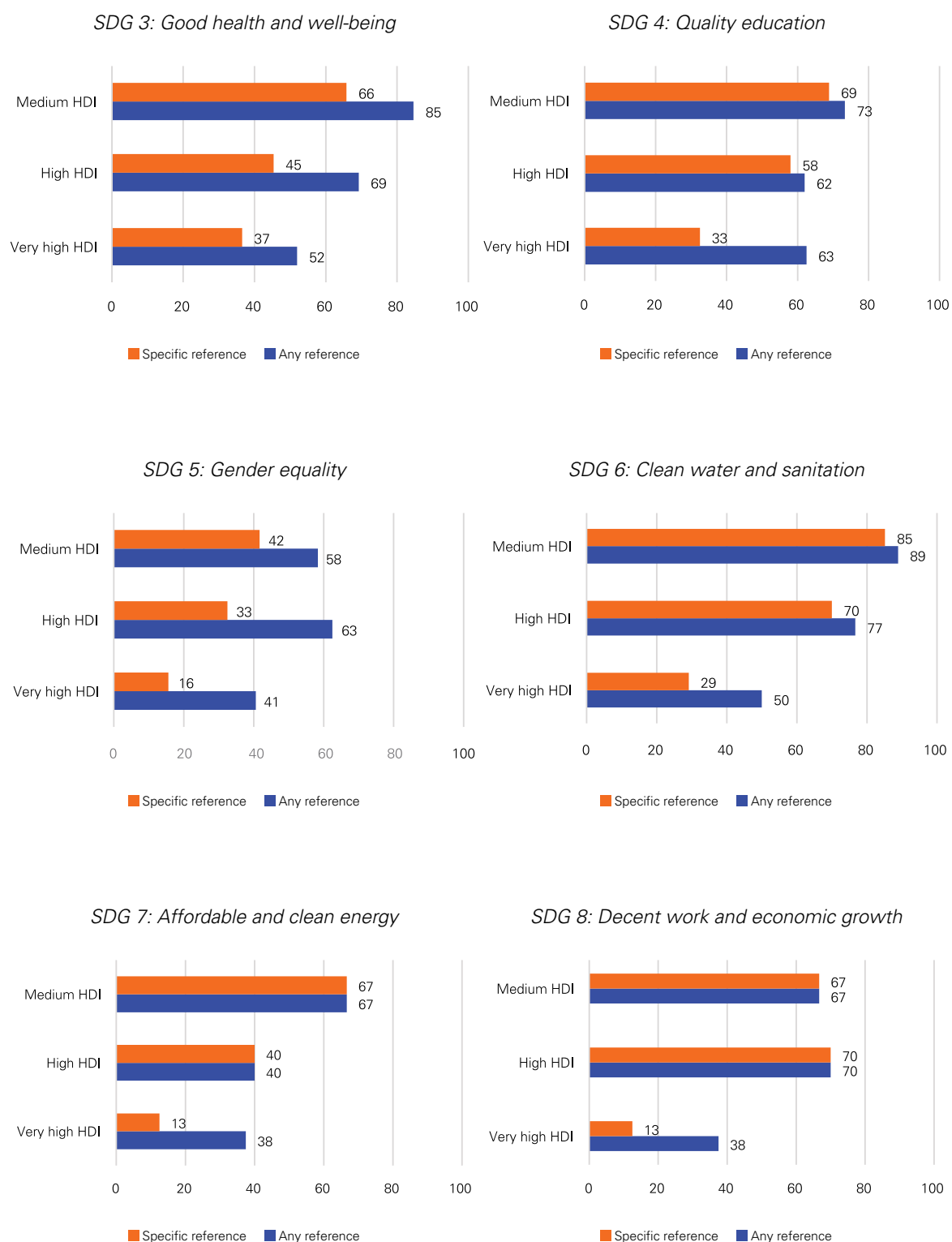


Chart 4. Uptake of child-focused SDG indicators by any and specific reference by SDG areas (percent), according to HDI groupings of countries (Conti...)

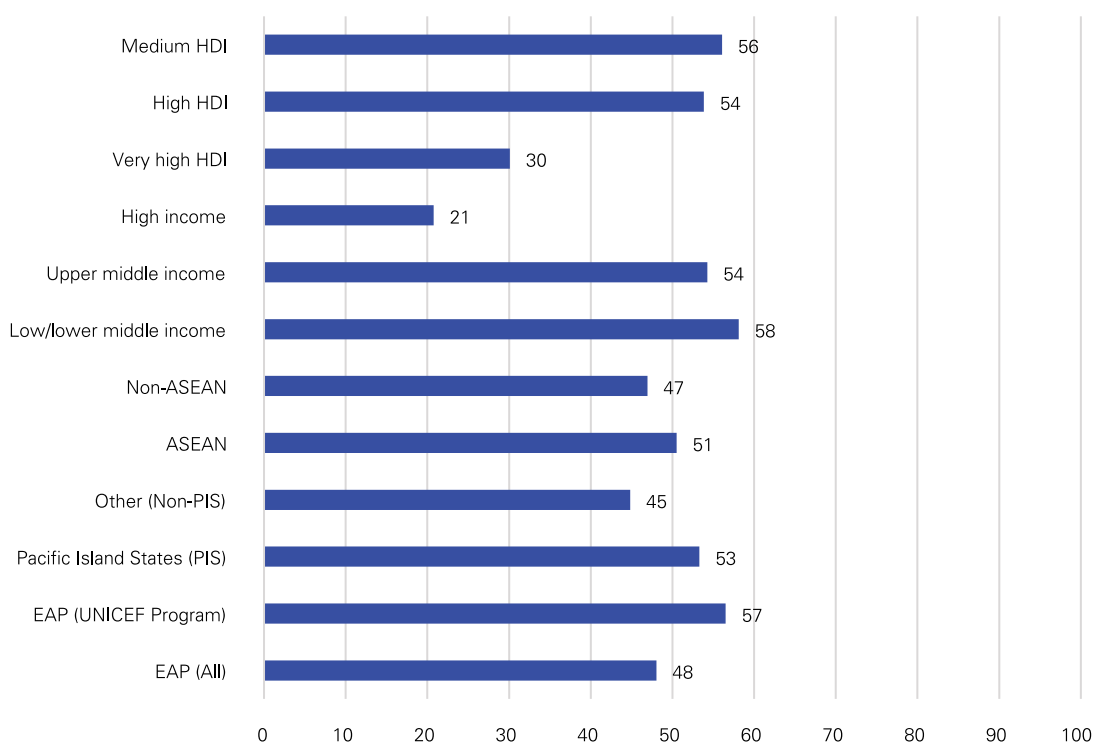


Use of child-focused SDG indicators data in VNRs

In addition to the uptake of the SDG target indicators in VNRs, this report also analysed to know the extent of reporting of 44 child-focused SDG indicator data values in the respective VNRs in the countries of the EAP regions. A similar approach was adopted for this analysis, namely, conducting a country-by-country and by SDG area analysis, followed by aggregation of the findings by groups of countries. The country-by-country findings are presented in Table 3. Chart 5 provides the use of all the 44 child-focused indicators data in the VNRs for the EAP region as a whole, as well as for the country groups. In general, there are a few key findings that emerge from the analysis. Primarily, the extent of reporting of child-focused SDG indicator data within VNR is much lower compared to the uptake of indicators based on any reference identified within VNRs analysed through this report. More specifically, as the findings of this analysis suggest, less than half of the 44 child-focused indicator data have been reported in VNRs from countries in the EAP regions. The indicator data reporting in the respective VNRs is higher for UNICEF program countries, Pacific Island States, ASEAN, lower/ low middle-income countries, and countries with medium HDI.

Examining the country-wise results of the reporting of data values of the child-focused indicators in the VNRs revealed wide range of heterogeneity (Table 3). Out of the total 29 countries in the EAP region, the reporting of the data value of the 44 child-focused indicators in the respective VNR was more than 75 percent in only one country, namely Lao PDR (84 percent). However, the reporting of the data value in the VNR was below 20 percent in countries such as Australia (0 percent), New Zealand (0 percent), Republic of Korea (0 percent), Brunei Darussalam (14 percent), Marshall Islands (14 percent), Singapore (16 percent) and Vanuatu (16 percent). In countries, namely Fiji (70 percent), Indonesia (70 percent), Kiribati (73 percent), Malaysia (73 percent), Mongolia (73 percent), Timor-Leste (73 percent) and Palau (75 percent), the reporting of the data value of the 44 child-focused indicators in the VNR was 70 percent or more.

Chart 5. Use of 44 child-focused SDG indicators data in VNRs (percent), according to different country groupings



The SDG area specific analysis also revealed a wide range of dichotomy in the reporting of the child-focused indicators in the VNR. In the Lao PDR and Timor-Leste, the values of all child-focused indicators related to five SDG areas were reported in the VNR. The specific five SDG areas in the Lao PDR included SDG2, SDG6, SDG7, SDG8 and SDG13 and in Timor-Leste it included SDG2, SDG3, SDG6, SDG7, and SDG13. However, in Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, and Tuvalu, the values of all child-focused indicators related to four SDG areas were reported in the VNR. The data value of all the child-indicators of only one SDG area was reported in the VNRs of Cambodia, Palau, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. But, as observed for Lao PDR and Timor-Leste, the specific SDG areas with the data reported for all the child-focused indicators in the VNR were also found to differ among these countries.

Additionally, and like the VNR uptake results, this report further explored heterogeneity in the country grouping by performing some further analysis of data use, with the findings presented in Charts 6–8. Overall, according to Chart 6, the highest uptake of child-focused SDG indicator values could be found for SDG6 (61 percent), as well as SDG2 (61 percent). The other two topmost SDG areas for which the data values are reported in the VNRs are SDG3 (57 percent) and SDG13 (52 percent). The reporting of indicator values in the VNR is less than one-third for indicators related to the goal areas of SDG16 (25 percent), SDG8 (31 percent), and SDG7 (34 percent). However, the reporting of data values in the VNRs is found to be slightly higher in the EAP (UNICEF program) countries. For instance, the reporting of data value for indicators related to SDG2 and SDG6 in the VNRs of EAP (UNICEF program) countries is 75 percent and 70 percent, respectively.

Table 3. Use of child-focused SDG indicator data in VNRs by SDG areas (Percent)

Country	SDG1: No poverty	SDG2: Zero hunger	SDG3: Good health and well-being	SDG4: Quality education	SDG5: Gender equality	SDG6: Clean water and sanitation	SDG7: Affordable and clean energy	SDG8: Decent work and economic growth	SDG13: Climate action	SDG16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions	All
Australia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Brunei Darussalam	0.0	0.0	30.8	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.6
Cambodia	57.1	33.3	46.2	40.0	0.0	66.7	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.4
China	57.1	66.7	15.4	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.7
Fiji	85.7	100.0	69.2	60.0	50.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	70.5
Indonesia	71.4	66.7	61.5	80.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	83.3	70.5
Japan	42.9	33.3	92.3	80.0	50.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	100.0	50.0	63.6
Kiribati	85.7	100.0	92.3	60.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	72.7
DPR Korea	28.6	66.7	92.3	80.0	0.0	66.7	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	56.8
Lao PDR	85.7	100.0	92.3	40.0	75.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	83.3	84.1
Malaysia	85.7	100.0	92.3	100.0	25.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	72.7
Marshall Islands	0.0	66.7	15.4	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.6
Micronesia	42.9	0.0	76.9	80.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	54.5
Mongolia	71.4	100.0	76.9	60.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	72.7
Nauru	57.1	100.0	38.5	60.0	75.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	52.3
New Zealand	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Palau	57.1	100.0	92.3	80.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	83.3	75.0
Papua New Guinea	57.1	100.0	100.0	40.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	63.6
Philippines	57.1	100.0	76.9	80.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	65.9
Republic of Korea	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Samoa	71.4	100.0	76.9	80.0	50.0	66.7	100.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	68.2
Singapore	28.6	0.0	23.1	0.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.9
Solomon Islands	28.6	0.0	53.8	60.0	50.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	38.6
Thailand	100.0	100.0	38.5	60.0	25.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	16.7	54.5
Timor-Leste	28.6	100.0	100.0	40.0	75.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	72.7
Tonga	71.4	100.0	53.8	80.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	59.1
Tuvalu	71.4	100.0	53.8	80.0	75.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	33.3	65.9
Vanuatu	0.0	0.0	46.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	15.9
Vietnam	85.7	33.3	53.8	20.0	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	40.9
Total	49.3	60.9	57.3	48.3	36.2	60.9	34.5	31.0	51.7	25.9	48.0

Related to the broader comparisons between PIS and the Non-PIS countries according to SDG areas, the findings again suggests that the reporting of the child-focused indicators data in the VNR was lower among Non-PIS countries for all the specific SDG areas, except SDG16 (see Chart 6). Country grouping according to ASEAN suggests that the reporting of the child-focused indicators data in the VNR was higher in ASEAN countries for the SDG areas of SDG1, SDG6, SDG13, and SDG16. But in the Non-ASEAN countries, the reporting of the child-focused indicators data in the VNR was higher for the SDG5 and SDG7 areas.

Chart 6. Use of child-focused SDG indicators data in VNRs (percent) by SDG areas, according to different country groupings

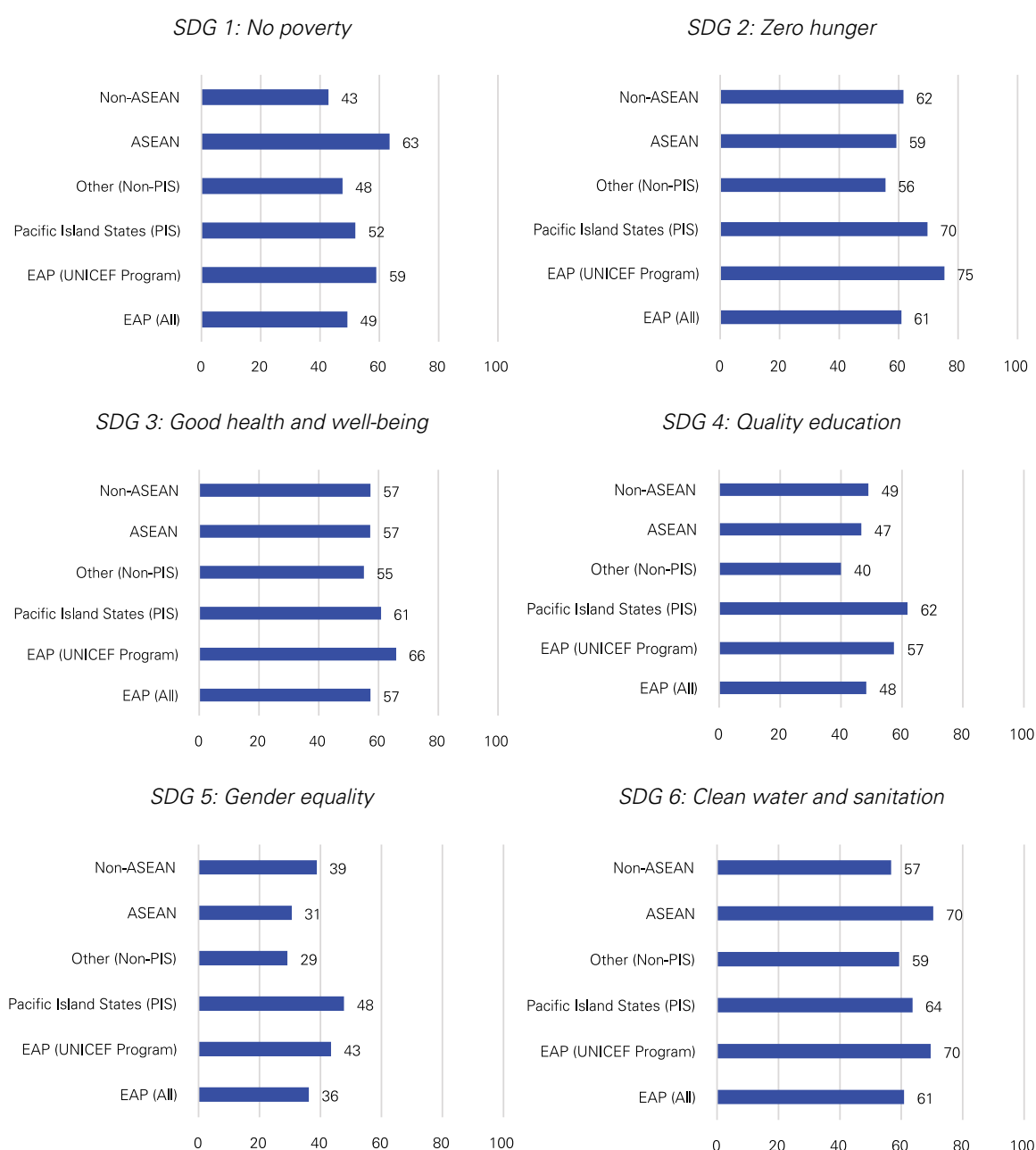
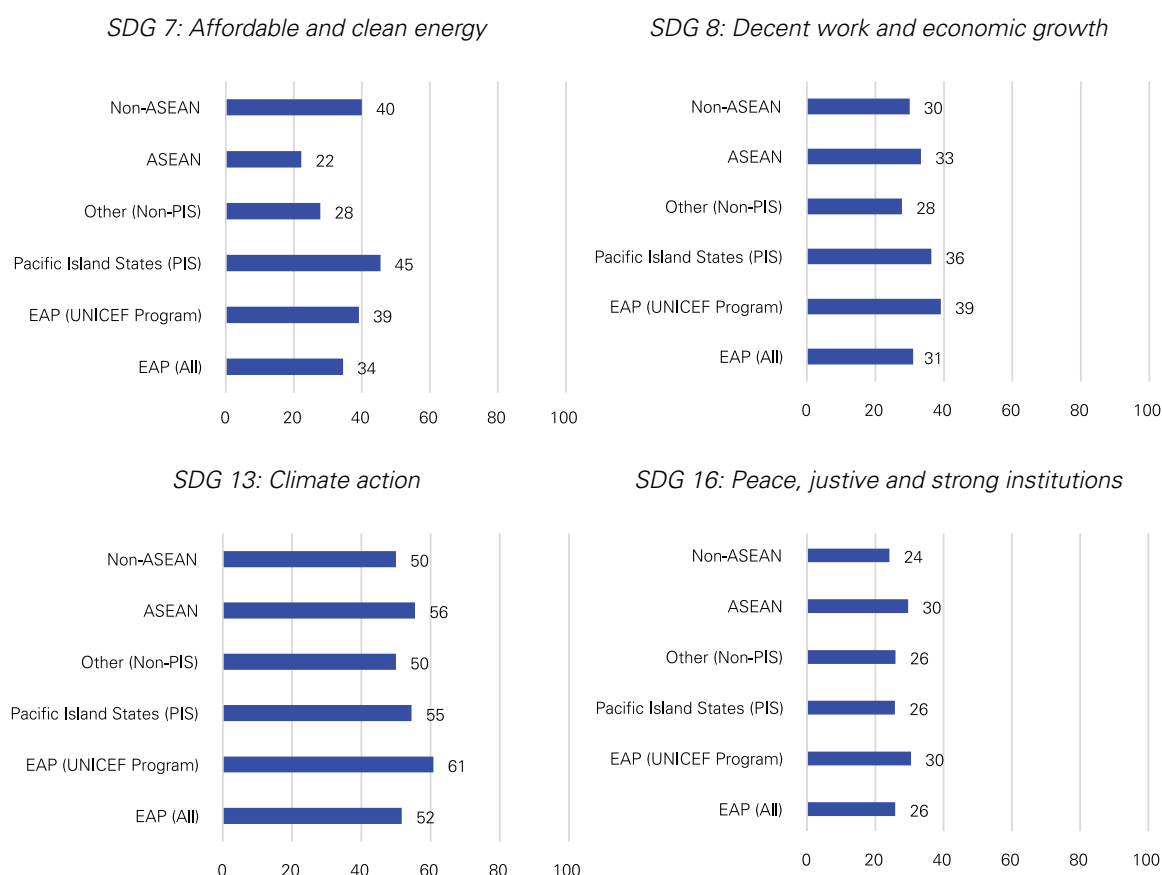


Chart 6. Use of child-focused SDG indicators data in VNRs (percent) by SDG areas, according to different country groupings (Conti...)



The reporting of the child-focused indicator data in the VNRs according to the country classification based on income also produced mixed results (See Chart 7). In low/lower middle-income countries, the reporting of indicators data in the VNRs was higher for the SDG areas of SDG3, SDG6, SDG7, and SDG8 as compared to upper middle- and higher-income countries. But for the SDG areas of SDG1, SDG2, and SDG4, the use of child-focused indicator data in the VNR was higher among upper middle-income countries. For the remaining three SDG areas, no specific difference was observed between countries according to income groupings. The reporting of the indicator data in the VNR was found to be lower in high income countries in all the SDG areas, except the SDG7.

Chart 7. Use of child-focused SDG indicators data in VNRs (percent) by SDG areas, according to income grouping of countries

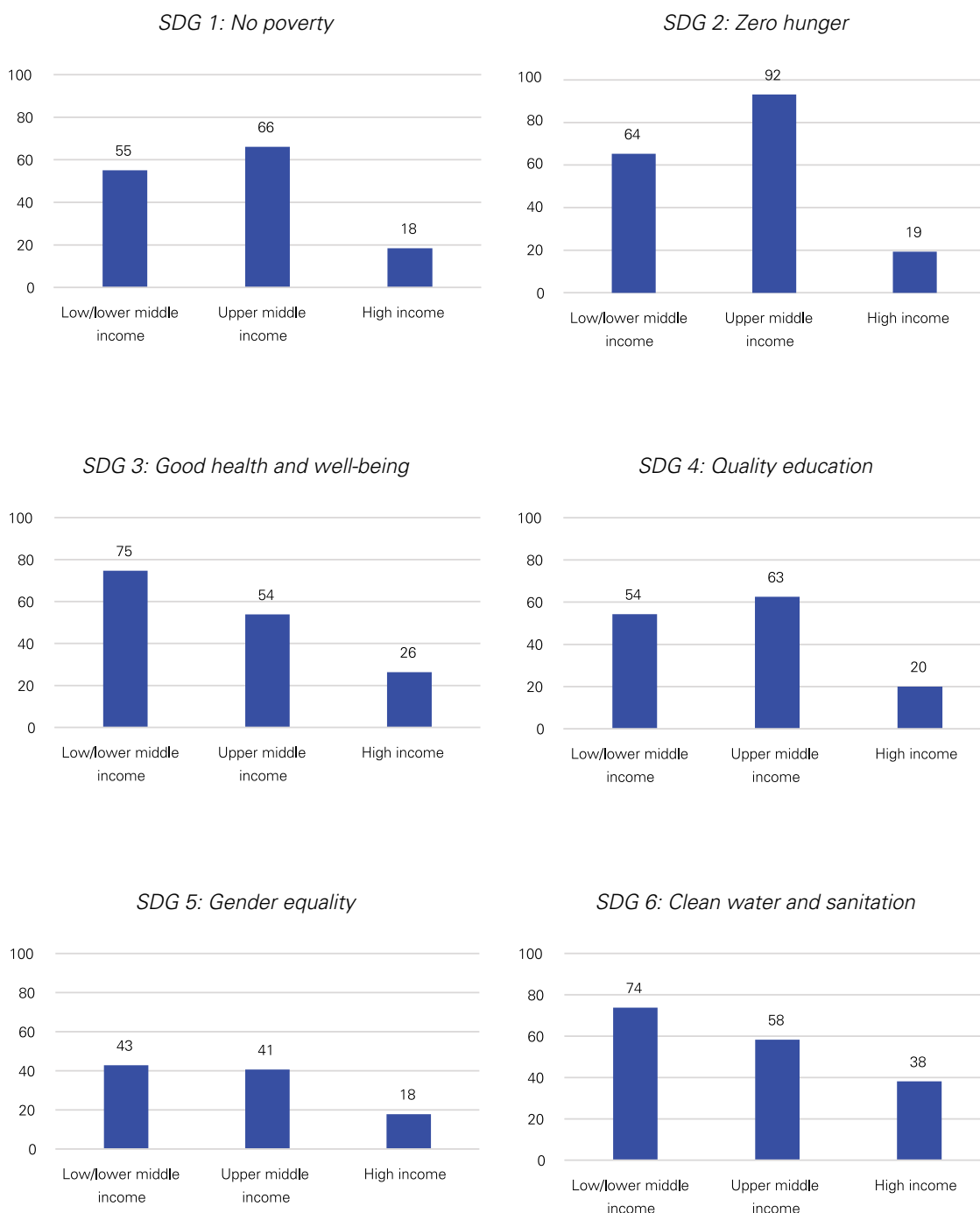
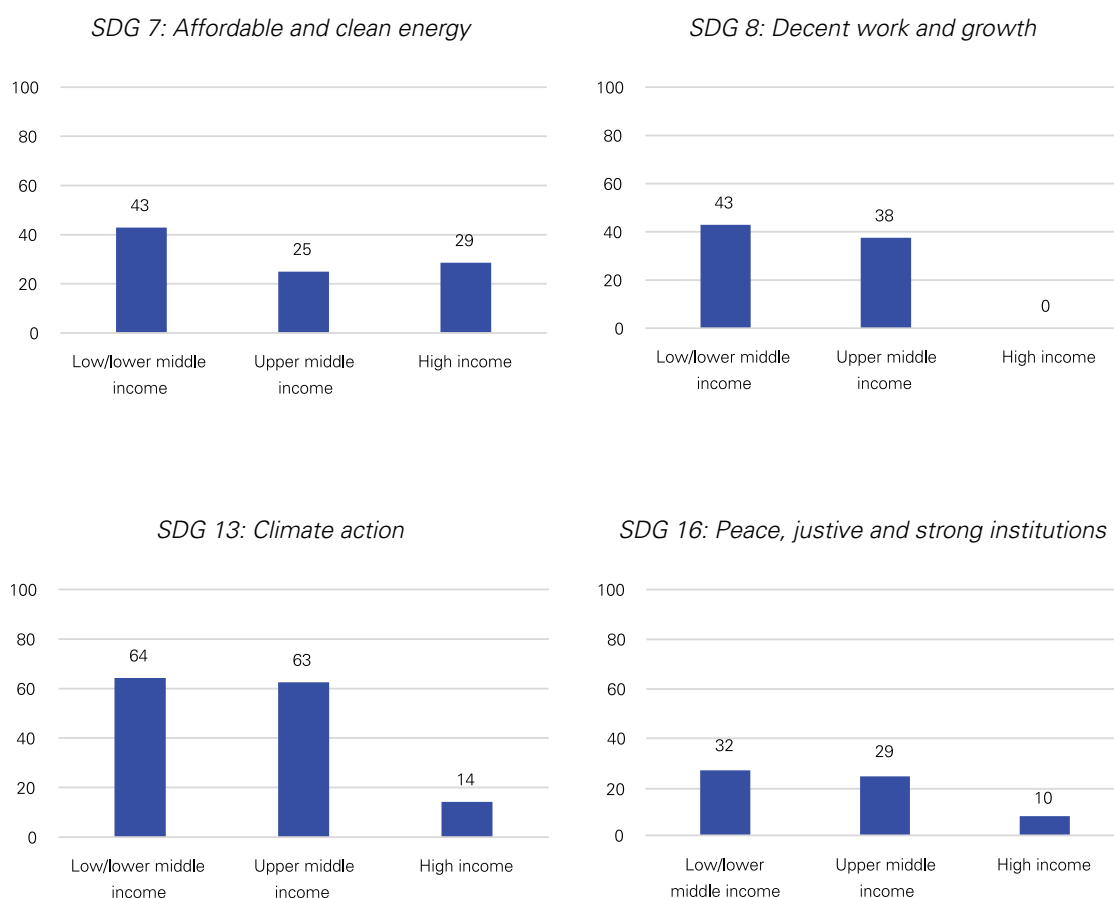


Chart 7. Use of child-focused SDG indicators data in VNRs (percent) by SDG areas, according to income grouping of countries (Conti...)



Dichotomy in the reporting of child-focused indicators data in the VNRs according to country groupings based on HDI was also examined. The reporting of the data value of the child-focused indicators in the VNRs related to the SDG areas of SDG1, SDG2, SDG4, SDG13, and SDG 16 in the high HDI countries was higher compared to the reporting in the VNRs of the very high and medium HDI countries. However, for the SDG3, SDG6, SDG7, and SDG8 areas, the reporting of child-focused indicators data was higher in the medium HDI countries. For the very high HDI countries, the reporting of the data of child-focused SDG indicators was lower for all the SDG areas.

Chart 8. Use of child-focused SDG indicators data in VNRs (percent) by SDG areas, according to HDI groupings of countries

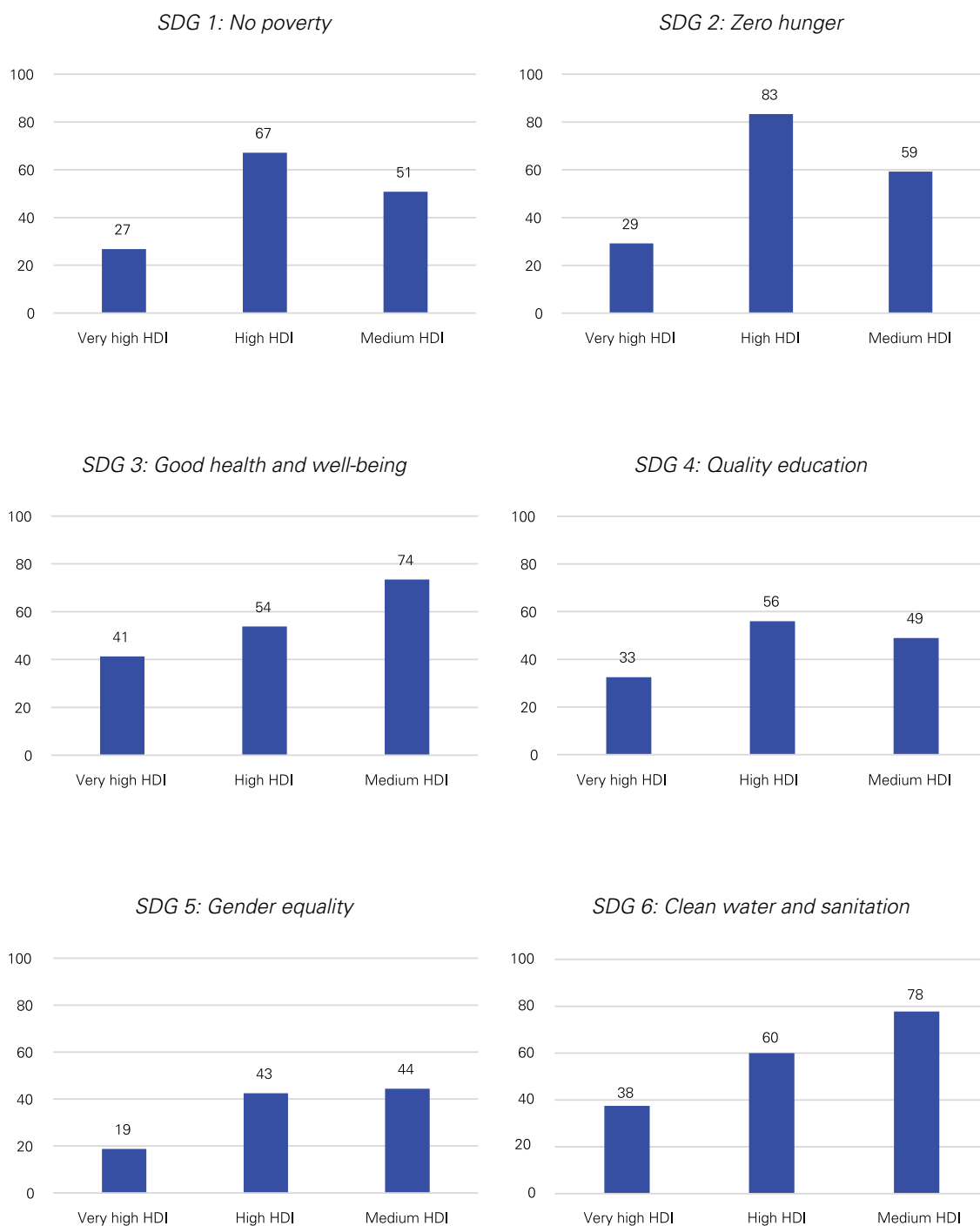
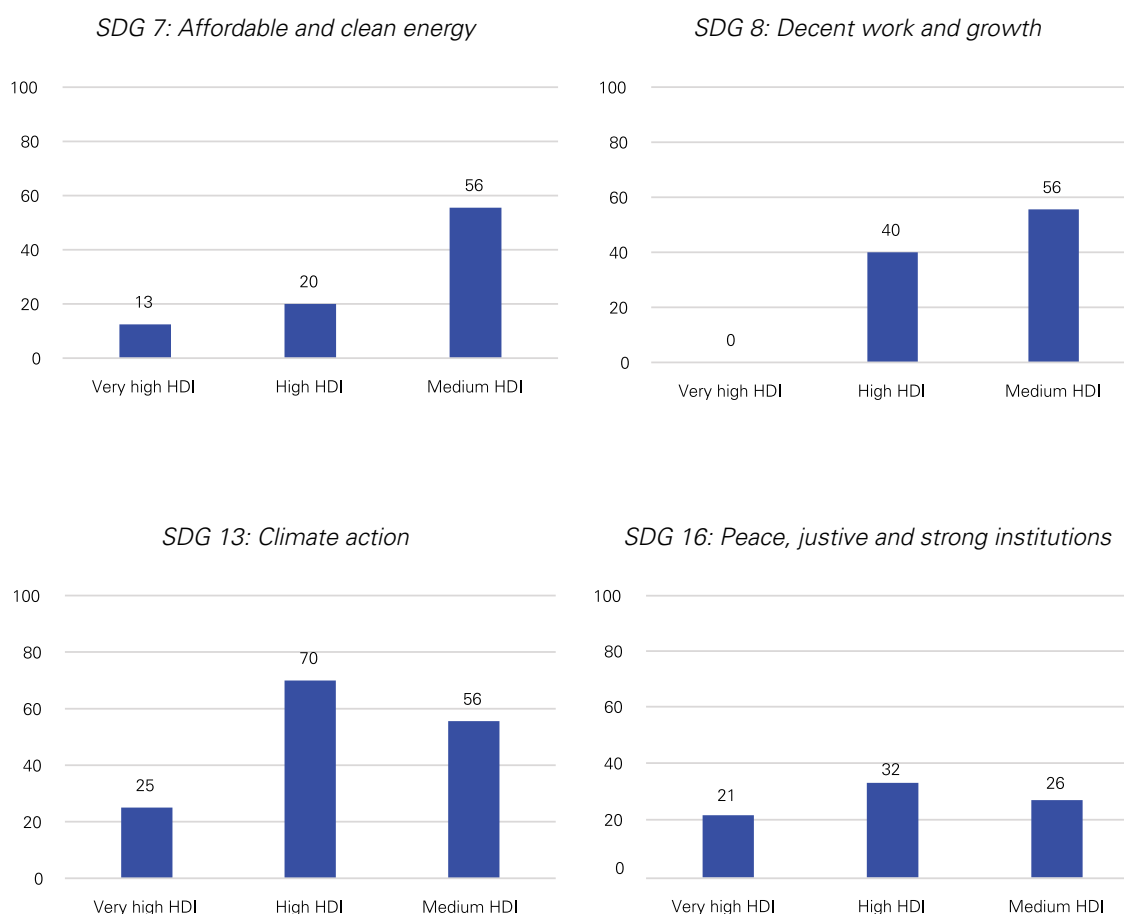


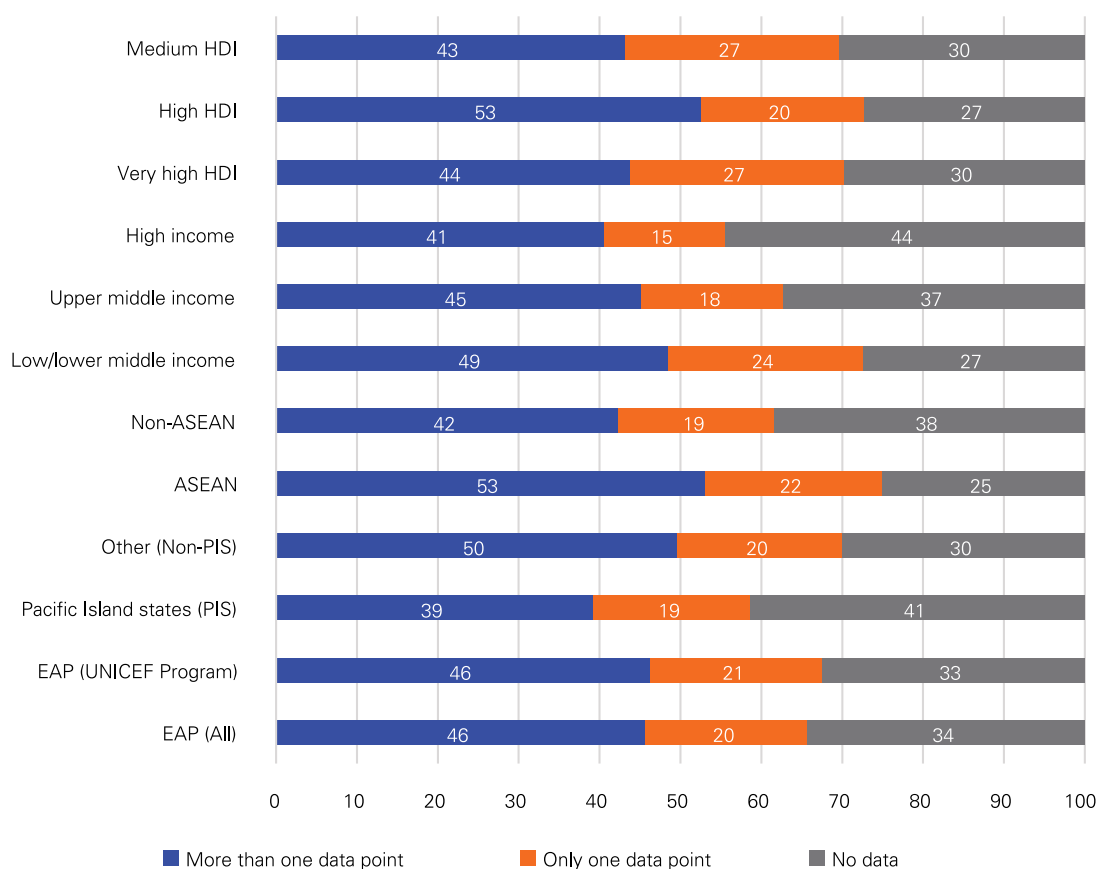
Chart 8. Use of child-focused SDG indicators data in VNRs (percent) by SDG areas, according to HDI groupings of countries (Conti...)



Availability of child-focused SDG indicator data

To ensure a comprehensive report, the availability of data related to the 44 child-focused SDG indicators was also analysed. As explained in the methodology section, this analysis relied on the Global SDG database and UNICEF data portal to identify the data availability of the 44 child-focused indicators reported in these databases. The results of availability of all the child-focused indicators data are provided in Chart 9. As in the earlier sections of this report, the results of this analysis were summarized on a country-by-country basis, followed by presenting broad aggregates by UNICEF program countries, PIS, ASEAN, and level of development benchmarks. Overall, in the EAP region the data for all the 44 child-focused SDG indicators was available for 46 percent and 20 percent of indicators for more than one time points and only one time point since 2010, respectively. In other words, for 34 percent of the indicators no data was available on or after the year 2010. The availability of all the 44 child-focused indicators is comparatively higher for countries grouped as Non-PIS, ASEAN, low/lower middle income and high HDI.

Chart 9. Availability of 44 child-focused SDG indicators in the global database (percent), according to country groupings



The results of the country wise analysis of the data availability of the child-focused indicators are presented in Table 4. The availability of data on the 44 child indicators was higher for Cambodia (91 percent), Philippines (84 percent), Thailand (82 percent), Vietnam (82 percent), Lao PDR (80 percent), Mongolia (80 percent) and Timor-Leste (80 percent). However, data were not available for more than half of the child-focused indicators in Nauru (66 percent), Palau (59 percent), Micronesia (59 percent), Marshall Islands (52 percent), and Brunei Darussalam (52 percent). The results indicate that there are large variations even in the availability of data on child-focused SDG indicators in the EAP region. Data were available for more than one time-period in countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Samoa, Thailand, and Vietnam for more than half of the 44 child-focused SDG indicators.

The results of the analysis of the availability of data on the child-focused indicators and the country classification are provided in Charts 10-12. The SDG area wise analysis revealed that data for indicators was not available for more than fifty percent of the indicators in SDG5 (58 percent), SDG8 (52 percent), and SDG16 (62 percent) areas in the EAP region. However, data availability for at least one time point was higher for child-focused indicators related to SDG7 (100 percent), SDG13 (86 percent), SDG3 (79 percent), and SDG2 (82 percent) areas. The results of EAP (UNICEF program) countries indicated that SDG7 (100 percent), SDG13 (91 percent), SDG2 (87 percent), SDG3 (78 percent), and SDG1 (74 percent) areas have the higher data availability for at least one time point.

Table 4. Availability of data on child-focused SDG indicators since 2010 (percent) by SDG areas

Country	Availability of data	SDG1: No poverty	SDG2: Zero hunger	SDG3: Good health and well-being	SDG4: Quality education	SDG5: Gender equality	SDG6: Clean water and sanitation	SDG7: Affordable and clean energy	SDG8: Decent work and economic growth	SDG13: Climate action	SDG16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions	All
Australia	More than 1 point	57.1	33.3	53.8	80.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	50.0
	Only one point	0.0	33.3	30.8	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	15.9
	No data	42.9	33.3	15.4	20.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	66.7	34.1
Brunei Darussalam	More than 1 point	28.6	0.0	53.8	40.0	0.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	31.8
	Only one point	0.0	66.7	15.4	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	15.9
	No data	71.4	33.3	30.8	20.0	100.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	52.3
Cambodia	More than 1 point	57.1	100.0	69.2	40.0	25.0	66.7	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	54.5
	Only one point	42.9	0.0	30.8	60.0	50.0	33.3	0.0	100.0	0.0	33.3	36.4
	No data	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	9.1
China	More than 1 point	57.1	100.0	69.2	20.0	0.0	66.7	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	50.0
	Only one point	14.3	0.0	7.7	40.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.4
	No data	28.6	0.0	23.1	40.0	75.0	33.3	0.0	100.0	0.0	83.3	38.6
Fiji	More than 1 point	28.6	0.0	61.5	20.0	25.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	36.4
	Only one point	42.9	66.7	23.1	40.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	33.3	31.8
	No data	28.6	33.3	15.4	40.0	50.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	31.8
Indonesia	More than 1 point	71.4	100.0	69.2	80.0	0.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	54.5
	Only one point	14.3	0.0	30.8	20.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	20.5
	No data	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	0.0	83.3	25.0

Table 4. Availability of data on child-focused SDG indicators since 2010 (percent) by SDG areas (Conti....)

Country	Availability of data	SDG1: No poverty	SDG2: Zero hunger	SDG3: Good health and well-being	SDG4: Quality education	SDG5: Gender equality	SDG6: Clean water and sanitation	SDG7: Affordable and clean energy	SDG8: Decent work and economic growth	SDG13: Climate action	SDG16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions	All
Japan	More than 1 point	57.1	66.7	53.8	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	43.2
	Only one point	0.0	33.3	30.8	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	15.9
	No data	42.9	0.0	15.4	100.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	66.7	40.9
Kiribati	More than 1 point	42.9	66.7	61.5	0.0	50.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	16.7	47.7
	Only one point	42.9	33.3	7.7	60.0	25.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	29.5
	No data	14.3	0.0	30.8	40.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	22.7
DPR Korea	More than 1 point	28.6	100.0	61.5	0.0	0.0	66.7	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	36.4
	Only one point	0.0	0.0	15.4	20.0	25.0	33.3	0.0	100.0	0.0	16.7	15.9
	No data	71.4	0.0	23.1	80.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	83.3	47.7
Lao PDR	More than 1 point	57.1	100.0	69.2	20.0	25.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	54.5
	Only one point	28.6	0.0	30.8	40.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	16.7	25.0
	No data	14.3	0.0	0.0	40.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	20.5
Malaysia	More than 1 point	42.9	100.0	69.2	80.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	56.8
	Only one point	14.3	0.0	30.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	13.6
	No data	42.9	0.0	0.0	20.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	66.7	29.5
Marshall Islands	More than 1 point	42.9	66.7	46.2	40.0	25.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	38.6
	Only one point	14.3	33.3	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	9.1
	No data	42.9	0.0	53.8	40.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	0.0	83.3	52.3

Table 4. Availability of data on child-focused SDG indicators since 2010 (percent) by SDG areas (Conti....)

Country	Availability of data	SDG1: No poverty	SDG2: Zero hunger	SDG3: Good health and well-being	SDG4: Quality education	SDG5: Gender equality	SDG6: Clean water and sanitation	SDG7: Affordable and clean energy	SDG8: Decent work and economic growth	SDG13: Climate action	SDG16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions	All
Micronesia	More than 1 point	42.9	0.0	46.2	20.0	25.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	31.8
	Only one point	28.6	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	9.1
	No data	28.6	100.0	46.2	80.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	0.0	83.3	59.1
Mongolia	More than 1 point	85.7	100.0	61.5	20.0	25.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	59.1
	Only one point	14.3	0.0	23.1	40.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	16.7	20.5
	No data	0.0	0.0	15.4	40.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	20.5
Nauru	More than 1 point	28.6	0.0	38.5	40.0	0.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0
	Only one point	0.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	9.1
	No data	71.4	33.3	61.5	60.0	75.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	100.0	83.3	65.9
New Zealand	More than 1 point	42.9	0.0	53.8	60.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	43.2
	Only one point	0.0	0.0	30.8	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	13.6
	No data	57.1	100.0	15.4	40.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	66.7	43.2
Palau	More than 1 point	28.6	0.0	46.2	20.0	25.0	66.7	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	34.1
	Only one point	14.3	0.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.8
	No data	57.1	100.0	53.8	60.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	83.3	59.1
Papua New Guinea	More than 1 point	42.9	66.7	61.5	20.0	0.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	38.6
	Only one point	28.6	33.3	30.8	20.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	31.8
	No data	28.6	0.0	7.7	60.0	25.0	66.7	0.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	29.5

Table 4. Availability of data on child-focused SDG indicators since 2010 (percent) by SDG areas (Conti....)

Country	Availability of data	SDG1: No poverty	SDG2: Zero hunger	SDG3: Good health and well-being	SDG4: Quality education	SDG5: Gender equality	SDG6: Clean water and sanitation	SDG7: Affordable and clean energy	SDG8: Decent work and economic growth	SDG13: Climate action	SDG16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions	All
Philippines	More than 1 point	85.7	100.0	69.2	40.0	25.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	63.6
	Only one point	0.0	0.0	30.8	20.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	16.7	20.5
	No data	14.3	0.0	0.0	40.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	15.9
Republic of Korea	More than 1 point	57.1	0.0	61.5	80.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	50.0
	Only one point	0.0	66.7	15.4	0.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.4
	No data	42.9	33.3	23.1	20.0	75.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	83.3	38.6
Samoa	More than 1 point	42.9	100.0	61.5	40.0	25.0	66.7	100.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	52.3
	Only one point	42.9	0.0	7.7	20.0	25.0	33.3	0.0	100.0	0.0	33.3	22.7
	No data	14.3	0.0	30.8	40.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	25.0
Singapore	More than 1 point	28.6	0.0	53.8	80.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	40.9
	Only one point	14.3	66.7	30.8	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	22.7
	No data	57.1	33.3	15.4	20.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	66.7	36.4
Solomon Islands	More than 1 point	57.1	66.7	53.8	20.0	0.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	40.9
	Only one point	28.6	33.3	23.1	20.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	16.7	25.0
	No data	14.3	0.0	23.1	60.0	50.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	34.1
Thailand	More than 1 point	85.7	100.0	69.2	60.0	0.0	66.7	100.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	61.4
	Only one point	14.3	0.0	30.8	20.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	20.5
	No data	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	50.0	33.3	0.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	18.2

Table 4. Availability of data on child-focused SDG indicators since 2010 (percent) by SDG areas (Conti....)

Country	Availability of data	SDG1: No poverty	SDG2: Zero hunger	SDG3: Good health and well-being	SDG4: Quality education	SDG5: Gender equality	SDG6: Clean water and sanitation	SDG7: Affordable and clean energy	SDG8: Decent work and economic growth	SDG13: Climate action	SDG16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions	All
Timor-Leste	More than 1 point	42.9	66.7	69.2	20.0	25.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	45.5
	Only one point	57.1	33.3	23.1	40.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	33.3	34.1
	No data	0.0	0.0	7.7	40.0	25.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	20.5
Tonga	More than 1 point	57.1	100.0	61.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	33.3	50.0
	Only one point	14.3	0.0	7.7	60.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	33.3	22.7
	No data	28.6	0.0	30.8	40.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	27.3
Tuvalu	More than 1 point	28.6	0.0	38.5	40.0	25.0	66.7	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	34.1
	Only one point	28.6	66.7	7.7	20.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	25.0
	No data	42.9	33.3	53.8	40.0	50.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	40.9
Vanuatu	More than 1 point	57.1	66.7	53.8	20.0	0.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	100.0	16.7	40.9
	Only one point	14.3	33.3	23.1	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	33.3	22.7
	No data	28.6	0.0	23.1	80.0	50.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	36.4
Vietnam	More than 1 point	85.7	100.0	69.2	60.0	25.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	59.1
	Only one point	0.0	0.0	30.8	40.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	16.7	22.7
	No data	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	18.2
Total	More than 1 point	50.7	58.6	58.9	36.6	12.1	65.5	100.0	3.4	82.8	16.7	45.7
	Only one point	17.7	23.0	19.9	22.8	30.2	5.7	0.0	44.8	3.4	21.8	20.1
	No data	31.5	18.4	21.2	40.7	57.8	28.7	0.0	51.7	13.8	61.5	34.2

The grouping of countries according to the PIS, indicate that in total the Non-PIS group (70 percent) had a higher availability of data on child-focused indicators as compared to the PIS group (59 percent). The SDG area specific analysis indicated that the availability of data on child-focused indicators related to SDG2, SDG3, SDG4, and SG6 was higher in the Non-PIS group as compared to the PIS group. However, PIS group of countries had higher availability of data on child-focused indicators in the SDG8 and SDG13 areas. Data availability in the ASEAN countries revealed that 75 percent of the 44 child-focused indicators were available as compared to 62 percent for Non-ASEAN countries. For SDG1, SDG2, SDG3, and SDG4 areas, data availability was higher in ASEAN countries as compared to Non-ASEAN countries. In the Non-ASEAN group, data availability was higher in the SDG13 area. The data availability was almost similar for the remaining SDG areas between ASEAN and Non-ASEAN countries.

Chart 10. Availability of data on child-focused SDG indicators in the global database (percent) by SDG areas, according to country groupings



Chart 10. Availability of data on child-focused SDG indicators in the global database (percent) by SDG areas, according to country groupings (Conti...)



The analysis of country grouping based on income showed that the availability of data on the 44 child-focused indicators was higher in the low/lower middle-income group of countries. Specifically, the data availability of child-focused indicators in the low/lower middle-income countries was higher for SDG1, SDG2, SDG3, SDG5, and SDG8 areas as compared to upper-middle and high-income countries. In the SDG6 area, high-income countries were found to have a higher availability of data on child-focused indicators. No visible dichotomy was observed for the availability of data on child-focused indicators related to the remaining SDG areas between countries based on income grouping.

Chart 11. Availability of data on child-focused SDG indicators in the global database (percent) by SDG areas, according to income grouping of countries

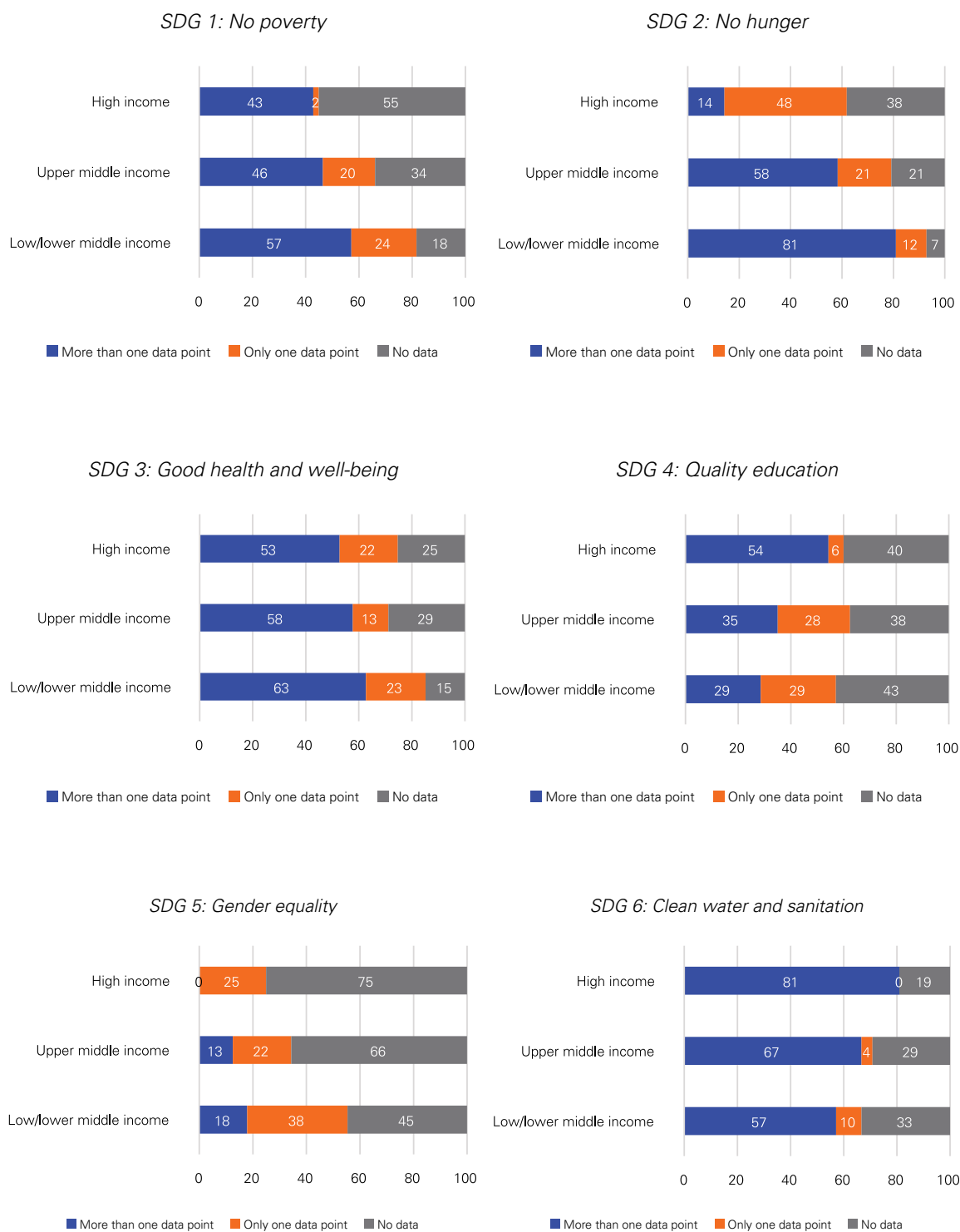
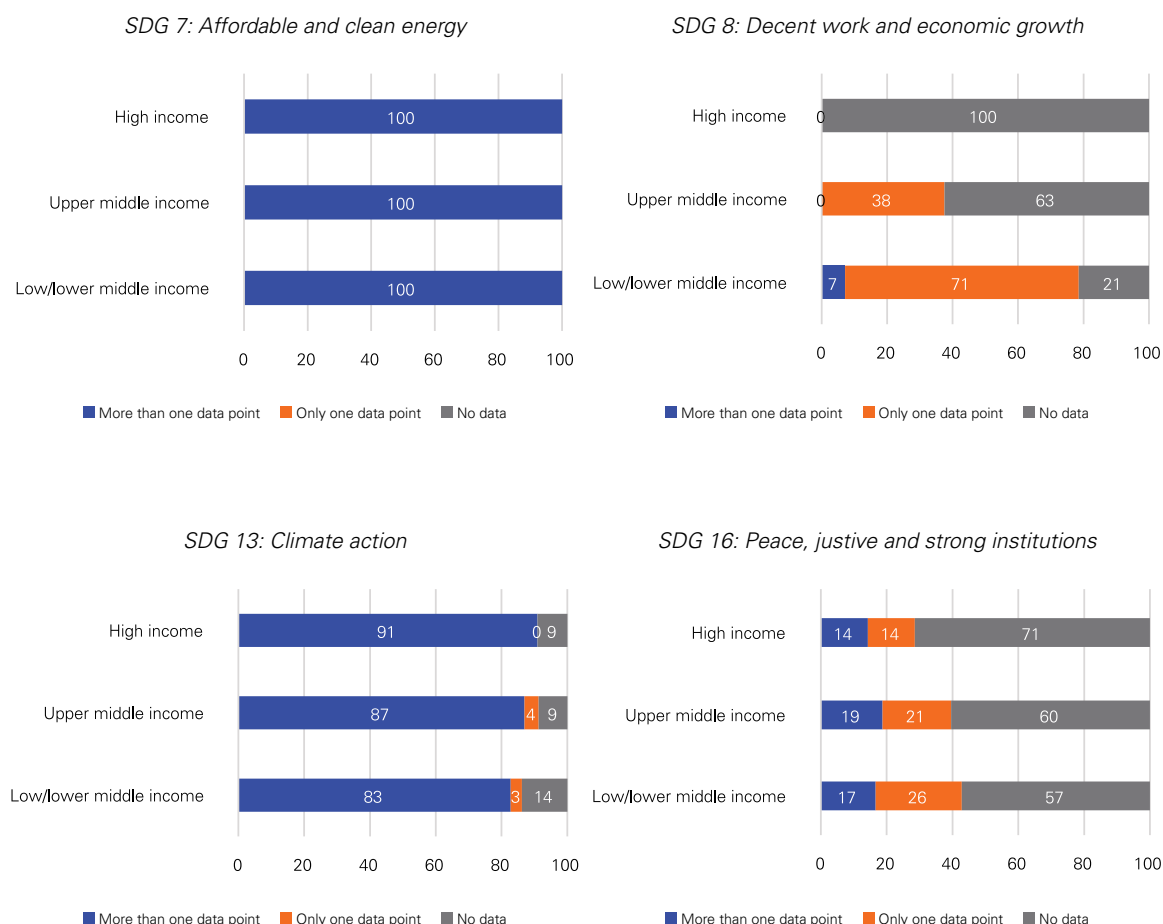


Chart 11. Availability of data on child-focused SDG indicators in the global database (percent) by SDG areas, according to income grouping of countries (Conti...)



The analysis of the availability of data on child-focused indicators by SDG areas for countries according to HDI grouping is presented in Chart 12. The data availability for SDG4 and SDG6 areas was higher for countries with very high HDI as compared to high and medium HDI countries. However, data availability in the high HDI group of countries was found to be slightly higher for the SDG2 and SDG3 areas. In the SDG areas of SDG5 and SDG8, data availability was higher in countries grouped as medium HDI compared to countries with very high HDI. For the remaining SDG areas, such as SDG1, SDG7, SDG13, and SDG16, no dichotomy in data availability was observed between countries grouped according to the HDI.

Chart 12. Availability of data on child-focused SDG indicators in the global database (percent) by SDG areas, according to HDI grouping of countries

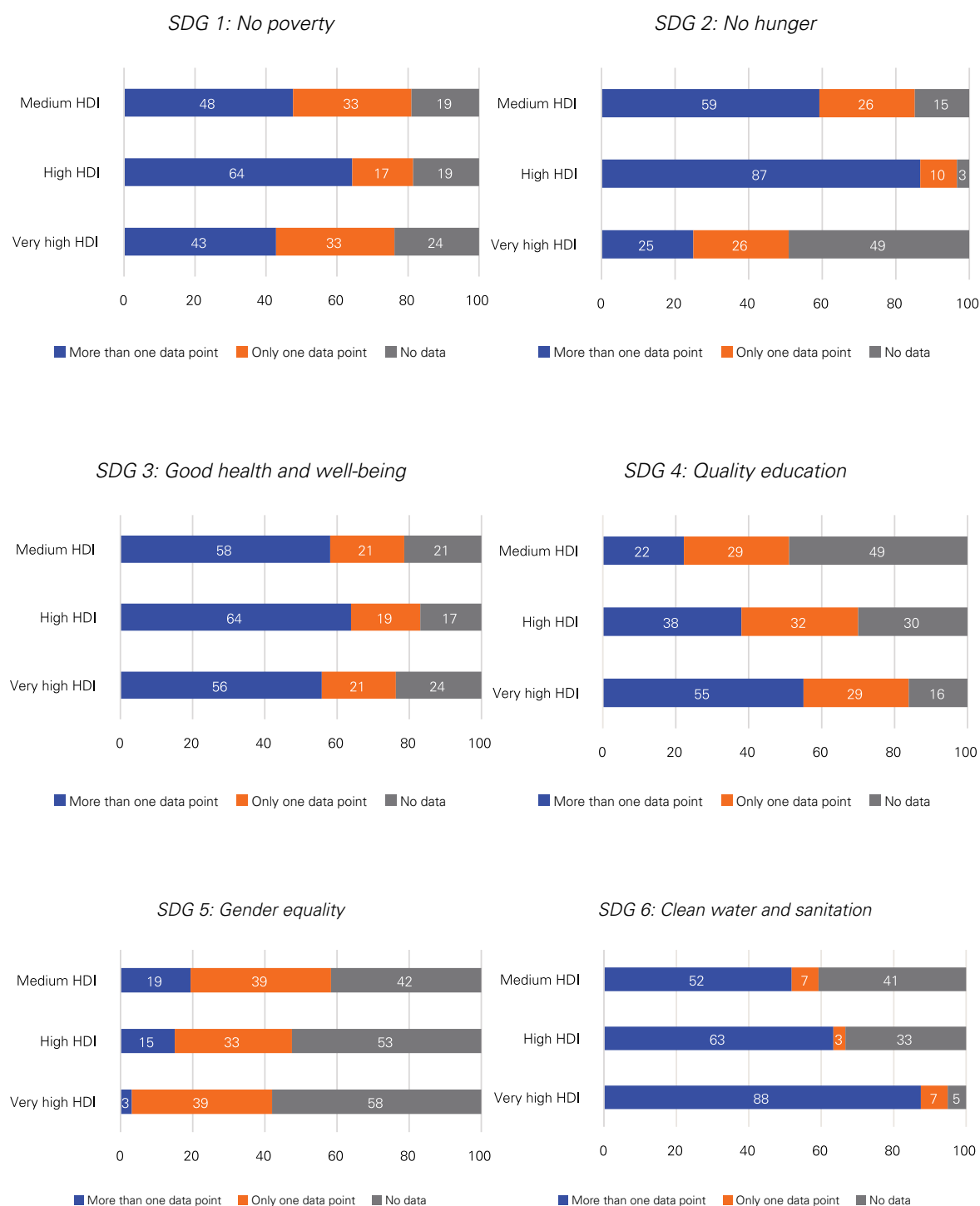
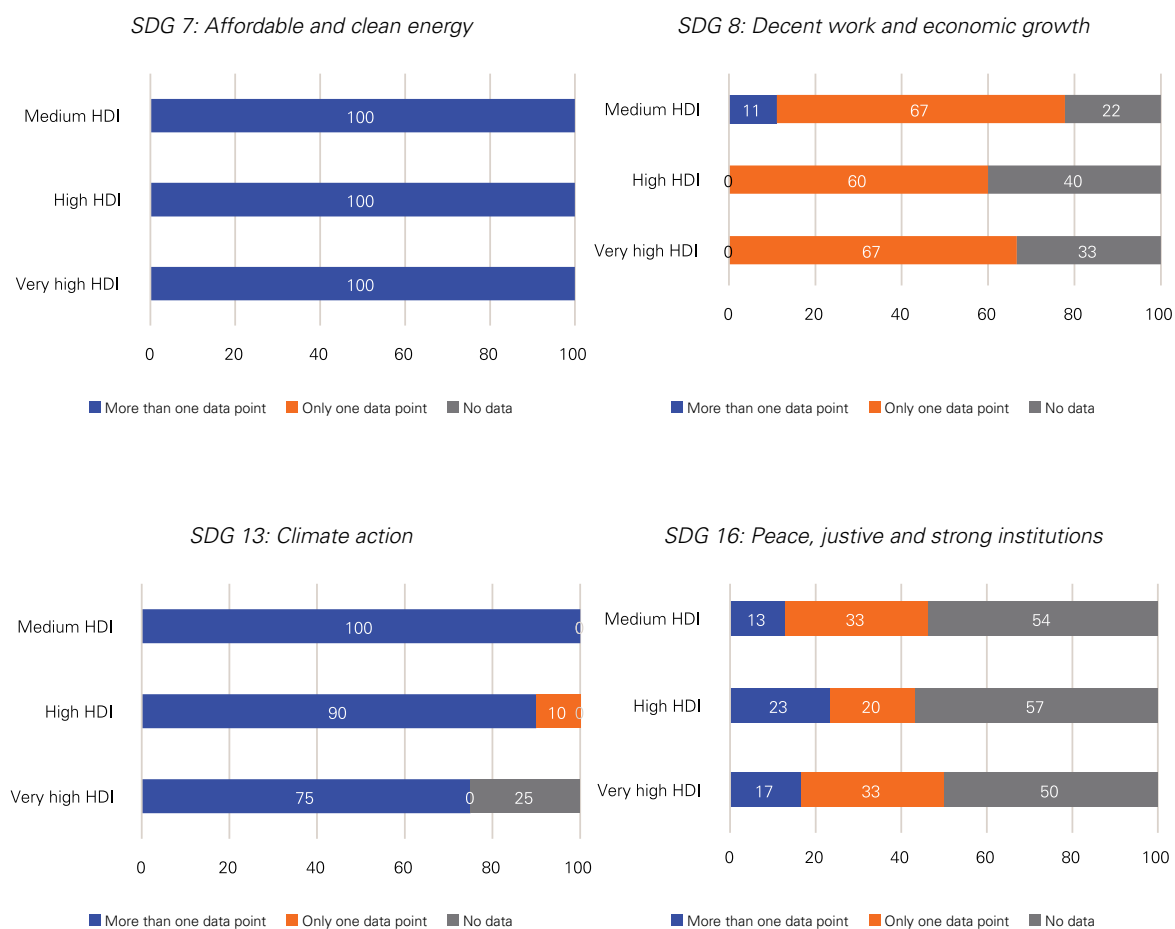


Chart 12. Availability of data on child-focused SDG indicators in the global database (percent) by SDG areas, according to HDI grouping of countries (Conti...)



Overall Findings

There are a number of key findings that have emerged from this analysis and the research that guided its development. The uptake of the child-focused SDG indicators in the EAP region has been relatively strong, with about two-thirds of indicators reported in the VNRs. However, uptake between SDG areas is uneven, with the highest uptake found in SDG2, SDG6, and SDG13. Similarly, the uptake of indicators has been uneven among groups of countries. One of the key related findings suggests that the Pacific Island States, low/lower middle-income countries, and medium HDI grouping countries tend to have a higher uptake of child-focused SDG indicators. Finally, the analysis of the data available in the Global SDG Database and/or the UNICEF data portal suggests gaps in the uptake of relevant indicators, despite the availability of the data.

One of the main contributors to the uptake of child-focused SDG indicators is data availability⁵. According to the latest SDG Progress Report for the Asia and the Pacific region, 53 percent of all SDG indicators have enough data to track the progress of the region. The report further attests that there is data available for 60 percent or more of the indicators that track progress under Goals 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, and 17. On the contrary, less than 25 percent of indicators under Goals 5, 14, and 16 have sufficient data to track progress (UNESCAP, 2022). This, in turn, partly explains the variation in the uptake of child-focused indicators in the VNRs.

Furthermore, existing evidence also shows that authorities often consider certain targets and indicators as not relevant in their national contexts, which in turn has an impact on the uptake of those indicators. The issue of applicability of indicators in the context of child-focused ones is particularly evident for the SDG Target 5.3.2 (Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age). Although both national authorities and UNICEF COs consider this practice to be not applicable to their context, the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) continues throughout the region, although it takes place in some countries.

Practice of FGM in the EAP region

Indonesia

There are some national figures in Indonesia that estimate FGM prevalence of about 49.2 percent among girls aged 0-11 across the country.

Thailand

In Thailand, FGM is known to be practiced among some Muslim communities in the country, which make up about 5-8 percent of the total population, and are largely concentrated in the three southern provinces in the country: Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani.

Philippines

In the Philippines, FGM is mainly practised in the in small pockets inhabited by Muslim populations around the country (mostly around Mindanao).

Malaysia

The Malaysian government estimates that 83-85 percent of Muslim baby girls have been circumcised by medical professionals in private clinics. Research studies similarly estimate a high prevalence of FGM across the country.

Source: FGM in the Asia Pacific region, from Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Call for a Global Response (2020)

⁵ It may well be the case that this could be also driven by government policy priorities, resulting with better monitoring mechanisms and better availability of data. However, confirming this claim requires additional analysis that goes beyond the scope of this work.

The capacity of NSOs (the main custodian of data in most of the countries) can also be considered as a reason for both data availability and child-focused indicator uptake in VNRs. The VNR for Mongolia (2019), for example, identified strengthening capacity as one of the key priority areas for monitoring, similar capacity issues also mentioned in the VNR for Viet Nam (2018). Against this background, countries are already taking the necessary steps forward. For example, the 2020 VNR for Papua New Guinea states that the country is working toward establishing a National Data Centre, which once fully functional should hold all development indicators for the SDGs and can work closely with the sector responsible to track progress and provide relevant updates to the public.

Good practices from countries across the EAP

This section further outlines the ongoing efforts that national statistical organizations across the region have made to counter data challenges related to monitoring progress toward the SDGs.

The first approach has been a traditional, workshop-oriented attempt at improving capacity, which focuses more towards national level capacity building/cooperation. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has been increasingly focused on data monitoring and evaluation for the SDGs. Currently, the country holds workshops to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs in collaboration with two national institutions, namely the National Economic and Development Authority and the PSA (Government of Philippines, 2016).

A second approach that establishes separate committees is another way that many Asian countries are dealing with data challenges. For example, Viet Nam has established a Statistical Working Group for Monitoring and Evaluation of the SDGs, consisting of representatives from ministries and State agencies, and led by the General Statistics Office (Government of Viet Nam, 2018). Whilst, Indonesia has gathered metadata for several SDG indicators and gateway data through the One Data Portal to disaggregate data at different levels. The initiative is coordinated by the Office of the Presidential Staff and the Central Statistics Agency of Indonesia (Government of Indonesia, 2017).

Existing evidence also suggests that close intragovernmental cooperation is key to generating required data within existing structures (while also fostering closer cooperation between them). According to the Government of Lao PDR (2016), reporting is required to provide information on the status of the National Development Plan. The analysis of data collected during the monitoring process, and at the National Socio-Economic Development Plan outcome level, is intended to identify the reasons associated with difficulties in the implementation of the plan. In particular, the aim is to provide information about the trends and issues in the implementation of plans and programmes over time, and to better prepare for future planning.

Conclusions and Policy Recommendations

There are numerous broad conclusions arising from this report. There was found to be a relatively strong uptake of child-focused SDG indicators in the VNRs. However, the said uptake varies by country and by SDG areas. The indicators for SDG2, SDG3, SDG6, and SDG13 experienced a higher uptake in the VNRs compared to the remaining SDG area indicators. In addition, there is significant country heterogeneity regarding the uptake of indicators, countries with a lower level of development, as well as the Pacific Island States, have an overall higher uptake of child-focused indicators. In contrast, countries with a higher level of development, as well as the Non-ASEAN countries, have an overall lower uptake of child-focused indicators. The analysis of the availability of data reveals that the higher uptake of certain indicators is partly driven by the availability of data itself, mainly collected from household surveys such as multiple indicator cluster surveys and demographic health surveys.

- (i) As countries move forward towards achieving the SDG Agenda 2030, these findings provide the foundation upon which the following recommendations were drawn: National comprehensive and/or sectoral development strategies and plans should incorporate the SDG targets in their initial development, including specifying the population groups and issues to focus on to ensure that no one is left behind.
- (ii) Monitoring frameworks should ideally include indicators from the global SDG monitoring framework, including data disaggregation requirements in alignment with development strategies/plans.
- (iii) Increase the availability of data for indicators for which data are not available or not reliable. This could include new periodic surveys which could be organized by the national statistical offices or respective line ministries/departments.
- (iv) Strengthen the capacity of NSOs and other relevant agencies assigned for the responsibility of monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs to improve their overall monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. There are some positive examples from across the region, and countries could continue to learn from each other and build on existing progress.
- (v) Pay attention to indicators that are currently considered 'not applicable or not relevant'. As highlighted in this report, this is particularly problematic in some of the indicators associated with SDG5 (e.g., the indicator capturing FGM practices).
- (vi) Harness the momentum of the data revolution to couple the more traditional approach of data generation/collection with new and more efficient modes for data generation. The data revolution involves open data movement, the rise of crowdsourcing, new information and communications technology for data collection and creating a scope for the availability of big data without compromising on data quality and the principle of LNOB. For example, mobile phone data could be used to estimate poverty rates, while satellite data could help map geographic poverty. It is also suggested that mobile phones and social media could also be useful in tracking food expenditure (Van Helder et.al., 2021).
- (vii) For indicators for which there are basic data, improve availability of disaggregated data to better identify vulnerable populations, and ensure no one is left behind.

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Appendix

Appendix A: List of 44 child-focused SDG indicators by SDG areas

Goal Areas	Child-focused SDG indicators	UNICEF's list of priority SDG indicators
SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	1.1.1. Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)	Children living in households in extreme poverty
	1.2.1. Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	Children living below the national poverty line
	1.2.2. Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	Children living in poverty in all its dimensions according to Global MPI
	1.3.1. Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, new-borns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	Proportion of child population covered by social protection floors/systems
	1.4.1. Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services	Proportion of population using basic drinking water services
		Proportion of population using basic sanitation services
Proportion of population with a basic handwashing facility with soap and water available on premises		
SDG 2: End hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agricultural development	2.2.1. Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age	Prevalence of stunting among children under 5
	2.2.2. Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	Prevalence of wasting among children under 5
		Prevalence of overweight among children under 5

Goal Areas	Child-focused SDG indicators	UNICEF's list of priority SDG indicators
SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	3.1.1. Maternal mortality ratio	Maternal mortality ratio
	3.1.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
	3.2.1. Under-five mortality rate	Under-five mortality rate
	3.2.2. Neonatal mortality rate	Neonatal mortality rate
	3.3.1. Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations	Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population (children under five)
		Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population (adolescent girls 15-19)
		Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population (adolescent boys 15-19)
	3.3.3. Malaria incidence per 1,000 population	Malaria incidence per 1,000 population
	3.7.2. Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	Adolescent birth rate
	3.8.1. Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)	Coverage of essential health services
	3.9.1. Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution	Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
	3.b.1. Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme	Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme – MCV1
		Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme – DPT3

Goal Areas	Child-focused SDG indicators	UNICEF's list of priority SDG indicators
SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all	4.1.1. Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex	Proportion of children at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading
		Proportion of children at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics
	4.2.1. Proportion of children aged 24–59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex	Proportion of children aged 36-59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being
	4.2.2. Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	Participation rate in organized learning one year before the official primary entry age
SDG 5: Achieve gender quality; empower and create enabling opportunities for women and girls.	4.a.1. Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)	Proportion of schools with access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
	5.2.1. Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15-19 years subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner
	5.2.2. Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	Proportion of women and girls aged 15 - 19 years subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner
	5.3.1. Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 18
SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	5.3.2. Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age	Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting
	6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
	6.2.1. Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water	Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services
SDG 7: Ensure access to sustainable, reliable, and affordable energy for all		Proportion of population practising open defecation
	7.1.2. Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology

Goal Areas	Child-focused SDG indicators	UNICEF's list of priority SDG indicators
SDG 8: Ensure sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth; full and productive employment and decent work for all	8.7.1. Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour
SDG 13: Respond in a timely and effective manner to climate change and natural disasters	13.1.1. Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	Number of deaths caused by disaster per 100,000 people
SDG 16: Promote a peaceful, fair, just, equitable, and equal society for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels	16.1.1. Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population
	16.1.2. Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause	Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population
	16.2.1. Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	Proportion of children aged 1 - 14 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month
	16.2.3. Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	Proportion of young women aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18
		Proportion of young men aged 18-29 who experienced sexual violence by age 18
	16.9.1. Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority

Appendix B: Information on the country groupings used in the analysis

EAP (ALL) Countries	EAP (UNICEF program)	Pacific Island States (PIS)	Non-PIS	ASEAN	Non-ASEAN	Low/Lower middle income	Upper middle income	High income	Very high HDI	High HDI	Medium HDI
Australia	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Brunei Darussalam	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Cambodia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
China	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Fiji	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Indonesia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Japan	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Kiribati	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
DPR Korea	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	NA	NA	NA
Lao PDR	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Malaysia	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Marshall Islands	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Micronesia	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Mongolia	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Nauru	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	NA	NA	NA
New Zealand	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Palau	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Papua New Guinea	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Philippines	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Republic of Korea	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Samoa	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Singapore	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Solomon Islands	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Thailand	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Timor-Leste	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Tonga	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Tuvalu	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Vanuatu	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Vietnam	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Number of countries	23	11	18	9	20	14	8	7	8	10	9

Note: Four countries in EAP with no VNR are not listed (Cook Islands, Myanmar, Niue and Tokelau).

NA: HDI classification data for DPR Korea and Nauru was not available.



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