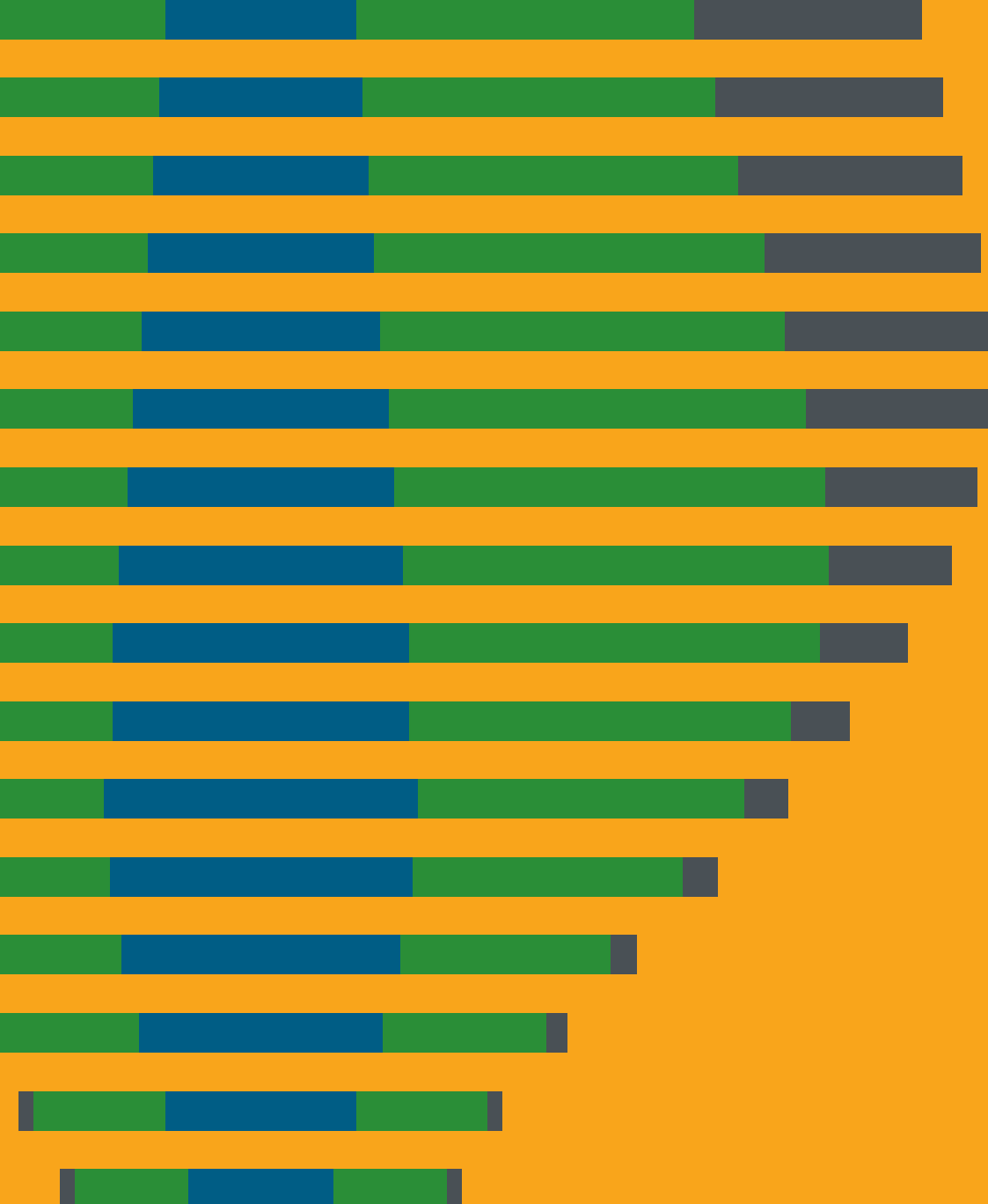




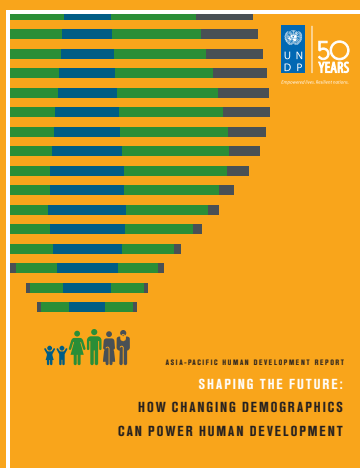
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Empowered lives. Resilient nations.



ASIA-PACIFIC HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

**SHAPING THE FUTURE:
HOW CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS
CAN POWER HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**



Asia-Pacific has been witnessing dramatic shifts in its population. Since 1950, the share of children has consistently contracted, while the shares of working-age and elderly people have steadily risen. On the cover of this report, patterns in the balloon depict shifting shares from 1950 until 2100. Population dynamics and a period of demographic transition will transform the future of the region, with profound implications for human development.

The picture of a girl and a boy, a working-age woman and man, and an older woman and man convey that all people—including those with other gender identities—are inherently valuable and ought to be equal members of families and societies. Together, they represent how collaboration and interdependence can lead to greater mutual well-being. Ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all population groups will determine collective strength and resilience. Leveraging the capacity and creativity of different people will enable countries to reach higher levels of human development.

The depiction of a hot air balloon carrying the people of the region upwards represents dynamic change and optimism. The balloon can take the region, with more than half the world's population, to new heights, in any direction. In a time of change, the ability to navigate in the right direction will depend on clear, well-informed policy choices and abilities to adjust to changing needs. Making the most of the dividend that can accrue from demographic transition will require countries to read the wind, and to remain alert and responsive to impending challenges as well as opportunities.

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People are the real wealth of nations. The opportunities they have and the choices they make determine the course of human development—nowhere more so than in Asia-Pacific, home to half the world's population. Asia-Pacific's future, to a large extent, shapes the world's future.

Beyond the sheer size of its population, Asia-Pacific is in the midst of a historic demographic transition. All countries are at some stage along a continuum where the shares of younger, older and working-age people have begun to shift. The process builds on human development gains, but also stands to advance them. Making the most of it requires people to be healthy, educated and productive, enjoying well-being at any stage of life.

This Asia-Pacific Human Development Report considers demographic changes from a human development perspective. It explores the coming 'demographic opportunity' and a potentially substantial 'demographic dividend'. Since sweeping demographic changes are happening at a historically rapid pace—and will not last forever—it urges countries across the region to understand potential opportunities and challenges in reaching their development goals, including those of the new 2030 Agenda. The time is now to make smart policy choices and investments that will steer demographic patterns in inclusive ways benefitting all people, now and for generations to come.



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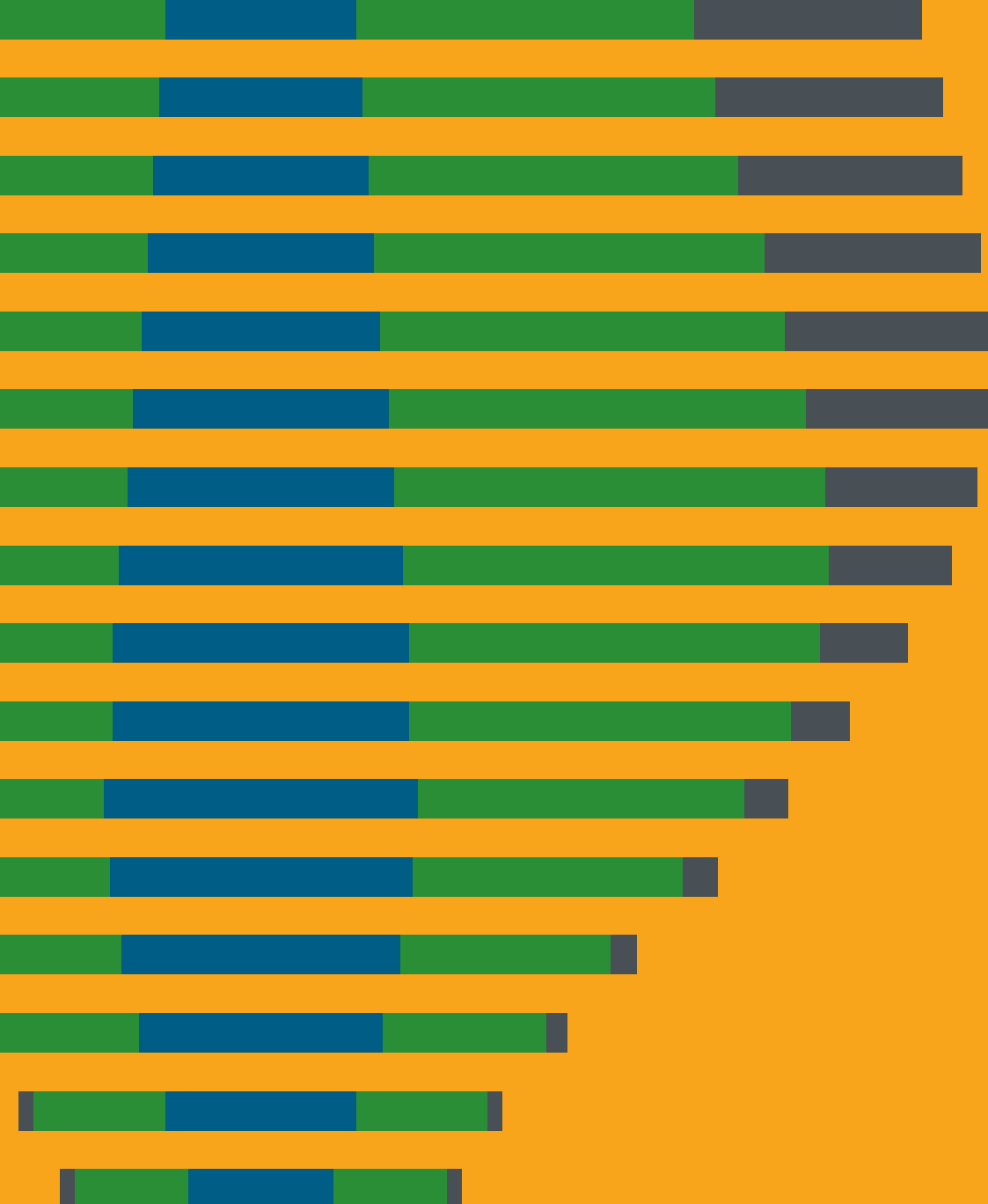
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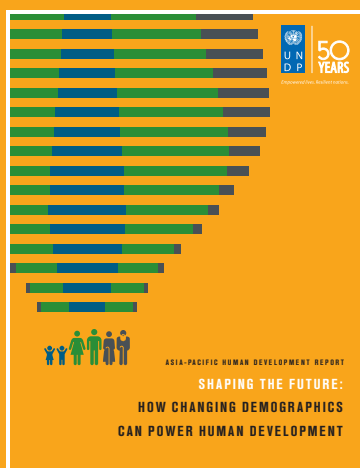
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For 25 years, the concept of human development has influenced discourse on international development. Putting people at the centre, human development has inspired policies, advocacy and actions to improve well-being.

To better understand current development challenges and bring new ideas and solutions to the forefront, UNDP produces global, regional and national human development reports. The Asia-Pacific Human Development Report is a flagship publication of UNDP's Regional Bureau of Asia and the Pacific. It focuses on common concerns for countries in the region, addresses challenges requiring national and regional responses, and encourages learning and knowledge-sharing.

The report's theme is developed through a regional participatory process that includes consultations with key stakeholders within and outside UNDP. The concept and structure of the report is based on guidance from a

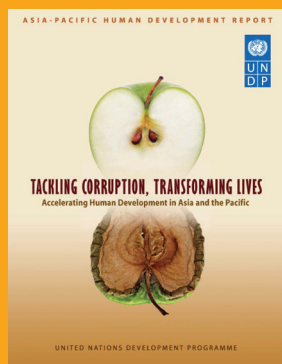
technical advisory group consisting of various UN agencies. Multistakeholder consultations with governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, and media are undertaken at various stages of preparation.

The key authors consist of a core group of UNDP staff, who draw on internal analysis as well as technical background papers prepared by renowned experts. The draft report is shared with UNDP headquarters and country offices in Asia-Pacific, technical advisory group members, readers' groups from different fields of work, and the UNDP regional communications team for their views and feedback. The review process is critical for quality assurance and helps to strengthen the report's messages.

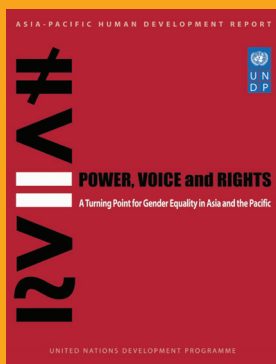
The report is disseminated widely, helping to promote dialogue and bring together the people of Asia and the Pacific to accelerate human development and advocate for its messages across the globe.



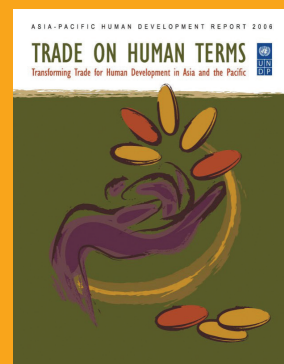
One Planet to Share
Sustaining Human Progress
in a Changing Climate



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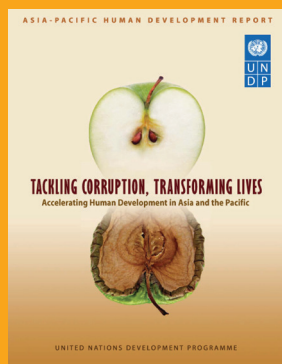
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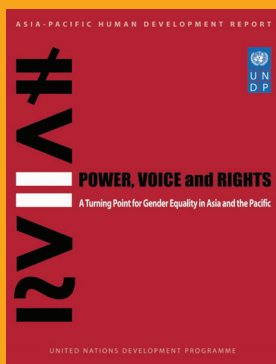
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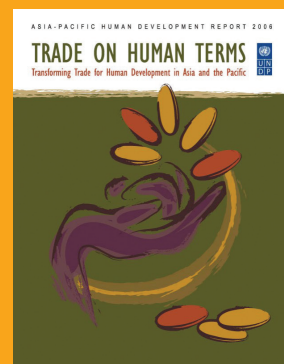
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