



ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2026–2030



one vision
one identity
one community

ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2026–2030

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ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2026–2030

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ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2026–2030

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ABBREVIATIONS

AADMER	ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
ACWC	ASEAN Commission on the Protection and Promotion of Women and Children
ACDM	ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management
ACSP	ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan
ACCMSME	ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
ASEAN-IPR	ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation
AMS	ASEAN Member States
AMRI	ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information
ASOEN	ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment
ASCC	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
ATC	ASEAN TVET Council
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ETR	End-Term Review
HRD	Human Resources Development
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
RBME	Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation
SAP SMED	Strategic Action Plan for SME Development
SLOM	Senior Labour Officials Meeting
SOMCA	Senior Officials Meeting on Culture and Arts
SOM-ED	Senior Officials Meeting on Education
SOMHD	Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development
SOMSWD	Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development
SOMY	Senior Officials Meeting on Youth
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SM	Strategic Measure
TVET	Technical, Vocational Education, and Training
YDI	Youth Development Index

ANNEXES

Annex 1	Theory of Change
Annex 2	Implementation Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2026–2030* serves as the principal implementation instrument for advancing youth development under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Strategic Plan 2026-2035 and contributing to the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. It translates regional policy commitments into a coherent, results-based framework that positions ASEAN youth as active partners and contributors to inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development.

Building on the *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021–2025* and its End-Term Review, the Work Plan marks a shift from largely event-based initiatives towards more integrated, programmatic, and outcome-oriented approaches. It consolidates established platforms, including youth dialogues, exchanges, leadership programmes, and entrepreneurship initiatives, into structured mechanisms that strengthen continuity, scalability, and impact, while enhancing alignment with sectoral priorities and ASEAN-wide frameworks.

ASEAN's youth population, estimated at 213 million young people aged 15–34 years old.¹ It represents a significant driver of regional growth, innovation, and social cohesion. However, disparities in access to education, skills development, employment, and digital connectivity persist across ASEAN Member States, alongside emerging challenges related to climate change, mental health, and social vulnerability. The Work Plan responds to these dynamics by linking youth participation to tangible outcomes across economic, socio-cultural, environmental, and governance domains, ensuring that engagement translates into sustained regional value.

Anchored in the Theory of Change principles, the Work Plan advances the overarching impact of meaningful youth participation through increased engagement in the economic, political, and socio-cultural environment. This is operationalised through five interrelated Outcome Areas aligned with the ASCC Strategic Measures:

1. Youth social entrepreneurship, innovation, and inclusive development, strengthening youth-led enterprise and innovation ecosystems;
2. Youth skills, employability, and access to decent work, enhancing future-ready competencies and education-to-employment pathways;
3. Youth leadership, participation, and regional collaboration, institutionalising platforms for sustained engagement and ASEAN identity-building;
4. Youth climate action, biodiversity conservation, and disaster resilience, strengthening youth roles in environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction; and
5. Youth participation in peacebuilding, social cohesion, health, and well-being, reinforcing inclusive, safe, and prevention-oriented systems for youth engagement.

These Outcome Areas are mutually reinforcing and reflect four cross-cutting principles: meaningful participation beyond consultation; systemic integration of youth initiatives within sectoral policies and programmes; strengthened cross-sectoral collaboration across

¹ ASEANstats database

ASCC bodies and stakeholders; and results-based implementation aligned with the ASCC Results Framework.



Implementation will be led by ASEAN Member States, with coordination through the Senior Officials Meeting on Youth (SOMY) and close collaboration with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, ASEAN Entities, and ASEAN External Partners. ASEAN Member States will provide national leadership and ownership, integrate Work Plan priorities into national frameworks, co-lead regional initiatives, and contribute to peer learning through the sharing of good practices. SOMY will serve as the regional coordinating mechanism, providing strategic guidance, ensuring coherence and complementarity, facilitating knowledge exchange, and supporting partnership and resource mobilisation in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat.

Consistent with the ASCC Strategic Plan, implementation will be undertaken through strengthened cross-sectoral collaboration, whereby sectoral bodies provide policy direction and technical leadership, while SOMY ensures the effective integration of youth perspectives and participation platforms into sector-led programmes. Partnerships with Dialogue Partners, civil society, academia, the private sector, and youth organisations will support technical cooperation, innovation, and resource mobilisation, while expanding outreach and impact.

Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the ASCC Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBME) Framework, focusing on SOMY's contribution to ASCC outcomes rather than standalone activity outputs. Monitoring will track progress against Outcome Area statements, assess the integration and quality of youth participation in sectoral processes, and capture emerging results across priority areas such as employment, entrepreneurship, climate action, social cohesion, and well-being. A combination of quantitative and qualitative evidence will be used, drawing on ASCC-aligned key performance indicators, sectoral monitoring systems, and analytical tools such as the ASEAN Youth Development Index (YDI).

Roles in monitoring are clearly defined: ASEAN Member States will provide national data and qualitative inputs; SOMY will consolidate and assess progress while guiding adaptive implementation; and the ASEAN Secretariat will ensure methodological coherence and integration with ASCC reporting processes. The Work Plan does not introduce a parallel indicator system, thereby minimising reporting burden and ensuring alignment with existing ASEAN mechanisms. To operationalise the monitoring framework, SOMY will develop an M&E Implementation Plan to establish data collection structures, clarify roles and coordination mechanisms, and support the review and finalisation of output-level indicators aligned with the Theory of Change and the ASCC Results Framework.

Overall, the *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2026–2030* provides a strategic, integrated, and forward-looking framework to strengthen ASEAN's capacity to harness its demographic dividend. By embedding youth participation within cross-sectoral systems and focusing on measurable outcomes, it ensures that ASEAN youth are not only beneficiaries but active contributors to economic transformation, social cohesion, environmental sustainability, and regional integration, in line with ASEAN's vision of a people-centred, inclusive, and resilient ASEAN Community by 2045.



Photo: Ministry of Youth Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

1

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2026–2030* serves as the principal implementation instrument through which ASEAN advances youth-related commitments under the ASCC Strategic Plan and contributes to the realisation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. It provides a structured, results-based framework for translating regional policy commitments into coordinated programmes and activities that position ASEAN youth as active partners, contributors, and drivers of inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development.

This Work Plan builds on the implementation of the *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021–2025*, drawing on the lessons from the End-Term Review (ETR) and the aspirations of the ASEAN Member States expressed during the Post-2025 Visioning Workshop. The ETR confirmed that ASEAN youth cooperation over the past five years generated substantial value through regional platforms for participation, leadership development, exchanges, volunteerism, entrepreneurship, and innovation. These initiatives strengthened ASEAN identity among young people, expanded opportunities for youth engagement, and demonstrated the importance of partnerships with Dialogue Partners, sectoral bodies, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

At the same time, the ETR highlighted several structural lessons that have informed the design of the 2026–2030 Work Plan. These include the need to move beyond predominantly

event-driven and stand-alone activities toward more coherent programmes, clearer implementation pathways, and stronger mechanisms for continuity, scaling, and sustainability. The review also emphasised the importance of strengthening cross-sectoral coordination to ensure that youth initiatives are systematically aligned with sector-led priorities rather than operating in parallel.

The ASCC Strategic Plan, endorsed in 2025, provides both the policy anchor and implementation guidance for addressing these lessons. It articulates strategic measures that explicitly identify the SOMY as a Lead, Co-Lead, or Supporting Sectoral Body across multiple thematic areas, including youth empowerment, entrepreneurship and innovation, employment and skills, climate action and disaster resilience, social cohesion, inclusion, health, and well-being. In line with ASCC guidance, this Work Plan is therefore designed to function as a delivery platform, to ensure that youth perspectives, capacities, and initiatives are integrated into broader ASCC outcomes through coordinated engagement with lead sectoral bodies.

In response to the ETR findings, the outcomes of the Visioning Workshop and ASCC implementation guidance, the Work Plan introduces several approaches for the 2026–2030 period. First, it adopts a clear outcome-based structure, organised around five outcome areas that directly contribute to the ASCC Strategic Measures assigned to SOMY. This enables clearer results articulation, monitoring, and reporting, and supports alignment with the ASCC Results Framework. Second, the Work Plan emphasises programme consolidation and institutionalisation, strengthening successful mechanisms in the previous work plan, such as youth dialogues, enterprise and innovation platforms, capacity-building programmes, and funding facilities, while embedding them within longer-term ASEAN and national systems.

Third, the Work Plan places strong emphasis on cross-sectoral collaboration and complementarity. Youth engagement is intentionally designed to support sector-led mandates in areas such as education and skills development, health and well-being, climate and disaster risk reduction, social protection, peacebuilding, and inclusion. In the post-2025 context, SOMY's role is envisioned as facilitating youth participation, peer leadership, and innovation, while maintaining coherence with the technical leadership and policy frameworks of relevant sectoral bodies.

Finally, the Work Plan responds to emerging and evolving challenges identified in the ETR and Visioning Workshop, including the future of work, digital transformation, mental health and psychosocial well-being, climate and disaster risks, and persistent inequalities affecting vulnerable youth. It strengthens pathways from youth participation to tangible outcomes, such as employment, enterprise development, community resilience, and policy influence, while ensuring ASEAN's commitment to inclusivity, prevention, and sustainability.

Overall, the *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2026–2030* represents a deliberate shift towards a more strategic, integrated, and future-oriented approach to ASEAN youth cooperation. By consolidating lessons from the previous Work Plan and aligning closely with the implementation guidance of the ASCC Strategic Plan, it strengthens ASEAN's collective capacity to empower youth not only as beneficiaries of regional initiatives, but more importantly, as co-creators of a people-centred, inclusive, and resilient ASEAN Community by 2045.



Photo: National Youth Council Singapore

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CONTEXT: THE YOUTH SECTOR IN ASEAN

ASEAN is home to one of the world's largest youth populations, with approximately 213 million young people aged 15–34 as of December 2025, accounting for roughly one-third of the region's total population.² This demographic weight positions youth as a central driver of ASEAN's future economic growth, social cohesion, innovation capacity, and long-term resilience. Harnessing this potential is therefore not only a youth development priority, but a strategic imperative for ASEAN Community-building.

ASEAN POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

As of December 2025

Indicator	Country	2024	%
Population Ages 15–24, Both Sexes, Total (Thousands)	ASEAN	106,776.7	15.7
Population Ages 25–34, Both Sexes, Total (Thousands)	ASEAN	106,354.4	15.7
Population Ages 15–34	ASEAN	213,131.2	31.4

Source: ASEANstats Database

² ASEANstats Database

At the same time, the youth landscape across ASEAN is highly diverse and uneven. Significant differences persist across ASEAN Member States in terms of income levels, education outcomes, labour market structures, digital access, and social protection systems. While many young people benefit from expanding access to education, skills training, and digital connectivity, others—particularly young women, youth with disabilities, rural youth, migrant youth, and youth in vulnerable situations—continue to face structural barriers to meaningful participation in economic, political, and socio-cultural life.

Youth unemployment and underemployment remain persistent concerns in several ASEAN Member States, with young people disproportionately represented in informal, low-wage, and precarious work. At the same time, ASEAN economies are undergoing rapid transformation driven by digitalisation, technological change, and the green transition. These shifts create new opportunities for youth entrepreneurship, innovation, and emerging industries, but also intensify skills mismatches between education systems and labour market needs.

This context underpins Outcome Area 1 (Youth Social Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Inclusive Development) and Outcome Area 2 (Youth Skills, Employability and Access to Decent Work), which focus on strengthening pathways from skills development to employment and enterprise. Together, these Outcome Areas position youth as contributors to inclusive growth and sustainable development, rather than passive job seekers.

ASEAN youth are increasingly mobile, digitally connected, and engaged across borders through education, exchanges, volunteerism, and regional platforms. ASEAN-supported youth dialogues, leadership programmes, and exchange initiatives under previous Work Plans have demonstrated strong demand and impact in fostering ASEAN identity, regional awareness, and cross-cultural understanding. However, access to these opportunities remains uneven, and the translation of participation into longer-term leadership pathways, professional networks, and regional collaboration is not always systematic.

This dynamic informs Outcome Area 3 (Youth Leadership, Participation and Regional Collaboration), which seeks to consolidate and scale regional platforms, strengthen linkages with industries and leadership development, and ensure that youth participation across borders leads to sustained regional collaboration and a shared sense of ASEAN identity.

ASEAN youth are among the groups most exposed to the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters, particularly in coastal, rural, and disaster-prone areas. Youth have played visible roles in climate advocacy, environmental protection, and community-based disaster response. However, youth action often remains fragmented or project-based, with limited integration into national and regional systems for climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and disaster risk reduction.

These realities directly shape Outcome Area 4 (Youth Climate Action, Biodiversity Conservation, and Disaster Resilience), which consolidates youth engagement into a more coherent, action-oriented framework aligned with ASEAN priorities on environment, agriculture, and disaster management.

Across ASEAN, youth participation is increasingly shaped by concerns related to mental health, exposure to violence and harmful behaviours, online risks, substance abuse, and social fragmentation. While youth are more vocal and engaged on social and political issues, meaningful participation is not always supported by adequate protection mechanisms, inclusive systems, and safe enabling environments. Mental health challenges, in particular, have emerged as a critical issue affecting youth well-being, productivity, and civic engagement.

This context underscores the importance of Outcome Area 5 (Youth Participation in Peacebuilding, Social Cohesion, Health and Well-Being), which strengthens youth participation while ensuring that engagement is inclusive, safe, health-promoting, and anchored in prevention, peacebuilding, and social cohesion.

Overall, the situation of youth in ASEAN is characterised by high potential alongside persistent and evolving challenges. Youth are central to ASEAN's demographic advantage, yet their ability to contribute meaningfully depends on the availability of opportunities, enabling systems, and protections that cut across economic, socio-cultural, environmental, and governance domains.

The *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2026–2030* responds to this context by adopting an integrated, results-based, and cross-sectoral approach, structured around five Outcome Areas that collectively advance the overarching impact of **“meaningful participation of youth through increased youth engagement in the economic, political, and socio-cultural environment”**.

By linking youth participation to tangible outcomes, such as decent work, entrepreneurship, leadership, regional collaboration, climate resilience, social cohesion, and well-being, the Work Plan provides a coherent framework for translating ASEAN's demographic potential into sustained regional value and long-term community resilience.



Photo: ASEAN Foundation

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IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE

The *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2026–2030* is structured around five interrelated Outcome Areas that collectively advance ASEAN’s long-term vision for youth development under the ASCC Strategic Plan and the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

Overall Impact: Meaningful participation of youth through increased youth engagement in the economic, political, and socio-cultural environment.

This overarching impact reflects ASEAN’s commitment to positioning youth not only as beneficiaries of regional cooperation but also as active agents of change who contribute to economic growth, social cohesion, political processes, and sustainable development at local, national, and regional levels.

The five Outcome Areas translate this Impact into concrete and measurable areas of action, aligned with the ASCC Strategic Measures, under which the SOMY is designated as Lead, Co-Lead, or Supporting Mechanism/Body. Together, they provide a coherent results framework that connects youth participation with tangible outcomes across the economic, socio-cultural, environmental, and governance dimensions of ASEAN cooperation.

The Outcome Areas are designed to be mutually reinforcing, reflecting the understanding that meaningful youth participation depends on enabling systems, opportunities, and protections operating together. The results logic and measurement framework underpinning these five Outcome Areas are further articulated in the Theory of Change (Annex 1) and the outcome-level Statements and Key Performance Indicators aligned with the ASCC Results Framework.



Outcome Area 1 focuses on **youth social entrepreneurship, innovation, and inclusive development**, strengthening youth engagement in the economic sphere through enterprise development, green growth, innovation ecosystems, and pathways that support youth-led solutions to emerging regional challenges.



Outcome Area 2 advances **youth skills development, employability, and access to decent work**, strengthening education-to-employment pathways, future-ready competencies, and digital inclusion to enable young people—particularly women and youth in vulnerable situations—to respond to emerging challenges and transitions in the labour market.



Outcome Area 3 promotes **youth leadership, exchanges, and regional collaboration**, strengthening mobility, people-to-people connectivity, cultural exchange, digital advancement, and ASEAN identity through sustained regional and cross-border platforms.



Outcome Area 4 strengthens **youth capacity, participation, and partnerships in biodiversity conservation, climate action, and disaster resilience**, aligning youth action with ASEAN's priorities in sustainability, environmental stewardship, and community resilience.



Outcome Area 5 reinforces **youth participation in peace, health, and well-being**, ensuring that youth engagement is inclusive, safe, health-promoting, and anchored in peacebuilding, social cohesion, prevention, and responsive support systems for healthy and inclusive development.

By linking youth participation to tangible outcomes, such as decent work, entrepreneurship, leadership, regional collaboration, climate resilience, social cohesion, and well-being, the Work Plan provides a coherent framework for translating ASEAN's demographic potential into sustained regional value and long-term community resilience.

The Theory of Change, set out in Annex 1, further illustrates how the five Outcome Areas are designed to work in a mutually reinforcing manner to contribute to the Work Plan's intended long-term impact by 2030, in support of the ASCC Strategic Plan and the broader aspirations of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. The contribution of each Outcome Area will be tracked through the mutually agreed ASCC Results Framework, including the relevant Strategic Measure Key Performance Indicators at the outcome level, as reflected in this Work Plan.

Across all five Outcome Areas, the Work Plan emphasises:

- Meaningful participation, moving beyond consultation toward sustained youth engagement and leadership;
- Systemic integration, embedding youth initiatives within sector-led policies, programmes, and institutions;
- Cross-sectoral collaboration, ensuring coherence with other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and national priorities; and
- Results-based implementation, aligned with the ASCC Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

Taken together, the five Outcome Areas operationalise ASEAN's vision of a people-centred, inclusive, and resilient Community, ensuring that youth participation contributes directly to economic opportunity, social cohesion, political engagement, and sustainable development across ASEAN. They provide the strategic structure through which SOMY can translate its roles under the ASCC Strategic Plan into coherent and results-oriented areas of implementation, while strengthening complementarities with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, Dialogue Partners, and other stakeholders.

To support implementation, the Work Plan is accompanied by a set of annexes that together provide the results logic, measurement framework, and operational detail for delivery. Annex 1 presents the Theory of Change, illustrating how the five Outcome Areas are intended to contribute, in a mutually reinforcing manner, to the Work Plan's long-term impact by 2030. The indicative outcome-level Key Performance Indicators, aligned with the mutually agreed ASCC Results Framework, are also provided for tracking the contribution of each Outcome Area over time. Annex 2 provides the Implementation Plan, which translates the Work Plan into activity-level detail by identifying the relevant programmes, specific activities, lead ASEAN Member States, potential partners, and indicative timelines for implementation.

The sections that follow elaborate on each Outcome Area in greater detail, outlining its strategic rationale, intended results, programme clusters, and strategic interventions within the broader results framework of the Work Plan. These are further operationalised through the Implementation Matrix (Annex 2), which provides activity-level detail under each of the corresponding strategic

interventions, including identified lead ASEAN Member States or agencies, indicative timelines, and potential partners to support coordinated and results-oriented implementation. The Implementation Plan is considered a living document that can be adjusted as necessary by the SOMY throughout its implementation.

The Implementation Matrix serves as a central operational instrument of the Work Plan, translating strategic priorities into actionable and time-bound activities. It provides a structured basis for tracking the implementation of programme clusters, monitoring progress at the output level, and ensuring alignment between planned interventions and intended results. By clearly identifying lead entities and partners, it strengthens accountability and facilitates coordination among ASEAN Member States, sectoral bodies, and stakeholders.

In addition, the Matrix supports results-based monitoring and evaluation by enabling systematic documentation of outputs, progress milestones, and implementation gaps. It informs periodic reporting to SOMY and the ASCC, supports evidence-based decision-making, and allows for timely adjustments to implementation strategies. As such, it functions not only as a planning tool but also as a dynamic mechanism for performance tracking, learning, and adaptive management throughout the implementation period.

OUTCOME AREA 1

YOUTH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INNOVATION AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT



ASCC Strategic Goal 3:

A Community that is able to optimise its demographic bonus to, among others, make ASEAN the epicentrum of growth and innovation through inclusive, comprehensive, and transformative education in a conducive learning environment to develop a highly skilled and competitive labour force, and the creation of decent work and high-quality jobs.



Objective 3.1.:

To sustain ASEAN as an epicentre of growth and innovation through inclusive, equitable, and transformative education to achieve a highly skilled and competitive labour force while taking into account the demographic trend in the region.



ASCC Strategic Anchor:

Strategic Measure 3.1.4.:

Promote socially responsible entrepreneurship by fostering creative and inclusive opportunities for youths, such as social entrepreneurship.



SOMY Role: Lead

Outcome Statement 1:

ASEAN youth are empowered to pursue inclusive and socially responsible entrepreneurship that drives innovation across communities through enhanced access to skills, finance, and enabling policy ecosystems.

Strategic Measure Key Performance Indicators:

1. Increase in the funds to support youth startups, including micro-grants or seed funding opportunities from the private and government sectors.
2. Increase in number of youth-led social enterprises.
3. Increase in ASEAN Member States implementing policies or programmes that facilitate youth access to entrepreneurial financing.

Programme	Strategic Interventions
1.1. Youth Entrepreneurship Development	1.1.1. Conduct of regional skills workshops on social enterprise, and inclusive entrepreneurship 1.1.2. Share best practices on youth social entrepreneurship, including business modelling, social and environmental impact measurement
1.2. Youth Innovation and Digital Development (Contributes to ACSP 3.3.3.)	1.2.1. Promote ASEAN Youth Innovation Labs as digital development initiatives 1.2.2. Provide structured mentoring, peer-learning, and sessions for youth innovation teams
1.3. Youth Enterprise Enablers	1.3.1. Design and operationalise a seed funding and mentorship mechanism for youth-led enterprises 1.3.2. Facilitate regional visibility of ASEAN youth enterprise

Outcome Area 1 is anchored on ASCC Strategic Measure 3.1.4 and positions ASEAN youth as drivers of socially responsible entrepreneurship, innovation, and inclusive development. Under this Outcome Area, youth are recognised not merely as beneficiaries of entrepreneurship programmes, but also as active economic actors, innovators, and solution providers who contribute to inclusive growth, the green transition, and community resilience across ASEAN.

Youth-led enterprises are uniquely positioned to respond to emerging regional challenges, such as climate change, digital transformation, and inequality, by combining innovation, social purpose, and local knowledge. In this context, Outcome Area 1 focuses on strengthening practical and accessible pathways that enable youth to translate their skills, ideas, and values into viable and sustainable enterprises, while contributing to broader ASEAN economic and development priorities.

Building on the gains of the *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021–2025*, this Outcome Area consolidates existing efforts into a more integrated, programmatic, and implementation-oriented framework. It prioritises strengthening core systems that support youth enterprise

development, namely entrepreneurship capacity development, innovation support platforms, skills-to-enterprise pathways, and access to enterprise enablers, while ensuring these are delivered in a structured, mutually reinforcing, and scalable manner.

This Outcome Area is further guided by ASEAN's broader commitments on entrepreneurship, micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) development, and human capital advancement, including lessons from the implementation of the [ASEAN Strategic Action Plan for SME Development \(SAP SMED\)](#), the [ASEAN Human Resources Development Roadmap](#), and regional initiatives promoting innovation, inclusive business, and sustainable enterprise development. These frameworks underscore the importance of strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystems, improving access to finance and markets, and enabling youth participation in value creation across ASEAN economies.

Under this Outcome Area, interventions are organised across three complementary programme clusters.

First, youth entrepreneurship development focuses on strengthening the capacity of youth and youth organisations to design, implement, and scale inclusive and socially responsible enterprises. This includes structured learning initiatives, regional knowledge exchange, and the sharing of ASEAN best practices on business modelling, impact measurement, and access to finance, with particular attention to women, persons with disabilities, rural youth, and youth in vulnerable situations.

Second, youth innovation and digital development aim to reinforce structured platforms that support youth-led innovation and technology-driven solutions. Through initiatives such as ASEAN Youth Innovation Labs and related mechanisms, youth are supported through mentoring, peer learning, and technical guidance to develop, refine, and scale innovative solutions to regional and community-level challenges, particularly in digital, green, and social innovation sectors.

Third, youth enterprise enablers focus on strengthening access to key resources required for enterprise development and sustainability. This includes operationalising mentorship and seed funding mechanisms, as well as enhancing regional visibility and market access for youth-led enterprises through ASEAN-level platforms, showcases, and collaborative networks that facilitate cross-border learning and scaling.

A defining feature of Outcome Area 1 is its emphasis on linking skills development to enterprise creation, positioning entrepreneurship as a viable pathway to economic participation. In this regard, SOMY will work closely with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and stakeholders to strengthen coherence between youth entrepreneurship initiatives and broader regional economic priorities.

Implementation will be supported through strengthened partnerships with Dialogue Partners and other External Partners, ASEAN Entities and Centres, UN and international organisations, the private sector, academia, and civil society, particularly in capacity-building, innovation

support, mentorship, and enterprise financing. These partnerships will expand access to expertise, resources, and opportunities, while reinforcing ASEAN cooperation and regional value creation. This includes collaboration with the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (ACCMSME), the ASEAN TVET Council (ATC), the Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED), and relevant economic sectoral bodies to align youth enterprise development with MSME growth, skills development, and innovation ecosystems.

To this end, where applicable, SOMY will strengthen collaboration with relevant partners and stakeholders through the following areas of cooperation:

- **Integrating entrepreneurship and innovation pathways into skills development systems**, including technical, vocational education and training (TVET), digital skills, and lifelong learning, in collaboration with sectoral bodies, industry, academia, and development partners.
- **Embedding entrepreneurship within education-to-employment pathways**, by strengthening linkages between skills development, work-based learning, and enterprise exposure, enabling youth to pursue entrepreneurship alongside wage employment.
- **Aligning enterprise-relevant competencies and standards**, including the development of skills frameworks and certification approaches that reflect the evolving needs of youth-led enterprises, start-ups, as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across emerging sectors.
- **Strengthening end-to-end pathways from skills to enterprise**, by connecting training systems with incubation, mentorship, and financing mechanisms to provide more coherent and scalable support for youth enterprise development.

Overall, the activities under this Outcome Area contribute to measurable ASCC outcomes by increasing youth participation in inclusive economic development, promoting innovation, and supporting the growth of socially responsible enterprises. In doing so, Outcome Area 1 reinforces ASEAN's commitment to inclusive growth, entrepreneurship, and innovation, while enabling youth to play a meaningful role in driving sustainable, innovation-led development across the region.

OUTCOME AREA 2

YOUTH SKILLS, EMPLOYABILITY AND ACCESS TO DECENT WORK



ASCC Strategic Goal 8:

A Community where youth can meaningfully contribute to the strengthening of a dynamic, innovative, resilient ASEAN Community, and in addressing contemporary and emerging challenges, advancing sustainable socio-economic development, and reinforcing ASEAN awareness, values and identity.



Objective 8.1.:

To achieve a resilient and integrative community where youth can meaningfully contribute and participate in promoting human security, social cohesion and strong family cohesion with due regard to increase people's resilience in addressing social and cross-sectoral trends and development in the region.



ASCC Strategic Anchor:

Strategic Measure 8.1.1.:

Strengthen the capacity and role of ASEAN youth in addressing contemporary and emerging challenges by providing more opportunities for ASEAN youth through various approaches and platforms, as well as increasing access to and availability of decent work in the job market for the youth.



SOMY Role: Lead

Outcome Statement 2:

ASEAN youth are equipped with future-ready skills and supported by inclusive education and labour systems that facilitate smooth school-to-work transitions and access to decent employment.

Strategic Measure Key Performance Indicators:

1. Increase in the percentage of youth in formal, decent employment.
2. Increase in the number of youth representatives formally included in regional policymaking bodies and in dialogues on key issues such as climate change and social development.

Programme	Strategic Interventions
2.1. Future-Ready Skills Development	2.1.1. Convene regional and subregional ASEAN youth skills forums on future-ready skills, including green jobs, digital economy, and creative and sustainability industries 2.1.2. Support youth participation in sector-specific skills programmes (digital economy, green economy, and creative industries) 2.1.3. Implement collaborative capacity-building initiatives for ASEAN youth and youth organisations on existing and emerging technologies
2.2. School-to-Work Transition	2.2.1. Sharing of school-to-work transition best practices implemented across ASEAN Member States 2.2.2. Map and documentation of school-to-work transition models across ASEAN Member States 2.2.3. Support internship, apprenticeship, and work-based learning opportunities

Programme	Strategic Interventions
	2.2.4. Implement cross-sectoral digital inclusion initiatives that improve education-to-employment pathways for women and youth through EdTech solutions, digital skills access, career readiness tools, and school-to-work transition support (Contributes to ACSP 3.3.4.)
2.3. Institutional and Cross-Sectoral Alignment for Skills and Employability	2.3.1. Strengthen collaboration with the ASEAN TVET Council (ATC) to advance youth skills and employability initiatives 2.3.2. Conduct ASEAN youth dialogues and forums on skills, employability, and decent work 2.3.3. Strengthen partnership with Dialogue Partners and the Private Sector to support youth employability initiatives

Outcome Area 2 contributes to ASCC Strategic Measure 8.1.1 and positions ASEAN youth as capable, agile, and future-ready contributors to the evolving labour markets in the region and broader socio-economic transformation. Under this Outcome Area, youth are recognised not only as job seekers, but also as active participants in navigating and responding to emerging economic opportunities, technological shifts, and workforce demands across ASEAN.

ASEAN economies are undergoing rapid transformation driven by digitalisation, innovation, and the green transition. While these shifts open new opportunities, they also underscore persistent gaps in skills relevance, transitions from education to employment, and access to quality and decent work, particularly for women and youth in vulnerable situations. In this context, Outcome Area 2 prioritises the development of coherent and inclusive pathways that link skills development, employability, and labour market participation, enabling youth to more effectively access and benefit from these opportunities.

Informed by the implementation of the *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021–2025*, this Outcome Area consolidates existing efforts into a more integrated, programmatic, and implementation-oriented approach. It emphasises strengthening key systems that underpin youth employability, namely future-ready skills formation, education-to-employment transition pathways, and institutional and partnership ecosystems, while ensuring these are delivered in a coordinated, mutually reinforcing, and scalable manner. In doing so, this Outcome Area contributes, where relevant, to the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP), particularly in advancing digital connectivity, skills mobility, and equitable access to opportunities across the region.

This Outcome Area is further guided by ASEAN's broader commitments on decent work, human capital development, and inclusive growth, including the ASEAN Human Resources Development Roadmap, the [ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection](#), and regional commitments to promote decent work, labour mobility, and inclusive employment. These frameworks underscore the importance of strengthening workforce readiness, improving access to quality employment, and ensuring that youth are equipped to contribute meaningfully to ASEAN's economic and social development.

Under this Outcome Area, interventions are organised across three complementary programme clusters.

First, future-ready skills development aims to equip ASEAN youth with competencies aligned with changing labour market demands and emerging industries. This includes regional and sub regional skills forums, participation in sector-focused programmes, and capacity-building initiatives in areas such as digital technologies, green skills, and innovation-driven sectors, implemented in partnership with industry, academia, and development partners. These efforts support regional priorities for workforce competitiveness and help strengthen ASEAN's human capital base.

Second, school-to-work transition pathways focus on enhancing structured linkages between education and employment. This includes the exchange and documentation of effective practices across ASEAN Member States, the expansion of internships, apprenticeships, and work-based learning arrangements, and initiatives that broaden access to employment pathways, particularly for women and youth in vulnerable situations. These actions contribute to improving labour market access, facilitating mobility, and strengthening the transition from learning to decent work.

Third, institutional alignment and partnerships for employability emphasise strengthening coordination with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and stakeholders to ensure coherence between youth skills initiatives and broader human capital development priorities. This includes aligning youth-focused interventions with regional frameworks such as the ASEAN Human Resources Development Roadmap, and strengthening collaboration with key ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, including the ASEAN Senior Labour Officials Meeting (SLOM), the ASEAN TVET Council (ATC), the Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED), and the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD). These partnerships support more integrated approaches to skills development, labour market access, and inclusive employment.

An important feature of Outcome Area 2 is its emphasis on enabling smoother transitions from learning to employment, ensuring that skills acquisition leads to tangible labour market outcomes. In this regard, SOMY will work closely with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and stakeholders to better align youth skills initiatives with labour market needs, strengthen employability pathways, and expand access to decent work opportunities.

Implementation will be supported through strengthened collaboration with Dialogue Partners and other External Partners, ASEAN Entities and Centres, UN and international organisations, the private sector, academia, and civil society, particularly in skills development, work-based learning, and employment facilitation. These partnerships will broaden access to expertise, resources, and opportunities, while reinforcing ASEAN cooperation and regional competitiveness.

To this end, SOMY will strengthen collaboration with relevant partners and stakeholders through the following areas of cooperation:

- **Aligning skills development systems with labour market requirements**, including by embedding future-ready, digital, and green competencies within education,

TVET, and lifelong learning systems, in collaboration with sectoral bodies, industry, academia, and development partners.

- **Enhancing education-to-employment transition ecosystems** by expanding and linking internships, apprenticeships, and work-based learning platforms with career readiness and employment support mechanisms.
- **Improving access to decent work opportunities**, including by strengthening youth awareness of labour market systems, expanding access to employment information, and supporting inclusive pathways for women and youth in vulnerable situations.
- **Strengthening partnerships for youth employability** by engaging public, private, and development stakeholders to widen opportunities for skills development, employment, and career advancement across priority and emerging sectors.

Overall, the activities under this Outcome Area contribute to measurable ASCC outcomes by enhancing youth employability, broadening access to decent work, and supporting inclusive and future-ready workforce development across ASEAN. In doing so, Outcome Area 2 reinforces ASEAN's commitment to inclusive growth, human capital development, and decent employment, while enabling youth to respond effectively to the opportunities and challenges of a rapidly evolving regional and global landscape.

OUTCOME AREA 3

YOUTH LEADERSHIP EXCHANGES, PARTICIPATION, AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION



ASCC Strategic Goal 8:

A Community where youth can meaningfully contribute to the strengthening of a dynamic, innovative, resilient ASEAN Community, and in addressing contemporary and emerging challenges, advancing sustainable socio-economic development, and reinforcing ASEAN awareness, values, and identity.



Objective 8.1.:

To achieve a resilient and integrative community where youth can meaningfully contribute and participate in promoting human security, social cohesion and strong family cohesion with due regard to increase people's resilience in addressing social and cross-sectoral trends and development in the region.



ASCC Strategic Anchor:

ASCC Strategic Measure 8.1.2.:

Promote the role and participation of ASEAN youth in regional and global industries, particularly creative industries and entrepreneurship, leadership programmes, respect for cultural diversity, sustainable socio-economic development, and digital advancements, including

through exchange, scholarship, youth dialogue, volunteerism, internship, and fellowship programmes, to foster greater regional collaboration among youth.



SOMY Role: Lead

Outcome Statement 3:

ASEAN youth are meaningfully engaged in exchanges that foster leadership development, active participation in decision-making, digital advancement, and regional collaboration.

Strategic Measure Key Performance Indicators:

1. Increase in the number of ASEAN Member States that integrate youth participation mechanisms into policies or strategies related to cultural exchange, digital advancement, or socio-economic development.
2. Increase in the number of formal ASEAN or sectoral mechanisms in which youth are represented or contribute to inputs on socio-cultural collaboration, and digital innovation.

Programme	Strategic Interventions
3.1. ASEAN Youth Exchanges, Fellowships and Mobility Pathways	3.1.1. Implement ASEAN youth exchanges, fellowships and other cultural/people-to-people exchange programmes with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and External Partners to strengthen youth regional engagement, intercultural understanding, and crossborder collaboration (Contributes to ACSP 6.1.6.) 3.1.2. Strengthen platforms and mechanisms for youth volunteerism across ASEAN
3.2. Regional Platforms for Collaboration, Dialogue, and Leadership	3.2.1. Strengthen established platforms for regional youth engagement 3.2.2. Translate dialogue outcomes into collaborative projects 3.2.3. Strengthen post-exchange and follow-up programme by supporting alumni networks and collaborative projects
3.3. Evidence for Decision-Making and Knowledge Management	3.3.1. Utilise and mainstream the ASEAN YDI as a reference tool for planning, monitoring, and refining youth engagement programmes

Outcome Area 3 is aligned with ASCC Strategic Measure 8.1.2 and positions ASEAN youth as active contributors to regional cooperation, leadership, and cross-border collaboration. Under this Outcome Area, youth are recognised not only as participants in exchanges and engagement platforms, but also as partners in shaping regional dialogue, advancing cooperation, and contributing to ASEAN Community-building.

ASEAN youth are increasingly mobile, digitally connected, and engaged across borders through exchanges, fellowships, volunteerism, and regional platforms. These initiatives

have demonstrated strong value in strengthening ASEAN identity, deepening intercultural understanding, and fostering people-to-people connectivity. However, participation has often remained episodic, with limited mechanisms to sustain engagement beyond initial programme cycles. In this context, Outcome Area 3 emphasises a more structured and sustained approach to youth engagement, enabling participation to translate into longer-term leadership, collaboration, and regional impact.

Building on the achievements of the *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021–2025*, this Outcome Area consolidates existing initiatives into a more integrated, programmatic, and systems-oriented framework. It focuses on strengthening the core mechanisms that support youth engagement, namely mobility and exchange pathways, regional dialogue and leadership platforms, and knowledge and follow-through systems, while enhancing continuity, scalability, and linkages with ASEAN processes. In doing so, this Outcome Area contributes, where relevant, to the [ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan \(ACSP\)](#), particularly in advancing people-to-people connectivity, digital engagement, and cross-border collaboration across the region.

This Outcome Area is further guided by ASEAN's broader commitments on youth participation, cultural exchange, and regional cooperation, including the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Youth Development, and regional initiatives that promote ASEAN identity, intercultural understanding, and inclusive participation. These frameworks underscore the importance of strengthening youth engagement as a driver of regional integration, social cohesion, and shared ASEAN identity.

Under this Outcome Area, interventions are organised across three complementary programme clusters.

First, ASEAN youth exchanges, fellowships, and mobility initiatives focus on expanding and strengthening opportunities for cross-border engagement. This includes exchanges, fellowships, volunteerism, and cultural and people-to-people programmes implemented in collaboration with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and external stakeholders. These initiatives aim to deepen regional awareness, promote intercultural exchange, and facilitate collaboration among youth, while supporting ASEAN priorities on connectivity and mobility.

Second, regional platforms for collaboration, dialogue, and leadership aim to reinforce and institutionalise mechanisms for meaningful youth participation in ASEAN processes. This includes strengthening established platforms such as ASEAN youth dialogues, forums, and leadership programmes, while enhancing pathways for continuity — including alumni re-engagement, post-programme follow-through, leadership development, and youth contributions to regional discussions and cooperative initiatives.

Third, evidence for decision-making and knowledge management focuses on strengthening systems that support sustained engagement, learning, and impact. This includes promoting the use of analytical tools, such as the ASEAN YDI, to inform planning, monitoring, and programme refinement.

Outcome Area 3 emphasises moving beyond one-off participation towards sustained engagement and meaningful contribution. In this regard, SOMY will work closely with relevant

ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and stakeholders to ensure that youth engagement platforms are aligned with broader regional priorities and sectoral processes. This includes collaboration with sectoral bodies such as the Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED), the Senior Officials Meeting Responsible for Information (SOMRI), and digital economy-related platforms, to ensure that youth participation contributes to cultural exchange, digital advancement, and socio-economic development.

Implementation will be supported through strengthened partnerships with Dialogue Partners and other External Partners, ASEAN Entities and Centres, UN and international organisations, the private sector, academia, and youth organisations, particularly in the delivery of exchange programmes, leadership initiatives, and collaborative platforms. These partnerships will expand access to opportunities, enhance programme quality, and reinforce ASEAN cooperation and regional integration.

To this end, SOMY will strengthen collaboration with relevant partners and stakeholders through the following areas of cooperation:

- **Expanding and diversifying youth mobility and exchange pathways**, including by strengthening partnerships with Dialogue Partners and external stakeholders to support cross-border engagement, cultural exchange, and regional collaboration.
- **Strengthening institutional platforms for youth participation** by enhancing ASEAN youth dialogues, leadership programmes, and regional forums, and ensuring structured follow-through and continuity of engagement.
- **Promoting sustained collaboration and leadership pathways**, by supporting alumni networks, joint initiatives, and youth-led regional projects that extend beyond initial programme participation.
- **Advancing knowledge management and evidence-informed approaches**, including the use of tools such as the ASEAN YDI, where relevant, to inform programme design, monitoring, and continuous improvement.

Through these partnerships, youth engagement becomes a cross-cutting enabler of ASEAN cooperation rather than a parallel track. Implemented through partnerships with Dialogue Partners, the private sector, cultural and educational institutions, and youth organisations, Outcome Area 3 expands opportunities for ASEAN youth to engage meaningfully across borders and sectors.

Collectively, the activities under this Outcome Area strengthen regional collaboration, cultural understanding, leadership development, and regional collaboration among youth, directly contributing to ASCC Strategic Measure 8.1.2.

Overall, the activities under this Outcome Area contribute to measurable ASCC outcomes by strengthening youth connectivity, leadership, and participation in regional cooperation. In doing so, Outcome Area 3 reinforces ASEAN's commitment to a more connected, inclusive, and people-centred Community, where youth play an active role in shaping the region's shared future and advancing regional integration.

OUTCOME AREA 4

YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, AND DISASTER RESILIENCE



ASCC Strategic Goal 8:

A Community where youth can meaningfully contribute to the strengthening of a dynamic, innovative, resilient ASEAN Community, and in addressing contemporary and emerging challenges, advancing sustainable socio-economic development, and reinforcing ASEAN awareness, values and identity.



Objective 8.1.:

To achieve a resilient and integrative community where youth can meaningfully contribute and participate in promoting human security, social cohesion and strong family cohesion with due regard to increase people's resilience in addressing social and cross-sectoral trends and development in the region.



ASCC Strategic Anchor:

Strategic Measure 8.1.3.:

Provide a platform for participation and further local and regional collaboration among the ASEAN youth, as well as between ASEAN youth and their peers from other regions, towards biodiversity conservation, climate change consciousness, and action and disaster risk reduction, and disaster management initiatives through education and capacity building.

Strategic Measure 8.1.4.:

Empower young people and communities at all levels in climate action and disaster resilience by engaging advocates and establishing partnerships at all levels through relevant and appropriate strategies consistent with ASEAN Member States' respective national interests.



SOMY Role: Lead

Outcome Statement 4:

ASEAN Youth demonstrate strengthened capabilities, participation, and partnerships to advance biodiversity conservation, climate action, and disaster risk reduction, that are aligned with national and regional priorities.

Strategic Measure Key Performance Indicators:

1. Increase in the percentage of ASEAN youth reporting increased environmental awareness.
2. Increase in the number of youth representatives formally included in national and regional policy-making bodies on climate and disaster risk management.
3. Increase in the number of formal mechanisms at ASEAN or national levels where youth are represented in decision-making related to climate action and disaster risk management.
4. Increase in the number of youth with skills and competencies related to climate action, biodiversity conservation, and disaster risk reduction.

Programme	Strategic Interventions
4.1. Youth Education and Capacity Building	4.1.1. Conduct regional youth education and training programmes on climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR), including webinars, workshops, and learning sessions
4.2. Youth Participation Platforms	4.2.1. Facilitate inter-regional youth exchanges and dialogues on climate and DRR, building on experiences from ASEAN-Dialogue Partner youth conferences and summits that addressed sustainability and resilience themes
4.3. Youth-Led Climate, Biodiversity, and/or DRR Actions	4.3.1. Implement and scale up youth-led projects and pilot initiatives in nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration activities, building on green economy and climate adaptation initiatives

Outcome Area 4 is anchored on ASCC Strategic Measures 8.1.3 and 8.1.4 and positions ASEAN youth as strategic partners in advancing climate action, biodiversity conservation, and disaster resilience. It strengthens youth capacity, participation, and partnerships in climate action, biodiversity conservation, and DRR, supporting ASEAN's broader priorities on environmental sustainability and community resilience. Under this Outcome Area, youth are engaged as advocates and strong contributors to resilience-building efforts across preparedness, response, recovery, and long-term adaptation at the community, national, and regional levels.

Across ASEAN, young people are increasingly mobilised in addressing climate change, environmental degradation, and disaster risks, particularly in vulnerable and high-risk contexts. While these efforts demonstrate strong initiative and innovation, they are often fragmented and not consistently embedded within institutional systems. In this context, Outcome Area 4 emphasises a more coordinated, action-oriented, and systems-based approach, enabling youth contributions to be sustained, scaled, and aligned with ASEAN's regional priorities and sectoral frameworks.

Drawing on the progress of the *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021–2025*, this Outcome Area consolidates existing efforts into a more coherent and implementation-focused framework. It prioritises strengthening enabling systems for youth engagement, namely capacity

development, participation mechanisms, and community-based action, while reinforcing alignment with ASEAN sectoral processes. Implementation will be undertaken in close coordination with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, particularly the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) and the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN).

In particular, this Outcome Area contributes to the implementation of the [ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response \(AADMER\)](#) by strengthening the role of youth in disaster risk reduction and resilience-building. Youth engagement will be advanced in areas such as community preparedness, risk awareness, early warning dissemination, and recovery support, positioning young people as key actors in supporting AADMER priorities at the national and regional levels.

This Outcome Area is further guided by ASEAN's broader environmental and climate commitments, including the ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability, the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change, and the ASEAN State of Climate Change Report, which collectively underscore the importance of inclusive, whole-of-society approaches to climate action and environmental stewardship. Within this context, youth are recognised as important stakeholders in advancing awareness, innovation, and community-based responses to environmental challenges.

Under this Outcome Area, interventions are organised across three complementary programme clusters.

First, youth education and capacity building on climate change and disaster risk reduction focuses on strengthening youth knowledge, skills, and awareness through structured learning initiatives. This includes regional education and training programmes, webinars, workshops, and learning sessions designed to build competencies in climate action, disaster preparedness, and resilience-building, delivered in coordination with ACDM, ASOEN, and relevant technical partners.

Second, youth participation platforms aim to strengthen sustained and meaningful engagement in climate and disaster-related processes. This includes facilitating inter-regional and regional exchanges and dialogues on climate change and disaster risk reduction, building on existing ASEAN and ASEAN–Dialogue Partner platforms. These mechanisms support knowledge-sharing, peer learning, and youth participation in regional discussions aligned with AADMER and environmental cooperation processes.

Third, youth-led climate, biodiversity, and disaster risk reduction actions focus on enabling youth to translate knowledge into practice through community-based initiatives. This includes implementing and scaling up youth-led projects and pilot initiatives in areas such as nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration, and climate adaptation, contributing to local resilience and environmental sustainability while supporting broader ASEAN priorities.

A key feature of Outcome Area 4 is its emphasis on translating awareness into action, ensuring that youth engagement leads to tangible contributions to resilience and sustainability outcomes.

In this regard, SOMY will work closely with ACDM, ASOEN, and other relevant stakeholders to integrate youth initiatives within existing ASEAN systems, including AADMER implementation and environmental cooperation frameworks.

Implementation will be supported through strengthened collaboration with ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, Dialogue Partners and other External Partners, ASEAN Entities and Centres, UN and international organisations, civil society organisations, and technical agencies. These partnerships will enhance technical depth, broaden participation, and reinforce coordinated regional responses to climate and disaster-related challenges.

To this end, SOMY will strengthen collaboration with relevant partners and stakeholders through the following areas of cooperation:

- **Enhancing youth capacities on climate action and disaster resilience**, through structured training, knowledge-sharing, and learning initiatives in collaboration with ACDM, ASOEN, and technical partners.
- **Facilitating platforms for youth engagement and regional dialogue** by supporting exchanges, consultations, and knowledge-sharing mechanisms linked to climate, environment, and disaster risk reduction, including those aligned with AADMER.
- **Supporting youth-led community-based initiatives**, including projects on nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration, and climate adaptation that contribute to resilience-building at local and regional levels.
- **Strengthening coordination and partnerships**, by aligning youth engagement with ASEAN frameworks and fostering collaboration with government, civil society, academia, humanitarian actors, and development partners.

Overall, the activities under this Outcome Area contribute to measurable ASCC outcomes by strengthening youth capacity, expanding participation, and enabling youth-led action in climate and disaster resilience. By promoting structured engagement, community-based initiatives, and cross-sectoral collaboration, Outcome Area 4 supports ASEAN's objective of building a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive Community, with youth as active partners in addressing environmental and disaster-related challenges.

By strengthening education and capacity-building pathways, participation platforms, community-based action, advocacy, and innovation, Outcome Area 4 empowers ASEAN youth as key partners in advancing climate resilience, environmental sustainability, food security, and disaster preparedness. In doing so, it directly contributes to ASCC Strategic Measures 8.1.3 and 8.1.4, reinforces the implementation of AADMER and relevant ASEAN regional frameworks and environment-sector strategies, and supports the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 by embedding youth engagement within long-term, cross-sectoral systems for resilience and sustainability.

OUTCOME AREA 5

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN PEACEBUILDING, SOCIAL COHESION, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



ASCC Strategic Anchor:

Strategic Measures 1.2.6.:

Enhance cooperation and dialogue to strengthen culture of tolerance and moderation, promote cultural pluralisms and responsible citizenship.

Strategic Measure 9.1.4.:

Promote a dynamic, sustainable and inclusive ecosystem of stakeholders to foster greater understanding, tolerance and a sense of regional agendas' value-centric ASEAN identity and communities through forging partnerships.

Strategic Measure 4.2.4.:

Enhance community awareness and social responsibility on the ill effects of dangerous and illegal drugs and other addictive and harmful substances through policy formulation, development and implementation of preventive programmes, adoption and utilisation of effective treatment, rehabilitation, reintegration and after-care programmes, research on substance abuse problems, and community engagement and advocacy programmes.



SOMY Role: Co-Lead and or Supporting Mechanism/Body

Outcome Statement 5:

Youth participation, protection, health, and well-being systems across ASEAN are strengthened and institutionalised, enabling young people to contribute meaningfully at all levels of decision-making, peace-building, and inclusive development, while promoting social cohesion and advancing prevention-oriented approaches to address violence, harmful behaviours, and youth vulnerabilities.

Strategic Measure Key Performance Indicators (Shared with other sectors):

1. Increase in the number of existing and implemented mental health policies, plans and programmes in ASEAN Member States (SM 4.2.4).
2. Increase in the percentage of youth who participate in the regional dialogue forums and policy-making consultations on greater understanding, tolerance, and a sense of regional agendas value-centric ASEAN identity and communities (SM 9.1.4).
3. Increase in the number of youth reporting improved greater understanding of diverse cultural perspectives and shared values after engaging in ASEAN initiatives (SM 1.2.6).
4. Increase in the number of ASEAN supported intercultural dialogue, forums, platforms and policies (SM 1.2.6).

Programme	Strategic Interventions
5.1. Youth Participation in Peacebuilding, Tolerance, and Social Cohesion	5.1.1. Strengthen and operationalise youth peace and tolerance initiatives, such as ASEAN Youth Interfaith Camp in coordination with ASEAN-IPR and social development bodies 5.1.2. Deepen and replicate youth-led community peace initiatives that complement sector-led peacebuilding and social cohesion programmes
5.2. Youth Mental Health, Public Health, and Prevention-Oriented Initiatives	5.2.1. Scale up youth mental health, psychosocial well-being, and resilience initiatives in alignment with SOMHD priorities 5.2.2. Strengthen youth participation in health education and prevention programmes addressing harmful behaviours, substance abuse, and stigma

Outcome Area 5 reinforces youth participation, protection, health, and well-being systems across ASEAN, ensuring that youth engagement is inclusive, safe, and supported by enabling environments that promote peacebuilding, social cohesion, and holistic well-being. Under this Outcome Area, youth are positioned as active contributors to peace, resilience, and inclusive development within their communities and across the region.

Across the region, ASEAN youth continue to demonstrate strong leadership and commitment in advancing social cohesion, promoting well-being, and contributing to inclusive development. Youth engagement in community, civic, and peer-led initiatives reflects a growing capacity to shape positive social outcomes. In this context, Outcome Area 5 builds on these strengths by further strengthening enabling systems that support meaningful participation, promote well-being, and ensure that youth engagement is sustained, inclusive, and impactful.

Building on the outcomes of the *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021–2025*, this Outcome Area consolidates and strengthens existing initiatives into a more focused and implementation-oriented framework. It prioritises enhancing institutional platforms for youth engagement, reinforcing youth contributions to peacebuilding and social cohesion, and expanding opportunities for youth participation in health and prevention-oriented initiatives. These efforts contribute to ASEAN's broader vision of inclusive, people-centred development and strengthened community resilience.

This Outcome Area is guided by ASEAN's current regional frameworks on social protection, peace, and health, including the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, which emphasises reducing vulnerability and enhancing access to essential services for at-risk groups, including youth, as well as the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, which recognises the right of all peoples to enjoy peace as a foundation for the realisation of broader human rights. This Outcome Area also aligns with regional efforts under the ASEAN health cooperation agenda, which promote well-being, resilience, and preventive approaches to health across Member States.

Under this Outcome Area, interventions are organised across two complementary programme clusters.

First, youth participation in peacebuilding, tolerance, and social cohesion focuses on institutionalising mechanisms that enable youth to engage meaningfully in promoting peace, mutual understanding, and inclusive societies. This includes strengthening ASEAN youth dialogue platforms, such as the ASEAN Youth Dialogue, Youth Interface with ASEAN Leaders, ASEAN Youth Day Meetings, and ASEAN Youth Awards, as standing mechanisms for engagement on peace and social cohesion. It also supports youth-led initiatives on peacebuilding and tolerance, such as interfaith dialogue and community-based activities, in coordination with relevant ASEAN bodies, including the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR). Through these efforts, youth are enabled not only to participate in dialogue, but also to contribute to and replicate peacebuilding initiatives at the community level.

Second, youth mental health, public health, and prevention-oriented initiatives advance youth engagement in promoting well-being, resilience, and healthy behaviours. This includes scaling up and institutionalising youth mental health and psychosocial support initiatives, in alignment with the priorities of the Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD), as well as strengthening youth participation in public health education and prevention programmes addressing harmful behaviours, substance abuse, and stigma. Youth-led peer outreach and advocacy initiatives are also supported to complement regional and national health promotion strategies, recognising the important role of young people in influencing behaviours and strengthening community-level prevention efforts.

Implementation of this Outcome Area will be anchored in both regional and national levels, ensuring that youth engagement mechanisms are responsive to country-specific contexts while aligned with ASEAN frameworks. Cross-sectoral collaboration will be critical, particularly with ASEAN bodies responsible for peacebuilding, social development, and health, to ensure coherence and maximise impact. This Outcome Area also strengthens youth participation in policy dialogue and decision-making processes related to peace, social cohesion, and health, contributing to more inclusive and responsive governance systems.

Moreover, the implementation of Outcome Area 5 is designed to be intentionally cross-sectoral, working in coordination with lead sectoral bodies identified in the ASCC Strategic Plan, including but not limited to:

- The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD), and the Senior Officials Meeting on Culture and Arts (SOMCA) on violence prevention, tolerance, moderation, social cohesion, and protection of women, children, and youth;
- SOMHD, in collaboration with health-related bodies, on mental health, psychosocial well-being, and prevention-oriented public health initiatives;
- The Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED) and related education bodies on inclusive participation, life skills, and youth-friendly enabling environments;

- UN and international organisations, relevant protection, social welfare, and rights-based mechanisms on safeguarding, inclusion, and protection of vulnerable groups.

Through this coordination, SOMY contributes youth-specific expertise, participation platforms, and peer-led approaches, while lead sectoral bodies ensure policy coherence, technical depth, and alignment with national and regional frameworks.

Under Outcome Area 5, youth are positioned not only as beneficiaries of protection and well-being services, but also as partners, peer leaders, and contributors to peacebuilding, inclusive development, and health-promoting and prevention-oriented initiatives. Youth participation strengthens early prevention, community resilience, social cohesion, and the effectiveness of sector-led interventions, particularly at the community level.

In collaboration with lead sectoral bodies, SOMY ensures that youth engagement contributes directly to the delivery of ASCC strategic measures on violence prevention, inclusion, health, and well-being, while reinforcing ASEAN Community Vision 2045 by embedding youth participation and protection within sustainable, cross-sectoral systems.

Overall, the activities under this Outcome Area contribute to measurable ASCC outcomes by strengthening youth participation, protection, and well-being systems, promoting peaceful and cohesive societies, and advancing prevention-oriented approaches to address key social and health challenges. By institutionalising youth engagement mechanisms and supporting youth-led initiatives, Outcome Area 5 reinforces ASEAN's commitment to a people-centred, inclusive, and resilient Community, where youth are empowered to contribute meaningfully to social development and collective well-being.



Photo: National Youth Commission Philippines

4

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The implementation of the *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2026–2030* will be anchored on ASEAN Member State leadership, with coordination through the SOMY and close collaboration with relevant ASCC sectoral bodies, Dialogue Partners, and other stakeholders. In line with ASEAN principles, implementation will be country-led, regionally coordinated, and partnership-supported, ensuring responsiveness to national priorities while advancing regional outcomes.

Role of ASEAN Member States

ASEAN Member States play a central role in implementing the Work Plan. Through their respective national youth authorities, line ministries, and national youth councils, the Member States will:

- Provide national leadership and ownership in implementing SOMY-aligned programmes and activities in accordance with national development priorities and contexts;
- Initiate, host, and co-lead regional and sub-regional activities under the Work Plan, including flagship programmes, thematic initiatives, and pilot projects;
- Integrate relevant elements of the Work Plan into national youth policies, strategies, and programmes, where appropriate;
- Nominate youth participants, experts, and focal points to regional initiatives and ensure follow-through at the national and community levels; and

- Share experiences, good practices, and lessons learned to support peer learning and continuous improvement across ASEAN.

Where applicable, ASEAN Member States may champion specific programme clusters or thematic areas, contributing to leadership continuity and visibility across the 2026–2030 period.

Role of SOMY

The SOMY will serve as the regional coordinating and facilitative mechanism for the Work Plan. SOMY will:

- Provide strategic guidance and oversight for implementation across the five Outcome Areas;
- Facilitate coordination among ASEAN Member States to ensure complementarity, avoid duplication, and promote coherence;
- Serve as the primary platform for sharing national experiences, innovations, and implementation challenges;
- Endorse and prioritise SOMY-supported programmes and activities to ensure alignment with the ASCC Strategic Measures and Results Framework; and
- Support the mobilisation of partnerships and resources in coordination with the ASEAN Secretariat.

Collaboration with ASCC Sectoral Bodies

Consistent with the ASCC Strategic Plan, implementation will be carried out through close coordination with lead and supporting ASCC sectoral bodies, particularly in areas where SOMY is designated as a Co-Lead or Supporting Mechanism/Body. Under this arrangement:

- Lead sectoral bodies retain policy direction and technical leadership within their mandates;
- ASEAN Member States, through their sectoral representatives, guide sector-specific implementation at national level; and
- SOMY ensures youth perspectives, participation platforms, and youth-led initiatives are integrated into sector-led programmes and work plans.

This reinforces cross-sectoral coherence while respecting established ASEAN institutional roles.

Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement

Implementation will be further supported through partnerships with:

- Dialogue Partners and other ASEAN External Partners, and UN and other international organisation, who may provide technical cooperation, funding, and opportunities for youth exchanges and innovation;
- ASEAN-affiliated entities, civil society organisations, academia, and the private sector; and
- Youth organisations and networks, which play a critical role in outreach, peer leadership, and community-based implementation.

All partnerships will be pursued in accordance with ASEAN guidelines and under the leadership and concurrence of ASEAN Member States and SOMY.



Photo: National Youth Council Singapore

5 MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

Monitoring and evaluation of the *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2026–2030* will be conducted in accordance with the ASCC Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBME) Framework, ensuring consistency with ASCC-wide planning, reporting, and accountability arrangements. M&E is designed to track contribution to ASCC outcomes, strengthen learning, and support adaptive implementation, rather than focus solely on activity-level reporting.

Alignment with the ASCC Results Framework

The Work Plan is structured around five Outcome Areas, each explicitly aligned with ASCC Strategic Measures where SOMY is designated as Lead, Co-Lead, or Supporting Mechanism/Body. Monitoring will therefore focus on:

- Progress toward Outcome Area statements, as articulated in the Work Plan;
- SOMY's contribution to the achievement of ASCC Strategic Measures, rather than attribution of sector-wide results; and
- The extent to which youth participation and youth-led initiatives are integrated into sector-led programmes and policies.

As part of the inception of Work Plan implementation of, the output and KPI framework will be further rationalised and tightened to ensure coherence with the Strategic Measure-level indicators and the overall Theory of Change underpinning the ASCC Strategic Plan. This will involve streamlining activity-level indicators, reducing duplication across programmes, and aligning SOMY output indicators more clearly with the results pathways that link youth engagement activities to sectoral outcomes and ASCC-wide development objectives.

This alignment enables SOMY reporting to feed directly into ASCC sectoral and consolidated ASCC reporting processes, in line with the ASCC RBME Framework, while ensuring that SOMY's monitoring system remains focused, comparable across programmes, and analytically useful for tracking youth contributions to ASCC priorities.

Results-Based Monitoring Approach

Consistent with ASCC guidance, M&E will adopt a results-based approach, combining quantitative and qualitative information to assess progress at outcome and contribution levels. Monitoring will consider:

- Implementation progress of programme clusters under each Outcome Area;
- Quality and effectiveness of youth participation, including inclusivity, reach, and follow-through;
- Cross-sectoral collaboration, particularly with lead ASCC sectoral bodies; and
- Emerging results and early signals of change, especially in areas such as skills-to-work pathways, youth enterprise development, climate action, mental health, social cohesion, and protection.

Activity-level information will be used primarily to explain how and why outcomes are being influenced, rather than as an end in itself.

Roles and Responsibilities in M&E

1. ASEAN Member States will play a key role in results-based monitoring by:

- Providing national-level inputs on SOMY-aligned activities, innovations, and lessons learned;
- Contributing qualitative evidence on how youth initiatives support national and regional priorities aligned with ASCC Strategic Measures; and
- Sharing good practices and implementation challenges through SOMY meetings and reporting mechanisms.

2. SOMY will:

- Provide national and regional inputs to assess progress against the Work Plan Outcome Areas;
- Facilitate discussion on results, gaps, and emerging issues during SOMY meetings;
- Ensure that youth-related contributions are clearly articulated in ASCC-aligned reporting formats; and
- Use monitoring findings to inform prioritisation, sequencing, and refinement of activities.

3. The ASEAN Secretariat will support SOMY by:

- Providing guidance on the application of the ASCC RBM Framework;
- Facilitating coherence between SOMY reporting and broader ASCC monitoring and reporting cycles; and
- Supporting the consolidation of youth-related contributions into ASCC-level progress reports.

Use of ASCC Indicators and Existing ASEAN Tools

The Work Plan does not introduce a parallel indicator system; instead, it aligns youth-related monitoring with existing ASCC and sectoral M&E mechanisms, consistent with ASCC guidance to minimise reporting burden and duplication. Where applicable, monitoring will draw on:

- ASCC indicators and performance measures linked to the relevant Strategic Measures;
- Sectoral monitoring systems maintained by lead ASCC sectoral bodies; and
- The YDI as a contextual and analytical reference for understanding broader youth development trends.

Learning, Knowledge Management, and Adaptive Implementation

In line with the ASCC RBME Framework, M&E will also serve a learning and adaptive management function. SOMY will:

- Document and synthesise good practices, innovations, and lessons learned across Outcome Areas;
- Facilitate peer learning among ASEAN Member States and youth stakeholders; and
- Use monitoring insights to adjust implementation approaches, strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration, and improve effectiveness over time.

Learning outputs may be shared through SOMY meetings, ASEAN youth platforms, and ASCC knowledge products, contributing to continuous improvement across the ASCC pillar.

Reviews and Reporting

Mid-term and end-term reviews of the Work Plan may be undertaken, subject to ASCC guidance, to assess relevance, coherence, effectiveness, and sustainability. These reviews will:

- Examine the Work Plan's contribution to ASCC Strategic Measures;
- Provide strategic inputs for SOMY, ASCC sectoral bodies, and the ASCC Council; and
- Inform the design of subsequent ASEAN youth cooperation frameworks.

Contribution to ASCC Results

Through alignment with the ASCC Results-Based M&E Framework, the *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2026–2030* strengthens evidence-based decision-making, reinforces accountability, and ensures that youth participation and youth-led initiatives contribute meaningfully to ASCC outcomes and ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Plan

To operationalise the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework of the *ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2026–2030*, SOMY will develop a dedicated M&E Implementation Plan that provides the technical and operational guidance for tracking progress, reporting results, and supporting evidence-based decision-making across all Outcome Areas.

The M&E Implementation Plan will translate the Work Plan’s results framework into practical tools, processes, and data-collection mechanisms to support systematic monitoring at both the output and outcome levels.

At the outcome level, the Plan will establish the data collection structure and reporting arrangements required to track progress against the mutually agreed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) aligned with the ASCC Results Framework. This includes defining data Page sources, roles and responsibilities of ASEAN Member States, and coordination mechanisms to ensure consistency, comparability, and quality of data across the region.

At the sectoral and Work Plan levels, the M&E Implementation Plan will include a structured process for the review, refinement, and finalisation of output-level KPIs associated with each programme and strategic interventions. This process will involve SOMY and ASEAN Member States in validating indicator definitions, ensuring measurability and relevance, clarifying baselines and targets where applicable, and aligning indicators with available data sources and reporting capacities. The finalised output-level KPIs will serve as the basis for monitoring implementation progress and will be supported by detailed indicator reference sheets, standardised reporting templates, and data collection tools to ensure consistency and comparability across Member States.

The Plan will further outline reporting cycles, validation processes, and feedback mechanisms to support regular review and adaptive management. It will promote the use of existing ASEAN platforms and coordination mechanisms to minimise duplication and ensure alignment with broader ASCC monitoring and reporting processes.

Through this approach, the M&E Implementation Plan will strengthen SOMY’s capacity to monitor implementation effectively, enhance accountability, and support continuous learning and improvement, while ensuring that youth-related contributions are systematically reflected in ASEAN-wide reporting under the ASCC Results Framework.

ANNEX 1.
ASEAN WORK PLAN ON YOUTH
2026–2030
THEORY OF CHANGE

IMPACT: Meaningful participation of youth through increased youth engagement in the economic, political, and socio-cultural environment				
Outcome Statement 1: ASEAN youth are empowered to pursue inclusive and socially responsible entrepreneurship that drives innovation across communities through enhanced access to skills, finance, and enabling policy ecosystems	Outcome Statement 2: ASEAN youth are equipped with future-ready skills and supported by inclusive education and labour systems that facilitate smooth school-to-work transitions and access to decent employment	Outcome Statement 3: ASEAN youth are meaningfully engaged in exchanges that foster leadership development, active participation in decision-making, digital advancement, and regional collaboration	Outcome Statement 4: ASEAN youth demonstrate strengthened capabilities, participation, and partnerships to advance biodiversity conservation, climate action, and disaster risk reduction, that are aligned with national and regional priorities	Outcome Statement 5: Youth participation, protection, health, and well-being systems across ASEAN are strengthened and institutionalised, enabling young people to contribute meaningfully at all levels of decision-making, peace-building, and inclusive development, while promoting social cohesion and advancing prevention-oriented approaches to address violence, harmful behaviours, and youth vulnerabilities
Programmes/ Interventions:	Programmes/ Interventions:	Programmes/ Interventions:	Programmes/ Interventions:	Programmes/ Interventions:
1.1. Youth Entrepreneurship Development Conduct of regional skills workshops on social enterprise, and inclusive entrepreneurship	2.1. Future-Ready Skills Development Convene regional and subregional ASEAN youth skills forums on future-ready skills, including green jobs, digital economy, and creative and sustainability industries	3.1. ASEAN Youth Exchanges, Fellowships and Mobility Implement ASEAN youth exchanges, fellowships, and other cultural/people-to-people exchange programmes with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and External	4.1. Youth Education and Capacity Building Conduct regional youth education and training programmes on climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR), including webinars, workshops, and learning sessions	5.1. Youth Participation in Peacebuilding, Tolerance, and Social Cohesion Strengthen and operationalise youth peace and tolerance initiatives, such as ASEAN Youth Interfaith Camp, in coordination with ASEAN-IP BXR and

Programmes/ Interventions:	Programmes/ Interventions:	Programmes/ Interventions:	Programmes/ Interventions:	Programmes/ Interventions:
- Share best practices on youth social entrepreneurship, including business modelling, social and environmental impact measurement 1.2. Youth Innovation and Digital Development (Contributes to ACSP 3.3.3.) - Promote ASEAN Youth Innovation Labs as digital development initiatives. - Provide structured mentoring, peer-learning, and sessions for youth innovation teams	- Support youth participation in sector-specific skills programmes digital economy, green economy, and creative industries - Implement collaborative capacity-building initiatives for ASEAN youth and youth organisations on existing and emerging technologies 2.2. School-to-Work Transition - Sharing of school-to-work transition best practices implemented across ASEAN Member States - Map and documentation of school-to-work transition models across ASEAN Member States. - Support internship, apprenticeship, and work-based learning opportunities	Partners to strengthen youth regional engagement, intercultural understanding, and cross-border collaboration (Contributes to ACSP 6.1.6.) - Strengthen platforms and mechanisms for youth volunteerism across ASEAN 3.2. Regional Platforms for Collaboration, Dialogue, and Leadership - Strengthen established platforms for regional youth engagement - Translate dialogue outcomes into collaborative projects - Strengthen post exchange and follow-up programme by supporting alumni networks and collaborative projects	4.2. Youth Participation Platforms - Facilitate inter-regional youth exchanges and dialogues on climate and DRR, building on experiences from ASEAN-Dialogue Partner youth conferences and summits that addressed sustainability and resilience themes 4.3. Youth-Led Climate, Biodiversity, and/or DRR Actions - Implement and scale up youth-led projects and pilot initiatives in nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration activities, building on green economy and climate adaptation initiatives	social development bodies - Deepen and replicate youth-led community peace initiatives that complement sector-led peacebuilding and social cohesion programmes 5.2. Youth Mental Health, Public Health, and Prevention-Oriented Initiatives - Scale up youth mental health, psychosocial well-being, and resilience initiatives in alignment with SOMHD priorities - Strengthen youth participation in health education and prevention programmes addressing harmful behaviours, substance abuse, and stigma

Programmes/ Interventions:	Programmes/ Interventions:	Programmes/ Interventions:	Programmes/ Interventions:	Programmes/ Interventions:
1.3. Youth Enterprise Enablers ■ Design and operationalise a seed funding and mentorship mechanism for youth-led enterprises ■ Facilitate regional visibility for ASEAN youth enterprise	■ Implement cross-sectoral digital inclusion initiatives that improve education-to-employment pathways for women and youth through edtech solutions, digital skills access, career readiness tools, and school-to-work transition support (Contributes to ACSP 3.3.4.) 2.3. Institutional and Cross-Sectoral Alignment for Skills and Employability ■ Strengthen collaboration with the ASEAN TVET Council (ATC) to advance youth skills and employability initiatives ■ Conduct ASEAN youth dialogues and forums on skills, employability, and decent work ■ Strengthen partnership with Dialogue Partners and Private Sector to support youth employability initiatives	3.3. Evidence for Decision-Making and Knowledge Management ■ Utilise and mainstream the ASEAN Youth Development Index (YDI) as a reference tool for planning, monitoring, and refining youth engagement programmes		

ANNEX 2.
ASEAN WORK PLAN ON YOUTH
2026–2030
IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN

OUTCOME AREA 1: YOUTH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INNOVATION AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
1.1. Youth Entrepreneurship Development	1.1.1. Conduct of regional skills workshops on social enterprise, green jobs, and inclusive entrepreneurship	Youth Reached through Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programmes - Number of youth participants trained or engaged in ASEAN-supported entrepreneurship, innovation, and digital development programmes Enterprise and Innovation Support Initiatives Delivered - Number of ASEAN-supported programmes, platforms, or initiatives implemented (e.g. workshops, innovation labs, competitions, mentoring sessions, exchanges)	1.1.1.1. Implement Youth Entrepreneurship Programme (national with possible expansion)	Philippines		
			1.1.1.2. Organise training of youth volunteers to implement community projects under Empowering Youths Across ASEAN	ASEAN Foundation	Private sector	2026–2030
			1.1.1.3. Convene Creative Youth Summit	Philippines		2027–2028
			1.1.1.4. Implement the ASEAN Supporting Our Artisans and Retailers (SOAR) Together including youth-led MSMEs	ASEAN Foundation		

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE	
1.2. ASEAN Youth Innovation and Digital Development (Contributes to ACSP 3.3.3)	1.2.1. Conduct ASEAN Youth Innovation Labs as platform for digital development initiatives	Youth Benefiting from Enterprise Support Mechanisms ■ Number of youth-led enterprises or youth beneficiaries supported through financing, mentorship, incubation, or visibility initiatives	1.2.1.1. Implement ASEAN Youth Innovation Labs	Cambodia		2028	
			1.2.1.2. Organise ASEAN Youth STEM Competition	Cambodia		2029	
			1.2.1.3. Develop a policy paper on education through life skills and digital skills development, including STEM opportunities for young adolescents	TBI	UNFPA		
	1.2.2. Provide structured mentoring, sector dialogue, peer-learning and sessions for youth innovation teams		1.2.2.1. Empowerment through youth leadership, digital skills, and engagement for older adolescents	TBI	UNFPA		
			1.2.2.2. Implement ASEAN AI Hackathon: Student-focused Event for students across ASEAN	TBI	Passage2ASEAN		

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
			1.2.2.3. Implement ASEAN Green Entrepreneurship Hackathon	TBI	Passage2ASEAN	
1.3. Youth Enterprise Enablers	1.3.1. Design and operationalise a seed funding and mentorship mechanism for youth-led enterprises		1.3.1.1. Support projects through Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund (for ground-up for social and environmental causes)	Singapore		2026–2030
			1.3.1.2. Implement Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Skills Project (national with possible expansion)	Timor-Leste		2026–2027
	1.3.2. Promote regional visibility of ASEAN youth enterprise		1.3.2.1. Organise ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Carnival	Philippines	ASEAN BAC	2026
			TOTAL: 13			

OUTCOME AREA 2: YOUTH SKILLS, EMPLOYABILITY AND ACCESS TO DECENT WORK

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
2.1. Future-Ready Skills Development	2.1.1. Convene regional and subregional ASEAN youth skills forums on future-ready skills including green jobs, digital economy, and creative and sustainability industries	Youth Reached through Skills and Employability Programmes ■ Number of youth participants engaged in ASEAN-supported skills development, employability, and school-to-work transition programmes (including forums, trainings, and capacity-building initiatives)	2.1.1.1. Conduct ASEAN skills forum and technical workshops	TBI		
			2.1.1.2. Implement ASEAN Youth Academy	Brunei Darussalam	ASEAN Foundation, Plus Three Countries	
			2.1.1.3. Conduct Regional Policy Dialogue with ATC (under SLOM – education, labour, and economics)	TBI		
			2.1.1.4. Implement the ASEAN Green Jobs Forum (SLOM, AYO)	ASEAN Member States	SLOM, Australia	
	2.1.2. Support youth participation in sector-specific skills programmes (digital economy, green economy, creative industries)		2.1.2.1. Implement AI Ready ASEAN youth training	ASEAN Foundation	Private sector	2026–2027

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
		Skills and Employability Initiatives Implemented Number of ASEAN-supported programmes and activities implemented to promote future-ready skills, school-to-work transition, and youth employability (e.g. skills forums, training programmes, policy dialogues, internships)	2.1.2.2. ASEAN LIVE Creators for Change Programme by empowering youth digital creators and cultural institutions to advance promotion and preservation of cultural heritage	ASEAN Foundation	Private sector	2026–2027
	2.1.3. Implement collaborative capacity-building initiatives for ASEAN youth and youth organisations on existing and emerging technologies		2.1.3.1. Implement Phase 2 of ASEAN Plus Three skills development projects in eco-tourism, agro-tourism	Lao PDR	Plus Three Countries	
2.2. School-to-Work Transition	2.2.1. Sharing of school-to-work transition best practices models implemented across ASEAN Member States		2.2.1.1. Organise the sharing of best practices for respective AMS officials to take back to their home country, to be dovetailed	Philippines	SLOM	

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
		Partnerships and Mechanisms Established for Youth Employability	with existing platforms such as SLOM or virtual good practice sharing sessions			
	2.2.2. Map and documentation of school-to-work transition models across ASEAN Member States	■ Number of partnerships, platforms, or mechanisms established or strengthened to support youth skills development and access to employment (e.g. collaboration with ATC, private sector, Dialogue Partners, internship frameworks)	2.2.2.1. Implement cross-sectoral digital inclusion initiatives that improve education-to-employment pathways for women and youth through edtech solutions, digital skills access, career readiness tools, and school-to-work transition support	ASEAN Member States		
	2.2.3. Support internship, apprenticeship, and work-based learning opportunities		2.2.3.1. Develop framework for regional internship	Philippines		
			2.2.3.2. Implement the ASEAN Swiss TVET Initiative: Work-Based Learning	TBI	IAI Task Force	

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
	2.2.4. Implement cross-sectoral digital inclusion initiatives that improve education-to-employment pathways through edtech solutions, digital skills access, career readiness tools, and school-to-work transition support (Contributes to ACSP 3.3.4.)		2.2.4.1. Implement ASEAN AI for Youth Empowerment and Development - empowerment of youth on AI-driven skills and career pathways through training on youth employment and job fair (ASEAN Ahead)	ASEAN Member States	ASEAN Foundation, Private sector	2026–2027
2.3. Institutional and Cross-Sectoral Alignment for Skills and Employability	2.3.1. Strengthen collaboration with the ASEAN TVET Council (ATC) to advance youth skills and employability initiatives		2.3.1.1. Explore regular/ institutionalise ASEAN Regional Dialogue on Young People's Skills, Employability, and Transition to Decent Work	SOMY Rotating Chair	SLOM, SOM-ED, ILO, UNICEF	
	2.3.2. Conduct ASEAN youth dialogues and forums on skills, employability, and decent work		2.3.2.1. Develop and pilot youth-focused skills and employability dialogues and forums aligned	ASEAN Member States		

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
			with the ASEAN HRD Roadmap			
	2.3.3. Strengthen partnership with Dialogue Partner and the private sector to support youth employability initiatives		2.3.3.1. Implement BizConnect, an innovative capacity-building initiative to strengthen collaboration between TVET institutions and the private sector across ASEAN (SCOPE HE)	ASEAN Member States	ATC, EU	
			TOTAL: 15			

OUTCOME AREA 3: YOUTH LEADERSHIP, PARTICIPATION, AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
3.1. ASEAN Youth Exchanges, Fellowships, and Mobility	3.1.1. Implement ASEAN youth exchanges, fellowships and other cultural/ people-to-people exchange programmes with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and External Partners to strengthen youth regional engagement, intercultural understanding, and cross-border collaboration. (Contributes to ACSP 6.1.6.)	Youth Participation in Regional Engagement Platforms ■ Number of youth participants engaged in ASEAN-supported exchanges, fellowships, volunteerism, and leadership programmes	3.1.1.1. Implement ASEAN Youth Fellowship (AYF)	Singapore		2026–2030
			3.1.1.2. 10 th Malaysian International Youth Exchange	Malaysia (Malaysia Youth Council (MBM))	CAYC	2027
			3.1.1.3. Implement new people-to-people and cultural exchange among youth between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners/Other External Partners	ASEAN Member States	Dialogue Partners and Other ASEAN External Partners	2026–2030
			3.1.1.4. Implement new thematic youth dialogues/ summits among ASEAN youths with Dialogue Partners and Other External Partners	ASEAN Member States	Dialogue Partners and Other ASEAN External Partners	2026–2030

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
		Regional Platforms and Engagement Activities Implemented Number of ASEAN-supported platforms and activities implemented to promote youth leadership, dialogue, and regional collaboration (e.g. exchanges, forums, conferences, dialogues)	3.1.1.5. Implement Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS)	ASEAN Member States, Japan		2026–2030
			3.1.1.6. Implement ongoing “The Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program” (SSEAYP)	ASEAN Member States, Japan		2026–2030
	3.1.2. Strengthen platforms and mechanisms for youth volunteerism across ASEAN		3.1.2.1. Implement volunteerism initiatives: - ASEAN Volunteer Project (Cambodia) - ASEAN Youth Volunteer (National Youth and Sports Department, JBSN)	ASEAN Member States		

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
3.2. Regional Platform for Collaboration, Dialogue, and Leadership	3.2.1. Strengthen established platforms for regional youth engagement	Youth Collaboration and Knowledge Outputs Generated ■ Number of collaborative initiatives, projects, or knowledge outputs generated through ASEAN youth platforms (e.g. joint projects, alumni initiatives, dialogue outputs, YDI-related outputs)	3.2.1.1. ASEAN Youth Dialogue and ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Youth Representatives	Rotation (ASEAN Chairship)		2026–2030
			3.2.1.2. Implement ASEAN Youth Awards	ASEAN Member States	SOMCA/SOMRI	
			3.2.1.3. Implement Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI)	ASEAN Member States	US	2026–2030
			3.2.1.4. Implement ASEAN Youth Leadership Conference 2030	Malaysia	Malaysia - National Youth and Sports Department JBSN, MBM	
			3.2.1.5. Conduct Let's Talk ASEAN Podcast	Malaysia	Malaysia Youth Council (MBM), International Youth Centre (IYC)	
			3.2.1.6. Implement Youth Beyond Borders (YBB)	Malaysia	Malaysia International Youth Council, IYC, MBM	
			3.2.1.7. Implement Youth Model ASEAN Conference (YMAC)	Singapore	Singapore Polytechnic	2026–2030

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
			3.2.1.8. Implement ASEAN Foundation Model ASEAN Meeting (AFMAM)	ASEAN Foundation	Dialogue Partners and Other External Partners	2026–2030
	3.2.2. Translating dialogue outcomes into collaborative projects		3.2.2.1. Support projects under the Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund	Singapore		2026–2030
	3.2.3. Strengthen post exchange and follow-up programme by supporting alumni networks, collaborative projects		3.2.3.1. AYF Impact Fund (SAYF)	Singapore		2026–2030
			3.2.3.2. Implement ASEAN Youth Fellowship Post Programme Alumni Engagement ■ Futures Thinking Workshop ■ AYF Alumni Commemorative event	Singapore		2026 2027
			3.2.3.3. Capability building for youth on content production	ASEAN Member States	SOMRI	

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
3.3. Evidence for Decision Making and Knowledge Management	3.3.1. Utilise and mainstream the ASEAN Youth Development Index (YDI) as a reference tool for planning, monitoring, and refining youth engagement programmes		3.3.1.1. Update and implement the ASEAN Youth Development Index (YDI) as a reference tool for planning, monitoring, and refining youth engagement programmes	ASEAN Member States	UNFPA	2027
			TOTAL: 20			

OUTCOME AREA 4: YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, AND DISASTER RESILIENCE

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
4.1. Youth Education and Capacity Building	4.1.1. Regional youth education and training programmes on climate change and DRR, including webinars, workshops and learning sessions	Youth Reached through Climate and DRR Capacity-Building Initiatives Number of youth participants engaged in ASEAN-supported climate action, biodiversity conservation, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) training, workshops, and learning programmes	4.1.1.1. Implement Phase 2 of the Sustainable eco-tourism and agro-tourism workshop (integrate climate adaptation)	Lao PDR	ASOEN, ACDM, Plus Three Countries	
			4.1.1.2. Implement ASEAN Youth Conference on Climate Change and Mental Health	Philippines		2028
			4.1.1.3. Implement ASEAN Youth in Climate Action and Resilience Summit	Philippines		2030
			4.1.1.4. Implement the 8 th Malaysian International Youth Exchange: Nurturing Green Minds Inspiring Future Leaders	Malaysia	CAYC, Malaysia Youth Council (MBM), ACDM and ASOEN	

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
		Climate and DRR Initiatives and Youth-Led Actions Implemented Number of ASEAN-supported programmes, platforms, and youth-led initiatives implemented on climate action, biodiversity conservation, and disaster resilience (e.g., trainings, forums, exchanges, summits, community-based projects)	4.1.1.5. The 9 th Malaysian International Youth Exchange: Prepare, Prevent, Protect: Disaster Awareness Saves Lives!	Malaysia	CAYC, Malaysia Youth Council (MBM), ACDM and ASOEN	
4.2. Youth Participation Platforms	4.2.1. Facilitate inter-regional and regional youth exchanges and dialogues on climate and DRR		4.2.1.1. Commemorative celebration of ASEAN Youth in Climate Action and Disaster Resilience – held every November 25	ASEAN Member States	Local government	2026–2030
	4.2.2. Inter-regional youth exchanges and dialogues on climate and DRR, building on experiences from ASEAN-Dialogue Partner youth conferences and summits that addressed sustainability and resilience themes		4.2.1.2. Youth exchanges programmes on resilience (IFRC)	Indonesia	IFRC, National RCRC	
			4.2.2.1. Implement ASEAN Youth Environmental Diplomacy Summit	TBI		
			4.2.2.2. Implement ASEAN Youth Sustainability Forum	TBI		

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
4.3. Youth-Led Climate, Biodiversity, and/or DRR Actions	4.3.1. Implement and scale up youth-led projects and pilot initiatives in nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration activities, building on green economy and climate adaptation initiatives	Partnerships Supporting Climate and DRR Engagement Number of partnerships or collaborations established or strengthened with ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, Dialogue Partners, and other stakeholders to support youth climate action and disaster resilience initiatives	4.2.2.3. ASEAN Plus Three Youth Camp (APTYC), themed "Creative City, Beautiful Life,"	ASEAN Member States	SCC-ASEAN COCI	
			4.2.2.4. Implement the Youth Biodiversity Programme	ASEAN Member States	ACB, Dialogue Partners	
			4.3.1.1. Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund-supported youth-led/youth organisations' projects involving (youth from at least 3 AMS)	Singapore		2026–2030
			4.3.1.2. ASEAN Youth Photo Competition (national, with possibility of expansion)	Cambodia		2028–2030
			4.3.1.3. ASEAN Volunteer Project	Cambodia		2028–2030
			4.3.1.4. Empowering ASEAN Youth through First Aid Capacity Building	TBI	ROK, IFRC	
			TOTAL: 15			

OUTCOME AREA 5: YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN PEACEBUILDING, SOCIAL COHESION, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
5.1. Youth Participation in Peacebuilding, Tolerance, and Social Cohesion	5.1.1. Strengthen and operationalise youth peace and tolerance initiatives (e.g. ASEAN Youth Interfaith Camp) in coordination with ASEAN-IP BXR and social development bodies	Youth Reached through Peacebuilding, Health, and Well-being Initiatives ■ Number of youth participants engaged in ASEAN-supported programmes on peacebuilding, social cohesion, mental health, public health, and prevention-oriented initiatives	5.1.1.1. Contribute to the implementation of Youth, Peace and Security (YPS)	Thailand	ASEAN IPR, Dialogue Partners, UN Agencies	
			5.1.1.2. Convene ASEAN Peace Research Conference	ASEAN Member States		
			5.1.1.3. Conduct Southeast Asian Youth Games (new proposal with SOMS)	Philippines – inaugural games	SOMS	
			5.1.1.4. Implement ASEAN Youth Interfaith Camp	Indonesia		
			5.1.1.5. Implement ASEAN-Japan Peace Ambassador Project (AJPAP) under the umbrella of the WA Project	ASEAN Member States, Japan		2026–2030

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
		Peacebuilding, Health, and Youth-Led Initiatives Implemented ■ Number of ASEAN-supported programmes, platforms, and youth-led initiatives implemented on peacebuilding, social cohesion, mental health, public health, and prevention (e.g. dialogues, campaigns, forums, community initiatives)	5.1.1.6. Convene ASEAN Youth Forum on Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion	Myanmar		2028–2029
			5.1.1.7. Implement ASEAN Youth Volunteer (National Youth and Sports Department, JBSN)	Malaysia		
	5.1.2. Deepen and replicate youth-led community peace initiatives that complement sector-led peacebuilding and social cohesion programmes		5.1.2.1. Implement pilot youth-focused initiatives on building social cohesion	ASEAN Member States	Alliance of Sport, IOC	
5.2. Youth Mental Health, Public Health, and Prevention-Oriented Initiatives	5.2.1. Scale up youth mental health, psychosocial well-being, and resilience initiatives in alignment with SOMHD priorities		5.2.1.1. Implement adolescent sexual and reproductive health, comprehensive sexuality education, life skills, and leadership	ASEAN Member States	UNFPA	

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC INTERVENTION	INDICATORS	ACTIVITIES	LEAD COUNTRY/ AGENCY	POTENTIAL PARTNER	TIMELINE
	5.2.2. Strengthen youth participation in health education and prevention programmes addressing harmful behaviours, substance abuse, and stigma		initiatives (policy and programmatic levels) (UNFPA)			
			5.2.2.1. Implement ASEAN Youth United for Road Safety 2026	Thailand		
			5.2.2.2. Develop and promote peer-to-peer mental health coaching programme	ASEAN Member States		
			5.2.2.3. Promote youth mental health hubs in schools	TBI		
			TOTAL: 12			



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