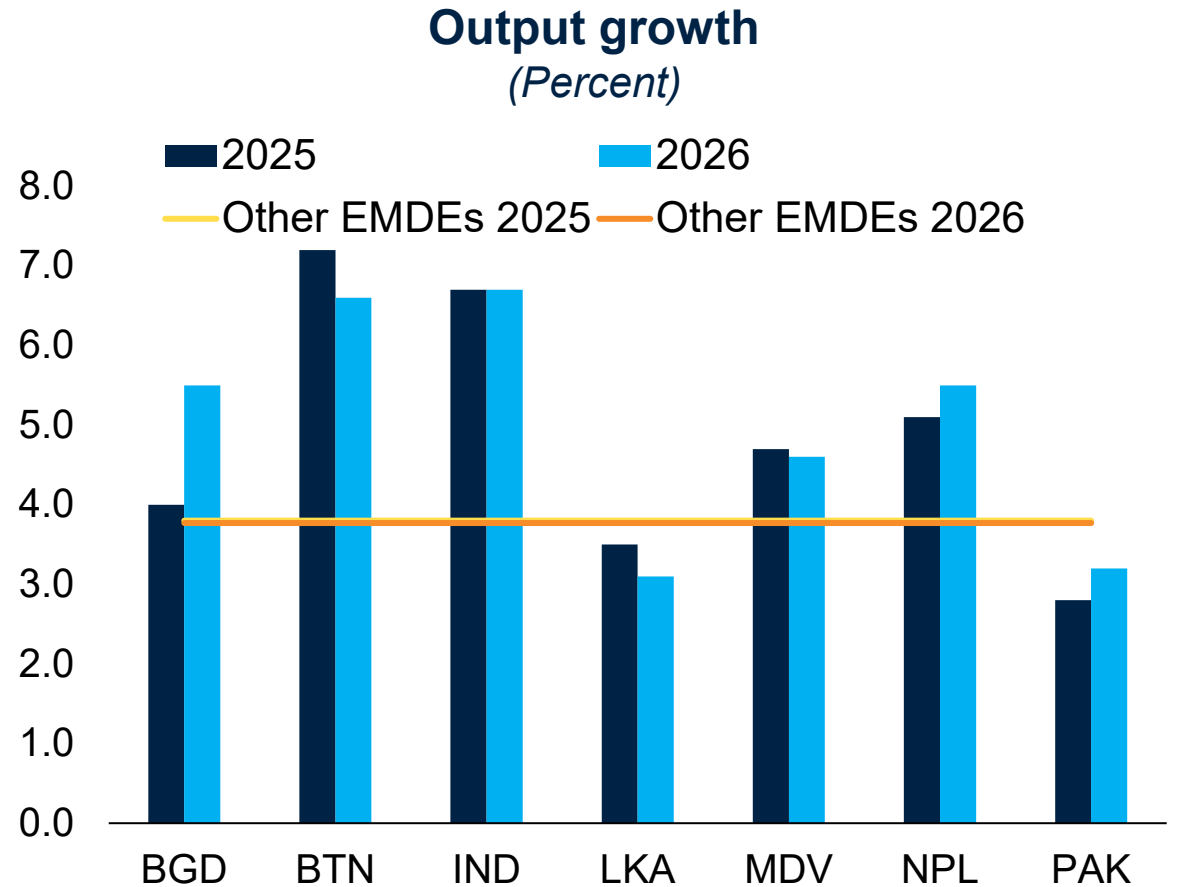
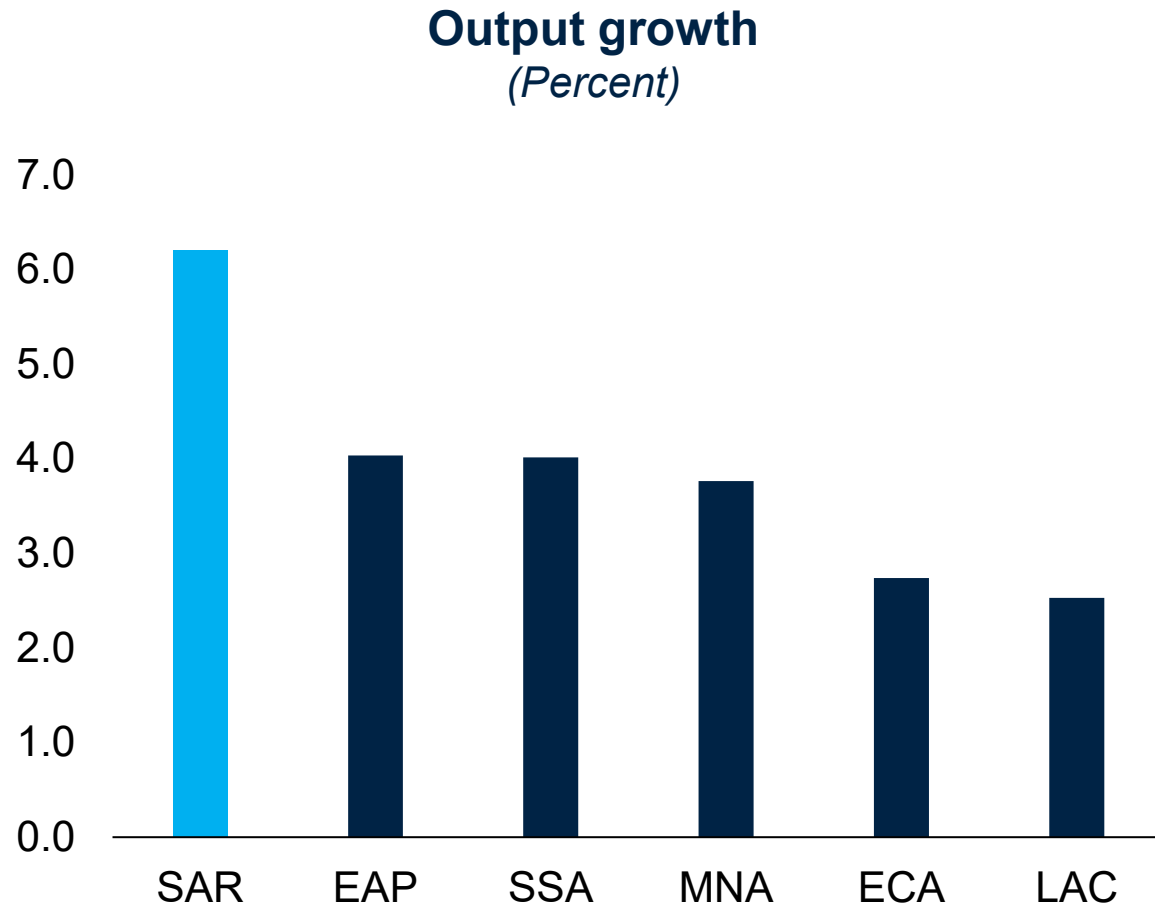


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# Leveraging Partnerships for Regional Growth in South Asia

# Growth outlook for South Asia

*Fastest growing EMDE region, mainly due solid growth in India*



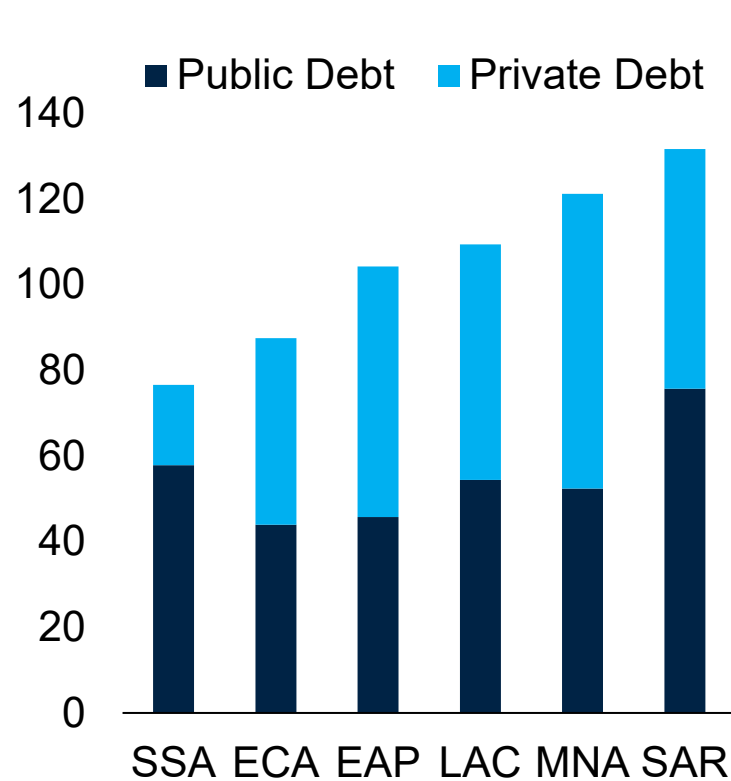
Sources: Macro Poverty Outlook (World Bank); October 2024 [South Asia Development Update](#); World Bank.

Note: (e) = estimate; (f) = forecast. Forecasts from South Asia Development Update October 2024. Pakistan is reported at factor cost. Growth projections for Afghanistan are not available. Left Panel: Real GDP-weighted averages (at average 2010–19 prices and market exchange rates) on calendar-year basis; To estimate forecasts for regional aggregates in the calendar year, fiscal year forecasts are converted to the calendar year by taking the average of two consecutive fiscal years for Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Pakistan because quarterly GDP forecasts are not available. Right Panel: Horizontal lines indicate real GDP-weighted average for other emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs).

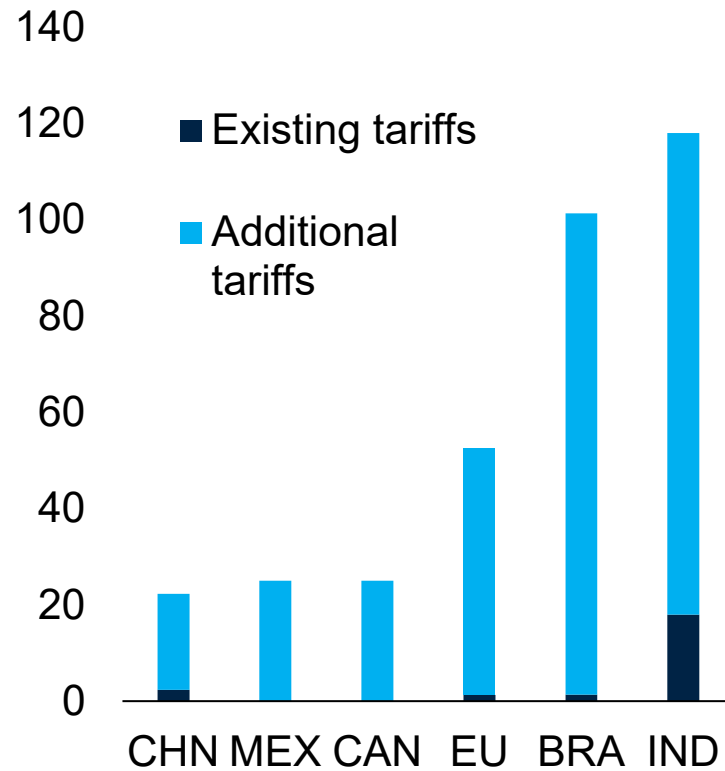
# Risks to SAR's growth outlook

*Financial stress, trade tensions, reform slippages*

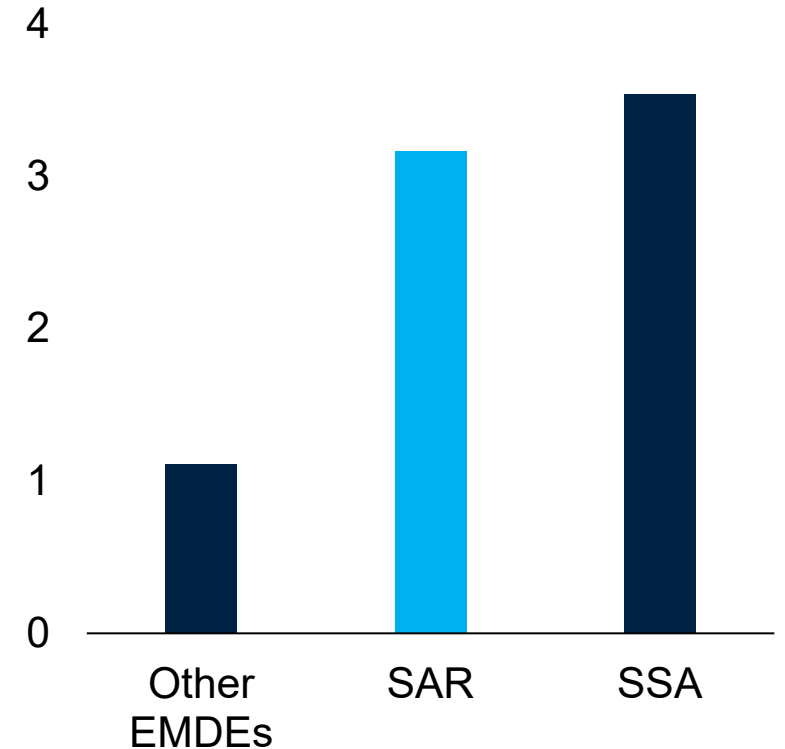
**Government debt**  
(Percent of GDP)



**Intended U.S. tariffs**  
(Percent)



**Mentions of IMF programs in credit rating assessments**  
(Count)



Sources: Fitch Ratings; Moody's; S&P Global; World Bank Macro Poverty Outlook ; WTO Tariff Analysis Online Facility; World Bank..

Left Panel: Public debt is the total stock of debt liabilities issued by the central government. Private debt includes debt, loans and debt securities. Latest observation for both private and public debt is 2022. For Sri Lanka, private debt data are from 2019, and for Bhutan, they are from 2021. Central Panel: Existing tariff lines refer to 2023. Trade-weighted effectively applied tariffs rates. EU, China, India and Brazil are calculated based on MFN rates. Mexico and Canada are calculated using USMCA rates. Additional tariffs refer to the tariff rate announced. Right Panel: Counted mentions of "IMF" in the credit assessment reports for EMDE countries; South Asian countries including Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; Sub-Saharan Africa region including 28 economies and other EMDEs including 64 countries.

# South Asia's regional priorities

*SAR portfolio is geared to address most critical challenges*

**Jobs and FLFP:** SAR working-age population in employment was 59% in 2023 (70% in other developing economies). Only 1 in 3 women is in the formal workforce, compared to 7 out of 10 men; women earn significantly less than male counterparts.

**Water:** 134Mn people lack access to safe drinking water, and over 500Mn lack basic sanitation. Water-related disasters, including floods and droughts, cost \$6–8 billion annually.

**AQM:** 3 out of 5 most polluted countries and 9 out of 10 most polluted cities are in SAR. 2Mn premature deaths per year due to air pollution.

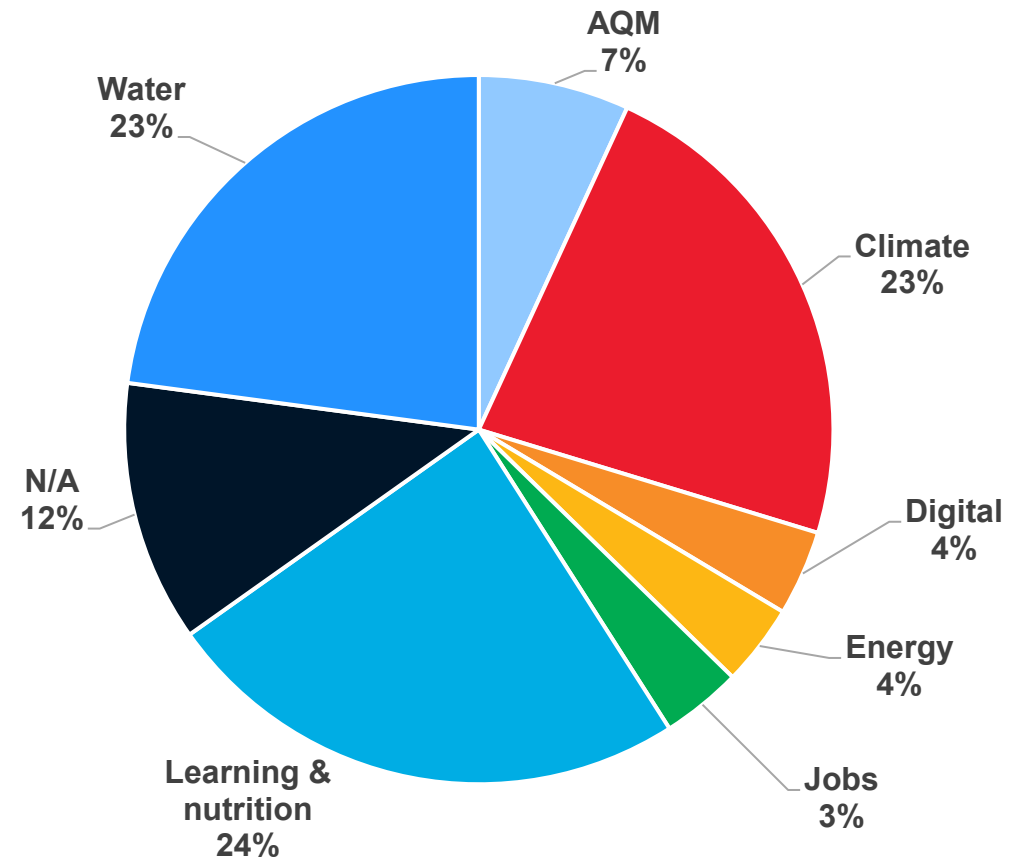
**Energy:** Production primarily based on fossil fuels. GHG due to energy production is 63% of regional emissions.

**Climate:** Most vulnerable region to climate change among all EMDEs. During 2015-24, over 65Mn were affected by natural disasters annually - the most among all EMDE regions.

**Digital:** Only 51% use the internet - amongst the lowest globally. Only 3 in 100 adults have fixed-broadband subscriptions, well below other regions such as EAP (31) and LAC (17).

**Learning & nutrition:** Second-highest rate of stunting globally. 54Mn children are stunted and 25Mn are wasted. In Pakistan, the stunting rate is 40%.

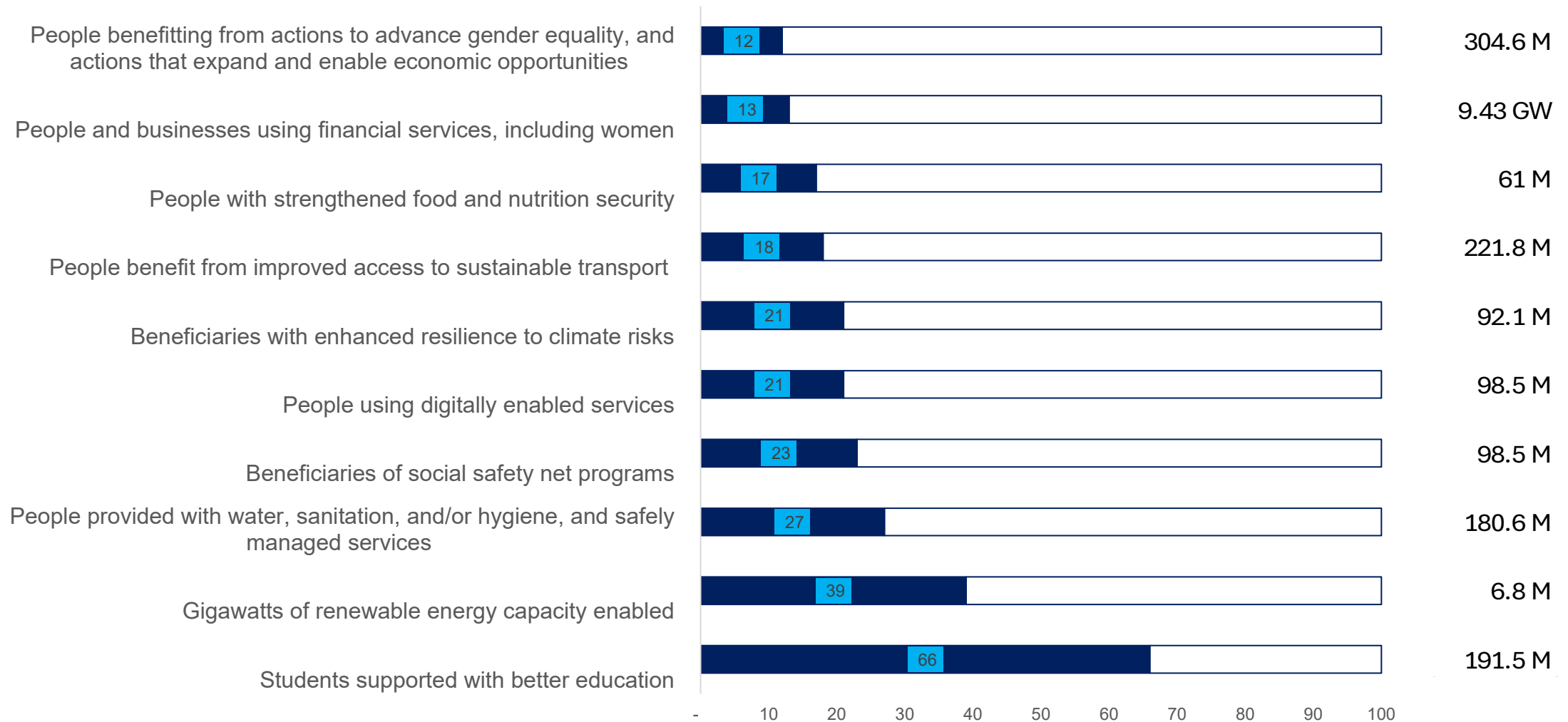
Pipeline of US\$15.5 billion



N/A: Broadly covers policy reforms to enhance growth & competitiveness, governance, and PFM, including domestic revenue mobilization.

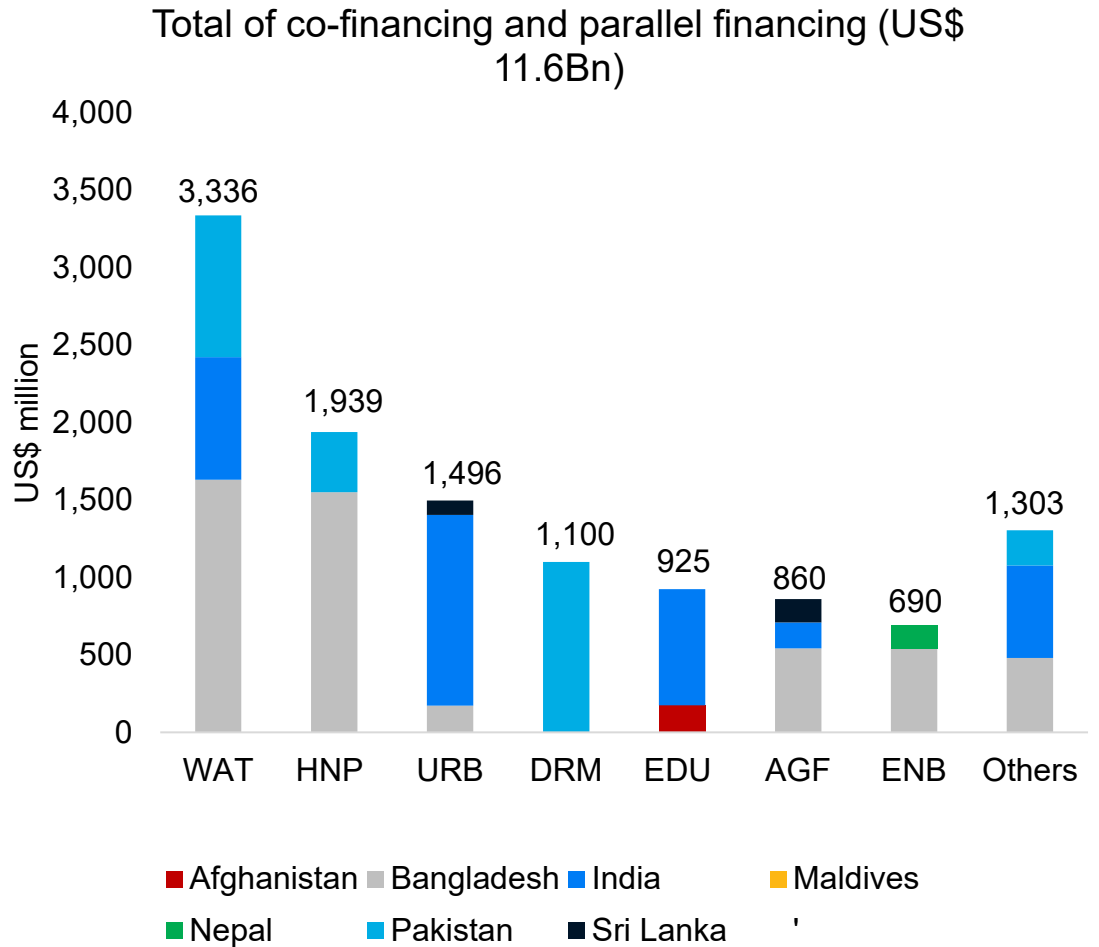
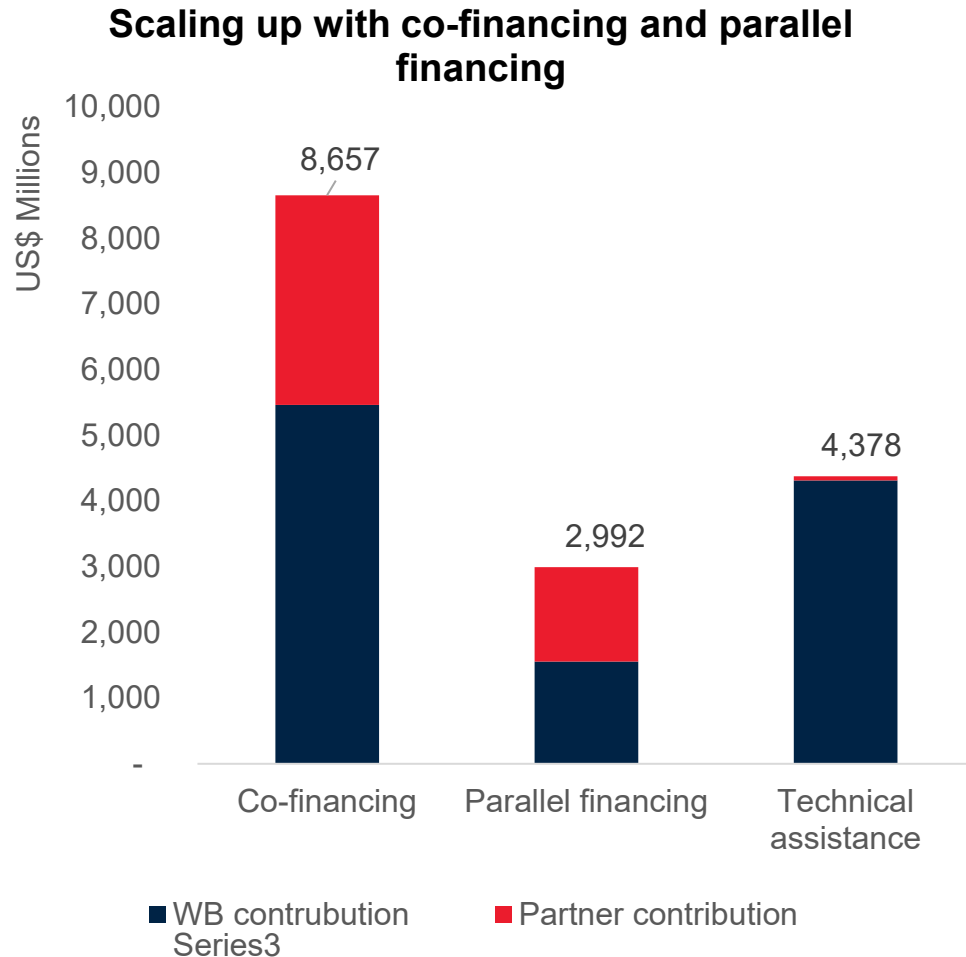
# Contribution to global outcomes

## *SAR's top 10 contributions to the global outcomes tracked by Scorecard*



# Partnerships – a key component of WBG evolution

*Getting to scale in SAR: Leveraging expertise, fostering innovation, enhancing impact*



Others: Pov, Trade, EAE.