

Older Persons and ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework due to the COVID-19 Pandemic:

Toward a More Resilient and Inclusive Society Together in ASEAN+3

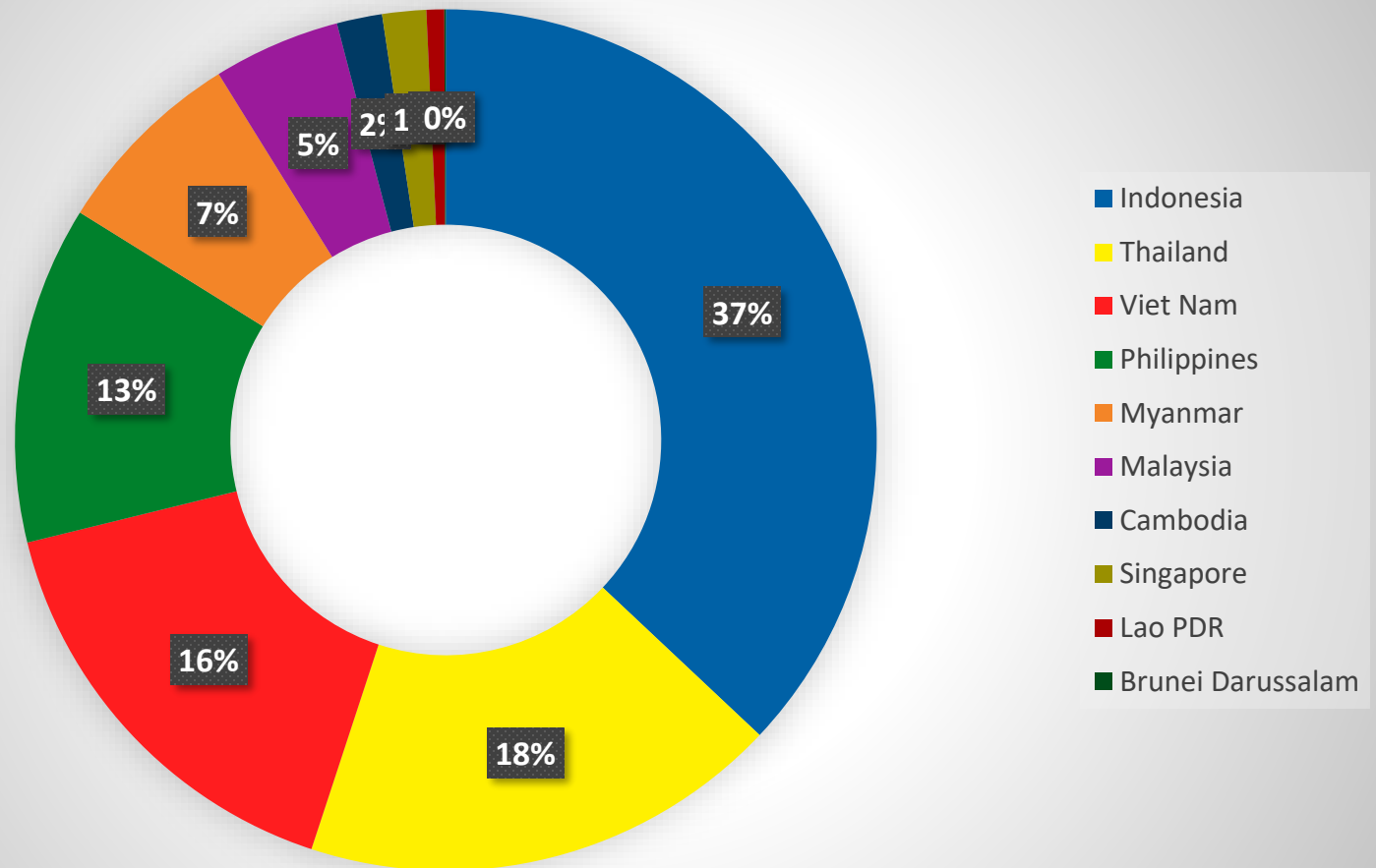
**Regional Conference on Promoting Decent Work for Older Persons for an Inclusive Society:
Strengthening A More Resilient and Inclusive Society During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic**

28 June 2021



74 million people in ASEAN are 60 years old or over

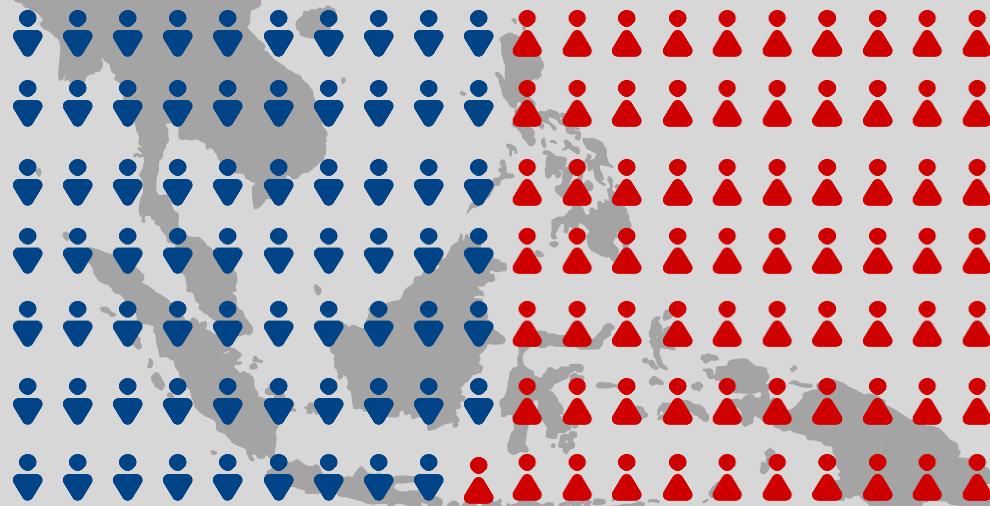
Age of 60 +



Source: 2020 Older Persons
in ASEAN in Number
UNESCAP, 2021



By 2050, ASEAN's total population would reach 792 million



49% male

51% female

Life Expectancy

 78.7 years

 73 years

The proportion of the population aged **60 years and over** is expected to double, while the proportion of the population **aged 80 years** over is expected to triple or more

Older women exceed **older men** in number and proportion of the population

Life expectancy has been steadily increasing and is expected to continue to rise

Older Persons are..

- 1 More likely to live alone
- 2 Less likely to have an income, own property and have a pension which results in gender retirement saving gap and higher rates of poverty
- 3 Facing challenges in access to service (health, education, housing and decent work)
- 4 More likely to be subject to neglect, abuse and discrimination
- 5 More prone to certain type of disorders, including depression and anxiety

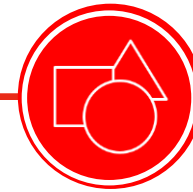
ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection

Adopted by the 23rd ASEAN Summit in October 2013 in Brunei Darussalam



[S]ocial protection is a cross-cutting issue

hence its implementation requires coordinated and holistic approaches with the involvement of governments, private sector, development partners, civil society, service providers, and other stakeholders, where appropriate;



[s]ocial protection shall be adaptive to the different risks

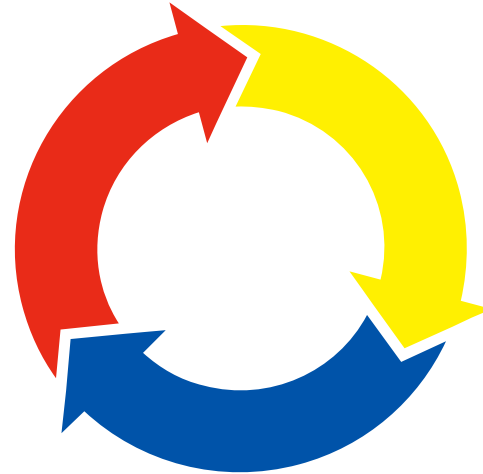
such as lifestyle and individual risks, social risks, and emerging risks and vulnerabilities faced by the region such as, but not limited to, changes in the economy and labour markets and impacts of climate change, disasters and economic crises.”

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN

Adopted by the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015 in Malaysia

Commitment

Reaffirmed the commitment to build an ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the people, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic



Recognition

Recognized that an increase in the proportion of older population will require adaptation of health care and social support systems to meet this emerging challenge

Promotion

The promotion of healthy, active and productive ageing in an enabling and supportive environment is key to the well-being of older persons as valuable members of the family, community and society with roles and responsibilities towards the self, others and the nations



Regional Action Plan to Implement Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons In ASEAN

- Provides guidance to ASEAN Member States to **institutionalize policies** that protects and promotes the rights of older persons; and to sustain support **across pillars and sectors**.
- Develop effective prevention and protection services on older persons **supported by national legal framework and institutional mechanism**.
- The draft RAP consists of **ten actions** which serves as anchors for the proposed objectives, activities and indicators to implement the commitments of ASEAN towards population ageing and empowerment of older persons. It is aligned and resonates with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 (MIPAA) and the SDGs.



Regional Action Plan to Implement Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons In ASEAN

Key thematic issues

- provision of long-term care
- ensuring income security among older persons
- mainstreaming a gender perspective
- belief that older persons as not simply passive recipients of welfare but rather as active agents of change

Features

- Presence of indicators for each of the activities
- Cross-pillar cooperation: ACW, SOMHD, SOMED, and SOMRI



Alignment between regional and international initiatives on population ageing

Complementary to Sustainable Development

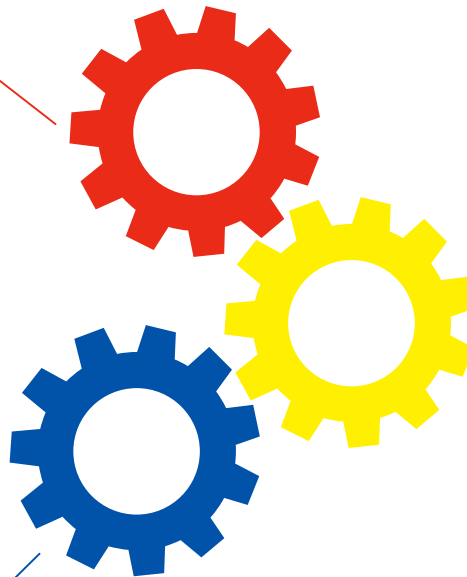
ASEAN Community building initiatives are complementary to the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, articulating that no one should be left behind

Existing high-level political commitment

of ASEAN Member States to recognize and protect the rights, ensure and promote the welfare, and programmatically address the needs and realize the potentials of older persons in ASEAN as enunciated in the *Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Active Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN*, which was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders on 21 November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Cross-sectoral and intra-pillar cooperation

ASEAN Community provides the impetus for more cross-sectoral and intra-pillar cooperation and collaboration, including on issues relevant to Older Persons in ASEAN



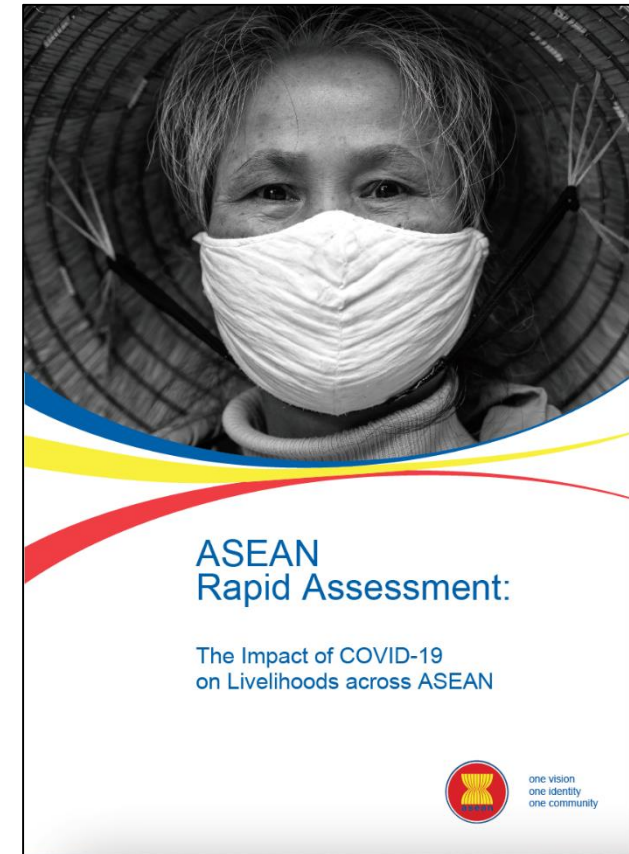
ASEAN in responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic

- Acknowledge that generating data and analysis has become a necessity in determining the most appropriate and targeted measures at mitigating the pandemic's impacts
- Provide reviews of the responses of ASEAN Member States to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in social welfare, labour, and education sectors
- Recognise that due to community lockdowns as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of the virus, violence to women and children have become more hidden in the corners of the homes and in the online world, putting women and children at more risks.

The report indicates ASEAN Member States responded quickly and comprehensively to the outbreak of the pandemic

- ✓ ASEAN Member States have initiated economic stimulus packages.
- ✓ Labour-related policy responses implemented by ASEAN Member States include income support for affected workers, training support, re-employment programmes, job retention programmes and occupational health and safety programmes.
- ✓ From March to June 2020, approximately 77 response measures were introduced by ASEAN Member States comprising social assistance and social insurance measures. The overwhelming majority of responses involved social assistance for poor and vulnerable groups. Across the region, approximately 82% of all measures were social assistance interventions.
- ✓ ASEAN Member States have provided guidelines on health and safety of students and educators, secured additional school budget for personal protective and personal hygiene items, and provided school meal subsidies. Other programme responses include remote teaching and learning, multi-modal home-based learning for students, professional development of teachers and education leaders.

https://asean.org/?static_post=asean-rapid-assessment-impact-covid-19-livelihoods-across-asean



ASEAN Response to COVID-19

- ASEAN Member States (AMS) responded quickly to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Initially, policy measures were limited to softening the impact of disruptions in travel and supply chains on the economy which were scaled up and expanded to mitigate the unprecedented effects of what has by then become a pandemic in three broad categories:
 - Fiscal stimulus packages;
 - Monetary policy and financial measures; and
 - Sector-specific measures and interventions
- Adoption of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF), a set of broad strategies and key priority measures to be employed for ASEAN recovery and long-term development
- Conduct of Rapid Assessment for ASEAN: Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Livelihoods of ASEAN Populations



Comprehensive Recovery Framework for ASEAN

Mandate

- **Special ASEAN Summit on COVID-19:** encouraged the development of a post-pandemic recovery plan.
- **36th ASEAN Summit:** announced commencement of efforts to develop a comprehensive recovery framework, tasked respective pillars to contribute, with support from ASEAN Secretariat and coordinated by the ASEAN Coordinating Council.

Adoption

- **37th ASEAN Summit** adopted the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan.



Objectives, Key Principles & Approach

- Articulate ASEAN recovery strategy from COVID-19
- Guide ASEAN sectors to assess, realign, or expedite work and priorities
- Provide a reference and set priorities for ASEAN cross-pillar coordination and contribution from broader stakeholders
- Outline ASEAN recovery strategy for engagement partners and external stakeholders
- Contribute to ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the strengthening of future resilience

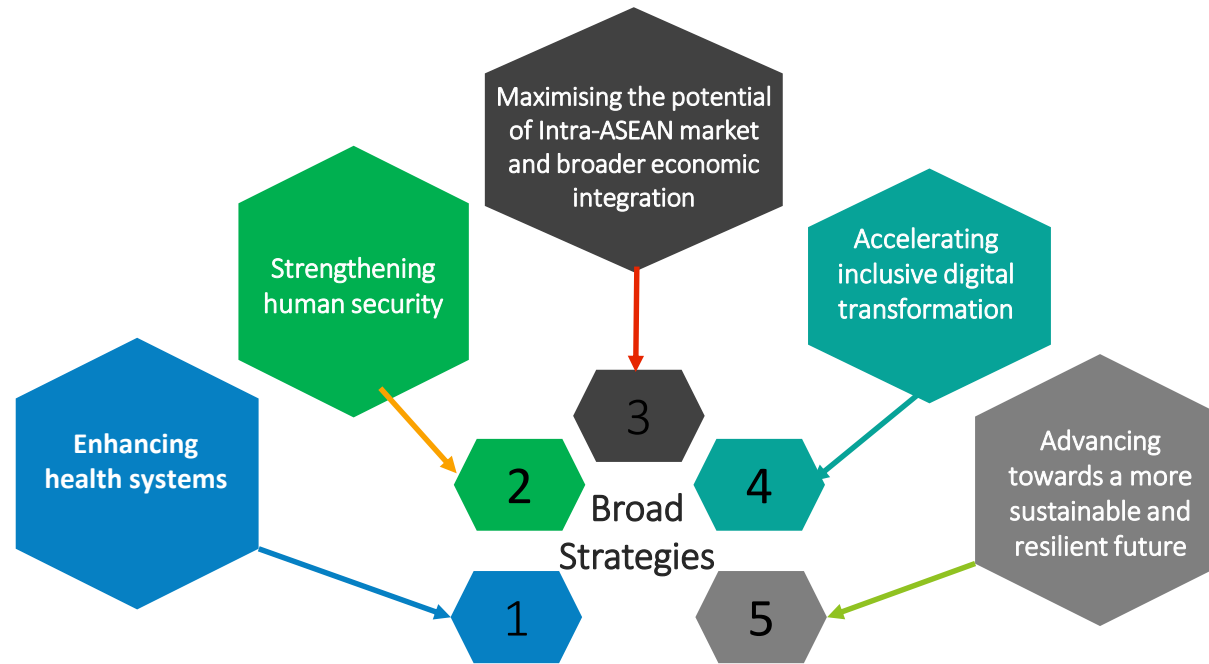


- Focused
- Balanced
- Impactful
- Pragmatic
- Inclusive
- Measurable

- Whole-of-ASEAN-community approach
- Clarity in directions
- Synergy and complementarity with national response
- Agile and flexible implementation
- Follow a 3Rs phased approach (Reopening, Recovery, Resilience)



ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework: An Exit Strategy



ENABLING FACTORS

- (i) Policy measures and responses, (ii) Financing and resource mobilisation, (iii) Institutions and governance mechanisms, (iv) Stakeholder engagement and partnerships, and (v) Effective monitoring.

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ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework

Strategy 1: Enhancing Health Systems

- Building and sustaining current health gains and measures
- Maintaining and strengthening essential health services
- Strengthening vaccine security and self-reliance including its equitable access, affordability, safety and quality
- Enhancing capacity of human resources for health
- Strengthening prevention and preparedness, detection, and response and resilience
- Enhancing capacity of public health services to enable health emergency response including ensuring food safety and nutrition in emergencies

Strategy 2: Strengthening Human Security

- Further strengthening and broadening of **social protection** and social welfare, especially for vulnerable groups
- Ensuring food security, food safety, and nutrition
- Promoting human capital development
- Ensuring responsive labour policies for the new normal through social dialogue
- Mainstreaming gender equality throughout the recovery scheme and actions of ASEAN
- Mainstreaming human rights in the process of post-pandemic recovery toward resilient region

Strategy 3: Maximising the Potential of Intra-ASEAN Market and Broader Economic Integration

- Keeping markets open for trade and investment
- Strengthening supply chain connectivity and resilience
- Enabling trade facilitation in the new normal
- Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) and cutting down market-distorting policies
- Setting up travel bubble/corridor framework
- Strengthening transport facilitation/connectivity
- Accelerating sectoral recovery (tourism, MSMEs), and safeguarding employment in most affected sectors
- Streamlining and expediting investment process and facilitation and joint promotion initiatives
- Enhancing Public and Private Partnership (PPP) for regional connectivity
- Signing and early entry into force of RCEP

Strategy 4: Accelerating Inclusive Digital Transformation

- Preparing for the Fourth Industrial Revolution
- Promoting e-Commerce and the digital economy
- Promoting e-government and e-services
- Promoting financial inclusion including through digital financial services and regional payment connectivity
- Providing digital platform and related policy for promoting MSME digital upskilling and providing digital technology and fintech to access markets
- Enhancing connectivity
- Promoting ICT in education
- Improving digital legal framework and institutional capacity
- Strengthening data governance and cybersecurity
- Strengthening consumer protection
- Promoting the adoption of digital technologies in ASEAN businesses

Strategy 5: Advancing towards a More Sustainable and Resilient Future

- Promoting sustainable development in all dimensions
- Facilitating transition to sustainable energy
- Building green infrastructure and addressing basic infrastructure gaps
- Promoting sustainable and responsible investment
- Promoting high-value industries, sustainability, and productivity in agriculture
- Managing disaster risks and strengthening disaster management
- Promoting sustainable financing

Enabling Factors: (1) Policy Measures and Responses; (2) Financing and Resource Mobilisation; (3) Institutions and Governance Mechanisms; (4) Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships; and (5) Effective Monitoring



Key Priorities in the ACRF along Strengthening Human Security and Advancing towards a More Sustainable and Resilient Future

- Promote the establishment of community-based integrated care support models for older persons including support system for family and carers for older persons, including by utilising the ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI)
- Develop disability inclusive resilience plans including risk assessments, emergency response plans, and recovery and rehabilitation plans, and allocate resources, and ensure active involvement of persons with disabilities, particularly children, women, youth and ***elderly/older persons***
- Promoting Regional dialogues and joint analysis on urgent social protection responses through facilitating peer learning and dissemination of good practices with respect to short-term social protection response and medium-term social protection system building.



Key Priorities in the ACRF along Strengthening Human Security and Advancing towards a More Sustainable and Resilient Future

- Development of ASEAN voluntary and non-binding guidelines on protection of migrant workers in crisis situations including health pandemics that is gender sensitive
- Providing human capital assets, ensuring **equal access** to and control over productive resources and services and fostering **enabling environment** for decision-making and leadership for rural women and rural youth
- Develop guidelines on **social protection for the elderly**, especially older women with focus on financial security during old-age
- Integrating gender equality into policy strategy, planning and monitoring processes by all government institutions and strengthening human resources, knowledge and capacity



Key Priorities in the ACRF along Strengthening Human Security and Advancing towards a More Sustainable and Resilient Future

- Enhancing gender data and evidence on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls
- Advancing Women, Peace and Security in the ASEAN Region
- Strengthening social protection during disasters (including pandemic) at the regional and national level, with reference to the ASEAN Guidelines on Disaster-Responsive Social Protection (DRSP)





Thank you.

