

# Social protection in Asia and the Pacific

7th COMCEC Poverty  
Alleviation Working  
Group Meeting

*11 February 2016*



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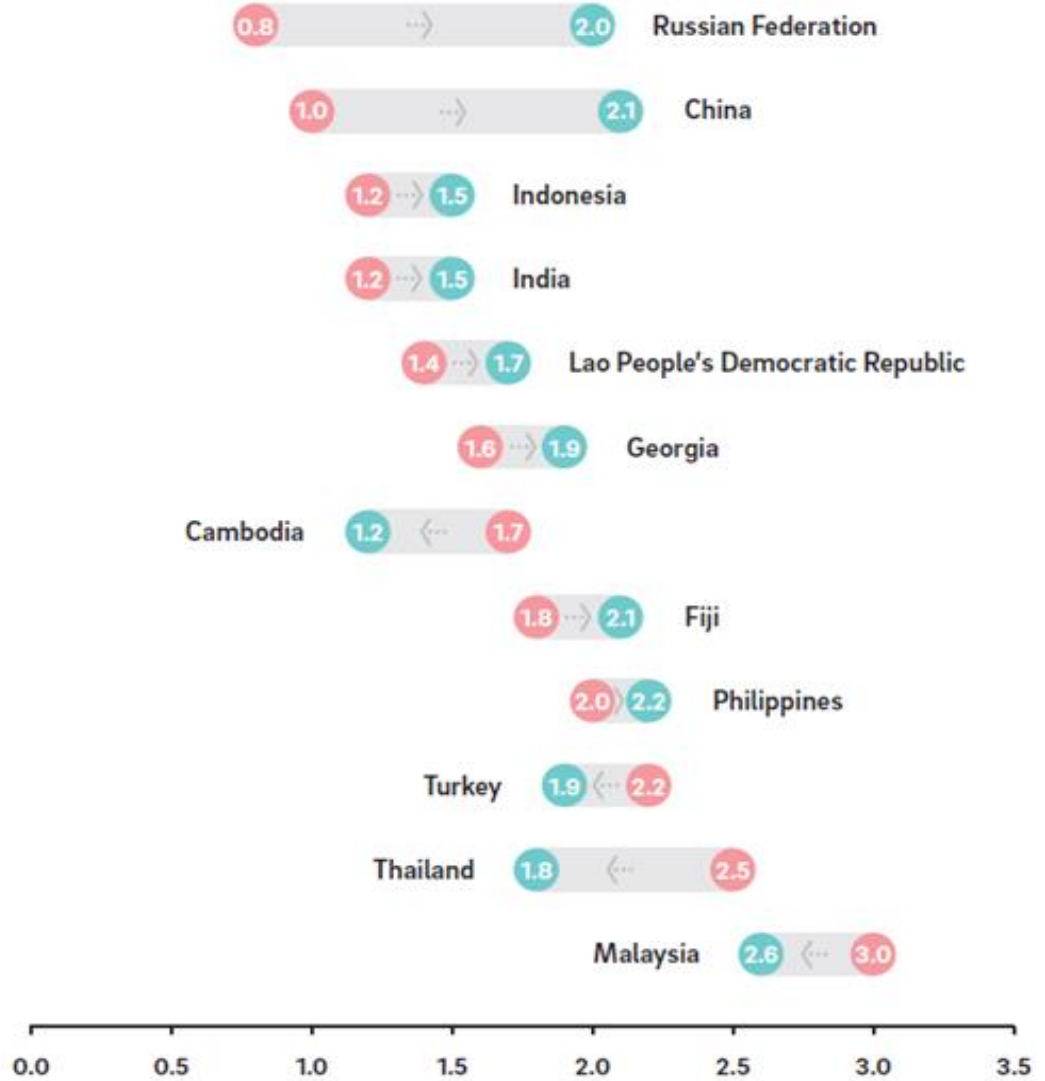
# Outline

- Social protection promotes sustainable development
- Positive trends and good practices in social protection
- Impact of gaps in social protection
- What remains to be done?

Richest 10%  
have almost  
twice the  
income of  
poorest 40%

Source: ESCAP, based  
on World Bank,  
World Development  
Indicators

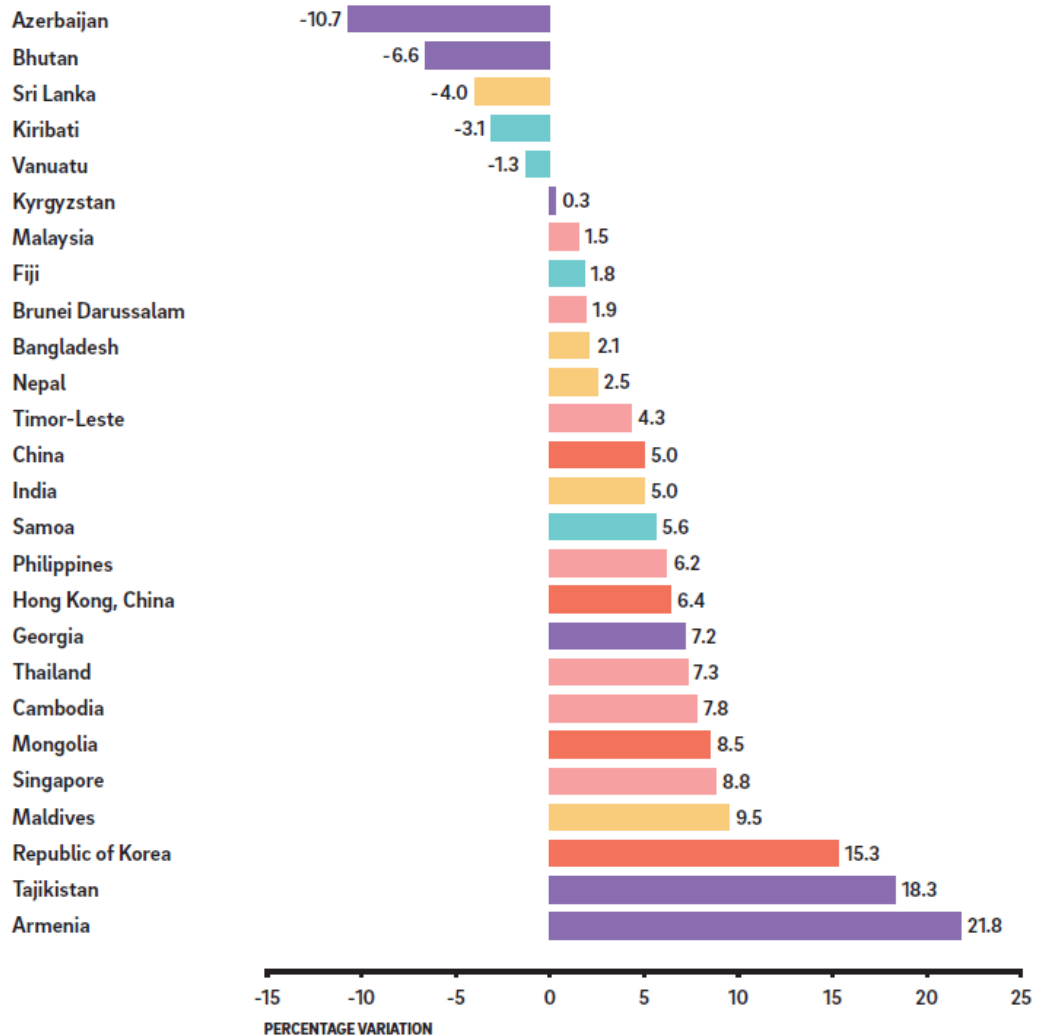
### Palma ratio, selected countries



# Positive trends: *increased spending on social protection*

Source: ESCAP,  
based on ADB Key  
Indicators for Asia  
and the Pacific, 2014

Percentage change in spending on social protection as a share of total government expenditures, selected countries, earliest and latest available year



# Impact of social protection gaps

	Example of social protection gaps
<b>Needs of children</b>	More than 85 million children under 5 are chronically malnourished.
<b>Decent work</b>	More than 1 billion workers are in vulnerable employment.
<b>Older persons</b>	Only 30% of persons above retirement age receive a pension.
<b>Health-care</b>	Nearly 80% of Asia-Pacific has no access to healthcare.

# Good Practice 1: *Mongolia's Child Money Programme*

- Conditional cash transfer scheme launched in 2007.
- **Entitlements:**
  - monthly and quarterly cash payments
  - universal entitlement for children under 18 who live with parents
  - conditions: mandatory immunizations, school enrollment and not engaged in child labour
- **Impact:** 647,500 children registered (63% of child population).
- **Remaining challenges:** limited access for most disadvantaged families living in isolated regions.

# Good Practice 2: *India's Rural Employment Guarantee*

- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act passed in 2005.
- **Entitlements:** 1 working-age member of rural households has the right to request up to 100 days of unskilled wage employment.
- If request not met within 15 days, UA granted by state-level authorities.
- If not within 5 km radius, transport costs and 10% extra wages given.
- Nature of employment – from infrastructure development to natural conservation.
- **Impact:** provision of income security for more than 55 million households.
- **Remaining challenges:** high demand for jobs and reaching all poor.

# Good Practice 3: *Samoa's Senior Citizens' Benefit Scheme*

- Samoa Senior Citizen's Benefit Scheme (SCBS) - non-contributory pension scheme introduced in 1990.
  - for all citizens and permanent residents over 65.
- Formal sector and household workers - mandatory contribution to Samoa National Provident Fund (SNPF).
  - contribution = 5% from employer, 5% from employee.
- **Entitlements (SNPF):** can withdraw all or portion of contributions at age 55.
- Claimants receive a Pension Identification Card - access to free medication from MoH and free inter-island travel
- **Impact:** reaches approximately 71% of persons aged 60 years or older.
- **Remaining challenges:** meeting needs of informal and migrant workers.



# Good Practice 4: *Thailand's Universal Health Coverage*

- Universal Health Coverage Scheme introduced in 2001.
- Targets Thai residents not covered by existing health-care schemes.
- **Entitlements** include:
  - inpatient and outpatient care, rehabilitation and high cost medical treatment and supplies.
- Programmes for registered migrants - access to public hospitals through contributory insurance scheme or Social Security Scheme.
- **Impact:** reaches 80.5% of population. (All Thai health schemes = 99.5%)
- **Remaining challenges:** quality assurance across geographical areas and between all State health-care schemes.



- Database of over 80 good practices and a network of social protection experts

# What remains to be done?

1. Anchor social protection in a **rights-based foundation**
2. Design social protection systems to **create synergies**
3. Prioritize and increase **investments** in social protection
4. Strengthen **taxation systems** for financing social protection

# What remains to be done?

5. Explore **innovative ways of financing social protection**
6. Promote **social dialogue** to foster public support for social protection
7. Promote **productive and decent work**
8. Enhance the **evidence base** on inequalities and social protection



**Thank you...**

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