



SIMPLIFIED DONOR REPORT 2021

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AND
PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION IN THE
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS



Donor Report 2021

Project Title:	Empowering women for sustainable peace: preventing violence and promoting social cohesion in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
Project Duration:	Government of Republic of Korea – 01/01/2021 - 06/30/2023 Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development - 04/01/2021 - 06/30/2025 Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office - 12/08/2021 - 03/31/2022
Reporting Period:	1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021
Countries Covered:	ASEAN regional level implementation with selected country-level implementation in Indonesia, Viet Nam, Thailand, and the Philippines
Donors and Funds:	CAD 8.5 million funded by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Development (DFATD) of Canada USD 800,000 funded by the Government of Republic of Korea (ROK) GBP 33,000 funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of United Kingdom

Project Background

The Project **Empowering women for sustainable peace: preventing violence and promoting social cohesion in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** aims to support ASEAN in advancing the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, including preventing violence against women and promoting social cohesion in the region. More specifically, the Project will strengthen the capacities of ASEAN institutions and ASEAN Member States (AMS) on WPS. While the Project largely focuses on advancing normative frameworks, capacity building and exchange of knowledge and good practices, it also includes country-level implementation, where synergies between the regional and country-level interventions can be enhanced and leveraged. Simultaneously, the project also aims at strengthening the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) with a focus on women organizations and networks to facilitate their participation in decision-making processes and responses to implement the WPS agenda.

Key results during the Inception phase (January 2021 – October 2021)

- The project was **formally endorsed by ASEAN** and became an ASEAN Cooperation Project.
- The **Project Steering Committee** as the project governance and management structure was set-up to provide overall guidance and direction with Terms of Reference (TOR) agreed at cross-pillar consultations with ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), and relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies from Political Security Community Pillar.
- The **regional strategic priorities for the next five years and 2022 work plan** were identified through a series of consultations with ASEAN Member States and sectoral bodies including ACW, ACWC, ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR) and ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) to ensure the relevance of the project and build ownership.
- Consultation workshops were also held at national level **to identify country-level priorities** for the next five years and 2022 work plans. In total 826 (182 female and 644 male) were consulted in Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines and Viet Nam.
- A **robust and meaningful monitoring and reporting system** was established. The Project Monitoring Framework was reviewed and finalized, a baseline study was conducted,¹ monitoring tools were developed, and the reporting and monitoring roles and responsibilities were identified and clarified by team members.

Also, many groundworks have been done to engage and expand the buy-in and ownership among the key ASEAN stakeholders. UN Women has leveraged on its triple mandate as the convenor for WPS agenda to ensure coherent support to ASEAN in advancing the WPS agenda. This has been done in close collaboration with United Nations Departments of Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations (UN DPPA-DPO), and has been recognized by an increasing number of dialogue partners including Australia and Canada which allows UN Women to not only coordinate efforts around the development of regional policy framework on WPS but also to create a platform for cooperation to promote good practices and evidence on WPS.

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Regional level

The key needs and priorities of major stakeholders including ASEAN Member States and institutions were identified and partnerships were strengthened.

Through series of consultation with ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Sectoral bodies including ACW, ACWC, ACDM, ASEAN-IPR, Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) Working Group and AHA Centre, priority areas for capacity building were identified including: 1) women's political participation and leadership; 2) gender mainstreaming in peace and security including counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism, and women's participation in peace mediation and negotiations; 3) WPS and livelihoods and economic recovery; and 4) COVID-19 response and recovery. The project also identified existing limitations on capacity-building for ASEAN stakeholders regarding WPS especially in gaps to develop, implement and monitor WPS agenda in ASEAN which informed the project to focus on enhancing knowledge, skills and capacity to advance the WPS agenda among ASEAN stakeholders with particular focus on regional policies on WPS from 2022 onwards.

To promote exchange of knowledge, good practices, and evidence on WPS at the regional level, priority areas and modalities of exchange were identified which includes:

1. organization of meetings to promote cross-pillar and cross-sectoral collaboration across the three ASEAN community pillars to advance the WPS agenda and with specific focus on Regional Plan of Action (RPA) on WPS development
2. facilitation of cross-regional exchanges on development and implementation of National Action Plans (NAP) on WPS
3. provision of technical support to non-state actors such as CSOs on advocacy for RPA WPS
4. development of a dedicated website to provide a library of resources
5. communication with general public through online and offline communication channels and expansion of media networks in ASEAN on the WPS agenda
6. designing of a media literacy training for young leaders, media and key opinion leaders to facilitate positive social engagement on WPS.

In addition, technical assistance and capacity building support were provided and evidence-based research, facilitated exchange of best practices for development and implementation of WPS national frameworks were conducted. Such technical support and assistance to ASEAN was done together with USAID-funded PROSPECT project to implement key recommendations of the ASEAN Regional Study on WPS (March 2021) including development of the ASEAN RPA WPS.

In 2021, one of the key highlights was developing a concept note to guide the process of developing RPA WPS. Originally stemming from the WPS Advisory Group, an informal working group among ACW and ACWC representatives (from Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Viet Nam and Cambodia) for the ASESAN Regional Study on WPS, the TOR for the group was revised and expanded to engage with wider ASEAN sectoral bodies and institutions across three ASEAN community pillars to ensure cross-sectoral and inter-pillar collaboration.

UN Women supported Chair of the Working Group on Counter-Terrorism of the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crimes (SOMTC) to conduct evidence-based research to inform the implementation of the ASEAN Bali Workplan 2019-2025 titled, “Gender Analysis of Violent Extremism and the Impact of COVID-19 on Peace and Security in ASEAN” in partnership with the Monash University and the Working Group on Counter-Terrorism of the SOMTC to provide evidence and recommendations to enhance gender-responsive strategies for prevention of violent extremism in ASEAN and to understand the how misogyny and hostile beliefs fuel violent extremism in the Southeast Asian region.

The project team also developed a TOR to support ASEAN in establishing a knowledge hub and the recruitment process of hiring a web developer to develop and design the project website was completed in December 2021.

UN Women also developed a number communication materials such as press releases, human-interest stories, and social media posts to raise awareness of the WPS agenda and women’s roles in peace processes. UN Women also produced stories to advocate for women’s leadership and participation in peace negotiation, mediation, and peacekeeping. Some key highlights include the following:

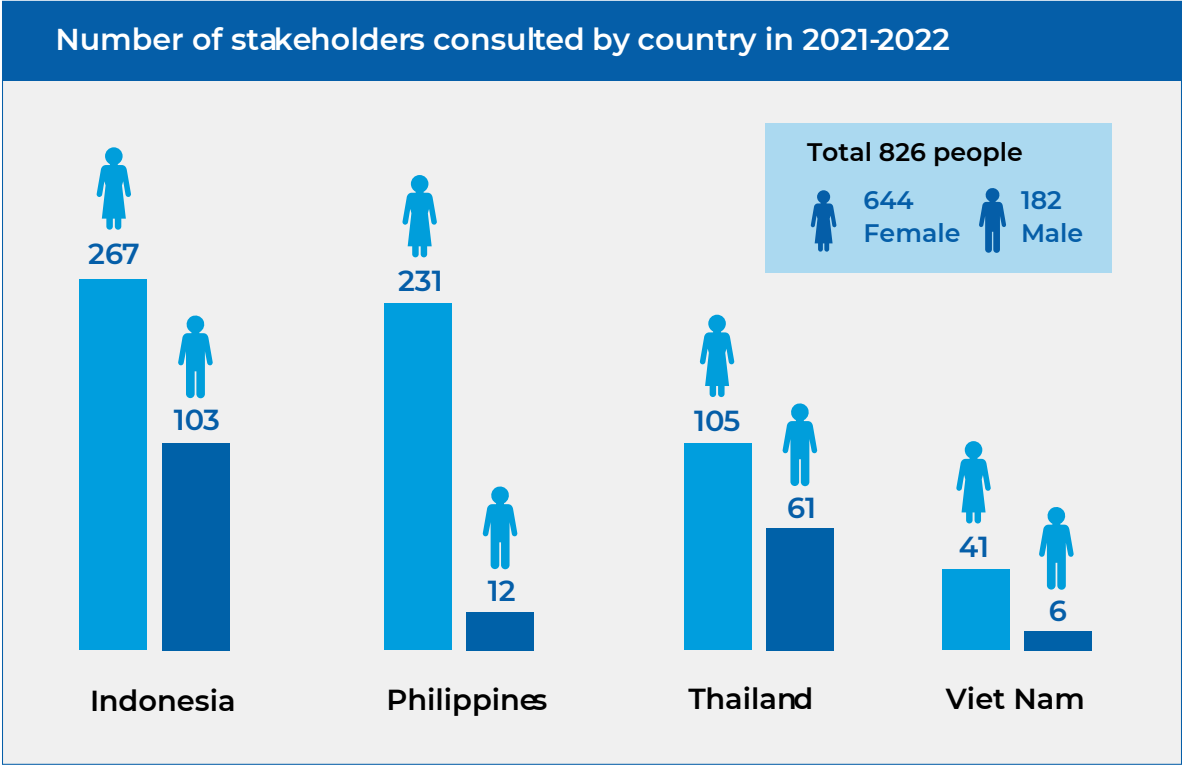
- In the words of Nurruniyar Mohammad: “Women’s leadership ... is beginning to be recognized.” ([Full story](#))
- In the words of Police Lieutenant Colonel Melbeth Mondaya: “Protection and education for girls is especially important because they are the key to women’s empowerment.” ([Full story](#))
- From where I stand: “As youth peacekeepers, we serve with new perspectives, enthusiasm and goodwill” ([Full story](#))
- Take Five: “The role of women in building international peace is increasing, but needs more of us to step up” ([Full story](#))

In addition, UN Women started producing and consolidating existing knowledge products including [project briefs](#), [project explainer](#), and contents on the topic of WPS in the ASEAN region to be uploaded to the knowledge hub.

National Level

At the national level, Key Informant Interviews (KII), Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and validation workshops were held. The participatory approach used during the inception phase resulted in stronger partnership and ownership of the Project by the ASEAN Member States, and ASEAN sectoral bodies. The participatory approach has also facilitated the process of strengthening partnerships with key relevant stakeholders and as such UN Women received requests for technical support from non-traditional partners such as the Ministry of Public Security of Viet Nam.

In total, 826 representatives from UN Agencies, CSOs, academia, local state actors, government agencies and security institutions and development partners in Viet Nam, Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand were consulted to identify the priorities for the next five years and develop detailed country-level 2022 workplans. A summary of the number of stakeholders consulted by country is detailed in the graph below.



These consultative processes were also leveraged as a platform to raise awareness on the WPS Agenda to accelerate the implementation of WPS at the national level. Some of the priorities identified by country are the following.

Indonesia



Summary of the priorities identified for the next five years

- Strengthen the accountability mechanisms of the recently developed National Action Plan (NAP) on Protection of Women and Children in Social Conflict.
- Support the implementation of the first pillar of the NAP on Preventing Violent Extremism and Counterterrorism' through the 'peace villages' initiative.
- Support the Government of Indonesia to mainstream gender into the security sector and peacekeeping missions.

UN Women strengthened partnership with both government and civil society partners in 2021. It provided technical assistance to AMAN CSO and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (MoWECP) towards advancing the WPS agenda at the national and sub-national levels. Specifically, UN Women supported the development of an [explainer video](#) on the second generation of the NAP-WPS. This explainer video will be launched in a dissemination event of the second generation of the NAP WPS which is scheduled in January 2022.

Thailand



Summary of the priorities identified for the next five years

- Provide support to the Government of Thailand to review/evaluate the implementation of the 'Measure and Guideline on Women, Peace and Security' and the development of a new WPS policy or NAP on WPS.
- Strengthen the capacity of the national and provincial government agencies (Coordination Center for Children and Women in Southern Border Provinces (CCCC-SBP)) on WPS .

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) demonstrated a stronger commitment to support the develop a NAP WPS. In this connection, MSDHS requested technical support from UN Women to assess the implementation of the Measure and Guideline on WPS which expired in 2021, as well as to assess the capacity of the Coordination Center for Children and Women in the Southern Border Provinces (CCCW-SBP).

Philippines



Summary of the priorities identified for the next five years

- Support the Government of the Philippines to develop a NAP WPS and strengthen accountability mechanisms including reporting and monitoring systems as well as localisation of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Regional Plan of Action (RAP) on WPS through the development of local action plans and application of gender and development (GAD) plan on WPS in Local Government Units (LGUs) and security sector.
- Strengthening the capacity of local women peace mediators and their network in Mindanao to enhance participation and representation in conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms at the BARMM regional and local/community levels.
- Support community resilience, livelihoods and income generation with a particular focus on women and youth to promote social cohesion and dialogue for conflict prevention and addressing the peace-humanitarian nexus.

UN Women started the preparatory work to support the develop the 4th generation of NAP WPS. As a result of UN Women's support to organize the leadership workshop jointly with the Bangsamoro Women Commission, the seventeen female members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) have increased their skills and knowledge on the WPS agenda, leadership and on discrimination and the gender dimensions of their lives as critical to their leadership. The activity led to the formulation of the 11-point agenda for MNLF Women which will serve as their developmental goals to advocate with the BARMM government in the upcoming years.

Viet Nam



Summary of the priorities identified for the next five years

- Provide support to the Government of Viet Nam in the development of a NAP on WPS. This will include the drafting and facilitation of consultations to ensure that the NAP is fully aligned with Viet Nam's national priorities with full ownership of key relevant stakeholders.
- Support the development of accountability mechanisms for NAP WPS.
- Raise awareness and advocate for the implementation of WPS agenda to ensure that the larger public and key stakeholders see the relevance and concrete value addition of the NAP.
- Enhance participation of women in the UN peacekeeping mission and raise awareness on gender equality in the pre-departure briefing.

- Provide technical support to the Government of Viet Nam to access the Elsie Initiative Fund, which UN Women is also the secretariat.
- Develop the capacity of the Ministry of Public Security on gender mainstreaming to promote gender-responsive policing.
- Support the revision of the Gender Equality Law and strengthen the capacities of legislators on CEDAW based legal review and legal drafting (Ministry of Justice).

113 CSO and Government representatives from Viet Nam and the region enhanced their knowledge and understanding of the importance of NAPs on WPS, existing NAP modalities, and the potential benefits of developing NAP in Viet Nam. UN Women supported the successful organization of the international workshop “Accelerating the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: The Role of National Action Plans” in December 2021, which brought 16 representatives and experts from Latin America, Africa, Europe, North America, and Southeast Asia to share their experiences covering a variety of topics, including the role of NAPs; and the common challenges for the development and implementation of a NAP in various country contexts. In addition, UN Women as the secretariat of the WPS focal point network invited a representative from the Government of Canada as the chair of the WPS focal point network to share information about the network.



Experiences and sharing from international experts will be valuable sources for Viet Nam to have a comprehensive picture on accelerating the implementation of the WPS Agenda. It will help pave the way for the possible development of a NAP, or a similarly effective and efficient WPS framework, for Viet Nam.”

- Mr. Do Hung Viet, the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs



Challenges and Opportunities

Opportunities to further engage ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) and ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) pillars were identified in the efforts to advance the WPS agenda in ASEAN. Despite originally driven by ACW and ACWC, the implementation of WPS agenda has become one of the regional priorities in ASEAN, which provides an increasing opportunity to promote inter-pillar engagement and ownership across all three ASEAN Community pillars. In this connection, UN Women provided technical support to ACW and ACWC to expand the membership and scope of the WPS Advisory Group to drive the process and ownership for RPA WPS in order to overcome the challenge to enhance institutional mechanism for cross-sectoral collaboration, during the reporting period.

Localization of the WPS agenda is also critical to ensure there is greater commitment to implement and translate normative commitments into action at country level. This includes creating synergies between regional and national efforts to advance the WPS agenda and efforts to promote buy-in and ownership among the government stakeholders, particularly in the security sector to increase the visibility of peace and security efforts in the region. UN Women supported the consultative processes at regional events and platforms in 2021 to raise awareness and promote ownership of WPS at the regional and national levels.

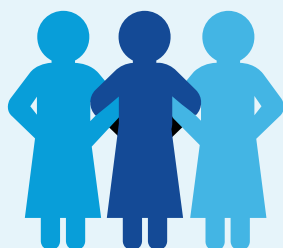
There is also a need to highlight the relevance of the WPS agenda beyond the traditional security lens to address existing and emerging non-traditional security challenges that ASEAN tends to prioritize, including pandemics, transnational crime, and climate-related disasters, among others.

Lessons learned

At the regional level



Building strong partnership and institutional capacity of the ACW and ACWC to lead and effectively engage other key relevant sectoral bodies across all three ASEAN community pillars is key to advancing the WPS agenda in ASEAN.



Long-term collaboration and continued strategic partnership with ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC), particularly the Poverty Eradication and Gender Division (PEGD), are essential to facilitate an intergovernmental process that is critical to a successful implementation of the Project. ASEC PEGD also played a key role in facilitating cross-sectoral collaboration within the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Pillars and Inter-Pillar collaboration. ASEC plays a key role in facilitating consensus-building mechanisms and provides important insights into political sensitivities and internal dynamics within ASEAN.

At the national level



Broad national ownership of NAPs across multiple sectors and stakeholders is critical for effective implementation to translate policy into action. Supporting Governments to establish and strengthen existing coordination mechanisms is key to localising the WPS agenda in targeted countries.



Evidence-based policy research combined with tactful advocacy strategy are key to promote targeted awareness-raising among key policy decision makers as well as the wider support of the public to promote gender equality and implementation of the WPS agenda. The absence of an armed conflict helps close the gaps between divergent opinions on a specific issue and helps ensure ownership ASEAN and AMS and a smooth development and implementation of national and regional WPS frameworks.

Next steps

- The second PSC meeting in February 2022 to present 2022 work plan based on consultations to ensure transparency, oversight, and consensus on the strategic direction of the project.
- Full implementation of the activities in 2022 following the endorsement of 2022 work plan informed by inception consultation during April – September 2021.
- Continued technical assistance to ASEAN to develop the first-ever RPA WPS.
- Engagement with CSOs with focus on women organizations to facilitate their participation in decision making processes and responses to implement the WPS agenda as well as collection of evidence-based research and data by CSOs to inform the RPA WPS development
- **In the Philippines**, continue supporting the government to develop NAP on WPS and strengthen accountability mechanism including reporting and monitoring system as well as localization of BARMM Regional Action Plan on WPS
- **In Indonesia**, technical support to MOWECP to strengthen capacity of NAP implementation structure especially on results-based monitoring and development of a monitoring and reporting mechanism of NAP WPS
- **In Viet Nam**, technical assistance to key government agencies for the development of WPS policy framework
- **In Thailand**, the implementation of the Measure and Guideline on Women, Peace and Security in Thailand will be reviewed and evaluated to inform the development of national policy framework and/or NAP on WPS in Thailand.

Key partnerships

- ACW (ASEAN Committee on Women)
- ACWC (ASEAN Commission on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children)
- ACDM (ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management)
- TW PGI (Technical Working Group on Protection, Gender and Inclusion)
- AHA Centre (ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance)
- ASEAN-IPR (ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation)
- USAID through USAID-funded PROSPECT project for RPA WPS
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia
- Government of the United Kingdom
- The Embassy of Switzerland in Indonesia
- European Union
- UN DPPA-DPO and UN agencies
- Regional networks of civil society organizations, such as Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Southeast Asian Women Peacebuilders Network (SEAWP)
- Academics such as Monash University among others

Human-interest Stories



In the words of Police Lieutenant Colonel Melbeth Mondaya
[Read full story here](#)



In the words of Nurruniyar Mohammad
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