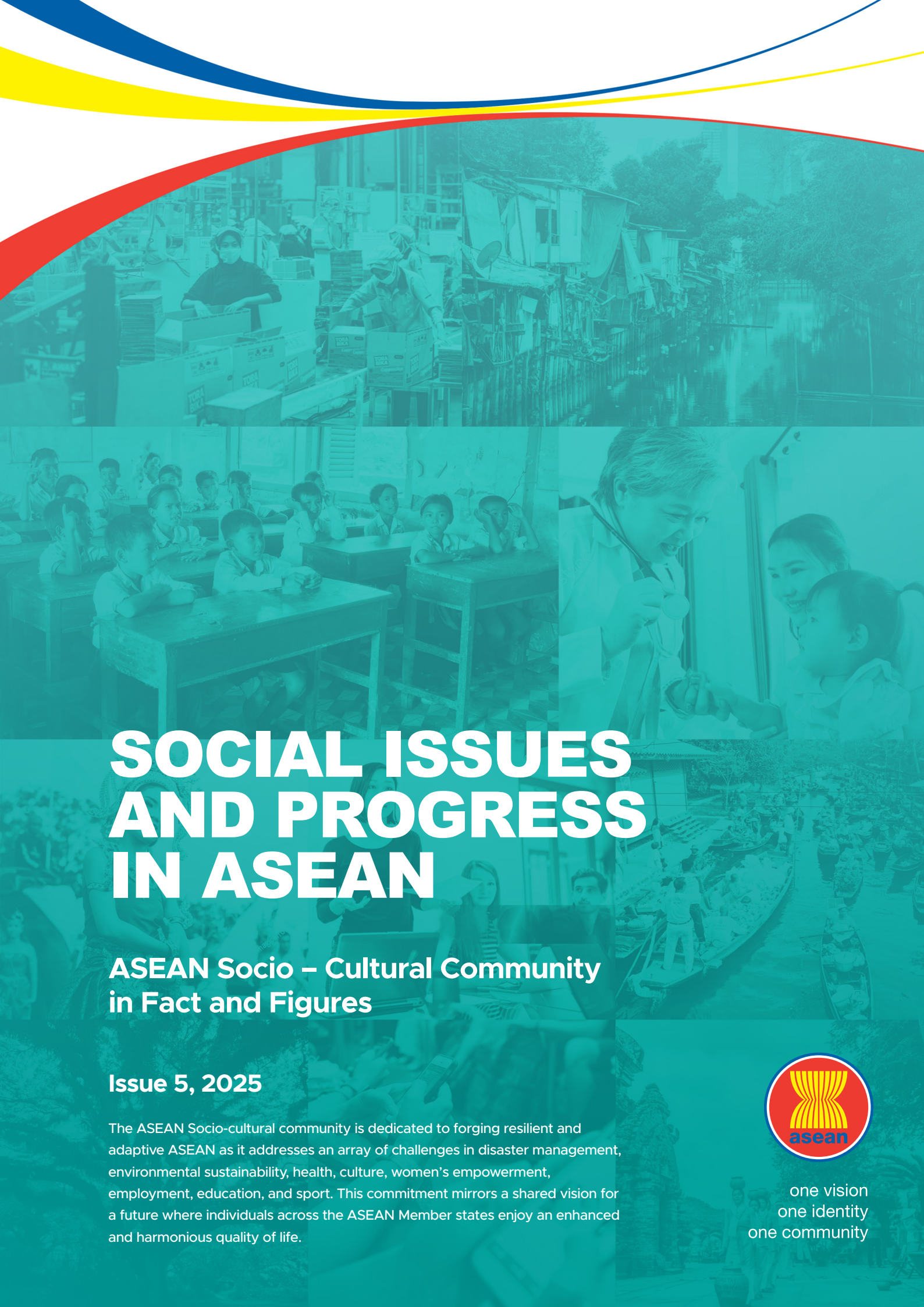




SOCIAL ISSUES AND PROGRESS IN ASEAN

ASEAN Socio – Cultural Community in Fact and Figures

Issue 5, 2025

The ASEAN Socio-cultural community is dedicated to forging resilient and adaptive ASEAN as it addresses an array of challenges in disaster management, environmental sustainability, health, culture, women's empowerment, employment, education, and sport. This commitment mirrors a shared vision for a future where individuals across the ASEAN Member states enjoy an enhanced and harmonious quality of life.

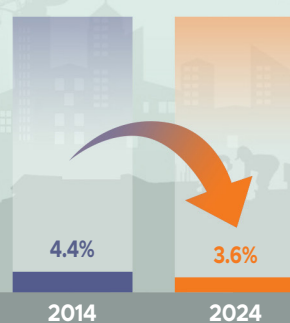


one vision
one identity
one community

LABOUR

Between 2014 and 2024, ASEAN recorded a decline in the unemployment rate, reflecting continued efforts to promote job creation and inclusive economic growth.

Unemployment rate



ASEAN Secretariat (2025). ASEAN Statistical Highlights 2025.

DEMOGRAPHY



682.7
million people
Total ASEAN
Population in 2024



8.4%
of the world's
total population
in 2024



7.4%
Population
below 5 years



23.5%
Population
15-29 years



8.2%
Population
65+ years



160.8
million
Population
15-29 years



56.1
million
Population
65+ years



100.2
Sex ratio
(males /100 females)

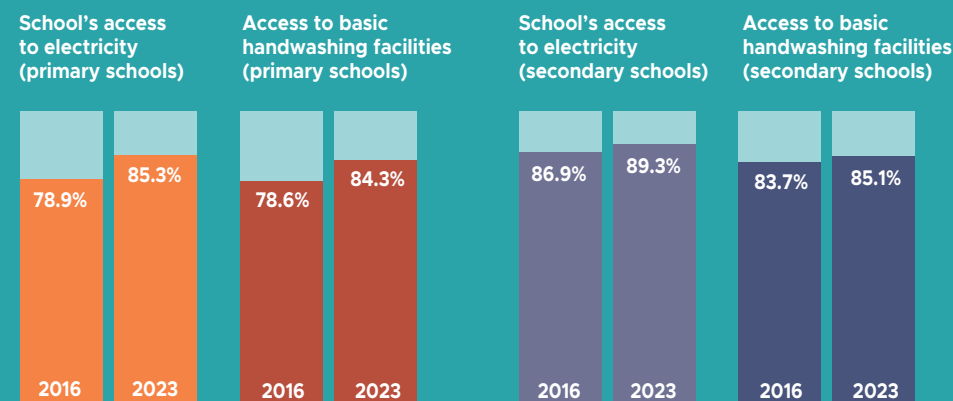


Life expectancy
in ASEAN (years)
73.2
Average Life
Span in ASEAN

ASEAN Secretariat (2025). ASEAN Statistical Highlights 2025.

EDUCATION

Between 2016 and 2023, ASEAN demonstrated steady progress in enhancing the basic infrastructure of primary and secondary schools.

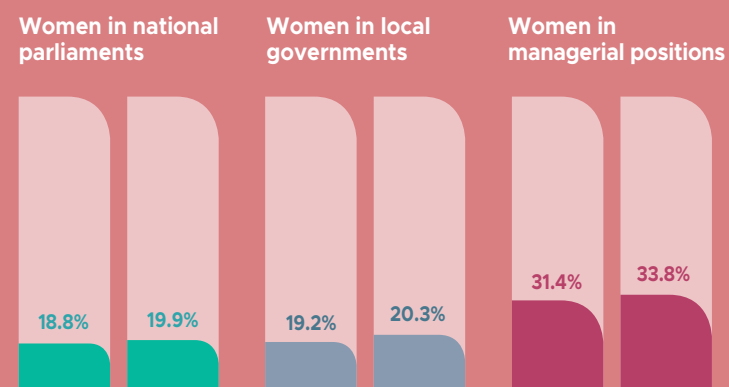


ASEAN Secretariat (2025). ASEAN SDG Indicators Progress Report 2025, p. 37.

GENDER



Women participation in national parliaments, local governments and managerial positions



ASEAN Secretariat (2025). ASEAN SDG Indicators Progress Report 2025, p. 43.

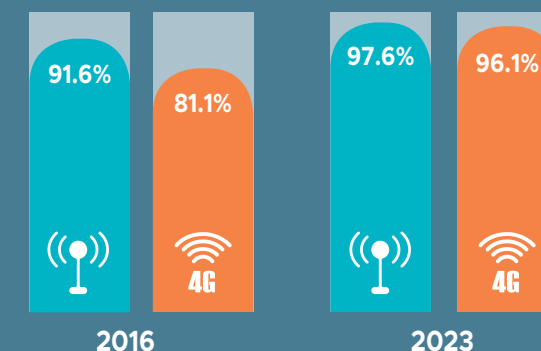
INFORMATION



ASEAN has made strong progress in expanding mobile network coverage between 2016 and 2023.

Mobile Network
4G Mobile Network

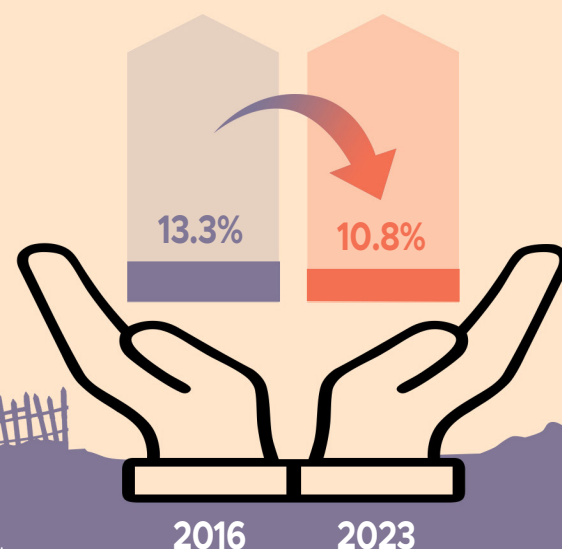
Proportion of population covered by a mobile network



ASEAN Secretariat (2025). ASEAN SDG Indicators Progress Report 2025, p.72.

POVERTY

During the period of 2016 to 2023, ASEAN has successfully reduced the proportion of the population living below the poverty line.

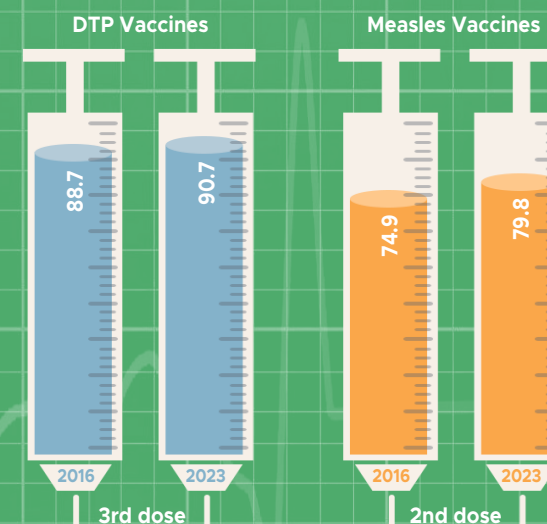
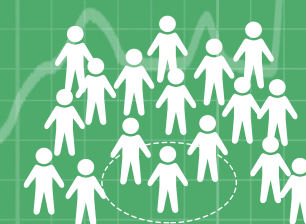


ASEAN Secretariat (2025). ASEAN SDG Indicators Progress Report 2025, p. 9.

HEALTH

ASEAN has made good progress in expanding immunisation coverage, particularly for key childhood vaccines reflecting improved outreach and delivery of routine immunisation services across the region.

Proportion of the target population covered by DTP containing vaccines (3rd dose) and Measles containing vaccines (2nd dose) (%)



ASEAN Secretariat (2025). ASEAN SDG Indicators Progress Report 2025, p. 29.



Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)

2016 **91** → 2023 **93.1**



Proportion of total government spending on health (%)

2016 **7.7** → 2023 **12.7**

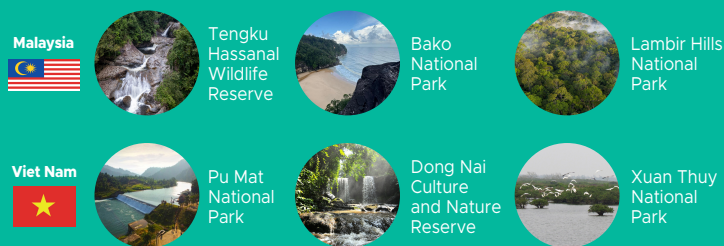
ASEAN Secretariat (2025). ASEAN SDG Indicators Progress Report 2025, p. 22, and p. 11.

ENVIRONMENT

NUMBER OF ASEAN HERITAGE PARKS IN 2025



6 New ASEAN Heritage Parks



ASEAN Centre Biodiversity (2025). Six natural wonders in Malaysia and Viet Nam declared as ASEAN Heritage Parks. 2025.

CULTURE AND ARTS

NUMBER OF UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN ASEAN



NEWLY INSCRIBED IN 2025



Notes:

* Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park was inscribed in 2003. In 2025, the site was enlarged with the addition Hin Nam No National Park. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park and Hin Nam No National Park is now a transboundary World Heritage Site.

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, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam.

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2. Sustainable Development - Human Development

ASEAN: A Community of Opportunities for All

Photo Credit: (6 New Asean Heritage Park) Tengku Hassan Wild Life Reserve, Tengku Hassan Wildlife Reserve ; Bako National Park, Sarawak Forestry Corporation ; Lambi Hill, Sarawak Forestry Corporation ; Pu Matt National Park, Pu Mat National Park ; Dong Nai Culture Park, Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve ; Xuan Thuy National Park, Xuan Thuy National Park. (Newly Inscribed in 2025) Combodian Memorial Sites, Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum ; Forest Research Institute Malaysia Forest Park Selangor, Forest Research Institute Malaysia ; Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park and Hin Nam No National Park, Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park ; Yen Tu - Vien Nghiem Complex, Viet Nam Center on Karst and Geoheritage

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