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THE 2022 ASIA-PACIFIC **GIRLS** REPORT: THEIR FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE



GIRLS
GETEQUAL



SETTING THE SCENE



Asia-Pacific region contains 60 percent of the world's youth population, approximately 750 million young persons aged 15 to 24 years.*



Increasingly, governments and donors are **demanding relevant evidence and data that demonstrates need**, to secure funding and inform policy and strategic dialogue.



In many parts of the region, **girls and young women are undervalued and underestimated**, and continue to encounter gender-related barriers and inequalities that keep them from realizing their full potential.

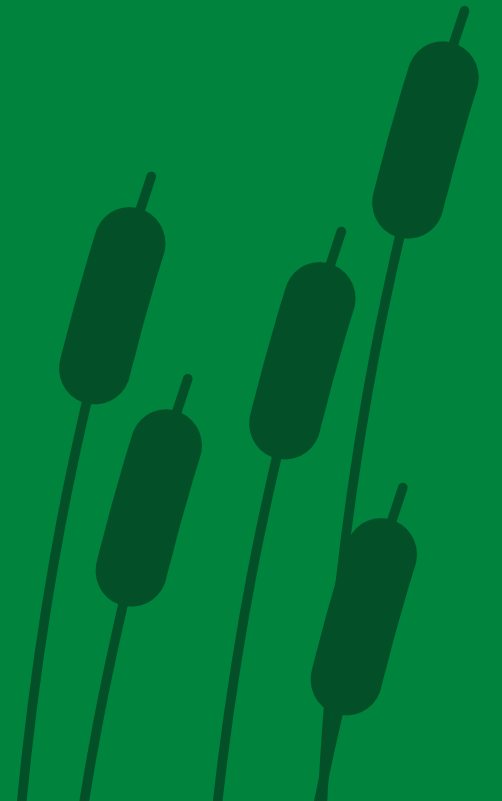


Globally there is **inconsistency** in collection, availability, **disaggregation and reporting of data** for adolescent girls and young women.

* [UNESCAP. Regional Overview: Youth in Asia and the Pacific.](#)



WHY THE GIRLS' LEADERSHIP INDEXES?



2020

Launch of the Asia Girls' Leadership Index (2019)

2021

Launch of the Pacific Girls' Leadership Index (2021) and first update of the Asia Girls' Leadership Index (2021)

2022

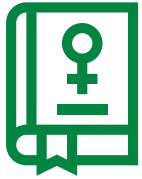
First and second **update** of the Asia Girls' Leadership Index and Pacific Girls' Leadership Index, respectively (2022)

Plan International Asia-Pacific Regional Hub invested in girls' leadership in Asia and the Pacific, with the development of the Girls' Leadership Indexes (GLI), **the first of its kind specifically focused on adolescent girls and young women.**

The Girls' Leadership Indexes are part of Plan International's **contribution to the Sustainable Development Agenda**. Although, discourse in the region is more focused on girls and gender than ever before, **girls continue to experience fewer opportunities and weaker development outcomes than boys**. The GLI provides a situational overview of girls' agency to support the identification of areas of strength and where further progress is needed for countries.

The GLI is an instrument that uses **available data from globally recognized databases**, to **measure the opportunities of adolescent girls and young women** in 19 South and Southeast Asian countries and 14 Pacific Island member countries and territories of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to develop and demonstrate leadership capabilities.

OBJECTIVES OF GIRLS' LEADERSHIP INDEXES



To improve and deepen understanding of the situation of girls and young women in 19 South and Southeast Asian countries and 14 Pacific Island countries and territories, specifically their opportunities to develop and demonstrate leadership capabilities*



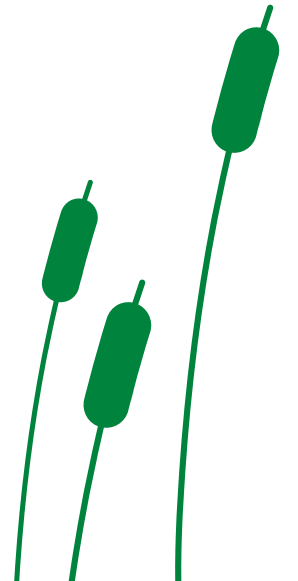
To present relevant data in a meaningful and user-friendly manner.



To inform and influence policy makers, donors and members of the public to invest in leadership development for adolescent girls and young women.



To inform contextually relevant and strategic policies, programs and services.





**HOW DO WE AT PLAN
INTERNATIONAL DEFINE
GIRLS' LEADERSHIP?**



- There is no single, universally agreed-upon definition of girls' leadership
- Intent was to identify the enabling and constraining factors that affect adolescent girls' and young women's ability to develop and demonstrate leadership capabilities
- We considered leadership in its broader form as the **individual competencies, skills and environmental conditions required to support girls to exercise agency, voice and participations in their own lives, households and communities**



THE DOMAINS

The report explores the situation of girls and young women in Asia through 7 identified domains that can create the conditions that **support or constrain girls' leadership**.



Economic
Opportunities



Political Voice
& Representation



Laws
& Policies



Climate
Action



Education



Protection



Health



INDICATORS

29 indicators across
seven domains
for Asia

28 indicators
for the
Pacific

Criteria for selection based on:

- Availability of data across 19 countries
- International standard (e.g., SDG) and global database (ILO, WB, WHO, Women's Law Database, etc.)
- Preferably within the past 3 years, except for climate action where 2 indicators use the average of the past 10 years

Age group for indicators
straddle across various
age groups

(**>5, 10-19,
15-19, 20-24,
15+**)

depending on the
indicator and data
source

ASIA GIRLS' LEADERSHIP INDEX: DOMAINS AND INDICATORS



Education



- Completion rate, lower secondary female (%)
- Gross enrolment ratio for tertiary education, female (%)
- Access to Internet, female (%)
- Mean years of schooling, female (years) economic opportunities



Economic Opportunities



- Share of youth not in employment, education or training, female (%)
- Account ownership at a financial institution or with a mobile-service provider, female (%)
- Youth labour participation rate, female (%)
- Female share of employment in managerial positions (%)



Protection



- Percentage of girls aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour
- Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married before age 18
- Percentage of the female population ages 15 and older that has ever experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner



Health



- Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15-19)
- Proportion of women aged 15-19 years who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods
- Suicide mortality rate (15-19), female (per 100,000)
- Prevalence of stunting, height for age, female (% of children under 5)



Political Voice & Representation



- Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments
- Woman's testimony carries the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's
- Proportion of girls under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority



Laws & Policies



- Equal rights between sons and daughters to inherit assets from parents
- Equal remuneration for work of equal value
- Legislation on sexual harassment in employment
- Laws prohibiting or invalidating child marriage
- Legislation specifically addressing domestic violence



Climate Action



- Number of deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters (per 100,000 population)
- Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population
- Countries with NDC to Paris Declaration on Climate Change (2021 updated)
- Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (%)
- Terrestrial and marine protected areas (% of total territorial area)
- Carbon dioxide emissions, production emissions per capita (tonnes)

PACIFIC GIRLS' LEADERSHIP INDEX: DOMAINS AND INDICATORS



Education



- Gross enrolment ratio, primary, female (%)
- Gross enrolment ratio, lower secondary, female (%)
- Out-of-school rate for youth of upper secondary school age, female (%)
- Expected years of schooling, female



Economic Opportunities



- Share of youth (15-24) not in employment, education or training, female (%)
- Female youth unemployment (15-24 years)
- Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%)
- Law mandates equal remuneration for work of equal value



Protection



- Percentage of the female population ages 15 and older that has ever experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner
- Percentage of the female population ages 15 and older that has ever experienced sexual violence from a nonintimate partner
- Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 18



Health



- Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)
- Suicide mortality rate, female (per 100,000)
- Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)
- Modern contraception prevalence rate (15-19 years)



Political Voice & Representation



- Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments
- A woman can apply for a passport in the same way as a man
- Proportion of girls under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority



Laws & Policies



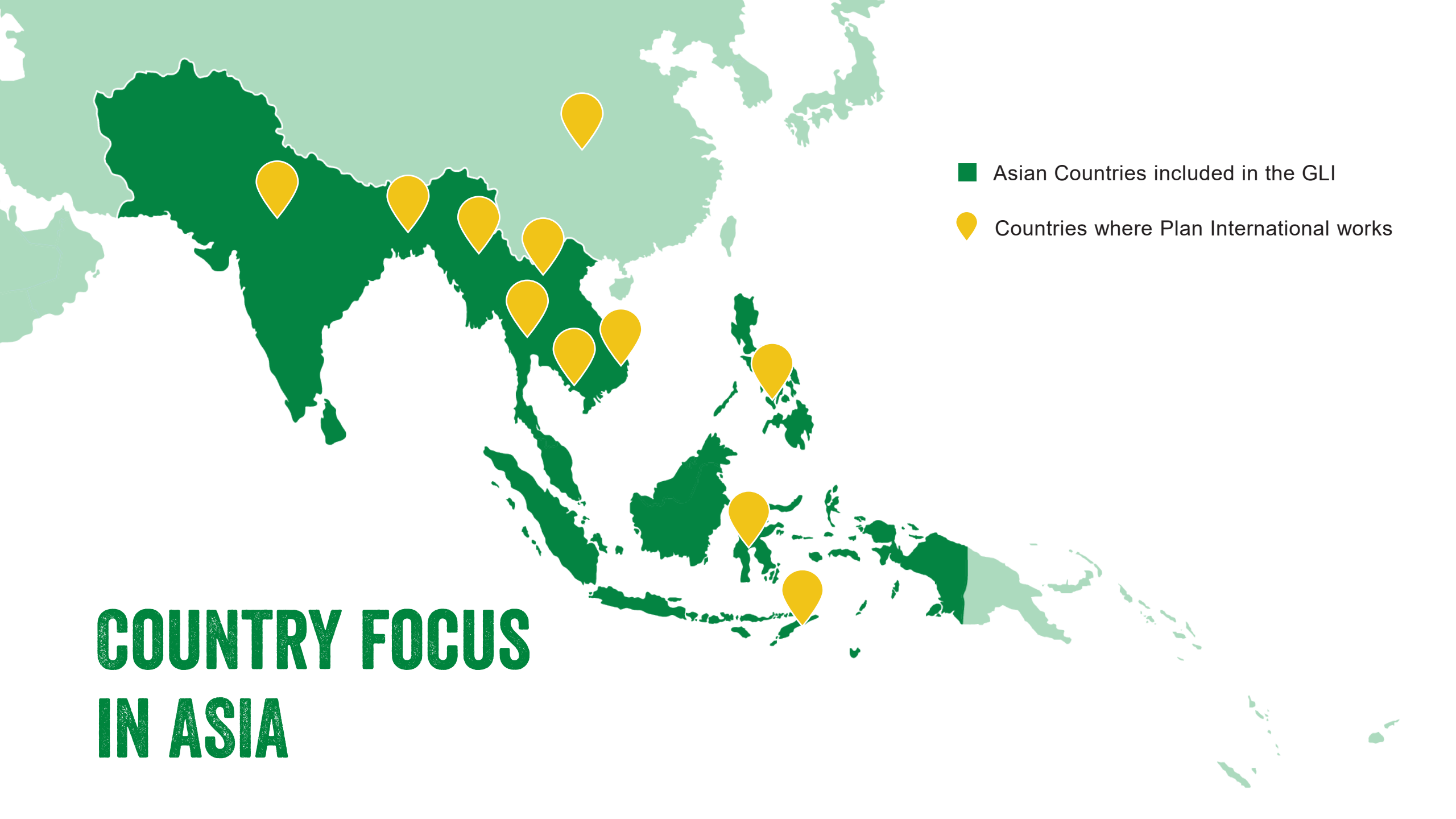
- Equal rights between sons and daughters to inherit assets from parents
- Legislation specifically addressing domestic violence
- Legislation on sexual harassment in employment
- Laws prohibiting or invalidating child marriage
- Laws prohibiting discrimination in access to credit based on gender



Climate Action



- Number of deaths and missing persons attributed to disasters (per 100,000 population)
- Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population
- Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (%)
- Terrestrial and marine protected areas (% of total territorial area)
- Carbon dioxide emissions, production emissions per capita (tonnes)



- Asian Countries included in the GLI
- 📍 Countries where Plan International works

COUNTRY FOCUS IN ASIA

■ Pacific Countries included in the GLI

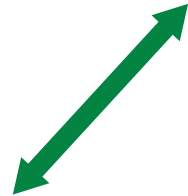
COUNTRY FOCUS IN PACIFIC



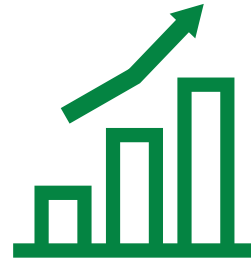
DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDEXES



Selection of
Indicators & Data
Mining



Normalization



Domain Index
Calculation



Missing Values



Overall Index
Calculation



KEY CONSIDERATIONS WHEN READING THE INDEXES

Asia and Pacific Indexes are not comparable against each other as they both have different indicators.

Indexes cannot be compared against previous reports (2019 or 2021) as data is sometimes updated in previous years based on dataset

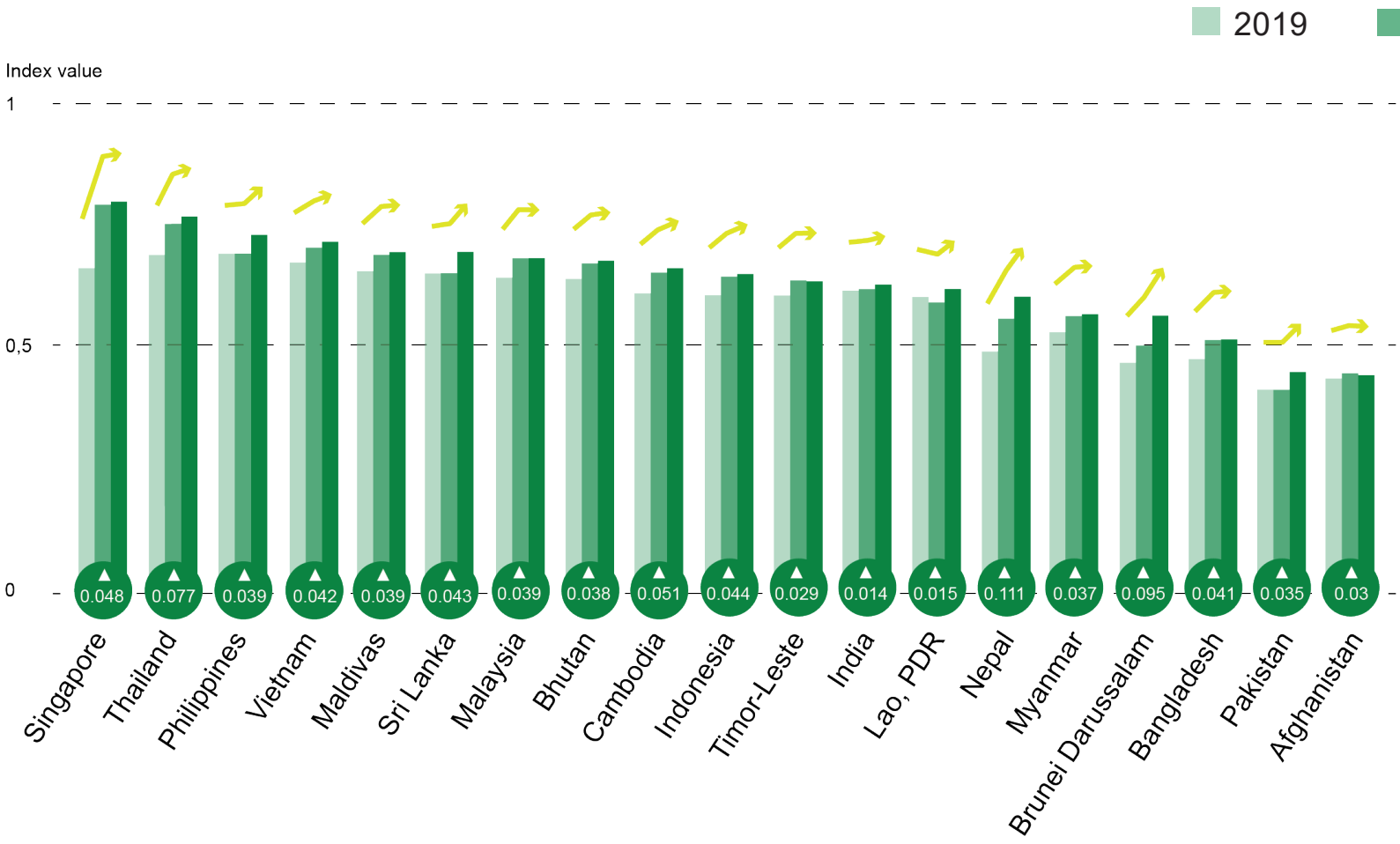
Climate Action has been introduced to the Asia GLI. With this addition, the index needed to be recalculated, including versions of the index from previous years. The trends are now presented in this year's report.



ASIA GIRLS' LEADERSHIP INDEX










ASIA GIRLS' LEADERSHIP INDEX: FINDINGS AND RESULTS



THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- There is no single country that received the same ranking across all domains.
- Every country has areas of comparative strength and areas demanding improvement.

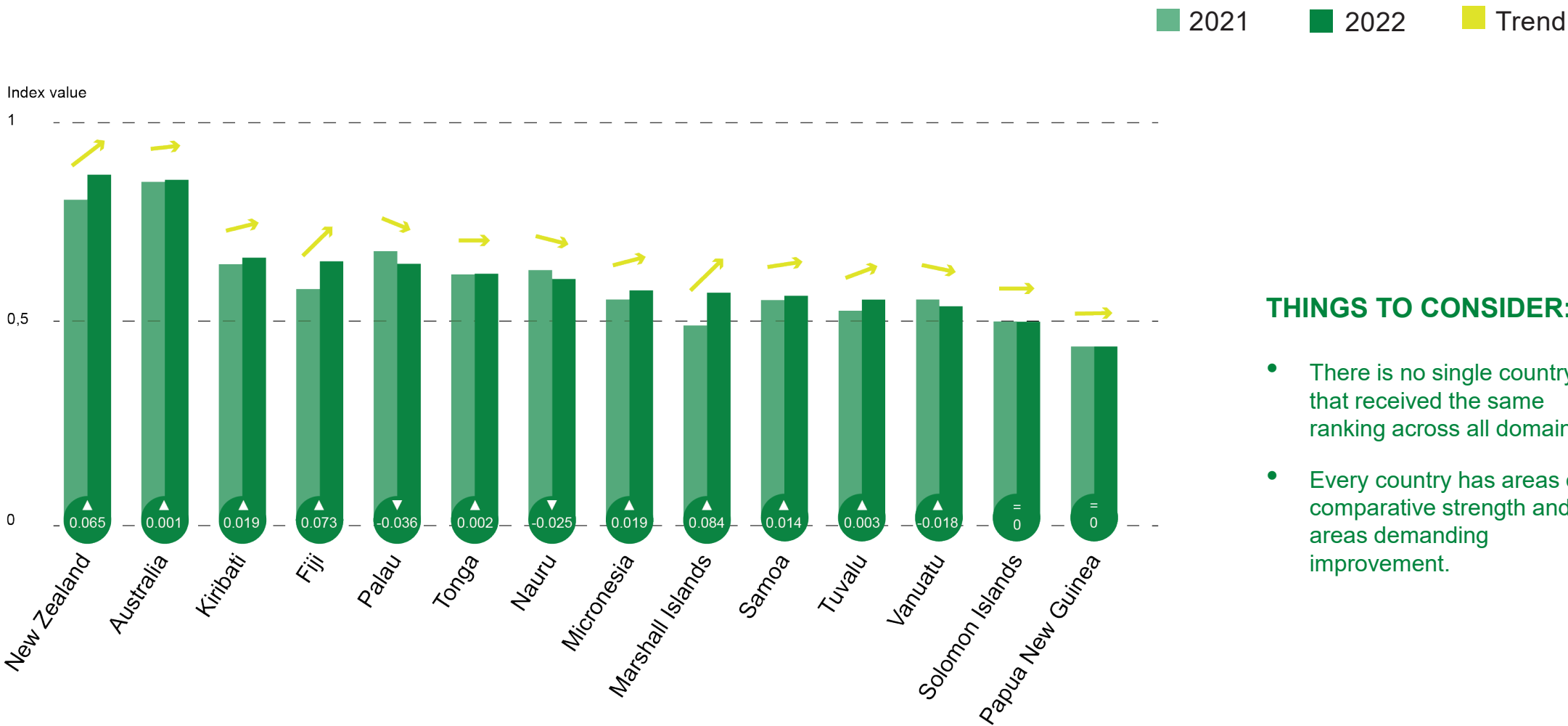
Country	Overall Index Rank							
		Education	Economic Opportunities	Protection	Health	Voice & Representation	Laws & Policies	Climate
Afghanistan	19	19	19	16	19	17	14	11
Bangladesh	17	15	17	17	10	15	14	14
Bhutan	8	10	15	6	8	4	5	1
Brunei Darussalam	16	2	8	-	2	18	18	17
Cambodia	9	11	5	10	14	12	5	6
India	12	12	14	11	15	14	5	8
Indonesia	10	8	9	5	6	9	14	4
Lao PDR	13	17	4	15	11	11	5	19
Malaysia	7	3	3	-	4	16	11	5
Maldives	5	4	7	3	9	8	11	2
Myanmar	15	16	12	7	5	13	18	13
Nepal	14	14	16	14	16	5	5	9
Pakistan	18	18	18	9	17	19	14	7
Philippines	3	7	6	4	12	3	1	12
Singapore	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	10
Sri Lanka	6	9	10	2	7	10	5	15
Thailand	2	5	2	12	3	6	1	3
Timor-Leste	11	13	13	13	18	7	1	18
Vietnam	4	6	11	8	13	2	1	16



PACIFIC GIRLS' LEADERSHIP INDEX










PACIFIC GIRLS' LEADERSHIP INDEX: FINDINGS AND RESULTS



THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- There is no single country that received the same ranking across all domains.
- Every country has areas of comparative strength and areas demanding improvement.

COUNTRY	OVERALL INDEX RANK							
		EDUCATION	ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES	PROTECTION	HEALTH	VOICE & REPRESENTATION	LAWS & POLICIES	CLIMATE
Australia	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	4
Fiji	4	4	9	8	4	6	4	8
Kiribati	3	7	4	10	9	4	3	10
Marshall Islands	9	14	3	9	13	5	4	9
Micronesia	8	8	13	4	6	9	4	14
Nauru	7	9	5	13	14	7	-	1
New Zealand	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	3
Palau	5	5	14	3	3	8	9	2
Papua New Guinea	14	12	12	14	10	14	4	11
Samoa	10	3	10	6	7	13	9	7
Solomon Islands	13	10	7	11	12	12	9	12
Tonga	6	5	8	5	5	3	12	5
Tuvalu	11	13	6	7	11	10	-	6
Vanuatu	12	11	11	12	8	11	4	13

RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON 2022 INDEXES



PRIORITISE THE LOWEST RANKING COUNTRIES: (E.G., THOSE IN THE BOTTOM HALF OF THE TABLE)

- **Asia:** Timor-Leste, India, Lao PDR, Nepal, Myanmar, Brunei Darussalam, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan
- **Pacific:** Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea

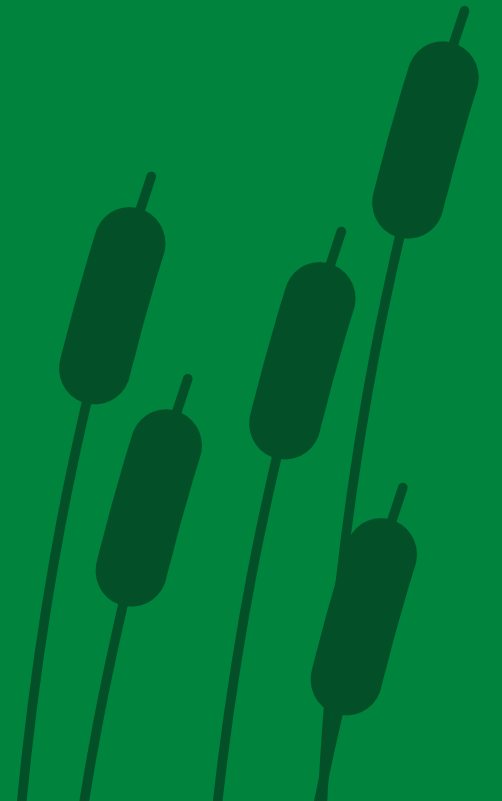
PRIORITISE COUNTRIES BELOW A PARTICULAR INDEX SCORE:

- For example, while Kiribati is 3rd ranked in the Pacific GLI, its index score (0.664) is almost 0.2 less than 2nd ranked Australia. Further 3rd ranked Kiribati is separated by last ranked Papua New Guinea by 0.235. The Pacific GLI indicates broad need for investment across the Pacific.
- Similarly, 11th ranked Timor-Leste (0.639) is only 0.013 lower than 10th ranked Indonesia (0.652)

PRIORITIES COUNTRIES WITH GREATEST CHANGE IN RANKING AND/ OR INDEX SCORE AND/ OR LACK OF CHANGE:

- **Asia:** Afghanistan dropped from 18th ranked (2019 and 2020) to 19th ranked (2022)
- **Pacific:** Palau, Nauru and Vanuatu individual Index scores have all dropped between 2021 and 2022
- **Pacific:** Lowest ranked Solomon Islands (13th) and Papua New Guinea (14th) have experienced no change in individual Index scores or rankings from 2021 to 2022

RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON DOMAIN RESULTS



PRIORITISE THE LOWEST RANKING COUNTRIES FOR EACH DOMAIN (E.G., THOSE IN THE BOTTOM HALF OF THE TABLE). USING EDUCATION DOMAIN AS AN EXAMPLE:

- **Asia:** Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Pakistan, Afghanistan
- **Pacific:** Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands

PRIORITISE COUNTRIES BELOW A PARTICULAR SCORE IN EACH DOMAIN.

- **Asia (Political voice and representation):** The gap between 17th ranked Afghanistan (0.593) and 18th ranked Brunei Darussalam (0.373) is (0.220), suggesting moderate achievement in this domain across the region, with the exception of the two lowest ranking countries.
- **Pacific (Health Domain):** The gap between 4th ranked Fiji (0.717) and 5th ranked Tonga (0.610) is 0.107, indicating a significant need for investment in Health across the Pacific.

PRIORITIES COUNTRIES WITH GREATEST CHANGE IN RANKING AND/ OR INDEX SCORE AND/ OR LACK OF CHANGE. USING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AS AN EXAMPLE:

- **Asia:** Afghanistan dropped from 18th (2021) to 19th (2022) ranked and (-0.028) in their individual score.
- **Pacific:** Significant decreases experienced by Nauru (-0.135), Federated States of Micronesia (-0.172) and Palau (-0.241).

OUR CALL TO ACTION

Invest in adolescent girls

Plan International is calling on all countries in Asia to invest in adolescent girls now by **developing and adopting adolescent girls' development frameworks** as part of their national development planning efforts and by reporting against the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2016, Lao PDR launched the **Noi 2030 Framework**, the first-ever national adolescent girls' development framework in line with the 2030 Agenda.

The use of country-specific adolescent girls' development frameworks can help countries ensure they are investing in the right enabling environment for girls' development



SDG 2

The high adolescent birth rate is a root cause of the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition, with a **42.6% prevalence rate of anaemia in girls aged 15-19**,* increasing the risk of stunting in children

SDG 5

Gender inequality impedes Noi's development. This is particularly emphasized in the most recent data on child marriage, revealing that **23.5% of girls aged 15-19 are currently married***

SDG 8

Due to the lack of social protection, **42.4% of girls aged 5-17** are involved in child labour*

SDG 3

Gender inequality is intrinsically linked to the **Adolescent Birth Rate** which remains one of the highest in the region at **83 per 1,000** and increases the risk of maternal mortality

SDG 4

41.8% of girls aged 15-17 are currently out of school,* keeping them behind in developing social and economic potential





**GIRLS
GET EQUAL**

THANK YOU!

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