REPORT
ON THE FOLLOW UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF MID-TERM REVIEW OF ASCC BLUEPRINT 2025

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REPORT

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The ASEAN Secretariat
Jakarta

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

ASEAN: A Community of Opportunities for All

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FOREWORD

This report provides insights on the concrete and immediate results following the recommendations of the *Mid-Term Review of ASCC Blueprint 2025* as of September 2021. It was submitted for notation by the ASEAN Leaders at the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits in October 2021 under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam.

In order to keep the momentum going and in considering emerging new challenges and opportunities towards the end-term of the ASCC Blueprint implementation, the report highlights actions implemented by ASCC Sectoral Bodies, as well as recommendations to sustain and align the remaining phase of the implementation.

I sincerely thank H.E. Kung Phoak, former Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, for his leadership in carrying out the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of ASCC Blueprint 2025 in 2020 and this follow-up report in 2021. I also appreciate the support of the ASCC Council, collective efforts of the Senor Officials Committee for the ASCC (SOCA), the ASCC Sectoral Bodies, and the ASEAN Secretariat Team in preparing this report.

As we approach the end-term of the Blueprint implementation and prepare for the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision, I hope that this report could be an important and useful source of information and advance our Blueprint's implementation to realise an inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic ASEAN Community that engages and benefits the people.

EKKAPHAB PHANTHAVONG
Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

FOREWORD

With the significant milestone of the completion of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025 in 2020, it reminded us on how far we have accomplished and be proud of; whilst paying attention to the gaps, challenges and lessons learned, at both national and regional levels.

The ASCC's determination is seen whereby the ASEAN Leaders, at the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits in October 2021, under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam, welcomed the Report on the Follow-up to the Recommendations of the MTR of ASCC Blueprint 2025. The encouragement for the ASCC Sectoral Bodies to keep the momentum of the past years going, highlights ASEAN's adaptive change to emerging new challenges and opportunities, including strengthening cross-pillar and cross-sector collaboration and engagement.

Nonetheless, this also means that we should not be complacent. The recommendations have already outlined the strategic and operational crucial steps that needed to be taken in addressing those identified gaps, so we are pleased that some follow-up actions have already been undertaken such as providing a series of Regional Workshops on the ASCC Database for Monitoring and Evaluation System (ADME). We also took note on the progress on the development of the ADME Framework. Thus, it is our hope that the ADME will further assist relevant stakeholders to have a centralized and standardized database that will also strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system, allowing an enriched and comprehensive data analysis, reporting and communication.

The electronic publication of the Report on the Follow-up Recommendations of the Mid-Term Review of ASCC Blueprint 2025, initiated by the ASEAN Secretariat, will indeed raise further awareness and remind us to set better targets of our work as the peoples' pillar, making sure that we are on track and moving forward. We are thankful of the ASEAN Secretariat's consolidated strategy and planning, in advancing our collective efforts pushing towards achieving the full realization of the ASCC Blueprint 2025.

H.E. HAJAH NOR ASHIKIN BINTI HAJI JOHARI
Permanent Secretary
(Community and Culture)
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
SOCA Leader of Brunei Darussalam
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REPORT
ON THE FOLLOW UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF MID-TERM REVIEW OF ASCC BLUEPRINT 2025

The Mid-Term Review of ASCC Blueprint 2025 (ASCC MTR) was completed in October 2020 and concluded that the pace of implementation has been satisfactory. The ASCC MTR also provided recommendations to sustain and align the remaining phase of the implementation.

This report provides insights on the concrete and immediate results of the recommendations of MTR as of September 2021. It highlights actions implemented by ASEAN Member State (AMS) or ASCC Sectoral Bodies (SBs). To keep the momentum going and in considering emerging new challenges and opportunities towards the end term of the ASCC Blueprint implementation (2021-2025), further recommended comprehensive steps have also been suggested.

The following pointers summarise status of follow up to the recommendations of MTR of ASCC Blueprint 2025:

1. **On recommendation to complete data related to KPIs with unavailable data in the MTR of ASCC Blueprint**. Work to develop the framework on ASCC Database Management System —— covering a list of statistical indicators included in three types of ASCC Databases —— have been initiated by AMD to ensure that all KPIs stipulated in the ASCC Results Framework can be measured with available data especially when it comes to End Term Review of the Blueprint (by 2025).

2. **On recommendations concerning efforts to achieve objective or to tackle substantive issues in each Characteristic of the Blueprint**. SBs, in their 2021-2025 Workplan, have indicated their plan to deal with new challenges in their sectors under related Characteristic of the Blueprint. For example, Social Protection issue under Characteristic B (Inclusive) has been addressed by several SBs indicating cross-sectoral efforts in addressing the issue.

3. **On recommendation to enhance ASCC Blueprint attribution**. Alignment of the Blueprint into AMS National Development Plan/Strategy has been key to enhance attribution. There are three different approaches of alignment: 1) full alignment; 2) partial alignment; and 3) implicit alignment.

In addition to alignment, mainstreaming and prioritisation are the two strategies to enhance ASCC Blueprint attribution. These approaches to alignment have been introduced during the formulation of SBs Workplan 2021-2025.

4. **On recommendation to increase effectiveness of ASCC Blueprint implementation**. In the Workplan of 2021-2025, SBs have emphasized their intention and determination to enhance the quality of their activities rather than only quantity of the outputs. Two strategies have been taken namely to exercise piloting of the project before running it in a larger scale, and to conduct close monitoring to ensure feedback can be given timely and accurately to increase effectiveness of the project.

5. **On recommendation to harness institutional mechanisms**. Cross-pillars coordination is at the heart of institutional mechanism to ensure that ASCC Blueprint implementation can optimally contribute to a concerted effort with other pillars in realising ASEAN Vision 2025. As of 8 June 2021, out of 42 identified cross-pillar/cross-cutting issues, 14 are under the lead of ASCC Sectoral Bodies. In addition to that, efforts to harness institutional mechanisms also reflected in ACRF (ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework) where much of substantive, strategic, and operational aspects of the Blueprint's end-term implementation is aligned with.

6. **On recommendation to improve means of implementation of the ASCC Blueprint.** One important issue on this front has been the need to increase ASEAN visibility to the wider public. Various publication platforms in addition to a traditional printed media have been introduced, including through social media. Another effort is for ASEAN Secretariat to provide an advisory role to SBs during their planning as well as implementation of their activities. On top of that, ASCC Research and Development Platforms are in the process of being established which aims to build a robust repository of information and research that can help ASCC to develop and implement holistic solutions amidst emerging trends and challenges.

7. **On recommendation on human and financial resources**. In developing the 2021-2025 Workplan, SBs in consultation with ASCC Divisions have been working to ensure that high priority agenda are identified in the workplans to ensure support by AMS. In addition to that, learning from new normal practice during pandemic, there are

many activities can be done via online mode which means outputs can be delivered with less financial resources. This includes capacity building activities for staffs of SBs in AMS.

The pointers above are taken from Table of Follow-up Status to the Recommendation of MTR ASCC Blueprint 2025 (annexed to this report). In conclusion, progress has been made following the recommendations of MTR. However, it is noted that this must be monitored regularly and will require AMS (national efforts) and ASCC Sectoral Bodies (regional efforts) to collect information related to each recommended point.

FOLLOW UP STATUS TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF MID-TERM REVIEW OF ASCC BLUEPRINT 2025

1. Strategic Recommendations and Their Follow Up Status

Strategic recommendations pertain to substantive aspects of the Blueprint and indicate emerging issues that must be addressed.

Table 1. Strategic Recommendations and Status of Implementation

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
Issue: Unavailable outcomes indicators (KPIs)		
• 19 KPIs are currently incomplete, covering three (3) categories, based on data collection sources. 1. Data should be recorded by ASEAN Sectoral Body (SB), compiled and managed by the ASCC Monitoring Division. KPIs could easily be collected if monitoring tools are improved, and SBs are committed to update them regularly. Example: KPI 3 (Increased number of ASEAN outcome documents, programmes and activities under the ASCC, developed or implemented with engagement of stakeholders).	• A proposal/concept note on ASCC Database for Monitoring and Evaluation (ADME) has been drafted in consultation with the ASEAN development partners. An Inception report and its latest development will be disseminated to SOCA and Sectoral Bodies in preparation for the upcoming Regional Workshop on 6 Oct 2021.	• To earmark 6 October 2021 for a Workshop on ASCC Database for Monitoring and Evaluation.

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
2. Data on the policies, whether formulated or enacted by individual AMS, under the common framework of ASEAN or other international organizations, e.g., the policies on Adaptive Social Protection (KPI 16) and Universal Health Coverage/UHC (KPI 6d). To keep this data updated, ASEAN, and especially ASCC, should provide a focal point in each AMS to monitor development of the data. While data might be updated by agencies in each AMS, this is not necessarily reflected immediately in the Statistical Office. Thus, a direct connection with the right focal point would ensure timely and accurate data updates.	• The aim of the ADME is to further improve the availability of a comprehensive, regular, timely and reliable database on socio-cultural indicators in AMS for a basis of regular M&E of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 and beyond, and for supporting the overall ADME will consist of 3 sub-databases: 1) Database A (covering the data collection of 32 KPIs with 46 sub-indicators for measuring the progress of outcome indicators of the Blueprint's 18 KRAs); 2) Database B (covering a comprehensive list of socio-cultural official statistical indicators produced and published by AMS NSOs and International Organisations); and 3) Database C (will be developed from administrative records managed by 15 SBs under ASCC in AMS into standard official statistics, to complement the existing ASCC Blueprint M&E System).	

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
3. Data on public perceptions, conditions, or awareness of issues in ASEAN that should be collected through research or surveys. For example, KPI 22, on ASEAN awareness, KPI 24, on ASEAN benefits, or KPI 19c, on digital natives, that might be collected or estimated through research.	• In addition, from August until December 2021, ASCC Monitoring Division has been and will be working to: 1) develop framework on ASCC Database Management System that cover a list of statistical indicators included in three types of ASCC Databases (as described above) with detailed metadata on data sources, data collection/compilation/ estimation methodology, definitions, coverage, and data frequency); 2) prepare a module/manual/ guideline on ASCC Data Management System; and 3) develop a mock-up or prototype of web-based database system of ASCC that enables users to store, access, and share information easily.	

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
Substantive issue in Characteristic A (Engages and Benefits the People)		
Based on available data from KPIs, it is recommended to enhance awareness and engagement with affiliated stakeholders of ASEAN as well as the general/wider public.	• Under the ASEAN Charter, Article 13: ASEAN National Secretariats, each ASEAN Member State shall establish an ASEAN National Secretariat which shall, amongst others, (e) promote ASEAN identity and awareness at the national level; and (f) contribute to ASEAN community building. Per norm, the ASEAN National Secretariat is the respective AMS' ASEAN Department in Foreign Affairs. In view of the limited resources and greater need to enhance awareness and engage all ASEAN stakeholders, it is proposed ASEAN Awareness to be a permanent agenda in the Coordinating Conference on the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (SOC-COM), which relevant representatives of APSC and AEC also attended, to facilitate coordination and improve synergy in this work.	• All SBs, as indicated in their Workplan 2021-2025, plan to continue and further enhance engagement with stakeholders. • Some SBs have extended their engagement with general/wider public, especially through virtual platforms, such as: 1) ACW[1] and ASEAN on Education[2] raise public enhancement through media. 2) AADMER bolstering the non-traditional partnership engagement through crowdfunding.[3] 3) SOMSWD ensures to communicate to the public through effective communication strategies as guided by the ASEAN Communication Master Plan II's (ACMP II).[4]

[1] ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Work Plan 2021-2025, ASEAN Secretariat, 2021, pg. 48-49
[2] ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021-2025, pg. 1
[3] AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025, ASEAN,2020, pg. 67
[4] Seniors Official Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) Work Plan 2021-2025, pg. 32

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
		• The websites of ASEAN Secretariat and some SBs, such as the Environment, have been reviewed and being upgraded to become a knowledge platform and venue for better engagement with the public.
Substantive Issue for Characteristic B (Inclusive)		
Based on data from four (4) KPIs, there are two (2) recommendations. First, a way must be found to decrease the prevalence of overweight children under 5. Second, a way must be found to increase the coverage, width, and depth of Social Protection (KPI 5a, 5b, and 7b), especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic.	• Continue to follow-up and implement the commitments as stated on the related outcome documents adopted/noted.	• In their Workplan of 2021-2025 SBs have incorporated activities related to the efforts in ensuring social protection, for instance: 1) SOMSWD has 3 activities related to social protection during emergencies, pandemic, and disaster Regional Initiatives number 21, 33, and 34).[5]

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[5] Seniors Official Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) Work Plan 2021-2025, pg. 36-38

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
		2) ACW promotes Gender-Responsive Social protection in ASEAN: Regional action for equality, sustainability and inclusive growth and develop guidelines on social protection for the elderly, especially older women with focus on financial security during old-age (with SOMSWD) (Programme number 20).[6]
		3) ALM incorporates detailed and focus Intermediate target on its work plan in Thematic Cluster 6. Social Protection.[7]

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[6] ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Work Plan 2021-2025, ASEAN Secretariat, 2021, pg. 69
[7] ASEAN Labour Ministers' (ALM) Work Programme 2021-2025 and Work Plans of the Subsidiary Bodies, ASEAN Secretariat, 2021, pg.4-6

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
		• In addition to that, much of substantive issues in Characteristic B have also been incorporated into the upcoming project namely ASCC Research and Development Platform, which aims to build a robust repository of information and research that can help ASCC to develop and implement holistic solutions against the emerging challenges.
Substantive Issue for Characteristic C (Sustainable)		
ASCC Blueprint 2025 implementation is on track. However, efforts should be made to formulate indicators and measuring methods that can demonstrate the quality of outcomes, in addition to the increasing number of projects.	• Identification of outcome indicators for measuring the progress of the Blueprint's Characteristic C "Sustainable" which are regionally comparable and agreeable by relevant SBs and other stakeholders has been incorporated into ongoing project of Development ASCC Monitoring Database and the upcoming ADME project.	• In the Workplan of 2021-2025, most indicators on SBs' workplan indicate quantitative measurement. Some SBs have initiated specific tasks on monitoring indicators such as culture and information, disaster management sectors, etc.

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
		• In the case that the project outcomes are qualitative in nature, some SBs have utilized some proxy indicators for instances: 1) AADMER to demonstrate the quality of outcome Climate Modelling and Forecasting Capacity Strengthened uses the "Improved knowledge and capacity on climate modeling and forecasting" as Indicator.[8] 2) ACCSM to demonstrate the quality of priority area of public sector reform utilizes indicator of "Satisfaction rate of reformed public services in each AMS (based on a third-party survey)".[9]

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[8] AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025, ASEAN,2020, pg. 95
[9] ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters ACCSM Work Plan 2021-2025 and Related Documents, ASEAN Secretariat, 2021, pg. 49

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
Substantive Issue for Characteristic D (Resilient)		
Efforts should be made consistent to ensure impactful intervention towards the end term of the Blueprint. Efforts should also be made to formulate indicators and measuring methods that can demonstrate the quality of outcomes, in addition to the number of projects.	• Identification of outcome indicators for measuring the progress of the Blueprint's Characteristic D "Resilient" which are regionally comparable and agreeable by relevant SBs and other stakeholders has been incorporated into ongoing project of Development ASCC Monitoring Database and the upcoming ADME project.	
Substantive Issue for Characteristic E (Dynamic)		
While progress has been made according to KPIs related to public outreach and research (processes), efforts should be strengthened to increase the Global Competitiveness Index (KPI 26a) and international recognition for ASEAN films (KPI 30), and to decrease NEET (KPI 31c).	• Continue to follow up and implement the commitments as stated on the related outcome documents adopted/noted.	• In the Workplan of 2021-2025, SBs already incorporate plan to perform activities which can contribute to the increased of Global Competitiveness Index and the decrease of NEET, such as: 1) ACW promotes to strengthen vocational training and shifting female workers from informal to formal work (in cooperation with SLOM).[10]

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[10] ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Work Plan 2021-2025, ASEAN Secretariat, 2021, pg.43

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
		2) ALM give priority to capacity-building to develop productive, competitive, skilled and adaptable workforce. This will enable the people of ASEAN to meet the changing job demands and challenges in the face of the integration of regional and global labor markets.[11] 3) ASEAN on Education enhance regional capacity in higher education as part of lifelong learning provision, including the harmonization of ASEAN higher education.[12]

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[11] ASEAN Labour Ministers' (ALM) Work Programme 2021-2025 and Work Plans of the Subsidiary Bodies, ASEAN Secretariat, 2021, pg. 54-56
[12] ASEAN Work Plan on Education 2021-2025, pg. 7

2. Operational Recommendations and Their Follow Up Status

Operational recommendations refer to how to improve implementation process towards end term of the Blueprint (2021-2025).

Table 2. Operational Recommendations and Status of Implementation

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
Issue 1: Harnessing Activity Attribution to the Blueprint		
• Tool 1 has been substantial in collecting information on implementation progress for SB workplans to check attribution of activities to the Blueprint. However, two (2) things must be done to improve such data collection and monitoring tools, as well as data collection and coordination. First, data entry must follow the golden rules of standardized and acceptable data management: data must be cleaned and entered in a uniform and standard format, and data must be readable by any standard application. Second, Tool 1 should be become a digital platform where SBs can record, report, and read data from other SBs. Hence, they would be able to collect information on who does what in order to implement Blueprint.	• To ensure sustainability and effectiveness, the lead Sectoral Body can be the AMS which is the champion on that issue upon agreement by all AMS. A good example is Culture of Prevention, with lead Sectoral Bodies on implementation. • Monitoring Database has been completed by adding information on 'Type of Activities', 'Frequency of Activity', 'Timeline of Activity', 'Explanation of Status' and 'Remarks'.	• During the development of SBs Workplan 2021-2025, ASCC Divisions conducted consultation with relevant Focal Point and stakeholders of AMS to ensure the Workplan contains high priority agendas.

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
• The main issue in mainstreaming the Blueprint is prioritisation. Coordination must be done so that AMS are willing and able to translate the Blueprint's regional priorities into national priorities. It must be emphasized, from the formulation phase, that whatever is in the Blueprint must be aligned with national priorities. • Blueprint implementation must be recognized by and aligned with each AMS national Master Plan (long-term or 10-year plans) or Midterm Plan (if every five years). This would result in consistent implementation, including identification of requisite financial and human resources, which would in turn create a foundation of common awareness of the goals of the ASEAN2025 Vision.	• Concerning Tool 1, the ongoing project of Development ASCC Monitoring Database and upcoming ADME project will develop the protocol of data collection, analysis, and reporting of the Tool 1, in addition to the abovementioned Database A, B, and C.	• Mid Term Review of the ASCC Blueprint at the national level (in each of 10 AMS) found that: 1) 3 AMS indicate that ASCC Blueprint align with their National Development Plan or Masterplan; 2) 2 AMS demonstrate that the ASCC Blueprint to some extent align with their NDP, in addition, substantially align with Sectoral Body Workplan or policies at national level; and 3) the rests show substantial alignment between the ASCC Blueprint with their national or local policies.

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
Issue 2: Increasing Activity Implementation Effectiveness		
• To yield impactful activities, quality rather than quantity should be emphasized. Only high-impact projects or initiatives with localised context that would benefit all AMS should be considered and, if implemented, be allocated sufficient resources. • Close monitoring and evaluation of initiatives should be done to ensure that challenges are identified and overcome, and that best practices are recognized, scaled up, or replicated, if necessary.		• In the Workplan of 2021-2025, SBs have emphasized their intention and determination to enhance the quality of their activities rather than only quantity of the outputs. There are many examples on this, for instance, SOMRDPE plan to conduct piloting of territorial rural development *programme*, ASEAN cross-learning through knowledge-sharing forums, etc.[13] • Concerning close monitoring and evaluation of the initiatives, most of SBs, in their Workplan 2021 2025, implement the structure monitoring and evaluation system, for instance: 1) AADMER utilize Key Performance Indicators in outcome level. In addition, the ACCSM's M&E process is implemented through a Web-based Online M&E System.[14]

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[13] ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication 2021-2025, pg.11
[14] AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025, ASEAN Secretariat, 2020, pg. 91, 94

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
		2) AADMER enforce the M&E process through working group.[15] 3) ACW workplan is monitored through close coordination with AMS focal point and periodical report. ACW utilized a detailed matrix for data collection and reporting for M&E purposes.[16]
Issue 3: Harnessing Institutional Mechanisms		
• Various sources indicated that Sectoral policies, programmes or activities often overlap or conflict. This is natural, as SBs tend to work and focus only on the Sector that falls under their purview. • Lessons learned from successful AMS on coordinating ASEAN's work should also be identified and adapted if possible.	• To align the SBs Workplan 2021-2025 with the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan. ACRF serves as the consolidated exit strategy from the COVID-19 crisis. It articulates ASEAN response through the different stages of recovery, by focusing on key sectors and segments of society that are most affected by the pandemic,	• Discussions on addressing the ASEAN cross-pillar issues commenced as early as August 2016, when the Joint Consultative Meeting (JCM) tasked the ASEAN Secretariat to identify cross-cutting issues arising from the three Community Pillars to facilitate cross-pillar discussion. Since then, several efforts have been made involving all ASEAN

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15 AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025, ASEAN Secretariat, 2020, pg.15
16 ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Work Plan 2021-2025, ASEAN Secretariat, 2021, pg. 58-64

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
• The leading Ministry of respective Pillars, if possible, could play an overarching role in monitoring and advising the work done on Strategic Measures and Key Results Areas. • Existing SOC-COM and JCM mechanisms to discuss cross-cutting issues should be retained and enhanced. If need be, the roles and functions of SOC-COM should be expanded to keep up with expected tasks to strengthen cross-Sectoral and cross-Pillar coordination. SOC-COM must be more interactive and directive, to promote engagements and participations between SBs, particularly on cross-Sectoral issues and cooperation. • Quarterly meetings with and regular communications or updates to AMS Sectoral Bodies are the key to drive coordination and monitoring of SB Work Plans to ensure that implementation is aligned with the Blueprint.	setting broad strategies and identifying measures for recovery in line with sectoral and regional priorities. This is in line with SBs Workplan 2021-2025 to consider Covid-19 as an external influencing factors in implementing the ASCC Blueprint 2025.	Community Pillars, including the identification of cross-cutting and cross-pillar issues with the corresponding lead or coordinator body/committee, developing a flowchart of coordination and reporting mechanism from the lead sectoral bodies/organs to the JCM, as well as further discussions on Promoting Cross-Pillar Coordination across ASEAN Community Pillars. • As of 8 June 2021, out of 42 identified issues, 14 are under the lead of ASCC Sectoral Bodies/ Committees as follows: 1) Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, led by ACDM 2) Climate Change, led by ASOEN 3) Good Governance, led by ACCSM

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
		4) Skilled Labour, Skills Development and Skill Recognition, led by SLOM and SOM-ED as co-leads
		5) Inclusive Employment, led by SLOM
		6) Social Protection, led by SOMSWD
		7) ASEAN Awareness and Identity, led by SOMRI
		8) Productive, Healthy, and Active Ageing, led by SOMSWD
		9) Anti-Corruption, led by ACCSM
		10) Culture of Prevention, led by WG-COP
		11) ASEAN Enabling Master Plan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disability, led by SOMSWD
		12) Gender Mainstreaming, led by ACW
		13) Marine Debris, led by ASOEN
		14) Creative Industry/Economy, led by SOMCA

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
Issue 4: Improving Implementation Means		
• ASEAN and relevant government agencies must rethink their approach to popularize and turning the Blueprint into commendable actions to the ASEAN community without creating new entities. • The role of the ASEAN Secretariat must be re-evaluated, with a view to giving it a significant advisory role to support Blueprint implementation. Specifically, ASEC departments and divisions can play an advisory role on relevant activities supporting Blueprint implementation.	• Efforts to enhance and widen online visibility of Blueprint implementation have been applied by using various modes. Examples: publication of Mid Term Review report through ASEC website, analysis or editorial report on various issues related to Blueprint implementation on ASEAN magazine, and social communication through various social media accounts. • AMD as well as other Divisions in ASCC have been hands on in aiding or advising SBs and focal points of AMS in developing their Workplan. For examples, AMD provides Technical Assistance to SBs in developing their M&E framework concerning Blueprint implementation.	

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
• Institutes or centers play a leading role in performing activities to attract financial grants and collaborative activities with interested regional and international organizations. However, this does not mean more centers must be created, unless a specific evaluation on existing mechanisms has been done and shows robust evidence that this would be effective.	• ASCC Research and Development Platform is on the process of being established which aims to build a robust repository of information and research that can help ASCC to develop and implement holistic solutions against the emerging challenges. Information in the repository are expected to be available according to different access groups. In addition to that, example of initiative on improving means of implementations has been introduced namely the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACHPEED).	
Issue 5: Financial and Human Resources		
• To minimize underfunding of ASCC programs or activities in favor of national priorities, programs and activities must be translated and integrated with AMS SB national long-term and short-term planning documents.	• During the development of SBs Workplan 2021-2025, ASCC Divisions conducted consultation with relevant Focal Point and stakeholders of AMS to ensure the Workplan contains high priority agendas.	• During the development of SBs Workplan 2021-2025, ASCC Divisions conducted consultation with relevant Focal Point and stakeholders of AMS to ensure the Workplan contains high priority agendas.

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
• AMS must establish a national ASCC Office or Secretariat and set up a strong system, including M&E. Such offices must be adequately equipped with resources, especially appropriate human resources, to ensure sustainability. • Learning from implementation during COVID-19, it is possible that many activities can be implemented through video conference and social media after the pandemic ends, such as virtual museum tours, online craft bazaars, webinars or online promotion and marketing. This would minimize activity costs. • On resources, ASEAN must encourage and seek contributions from multinational companies and the Private Sector through Corporate Social Responsibility activities. The development of ASEAN Aid is a good start.	• Online Training to increase knowledge and skills of representative of 15 Sectoral Bodies of ASCC concerning Monitoring and Evaluation has been conducted since February 2021. It has also been followed up by Technical Assistance where ASEC (AMD) provide hands on solution to SBs when they face problem in Data Collection and Analysis as well as Workplan Development, and M&E in general. • With regards to financial resources, two initiatives have been proposed or on going namely 1) recruitment of expert for the establishment of ASEAN Aid (on going) and 2) development of ASCC Partnership Conference which serves as a marketplace between ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and potential ASEAN Partners.	• Much of agendas in the SBs Workplan 2021-2025 adopt and implement a new normal modality such as the use of online platform.

Recommendations of the MTR	Recommended Further Steps	Relevant Actions Implemented by AMS/ASCC Sectoral Bodies
• On staff development, there should be multiple regular trainings on topics such as project management, professional development, communications, multimedia or graphic design, survey and research, and leadership, among other topics. • Capacity building programs should also be conducted related to improve/access public health, social welfare and technology transfer, promoting trade and investment and the greater use of E-government activities, greater application of IT, IT assisted technology and machinery equipment's in business, public communication, education, climate action and green economy. • Online platforms should be developed to boost human resource capacity via webinars or online training, which has become the new normal d uring the COVID-19 pandemic.		

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