



Decade of Urgency: What are Thailand's SDG challenges? and What are the way forward?

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Outline

- What are Thailand's SDG challenges?
- What are the way forward?

1. What are Thailand's SDG challenges?

Thailand SDG Assessments

SDG in Thailand context

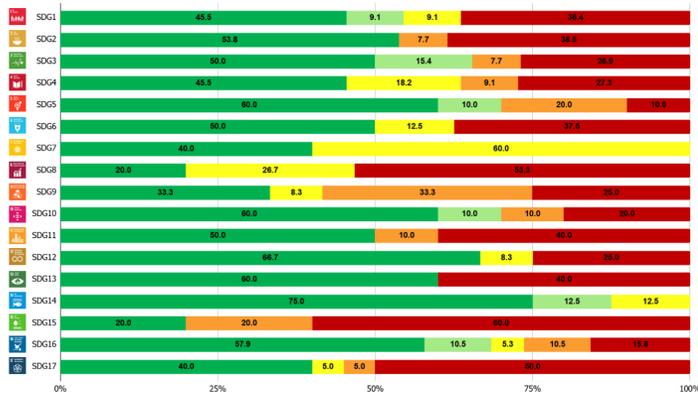
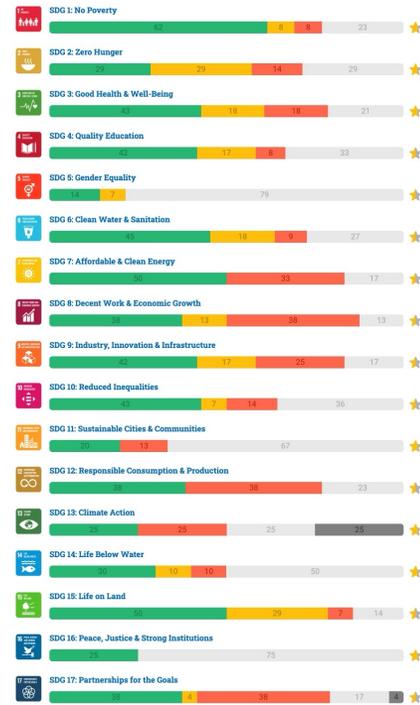


Figure 8. Overview of the Status of SDG Indicators in Thailand (Based on Available Data Only)

Thailand VNR 2025

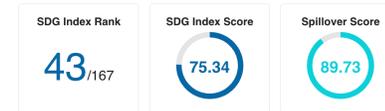
Thailand SDGs in the Asia and the Pacific Context

Percentage (%) of Indicators



UNESCAP 2025

Thailand SDGs in the Global Context



SDG Dashboards and Trends

Click on a goal to view more information.



Dashboards: ● SDG achieved ● Challenges remain ● Significant challenges remain ● Major challenges remain ● Information unavailable
Trends: ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement ↗ Moderately improving → Stagnating ↓ Decreasing ↔ Trend information unavailable

SDG Index 2025

Thailand

East and South Asia



BACK OVERVIEW INDICATORS FACT SHEET POLICY EFFORTS



SDG Dashboards and Trends

Click on a goal to view more information.



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Trends: ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement ↗ Moderately improving → Stagnating ↓ Decreasing ** Trend information unavailable

SDG Index 2025

- SDG Index is not initiated by the United Nations but the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Networks (UNSDSN), since 2015.
- It contains roughly 97 indicators, used for assessing 167 countries, with additional OECD indicators for OECD countries.
- Two-third of the indicators are indicators in the Global Framework with official SDG data. One-third of the indicators are from alternative sources, such as International CSOs, academic database, GIS data, etc.
- There are still gaps in the data due to data limitation. Several missing key issues are mentioned in the report.



trend



Legend

- Worsening Challenges ■
- Stagnating Challenges ■
- Emerging Challenges ■
- Monitored Challenges ■
- Improving Challenges ■

- Expenditure on research and development

- Ratio of female-to-male mean years of education received
- Access to improved water source, piped.

- Poverty headcount (s)
- Prevalence of Undernourishment
- Cereal Yield
- Neonatal mortality
- Mortality rate, under 5
- New HIV infections
- Adolescent fertility rate
- Birth attended by skilled health professional
- Universal Health Coverage index of service coverage
- Lower secondary completion rate
- Literacy rate
- Ratio of female-to-male labor force participation rate
- Using basic drinking service
- Using basic sanitation services
- Freshwater withdrawal
- Access to electricity
- Access to clean fuels and technology for cooking
- Adults with account at a bank or financial institutions or with mobile-money-service provider.
- Rural population with access to all-season roads
- Population using internet
- Mobile broadband subscriptions
- Logistics performance index: Infrastructure score.
- THE universities ranking: Average score of top 3 universities
- Exports of plastic waste
- Fish caught that are then discarded
- Imported deforestation
- Unsentenced detainees
- Statistical Performance index

- Traffic deaths
- Seats held by women in national parliament

- Co2 from fuel combustion per total electricity output
- Articles published in academic journals
- Fish caught from overexploited or collapsed stocks

- Permanent deforestation

- Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index
- Incidence of Tuberculosis
- Palma ratio
- Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity
- Ocean Health index: Clean Water Score
- Mean area that is protected in freshwater sites important to biodiversity

- Renewable energy share in total final energy consumption
- Production-based nitrogen emissions
- CO2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production
- Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity

- Human Trophic Level
- Life Expectancy at birth
- Gini coefficient
- Production-based air pollution
- Air pollution associated with imports
- Nitrogen emissions associated with imports
- GHG emissions embodied in imports
- Crime is effectively controlled

- NCD
- Surviving infants received vaccines
- Demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods
- Unemployment
- Fatal work-related access accidents embodied in imports

- Annual mean concentration of PM2.5
- Red List Index of Species survival
- Corruption perception index
- Expropriations are lawful and adequately compensated.

- Prevalence of Stunting in children under 5
- Fundamental labor rights are effectively guaranteed.
- Total patent applications by applicant's origin
- Fish caught by trawling or dodging
- Press freedom index
- Timeliness of administrative proceedings
- Government spending on health and education
- Other countries: Government revenue excluded grants

- Prevalence of Wasting in children under 5
- Prevalence of Obesity in children under 5
- Scarce water consumption embodied in imports
- Access to and affordability of justice

11/17/25



status



6

SDG Index 2025: the Worsening Challenges

• 1. Public Health & Environment

• Worsening Air Quality

- Air pollution (PM2.5) is an increasing health risk for everyone.

• Declining Child Nutrition

- The prevalence of **stunting** (chronic malnutrition) in children under 5 is rising, which can impact their long-term development.

• Loss of Biodiversity

- More of our native wildlife and species are at **risk of extinction** (as shown by the Red List Index).

• Unsustainable Fishing

- A growing share of our fish catch comes from harmful methods like **trawling**, which damages ocean ecosystems for the long term.

• 2. Governance & Public Trust

• Rising Corruption

- Public perception of corruption is getting worse, damaging trust in institutions.

• Declining Press Freedom

- The environment for journalists and a free, independent press is becoming more challenging.

• Slower Government Services ("Red Tape")

- It is taking longer for the government to complete administrative tasks and proceedings, causing delays for the public.

3. Economic & Social Foundations

- **Reduced Public Investment** esp. in **health and education**.

• Falling Government Revenue

• Declining Labor Rights

• Weakening Property Rights

- Concerns are growing about the fairness and legal protection for citizens when private property is seized by the state.

• Slowing Local Innovation

- Fewer patent applications are being filed by local innovators, a sign of a slowing innovation pipeline.

SDG Index 2025: the Stagnating Challenges

1. The Fight Against Climate Change Has Stalled

- **Our Carbon Emissions Are Not Going Down**
 - We have not achieved a steady, year-on-year decrease in CO2 emissions from fossil fuels and industry. After a dip in 2022, emissions rose again in 2023.
- **The Switch to Clean Energy Is Stuck**
 - Our progress in moving to renewable energy (like solar and wind) has stalled. The share of renewables in our total energy use is not growing consistently.

2. We've Stopped Expanding Nature Protections

- **Our Most Important Natural Sites Are Not Getting New Protection**
 - **Oceans:** The total area of protected marine biodiversity sites has been frozen at **5.1%** since 2021.
 - **Land & Mountains:** Protection for key mountain areas has not expanded since 2016, stuck at **85.71%**.
 - **Freshwater:** Similarly, protection for important freshwater and terrestrial sites was stuck at **56.78%** for five straight years (2016-2020).

SDG Index 2025: the Stagnating Challenges

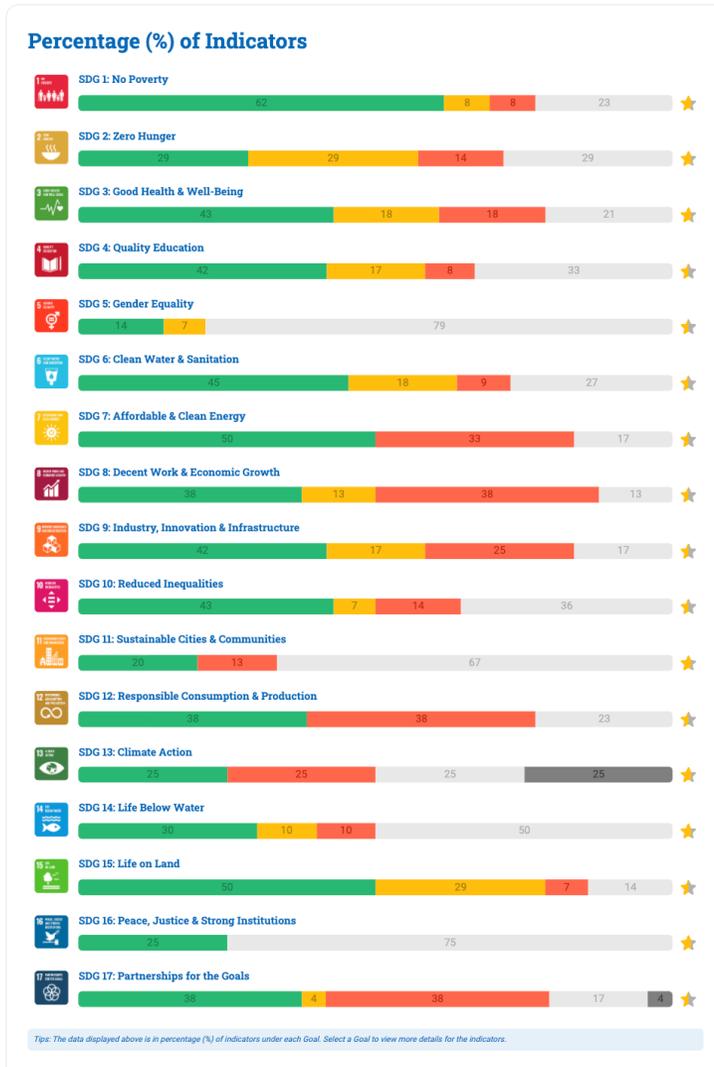
3. Critical Pollution Is Not Being Reduced

- **Our Water Is Not Getting Cleaner**
 - Progress on improving water quality in our oceans has stalled (Ocean Health Index).
- **Pollution from Farms & Factories Is Stagnant**
 - We are not making progress in reducing "nitrogen emissions"—a key pollutant from fertilizer and industrial waste that harms our water and environment.

4. Social & Health Progress Has Hit a Wall

- **The Gap Between Rich & Poor Is Not Shrinking**
 - Economic inequality (the "Palma ratio") is a persistent challenge, and we are not succeeding in closing the income gap.
- **Progress Against Tuberculosis (TB) Has Stopped**
 - After years of improvement, our fight against TB has stalled and is even reversing. The incidence rate has risen every year since 2020, from **143 to 157 per 100,000**.

UNESCAP: SDG data gateway



- UNESCAP assesses the SDG status of countries in the Asia and the Pacific annually and presents the data on the **SDG Data Gateway** platform and in its annual "**Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report.**"
- All indicators are from the official **Global Indicator Framework**, and all data is from the **UN Statistical Division**.
- Each country's data is benchmarked against its 2015 status. Indicators marked "**progress**" mean the current status is better than the 2015 status. In contrast, if the status is stagnating or regressing when benchmarked against the 2015 data, the indicators will be marked "**stagnating**" and "**regressing**," respectively.
- **SDG 5** and **16** still experience a high level of data insufficiency.

Thailand SDG Challenges (UNESCAP): People

- Legend
- Worsening Challenges ■
 - Stagnating Challenges ■
 - Emerging Challenges ■
 - Monitored Challenges ■

trend

■ **Stagnant**
Stagnant or mixed trends.

■ **Regressing**
Worsening trends since 2015.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children moderately or severely overweight (% of children under 5) • Plant genetic resources accessions stored ex situ (Number) • Local breeds for which sufficient genetic resources are stored for reconstitution (Number) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average proportion of deprivations for people multidimensionally poor (Percentage) • Proportion of population receiving a pension (% of population above statutory pensionable age) • Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction as a share of local breeds with known level of extinction risk (Percentage) • Agricultural export subsidies (Million US dollars) • Tuberculosis incidence rate (Per 100,000 population) • Demand for family planning satisfied with modern methods (% of female aged 15-49) • International Health Regulations capacity (SPAR 2021 onward), average of 15 components (Percentage) • Adjusted net enrolment rate (one year before the official primary entry age), total (Percentage) • Legal framework for gender equality (percentage, scale 1 - 100)_Area 4 (marriage and family) (Percentage) • Legal framework for gender equality (percentage, scale 1 - 100)_Area 3 (employment and economic benefits) (Percentage)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population covered by social insurance programs, poorest quintile (1st) (% of population) • Poor population receiving social assistance cash benefit (% of population) • Mothers with newborns receiving cash benefits (Percentage) • Population covered by social assistance programs, poorest quintile (1st) (% of population) • Children moderately or severely wasted (% of children under 5) • Suicide, both sexes (Per 100,000 population) • Adolescent fertility rate (SDG) (Live births per 1 000 women (aged 10-14)) • Proportion of the target population who received the final dose of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (% target population) • Dentistry personnel density (Per 10,000 population) • Minimum proficiency in mathematics for lower secondary, both sexes (Percentage) • Minimum proficiency in reading for lower secondary, both sexes (Percentage) • Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, total (% of population aged 15-64) • Youth and adults with ICT skills, writing a computer program using a specialized programming language, both sexes (Percentage) • Youth and adults with ICT skills, using basic arithmetic formula in a spreadsheet, both sexes (Percentage) • Legal framework for gender equality (percentage, scale 1 - 100)_Area 1 (legal framework and public life) (Percentage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly affected persons attributed to disasters (Per 100,000 population) • Deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters (Per 100,000 population) • Moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, both sexes, all ages (% of population) • Agriculture orientation index for government expenditures (Index) • People requiring interventions against NTD: Total (Thousand people) • Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases (Probability (%)) • Population with large household expenditure on health (>10%) (% of population) • Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning (Per 100,000 population) • Full immunization coverage among one-year-olds (%)(WHO Health Equity Monitor) (Total) • Proportion of the target population who received measles-containing-vaccine second-dose (MCV2) (% of children aged 1) • Proportion of the target population who received 3 doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP3) vaccine (% of children aged 1)

Below or above regional average

Thailand SDG Challenges (UNESCAP): People

- Legend
- Worsening Challenges ■
 - Stagnating Challenges ■
 - Emerging Challenges ■
 - Monitored Challenges ■

trend

■ **Stagnant**
Stagnant or mixed trends.

■ **Regressing**
Worsening trends since 2015.

<p>Stagnating Challenges (Below Regional Average & No Progress) ■</p> <p>Key Message: We are stuck in a bad position on these issues—performing worse than the region and making no progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stuck on Child Nutrition: We are failing to solve the persistent problem of childhood obesity (overweight children). • Risking Future Food Security: We are not making any new progress in preserving the genetic diversity of our critical food crops and local farm animals. 	<p>Monitored Challenges (Above Regional Average but Stagnating) ■</p> <p>Key Message: We are "coasting" on these issues. We are doing better than our neighbors, but we have completely stalled and are no longer improving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress Has Hit a Plateau: We've stopped making new gains in key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our fight against Tuberculosis (TB) is stuck. • Access to family planning is no longer expanding. • Pre-school enrollment is high but not growing. • Social Gains Have Stalled: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong legal rights for women (in work and family) are not advancing further. • Our support for the elderly (pensions) and the poor is good, but is not getting any better.
<p>Worsening Challenges (Below Regional Average & Actively Regressing) ■</p> <p>Key Message: On these issues, we are falling behind our neighbors, and the situation is actively getting worse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Safety Net is Failing: Our most vulnerable—new mothers, children, and the poorest families—are receiving less social assistance and fewer cash benefits. • Public Health is in Decline: We are seeing a rise in child malnutrition (wasting) and an increase in suicide rates. • Foundational Education is Collapsing: Basic math and reading skills for our lower secondary students are declining, leaving them unprepared. • Not Ready for the Future: We are failing to equip people with critical digital skills (like coding) and are falling behind on preventative health, like the HPV vaccine for girls. 	<p>Emerging Challenges (Above Regional Average but Actively Regressing) ■</p> <p>Key Message: These are critical warning signs. We are still performing better than the regional average, but we are rapidly losing our lead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Losing Ground on Public Health: Our previously high childhood vaccination rates (for Measles, DTP3, etc.) are slipping. • Growing Health & Financial Crises: More people are dying from chronic diseases (like cancer and heart disease), and more families are facing "medical poverty" from large healthcare bills. • Losing Our Resilience: We are becoming <i>more</i> vulnerable to disasters, and food insecurity is <i>rising</i>. • Failing to Invest in Core Sectors: Government investment in agriculture is <i>decreasing</i>.

Below or above regional average

Thailand SDG Challenges (UNESCAP): Prosperity

- Legend
- Worsening Challenges ■
 - Stagnating Challenges ■
 - Emerging Challenges ■
 - Monitored Challenges ■

trend

■ **Stagnant**
Stagnant or mixed trends.

■ **Regressing**
Worsening trends since 2015.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National strategy for youth employment (Scores) • Population living below 50 percent of median income (% of population) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Output per worker growth rate (2015 US Dollar) (% change per annum) • Domestic material consumption, total (Tons per capita) • Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network (% of population)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International support for clean energy and renewable energy (Million 2021 US dollars) • GDP per capita growth rate (2015 US dollars, average annual) (% change per capita per annum) • Level of national compliance with labour rights (Score from 0 (better) to 10 (worse) compliance with labour rights) • Tourism direct GDP (% of GDP) • Aid for trade, total official flows (commitments), by recipient (Million 2022 US dollars) • Air transport freight (Million ton-km) • Proportion of small-scale manufacturing industries in total manufacturing value added, Manufacturing (% of value added) • Annual mean concentration of PM2.5, urban (Micrograms per m3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy share of total final energy consumption, renewables (SDG) (% of total final energy consumption) • Material footprint, total (Tons per capita) • Unemployment rate - 13th ICLS (15+ years) (% of labour force aged 15+) • Air transport passengers carried (Million passenger-km) • GDP by activity: Manufacturing (% of GDP (2015 USD)) • Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment - 13th ICLS (% of total employment) • Medium and high-tech industry value added (ISIC4_C) (% of total manufacturing value added) • Labour income share of GDP (% of GDP) • Population who are refugees, by country of origin (Number of people) • Directly affected persons attributed to disasters (Per 100,000 population) • Deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters (Per 100,000 population)

Below or above regional average

Thailand SDG Challenges (UNESCAP): Prosperity

- Legend
- Worsening Challenges ■
 - Stagnating Challenges ■
 - Emerging Challenges ■
 - Monitored Challenges ■

trend

■ **Stagnant**
Stagnant or mixed trends.

■ **Regressing**
Worsening trends since 2015.

<p>Stagnating Challenges (Below Regional Average & No Progress) ■</p> <p>Key Message: We are stuck in a bad position on key social issues and are failing to make progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too many people are stuck in poverty (living on less than half the median income), and the number isn't shrinking. • Our national plan for youth employment is weak and not improving. 	<p>Monitored Challenges (Above Regional Average but Stagnating) ■</p> <p>Key Message: We are doing well here, but we've stopped improving. We need to push forward again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our workers are not becoming more productive (worker output has stalled). • We are consuming a high level of materials and aren't making any progress in reducing it. • Mobile internet access is high but has hit ceiling (everyone who can get 3G already has it).
<p>Worsening Challenges (Below Regional Average & Actively Regressing) ■</p> <p>Key Message: These are critical red flags. We are falling behind our neighbors on key economic and environmental issues, and the situation is actively deteriorating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our air pollution (PM2.5) is getting worse. • Economic growth per person is slowing down. • Legal protections for workers are weakening. • Tourism's share of our economy is shrinking. • Small, local businesses are a shrinking part of our manufacturing sector. • We are receiving less international aid for both clean energy and trade. 	<p>Emerging Challenges (Above Regional Average but Actively Regressing) ■</p> <p>Key Message: These are major warning signs. We are "coasting" on past success, and our strong foundation is starting to erode.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are becoming MORE vulnerable to disasters (more people affected, more deaths). • Our economy's industrial backbone is shrinking: • Manufacturing provides fewer jobs than before. • Manufacturing is a smaller part of our economy (GDP). • We are losing our high-tech industries. • We are using FEWER renewables than we used to. • A smaller share of the "economic pie" is going to workers' salaries. • Each person is consuming more raw materials (our "material footprint" is growing). • Unemployment is beginning to rise (even if from a low number).

Thailand SDG Challenges (UNESCAP): Planet

- Legend
- Worsening Challenges ■
 - Stagnating Challenges ■
 - Emerging Challenges ■
 - Monitored Challenges ■

trend

■ **Stagnant**
Stagnant or mixed trends.

■ **Regressing**
Worsening trends since 2015.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries with users/communities participating in planning programs in rural drinking-water supply (3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = N/A) • Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism: SEEA tables (Number) • Forest area (% of land area) • Red list index total (Index) • International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA), contracting party (Yes (1)/No (0)) • Leg., admin./policy framework reported through Online Reporting Sys. on Compliance of the Int. Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food & Agriculture (Yes (1)/No (0)) • Legislative, administrative and policy framework reported to the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (Yes (1)/No (0)) • Nagoya Protocol, country party (Yes (1)/No (0)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population with basic handwashing facilities on premises (% of population) • Water stress: (total freshwater withdrawal as proportion of available freshwater) (% of total renewable water per annum) • Domestic material consumption, total (Tons per capita) • Municipal waste treated, by type of treatment: Landfilling, controlled (Percentage) • Important sites for terrestrial biodiversity (Percentage) • Important sites for fresh water biodiversity (Percentage) • Above ground biomass in forest (Tons per hectare) • Important sites for mountain biodiversity (Percentage) • Mountain green cover index, Total - Land cover: Mountain Green Cover Index (MGCI) (Percentage)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official development assistance (total gross disbursement) for water supply and sanitation, by recipient (Million 2022 US dollars) • Countries with users/communities participating in planning programs in water resources planning and management (3 = High; 2 = Moderate; 1 = Low; 0 = N/A) • Food waste, total (Kg per capita) • Hazardous waste exported (Thousand tons) • Municipal waste recycled (Percentage) • Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP (% of GDP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material footprint, total (Tons per capita) • Hazardous waste and other chemicals, average Basel/Montreal/Stockholm/Rotterdam convention compliance (Percentage) • Municipal waste treated, by type of treatment: Incineration (Percentage) • Electronic waste generated (Kg per capita) • Municipal waste treated, by type of treatment: Incineration to generate energy (Percentage) • Fossil-fuel subsidies (consumption and production) (% of GDP) • Directly affected persons attributed to disasters (Per 100,000 population) • Deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters (Per 100,000 population) • Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions without LULUCF (Million tons of CO2 equivalent) • Chlorophyll-a deviations, remote sensing (Percentage)

Below or above regional average

Thailand SDG Challenges (UNESCAP): Planet

- Legend
- Worsening Challenges ■
 - Stagnating Challenges ■
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 - Monitored Challenges ■

trend

■ **Stagnant**
Stagnant or mixed trends.

■ **Regressing**
Worsening trends since 2015.

<p>Stagnating Challenges (Below Regional Average & No Progress) ■</p> <p>Key Message: We are stuck in a bad position on key environmental and policy issues and are failing to make progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are failing to protect our endangered species (the Red List Index is not improving). • Our total forest area is not growing. • We are failing to implement international agreements to protect our biodiversity (like unique plants and genetic resources). • We are not making progress in involving rural communities in their own drinking water planning. • We are still not using proper accounting to measure the true environmental cost of tourism. 	<p>Monitored Challenges (Above Regional Average but Stagnating) ■</p> <p>Key Message: We are doing well here, but we've stopped improving. We need to push forward again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our high level of access to handwashing facilities has plateaued and is not reaching everyone. • Our level of water stress is stable but has not improved. • We continue to consume a high level of materials per person, with no reduction. • Our forests and protected areas are stable, but not improving or expanding (e.g., Mountain Green Cover, biodiversity sites). • The amount of waste we send to landfills is not decreasing.
<p>Worsening Challenges (Below Regional Average & Actively Regressing) ■</p> <p>Key Message: These are critical red flags. We are falling behind our neighbors on key environmental and economic issues, and the situation is actively deteriorating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are wasting more food per person. • Our national recycling rate is falling. • We are exporting more hazardous/toxic waste. • Sustainable fishing is shrinking as a part of our economy. • We are getting less international aid for clean water and sanitation. • Local communities are being less involved in managing their own water resources. 	<p>Emerging Challenges (Above Regional Average but Actively Regressing) ■</p> <p>Key Message: These are major warning signs. We are "coasting" on past success, but our strong foundation is starting to erode.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are becoming MORE vulnerable to disasters (more people affected, more deaths). • Our climate-changing (GHG) emissions are rising. • We are spending MORE money on fossil fuel subsidies, which encourages pollution. • Our coastal water pollution is getting worse (harming marine life). • We are consuming more raw materials per person. • We are creating more e-waste per person. • We are burning more of our municipal waste. • Our compliance with international hazardous waste rules is slipping.

Below or above regional average

Thailand SDG Challenges (UNESCAP): Peace & Partnership

- Legend
- Worsening Challenges ■
 - Stagnating Challenges ■
 - Emerging Challenges ■
 - Monitored Challenges ■

trend

■ **Stagnant**
Stagnant or mixed trends.

■ **Regressing**
Worsening trends since 2015.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detected victims of human trafficking for other purposes (Number of people) • Women's representation in parliament (from the age of eligibility), Upper Chamber (Ratio (women's share in parliament over share in total population)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worldwide weighted tariff-average : Preferential rate, weighted mean, all products (Percentage) • Macroeconomic dashboard: Total reserves in months of imports (Percentage)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government revenue (budgetary central government) (% of GDP) • Worldwide weighted tariff-average: Most-favoured nation, worldwide weighted tariff-average, all products (Percentage) • Macroeconomic dashboard: Tax revenue as a proportion of GDP (Percentage) • Macroeconomic dashboard: Annual growth of imports of goods and services (Percentage) • Macroeconomic dashboard: Annual GDP growth (Percentage) • Macroeconomic dashboard: Annual broad money growth (Percentage) • Macroeconomic dashboard: Annual growth of the general government final consumption expenditure (Percentage) • Public-private partnerships for infrastructure, commitment (Million 2019 US dollars) • Resources made available to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries (Million US dollars) • FDI inflows (% of GDP) • Amount of tracked re-imported Environmentally Sound Technologies (Current United States dollars) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic budget funded by domestic taxes (Percentage) • Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global services exports (% of world services exports) • Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global merchandise exports (% of world merchandise exports) • Macroeconomic dashboard: Annual inflation, consumer prices (Percentage) • Macroeconomic dashboard: External debt stocks as a proportion of GNI (Percentage) • Data Sources performance index (Statistical Performance Indicators Pillar 4) (Index) • Debt service (% of exports of goods, services and primary income)

Thailand SDG Challenges (UNESCAP): Peace & Partnership

- Legend
- Worsening Challenges ■
 - Stagnating Challenges ■
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trend

■ **Stagnant**
Stagnant or mixed trends.

■ **Regressing**
Worsening trends since 2015.

<p>Stagnating Challenges (Below Regional Average & No Progress) ■</p> <p>Key Message: We are stuck in a bad position on key social issues and are failing to make progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are failing to increase the number of women in the Senate (Upper Chamber of Parliament). • We are not getting better at identifying and helping victims of human trafficking. 	<p>Monitored Challenges (Above Regional Average but Stagnating) ■</p> <p>Key Message: We are doing well here, but we've stopped improving. We need to push forward again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our "national savings" (foreign reserves) are high and stable, which protects us from economic shocks. • Our preferential trade agreements (tariffs) are stable.
<p>Worsening Challenges (Below Regional Average & Actively Regressing) ■</p> <p>Key Message: These are critical red flags. Our core economic engine is slowing, government finances are shrinking, and we are attracting less investment, putting us behind the regional average.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our national economy (GDP) is growing slower than before. • The government's income is shrinking, both from overall revenue and from taxes. • We are attracting less foreign investment (FDI) to fuel new projects. • We are seeing a drop in commitments for public-private partnerships (less private investment in infrastructure). • Government spending is slowing down, and we are investing less in key areas like green technology and data collection (statistics). 	<p>Emerging Challenges (Above Regional Average but Actively Regressing) ■</p> <p>Key Message: These are major warning signs. We are "coasting" on past success, but our strong financial standing is starting to erode.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our national debt to other countries is growing, and the cost to pay it back (debt service) is increasing. • Our "slice" of the global trade pie is shrinking (both for goods and services). • We are becoming more reliant on debt (less of our budget is funded by our own taxes). • Inflation (consumer prices) is becoming a problem. • Our national data system (statistics) is, surprisingly, getting worse, making it harder to make good policy.

Below or above regional average

Thailand's key SDG challenges: Synthesis

<h2>1. Sustainable Agriculture and Food System</h2> <p>This theme covers challenges related to food production (farming, fisheries) and consumption outcomes (nutrition, waste).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worsening Child Malnutrition (3-Source Match) • Worsening Food Waste (2-Source Match) • Worsening Unsustainable Fishing (Unique to SDG Index 2025) • Stagnating Agricultural Pollution (Unique to SDG Index 2025) • Worsening Air Quality (PM2.5) (3-Source Match) • Rising Water Stress (Unique to VNR 2025) 	<h2>2. Sustainable and Just Economies</h2> <p>This theme covers challenges related to the broader economy, labor, and industrial sectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worsening Labor Rights (3-Source Match) • Worsening Manufacturing Sector (3-Source Match) • Worsening Inequality (Unique to SDG Index 2025) • Declining Access to Banking (Unique to VNR 2025) 	<h2>3. Wellbeing and Capabilities</h2> <p>This theme covers challenges related to health, education, and human security.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worsening Foundational Education (2-Source Match) • Worsening Tuberculosis (TB) Incidence (2-Source Match) • Worsening Suicide Rate (2-Source Match) • Declining Social Safety Net Payments (Unique to UNESCAP) • Specific Health Gaps (Unique to UNESCAP) 
<h2>4. Climate Mitigation & Adaptation</h2> <p>This theme covers challenges in climate mitigation (emissions, energy) and adapting to climate impacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worsening/Stagnating Emissions (GHG/CO2) (3-Source Match) • Stagnating/Regressing Renewable Energy (3-Source Match) • Worsening Disaster Impact (3-Source Match) 	<h2>5. Biodiversity and Environment</h2> <p>This theme covers challenges related to the health of ecosystems, pollution, and species survival.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stagnating Biodiversity Protection (2-Source Match) • Worsening Species Survival (Red List Index) (2-Source Match) • Rising Land Degradation (Unique to VNR 2025) • Worsening Ocean Health (Unique to SDG Index 2025) 	<h2>6. Governance and Means of Implementation</h2> <p>This theme covers challenges in public finance, institutional quality, and policy frameworks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worsening Government Finances (3-Source Match) • Worsening Governance Indicators (Unique to SDG Index 2025) • Worsening Innovation & Data (Unique to SDG Index 2025) • Stagnation on Genetic Resource Policy (Unique to VNR 2025) 

Thailand's key SDG Challenges: Synthesis

- Legend
- Worsening Challenges ■
 - Stagnating Challenges ■
 - Emerging Challenges ■
 - Monitored Challenges ■

trend

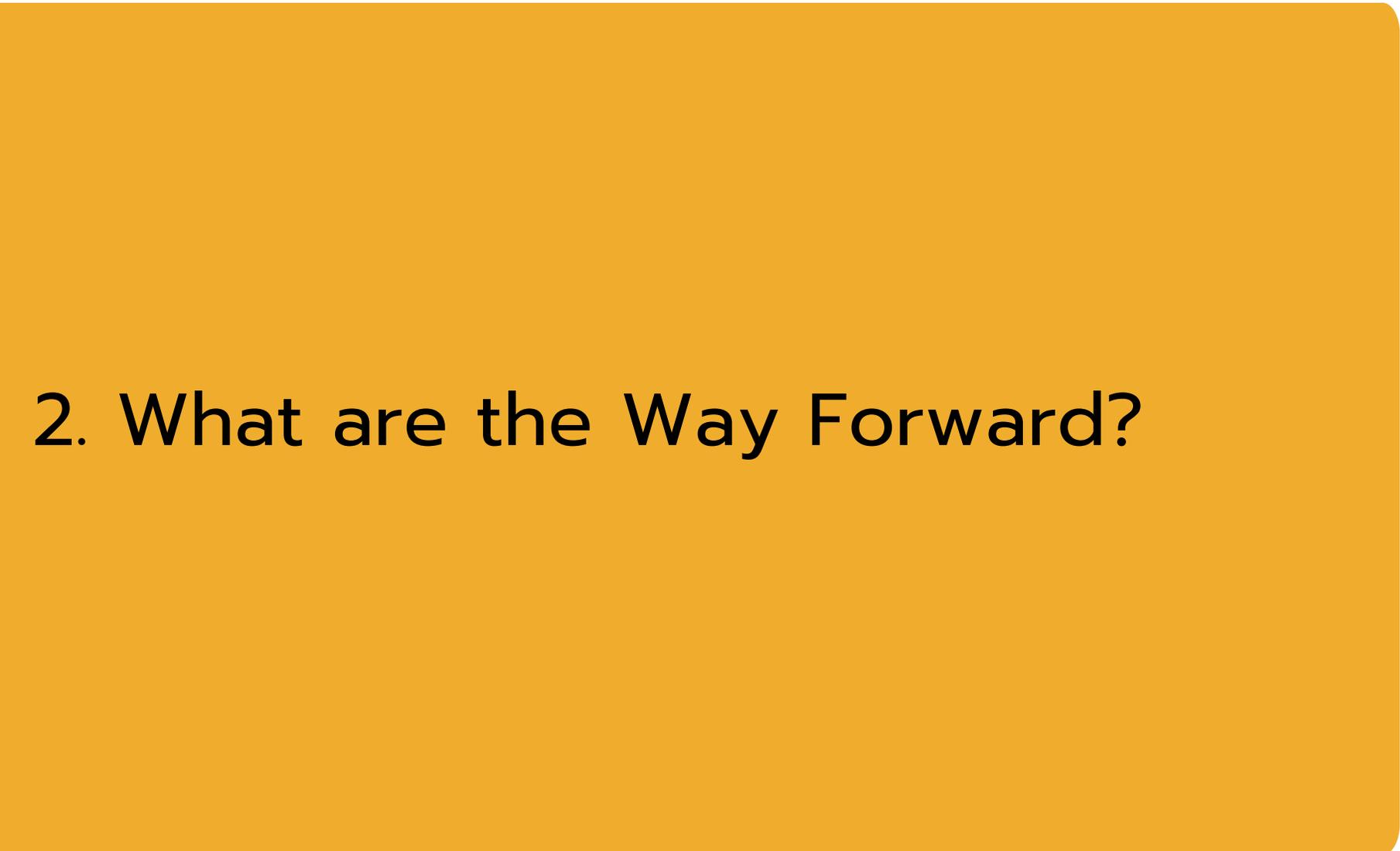
■ **Stagnant**
Stagnant or mixed trends.

■ **Regressing**
Worsening trends since 2015.

<p>Stagnating Challenges: ■ More efforts and resources are needed to push these stagnating issues forward.</p> <p>On these issues, Thailand is performing worse than the region and has shown no progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stagnating Biodiversity Protection: A 2-source match. "Mean area that is protected" (for marine, freshwater, and terrestrial sites) was on the UNESCAP "Stagnating" list, and the VNR data confirmed this stall. • Stagnating Species Survival (Red List Index): A 2-source match. This was on the UNESCAP "Stagnating" list, and the VNR data confirmed a decline in the index. • Stagnating Child Malnutrition (Overweight): A 3-source match (as part of the broader malnutrition problem). The "Overweight" component was specifically on the UNESCAP "Stagnating" list. 	<p>Monitored Challenges: ■ With serious efforts and resources, sustainability of these issues can be achieved.</p> <p>For this common issue, Thailand is doing better than its neighbors but has stopped making progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuberculosis (TB) Incidence: A 2-source match. This was on the UNESCAP "Monitored" list. (Note: This is a key synthesis point, as the VNR data shows this is now <i>regressing</i>, making its "stagnating" status a serious concern).
<p>Worsening Challenges: ■ These are the most critical and urgent issues that need to be addressed as soon as possible to stop the regressing trend.</p> <p>These are the most critical issues where Thailand is falling behind the regional average, and the trend is actively getting worse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worsening Air Quality (PM2.5): A 3-source match, identified as a regressing/worsening challenge by all reports. • Worsening Government Finances: A 3-source match. Both government revenue and tax revenue as a % of GDP are classified as "Worsening." • Worsening Labor Rights: A 3-source match. The "Level of national compliance with labour rights" is consistently identified as regressing. • Worsening Foundational Education: A 2-source match. "Minimum proficiency in mathematics" and "reading" for lower secondary are regressing. • Worsening Suicide Rate: A 2-source match. Identified as "Regressing" by UNESCAP and confirmed by the VNR data. • Worsening Food Waste: A 2-source match. Identified as "Regressing" by UESCAP and on the "Worsening" list by UNESCAP. • Worsening Child Malnutrition (Wasting): A 3-source match. "Children moderately or severely wasted" was classified as "Worsening." 	<p>Emerging Challenges: ■ More efforts and resources are needed to stop the regressing trend.</p> <p>These are critical warning signs. Thailand is still performing better than the regional average but is rapidly losing its lead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worsening Disaster Impact: A 3-source match. "Directly affected persons" and "Deaths from disasters" were on the UNESCAP "Emerging" list. • Worsening Emissions (GHG/CO2): A 3-source match. "Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions" were on the "Emerging" list. • Worsening Manufacturing Sector: A 3-source match. "Manufacturing's share of GDP" and "employment" were both on the "Emerging" list. • Stagnating/Regressing Renewable Energy: A 3-source match. The "Renewable energy share" was on the UNESCAP "Emerging" list.

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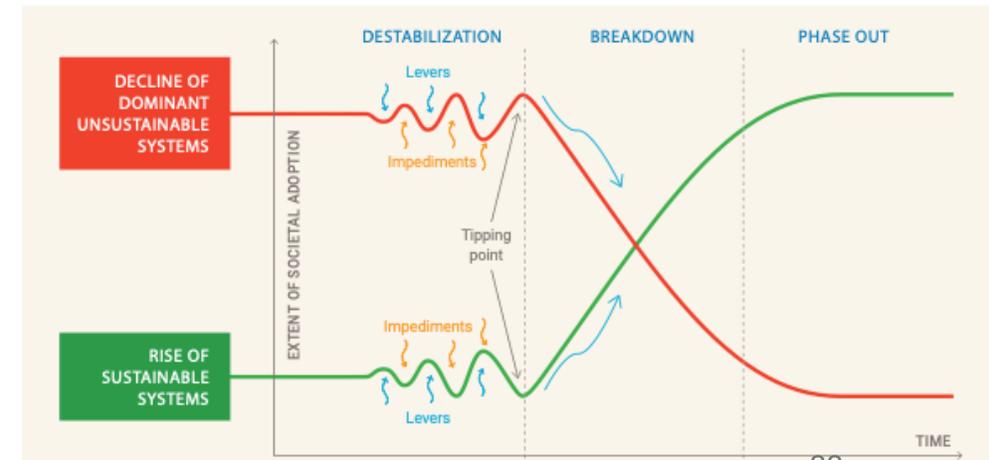
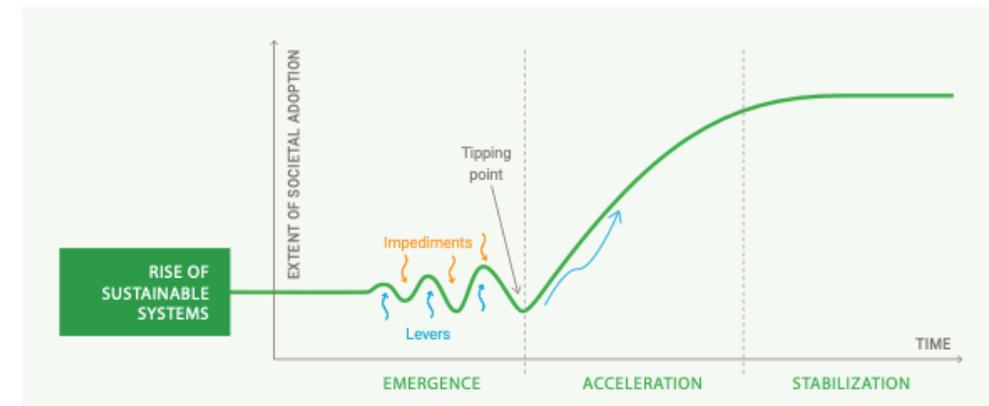
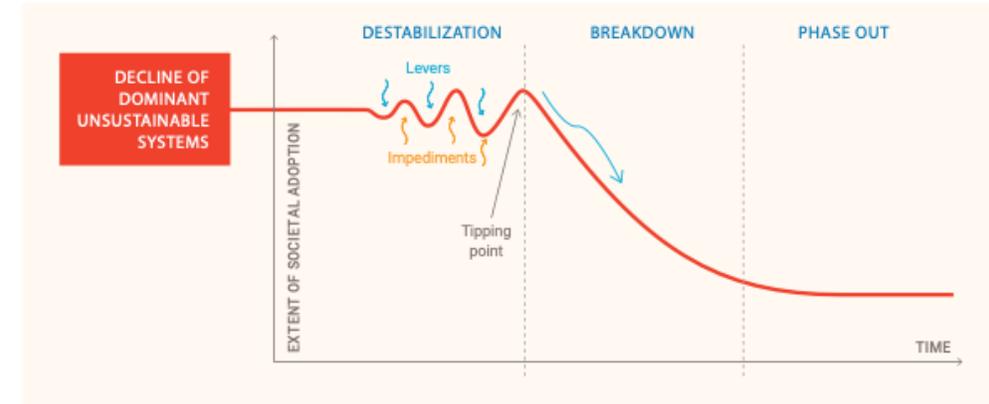
2. What are the Way Forward?



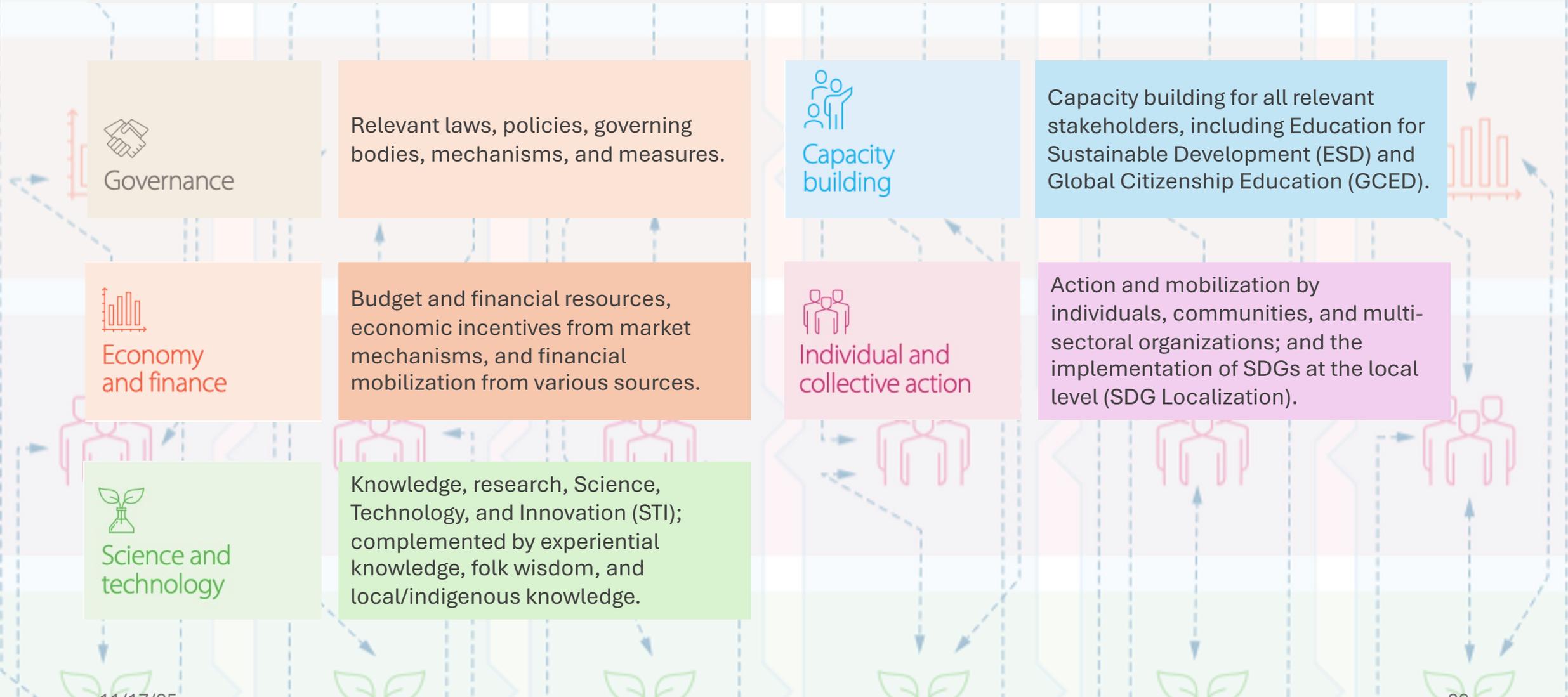
Sustainability Transformation: The S-Curve

- The process of change can be divided into three main phases:
 - Emergence: New ideas and innovations begin with experimentation and learning.
 - Acceleration: Innovations are rapidly accepted and become widespread.
 - Stabilization: New technologies and practices become the standard norm in society.
- Change is not unidirectional; a reverse S-curve may occur, such as the decline of fossil fuels coupled with the growth of renewable energy.
- We need to pilot, scale and normalize the existing small and area-based successes and learn how each lever works in each stage.

THREE PHASES OF TRANSFORMATION



Policy Actions and Enabling Environment



Governance

Relevant laws, policies, governing bodies, mechanisms, and measures.

Capacity building

Capacity building for all relevant stakeholders, including Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED).

Economy and finance

Budget and financial resources, economic incentives from market mechanisms, and financial mobilization from various sources.

Individual and collective action

Action and mobilization by individuals, communities, and multi-sectoral organizations; and the implementation of SDGs at the local level (SDG Localization).

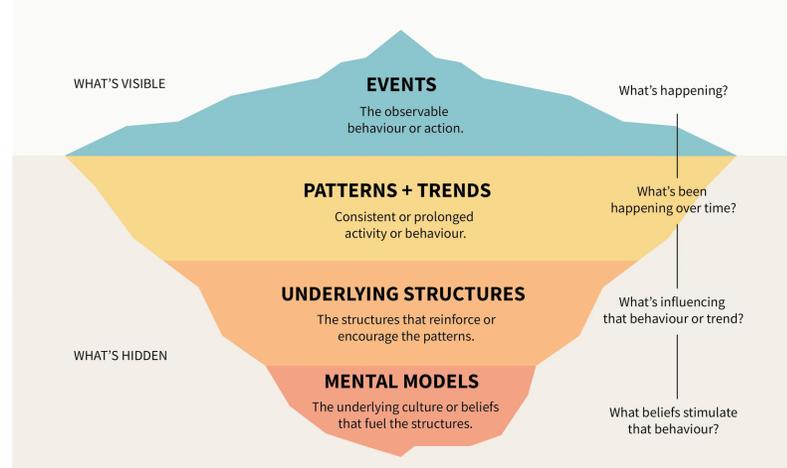
Science and technology

Knowledge, research, Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI); complemented by experiential knowledge, folk wisdom, and local/indigenous knowledge.

The Leverage Point Framework

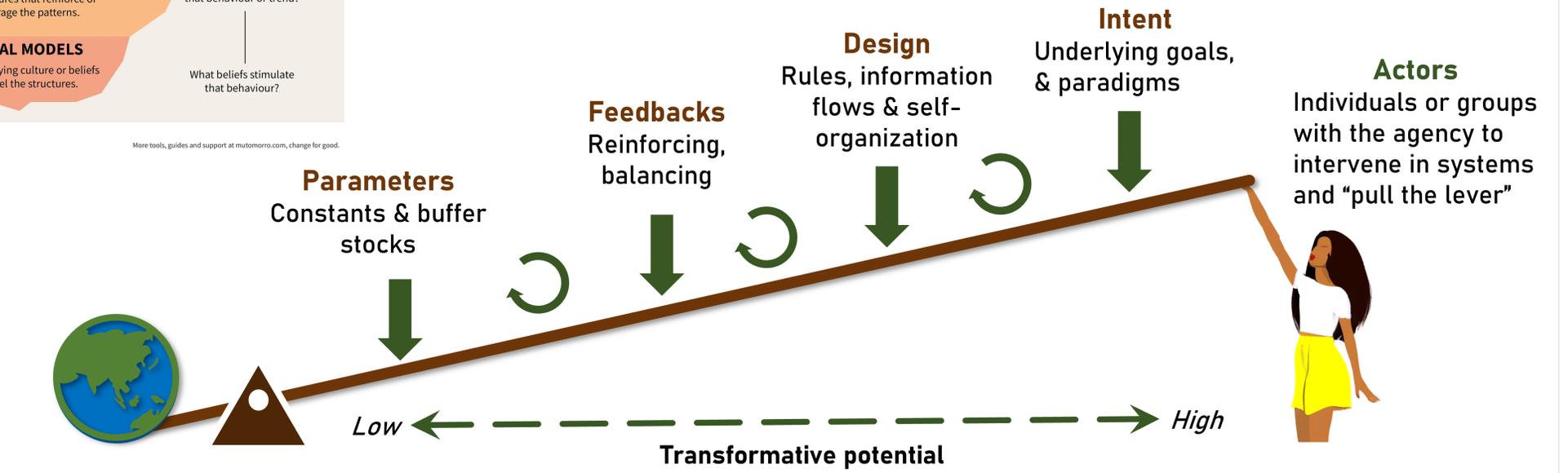
Iceberg Model for System Thinking

mutomorro



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Approaches to strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration

Governing through Goals

- Each sector needs to formulate **a set of sector-specific SDG targets**. Cross-sectoral dialogue is needed to set this sector-specific targets for each relevant SDG.
- Monitoring system at sectoral level needs **up-to-date data, analyzes it and feed back the information back to organizations in the sector** so each of them can adjust its organizational targets to contribute to the sectoral targets.
- Each organization in the sector should have its own Organizational Determined Contribution (ODC), and each sector provides a platform for **pledging and reviewing the ODC regularly**.
- More **financial resources** should be mobilized to support sustainability efforts of all sectors.

Champions and Best Practices

- Each sector needs **champions** in different issues.
- Recognize and **support the champions to support others**.
- **Data system, event, and platform** to collect, store and disseminate best practices across and within the sector.

Approaches to strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration

Science-Policy-Society Interface

- Regularly recurring platforms for equal exchange between academia, policy making bodies, and NGOs, CSOs and representatives from different stakeholders are needed.
- The functions of the platform should be to:
 - collectively review the overall and specific sustainability-related situations;
 - nurture cross-sectoral exchanges in the views towards the situations so as to make every party understands from every angle;
 - informally connect agencies and sectors related to the situations for further collaboration to deal with the situations.
 - share and exchange academic and experiential knowledge as well as potential solutions that would benefit the overall SDG implementation, as well as the needs for knowledge and information for certain issues that are of interest by policy makers and other stakeholders.

Engaging Next Generation:

- Create sustainability learning space for the next generation, both inside and outside curriculum, everywhere, at all levels. This must be a multi-stakeholder effort.
- Mainstream the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in curriculum at all levels.

Thank You For Your Kind Attention

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