



Social Issues and Progress in ASEAN

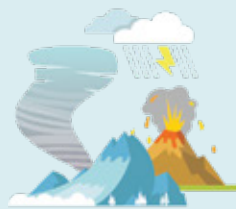
ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
in Facts and Figures

Issue 2, 2022

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community opens a world of opportunities to collectively deliver and fully realise human development, resiliency and sustainable development as we face new and emerging challenges together.



one vision
one identity
one community



Disaster

405 disaster events hit ASEAN region in 2020, affected 19.3 million people, displaced 2.4 million, and led to \$227.4 million damages.

53.7% of Southeast Asians considered climate change as an immediate danger.

Annual average losses as percentage of GDP caused by major natural hazards in Southeast Asia

- Drought: 60%
- Flood: 22.5%
- Tropical cyclone: 14.3%
- Earthquake: 4.1%
- Tsunami: 0.2%

Source: ASEAN Disaster Resilience Outlook, 2021



Labor & Migration

8% of the world's migrants originate from ASEAN.

ASEAN hosts **4%** of the world's migrants.

Estimated 9.2 million international migrants of working age are living in ASEAN's net destination countries (Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand). 7.1 million of those come from other ASEAN Member States.

COVID-19 pandemic has affected the world's economy, including ASEAN. Unemployment rate in ASEAN rose from 2.5% in 2019 to 3.1% in 2020. Women are also affected more severely with female employment being 3.9% lower than expected level in the absence of crisis. For men, the number is 2.7% lower. Youth employment has also taken a hit at 6.2% compared to 2.8% for adults.

More than 2.4 million migrants returned in the months following the first outbreak of COVID-19. Migrant remittance inflows fell to 3.6% in 2020 after growing at an average of 5.2% for the past five years.

Source: ASEAN Migration Outlook, 2022; Reducing Inequality in the Decade of Action to Achieve the SDGs and Accelerate Post-Pandemic Recovery, 2022



Education

Only **4%** OF WOMEN **3%** OF MEN completed no education.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the progress in education with school closures and the shift to online learning. 27% of children who stopped attending school could not fully participate in online learning programmes due to weak/insufficient internet connections or lack of digital devices.

Even when schools offered online classes, not all children attended them. 8% did not attend any online classes, 19% attended only a few, and 16% attended some but not all online classes.

ASEAN has developed a guideline for ASEAN Member States for safe school reopening and strengthening the resilience of education system in "Reopen, Recover and Resilience in Education: Guidelines for ASEAN Countries".

Source: ASEAN Gender Outlook, 2021; Reducing Inequality in the Decade of Action to Achieve the SDGs and Accelerate Post-Pandemic Recovery, 2022



Demographic Shift

ASEAN countries are ageing rapidly due to low fertility and high life expectancy. In 2020, 11.2% of the population or 74 million people are 60 years old or over. The number is expected to double by 2050.

There are 213 million youth (15-34 years) in ASEAN countries, constituting the largest ever cohort of ASEAN youth. The peak population of just over 220 million is expected in 2038.

Source: ASEAN Ageing Data Sheet 2020; First ASEAN Youth Development Index, 2017



Culture

ASEAN has launched the ASEAN Cultural Heritage Digital Archive as a landmark initiative to preserve ASEAN's cultural heritage through digitalisation.

Over 260 cultural heritage from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand can be viewed online through ACHDA portal.



Social Protection

ASEAN Member States are implementing the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework as a collective effort to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19.

ASEAN Member States committed to 133 social protection measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as of mid-May 2021.

Source: Reducing Inequality in the Decade of Action to Achieve the SDGs and Accelerate Post-Pandemic Recovery, 2022



Environment

Southeast Asia is home to 60% of the world's tropical peatland. 90% of transboundary smoke haze in ASEAN is linked to peat fires.

Road transportation generates about 89% of total transport-related emissions in ASEAN. Major ASEAN cities with population over 5 million tend to have PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels above the WHO recommended level.

ASEAN has committed to contribute to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

Key ASEAN targets for energy:



Reduce the average fuel consumption per 100 km of new light-duty vehicle sold in ASEAN by 26% between 2016-2025.

Reducing energy intensity by 32% and increasing the component of renewable energy mix or total primary energy supply by 23% by 2025.

Source: ASEAN State of Climate Change Report 2021, Fifth ASEAN State of Climate Change Report



Gender

ASEAN demonstrated its strong commitment to achieve gender equality and the SDGs through the Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals.

90% of births in ASEAN region are attended by skilled personnel. However, in the poorest rural households, 33% of births are still unattended.

20% of seats in national parliament across ASEAN Member States are held by women.

Child marriage rate in ASEAN is among the lowest in the world. Roughly 16% of girls marry before turning 18.

70% MEN **56%** WOMEN participate in the labour force.

Source: ASEAN Gender Outlook 2021



Health

An estimated 92 million people in ASEAN have gained access to safe drinking water since 2000.

20 million people in ASEAN region already are or at risk of becoming acutely food-insecure.

Source: ASEAN Gender Outlook, 2021; Reducing Inequality in the Decade of Action to Achieve the SDGs and Accelerate Post-Pandemic Recovery, 2022

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Sectoral Bodies

- 1975** ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting (ALMM)
- 1979** ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD)
- 1980** ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM)
Heads of Civil Service Meeting for the ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM)
- 1981** ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME)
- 1989** ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI)
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY)
- 1997** ASEAN Ministers on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE)
- 2003** ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Culture and Arts (AMCA)
Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP)
- 2004** ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM)
ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASED)
- 2011** ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (AMMS)
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW)
- 2012** Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967. The Member States are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

For inquiries, contact:

The ASEAN Secretariat
Community Relations Division (CRD)
70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja
Jakarta 12110, Indonesia

Phone: (62 21) 724-3372, 726-2991
Fax: (62 21) 739-8234, 724-3504
E-mail: public@asean.org

Catalogue-in-Publication Data

Social Issues and Progress in ASEAN
ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in Facts and Figures – Issue 2
Jakarta, ASEAN Secretariat, December 2022

360.0959

1. ASEAN – ASCC – Social Issues
2. Sustainable Development – Human Development

ASEAN: A Community of Opportunities for All

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