



TECH FOR
GOOD
INSTITUTE



Full Report

Advancing Digital Sustainability in Southeast Asia

August 2025



Research Partner

CIP

Centre for Impact
Investing and Practices

Data Partner

IPOS
INTERNATIONAL

About This Study

Supported by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) for the ATxSummit 2025, this study aligns with ATx's vision of "Redefining Tech for a Better Future."

This study examines how Southeast Asia (SEA) can leverage its digital momentum to become a **living lab** and a **global hub** for investment, collaboration and policy leadership for digital sustainability.

Digital sustainability refers to the strategic use of digital technologies to address pressing societal and environmental challenges such as poverty, inequality and climate vulnerability while enabling inclusive growth and resilience. With the right enabling policies, business models and financing strategies, digital innovation can serve as a force multiplier for achieving **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** across the region.

Our analysis draws on:

- Comprehensive literature reviews covering regional policy frameworks, infrastructure readiness and innovation ecosystems;
- Patent analytics to assess SEA's positioning in technologies such as AI, IoT and data systems;
- A regional survey of 72 capital providers, spanning impact investors, family offices, philanthropic funders and mission-aligned enterprises;
- In-depth interviews with 28 capital and solution providers working across financial inclusion, agriculture, healthcare and climate-tech domains, and;
- Case studies of successful digital sustainability models from across SEA.

This study uniquely includes perspectives from impact-oriented capital provider and non-traditional funders-groups often underrepresented in digital innovation analyses.

Our sectoral deep dives focus on **financial inclusion, food and agriculture** and **healthcare**. These sectors were selected based on:

- The scale and urgency of sustainability gaps;
- Relevance to investors and funders seeking measurable impact, and;
- Current momentum in digital innovation.

Digital climate tech solutions is featured as a **cross-cutting enabler**, amplifying outcomes across all three sectors.

This study was conducted in collaboration with the Centre for Impact Investing and Practices (CIIP), our research partner who co-led the survey and interviews with capital and solution providers from their network and contributed valuable insights on financing innovation and impact capital, along with IPOS International, who provided specialised patent analytics and data insights.

Insights from the survey and interviews are integrated throughout the report to illustrate stakeholder perspectives and contextualise innovation and investment trends across sectors.

Note: A detailed explanation of our research methodology is provided in **Appendix A**.

Acknowledgements

We appreciate the contributions of **84 capital providers, companies, intermediaries, and philanthropic and nonprofit organisations** that participated in our survey and interviews, providing valuable insights into the role of digital innovation in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Southeast Asia (SEA).* We also acknowledge additional contributions from organisations who shared case study inputs, which further enriched the findings and practical illustrations featured in this report. Their inputs have been instrumental in shaping this report, including actionable recommendations for policymakers, funders, and innovators across the region.

Funders and Capital Providers		Philanthropic and Nonprofit Organisations	Companies and Intermediaries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 Global • ABC Impact • ADB Ventures • ADM Capital • AC Ventures • Antares Ventures • B Current Impact Investment • British International Investment (BII) • Bintang Capital Partners • Circle Capital • Circulate Capital • Do Ventures • Daya Selaras Group • Earth Venture Capital • Elevar Equity • Envisioning Partners • Eurazeo • Fuping Social Venture • Garden Impact Fund VCC • GenZero • Golden Gate Ventures • Happiness Capital • Helicap • Incofin Investment Management • Insitor Partners • Integra Partners • Invesco Limited • LeapFrog Investments • JG Digital Equity Ventures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lendable • MYSC • Mirova • Mistletoe • NH Absolute Return Partners • NIO Capital • Openspace • Proparco • Quantedge Advancement Initiative Ltd • Quona Capital • Save the Children Global Ventures • SIIF Impact Capital, Inc. • SOSV • Sweef Capital • The Rise Funds, TPG • Temasek • Toll Group • Touchstone Partners • Tsao Family Office • Unreasonable Group • UntroD Capital Asia Pte Ltd • UOB Venture Management • Wavemaker Impact • Vertex Ventures SEA & India 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial Intelligence Institute for Progress • Cartier Women's Initiative • Ishk Tolaram Foundation • Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth • Quantedge Foundation • Temasek Foundation • The Rockefeller Foundation • Hyundai Motor Chung Mong-Koo Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BillEase • d.camp • Dashlabs.ai • Doctor Anywhere • EPIC World Private Limited • Grab • HELIX • MiyaHealth • Rize • RSPO • Singtel

*Some organisations have requested to remain anonymous.

Furthermore, we would like to acknowledge the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), particularly the Private Finance for the SDGs team, for their analysis of the digital potential of SDG Investor Maps in SEA. We also extend our gratitude to the UNDP local country offices for their valuable insights into the philanthropy and impact of the regulatory landscape in SEA markets. Our appreciation also goes to the Global Centre for Technology, Innovation and Sustainable Development, UNDP for sharing their work on the Universal Trusted Credentials (UTC) initiative, which has significantly enriched our understanding of digital inclusion and financial access in the region.

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We are also grateful to Grab, TFGI's founding donor, for supporting TFGI's mission of leveraging the promise of technology and the digital economy for inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth in SEA.

Funders do not determine research findings nor the insights and recommendations of research.

ATxSUMMIT

This is a Special Report produced by the Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore for ATxSummit, a part of ATxSG.

About the Tech for Good Institute

The Tech for Good Institute is a non-profit organisation working to advance the promise of technology and the digital economy for inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth in Southeast Asia (SEA). With a population twice the size of the US and having strong demographics, SEA's digital economy is evolving rapidly. At the same time, the region's trajectory is unique, shaped by its diverse cultural, social, political and economic contexts. The Tech for Good Institute serves as a platform for research, conversations and collaborations focused on SEA, while staying connected to the rest of the world. Our work is centred on issues at the intersection of technology, society and the economy, and is intrinsically linked to the region's development. We seek to understand and inform policy with rigour, balance and perspective by using research, effective outreach and evidence-based recommendations.

The Institute was founded by Grab, to advance the vision of a thriving and innovative SEA for all. We welcome opportunities for partnership and support, financial or in-kind, from organisations and individuals committed to fostering responsible innovation and digital progress for sustainable growth in the region.

More information about the Institute can be accessed at www.techforgoodinstitute.org

About the Centre for Impact Investing and Practices

The Centre for Impact Investing and Practices (CIIP) was established in 2022 as a non-profit entity by Temasek Trust to foster impact investing and practices in Asia and beyond by building and sharing knowledge, bringing together stakeholders in the community, and bringing about positive action that accelerates the adoption of impact investing principles and practices. CIIP is the anchor partner for UNDP's Private Finance for the SDGs, providing investors and businesses in Asia with clarity, insights and tools that support their contributions towards achieving SDGs. Temasek and ABC Impact are CIIP's strategic partners.

For more information, please visit www.ciip.com.sg

About IPOS International

IPOS International is a private limited company fully owned by the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), a statutory board under the Ministry of Law. IPOS International contributes to building Singapore's future growth as a global hub for intellectual property creation, commercialisation and management by serving the public sector, investors, private enterprises, not-for-profits, service providers and individuals through patent search and analysis, training and IP management services. Through its expertise and networks, IPOS International amplifies creativity and enables innovation, to realise tangible economic and social value from intangible assets.

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Special Thanks

Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA)

The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) leads Singapore's digital transformation by developing a vibrant digital economy and an inclusive digital society. As Architects of Singapore's Digital Future, they foster growth in Infocomm Technology and Media sectors in concert with progressive regulations, harnessing frontier technologies, and developing local talent and digital infrastructure ecosystems to establish Singapore as a digital metropolis.

For more news and information, visit www.imda.gov.sg or follow IMDA on Facebook (IMDAsg).

Asia Tech x Singapore (ATxSG)

ATxSG 2025 is Asia's leading technology event jointly organised by Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) and Informa Tech - supported by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB). The event consists of two main segments, ATxSummit and ATxEnterprise.

ATxSummit comprises the invitation-only Plenary covering themes like generative AI, web 3.0 and trust, "soonicorn" and sustainability across four key pillars: Tech x Trust, Tech x Good, Tech x Builders and Tech x Creative. ATxSummit also features the ATxAI and SG Women in Tech conferences, alongside G2G and G2B closed-door roundtables to facilitate a closer partnership between the public sector and digital industry.

ATxEnterprise organised by Informa Tech and held at Singapore Expo, will host conferences as well as exhibition marketplaces comprising B2B enterprises across Technology, Media, Infocomm, Satellite industries and start-ups. ATxEnterprise consists of BroadcastAsia, CommunicAsia, SatelliteAsia, TechXLR8 and InnovFest x Elevating Founders.

For more information, please visit asiatechxsg.com.

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Executive Summary

Southeast Asia (SEA) has the potential to become a living lab and global hub for digital sustainability—where digital innovation can accelerate solutions to the region's most pressing societal and environmental challenges, **advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while unlocking significant market potential.**

Development gaps as catalysts for innovation

The region's unmet needs are not just barriers—they are opportunities for innovation to deliver impact. Meeting the region's sustainability targets requires massive financing—US\$1.5 trillion annually across Asia-Pacific and US\$210 billion annually in SEA for climate-resilient infrastructure alone. This report focuses on three priority sectors: financial inclusion, food and agriculture, and healthcare, selected through a structured analysis based on development needs, digital innovation potential and investment relevance (methodology detailed in **Appendix A**).

- **Financial inclusion:** Over 225 million adults remain outside the formal financial systems and more than 350 million lack access to credit. Yet, the region's fintech sector has attracted over US\$20 billion in funding since 2015—most of it into early-stage startups—highlighting strong investor interest in bridging access gaps.
- **Food and agriculture:** Around 100 million smallholder farmers need greater financial, business, and other form of support and empowerment. With food insecurity rising, the sustainable agriculture market is projected to reach US\$22 billion by 2028. Digital solutions that boost productivity, reduce emission and improve market access are urgently needed.
- **Healthcare:** Healthcare access remains critically constrained, with physician-to-population ratios in Indonesia, The Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam ranging from 0.7 to 0.9 per 1,000, far below the global average of 1.7. At the same time, regional healthcare demand is rising. Spending on health across the region grew 42% to US\$156.3 billion between 2016 and 2021. The digital health industry is projected to expand by 8.6% annually through 2028. Innovations in telemedicine, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-assisted diagnostics and mobile health are addressing access issues and chronic disease burdens.

Digital leapfrogs for impact in SEA

The United Nations estimates that **digital technologies could accelerate progress on over 70% of SDG targets, offering scalable, cost-effective solutions to complex global challenges.**

SEA's digital momentum, fueled by high smartphone penetration, a digitally-engaged population, strong demographics and policy innovations like regulatory sandboxes, has created conditions for the region to leapfrog traditional development barriers. Technologies such as AI, Internet of Things (IoT), cloud computing and data analytics enable **affordability and accessibility, trust and transparency, real-time insights and analytics, and mass customisation**, increasing both the effectiveness and inclusivity of solutions.

Digital sustainability, however, is not achieved through technology alone but through the integration of **technology, business, policy** and **financing** innovations. While 94% of capital providers that were surveyed allocate part of their portfolio toward impact and 92% allocate specifically toward digital sustainability solutions, SEA attracts only 3% of global impact investing assets, despite rising investor interest. This gap between need, opportunity and capital deployment highlights the urgency for targeted interventions. Notably, 40% cite unclear return on investment and 39% cite regulatory uncertainty as major barriers to scaling investments.



A call to collective action

To fully realise SEA's digital sustainability potential, coordinated collaboration across governments, capital providers, solution developers and ecosystem enablers is needed, particularly in the following areas:

1. Strengthening digital foundations

Close foundational gaps by expanding last-mile connectivity through public-private-philanthropic (4P) investment models to ensure affordability and to build inclusive Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). This includes interoperable ID systems, payment platforms and data exchanges that enable equitable access, trust and participation.

2. Enabling future readiness

Invest in workforce capabilities that blend digital and sustainability skills. Strengthen governance so that policymakers can align innovation with national development goals.

3. Encouraging fit-for-purpose solutions

Localise technology and business models to cultural, linguistic and regulatory contexts. Co-design with communities, support hybrid online-offline delivery models and scale innovations through multidisciplinary collaborations that centre contextual relevance.

4. Evolving and aligning policy frameworks

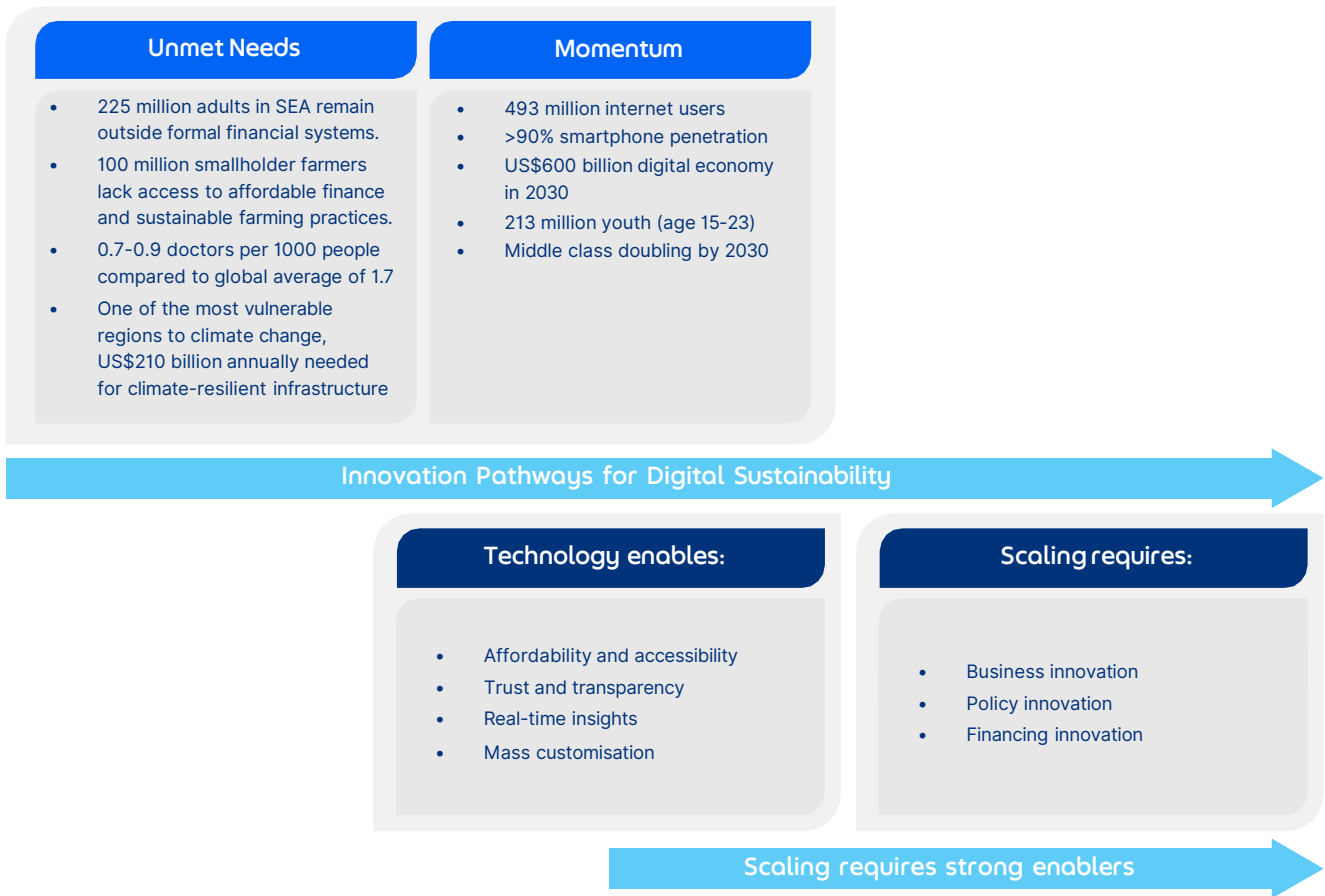
Promote policy coherence through risk-based governance, regional harmonisation and integration of digital transformation with national sustainability roadmaps. Pilot regional sandbox corridors and prioritise outcome-driven regulations to foster responsible experimentation and investment certainty.

5. Integrating multiple types of innovation

Combine technology, business, policy, and finance innovation to bridge the gap from pilot to scale. Mobilise blended capital to support underfunded sectors, balancing risk and impact.

6. Establishing integrated regional approaches

Move beyond national-level strategies by fostering regional and multilateral initiatives to harmonise regulatory environments, enable data interoperability and align digital sustainability priorities. Advance shared digital and sustainability frameworks, co-developed platforms and standards to enable cross-border experimentation and collaboration to reduce duplication and enhance regional resilience.



Source: Tech for Good Institute analysis for this report, 2025

