



# **ASIA'S REPORTING ON SDG 12 A SNAPSHOT**

## **SUGGESTED CITATION**

SWITCH-Asia RPAC (2022), SDG 12 in Asia – Snapshot 2022

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The RPAC, together with national and regional partners ie. FICCI, TERI, PIDE and AIT, worked closely with the SWITCH-Asia focal points to strengthen the SDG 12 reporting process through training workshops and national consultation that was participated by multi-stakeholders. The RPAC would like to express its sincere appreciation for the endless support and fruitful cooperation received during the implementation of the SWITCH-Asia Programme.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>The EU</b>	<b>The European Union</b>
<b>GHG</b>	<b>Green House Gas</b>
<b>GPP</b>	<b>Green Public Procurement</b>
<b>HLPF</b>	<b>High Level Political Forum</b>
<b>RPAC</b>	<b>Regional Policy Advocacy Component</b>
<b>SDG</b>	<b>Sustainable Development Goals</b>
<b>SPP</b>	<b>Sustainable Public Procurement</b>
<b>UN</b>	<b>United Nations</b>
<b>UN ESCAP</b>	<b>United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</b>
<b>UNEP</b>	<b>United Nations Environment Programme</b>
<b>VNR</b>	<b>Voluntary National Review</b>



## 1. BACKGROUND

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The recent UN report on SDG progress reflected that the rapidly growing rate of natural resource consumption remains unsustainable and progress to promote sustainable consumption and production is uneven<sup>1</sup>. Accordingly *“Natural resource use and related benefits, along with environmental impacts, are unevenly distributed across countries and regions. A path for sustainable consumption and production requires circular economy approaches, designed to reduce or eliminate waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use, and regenerate natural systems.”*<sup>2</sup>

The Asia region has seen strong economic growth in last few decades due to shifting of global manufacturing to the region. With 60% of world population, it is expected to contribute to 52% of global GDP and major driver of global consumption by 2050<sup>3</sup>. At the same time, the economic expansion of the region which has lifted many countries out of poverty, has come at a cost of increased use of natural resources, growing GHG emissions and increased generation of waste<sup>4</sup>.

Asia today is crippled with an array of environmental issues and threats, putting the future welfare at risk. The onset of COVID 19 Pandemic has resulted in unprecedented health and developmental crisis and has reaffirmed the importance and relevance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The pandemic has exposed the many weaknesses of our system with vulnerable populations being most

impacted, implementing SDGs would put us on firm path to deal with similar future socio-economic upheavals. Responsible consumption and production as one of the key cross cutting goals, seeks to encourage reduction of wasteful consumption and improving efficiency in production processes. Awareness generation, policy incentives, and technological and business innovation can promote responsible practices among businesses and consumers.

The European Union (EU) SWITCH-Asia Programme is committed to tackle these global challenges together with its partners in Asia by building a path towards Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). The SWITCH-Asia programme through its Regional Policy Advocacy Component (RPAC) identified the need to facilitate dialogue across the region on SDG 12 reporting. In this context, RPAC supported regional, sub-regional and national activities to strengthen the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting through technical handloading, knowledge products, capacity building and learning and exchange of best practices.

This report is an update of the 2019 edition of the “Asia’s Reporting on SDG 12: An analysis of reporting mechanisms and status of the reports.” The update is prepared to understand the progress made in the Asia region on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting across different reporting mechanisms, identify achievements and key trends.

<sup>1</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2021/secretary-general-sdg-report-2021--EN.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/goal-12/#>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/28608/asia2050-executive-summary.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unep.org/resources/global-environment-outlook-6>



## 2. OBJECTIVE AND METHODOLOGY



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In line with the above background the objective of this assessment is to:

1. To map the SDG 12 monitoring and reporting in Asia across different reporting mechanism and showcase that countries are implementing measures beyond reporting on SDG 12;
2. To emphasize on the importance of aligning the global monitoring/reporting with the Voluntary National Review (VNR).

The approach for the exercise has been based on review of secondary literature, online platforms like SDG 12 Hub, SDG Tracker and

UN SDG Global database reporting the status of countries on SDGs. Country's reporting to Global Indicator framework and their voluntary submissions at High Level Political Forum (HLPF) were reviewed in details. A two dimensional matrix was developed to capture data across following key categories across the 11 SDG 12 targets.

Based on the assessment, conclusions are drawn and recommendations are proposed including harmonization across different reporting mechanism.

### 2.1 SCOPE:

Data for the following 19 SWITCH-Asia Countries has been assessed:

 **South Asia:** *Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka*

 **Southeast and East Asia:** *Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, China, North Korea, and Mongolia*

### 2.2 REPORTING MECHANISMS:

#### 2.2.1 SDG 12 Reporting at the Global Level:

The global indicators track progress towards the Goals and targets at the global level through reports to the Global Indicator Framework with each indicator having its own reporting mechanisms. They are useful for countries to communicate their current situation both to the international community to raise awareness of

challenges and needs, and to their own population to show that progress is being made. The responsibility of data collection and monitoring at the country level lies with member States who report national data to custodian agencies, which then organize and report on global progress toward the SDGs.

#### 2.2.2 SDG 12 Reporting at the National Level through Voluntary National Reviews

The Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are voluntary, state-led reviews serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF and aim to accelerate the implementation of the 2030

Agenda by facilitating the sharing of experiences and strengthening policies and stakeholder support for SDG implementation.



### 3. SDG 12 REPORTING MECHANISMS – 2022 PROGRESS ACROSS THE SWITCH-ASIA COUNTRIES



### 3. SDG 12 REPORTING MECHANISMS – A SNAPSHOT ON 2022 PROGRESS IN ASIA

Target	Global Indicator	Reports to Global Indicator Framework	Reports to National Indicator Framework
12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries	12.1.1 Number of countries developing adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production	11 out of the 19 SWITCH-Asia countries reported to have policies, instruments and mechanisms in place. Out of those, 1 country (Maldives) reported to have a coordination mechanism; 8 countries (China, India, Bhutan, Maldives Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand) reported to have one macro-policy; 3 countries (Bhutan, Indonesia, Philippines) reported to have a policy instrument to implement SCP.	11 out of 19 SWITCH-Asia Countries have reported on Target 12.1 in their VNRs Bangladesh & Philippines have reported to have a draft roadmap /Action Plan on SCP Bhutan, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam have a National Action Plan on SCP Sri Lanka and India have drafted national policies
12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources	12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP	Not reported/Insufficient Data	14 out of the 19 SWITCH-Asia Countries have reported some information on Target 12.2 Afghanistan, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia have expressed concerns on need to strengthen the efficient use of resources
	12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP	All 19 countries have reported on this indicator by providing data for the years 2000-2017 on their domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP, classified by the following types of raw materials: biomass (crop residues, crops, grazed biomass and fodder, wild catch and harvest, wood), fossil fuel (coal, natural gas, oil shale and tar sands, petroleum) metal ores (ferrous and non-ferrous ores), non-metallic minerals (total, industrial/agricultural dominant, and construction dominant).	India, Nepal, Sri Lanka have reported on some national level policies/schemes on promoting resource efficiency in some sectors Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Vietnam, China have reported to have set efficient use of resources in their national strategies or implementing some practices/policies on same.



Target	Global Indicator	Reports to Global Indicator Framework	Reports to National Indicator Framework
12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses	12.3.1(a) Food loss index and (b) food waste index	Not reported/Insufficient Data	9 out of 19 SWITCH-Asia countries have reported some type of information on Target 12.3 Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka have expressed concerns on post-harvest food loss as a significant challenge India, Maldives, China have reported some policies/actions/campaigns on mitigating food loss/food waste
12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment	12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement  12.4.2(a) Hazardous waste generated per capita; and (b) proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment	All 19 SWITCH-Asia countries are meeting 100% commitments with the Montreal Protocol on hazardous waste and other chemicals. 16 SWITCH-Asia countries have signed the Rotterdam Convention on hazardous waste and other chemicals. Malaysia, Lao PDR, Thailand and China are meeting over 90% of commitments and obligations.  All 19 SWITCH-Asia countries that have signed the Basel Convention on hazardous waste and other chemicals, 5 countries (Bhutan Pakistan, Philippines, , Thailand and China) are meeting 100% of commitments and obligations  Out of the 17 SWITCH-Asia countries that have signed the Stockholm Convention on hazardous waste and other chemicals, China is meeting 100% commitments.	15 out of 19 SWITCH-Asia Countries have reported some type of information on target 12.4 While a few countries have reported to be party to certain MEAs – compliance with same is not discussed in the VNRs Bangladesh reported on draft waste management rules Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, have reported to have either rules, national plan or policies on waste management Maldives reported significant challenge on sound waste management given the dispersed population
12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled	Insufficient data for most of the countries in the region Bangladesh, Thailand and Malaysia reported some data on quantity of municipal waste recycled	11 out of 19 SWITCH-Asia Countries have reported some type of information on target 12.5 All these 11 countries have reported some action on prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse of different types of waste streams.



Target	Global Indicator	Reports to Global Indicator Framework	Reports to National Indicator Framework
12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle	12.6.1 Number of companies publishing sustainability reports	All SWITCH-Asia Countries except North Korea have reported some progress on companies publishing sustainability reports	10 out of 19 SWITCH-Asia Countries have reported some type of information on target 12.6 Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand have reported to have developed or be implementing some type of policy, action or law to encourage companies to adopt sustainability practices or integrate sustainability information in their reporting cycle Vietnam reported lack of awareness on benefits from the sustainability reports by enterprises
12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities	12.7.1 Degree of sustainable public procurement policies and action plan implementation	Not reported/Insufficient Data Only China and Philippines have reported medium to low level of Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) policies and action plan	8 out of 19 SWITCH-Asia Countries have reported some type of information on target 12.7 Bangladesh, India have reported on integrating environmental criteria in their public procurement decisions. Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Indonesia, Vietnam reported to have integrated SPP in their national regulations, guidelines and policies, or implementing projects to promote Sustainable public procurement Sri Lanka also reported to be drafting a national Green Public Procurement (GPP) policy Malaysia reported to be implementing Government Green Public Procurement Thailand and Vietnam reported to be implementing Eco-labelling system

Target	Global Indicator	Reports to Global Indicator Framework	Reports to National Indicator Framework
12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature	12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	6 countries (India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia) reported to be incorporating sustainable development into national education policies/ curriculum or citizen education India has reported action across all categories	8 countries have reported on target 12.8 Bangladesh and Sri Lanka reported to have incorporated SDG information in national curriculum (primary, secondary and tertiary) Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam reported to be implementing some policies and projects to encourage knowledge sharing and increase awareness Malaysia reported lack of awareness and capacity towards implementing SCP China expressed its commitment to achieve a transition to low carbon development and lifestyles
12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production	12.a.1 Installed renewable energy generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)	18 SWITCH-Asia countries (except North Korea) have reported an increase in installed renewable energy sources Lao PDR and Vietnam have reported a significant increase in installed renewable energy capacity	2 countries (Lao PDR and Thailand) have reported on target 12.a Thailand reported to be taking action and cooperating with agencies to promote capacity-building based on science and technology Lao PDR reported on the need to access to technologies and tools as a challenge
12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	12.b.1 Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability	16 SWITCH-Asia Countries have reported some implementation on 12.b High implementation reported in Malaysia, Thailand and Philippines No data reported for Sri Lanka, Cambodia and North Korea	8 countries have reported on target 12.b Bangladesh reported to have tools to monitor sustainable development impact of tourism India, Sri Lanka, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines reported to be promoting sustainable tourism through national plans/strategies, criteria, rating systems or guidelines Maldives reported that its tourism sector serves as a model for sustainable tourism. From its very early stages of development, environmental considerations had been integrated to the sector through relevant laws and regulations Thailand reported development of Tourism Satellite Account-System of Environmental Economic Accounting

Target	Global Indicator	Reports to Global Indicator Framework	Reports to National Indicator Framework
12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances by restructuring taxation and phasing out harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, fully taking into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities	12.c.1 Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels	<p>2 countries (Indonesia and Lao PDR) have increased the number of subsidies to fossil fuels.</p> <p>3 countries (China, Thailand and Vietnam) have maintained the same number of subsidies to fossil fuels.</p> <p>8 countries (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Cambodia, Nepal, Afghanistan) have reduced subsidies to fossil fuels.</p> <p>Bhutan and reported an increase in electricity subsidy</p>	<p>6 countries have reported on Target 12.c</p> <p>Bangladesh reported reduced amount of fossil fuel subsidies</p> <p>Thailand supports the purchase of electricity generated from renewable energy over fossil fuels</p> <p>Vietnam has reported to have abolished direct subsidies and is phasing out indirect subsidies for fossil fuels.</p> <p>China reported that by the end of 2020, the share of non-fossil energy in the total primary energy demand had risen to 15.9 %, exceeding the target.</p>

\* 17 out of 19 SWITCH-Asia Countries have submitted at least 1 VNR

### Special Feature: Impact of COVID 19 on SDG12 reporting

COVID-19 crisis had a largely disruptive impact on global economy, highlighting the vulnerable global systems. The economic, social and health impact of the pandemic has led to rearranged priorities for both developed and developing economies. The importance of achieving SDGs is reiterated during this period – successful implementation of SDGs will enable us deal with such future shocks with environmental conversation at the heart of implementing the Global Goals. Most governments around the world announced stimulus packages to deal with the socio-economic upheaval caused by the pandemic. A few governments have also taken a long term view of recovery by integrating green principles in these recovery packages and investments for Build Back Better. Amongst the SWITCH-Asia countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, Lao PDR and China in their 2021 VNRs have highlighted the challenges posed by COVID 19 pandemic on the overall SDG progress. Some of the challenges include contraction in economic growth, loss of household income (job loss, return of migrants etc.), increased poverty and health impacts, etc., resulting in shift of government response to address these challenges. In addition to the socio-economic challenges, these countries also pointed out the issue of managing increased bio-medical waste. Indonesia has also reported on announcing annual workplan on building better environment quality through municipal and hazardous waste management while taking cognisance of low carbon development and building community resilience to climate change to build back better.







## 4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS



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SDG 12 is one of the most crosscutting goals having linkages with more than 50 targets across 13 Goals. Achieving Goal 12 is key to successfully meet the Agenda 2030. The UNESCAP Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress report 2022 states that SDG 12 is regressing in the region and there urgent action is required to bring it on track in order to just meet the targets by 2030. In order to fundamentally change the current unsustainable growth patterns and accelerate transition to SCP, structural and systemic changes in the current linear economy models are required.

It has been observed that while efforts are being undertaken by countries in the region to improve Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns, not all are not being reported under SDG 12. There is a need to improve statistical system that is linked to indicators and targets while emphasising on regular frequency of data collection, improving data disaggregation and granularity, and increasing the quality of data over period of time. Well established mechanism for coordination amongst relevant ministries for data collection are required along with developing the competence and resources in the concerned departments. Further, a few countries in the region have made noteworthy

progress on SDG 12 and encouraging cross-learning and exchange of knowledge/experience among the SWITCH-Asia countries would further facilitate and strengthen of national as well as regional capacities on SDG 12 monitoring and reporting.

Over the last few years – circular economy has gained traction equally amongst policy makers and businesses in the Asia region. There is a momentous growth of circular business models and interventions voluntarily led by the private sector. Inclusive policies promoting shift towards SCP and circular economy, capacity building of SMEs along with increasing consumer awareness and information will be key to accelerate progress on SDG 12.

This along with progress on SDG 12 reported in the Voluntary National Reviews submitted by the countries of the region are important developments that need to be considered for global monitoring and reporting on Goal 12. Integration and harmonisation across reporting mechanism and circular economy developments would improve coordination between relevant actors, reduce institutional fragmentation and burden, bring consistency and subsequently improve the quality and relevance of reports.

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