

FINAL REPORT | OCTOBER 2020

# MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE ASEAN SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMUNITY BLUEPRINT 2025

## FINAL REPORT



one vision  
one identity  
one community

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

The ASEAN Secretariat is based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

For inquiries, contact:

The ASEAN Secretariat

Community Relations Division (CRD)

70A Jalan Sisingamangaraja

Jakarta 12110, Indonesia

Phone: (62 21) 724-3372, 726-2991

Fax: (62 21) 739-8234, 724-3504

E-mail: [public@asean.org](mailto:public@asean.org)

Catalogue-in-Publication Data

Mid-term Review of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 (Final Report)

Jakarta, ASEAN Secretariat, October 2021

360.0959

1. ASEAN – Socio–Cultural Community – Blueprint

2. Implementation – Research – Review

ISBN 978-623-6945-66-7 (EPUB)



ASEAN: A Community of Opportunities for All

The text of this publication may be freely quoted or reprinted, provided proper acknowledgement is given and a copy containing the reprinted material is sent to the Community Relations Division (CRD) of the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta.

General information on ASEAN appears online at the ASEAN Website: [www.asean.org](http://www.asean.org)

Copyright Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) 2021.

All rights reserved.



**Midterm Review of the ASEAN  
Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025**  
—— Final Report ——

The ASEAN Secretariat  
Jakarta

## **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

The Mid-Term Review of implementation of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025 (MTR) is mandated by the Blueprint's M&E system to take stock on implementation rate of activities, indicative outcomes of the implementation of activities, challenges and lessons learned for improvements at the national and regional level, for the Blueprint's end term (2021-2025). This report is a collaborative product of Regional MTR Team at ASEAN Secretariat and National MTR team at every ASEAN Member States under the guidance of Senior Official Committee of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (SOCA) under leadership of Vietnam SOCA Chair.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASCC Monitoring Division would like to thank the ASEAN Member States through their ASEAN Development Fund (ADF) and the Governments of Japan through their Japan ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) for the generous contributions to this project.

Report guidance: SOCA Members under the leadership of Vietnam SOCA Chair.

Report supervisors: Kung Phoak, Nguyen Ky Anh, and Rodora T. Babaran

Regional MTR Team: Ngoc Son Nguyen, Erlangga Agustino Landiyanto, Puguh Bodro Irawan, Niki Ayu Prawitya, and Astri Fajarwati.

Report authors: Diding Sakri, Puguh Bodro Irawan, and Niki Ayu Prawitya.

Special thanks to National MTR Teams in ASEAN Member States, ASCC Sectoral Bodies (ACCSM, ACDM, ACW, ACWC, ASOEN, COP-AATHP, SOMHD, SLOM, SOM-ED, SOMSWD, SOMY, SOMCA, SOMRDPE, SOMS, and SOMRI), Colleagues from the relevant Divisions of ASEAN Secretariat, and other stakeholders who have participated in this initiative.

# FOREWORD

ASEAN has remained on its course to deliver people-oriented and people-centred initiatives despite challenging times. Under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) pillar, our determination and urgency to act — more than ever— are motivated by our commitment towards steady integration, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress across Member States. Even during the ongoing and unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen encouraging progress in realizing the Community's planned work and priorities.

The Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of ASCC Blueprint 2025, or the MTR, is an important cornerstone and opportunity for us to chart the progress and milestones of the ASEAN journey to community building. As 2020 marks the first five years of the implementation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025, it is timely to see how far we have progressed, assess the challenges, and chart actions for the next 5 years to ensure that the Blueprint is on track to improve the lives and well-being of ASEAN peoples.

The MTR Report provides the interim findings on the impacts and contributions of ASCC Sectoral Bodies as they pursue their collective vision for an ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community that engages and benefits ASEAN's peoples, and which is inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic. Notwithstanding the progress we have achieved thus far, we also need to look at ways and means



to further improve the effectiveness in the implementation of sectoral activities and ASEAN Leaders' commitment and Declarations in relation to the ASCC Blueprint. A more robust monitoring and evaluation system is also important to facilitate corrective actions and decisions, and must therefore be integrated into the design of ASCC-related strategies, plans, programmes, and projects going forward.

I very much appreciate the guidance of the ASCC Community Council, collective efforts of the Senior Officials Committee for the ASCC (SOCA), ASCC Sectoral Bodies and the ASEAN Secretariat Team in preparing the MTR Report. As we adapt to a new normal circumstance and in preparation for a comprehensive post-COVID-19 recovery, I am confident that the Report will yield important insights and opportunities to advance the realisation of the ASCC Blueprint 2025.

## **KUNG PHOAK**

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

## FOREWORD

In 2020, Viet Nam was the Chair of ASEAN and the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of Viet Nam held the Chairmanship of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC).

As one of the three Pillars of the ASEAN Community with fifteen relevant Sectoral Bodies working towards a 'Cohesive and Responsive' ASEAN, ASCC has charted a meaningful course in ensuring that people remain the centre of its work and activities across ASEAN and in each Member State. ASCC has also actively cooperated with the other two pillars — the Political-Security Community and the Economic Community — in achieving peace, prosperity, and sustainability in ASEAN.

2020 is a pivotal year that marked the 5-year anniversary of the official establishment of the ASEAN Community and also the year of reviewing the mid-term implementation progress of the three Blueprints. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs of Viet Nam, the "Report of the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of ASCC Blueprint 2025", or the MTR Report, was finalized and submitted to the 37<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit for notation. As an outstanding outcome of ASCC in 2020, the MTR Report not only provides the findings and results of the implementation of ASCC Blueprint 2025 during 2016-2020, it also identifies achievements and challenges in terms of resources, mechanisms and capacities of the Community, thereby offering lessons learned and solutions to enhance the



effectiveness of regional cooperation activities in various related fields.

I am very grateful for the support, active participation, and contribution of ASEAN Member States, the Senior Officials Committee for the ASCC (SOCA), ASCC Sectoral Bodies, the ASEAN Secretariat and the Regional Consultant Team, in preparing, consulting and finalizing the MTR Report.

It is my belief that the MTR Report will be a valuable reference for not only the ASCC pillar but also for the ASEAN Community. The Report's conclusions and recommendations will contribute to the identification and mainstreaming of appropriate measures, allocation of financial and human resources to further implement the ASCC Blueprint 2025 and contribute to the achieving ASEAN Vision 2025.

**H.E. DAO NGOC DZUNG**

Minister of the Ministry of Labour,  
Invalids and Social Affairs  
Chair of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural  
Community 2020

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Foreword: Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Foreword: Minister of the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs .....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>List of Tables .....</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>List of Figures .....</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>List of Annexes.....</b>	<b>xii</b>
<b>List of Abbreviations.....</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>I. Introduction .....</b>	<b>19</b>
I.1. Background .....	19
I.2. Midterm Review Objective .....	20
<b>II. Methodology .....</b>	<b>22</b>
II.1. MTR Assessment Methodology.....	22
II.2. Data Collection Methodology .....	23
II.2.1 Current Blueprint M&E Data Collection Using Implementation-Focused Monitoring System.....	24
II.2.2 Results/Outcomes-Based Monitoring System .....	25
II.2.3 Other Qualitative Data Collection.....	26
<b>III. Blueprint Implementation Progress .....</b>	<b>28</b>
III.1. General Overview of ASCC's Activities Attributable to the Blueprint .....	29
III.1.1 Activities of ASCC Sectoral Work Plans and Their Intended Contribution to the Blueprint .....	29
III.1.2 Implementation Status of Activities .....	30

III.1.3	Type and Timeframe of Activities .....	31
III.1.4	Distribution of Sectoral Body Activities over Blueprint Characteristics .....	34
III.1.5	Overall Results Delivered by Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospects for Upcoming Activities .....	36
III.2.	Blueprint Implementation Progress for Characteristic A: Engages and Benefits the People .....	37
III.2.1	ASCC's Sectoral Workplans and Intended Contributions to Objectives under Characteristic A .....	37
III.2.2	Implementation Status of Sectoral Body Activities under Characteristic A .....	39
III.2.3	Sectoral Body Contributions to Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic A KRAs.....	40
III.2.4	Type and Timeframe of Activities to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic A KRAs.....	43
III.2.5	Means of Implementation, Institutional Mechanism, and Resource Mobilisation for Activities for Characteristic A .....	44
III.2.6	Results Delivered by Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospects for Upcoming Activities for Characteristic A .....	46
III.3.	Blueprint Implementation Progress for Characteristic B: Inclusive .....	48
III.3.1	ASCC's Sectoral Workplans and Intended Contribution to Characteristic B Objectives .....	48
III.3.2	Implementation Status of Sectoral Body Activities for Characteristic B .....	49
III.3.3	Sectoral Body Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic B KRAs.....	51
III.3.4	Type and Timeframe of Activities to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic B KRAs.....	54
III.3.5	Means of Implementation, Institutional Mechanism, and Resource Mobilisation for Activities under Characteristic B.....	55



III.3.6	Results Delivered by Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospect of Upcoming Activities under Characteristic B.....	55
III.4.	Blueprint Implementation Progress for Characteristic C: Sustainable .....	57
III.4.1	ASCC's Sectoral Workplans and Intended Contributions to Characteristic C Objectives .....	57
III.4.2	Implementation Status of Sectoral Body Activities under Characteristic C .....	58
III.4.3	Sectoral Body Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic C KRAs.....	60
III.4.4	Type and Timeframe of Activities to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic C KRAs .....	63
III.4.5	Means of Implementation, Institutional Mechanism, and Resources Mobilisation for Activities under Characteristic C.....	65
III.4.6	Results of Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospects for Upcoming Activities for Characteristic C .....	67
III.5.	Blueprint Implementation Progress for Characteristic D: Resilient .....	69
III.5.1	ASCC Sectoral Workplans and Intended Contributions to Characteristic D Objectives .....	69
III.5.2	Implementation Status of Sectoral Body Activities under Characteristic D .....	70
III.5.3	Sectoral Body Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic D KRAs.....	72
III.5.4	Type and Timeframe of Activities to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic D KRAs .....	75
III.5.5	Means of Implementation, Institutional Mechanism, and Resource Mobilisation for Activities under Characteristic D.....	77
III.5.6	Results of Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospects for Upcoming Activities for Characteristic D .....	78

III.6. Blueprint Implementation Progress for Characteristic E: Dynamic .....	80
III.6.1 ASCC Sectoral Workplans and Intended Contributions to Characteristic E Objectives.....	80
III.6.2 Implementation Status of Sectoral Body Activities for Characteristic E .....	81
III.6.3 Sectoral Body Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic E KRAs.....	82
III.6.4 Type and Timeframe of Activities to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic E KRAs.....	84
III.6.5 Means of Implementation, Institutional Mechanism, and Resource Mobilisation for Activities under Characteristic E.....	86
III.6.6 Results of Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospects for Upcoming Activities under Characteristic E.....	87
III.7. ASEAN Declarations During 2016-2020 and Follow-Up Status ...	89

#### **IV. Description and Status of Blueprint Objectives ..... 97**

IV.1. Characteristic A (Engages and Benefits the People): Objectives and Outcomes .....	98
IV.1.1 Characteristic A Objectives .....	98
IV.1.2 Current Status of Outcomes for Characteristic A .....	98
IV.2. Characteristic B (Inclusive): Objectives and Outcomes .....	105
IV.2.1 Characteristic B Objectives .....	105
IV.2.2 Current Status of Characteristic B Outcomes .....	105
IV.3. Characteristic C, 'Sustainable': Objectives and Outcomes .....	118
IV.3.1 Characteristic C Objectives .....	118
IV.3.2 Characteristic C: Current Status of Outcomes .....	118
IV.4. Characteristic D (Resilient): Objectives and Outcomes .....	122
IV.4.1 Characteristic D Objectives .....	122
IV.4.2 Characteristic D, Current Status of Outcomes .....	123
IV.5. Characteristic E (Dynamic): Objectives and Outcomes Status ...	136
IV.5.1 Characteristic E Objectives .....	136
IV.5.2 Characteristic E Current Status of Outcomes .....	136

<b>V. Blueprint Implementation Progress at the National Level. . . . .</b>	<b>149</b>
V.1. Major Observations and Findings from National MTR Reports. . .	149
V.1.1 Overall Progress of Blueprint Implementation . . . . .	149
V.1.2 Progress for Characteristic A 'Engages and Benefits the People' . . . . .	151
V.1.3 Progress in Characteristic B 'Inclusive' . . . . .	152
V.1.4 Progress in Characteristic C 'Sustainable' . . . . .	154
V.1.5 Progress in Characteristic D 'Resilient' . . . . .	155
V.1.6 Progress in Characteristic E 'Dynamic' . . . . .	155
V.2. Recommendations from National MTR Reports . . . . .	157
<b>VI. Conclusions MTR Main Findings and Recommendations. . . . .</b>	<b>159</b>
VI.1. Main Findings . . . . .	159
VI.1.1 General Overview of Implementation, Results, and Latest Status of Outcomes. . . . .	159
VI.1.2 Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic A: Engages and Benefits the People. . . . .	162
VI.1.3 Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic B: Inclusive. . . . .	165
VI.1.4 Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic C: Sustainable. . . . .	167
VI.1.5 Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic D. . . . .	169
VI.1.6 Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic E . . . . .	171
VI.1.7 Assessment Findings on Means of Implementation, Institutional Mechanisms and Financing . . . . .	174
VI.2. Progress of the Implementation of the Blueprint at the National Level . . . . .	175
VI.2.1 Attributions of the ASCC Blueprint's Activities. . . . .	176
VI.2.2 Implementation Status of the Blueprint's Activities . . . . .	176
VI.2.3 Institutional Mechanisms at Sectoral Level and Cross-cutting Issues . . . . .	176
VI.2.4 Means of Implementation . . . . .	177
VI.2.5 Resources. . . . .	177

VI.3. Recommendations .....	177
VI.3.1 Recommendations on Outcome Indicators .....	177
VI.3.2 Recommendations to Harness Attribution of Activities to the Blueprint.....	178
VI.3.3 Recommendations to Increase Effectiveness of the Implementation of Activities .....	179
VI.3.4 Recommendations to Harness Institutional Mechanisms .....	180
VI.3.5 Recommendations to Improve Means of Implementation .....	181
VI.3.6 Recommendations Concerning Financial and Human Resources to Implement the Blueprint .....	181
VI.3.7 Recommendations Specifically Arising from National MTR .....	182
VI.4. Conclusion .....	184
References.....	185

# LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1	Recurring Activities of SOMRI, SOMCA, and SOMS. . . . .	51
Table 3.2.	List of ASEAN Declarations with Corresponding National-Level Laws, Policies, or Programmes. . . . .	90
Table 4.1	Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) for Characteristic A. . . . .	101
Table 4.2	Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) under Characteristic B . . . . .	109
Table 4.3	Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) under Characteristic C . . . . .	120
Table 4.4	Status of Characteristic D Outcome Indicators (KPI). . . . .	124
Table 4.5	National Core Capacities in Line with International Health Regulations (IHR) Framework, in Response to All Health-Related Hazards. . . . .	130
Table 4.6	Level of Capacity of AMS Stakeholders to Implement National Adaptation Action Plans for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) aligned with the UNFCCC. . . . .	134
Table 4.7	Status of Characteristic E Outcome Indicators (KPI) . . . . .	138

# LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1.	Operationalisation of the Midterm Review (MTR) Assessment Tools in the Logic Model of the Blueprint M&E Framework for the MTR. . . . .	23
Figure 3.1	Number and Distribution of Activities in Sectoral Workplans Intended to Achieve Blueprint Objectives . . . .	30
Figure 3.2	Number and Distribution of Activities by Implementation Status as of May 2020 . . . . .	31
Figure 3.3	Activity Timeframe across Sectoral Bodies. . . . .	32
Figure 3.4	Type and Timeframe of Activities . . . . .	33
Figure 3.5	Share of Completed and Ongoing Status for Recurring Activities . . . . .	34
Figure 3.6	Sectoral Body Activities and Intended Contributions to Blueprint Characteristics. . . . .	35
Figure 3.7	Number and Distribution of Activities in Sectoral Workplans to Achieve Characteristic A Objectives . . . . .	38
Figure 3.8	Current Status of Sectoral Workplans for Characteristic A . . .	39
Figure 3.9	Sectoral Body Contributions to Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic A KRAs. . . . .	40
Figure 3.10	Activities Implemented to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic A KRAs . . . . .	43
Figure 3.11	Timeframe and Type of Activities under Characteristic A . . .	44
Figure 3.12	Distribution and Type of Upcoming Activities under Characteristic A . . . . .	47
Figure 3.13	Activity Number and Distribution in Sectoral Workplans to Achieve Characteristic B Objectives . . . . .	49
Figure 3.14	Current Status of Characteristic B Sectoral Workplans . . . .	50
Figure 3.15	Sectoral Body Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic B KRAs. . . . .	52
Figure 3.16	Activities Implemented to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic B KRAs . . . . .	54
Figure 3.17	Timeframe and Type of Activities under Characteristic B . . .	55

Figure 3.18	Distribution and Type of Upcoming Activities for Characteristic B . . . . .	56
Figure 3.19	Number and Distribution of Activities in Sectoral Workplans to Achieve Characteristic C Objectives . . . . .	58
Figure 3.20	Current Status of Sectoral Workplans for Characteristic C . . . . .	59
Figure 3.21	Timeframe and Type of Activities of Three Largest SBs for Characteristic C . . . . .	60
Figure 3.22	Sectoral Bod Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic C KRAs. . . . .	61
Figure 3.23	Activities Implemented to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic C KRAs . . . . .	64
Figure 3.24	Timeframe and Type of Activities under Characteristic C . . . . .	65
Figure 3.25	Distribution and Type of Upcoming Activities under Characteristic C . . . . .	69
Figure 3.26	Number and Distribution of Activities in Sectoral Workplans to Achieve Characteristic D Objectives. . . . .	70
Figure 3.27	Current Status of Sectoral Workplans for Characteristic D . . . . .	71
Figure 3.28	Timeframe of Activities for Largest SBs under Characteristic D . . . . .	71
Figure 3.29	Sectoral Body Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic D KRAs . . . . .	72
Figure 3.30	Activities Implemented to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic D KRAs . . . . .	76
Figure 3.31	Timeframe and Type of Activities under Characteristic D . . . . .	77
Figure 3.32	Distribution and Type of Upcoming Characteristic D Activities . . . . .	80
Figure 3.33	Number and Distribution of Activities in Sectoral Workplans to Achieve Characteristic E Activities . . . . .	81
Figure 3.34	Current Status of Sectoral Workplans under Characteristic E . . . . .	82
Figure 3.35	Sectoral Body Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic E KRAs. . . . .	83
Figure 3.36	Activities Implemented to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic E KRAs. . . . .	85
Figure 3.37	Timeframe and Type of Activities under Characteristic E . . . . .	86
Figure 3.38	Distribution and Type of Upcoming Characteristic E Activities . . . . .	89

# LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex 1:	Lady Firefighter – The Story of AATHP and ASOEN. . . . .	165
Annex 2:	Hope in the Hinterlands – The Story of SOMED . . . . .	168
Annex 3:	Implementating Haze Pollution Controls in Myanmar –The Story of AATHP . . . . .	171
Annex 4:	Boosting ASEAN Through Traditional Dance – The Story of SOMCA Myanmar. . . . .	175
Annex 5:	ASEAN Culture Centre – The Story of SOMCA . . . . .	178
Annex 6:	Fighting for the Disabled–The Story of CPRD . . . . .	180
Annex 7:	In Viet Nam, Raising Youth Awareness of ASEAN–The Story of SOMY. . . . .	182
Annex 8:	Eliminating Domestic Violence in Dien Bien–The Story of ACWC . . . . .	184



# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AADMER	ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
ACCSM	ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters
ACDM	ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management
ACMP	ASEAN Communication Master Plan
ACRF	ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework
ACW	ASEAN Committee on Women
ACWC	ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre
AHA	ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management
AMS	ASEAN Member State
AOP	Annual Operation Plan
ARC	ASEAN Secretariat Resource Centre
ASCC	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEC	ASEAN Secretariat
ASOEN	ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment
ATN	ASEAN Television Network
AWEN	ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network
CBD	Conservation Biodiversity
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCAP	Climate Change Adaptation Plan

CCCSP	Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Plan
CCDM	Cambodia Clean Development Mechanism
CMDG	Cambodia Millennium Development Goals
CNCC	Cambodia National Council for Children
COM-AATHP	Committee under the Conference of Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution
COP-AATHP	Conference of Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DCPS	Development Cooperation and Partnership Strategy
DIAA	Department of Information and ASEAN Affairs
DM	Disaster Management
DMIS	Disaster Management Information Systems
DMRS	Disaster Monitoring and Response System
DP	Development Partners
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EPRP	Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan
EWS	Early Warning Systems
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Fund
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HADR	Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
HC	Health Centre
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
ICT	Information Communication Technology
KRA	Key Result Area
MTR	Mid Term Review
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SBs	Sectoral Bodies
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SLOM	Senior Labour Officials Meeting
SM	Strategic Measures
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SOCA	Senior Officials Committee for the ASCC
SOC-COM	Coordinating Conference on the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
SOM-ACCSM	Senior Officials Meeting on ASEAN Cooperation for Civil Service Matters
SOMCA	Senior Officials Meeting on Culture and Arts
SOM-ED	Senior Officials Meeting on Education
SOMHD	Senior Officials Meeting on Human Development
SOMRI	Senior Officials Meeting Responsible for Information
SOMRDPE	Senior Officials Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication
SOMS	Senior Officials Meeting on Sports
SOMSWD	Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development
SOMY	Senior Officials Meeting on Youth
SPPF	Social Protection Policy Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WFP	World Food Programme



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1. Introduction

The ASCC Blueprint 2016-2025 ('the Blueprint') is a guideline for ASEAN Member States (AMS) as they pursue their collective vision for an ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community that engages and benefits ASEAN's peoples, and which is inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic. At the midpoint of the Blueprint's implementation, this Midterm Review (MTR) has been completed as part of the monitoring and evaluation process.

The review takes stock and offers feedback on the implementation of the Blueprint, describes how far the ASCC has progressed from the 2016 baseline and detail how far it is from achieving its targets. The MTR also documents how the ASCC Pillar has interacted and collaborated with ASEAN's other Pillars to realise ASEAN Vision 2025: Forging Ahead Together.

## 2. Methodology

This MTR assesses progress in implementing the Blueprint's five characteristics and objectives (engages and benefits the people, inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic) against the following five dimensions: Blueprint activities, effectiveness of those activities, means of implementation, institutional mechanisms, and resources.

Analysis and assessment required reliable evidence-based data and information gathering, as well as adequate document review. The main data and information sources for the MTR were:

1. The Blueprint's M&E data collection methodology, which comprised the implementation-focused monitoring system under M&E Tool 1 and Tool 2, and which looks at implementation of Sectoral work plans and relevant ASEAN declarations.
2. A result/outcome-based monitoring system that tracked 32 KPIs for the Blueprint's Results Framework and Baseline Report results.
3. Other qualitative data collection methods, including a review of relevant documents (e.g., Sectoral Body work plans), a series of

Focus Group Discussions (FGD), targeted interviews with relevant stakeholders, and case studies and human-interest stories to illustrate the impact of Blueprint implementation on the lives of ASEAN's peoples.

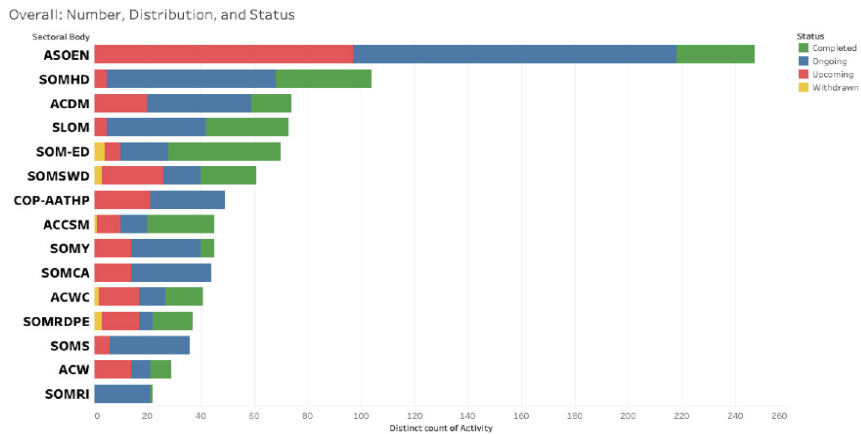
Data has been collected at the regional level (ASEAN wide) and the national level (AMS). Collection and analysis by AMS were conducted by National MTR Teams, who developed country-level assessment reports to complement the regional MTR.

### 3. Progress of Blueprint Implementation at Regional Level

#### 3.1. General Overview of Implementation, Results, and Latest Status of Outcomes

The Blueprint was previously translated into 977 actions and activities in the workplans of 15 Sectoral Bodies (SB). Thirteen activities were withdrawn. The remaining 964 activities have been classified as completed, ongoing, or upcoming (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Number, Distribution, and Status of Activities as of May 2020



Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the ASCC Blueprint 2025 Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan, Updated Status 21 May 2020.

Table 1 summarises the assessment of those 964 activities, each of which has been connected to a Blueprint Characteristic. Progress or the latest status of outcomes, as measured by Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), is also indicated on the table.

Table 1. Results Overview of MTR of the ASCC Blueprint 2025

Implementation Progress	Outcome Progress (KPIs)	Overall Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satisfactory, with a 71.8% implementation rate (including 24.8% complete).</li> <li>• Each Strategic Measure was implemented. Key Result Areas were delivered by multiple SBs in collaboration.</li> <li>• Type of activities comprised capacity building (29.5%), research and publication (23.9%), public outreach (21.0%), policy formulation (19.2%) and groundwork (6.5%).</li> <li>• Any given type of activity was implemented in conjunction with other types to ensure effectiveness and impact.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of the 45 KPIs and sub-KPIs measuring the Blueprint's intended outcomes, 19 lack sufficient data points against the 2016 baseline, meaning changes cannot be measured.</li> <li>• Of 26 KPIs with sufficient data points, 21 have clear evidence of realised progress.</li> </ul>	<p>Based on progress made on 21 KPIs, the Blueprint 2025 is well on its way to achieving its objectives. Implementation has been satisfactory.</p>

### 3.2. Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic A (Engages and Benefits the People)

Of 387 activities in SB work plans under Characteristic A, 297 (76.8%) have been either completed or are ongoing. Of nine SMs under Characteristic A, no measure was implemented by a single SB working alone. There were always multiple SBs working on each SM. This indicated that cross-Sectoral work has been implemented, albeit indirectly.

The predominant activities under Characteristic A were public outreach and capacity building. However, for each SM, other activities were also implemented—indicating a comprehensive approach to Blueprint implementation. Table 2 summarises progress.

Table 2. MTR Summary on Characteristic A (Engages and Benefits the People)

Implementation Progress	Outcome Progress (KPIs)	Overall Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation rate: 76.8% of 387 activities, including 23% completed.</li> <li>SOMHD activities comprised the largest share (23.5%) of activities.</li> <li>Common activities: public outreach and capacity building.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intensive stakeholder engagement in AMS for promoting ASEAN initiatives, through activities conducted by all ASCC SBs.</li> <li>Increase in Government Effectiveness Indicator (ASEAN average).</li> <li>High level of satisfaction on ASEAN engagement as expressed by 60% of 100 of respondents participating in the survey.</li> <li>Fifty-seven percent of 100 respondents reported increased satisfaction over previous years.</li> <li>Increased number of programmes or news for promoting ASEAN identity in AMS, suggesting increased institutional capacity through policies/measures among AMS for raising awareness on ASEAN community building and public engagement.</li> </ul>	<p>Realisation of the Blueprint's objective for engaging and benefiting people has been satisfactory, as indicated by good progress in implementing of sectoral activities and in achieving expected outcomes.</p>

### 3.3. Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic B (Inclusive)

Of 402 activities in SB workplans under Characteristic B, 215 (78.36%) were completed or are ongoing. While public outreach or capacity building activities were dominant, such work was supported or conducted in combination with other activities. Table 3 summarises progress.



Table 3. MTR Summary on Characteristic B (Inclusive)

Implementation Progress	Outcome Progress (KPIs)	Overall Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation rate: 78.4% of 402 activities, including 33.6% completed.</li> <li>• SOMHD comprised the largest share of activities, at 25% of total.</li> <li>• Common activities: public outreach and capacity building.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decreases in undernourishment, stunting, wasting, and underweight. Increased numbers of overweight children under five years of age in several AMS.</li> <li>• Slight improvements in mean years of total schooling among 15 to 24 year olds and expected years of schooling for those 25 or above in some AMS.</li> <li>• Decrease in population living in slums, informal settlements, inadequate housing, or danger zones as defined by national laws, policies, or regulations in most AMS.</li> <li>• Increases in regional policies, strategies, and programmes that mainstreamed promotion and protection of human rights, e.g., the protection and promotion of migrant worker rights.</li> </ul>	<p>Progress has been made toward an inclusive ASEAN. In conjunction with the inclusive growth agenda of the ASEAN Economic Community, Characteristic B of the Blueprint guides ASEAN toward an inclusive ASEAN Community that promotes an improved quality of life, addresses barriers to the enjoyment of equitable access to opportunities by ASEAN's peoples, and which also promotes and protects human rights.</p>

### 3.4. Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic C (Sustainable)

Of 362 activities in SB workplans under Characteristic C, 229 (63.3%) were either completed or are ongoing. ASOEN and COP-AATHP, the two leading Sectoral Bodies on environmental issues, dominated activities. Policy formulation and capacity building were the primary focuses and were supported by other activities. Table 4 summarises progress.

Table 4. MTR Summary on Characteristic C (Sustainable)

Implementation Progress	Outcome Progress (KPIs)	Overall Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation rate: 63.3% of 362 activities, including 11.6% completed.</li> <li>ASOEN, at 25%, comprised the largest share of activities of 10 SBs.</li> <li>Common activities: policy formulation and capacity building.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase from 7 (2016) to 20 (2019) in regional initiatives on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in AMS.</li> <li>Regional initiatives to promote and achieve environmentally sustainable cities in AMS have been implemented over the last four years.</li> <li>Some progress realised on enhancing AMS capacity to achieve Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), with increases in the number of ongoing and completed ASEAN climate-change related projects to achieve AMS respective NDCs during 2016-2019.</li> <li>Increase, from 3 (2016) to 7 (2019), of ASEAN-level activities supporting AMS in building SCP policies and institutional arrangements, demonstrating progress on KRA C4, sustainable consumption and production.</li> </ul>	<p>Realisation of sustainable ASEAN shows ongoing progress in implementing Sectoral activities, mostly on a recurring or multi-year basis.</p> <p>Progress is noticeable, given available data.</p>

### 3.5. Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic D (Resilient)

Of 325 activities in SB workplans under Characteristic D, 218 (67.08%) were completed or are ongoing. While ASOEN was the dominant SB for Characteristic D activities, there is a clear indication of cross-Sectoral work. For instance, KRA D1, for which ASOEN and ACDM are primary contributors; substantial work was also done by SOMY and SOMRDPE.

Research and publication and capacity building were the most common modality. However, these activities did not stand alone, and were planned in conjunction with other activities. Table 5 summarises progress.

Table 5. MTR Summary on Characteristic D (Resilient)

Implementation Progress	Outcome Progress (KPIs)	Overall Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation rate: 67.1% of 325 activities, including 14.8% completed.</li> <li>• ASOEN comprised the largest share of activities, at 46%, among 10 SBs.</li> <li>• Common activities: research and publication, capacity building.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 to 4 resolutions a year between 2016-2019 crossed Sectoral consultation platforms to synergise Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in AMS.</li> <li>• Increased number of regional initiatives, from 1 to 3 initiatives, to enhance financing systems, food, water, energy, and social safety nets in times of crisis, from 2016 to 2019.</li> <li>• Good progress made by ongoing initiatives on drug use and rehabilitation in AMS, coordinated between the Health and the Security Cooperation Divisions, with three projects a year from 2016-2019. Ongoing activities contributing to the ASEAN Health Sector priority on mental health and HIV/AIDS projects to a drug-free ASEAN—with two projects a year during 2016-2019.</li> </ul>	<p>Some progress in implementing Sectoral activities, and in some outcomes dedicated to achieving Blueprint's objective for resilient ASEAN.</p>

### 3.6. Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic E (Dynamic)

Of 559 activities in SB workplans under Characteristic E, 73.9% were completed or ongoing. ASOEN was responsible 44.19% of activities, followed by SOMHD, with 14.13%. Characteristic E had the greatest number of associated activities to realise under the Blueprint.

While public outreach and capacity building dominated activities, these modalities were executed in combination with research and publication, policy formulation, and groundwork.

Table 6. MTR Summary on Characteristic E (Dynamic)

Implementation Progress	Outcome Progress (KPIs)	Overall Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation rate: 73.9% of total 559 activities, including 21.1% completed.</li> <li>• ASOEN (44%) and SOMHD (14%) implemented the majority of activities.</li> <li>• Common activities: public outreach and capacity building.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KPIs for measuring KRA E.1 showed good progress, as evinced by increases numbers in various information and communication platforms, based on the ASEAN Communication Master Plan;</li> <li>• Progress was made for KPIs under KRA E.2, as shown by an increased number of visitors to the ASEAN website, and an increased number of collaborative R&amp;D activities.</li> <li>• Global Competitiveness Indices increased in every AMS, with the average score growing from 62.47 in 2017 to 64.5 in 2019.</li> <li>• Efforts to increase recognition for AMS films at an international level were challenging.</li> <li>• ASEAN average NEET increased from 12.3% to 15.3% between 2016 and 2019.</li> </ul>	<p>Satisfactory progress in realising a dynamic ASEAN, as evinced by high implementation rates for Sectoral activities, and in most outcome indicators.</p>

### 3.7. Findings from Assessment on Means of Implementation, Institutional Mechanisms, and Resources

In addition to assessing implementation of activities and the progress made on outcome indicators (KPIs), an assessment was done of means of implementation, institutional mechanisms, and resources, as presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Finding from Assessment on Means of Implementation, Institutional Mechanism, and Financing

Assessment Dimension	Summary
Implementation Means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the Blueprint's five characteristics has been realized through declarations or statements by ASEAN Leaders at ASEAN Summits.</li> <li>• Since the Blueprint's launch in 2016, 36 declarations or statements have been made, which have offered substantial direction for follow-up activities for the ASCC, at the Sectoral, cross-Sectoral, national, and regional levels.</li> </ul>
Institutional Mechanisms at Sectoral Level/ Cross-Cutting Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ASCC Blueprint 2025, along with the AEC Blueprint 2025 and the APSC Blueprint 2025, is part of ASEAN Vision 2025: Forging Ahead Together. However, there are challenges in strengthening cross-Pillar/cross-Sectoral coordination, such as overlapping initiatives, information gaps due to a lack of communication platforms, and resource mobilization.</li> <li>• One institutional mechanism to harness cross-Sectoral coordination is through the ASCC Blueprint, whereby all ASCC SBs work together to implement SMs and KRAs.</li> </ul>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial resources to implement activities are limited, requiring prioritization.</li> <li>• Financing comes from various sources, such as government budgets, ASEAN allocated funds, external partners or donors. AMS prioritise funding for domestic issues, meaning that the ASCC Blueprint's programmes, initiatives, or activities might be underfunded. There are also budget concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• On human resources, responsible desks are overloaded when dealing with numerous international and bilateral cooperation issues, thus the ASCC is often not a priority.</li> <li>• Rotations of ASEAN desk officers by SBs have adversely affected institutional memory and expertise.</li> </ul>

#### 4. Progress of the Implementation of the Blueprint at National Level

In general, all ten AMS have made satisfactory progress in achieving the Blueprint's objectives since 2016. The policies and programs of SBs have been aligned with the ASEAN Vision 2025, in particular the

priorities stipulated in the Blueprint. While almost every SB in charge of implementing activities has secured funding internally, challenges remain, due to delays and uncertainties—notably due to limited financial and human resources, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

SOCA and ASEC are to be commended for facilitating and providing support to SBs in implementing the Blueprint, especially in coordination between Sectors and Pillars. All relevant 15 SBs have undertaken joint activities, and work has been done across Pillars to better ensure the cooperation required for addressing cross-Sectoral issues. Likewise, progress has been made on engaging ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and relevant stakeholders to obtain technical and funding support for SBs in implementing cooperative programs. A summary of national-level progress is presented in Table 8.

Table 8. Summary of National MTR: Five Assessment Dimensions

Assessment Dimension	Summary
Blueprint Activity Attribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities supporting Blueprint objectives were acknowledged as relevant and fairly aligned with national policies in all ten AMS.</li> <li>• Some AMS expressed concerns on activity ownership and the distinction between national and regional interests.</li> <li>• SBs under ASCC in AMS have prioritised their national interests; while the ASCC, through the Blueprint, was focused on regional cooperation aspects.</li> </ul>
Blueprint Activities Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation was generally satisfactory. Most activities under the 15 SB work plans was done timely.</li> <li>• However, since the project activity directly attributed to the Blueprint was small, the Blueprint's impact was insignificant for intended stakeholders in AMS.</li> <li>• Nevertheless, some outcome indicators showed progress.</li> </ul>

Assessment Dimension	Summary
Institutional Mechanisms at Sectoral Level/Cross-Cutting Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fifteen SBs, coordinated by SOCA and SOCCOM in 10 AMS, were responsible for implementing the Blueprint's objectives at national level.</li> <li>• There are different institutional capacities and arrangements by SBs at the regional level. For example, some SBs have centres (e.g., ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity); others run through SOMs. This affects coordination and implementation.</li> <li>• Stronger institutionalisation (e.g., through a centre) is a demonstrated way to ensure stronger coordination and implementation.</li> </ul>
Implementation Means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initiatives and programmes in the Blueprint's objectives have, in general, been mainstreamed into AMS national policies;</li> <li>• This is because the overarching nature of the Blueprint enables commonality with any national development agenda or policy.</li> <li>• However, when it comes to prioritisation—for instance in the case of limited resources—an AMS would naturally prioritise its national agenda over the Blueprint.</li> </ul>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are insufficient financial and human resources to implement the Blueprint at national level.</li> <li>• Insufficient human resources stem from the fact that responsible desks are overloaded with multiple tasks in dealing with various international and bilateral cooperation issues. Thus, the ASCC is often not always a priority.</li> <li>• Rotation of the ASEAN desk officers at SBs has adversely affected institutional memory and expertise.</li> </ul>

## 5. Recommendations

As the first half term of the Blueprint has passed with satisfactory implementation, it is important to keep momentum. Challenge is mounting, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic. A course must be charted that is comprehensive yet achievable, both strategically and operationally. The following recommendations are offered.

## 5.1. Strategic Recommendations

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

Table 9. Strategic Recommendations

Issue	Recommendation
Unavailable Outcome Indicators (KPI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 KPIs are currently incomplete, covering three categories, based on data collection sources.</li> <li>• First are data that should be recorded by an ASEAN Sectoral Body and 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.</li> <li>• Second are data on the policies, whether formulated or enacted by individual AMS, under the common framework of ASEAN or another international organization, 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 develop 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. A direct connection with the right focal point would ensure timely data updates.</li> <li>• Third are 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.</li> </ul>
Substantive Issue for 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 public.
Substantive Issue for Characteristic B (Inclusive)	Based on data from four KPIs, there are two 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.



Issue	Recommendation
Substantive Issue for Characteristic C (Sustainable)	Blueprint 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 number of projects.
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.
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 firms (KPI 30), and to decrease NEET (KPI 31c).

## 5.2. Operational Recommendations

Operational recommendations refer to how to improve implementation process in the end term.

Table 10. Operational Recommendations

Issue	Recommendation
Harnessing Activity Attribution to the Blueprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tool 1 has been substantial in collecting information on implementation progress for SB workplans to check attribution of activities to the Blueprint. However, two 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 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 report data and read data from other SBs. Hence, they would be able to collect information on who does what in order to implement Blueprint.</li> </ul>

Issue	Recommendation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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 for of the goals of the ASEAN2025 Vision.</li> </ul>
Increasing Activity Implementation Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To yield impactful activities, quality rather than quantity should be emphasized. Only high-impact projects or initiatives with localised context should be considered and, if implemented, be allocated sufficient resources.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

Issue	Recommendation
<p>Harnessing Institutional Mechanisms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various sources indicated that Sectoral policies, programmes or activities often overlap or conflict. This is natural, as Sectoral Bodies tend to work and focus only on the Sector that falls under their purview.</li> <li>• Lessons learned from successful AMS on coordinating ASEAN's work should also be identified and adapted if possible.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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, to promote engagements between Sectoral Bodies, particularly on cross-Sectoral issues and cooperation.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p>Improving Implementation Means</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASEAN and relevant government agencies must rethink their approach to popularising and turning the Blueprint into commendable actions to the ASEAN community without creating new entities.</li> <li>• The role of the ASEAN Secretariat must be re-evaluated, with an eye 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.</li> <li>• Institutes or centres play a leading role in performing activities to attract financial grants and collaborative activities with regional and international organizations. However, this does not mean more centres must be created, unless a specific evaluation on existing mechanisms has been done and shows robust evidence that this would be effective.</li> </ul>

Issue	Recommendation
Financial and Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• AMS must establish a national ASCC Office or Secretariat and set up a strong system, including M&amp;E. Such offices must be adequately equipped with resources, especially human resources, to ensure sustainability.</li> <li>• Learning from implementation during COVID-19, it is possible that many activities will 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.</li> <li>• On resources, ASEAN must encourage contributions from multinational companies and the Private Sector through Corporate Social Responsibility activities. The development of ASEAN Aid is a good start.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Online platforms should be developed to boost human resource capacity via webinars or online training, which has become the new normal during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> </ul>

## 6. Conclusion

The ASCC Blueprint 2016-2025 has reached its midpoint with a satisfactory implementation rate. Progress has been made on some outcomes, as

shown by 21 KPIs with available data. However, it is apparent that the major challenge going forward will be the COVID-19 pandemic. While the pandemic's full effects cannot be encapsulated at the moment, studies have warned that the advances made over the last decade across multiple dimensions of development might be lost. Inevitably, COVID-19 hindered the progress made during the first term of the Blueprint's implementation (2016-2020). Fallout from the pandemic has become the most important context and background for the Blueprint's second term (2021-2025).

Realising this, the Special ASEAN Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was held on 14 April 2020. A subsequent Declaration was released to encourage the development of post-pandemic recovery plans. Following that, the 36th ASEAN Summit, held virtually on 26 June 2020, announced the start of the process within ASEAN to recover from COVID-19, and to develop a ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) that is robust, holistic, inclusive, gender-responsive, and science-based, as well as effective in taking the region through its reopening and recovery, and, over the longer term, buttressing resilience, preparedness, and competitiveness.

It is timely for ASCC to incorporate and align the Blueprint's end-term implementation, strategically and operationally, with the ACRF. Concretely, ASCC Sectoral Bodies must develop Sectoral workplans for the 2021-2025 period according to two principles: carrying forward their remaining and ongoing activities and mainstreaming and aligning activities with the ACRF.



# I INTRODUCTION

## I.1. Background

The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) is at a pivotal juncture in 2020—the midterm mark in its journey to implementing the **ASSC Blueprint 2025**, hereafter called “the Blueprint” (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2016). It is a document that envisions an inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic ASEAN Community that engages and benefits its peoples.

Implementation of the Blueprint’s five characteristics (engages and benefits the people, inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic) is expected to take 10 years, involve 15 Sectoral Bodies (SBs) under ASCC, and cover 964 activities that address 109 Strategic Measures (SMs) and 18 Key Result Areas (KRAs) at the national and regional levels.

Over the first five years of the Blueprint, 2016 to 2020, the ASCC continued to work to build a community to realise the Blueprint’s characteristics. The ASCC heightened its commitment in the form of policy and legal frameworks, such as the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2018a), the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2019e), the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2019c), and the Declaration on Promoting Green Jobs for Equity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN Community (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2019b).

The region has generated a wide range of collective regional initiatives that offered quick and tangible actions in areas such as disaster management, humanitarian assistance, and transboundary environmental pollution.

Underlying these initiatives were important development outcomes that have spurred social progress in all 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS) during the assessment period. The outcomes include progress in lifting millions out of poverty, ensuring that families have access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation, saving the lives of infants, and ensuring that school-age children attend school, among other things. However, there remain gaps between what’s been achieved and what’s been targeted by the Blueprint. There is a need to assess current practices, progress, and institutional

mechanisms. An assessment is needed to identify opportunities for cooperation, as well as available resources and partnerships, to ensure that ASCC collectively can materialise the ASEAN Vision 2025, and sustainably build the ASEAN Community in the future.

As mandated by the Blueprint, this Midterm Review (MTR), covering the assessment period of 2016-2020, has been completed to monitor implementation progress and, when applicable, review the impact of the Blueprint on national- and regional-level activities. Conducting the MTR required a set of consistent and well-maintained evidence-based information collection methods. In this context, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) played an important role in ensuring that the work of the different SBs under ASCC was on track and measurable. M&E also ensured that activities were implemented efficiently and effectively.

This assessment shall use the Blueprint's existing M&E system, comprising an implementation-focused monitoring system and results-based monitoring system. ASCC has established the Blueprint's Results Framework, consisting of 32 outcome-based key performance indicators (KPIs), reflected in 18 key result areas.

The MTR is one of most important components in the Blueprint's M&E system, providing the ASCC with a chance to stock take activities executed during the assessment period. It aims to identify gaps, emerging priorities, and other challenges in implementing the Blueprint, as well as indicate how to overcome these challenges and draw lessons learned for improvements at the national and regional level, for the Blueprint's end term (2021-2025). The MTR offers an opportunity to refocus and recalibrate Strategic Measures with initiatives that demonstrate a potential for success, taking into account changes in regional and global dynamics since the adoption of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

## **1.2. Midterm Review Objective**

The objective of the MTR is to review implementation progress for the Blueprint and, when applicable, evaluate outcomes and the impact of the achievements of the Blueprint's objectives during the assessment period.



Key outputs were evaluated against five dimensions:

- i. Whether implementation of the Blueprint contributed to the ASSC's goals, as articulated in the outcome statements of the Blueprint's Results Framework (hereafter called the 'Results Framework').
- ii. Whether the Blueprint's measures and actions were effectively implemented at the national and regional level, taking into account changing regional and global dynamics, such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- iii. Whether means of implementation could be improved, including:
  - analysing how the strategies, targets, and actions in the Blueprint were mainstreamed in national development action plans,
  - ascertaining whether sufficient resources were mobilized,
  - determining the engagement of relevant stakeholders, and
  - assessing how to strengthen the capability of ASEC and AMS.
- iv. An assessment of the institutional mechanisms implementing the Blueprint by AMS and ASEC at the Sectoral level, and for cross-cutting issues across Sectors and Communities.
- v. An assessment of the availability and efficacy of financial resources for the Blueprint up to the MTR, existing and future resource requirements, and potential financing gaps in sustaining the Blueprint's end-term goals.

The MTR will put forward recommendations to enhance the timely and effective implementation of the Blueprint's characteristics by the end of 2025. The report will advise the ASSC on its performance, note observed gaps, and document lessons learned during implementation during the assessment period. It will state how the ASSC should to move to enhance implementation over the next five years. It will address how to strengthen coordination, including for cross-Pillar and cross-cutting issues, between ASSC Sectoral Bodies, ASEAN External Partners and Entities, civil society organisations and the Private Sector.

## II METHODOLOGY

### II.1. MTR Assessment Methodology

The MTR's assessment methodology analyses the progress made in achieving implementation of the Blueprint's characteristics against five assessment factors. The Blueprint's characteristics are:

- Characteristic A: Engaging and benefiting the people.
- Characteristic B: Inclusive.
- Characteristic C: Sustainable.
- Characteristic D: Resilient.
- Characteristic E: Dynamic.

The assessment factors, or dimensions, are drawn from the MTR's key outputs as outlined in Section 1.2:

- Attribution of activities to the Blueprint.
- Effectiveness of activities.
- Means of implementation.
- Institutional mechanisms at the Sectoral level and cross-cutting issues.
- Availability and efficacy of financial resources.

The MTR required a wide range of reliable evidence-based data and information gathering, as well as adequate document review.

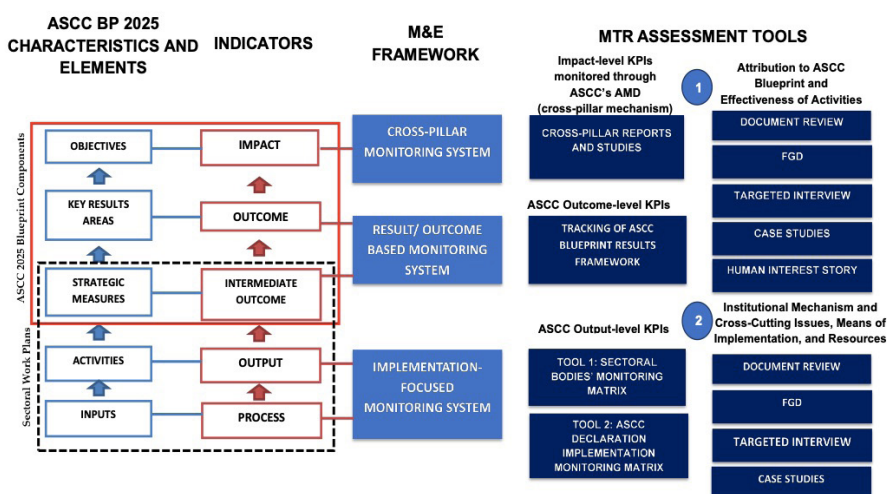
Each Blueprint objective was assessed against the five dimensions using relevant questions. A set of guiding questions was prepared to aid Regional and AMS National MTR Teams in data collection and to assess activity implementation and impact at the regional and national level.

The assessment strategy was applied in the context of the Logic Model of the Blueprint M&E Framework (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2017a). Depicts an extended version of the Logic Model, adding the data collection and analytical strategy adopted by the MTR Assessment Tools.

The dimensions assessed comprised two different categories, as visualised in Figure 1:

- The dimensions of attribution to, and the effectiveness of activities of, the Blueprint, focused on analysing the progress of outcome indicators of the Blueprint's KRAs, and when possible, impact indicators of the Blueprint's characteristics.
- The dimensions of institutional mechanisms and cross-cutting issues means of implementation, and resources assessed process and output indicators, based on inputs and activities from the Blueprint's implementation.

Figure 2.1. Operationalisation of the Midterm Review (MTR) Assessment Tools in the Logic Model of the Blueprint M&E Framework for the MTR



## II.2. Data Collection Methodology

The five-dimension data collection methodology used quantitative and qualitative approaches from various data sources. As shown in Figure 2.1, the MTR's data and information sources were based on:

- The current the M&E data collection, which comprise an implementation-focused monitoring system using Tool 1 and Tool 2.
- A result/outcome-based monitoring system, which tracks the 32 KPIs of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 Results Framework, as well as the results of the Baseline Report.
- Other qualitative data collection methods, including a review of the existing documents relevant to the Blueprint's implementation (e.g.,

Sectoral Body work plans), FGDs and targeted interviews, case studies and human-interest stories.

Cross-Pillar monitoring and evaluation was included as one of the Blueprint's three monitoring systems. Cross-Pillar M&E will be conducted later, during an end-of-year evaluation, and assess the impact of the implementation of the Blueprint's objectives. It is not included as a data source for the MTR.

## **II.2.1 Current Blueprint M&E Data Collection Using Implementation-Focused Monitoring System**

Ongoing data collection for operationalising the Blueprint's M&E has used an implementation-focused monitoring system, conducted using Tool 1 (Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan) and Tool 2 (Monitoring Matrix of Declarations/Statements under the ASCC). The tools are updated annually.

Updated information from both tools was explored to assess relevant questions in the five-dimensional assessment of the Blueprint's progress:

- Tool 1 provided information on the progress of the activities under ASCC Sectoral work plans that implemented the Blueprint's Strategic Measures. It aligned each SM with relevant cross-Pillar Sectors and platforms, as well as Global Frameworks. For this MTR, Tool 1 was used for tracking the effectiveness of the activity implementation.
- Tool 2 was used to monitor the progress of the follow-up actions related to ASCC Declarations and Statements at the regional and national levels. This Tool provided a useful reference for the MTR, notably in assessing the means of implementation of the Blueprint.

Following the assessments using Tools 1 and 2, input and clarification from all ASCC Sectoral Bodies and AMS was solicited. Review of the implementation of the SB work plans at the regional and national levels, where applicable, enriched the MTR by providing meaningful findings and recommendations for program improvements. National-level assessments were undertaken in each AMS based on the agreed template and coordinated at the regional level.

## II.2.2 Results/Outcomes-Based Monitoring System

A results/outcomes-based monitoring system was implemented by tracking the progress of 32 KPIs (45, with sub-indicators) in the Results Framework (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2019), at the national and regional levels. The 32 KPIs comprised three categories: KPIs quantitatively measured and collected from the internationally recognised secondary data sources, KPIs qualitatively measured and collected from existing ASEC internal documents related to regional implementation of the Blueprint, and KPIs collected from existing AMS (ASCC Sectoral Bodies) documents related to the Blueprint's national implementation.

Data collection for these 32 KPIs was carried out for the preparation of the Blueprint Baseline Report, which was completed by an independent consultant team. The Baseline Report's objectives were to provide a reference on the Blueprint's state of implementation and discuss data availability and data collection methodological-related issues. The Baseline Team, in coordination with the Regional MTR Team, collected two data points for the 2016 KPI baseline data and the latest available KPI data for the MTR assessment period at the regional level.

At the same time, the collection of those two KPI data points at the national level were carried out by the National MTR Teams in 10 AMS. The Results Framework identified 19 of 32 KPIs (or 26 of 45, with sub-indicators) to be measured at the national level. Two data points for the 19 national-level KPIs were required to measure progress of the Blueprint's outcome indicators for AMS for incorporation in the National MTR Report.

In addition to the main data sources for KPIs from the Baseline Report, the following databases were available for consultation for the MTR:

- Primary data sources:
  - ASEAN Statistical Database (<https://data.aseanstats.org/>).
  - MTRs of the AEC and APSC Pillars.
  - Work plans and various relevant reports from Sectoral Bodies.
  - Data collected by National MTR Teams from all AMS.
- Other internationally recognised data sources, as needed, such as:
  - World Development Indicators Databank. (<https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=world-development-indicators>).
  - Human Development Data (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>).

- UNICEF Global Nutrition Report (<https://data.unicef.org/resources/global-nutrition-report-2018>).

### II.2.3 Other Qualitative Data Collection

Qualitative methods complemented quantitative assessments and contributed to answering questions posed by the MTR, especially for KPIs monitored using qualitative measurements. Several approaches were applied, including analysing the results of existing document reviews, a series of interviews through FGDs, targeted group interviews, case studies on ASCC projects and activities, as well as human interest stories.

The methodologies for qualitative data collection were:

- a) Document review: A comprehensive survey and review of existing documents relevant to the Blueprint's implementation, such as the multi-year work plans of the ASSC's 15 SBs at the regional and national levels, SB meeting outcomes, and reports, etc.
- b) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs): FGDs were held covering all five dimensions of the MTR. At the regional level, FGDs were carried out in April and May 2020, involving Desk Officers from the seven Divisions of the ASCCD that oversee the ASSC's SBs;<sup>1</sup> and who were familiar with the Blueprint's implementation. At the national level, a series of FGDs were held with Senior Officials from relevant Sectoral Ministerial Bodies in 10 AMS.
- c) Targeted Group Interviews: When necessary, interviews with targeted groups were conducted to complement or answer queries that arose from the FGDs, especially as related to strategic level information for the MTR. There were two types of targeted group interviews:
  - Strategic interviews with key persons who could provide strategic information, such as CPRs; the Secretary General of ASEAN; the DSGs of APSC, AEC, and ASCC; ASCC Directors and ASCC Heads of Divisions at the regional level; and the Chair and Leaders of SOCA and Senior Officials from Sectoral Bodies at the national level.
  - Follow-up interviews with key persons, to pursue the results of FGDs or other data collection strategies and gain insights on specific topics and further clarification. Interviews were conducted with ASCC Divisions and Sectoral Bodies, and other potential informants, e.g., ASEAN entities and multilateral organisations.

- d) **Case Studies:** This modality was used as a key strategy to collect additional data and information, notably for capturing best practices of initiatives carried out by AMS and Sectoral Bodies when implementing the Blueprint at the national level. The National MTR Team wrote at least two case studies for each AMS to provide a general overview of Sectoral Bodies (Ministries) at the national level that told readers of good practices or lessons learned during the assessment period. Good practices included successful key initiatives and practices proven effective and therefore worthy of recommendation as a model initiative. Lessons learned were also developed from good practices. Information obtained from case studies was extracted to support the MTR. Selected case studies, in the narrative format (e.g., the stories of key programmes or key milestones), will be included as annexes to the Final Report of the MTR.
- e) **Human-interest stories:** These narrative stories tell readers of the changes experienced by beneficiaries of the activities implemented by SBs or Ministries at the national level in AMS. They aim to explain impacts and best practices, specifically activities relevant to the Blueprint's implementation. The scope of a human-interest story is not limited to individuals; it could also be at the organisational level. If the SBs focus on policy and system strengthening, then human-interest stories focus on the story of change happening at the policy level, describing how those stories might benefit the people in individual AMS in general. The stories of change collected will be relevant to the Blueprint's objectives. Potential topics correspond to at least one ultimate outcome statement or KPI from the Results Framework. Each National MTR Team was expected to write at least two human-interest stories, or to send a draft of human-interest story for each AMS.

### III BLUEPRINT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

This chapter reports on the results of the assessment of the progress of Blueprint implementation. The assessment monitors processes, as opposed to monitoring results. An integral part of the Blueprint—namely the Implementation-Focused Monitoring System—was developed and endorsed for this purpose. It monitors activities at the Sectoral level, as well as Declarations and follow-up actions at the regional and national levels. It is an annual or biennial monitoring system designed to record progress made on Strategic Measures through the delivery of key outputs.

Activities implemented under Sectoral work plans contributed to implementing Strategic Measures. Regular activity monitoring at this level is called process-level monitoring and ascertains whether implemented activities can achieve targeted outputs. The system will generate recommendations to improve existing activities.

Monitoring at this level requires the full participation of national Sectoral focal points. The 21<sup>st</sup> SOCA meeting approved the following monitoring tools:

- Framework for Reporting on ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plans.
- Monitoring Matrix of the Follow-Up Actions to Declarations.

Tool 1, a Framework for Reporting on ASCC Sectoral Body Implementation of Sectoral Work Plans, monitors the status of implementation of work plans at the ASEAN level. The framework aligns work plans with relevant Strategic Measures.

Tool 2, the Monitoring Matrix of the Follow-Up Actions to Declarations, monitors declarations adopted at the ASEAN Summit and Ministerial Meeting level, as well as follow-up documents at the regional level and national level. National-level activities refer to a specific country's initiatives that are not under the ASEAN umbrella, but nevertheless contribute to the ASSC's objectives. National-level updates may include two kinds of implementation:

- a program officially implemented in a country or any related laws that were passed, or
- any existing policy formulation or activities at the national level that are relevant to adoption of the Declaration.



Following the logical framework above, this chapter reports in three parts on the implementation progress of activities for each characteristic. First, there is a discussion of the attribution of activities to Strategic Measures and Key Results Areas for each characteristic. It is expected that activities had a direct effect in delivering 109 Strategic Measures and contributing to creating change for 18 KRAs. The assessment starts from identification of Sectoral Body work plans, their implementation status, type and timeframe of activities, and results delivered for completed activities, the recent progress of ongoing activities, and the prospects for upcoming activities.

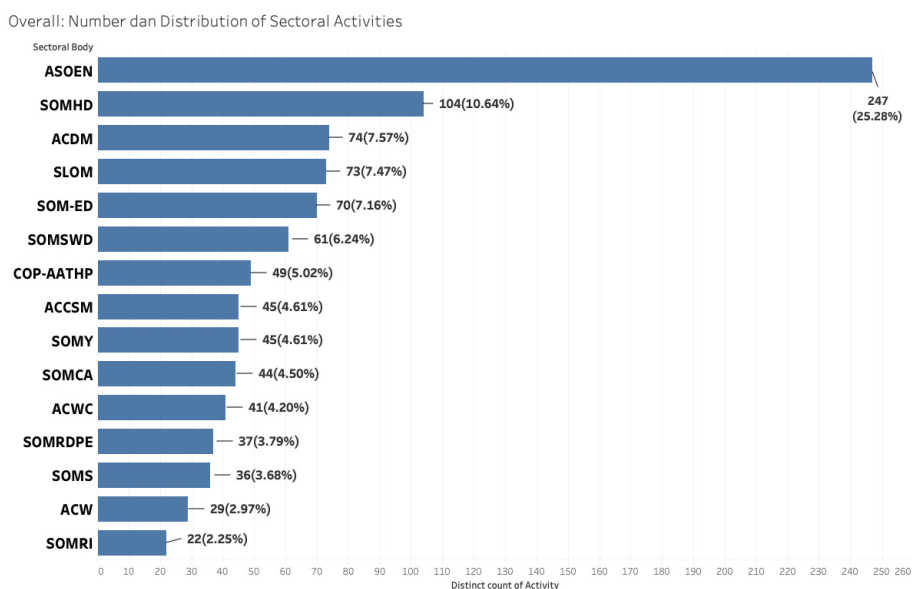
The second part is a review of the means of implementation, institutional mechanisms, and resources mobilisation for the Blueprint's implementation. The third part of the review assesses the status of Declarations and any follow up.

### **III.1. General Overview of ASCC's Activities Attributable to the Blueprint**

#### **III.1.1 Activities of ASCC Sectoral Work Plans and Their Intended Contribution to the Blueprint**

Sectoral Body (SBs) work plans under ASCC, by design, directly translate the ASCC Blueprint 2016-2025 into action. Workplans were compiled, monitored, and analysed by the ASCC Monitoring Division (AMD) using Tool 1. Based on data from Tool 1, there were 977 activities to implement the Blueprint across 15 SBs. Figure 3.1 indicates their number and distribution.

Figure 3.1 Number and Distribution of Activities in Sectoral Workplans Intended to Achieve Blueprint Objectives



Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated as of 21 May 2020.

There were substantial variations in the number of activities planned by individual SBs to realise the Blueprint's objectives. ASOEN stands out, with more than a quarter of total activities under its belt, whereas only 22 activities (2.25%) were covered by SOMRI work plans. SBs may be divided into three categories based on their number of activities: SBs with more than 100 activities (ASOEN & SOMHD), SBs with less than 100 but more than 50 activities (ACDM, SLOM, SOM-ED, and SOMSWD), and SBs with less than 50 activities.

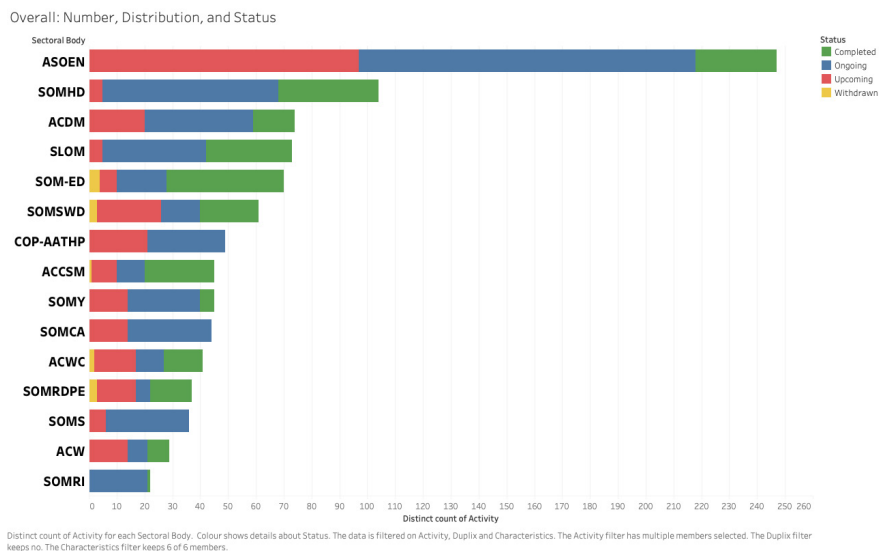
Note that the number and distribution of activities should not be interpreted alone when determining attribution of the achievement of objectives in the Blueprint. In the following sections, additional context is provided on implementation status of the work plans, as well as the types and timeframe of activities.

### III.1.2 Implementation Status of Activities

The 977 distinct activities under SB work plans have different statuses. Figure 3.2 summarises the number and distribution of activities by implementation

status as of 21 May 2020. Thirteen activities were withdrawn, for four types of reasons: First, technical reasons, such as results from a pilot stage that indicated an activity was not viable; second, operational reasons, such as overlap with another initiative; third, a lack of funding or implementing partners; and fourth, a retraction of support or participation by an AMS. Withdrawn activities comprised 1.33% of the total.

Figure 3.2 Number and Distribution of Activities by Implementation Status as of May 2020



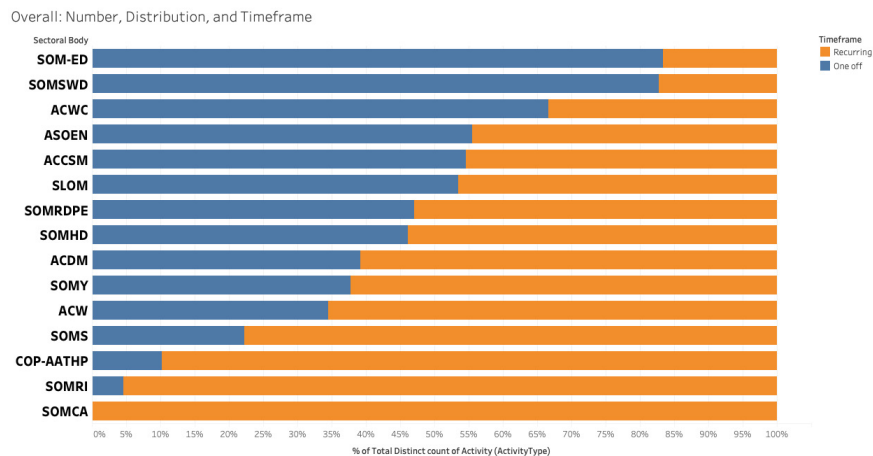
Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Figure 3.2 shows that 71.8% of activities were either completed or are ongoing. Therefore, it can be concluded that there has been a satisfactory level of activity completion as of the MTR. This chapter will focus on those activities in terms of how they delivered on Strategic Measures and Key Result Areas for each characteristic of the Blueprint.

### III.1.3 Type and Timeframe of Activities

While it is fair to say that a 71.8% completion rate is satisfactory, note that this number should be reviewed in the context of the timeframe and types of activities, as seen in Figure 3.3.

Figure 3.3 Activity Timeframe across Sectoral Bodies



% of Total Distinct count of Activity (ActivityType) for each Sectoral Body. Colour shows details about Timeframe. Details are shown for Activity (ActivityType). The data is filtered on Activity, Duplex, Characteristics and Status (ActivityType). The Activity filter has multiple members selected. The Duplex filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps A. Engages and Benefit the People, B. Inclusive, C. Sustainable, D. Resilient and E. Dynamic. The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps Completed, Ongoing and Upcoming.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Activities were either one-offs, referring to activities that were implemented only once, e.g., a seminar or workshop, or recurring, referring to an activity that was routinely implemented, e.g., a public campaign that has been and will be implemented multiple times as part of a short-term projects.

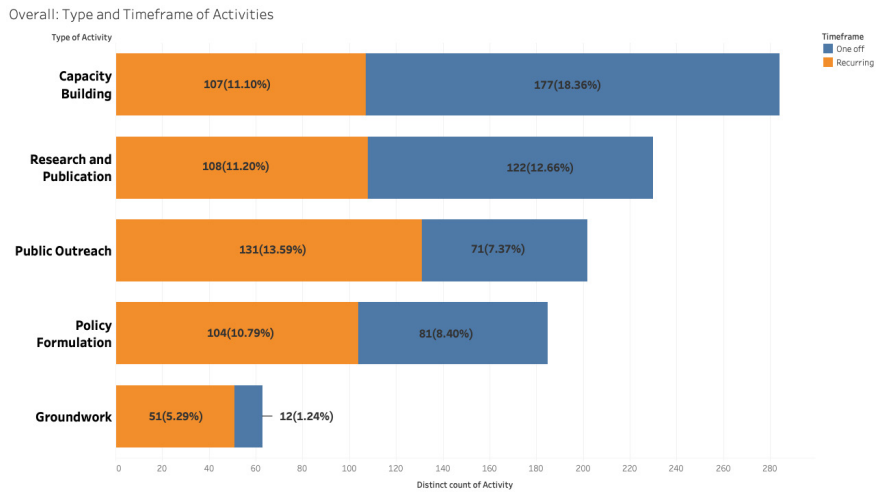
A highlight from Figure 3.3 that adds context to the completion rate information in Figure 3.2 is the timeframe of activities. In Figure 3.2, SOMCA, COP-AATHP, and SOMS were SBs with zero completed activities, while SOMRI has only a single completed activity. Judging SBs on their completion rates might indicate a low performance. However, from Figure 3.3 it can be concluded that their completion rate was low because they mostly dealt with recurring activities.

Figure 3.4 categorises activities by timeframe and the following types:

- Capacity building (29.5%), including trainings, knowledge sharing, staff exchanges and institutional strengthening.
- Research and publication (23.9%), including assessments and reviews of policies or initiatives, development of guidelines or manuals, issuing ASEAN Joint Statements, data/information management, and M&E systems.

- Public outreach (21%), including public awareness and multi-stakeholder engagements.
- Policy formulation (19.2%), including new initiatives, policy/initiative implementation and resource mobilisation.
- Groundwork (6.5%), including pilot projects on groundwork activities, and the application of technologies or methods.

Figure 3.4 Type and Timeframe of Activities

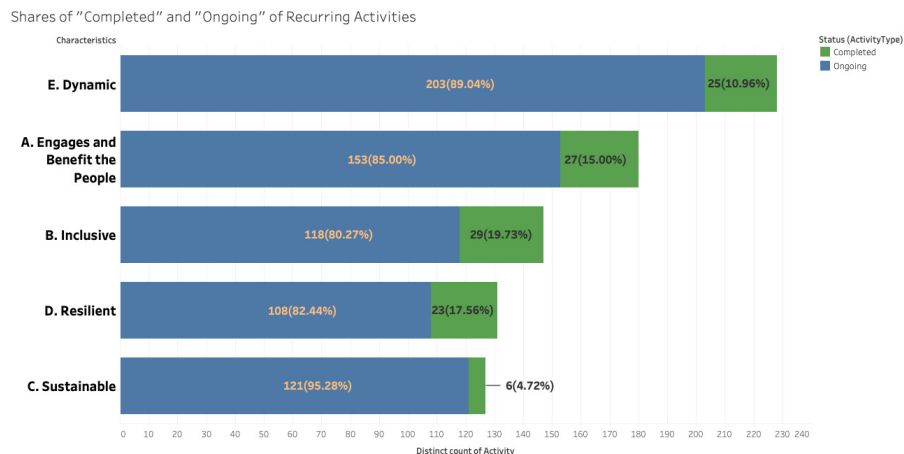


Distinct count of Activity for each Type of Activity. Colour shows details about Timeframe. The data is filtered on Duplix, Characteristics and Status. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps A, Engages and Benefit the People, B. Inclusive, C. Sustainable, D. Resilient and E. Dynamic. The Status filter keeps Completed, Ongoing and Upcoming.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Figure 3.5 indicates that few recurring activities covering all five characteristics were completed; the majority of recurring activities are ongoing. The highest completion rate for recurring activities was recorded for Characteristic B, at 19.7%, followed by Characteristic D at 17.6%, A at 15%, E at 11% and C at 4.7%.

Figure 3.5 Share of Completed and Ongoing Status for Recurring Activities



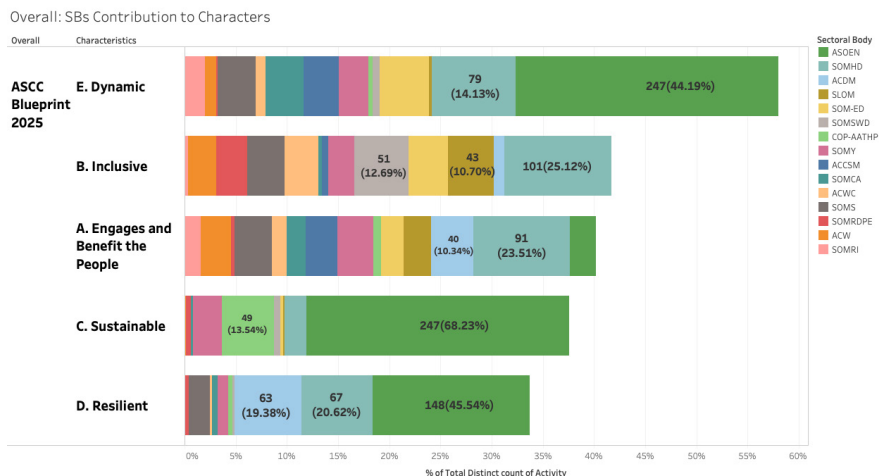
Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Information on the type and timeframe will be used for a detailed analysis of activities for each Blueprint characteristic.

### III.1.4 Distribution of Sectoral Body Activities over Blueprint Characteristics

There were 964 activities under the Blueprint, after discounting 13 withdrawn activities. Each activity, as recorded by Tool 1, was intended to contribute to achieving more than one objective or Blueprint characteristic. Figure 3.6 summarises the distribution of those activities in terms of intended contributions.

Figure 3.6 Sectoral Body Activities and Intended Contributions to Blueprint Characteristics



% of Total Distinct count of Activity for each Characteristics broken down by Overall. Colour shows details about Sectoral Body. The data is filtered on Duplix, Key Result Areas and Status. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Key Result Areas filter has multiple members selected. The Status filter keeps Completed, Ongoing and Upcoming. The view is filtered on Characteristics, which keeps A. Engages and Benefit the People, B. Inclusive, C. Sustainable, D. Resilient and E. Dynamic.

Note: X axis shows total activities dedicated to each characteristic as a percent of total activities (964 activities). Percentage in bracket refers to relative SB contributions to total activities for a particular characteristic.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

There are two important points from Figure 3.6. First, there is an indication that while a SB might be exclusive in terms of maintaining the uniqueness of its own activities; by design, every SB has shared objectives. When calculating for each characteristic, activities were multiplied by factor of two (211.1% or from 964 multiplied into 2,035).

Second, there is an indication of a dominant Sector. ASOEN, with its 247 distinct activities, was the largest contributor to Characteristic C, sustainable (68.2%); Characteristic D, resilient (45.5%); and Characteristic E, dynamic (44.2%).

Again, this is only in terms of the number of activities. These indications require a more detailed analysis of each characteristic.

### III.1.5 Overall Results Delivered by Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospects for Upcoming Activities

Completed activities delivered differing results depending on their type and modalities. Research and publication activities resulted in reports addressing important issues in ASEAN. For instance, a study on Women Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Economic Community was completed and launched at the ASEAN High-Level Policy Dialogue on Women Migrant Workers in the AEC on 7 July 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2017c).

On capacity building, completed activities addressed strategic issues in ASEAN, e.g., on nature conservation and biodiversity issues. Activities were done to build the capacity of ASEAN Member States to improve their understanding of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) concepts and frameworks, and to manage and implement ABS measures.

Another type of activity, policy formulation, also recorded activity completion. For instance, to promote policy measures to respond to emerging trends in employment relations (including the impact of ICT and outsourcing), SLOM endorsed a study result on the adequacy of legislation in regulating employment relationships. The endorsement suggested that the results of the study be followed by further measures, such as new policies.

Public outreach activities delivered expected results, as in the case of public awareness campaigns for safe schools, through the regular ASEAN School Safety Award, sister-schools programme, and other innovative public awareness campaigns. This was a scale-up activity based on the accomplishment of previous ASCC programmes.

Groundwork activities, which include initiating or implementing a new model or solution for an issue, also delivered results. For instance, on improving ASEAN workforce quality, groundwork was done by supporting and assisting the development of the Manual of TVET (Technical-Vocational Education and Training) Professional Educators Standard. This was an important step to equip workers in ASEAN with practical skills relating to occupations in various Sectors of economic life and social life.

An assessment was done of the progress made by ongoing activities, which were implemented, in general, by the same modalities for completed activities: research and publication, capacity building, policy formulation, public outreach, and groundwork. As of this MTR, activities achieved various stage of progress. For instance, some research projects were in the



data collection stage, while many capacity-building activities have been conducted online.

Finally, activities with an upcoming status were assessed. Upcoming activities will most likely be carried forward to work plans toward the end term of the Blueprint (2021-2025). Given the different context between the time of initial work plan development 2016 and the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, SBs must identify potential alignments with the currently developing ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF). The ACRF is a quick response devised by ASEAN to develop a post-pandemic recovery plan to share lessons learned; restore ASEAN connectivity, tourism, normal business, and social activities; and prevent potential economic downturns. It was declared in the Special ASEAN Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 14 April 2020.

An assessment of the potential alignment of upcoming activities with the ACRF shows that each Blueprint characteristic has a strong relevance and connection with the ACRF's Broad Strategy and Enabling Factors. Upcoming activities under Characteristic B are closely related to Broad Strategy 1 of ACRF, 'enhancing health systems'. Characteristic C and D activities are closely related to Broad Strategy 5, 'advancing toward a more sustainable and resilient future'. Characteristic E falls under the umbrella of Broad Strategy 2, 'strengthening human security'; Broad Strategy 3, 'maximising the potential of intra-ASEAN market and broader economic integration'; and Broad Strategy 4, 'accelerating inclusive digital transformation'. Finally, Characteristic A is a good match with the ACRF's fourth Enabling Factor, 'strengthening stakeholder engagement and partnerships'.

## **III.2. Blueprint Implementation Progress for Characteristic A: Engages and Benefits the People**

### **III.2.1 ASCC's Sectoral Workplans and Intended Contributions to Objectives under Characteristic A**

According to Tool 1, there were 387 activities in the Sectoral work plans under Characteristic A (see Figure 3.7) distributed across several SBs, excluding SOMSWD<sup>2</sup>. SOMHD stands out, with more than 23% of all activities under

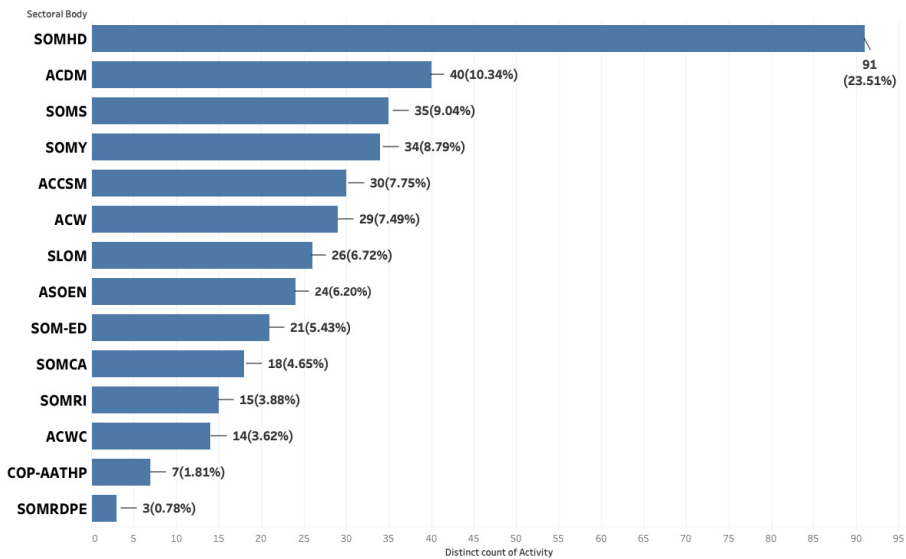
---

<sup>2</sup> While the Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development 2016-2020, which is SOMSWD's current five-year work plan, does not have any direct reference to Characteristic A (as recorded in Tool 1),

Characteristic A is under its plan, whereas SOMRDPE was responsible for three activities. Fourteen SBs can be divided into three categories: SBs responsible for more than 10% of Characteristic A activities (SOMHD and ACDM), SBs responsible for less than 10% but more than 5% of activities (SOMS, SOMY, ACCSM, ACW, SLOM, ASOEN, and SOM-ED), and the remaining SBs, comprising less than 5% of activities.

Figure 3.7 Number and Distribution of Activities in Sectoral Workplans to Achieve Characteristic A Objectives

Char A: Number dan Distribution of Sectoral Activities



Distinct count of Activity for each Sectoral Body. The data is filtered on Status (ActivityType), Duplix and Characteristics. The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps multiple members. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps A. Engages and Benefit the People.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

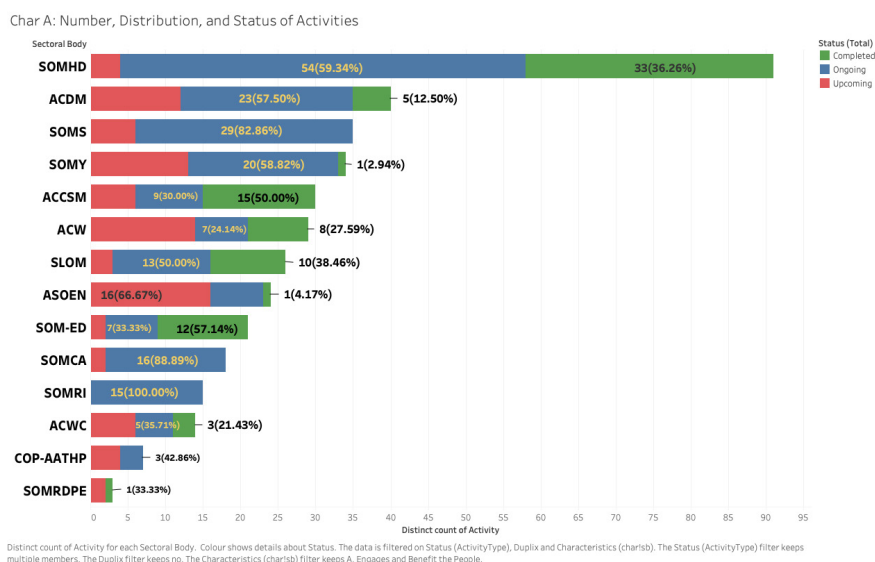
several initiatives of SOMSWD contributed to the realisation of Strategic Measures under Characteristic A. Specifically, SOMSWD contributed to the key result area A.1 Engaged Stakeholders in ASEAN processes, particularly Strategic Measure A1.i through the following initiatives:

1. Annual conduct of the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development,
2. Annual ASEAN Social Work Consortium Conference,
3. Annual meeting of the Network of Experts on Inclusive Entrepreneurship,
4. Annual Open Session with Partners during the regular meeting of SOMSWD,
5. Bi-annual conduct of the ASEAN Children's Forum, and
6. Convening of the ASEAN High-Level Social Protection Conference.

### III.2.2 Implementation Status of Sectoral Body Activities under Characteristic A

On implementation status (see Figure 3.8), 297 of 387 activities (76.8%) were either completed or are ongoing as of the MTR, 5% better than the Blueprint's general completion rate (71.8%). Since only 23.3% activities are slated for the Blueprint's end term, implementation progress for activities under Characteristic A can be said to be satisfactory.

Figure 3.8 Current Status of Sectoral Workplans for Characteristic A



Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Large variations were recorded for activity completion across Sectoral Bodies. SBs recording completed (see Fig. 3.8) activities ranged from zero (SOMCA and SOMRI) to more than half (e.g., SOM-ED and ACCSM). This variation was also apparent for activities with ongoing or upcoming statuses.

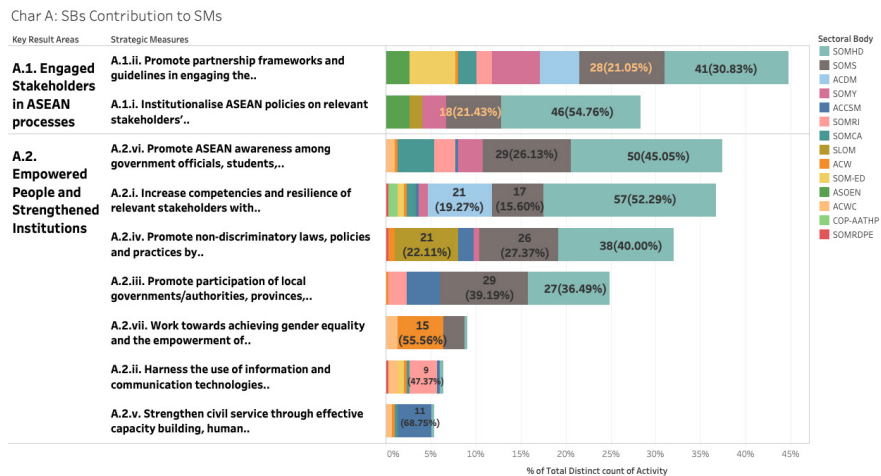
Figure 3.8 also notes the outlier case of SOMRI, which booked zero completed activities. Of 15 activities under SOMRI's Characteristic A contribution plan, it seems impossible that none were completed during the MTR assessment period. However, analysis of each activity recorded by Tool 1 indicates that all 15 of SOMRI's activities were recurring, e.g., part of SOMRI's routine operations, and would not be ticked off as complete like a one-off activity.

This finding is important: Completion rates alone cannot be used evaluate an SB's implementation performance. We must dig deeper, to the level of Strategic Measures and Key Result Areas (e.g., through ongoing activities).

### III.2.3 Sectoral Body Contributions to Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic A KRAs

Figure 3.9 states what has been delivered or accomplished by activities supporting Characteristic A. Referring to the Blueprint's logical framework, the focus should be on completed and ongoing activities (76.8% of 387 activities in Figure 3.8).

Figure 3.9 Sectoral Body Contributions to Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic A KRAs



% of Total Distinct count of Activity for each Strategic Measures broken down by Key Result Areas. Colour shows details about Sectoral Body. The data is filtered on Duplix, Characteristics and Status. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps A. Engages and Benefit the People. The Status filter keeps Completed and Ongoing. The view is filtered on Key Result Areas, which keeps A.1. Engaged Stakeholders in ASEAN processes and A.2. Empowered People and Strengthened Institutions.

Note: The X axis shows activities dedicated to each SM as a percent of total activities that were completed or are ongoing. Percentages in brackets refer to relative SB contributions to total activities.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan, Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

According to the Results Framework, there was no specific SB designated as the lead or coordinator for KRA A1; all SBs were designated as cooperating SBs. Meanwhile, for KRA A2, the leads or coordinators were ACCSM, SOMY, and SOMS, and the designated cooperating bodies were ACDM, ACW, ACWC, COP-AATHP, SLOM, SOMCA, SOMHD, and SOMRI.

Figure 3.9 indicates activities were conducted to implement various SMs for KRA A1, 'engaged stakeholders in ASEAN processes', and to implement seven SMs for KRA A2, 'empowered people and strengthened institutions'. Overall, SOMHD was the largest contributor to six of nine SMs, followed by SOMS, with six SMs. Also, note the following:

- ACW was the largest contributor to SM A2.vii, 'work towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls'.
- SOMRI was the largest contributor to SM A.2.ii, 'harness the use of information and communication technologies across different age groups as a means to connect with the regional and global community'.
- ACCSM was the largest contributor to SM A.2.v, 'strengthen civil service through effective capacity building, human resource development, and collaboration programmes among ASEAN Member States'.
- ACDM was the second largest contributor to A.2.i, 'increase competencies and resilience of relevant stakeholders with advanced technological and managerial skills so as to improve institutional capacity to address current challenges and emerging trends, such as disasters, pandemics, and climate change'.

Figure 3.9 provides evidence that two Strategic Measures were prioritised under Characteristic A: SM A.1.ii, 'promote partnership frameworks and guidelines in engaging the stakeholders for the effective implementation of ASEAN initiatives and promotion of public awareness of ASCC programmes and accomplishments', and SM A.2.vi, 'promote ASEAN awareness among government officials, students, children, youths and all stakeholders as part of building ASEAN identity'. The SMs were supported by 45% and 38% of Characteristic A activities, respectively.

Box 1, 'Combatting the Dangers of Cyberspace', offers an exemplary effort by a SOMY activity that was attributed to achieving implementation of Characteristic A, notably SM A.2.ii, 'harness the use of information and communication technologies across different age groups as a means to connect with the regional and global community'.

### **Box 1. Combatting the Dangers of Cyberspace (case study)**

Young people are enthusiastic users of the internet, but along with many benefits of being online come the risks of contacts or conduct that leads to harm. Knowledge and understanding of the internet and social media are important in protecting children and youth from the more dangerous aspects of cyberspace.

Thailand's Department of Children and Youth, at the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, organised the ASEAN Youth Workshop on Media Literacy from 25 to 27 April 2017 in Bangkok. The objectives were to raise awareness of online risks, to promote youth participation in media literacy, to exchange ideas on the use of social media, and to strengthen collaboration between ASEAN young people that would build a strong defensive mechanism against the negative effects of cyberspace.

Participating in the workshop were youth representatives and SOMY focal points representatives from ASEAN Member States, and the ASEAN Secretariat. Guest speakers and experts led lectures and discussions on media literacy and media production. Country presentations were given on the situation of online and mobile technology users among children and young people in their respective countries. Preventive measures were explained, and there was a panel discussion on online safety.

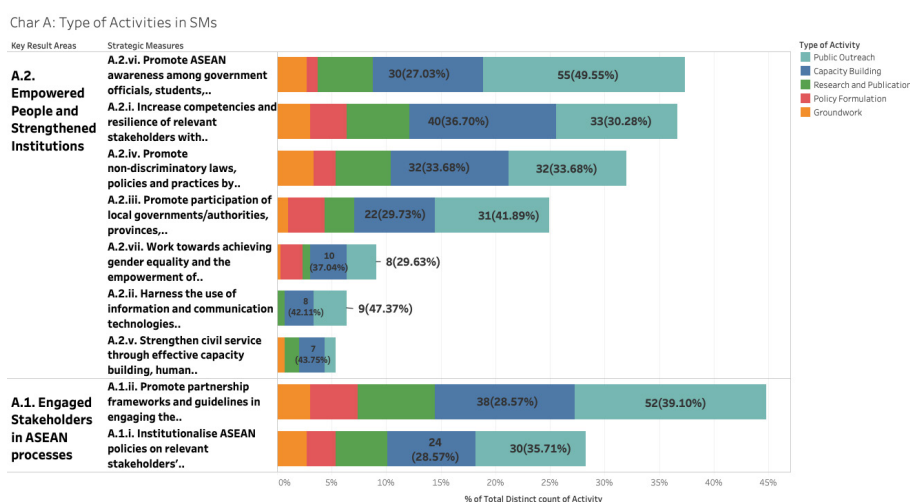
A brainstorming session resulted in the suggestion to set up an online watch network at five levels, namely the individual, community, governmental, regional, and international levels. The participants also produced four video clips and eight print advertisements for an online safety campaign. The participants paid a study visit to a local television station, Thai Public Broadcasting Service, where broadcasters explained how the station connected people and acted as a channel to communicate challenges they face in their daily lives.

Source: ASEAN Youth Bytes, July 2019 (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2019d).

### III.2.4 Type and Timeframe of Activities to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic A KRAs

Figure 3.10 demonstrates that public outreach and capacity building were the predominant activities used deliver SMs for Characteristic A. This is in line with the nature of public outreach and capacity building. For instance, SM A.2.vi, 'promote ASEAN awareness among government officials, students, children, youths and all stakeholders as part of building ASEAN identity', can be achieved through various public outreach activities.

Figure 3.10 Activities Implemented to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic A KRAs



% of Total Distinct count of Activity for each Strategic Measures broken down by Key Result Areas. Colour shows details about Type of Activity. The data is filtered on Duplix, Characteristics and Status. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps A. Engages and Benefit the People. The Status filter keeps Completed and Ongoing. The view is filtered on Key Result Areas, which keeps A.1. Engaged Stakeholders in ASEAN processes and A.2. Empowered People and Strengthened Institutions.

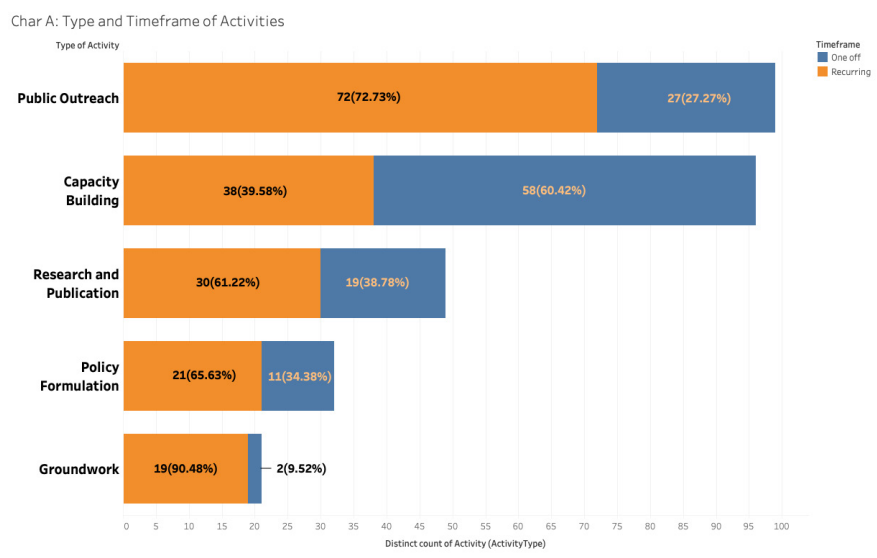
Note: X axis shows total activities dedicated to each SM as percent of total activities that were either completed or ongoing. Percent in brackets refers to relative size of type of activity to total activities for a particular SM.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

It is noticeable that both public outreach and capacity building activities were supported or conducted in conjunction with other activities. For instance, research and publication is evident across SMs. Likewise, policy formulation and groundwork activities were also represented across SMs. To some extent, this is an indication of the implementation of a comprehensive and systematic strategy to achieve SMs, KRAs, and in turn, Characteristic A.

Figure 3.11 indicates that the efforts or activities under Characteristic A have been conducted sustainably, rather than sporadically as in a 'one-off' type of activity.

Figure 3.11 Timeframe and Type of Activities under Characteristic A



Distinct count of Activity (ActivityType) for each Type of Activity. Colour shows details about Timeframe. The data is filtered on Duplix, Status (ActivityType), Characteristics (charIsb) and Key Result Areas (charIsb). The Duplix filter keeps no. The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps Completed and Ongoing. The Characteristics (charIsb) filter keeps A. Engages and Benefit the People. The Key Result Areas (charIsb) filter keeps A1. Engaged Stakeholders in ASEAN processes and A2. Empowered People and Strengthened institutions.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

### III.2.5 Means of Implementation, Institutional Mechanism, and Resource Mobilisation for Activities for Characteristic A

Some activities conducted by SBs had outputs that provided tangible benefits to relevant beneficiaries and stakeholders in AMS. In the Health Sector, for example, SOMHD, as the main contributor of Characteristic A, is currently operationalising a number of mechanisms under the Health Sector to support the regional preparedness and response of ASEAN and Plus Three Countries (APT) to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic<sup>3</sup>. Information

3 The mechanisms include ASEAN Plus Three Senior Officials Meeting for Health Development (APT SOMHD), ASEAN Emergency Operations Centre Network for public health emergencies (ASEAN EOC), ASEAN Plus Three Field Epidemiology Training Network (ASEAN+3 FETN), ASEAN Risk Assessment and Risk Communication Centre (ARARC), and public health laboratory network under purview of ASEAN Health Cluster 2 on Responding to All Hazards and Emerging Threats.



exchanged using these mechanisms has been helpful to AMS in informing and developing COVID-19 plans and strategies at the national level. APT countries also have shared updates, having experienced the outbreak earlier and having learned from the approaches adopted by AMS.

Likewise, SOMS, the second largest contributor to Characteristic A, has implemented sports-related programmes that potentially may have impacts across the region and for all of ASEAN's peoples. Important changes can be seen in reference to the ASEAN Work Plan on Sports 2016-2020 for National-Level Sports Planning in AMS, particularly in shaping the post-2020 priorities of ASEAN Sports Sector in alignment with the Kazan Action Plan.

In the Youth Sector, SOMS and the ASEAN Declaration on the Adoption of the ASEAN Youth Development Index (YDI)<sup>4</sup>, have resulted in considerable impacts, such as availability of national YDIs in most AMS as a reference for policy, programme, and academic research, and for shaping post-2020 sport priorities.

The implementation of SB activities under Characteristic A have effectively reached intended stakeholders. For example, under the Health Sector, through SOMHD, all activities in APHDA<sup>5</sup> Work Programmes were endorsed by ASEAN Health Clusters and SOMHD, and later adopted by the AHMM. Further, in the Sports Sector, SOMS ensured that all Blueprint activities—notably KRA A.1, 'engaged stakeholders in ASEAN processes'—involved the participation of and provided benefits to targeted beneficiaries, such as athletes and relevant stakeholders.

On effective budget utilisation, SBs complied, in principle, with financial guidelines from various funding sources, in implementing Sectoral activities under Characteristic A. For the Health Sector, the Health Division, along with SOMHD, effectively managed and utilised allocated budgets from the ASEAN Trust Fund (ATF) to run regular meetings of the ASEAN Health Sector and to finance ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) participation. Project financial reports have been verified by the ASEC Finance & Budget Division (FBD) and

---

4 The ASEAN Declaration on the Adoption of the ASEAN Youth Development Index (YDI) was made ASEAN Leaders during the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit, on 13 Nov. 2017 in Manila, Philippines.

5 APHDA is the ASEAN Post-2015 Health Development Agenda. As guided by the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the ASCC Blueprint 2025, the ASEAN Health Cooperation adopted APHDA, which encapsulates the shared goals, strategies, priorities and programmes of the Health Sector between 2016-2020. (<https://asean.org/asean-socio-cultural/asean-health-ministers-meeting-ahmm/overview-2/>). APHDA was endorsed by Senior Official Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) and adopted by ASEAN Health Ministerial Meeting (AHMM)

were submitted to the Programme Cooperation and Project Management Division (PCPMD). For projects using the lead-country approach that were funded on a cost-sharing basis, concerned AMS were the only entities able to assess budget utilisation.

The achievements of SBs in implementing activities relevant to the Blueprint can also be assessed by how they have resolved and overcome constraints and challenges. Constraints included issues related to funding for activities in work plans, cross-Sectoral coordination for cross-cutting activities, project delays due to unforeseen reasons (e.g., the COVID-19 pandemic), and the changing priorities of SB Chairs. The common strategy for getting around constraints in implementing activities is for concerned Sectoral divisions to consult with SBs to provide the best approach for proceeding.

### **III.2.6 Results Delivered by Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospects for Upcoming Activities for Characteristic A**

Completed Characteristic A activities comprise various modalities. On research and publication, for example, results include writing, reporting and stocktaking of existing injury compensation institutions in AMS for occupational safety and health standards and performance enhancement. Stocktaking was completed and was reported to the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-OSHNET CBM.

Capacity-building activities completed as of the MTR include the launch of an online learning platform, *futurereadyasean.org*, by the ASEAN Foundation under the ASEAN Digital Innovation Programme partnership with Microsoft. The platform is expected to be a learning resource to prepare ASEAN youth for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

On policy formulation, the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework is under development, based on the outcomes of the Senior Officials Conference on Gender Mainstreaming in the ASCC Sectoral Bodies. The activity was conducted to implement SM A.2.vii, 'work towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls', under KRA A.2, 'empowered people and strengthened institutions'.

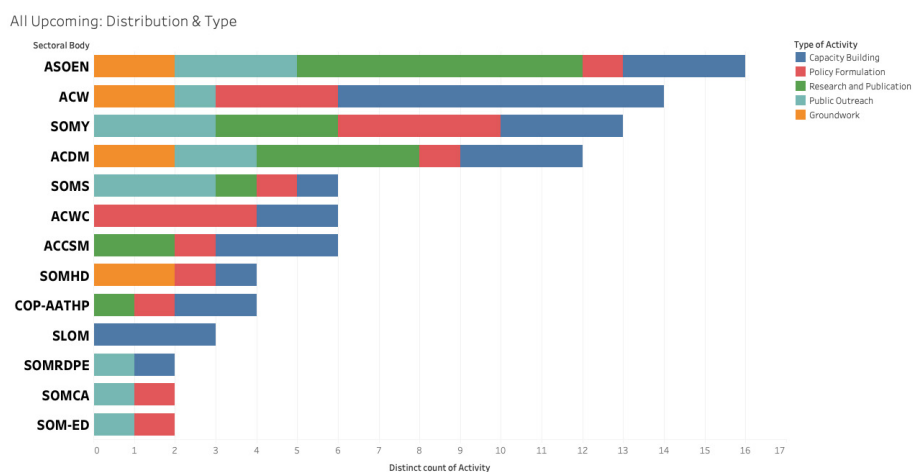
On public outreach, successes included the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Future Leaders Summit (AFLES), which involved 200 university students from AMS.

For ongoing activities under Characteristic A, progress has also been made, covering various modalities at various stages of execution. Some research projects are in the data collection stage, while capacity-building activities have shifted to web seminars and other online modes, following COVID-19.

Ninety of 387 (23.3%) activities in SB Characteristic A work plans have not yet been implemented during the Blueprint's first term (2016-2020). Those activities will most likely to be implemented during the Blueprint's end term or carried over to the next Sectoral work plan period (2021-20205).

On upcoming Characteristic A activities, the MTR indicates that work has progressed until a certain stage, although the activities were not yet implemented. Some activities are currently revising concept notes or project proposals, some are meeting or consolidating stakeholders, and some are exploring potential funding sources or submitting proposals to potential funders.

Figure 3.12 Distribution and Type of Upcoming Activities under Characteristic A



Distinct count of Activity for each Sectoral Body. Colour shows details about Type of Activity. The data is filtered on Status (ActivityType), Duplrix and Characteristics (char/lsb). The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps Upcoming. The Duplrix filter keeps no. The Characteristics (char/lsb) filter keeps A. Engages and Benefit the People.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Figure 3.12 shows the number, distribution, and type of upcoming Characteristic A activities. ASOEN, ACW, SOMY, and ACDM comprised 17.8%, 15.6%, 14.4%, and 13.3% of upcoming Characteristic A activities, respectively. Capacity building and policy formulation were the two largest types of activities, at 33.3% and 21.1%, respectively.

To increase the likelihood of successful implementation in the Blueprint's end term, it is important to consider the changes in context from 2016, when work plans were developed, and the present day, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities that are to be carried forward must be aligned with the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF). SBs with upcoming activities must expedite their concept notes, proposals, and other detailed activity plans to ensure relevance with the ACRF's priorities and strategy.

### **III.3. Blueprint Implementation Progress for Characteristic B: Inclusive**

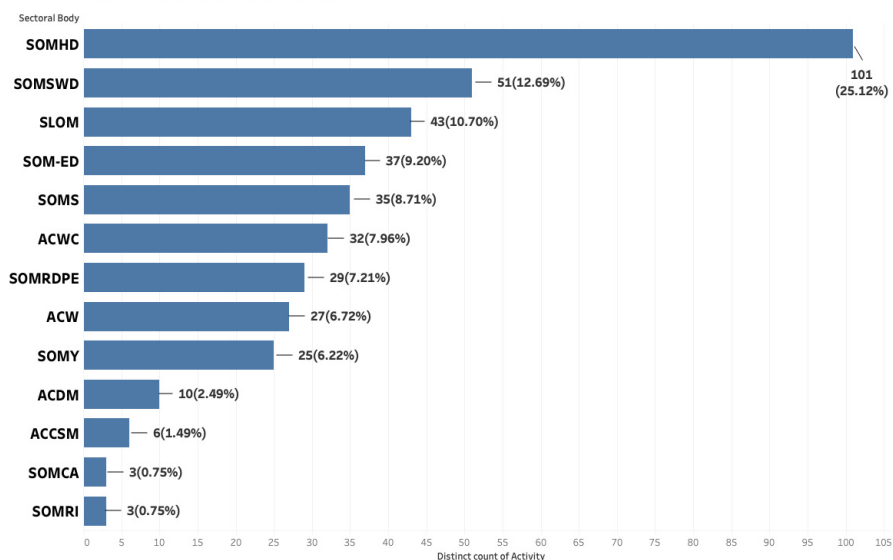
#### **III.3.1 ASCC's Sectoral Workplans and Intended Contribution to Characteristic B Objectives**

There are 402 activities SB work plans supporting Characteristic B (see Figure 3.13), distributed across all Sectoral Bodies, except for ASOEN and COP-AATHP. According to the Results Framework, Characteristic B's lead body is SOMSWD, while cooperating SBs are ACCSM, ACW, ACWC, SOMHD, SOMRDPE, SOMRI, SOMS, and SOMY. ASOEN and COP-AATHP had no Characteristic B activities.

SOMHD had more than 25% of Characteristic B activities under its plan, while SOMRI accounted for three activities. SBs can be divided into three categories based on their Characteristic B workloads: SBs responsible for more than 10% of Characteristic B activities (SOMHD, SOMSWD and SLOM); SB responsible for less than 10% but more than 5% of activities (SOM-ED, SOMS, ACWC, SOMRDPE, ACW, and SOMY), and those responsible for less than 5%.

Figure 3.13 Activity Number and Distribution in Sectoral Workplans to Achieve Characteristic B Objectives

Char B: Number dan Distribution of Sectoral Activities



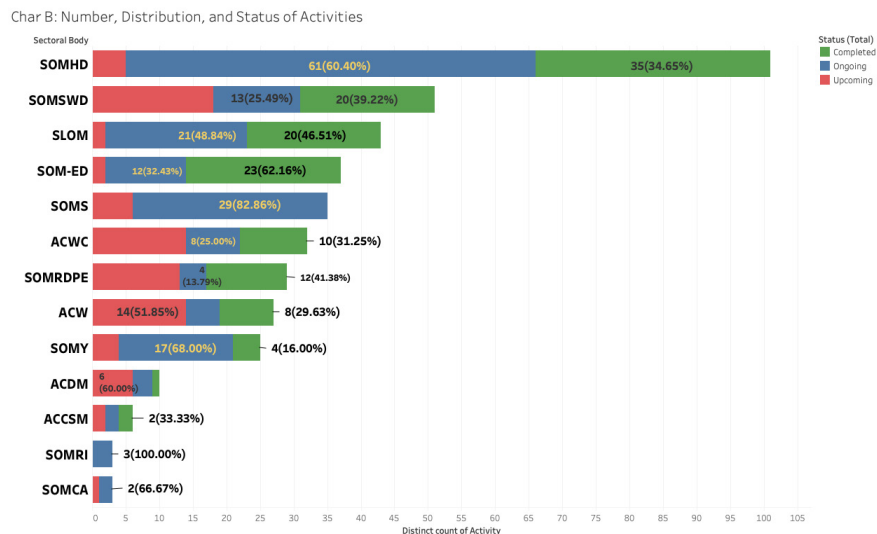
Distinct count of Activity for each Sectoral Body. The data is filtered on Status (ActivityType), Duplix and Characteristics. The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps multiple members. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps B. Inclusive.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

### III.3.2 Implementation Status of Sectoral Body Activities for Characteristic B

On implementation status (see Figure 3.14), 315 of 402 Characteristic B activities (78.4%) were completed or are ongoing as of the MTR, almost 7% higher than the Blueprint's general completion rate of 71.8%. With only 21.6% of Characteristic B activities to be implemented in the Blueprint's end term, implementation progress is satisfactory.

Figure 3.14 Current Status of Characteristic B Sectoral Workplans



Distinct count of Activity for each Sectoral Body. Colour shows details about Status. The data is filtered on Status (ActivityType), Duplix and Characteristics (char/sb). The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps multiple members. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics (char/sb) filter keeps B. Inclusive.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Large variations were recorded for activity completion across Sectoral Bodies. SBs recording completing a number of activities (see Fig. 3.14) ranging from zero (SOMCA, SOMRI, and SOMS) to more than half (SOM-ED). This variation was also apparent in the status of ongoing and upcoming activities.

Figure 3.8 also notes the outlier cases of SOMCA, SOMRI, and SOMS, which booked zero completed activities. Similar to the case cited in Section 3.2.2, ongoing activities of the outliers comprised routine recurring programmes, as seen in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Recurring Activities of SOMRI, SOMCA, and SOMS

SB	Recurring Activity
SOMRI	Collaborate with other Sectors to facilitate technology development and improve accessibility in the Information and Media Sector.
SOMCA	Encourage local culture as a source of innovation and creativity to promote the re-interpretation and creation of cultural products among community-based small- and medium-sized cultural enterprises (SMCEs).
SOMS	Conduct regular coordination meetings with SEA Games Federation, Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), and ASEAN Sports Federations to synchronize training programmes of sports officials, coaches, and referees in ASEAN Lead country to be in line with AMMS/SOMS Chair.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

### III.3.3 Sectoral Body Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic B KRAs

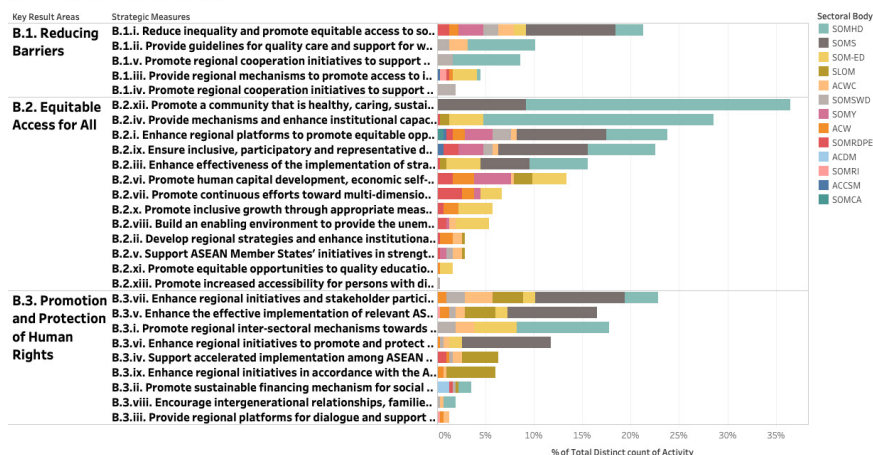
Figure 3.15 states what has been delivered or accomplished by activities supporting Characteristic B. Referring to the Blueprint's logical framework, focus should be on completed and ongoing activities (78.4% of the 402 activities presented in Figure 3.12).

Further, Figure 3.15 shows activities conducted to deliver five SMs for KRA B1, 'reducing barriers', 13 SMs for KRA B2, 'equitable access for all', and nine SMs for KRA B3, 'promotion and protection of human rights'.

Two SMs predominated Characteristic B work plans, according to Figure 3.15: SM B.2.xii, 'promote a community that is healthy, caring, sustainable, and productive, and one that practices a healthy lifestyle resilient to health threats and has universal access to healthcare', and SM B.2.iv, 'provide mechanisms and enhance institutional capacity to promote greater access to basic social services for all, such as health services and education, including early childhood education and vocational education, skills training, and promotion of skills recognition'. These SMs were supported by 38% and 28% of Characteristic B activities.

Figure 3.15 Sectoral Body Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic B KRAs

Char B: SBs Contribution to SMs



% of Total Distinct count of Activity for each Strategic Measures broken down by Key Result Areas. Colour shows details about Sectoral Body. The data is filtered on Duplix, Characteristics and Status. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps B. Inclusive. The Status filter keeps Completed and Ongoing. The view is filtered on Key Result Areas, which keeps B.1. Reducing Barriers, B.2. Equitable Access for All and B.3. Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

Note: X axis shows total activities dedicated to each SM as a percent of total activities that were either completed or are ongoing. Percent in brackets refers to relative SB contributions to total activities for a particular SM.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Box 2 provides a case study on implementing an inclusive ASEAN, especially for KRA B.1, 'reducing barriers', which backed up the Strategic Measure 'promote regional cooperation initiatives to support AMS in implementing the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community and the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020)'.



## **Box 2. ASEAN Opens Its Doors: An Inclusive Internship Programme (Case Study)**

It was an opportunity of a lifetime for the four graduates of the London School Beyond Academy (LSBA), a school in Jakarta that provides education to students with special needs and abilities. Jonathan Nangoi, Abijdzar Alghivari, Reychando Siregar, and Rifqi Adiono—all in their 20s—just finished a three-month internship at the ASEAN Secretariat. In March 2019, they began an on-the-job training programme at the ASEAN Secretariat's Community Affairs Directorate. The primary purpose of providing such internship opportunities to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Special Needs was to demonstrate that ASEAN walks its talk. The ASEAN Secretariat undertook the experimental lead in delivering an inclusive, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community through rendering corporate working experience to these PWDs, many of whom are not able to secure jobs upon their graduations.

Siregar, who loves editing photos, was assigned to the information and resource centre of ASEAN Secretariat. 'Here, I could learn more about ASEAN, and I could also see records of presidential meetings (summits) through the old summit photos. I think I will grade myself 10 out of 10 for my internship with the ASEAN Secretariat,' he said. LSBA Founder Prita Kemal Gani told the ASEAN, 'This is a good model. If this internship is a success, maybe other businesses and companies will follow.' All interns raved about how well they were treated by their mentors.

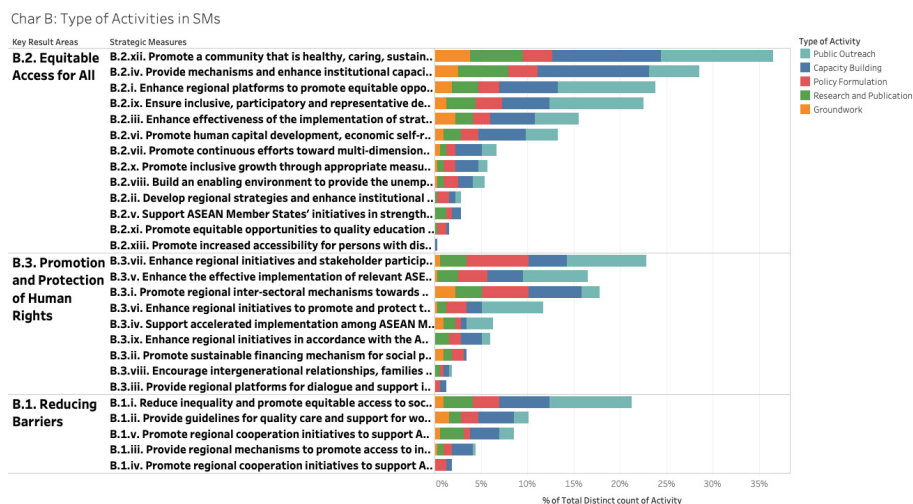
Alghivari worked with the social media team and was equally appreciative of the friendly atmosphere at work. He mused on the stigma that people with disabilities like him still face in the real world. 'I used to be treated as a second-grade citizen. People despised me because of my autism,' he said. 'With more chances for people with autism to do internship, I hope that people can be more considerate toward us and treat people with autism equally. We can understand normal people, but they also need to understand us. They need to try to learn to understand what we have been through, what conditions we were born with.' The internship programme has opened another door for Alghivari. The ASEAN Autism Network offered him a job as an administrative officer.

Source: The ASEAN, Issue 04/August 2020, 'ASEAN Opens Its Doors: An Inclusive Internship Programme' (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2020c).

### III.3.4 Type and Timeframe of Activities to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic B KRAs

Figure 3.16 shows that public outreach and capacity building were the predominant activities used deliver SMs for Characteristic B. This is in line with the nature of public outreach and capacity building. For instance, SM B.2.xii can be achieved through various public outreach activities, while SM B.2.iv can be implemented through capacity building.

Figure 3.16 Activities Implemented to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic B KRAs



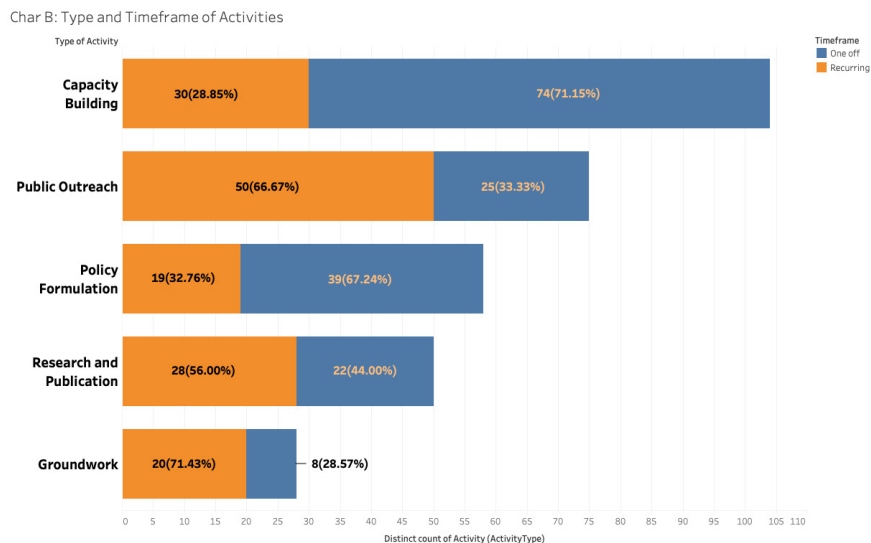
% of Total Distinct count of Activity for each Strategic Measures broken down by Key Result Areas. Colour shows details about Type of Activity. The data is filtered on Duplix, Characteristics and Status. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps B. Inclusive. The Status filter keeps Completed and Ongoing. The view is filtered on Key Result Areas, which keeps B.1. Reducing Barriers, B.2. Equitable Access for All and B.3. Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

Note: X axis shows total activities dedicated to each SM as a percent of total activities that were either completed or are ongoing (315 activities). Percent in brackets refers to relative size of type of activity to total activities for a particular SM.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Public outreach and capacity-building activities under Characteristic B were supported or conducted in conjunction with other activity types. For instance, research and publication was evident across SMs. Likewise, policy formulation and groundwork activities were also represented across SMs.

Figure 3.17 Timeframe and Type of Activities under Characteristic B



Distinct count of Activity (ActivityType) for each Type of Activity. Colour shows details about Timeframe. The data is filtered on Duplix, Status (ActivityType), Characteristics (charlsb) and Key Result Areas (charlsb). The Duplix filter keeps no. The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps Completed and Ongoing. The Characteristics (charlsb) filter keeps B. Inclusive. The Key Result Areas (charlsb) filter keeps B1. Reducing Barriers, B2. Equitable Access for All and B3. Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Figure 3.17 indicates that there were different approaches for different activities. Capacity-building activities were generally one-off, while public relations had more recurring activities.

### III.3.5 Means of Implementation, Institutional Mechanism, and Resource Mobilisation for Activities under Characteristic B

The main SB contributors for Characteristic B activities were SOMHD and SOMS, as was the case with Characteristic A. Their implementation of activities under Characteristic B was effective in engaging targeted stakeholders and in managing budget allocations.

### III.3.6 Results Delivered by Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospect of Upcoming Activities under Characteristic B

Various results were delivered by completed activities under Characteristic B. On capacity building, examples include the Workshop to Formulate the ASEAN Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Nutrition—a milestone

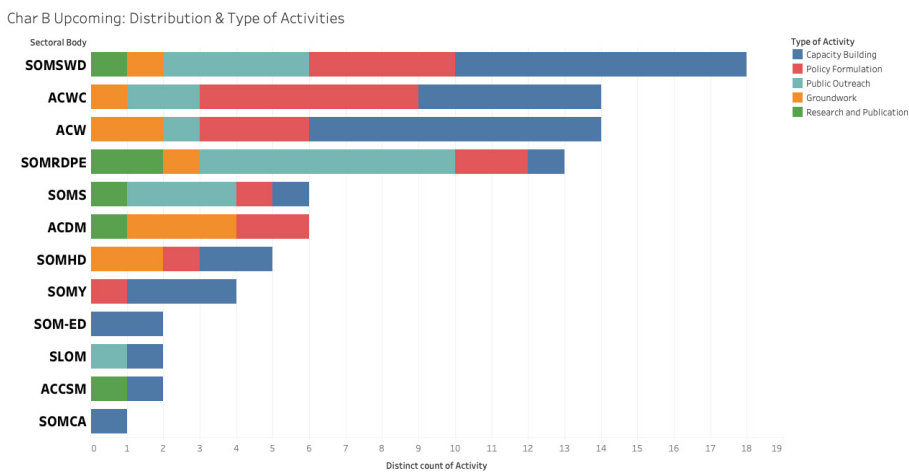
toward establishing an ASEAN Nutrition Surveillance System as instrument to tackle nutritional problems in ASEAN.

On research and publication, results include a study on vulnerable and marginalized groups in AMS to identify most-needy groups for social protection. On policy formulation, results included development of legislation and policies for autistic children—an essential step to implement the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community and the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020).

On ongoing Characteristic B activities, progress was made, despite mobility limitations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some research projects have implemented; others have been conducted online.

On upcoming activities, 87 of 402 Characteristic B activities (21.6%) were not implemented in the Blueprint's first term and will likely be carried over to the next Sectoral work plan period (2021-20205). The MTR indicates that work has progressed until a certain stage for several upcoming Characteristic B activities, although the activities were not yet implemented. Some activities are currently revising concept notes or project proposals, some are meeting or consolidating stakeholders, and some are exploring potential funding sources or submitting proposals to potential funders.

Figure 3.18 Distribution and Type of Upcoming Activities for Characteristic B



Distinct count of Activity for each Sectoral Body. Colour shows details about Type of Activity. The data is filtered on Status (ActivityType), Duplix and Characteristics (char1sb). The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps Upcoming. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics (char1sb) filter keeps B. Inclusive.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Figure 3.18 shows the number, distribution, and type of upcoming activities for Characteristic B. Of 87 activities, SOMSWD (20.7%), ACWC (16.1%), ACW (16.1%), and SOMRDPE (16.1%) were responsible for the most work done by SBs. Capacity building and policy formulation comprised most Characteristic B activities, at 37.9% and 23% respectively.

Upcoming Characteristic B activities are highly relevant to ACRF and are a good fit with two of the ACRF's Broad Strategies. Activities oriented to ensuring accessible and affordable health services in the context of universal health coverage sit perfectly under Broad Strategy 1, 'enhancing health systems' in ACRF. The ACRF's Broad Strategy 2, 'strengthening human security', is also a good match for another Characteristic B concern: strengthening and broadening social protections and social welfare, especially for vulnerable groups, which includes older persons, workers at high-risk Sectors, workers in the Informal Sector and gig economy, and migrant workers.

### **III.4. Blueprint Implementation Progress for Characteristic C: Sustainable**

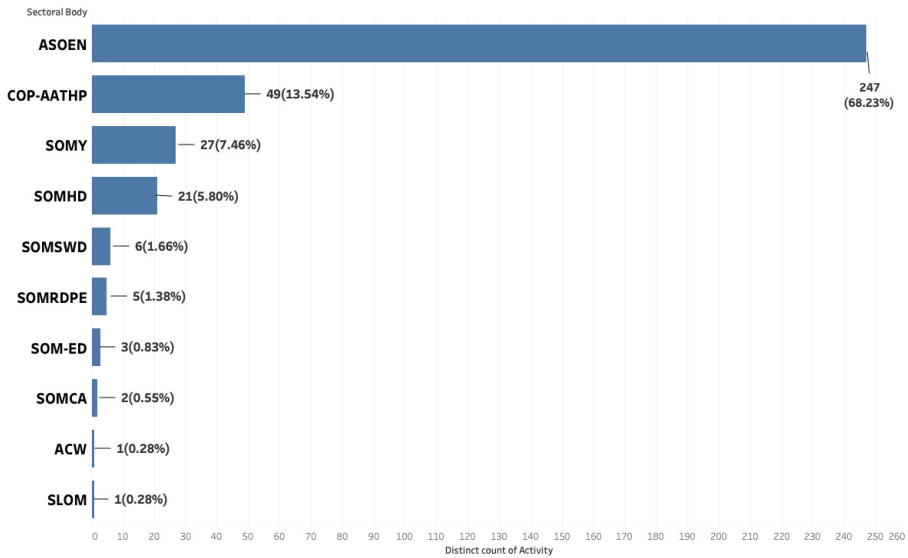
#### **III.4.1 ASCC's Sectoral Workplans and Intended Contributions to Characteristic C Objectives**

There were 362 activities in SB work plans under Characteristic C (see Figure 3.19), distributed across 10 Sectoral Bodies. Five SBs did not have activities under Characteristic C: ACDM, ACWC, ACCSM, SOMRI, and SOMS.

ASOEN was the dominant SB, responsible for 68.2% of all activities, followed by COP-AATHP, with 13.54%. These SBs are dedicated to environmental protection and conservation. SOMY and SOMHD comprised 7.5% and 5.8% of Characteristic B activities, respectively, and the remaining SBs were responsible for less than one percent.

Figure 3.19 Number and Distribution of Activities in Sectoral Workplans to Achieve Characteristic C Objectives

Char C: Number dan Distribution of Sectoral Activities



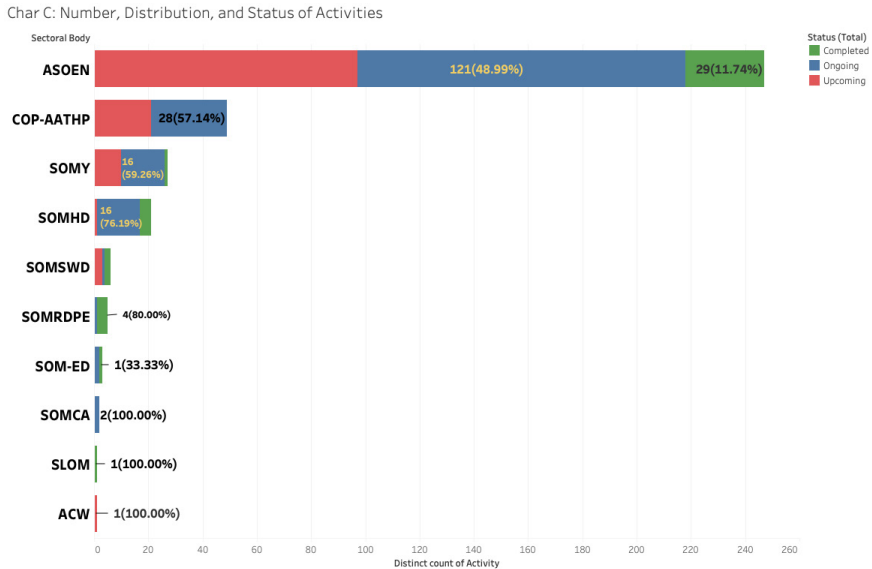
Distinct count of Activity for each Sectoral Body. The data is filtered on Status (ActivityType), Duplix and Characteristics. The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps multiple members. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps C. Sustainable.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

### III.4.2 Implementation Status of Sectoral Body Activities under Characteristic C

On implementation status (see Figure 3.20), 229 of 362 Characteristic C activities (63.3%) were either completed or are ongoing as of the MTR, 8% lower than the Blueprint's general completion rate (71.8%). As noted previously, the completion rate cannot be used alone to judge SB progress; there must be an assessment of activity type and timeframes.

Figure 3.20 Current Status of Sectoral Workplans for Characteristic C

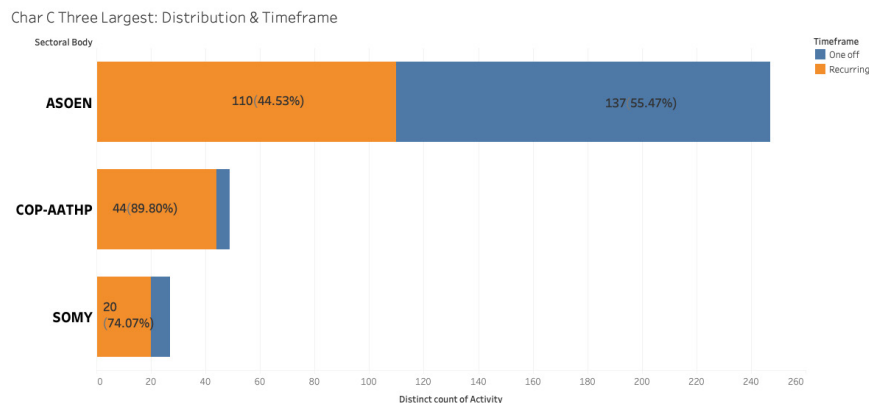


Distinct count of Activity for each Sectoral Body. Colour shows details about Status. The data is filtered on Status (Activity>Type), Duplix and Characteristics (charisb). The Status (Activity>Type) filter keeps multiple members. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics (charisb) filter keeps C. Sustainable.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Figure 3.21 shows that recurring activities comprised a large number of Characteristic C activities for COP-AATHP (90%), SOMY (74%), and ASEAN (45%).

Figure 3.21 Timeframe and Type of Activities of Three Largest SBs for Characteristic C



Distinct count of Activity for each Sectoral Body. Colour shows details about Timeframe. The data is filtered on Status (ActivityType). Duplix and Characteristics (char'sb). The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps Completed, Ongoing and Upcoming. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics (char'sb) filter keeps C. Sustainable. The view is filtered on Sectoral Body, which keeps ASOEN, COP-AATHP and SOMY.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

### III.4.3 Sectoral Body Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic C KRAs

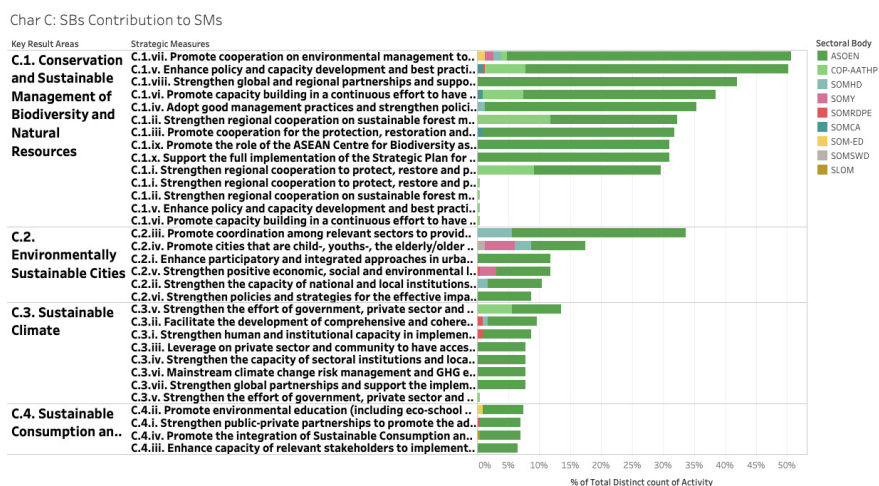
Figure 3.20 states what has been delivered or accomplished by activities supporting Characteristic C. Referring to the Blueprint's logical framework, focus should be on completed and ongoing activities (63.26% of 362 activities in Figure 3.20).

Two Sectoral Bodies—the environmentally focused ASEAN and COP-AATHP—were responsible for most Characteristic C activities. Uniquely, as per Figure 3.21, there were Strategic Measures implemented only by ASEAN and COP-AATHP, working either in tandem or individually.

SOMY was a substantial contributor to SM C2.iv, 'promote cities that are child-, youth-, elderly/older person-, and persons-with-disabilities-friendly through enhanced coordination with relevant Sectors to provide sustainable and accessible infrastructure systems'. The measure calls for cross-Sectoral activity between the Environment and Youth Sectors to implement the SM and deliver KRA C2, 'environmentally sustainable cities'. Checking Tool 1, SOMY's cross-Sectoral effort with ASOEN resulted in the activity 'support the conduct of the ASEAN Youth Environment Forum under the auspices of ASOEN'.



Figure 3.22 Sectoral Bod Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic C KRAs



% of Total Distinct count of Activity for each Strategic Measures broken down by Key Result Areas. Colour shows details about: Sectoral Body. The data is filtered on Duplix, Characteristics and Status. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps C. Sustainable. The Status filter keeps Completed and Ongoing. The view is filtered on Key Result Areas, which keeps C.1. Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Natural Resources, C.2. Environmentally Sustainable Cities, C.3. Sustainable Climate and C.4. Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Note: X axis shows total activities dedicated to each SM as percentage of total activities that either completed or ongoing. Percentage in bracket refers to a relative SB's contribution to total activities for a particular SM.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Box 3 provides a case study for achieving KRA C.1, specifically SM (ii), 'strengthen regional cooperation on sustainable forest management in the context of forest fire prevention and control, including through the implementation of the AATHP, to effectively address transboundary haze pollution'.

### **Box 3. Climate Change Mitigation through Sustainable Peatland Management in ASEAN**

Peatlands are the most extensive freshwater wetland ecosystem in the ASEAN region, covering an estimated 23 million hectares of land and are found in all AMS, except Singapore. ASEAN's peatlands represent 40 percent of the known tropical peatlands and six percent of all peatlands worldwide. Indonesia has the largest peatland area, followed by Malaysia. Peatlands are considered one of the hidden jewels of our living planet. Most peatlands in ASEAN are naturally forested and such peat swamp forests can sustain a high diversity of flora and fauna and provide numerous ecological benefits to us, such as freshwater supply, flood mitigation, climate regulation and carbon storage.

Over the past 40 years, ASEAN's peatlands have faced severe degradation driven by economic activities ranging from logging, to agriculture and plantations, as well as infrastructure and mining. As a result, over 60 percent of peatlands have been degraded and more than 5 million hectares have been burnt, releasing the stored carbon so that peatlands have changed from a carbon sink to a major emission source.

However, there has been substantial progress in ASEAN in mitigating the degradation of peatlands and building their resilience to climate change through a regional approach. After the large-scale fires and transboundary haze in 1997/1998, AMS drafted the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) in 2002. At the same time, the ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative (APMI) was formulated to enhance partnerships in addressing peatland management. This led to the formal adoption in 2006 of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) for the period of 2006-2020 to guide actions to enhance sustainable management of peatlands and prevent fires and transboundary haze. The ASEAN Guidelines on Peatland Fire Management were adopted in 2016 and represent a paradigm shift from firefighting to a fire-prevention approach. The Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation (ASEAN Haze-free Roadmap) was then adopted in 2016.

Indonesia has made a commitment to reduce the intensity of its greenhouse gas emissions to 41 percent by 2030 and has rolled out an ambitious national action plan with an emphasis on sustainable peatland and forest management. It established a Peatland Directorate in the Ministry of Environment and Forests in 2015 to implement the new Government Regulation on Protection and Management of Peatland Ecosystems. It set a strict requirement for maintenance of water levels in all peatlands and required the protection of a minimum of 30 percent of each peatland hydrological unit. It currently oversees the active monitoring of water levels in more than 3.2 million hectares of peatland. Indonesia also established a peatland restoration agency in 2016 to stimulate the rewetting and rehabilitation of 2 million hectares of peatland in seven provinces. In mid-2020, the Indonesian Minister of Environment and Forests approved a long-term National Plan on Protection and Management of Peatland Ecosystems for 2020-2049. Together these actions constitute one of the most ambitious and successful peatland protection and rehabilitation programmes in the world.

In Malaysia, good progress has been made in multi-stakeholder engagement in the integrated management of peatland landscapes. An Integrated Management Plan for the North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest which covers more than 81,000 hectares and is critical for the water supply of one of the most productive rice schemes in Malaysia. It was developed with the active participation of national, state and local government, private Sector plantations, and local communities. As a result of the strong stakeholder collaboration, Peatland fires have been reduced by more than 90 percent and greenhouse gas emissions have also been reduced.

Source: The ASEAN, Issue 05/September 2020, 'Climate change mitigation through sustainable peatland management' (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2020a).

#### **III.4.4 Type and Timeframe of Activities to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic C KRAs**

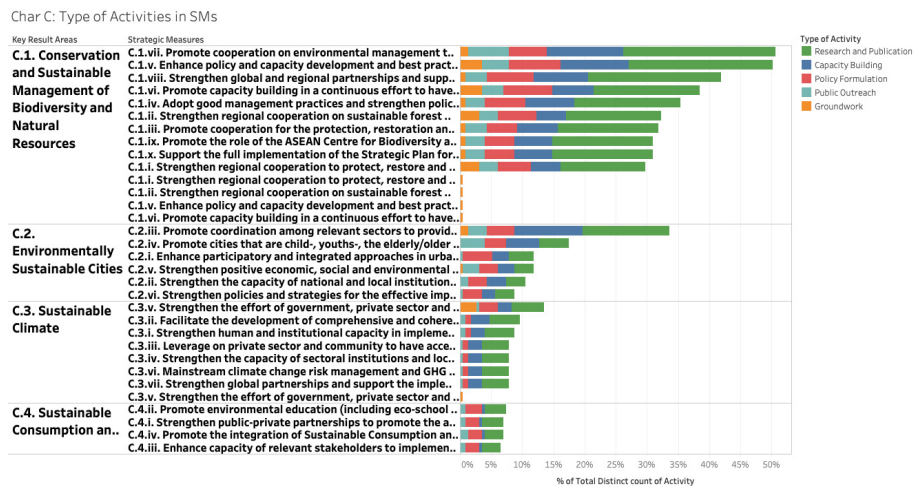
Figure 3.23 shows that policy formulation and capacity building were the predominant activities used deliver SMs for Characteristic C, as opposed to Characteristics A or B, which favoured public outreach and capacity building.

Policy formulation and capacity building under Characteristic C were supported or conducted in conjunction with other activity types. For

instance, research and publication was supported by public outreach activities to implement SM C.1.vii, 'promote cooperation on environmental management towards sustainable use of ecosystems and natural resources through environmental education, community engagement and public outreach'.

Similarly, SM C.1.v, 'enhance policy and capacity development and best practices to conserve, develop and sustainably manage marine, wetlands, peatlands, biodiversity, and land and water resources', was also supported by various activities.

Figure 3.23 Activities Implemented to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic C KRAs

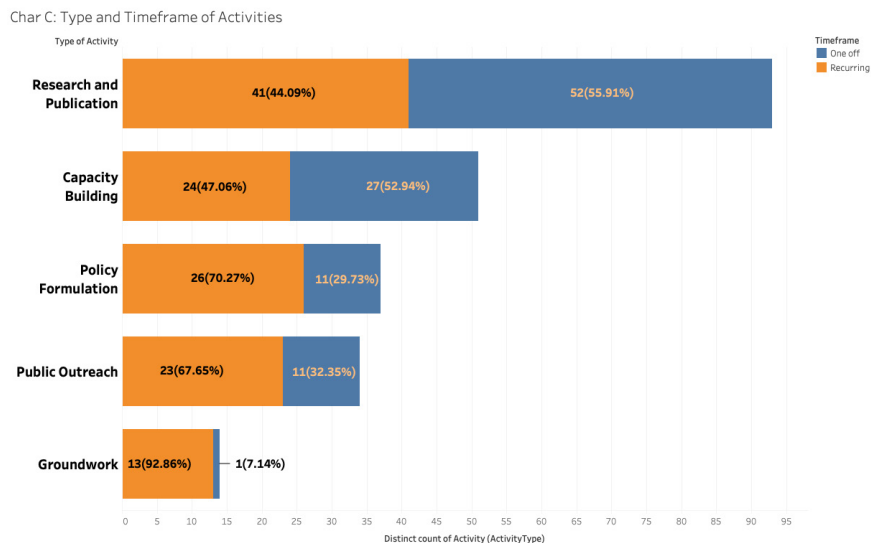


% of Total Distinct count of Activity for each Strategic Measures broken down by Key Result Areas. Colour shows details about Type of Activity. The data is filtered on Duplix, Characteristics and Status. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps C. Sustainable. The Status filter keeps Completed and Ongoing. The view is filtered on Key Result Areas, which keeps C.1, Conservation and Sustainable Management of biodiversity and Natural Resources; C.2, Environmentally Sustainable Cities; C.3, Sustainable Climate and C.4, Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Note: X axis shows total activities dedicated to each SM as percentage of total activities that either completed or ongoing. Percentage in bracket refers to relative size of type of activity to total activities for an SM.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Figure 3.24 Timeframe and Type of Activities under Characteristic C



Distinct count of Activity (ActivityType) for each Type of Activity. Colour shows details about Timeframe. The data is filtered on Duplix, Status (ActivityType), Characteristics (charlsb) and Key Result Areas (charlsb). The Duplix filter keeps no. The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps Completed and Ongoing. The Characteristics (charlsb) filter keeps C. Sustainable. The Key Result Areas (charlsb) filter keeps C1. Conservation and Sustainable Management [...], C2. Environmentally Sustainable Cities, C3. Sustainable Climate and C4. Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Figure 3.24 indicates that Characteristic C activities were sustainable, as opposed to one-off activities.

### III.4.5 Means of Implementation, Institutional Mechanism, and Resources Mobilisation for Activities under Characteristic C

FGD participants with relevant ASSC Sectoral divisions made it clear there were SB Characteristic C activities that resulted in concrete outputs to the benefit of relevant stakeholders in AMS. In the Environmental Sector, for example, ASOEN and COP-AATHP succeeded in delivering several achievements, detailed below.

Two milestones stand out: adopting the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region and developing the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris during the 34th ASEAN Summit, in Bangkok, Thailand, 22 June 2019. These documents confirmed ASEAN's commitment to conserve the marine environment and to strengthen regional cooperation in addressing marine debris issues. The documents paved the way for more concrete collaborative actions on combating marine debris in the region,

with support from partners. To support implementation of the Declaration and the Framework of Action, an ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris is being developed. Various environmental activities under seven thematic frameworks of actions have benefited the targeted stakeholders in AMS through increased capacity building, assistance, and knowledge products.

Other examples include:

- SAMCA's contribution to the Talanoa Dialogue under UNFCCC, as well as the regular joint statements to UNFCCC COP.
- Development of 5th ASEAN State of Environment Report & ASEAN Biodiversity Outlook.
- Supporting AMS in peatland restoration and sustainable livelihood, for example, through the SUPA project.
- Support to cities through city-to-city exchange and pilot projects in Frontrunner Cities project.
- Expanding ASEAN Heritage Parks network.
- Submission of ASEAN's Inputs to Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Overseen by its Governing Board, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), as ASOEN's technical arm, has been instrumental in facilitating, coordinating, and implementing various projects and programmes to achieve the strategic objectives of the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB) through, among other things, capacity building and CEPA programmes, secretariat support to the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP) programme and AHP Committee, and establishing links with the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and other relevant international organisations.

Concrete outputs have also been made by COP-AATHP through adoption of the Roadmap on ASEAN Cooperation towards Transboundary Haze Pollution Control with Means of Implementation during its 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting (COP-12) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 11 August 2016. The Roadmap serves as a strategic, action-oriented, and time-bounded framework to implement collaborative actions to control regional transboundary haze pollution to achieve a vision of Transboundary Haze-Free ASEAN by 2020. The Roadmap paves the way to the full operationalisation of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control (ACC THPC) to carry out implementation of AATHP, which includes enhancing monitoring and prevention capabilities, institutionalisation of early international haze

assistance, and establishing the full operation of all National Monitoring and Warning Systems.

Further, the ASCC Environment Division confirmed that governance systems and measures have been well established for ASOEN's activities, including those governing program planning, as well as management and M&E systems, to ensure alignment with ASEAN's vision and Blueprints.

Meaningful consultations and multi-stakeholder engagements are the foundation of success of environmental cooperation in the region. Coordination with partners and AMS also contribute to effectively addressing key priorities in the region, particularly by creating tangible synergic impacts. Implementation of ASOEN activities are reported regularly through the annual meetings of ASOEN, as well as through the annual meeting of the ASEAN Working Groups, the Project Steering Committees, and Partnership Conferences. All these practices ensured the effective implementation of ASOEN's Characteristic C activities.

Separately, the performance during the assessment period of COP-AATHP, as the second largest contributor to Characteristic C activities, indicated that implementation was done transparently, from programme planning to implementation to completion. This included implementing an effective project proposal development and appraisal process and ensuring accountability through meaningful consultations between AMS, Dialogue and Development Partners, and relevant stakeholders to ensure projects were implemented effectively and accountably. Activity design and planning was done in consultation with relevant SBs under the ASEAN Project Appraisal and Approval Process or partner project design process. Activity implementation were reported regularly through annual meetings of AATHP Sectoral Bodies (ATFP, TWG/MSC, TWG/MSC Mekong, COM, COP), Project Steering Committees, and the ASEAN Peatland Partners' Coordination Meetings.

#### **III.4.6 Results of Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospects for Upcoming Activities for Characteristic C**

Various results were delivered by completed activities under Characteristic C. On capacity building, results included a workshop on the ASEAN Mechanism to Enhance Surveillance against Illegal Desludging and Disposal of Tanker Sludge at Sea. This workshop was in line with the ASEAN Guideline on the ASEAN Marine Water Quality Criteria: Management Guidelines

and Monitoring Manual (ASEAN, 2008). The activity was done to promote cooperation for the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of the coastal and marine environment, and to respond and deal with the risk of pollution and threats to marine ecosystem and coastal environment, in particular for ecologically sensitive areas.

On policy formulation, a Multi-Sectoral Workshop on Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture was held to refine, prioritize, and recommend a five-point action plan, with options for institutional mechanisms to implement actions.

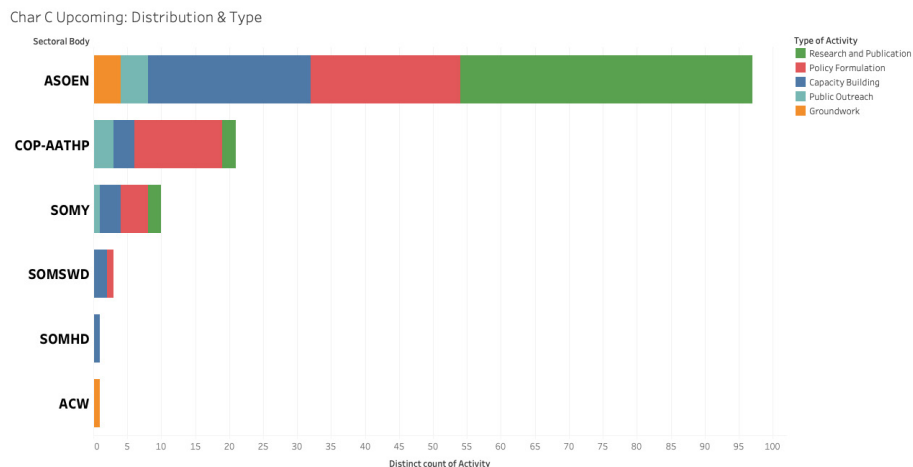
For Characteristic C's ongoing activities, progress was made for all activities, with a pronounced shift to online delivery modes during the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 133 of 362 (36.7%) activities under Characteristic C that were marked ongoing will likely be carried over to the next Sectoral work plan period (2021-2025). According to Tool 1, several Characteristic C activities have a good likelihood of implementation in the near future, after reaching milestones such as merging or collaborating with other activities to create a bigger pipeline project, mainstreaming with another Sectoral work plan, or adoption into a local framework.

Figure 3.25 shows the number, distribution, and type of upcoming activities. Of 133 activities, ASOEN and COP-AATHP accounted for 118 (88.7%). Research and publication, policy formulation, and capacity building comprised 35.3%, 30.1%, and 24.8% of activities, respectively.

Going forward, it is suggested that SBs with upcoming Characteristic C activities align their work plans with the ACRF, especially its Broad Strategy 5, 'advancing towards a more sustainable and resilient future'. Key Characteristic C priorities that could be included in that Broad Strategy are promoting a sustainable and green infrastructure (including smart cities) and facilitating the transition to sustainable energy.



Figure 3.25 Distribution and Type of Upcoming Activities under Characteristic C



Distinct count of Activity for each Sectoral Body. Colour shows details about Type of Activity. The data is filtered on Status (ActivityType), Duplix and Characteristics (charisb). The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps Upcoming. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics (charisb) filter keeps C. Sustainable.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

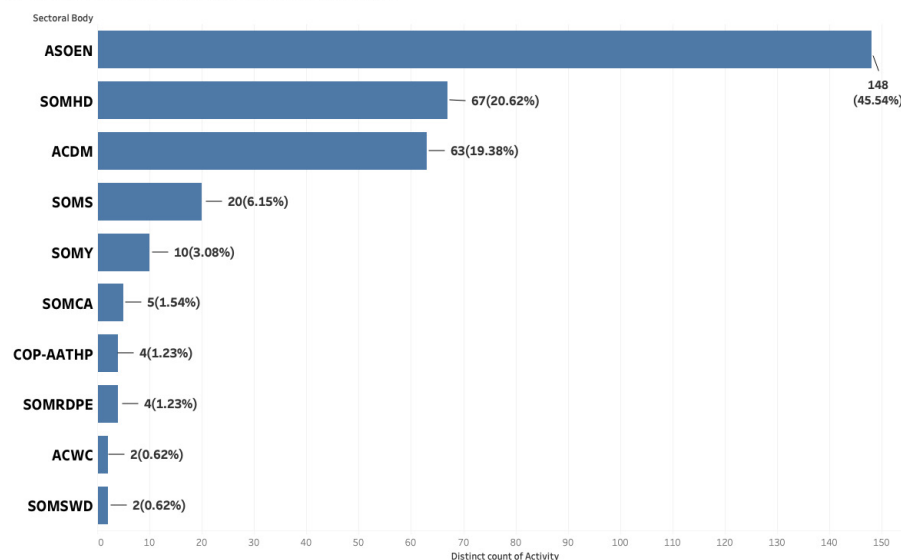
### III.5. Blueprint Implementation Progress for Characteristic D: Resilient

#### III.5.1 ASCC Sectoral Workplans and Intended Contributions to Characteristic D Objectives

There are 325 activities SB work plans supporting Characteristic D (see Figure 3.26), distributed across 10 Sectoral Bodies. ASOEN, SOMHD, and ACDM were responsible for 45.5%, 20.6%, and 19.4% of Characteristic D activities, with 12% of activities distributed across seven SBs.

Figure 3.26 Number and Distribution of Activities in Sectoral Workplans to Achieve Characteristic D Objectives

Char D: Number dan Distribution of Sectoral Activities



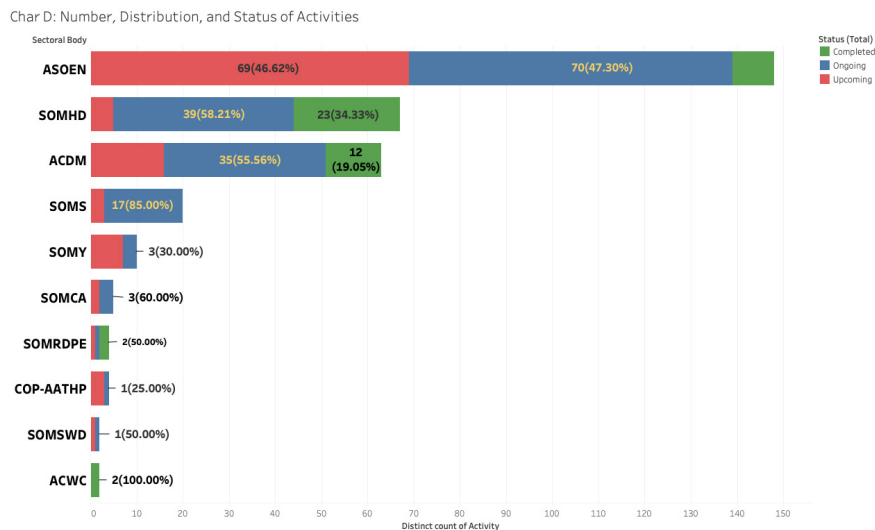
Distinct count of Activity for each Sectoral Body. The data is filtered on Status (ActivityType), Duplix and Characteristics. The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps multiple members. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps D. Resilient.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

### III.5.2 Implementation Status of Sectoral Body Activities under Characteristic D

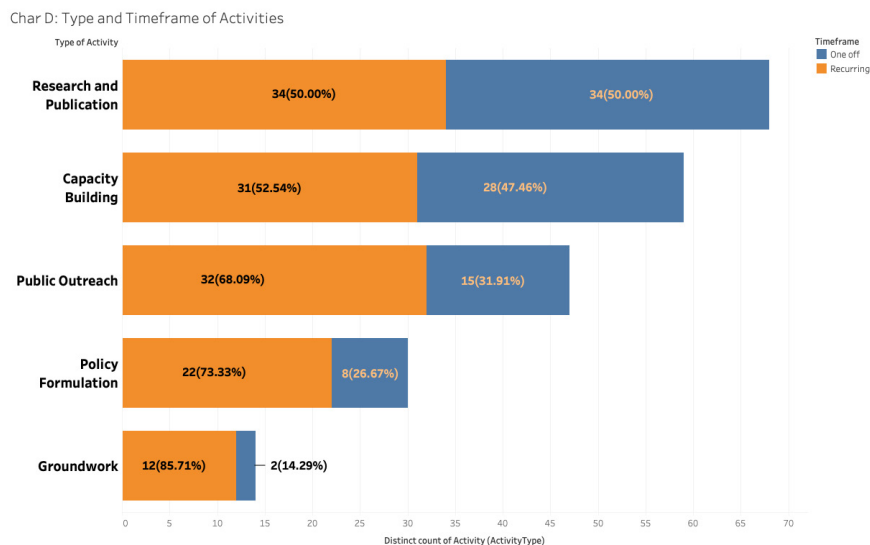
On implementation status (see Figure 3.27), 218 of 325 activities (67.1%) were either completed or are ongoing as of the MTR, 5% below of the Blueprint's general completion rate (71.8%). As noted previously, the completion rate cannot be used alone to judge SB progress; there must be an assessment of activity type and timeframes.

Figure 3.27 Current Status of Sectoral Workplans for Characteristic D



Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

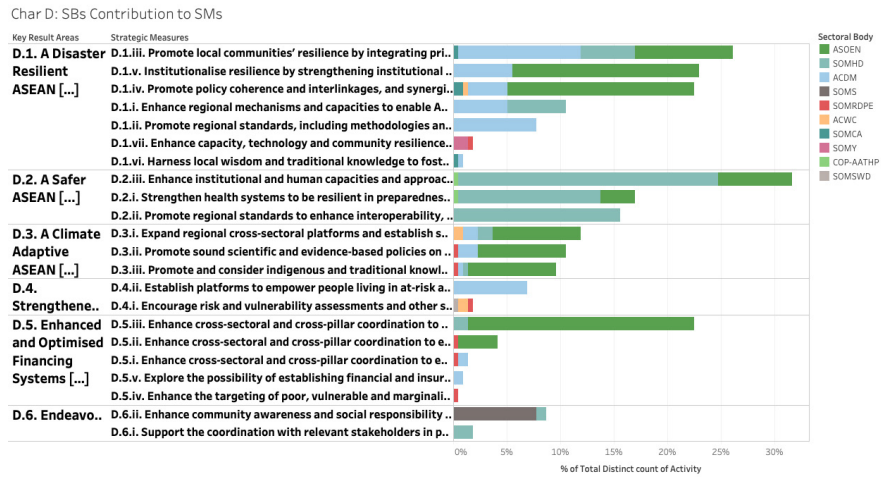
Figure 3.28 Timeframe of Activities for Largest SBs under Characteristic D



Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

### III.5.3 Sectoral Body Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic D KRAs

Figure 3.29 Sectoral Body Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic D KRAs



Note: X axis shows total activities dedicated to each SM as percentage of total activities that either completed or ongoing. Percentage in bracket refers to an SB's contribution to total activities for a particular SM.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

As opposed to Characteristics A, B, or C, where two Sectoral Bodies were responsible for most activities under the Blueprint during the assessment period, different KRAs were led by different Sectoral Bodies for Characteristic D:

- (a). ASEON was responsible for most activities implementing KRA D.1, 'a Disaster Resilient ASEAN that is able to anticipate, respond, cope, adapt, and build back better, smarter, and faster'.
- (b). SOMHD was responsible for most activities implementing KRA D.2, 'a safer ASEAN that is able to respond to all health-related hazards including biological, chemical, radiological, nuclear, and emerging threats'.
- (c). ASOEN was responsible for most activities implementing KRA D.3, 'a climate-adaptive ASEAN with enhanced institutional and human capacities to adapt to the impacts of climate change'.

- (d). ACDM was responsible for most activities implementing KRA D.4, 'strengthened social protection for women, children, youth, the elderly/older persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic minority groups, migrant workers, vulnerable and marginalised groups, and people living in at-risk areas, including people living in remote and border areas and climate sensitive areas, to reduce vulnerabilities in times of climate change-related crises, disasters and other environmental changes'.
- (e). ASOEN was responsible for most activities implementing KRA D.5, 'enhanced and optimised financing systems, food, water, energy availability, and other social safety nets in times of crises by making resources more available, accessible, affordable, and sustainable'.
- (f). SOMS was responsible for most activities implementing KRA D.6, 'endeavour towards a 'drug-free' ASEAN'.

While there was a clear separation of SBs based on their prevalent work at the KRA level, there was an equally clear indication of cross-Sectoral work at the SM level. For instance, for KRA D1, where ASOEN and ACDM are dominant figures, a substantial role was played by SOMY and SOMRDPE in SM D.1.vii, 'enhance capacity, technology and community resilience to the impact of unexploded ordnance on the livelihood of people, especially the vulnerable groups in rural areas'. SOMY's activities supporting this SM were titled 'create spaces for youth engagement to develop solutions for sustainable development issues: map existing initiatives, develop partnerships, document, share models, best practices'.

Box 4, ASEAN Builds a Village, presents one of the best human-interest stories on the intended beneficiaries of ASEAN regional cooperation in implementing of Characteristic D, specifically KRA D.1, 'a disaster-resilient ASEAN that is able to anticipate, respond, cope, adapt, and build back better, smarter, and faster' and Strategic Measure D.1.i, 'enhance regional mechanisms and capacities to enable ASEAN to respond together to disasters within and outside the region'.

#### **Box 4. ASEAN Builds a Village**

On 28 September 2018, a magnitude-7.4 earthquake hit Donggala regency and the capital city of Palu in Central Sulawesi province, Indonesia, triggering a tsunami, landslides, and liquefaction. The death toll from the disaster reached over 2,000 people, with over 1,300 people still missing and over 200,000 residents displaced. Many residents in Palu had no time to escape the swirling soil and silt that came crashing on their houses. Survivors climbed to their rooftops and watched in terror as the ground swelled and moved like waves. Twenty-four-year-old Mentari Pratiwi lost both her parents when mudflow surged through their neighbourhood. Since then, she has been living with one of her siblings. Soon, Pratiwi will be moving to a permanent home in the new ASEAN Village, along with many others whose homes were destroyed by the calamity.

The first ASEAN Village is being constructed on a 22,600-square-meter highland in the Tondo neighbourhood of Palu. Once completed, it will have 100 permanent houses, community roads, public facilities, drainage, and access to water and electricity. So far, 75 permanent houses have been built, each with two bedrooms and a latrine. The project, which costs 723,647 US dollars, is being facilitated by the Jakarta-based ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre). The project's mission is to provide effective support to the priorities identified by the local government in the disaster recovery phase. In the early recovery phase, some AMS requested the AHA Centre to coordinate the provision of their assistance as mandated by the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response. The AHA Centre initially proposed to build temporary housing for those affected, but eventually decided to build permanent ones.

Responding to this need, the people of Brunei Darussalam, through crowdsourcing, and the Philippines government funded the construction of the permanent houses. The AHA Centre also received funding from the Australian government to support the operational costs. The first phase, involving the construction of 75 houses, began on 6 August 2019 and was completed in March 2020. Once work on the access to clean water is completed, the housing units can be handed over to the recipients immediately. The second phase is underway and will continue until the end of 2020. This involves the completion of the remaining 25 houses; one musholla, a small place of worship for Muslims; and one auxiliary health centre. The additional 25 houses and the musholla are being built with additional funding from Brunei Darussalam, while the health centre is supported by the non-profit organisation, Direct Relief.

As one of the beneficiaries, Pratiwi was overjoyed for having a permanent house soon. 'I'm so happy because I don't need to be worried anymore about where to live. I'm ready to move to ASEAN Village,' she told *The ASEAN*. Pratiwi just graduated from a pharmacy college in Palu and is looking for a job. Knowing that there will be a health centre in the ASEAN Village, she hopes to eventually work there and be able to help her community.

Source: *The ASEAN*, Issue 02/June 2020, 'ASEAN Builds a Village'.

### III.5.4 Type and Timeframe of Activities to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic D KRAs

Figure 3.30 shows that research and publication and capacity building were the predominant activities used to deliver SMs for Characteristic D. Research and publication and capacity building were supported or conducted in conjunction with other activity types as well.

Three Strategic Measures were conducted with the complete range of modalities, from research to groundwork: D.2.ii, 'promote regional standards to enhance interoperability, ensure unity of action and strengthen collective resilience'; D.1.iii, 'promote local communities' resilience by integrating principles of resilience in risk reduction, preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation measures'; and D.5.iii, 'enhance cross-Sectoral and cross-Pillar coordination to ensure availability of clean water, sanitation facilities, and electricity to households in times of crises'.

This indicates that in addition to comprehensive modality in activities at the KRA level, there was also comprehensive modality at the SM level.

Figure 3.30 Activities Implemented to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic D KRAs

Char D: Type of Activities in SMs



% of Total Distinct count of Activity for each Strategic Measures broken down by Key Result Areas. Colour shows details about Type of Activity. The data is filtered on Duplix, Characteristics and Status. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps D. Resilient. The Status filter keeps Completed and Ongoing. The view is filtered on Key Result Areas, which keeps 6 of 19 members.

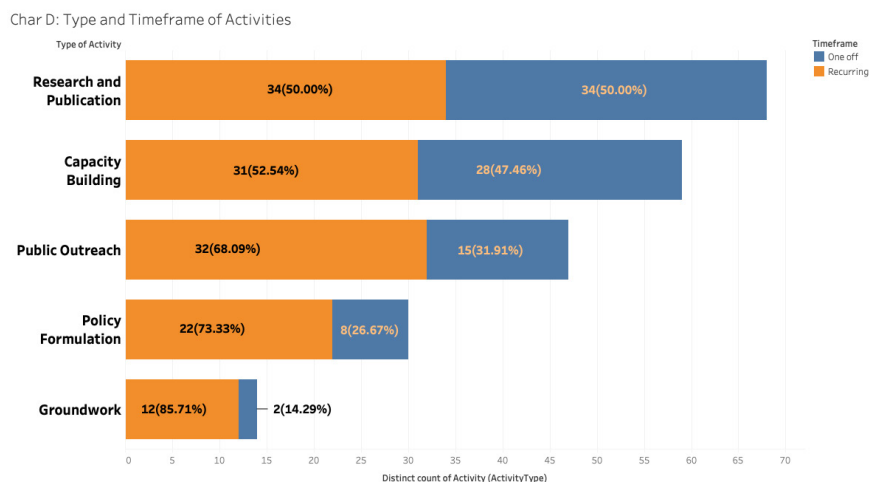
Note: X axis shows total activities dedicated to each SM as percentage of total activities that were either completed or ongoing. Percentage in bracket refers to the relative size of the type of activity to total activities for a particular SM.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.



Figure 3.31 indicates that Characteristic D were conducted sustainably, rather than as one-off activities.

Figure 3.31 Timeframe and Type of Activities under Characteristic D



Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

### III.5.5 Means of Implementation, Institutional Mechanism, and Resource Mobilisation for Activities under Characteristic D

In reaching out to targeted stakeholders, activities relevant to Characteristic D activities engaged multi-stakeholders by reaching out to targeted stakeholders. Characteristic D activities—covering the areas of environment, disaster management and humanitarian assistance, education, health, youth, women and children, and social welfare—reached, whether directly or indirectly, intended stakeholders such as government officials, students, education personnel, policymakers, service providers, and targeted communities. For most SBs, the participation of targeted stakeholders and beneficiaries was ensured at early stage of planning. Monitoring of deliverables was regularly conducted to ensure activities provided benefits and tangible impacts to targeted stakeholders.

ASEAN's external partners were taken into account to enhance Blueprint implementation, such as by engaging UN agencies and Dialogue Partners,

and by engaging with Development Partners to initiate and implement programmes, projects, and activities. While strengthening existing partnerships, the ASCC continuously developed new relationships with other stakeholders in the Business and Financial Sectors, youth, and the academic and scientific community to implement the Blueprint.

On effective budget allocation, various financing and co-sharing modalities, each with different contributions, were used to implement activities, as stipulated by the ASCC SBs' Multi-Year Work Plan relevant to Characteristic D of the Blueprint. These modalities included, among other things, contributions from AMS through the ASEAN Trust Fund, ASEAN Development Fund, ASCC-related funds (e.g., the ASEAN Haze Fund, ASEAN Biodiversity Fund, the AADMER Fund, and the Operational Fund for AHA Centre), and support from ASEAN Dialogue and External Partners. To ensure effective budget allocation, projects and programmes went through review, feedback, and reporting procedures led by ASEC desk officers, PCPMD, Finance and Budget Division and other relevant stakeholders.

However, several constraints and challenges were identified in Blueprint implementation for Characteristic D activities:

- Changing national priorities that affected project/initiative sustainability, with the result that AMS might withdraw support or carry projects over to the next work plan.
- The large number of activities was frequently overwhelming when managing implementation at both the national and regional level.
- There was an unclear division of roles, especially for cross-Sectoral issues.
- A lack of funding, technical capacity, and human resources.

### **III.5.6 Results of Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospects for Upcoming Activities for Characteristic D**

Various results were delivered by completed activities under Characteristic D. On capacity building, results included a workshop on the ASEAN Mechanism to Enhance Surveillance against Illegal Desludging and Disposal of Tanker Sludge at Sea, in line with ASEAN Guidelines on the ASEAN Marine Water Quality Criteria: Management Guidelines and Monitoring Manual (ASEAN, 2008). The activity was done to promote cooperation on the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of the coastal and marine environment,

to respond and deal with the risk of pollution and threats to the marine ecosystem and coastal environment in ecologically sensitive areas.

On policy formulation, highlights included a Multi-Sectoral Workshop on Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture. The workshop refined, prioritized, and recommended a five-point action plan, with options on institutional mechanisms for implementation.

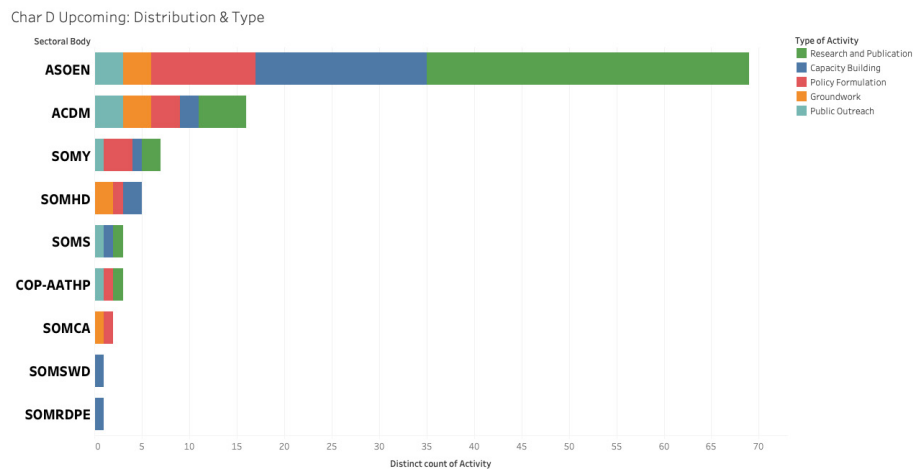
On public outreach activities, highlights included establishment of the ASEAN Urban Planners Forum to engage urban planners to collaborate and contribute innovative ideas on urban resilience. This was done to increase the competencies and resilience of relevant stakeholders, providing them with advanced technological and managerial skills to improve institutional capacities to address current challenges and emerging trends, such as disasters, pandemics, and climate change.

For Characteristic D's ongoing activities, progress has been made for all activities, with a substantial shift to online delivery modes.

One-hundred-seven of 325 (32.9%) ongoing Characteristic D activities in the Sectoral work plans are likely to be carried over to the next Sectoral work plan period (2021-2025). Several activities might be merged and or benefit from collaboration between Sectoral Bodies to create bigger pipeline projects, mainstreaming into other Sectoral work plans, or adoption into local frameworks.

Figure 3.32 shows the number, distribution, and type of upcoming activities. Of 107 activities, ASOEN and ACDM accounted for 118 (88.7%). Research and publication, capacity building, and policy formulation comprised 40.2%, 24.3%, and 18.7% of activities, respectively.

Figure 3.32 Distribution and Type of Upcoming Characteristic D Activities



Distinct count of Activity for each Sectoral Body. Colour shows details about Type of Activity. The data is filtered on Status (ActivityType), Duplix and Characteristics (charIsb). The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps Upcoming. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics (charIsb) filter keeps D. Resilient.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Going forward, upcoming Characteristic D activities might align well with the ACRF, especially ACRF Broad Strategy 5, 'advancing towards a more sustainable and resilient future', especially for promoting sustainable development (including through education), the circular and green economy, sustainable production, and consumption.

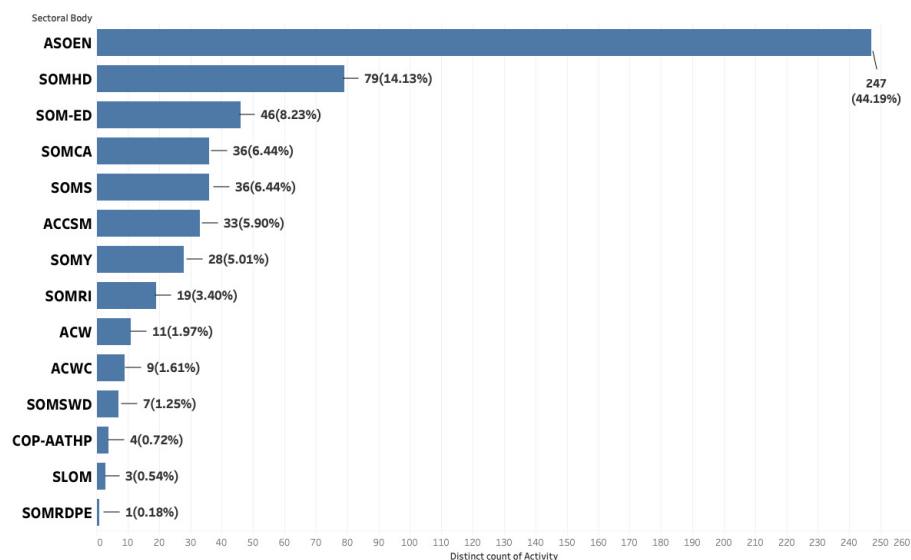
### III.6. Blueprint Implementation Progress for Characteristic E: Dynamic

#### III.6.1 ASCC Sectoral Workplans and Intended Contributions to Characteristic E Objectives

There were 559 activities SB work plans supporting Characteristic E (see Figure 3.33), distributed across all 15 ASSC Sectoral Bodies, except ACDM. According to the Results Framework, ASOEN was responsible for 44.2% of Characteristic E activities, followed by SOMHD with 14.1%. Characteristic E had the largest number of activities, 559, covered by Sectoral Body work plans, followed by Characteristic B with 402 and Characteristic B with 325.

Figure 3.33 Number and Distribution of Activities in Sectoral Workplans to Achieve Characteristic E Activities

Char E: Number dan Distribution of Sectoral Activities



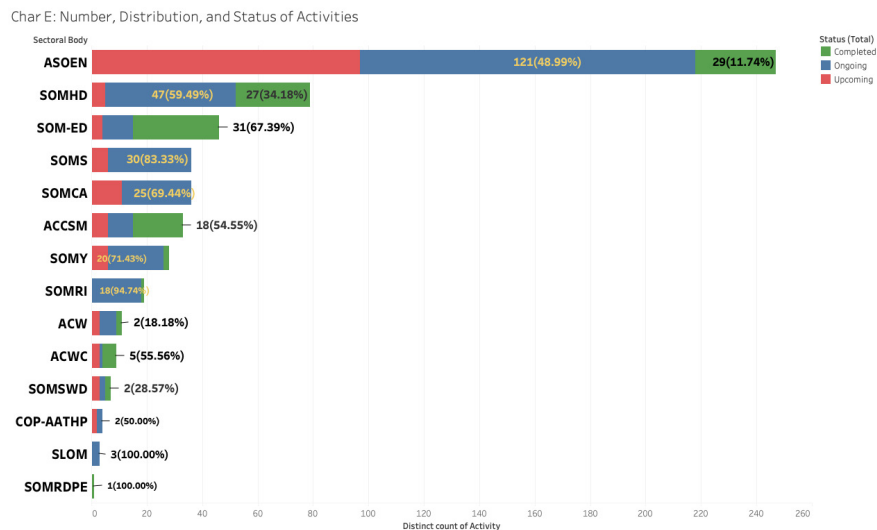
Distinct count of Activity for each Sectoral Body. The data is filtered on Status (ActivityType), Duplix and Characteristics. The Status (ActivityType) filter keeps multiple members. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps E. Dynamic.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

### III.6.2 Implementation Status of Sectoral Body Activities for Characteristic E

On implementation status (see Figure 3.34), 413 of 559 activities (73.9%) were either completed or are ongoing as of the MTR, 2% greater than of the Blueprint's general completion rate (71.8%). Since only 26.1% of activities are slated for the Blueprint's end term, implementation progress for activities under Characteristic E can be said to be satisfactory.

Figure 3.34 Current Status of Sectoral Workplans under Characteristic E

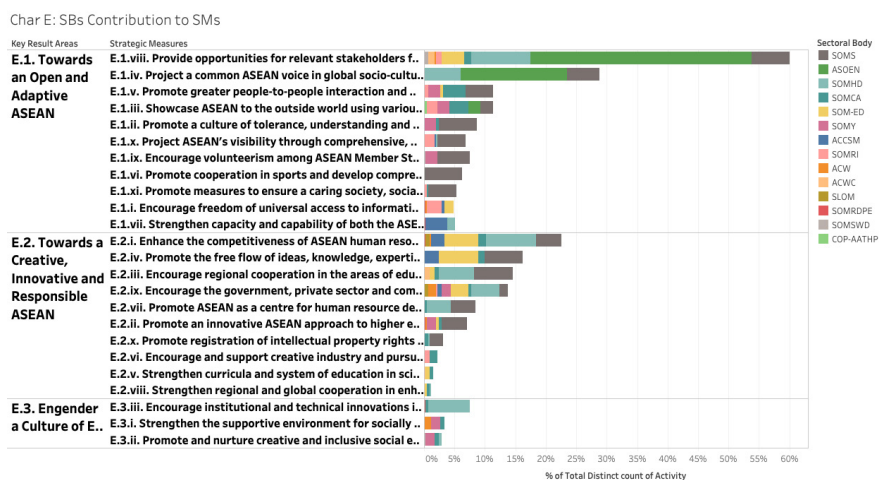


Source: ASEN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

### III.6.3 Sectoral Body Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic E KRAs

Figure 3.35 states what has been delivered or accomplished by activities supporting Characteristic E. Referring to the Blueprint's logical framework, focus should be on completed and ongoing activities (73.9% of the 559 activities in Figure 3.34).

Figure 3.35 Sectoral Body Contributions in Delivering Strategic Measures for Characteristic E KRAs



% of Total Distinct count of Activity for each Strategic Measures broken down by Key Result Areas. Colour shows details about Sectoral Body. The data is filtered on Duplix, Characteristics and Status. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps E. Dynamic. The Status filter keeps Completed and Ongoing. The view is filtered on Key Result Areas and Strategic Measures. The Key Result Areas filter keeps E.1. Towards an Open and Adaptive ASEAN, E.2. Towards a Creative, Innovative and Responsible ASEAN and E.3. Engender a Culture of Entrepreneurship in ASEAN. The Strategic Measures filter excludes Null.

Note: X axis shows total activities dedicated to each SM as percentage of total activities that are either completed or ongoing (413 activities). Percentage in bracket refers to a SB's relative contribution to total activities for a particular SM.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

According to Figure 3.35, Sectoral Bodies contributed or worked in a cross-Sectoral fashion to implement Strategic Measures and deliver KRAs under Characteristic E. Unlike Characteristic D, which was implemented primarily by two SBs, Characteristic E demonstrated a distribution of implementation responsibility between Sectoral Bodies over various SMs and KRAs.

Figure 3.35 also indicates that 60% of activities under Characteristic E were driven by a single Strategic Measure: E.1.viii, 'provide opportunities for relevant stakeholders for knowledge sharing, which includes an exchange of best practices and studies'.

Box 5 gives a notable example of the implementation of KRA E.1, notably for SM (ii) and (iii).

### **Box 5. Cultural Show at the ASEAN Youth Expo**

Cultural displays and performances formed a colourful background to the discussion sessions that were held during the ASEAN Youth Expo (AYE) 2017, in Jakarta in July 2017. This was the fourth year for AYE, attended by youth representatives from all 10 AMS. AYE was established in 2013 as a youth development platform to enable ASEAN young people to Assemble, Cooperate, and Thrive (ACT), and to promote entrepreneurship as a solution to combat global problems.

AYE in 2017 was held back-to-back with the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY X) and attended by youth representatives who had been winners of the ASEAN Youth Awards (AYA). The event was dedicated to ASEAN youth from each AMS and had a concept in which participants opened a cultural stand from their country and exhibited to Indonesian youth. They also staged a cultural performance and there was a public discussion session on cooperation between ASEAN countries.

Participants of AYE were involved in the ASEAN Youth Day Meeting as part of the regular programme of the AMMY X, discussing entrepreneurship, and how social issues in their own country could be overcome through effective projects. They described the most beneficial project they have helped to create and how it worked to the advantage of society and shared their best practices and failures.

The result of this public conference was an ASEAN Youth Joint Statement, reflecting what is on the minds of ASEAN young people for the future of ASEAN. The statement was read out during the AMMY X gala dinner in front of ASEAN Youth Ministers and officials of the Senior Official Meeting on Youth (SOMY).

Source: ASEAN Youth Bites, July 2019 (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2019d).

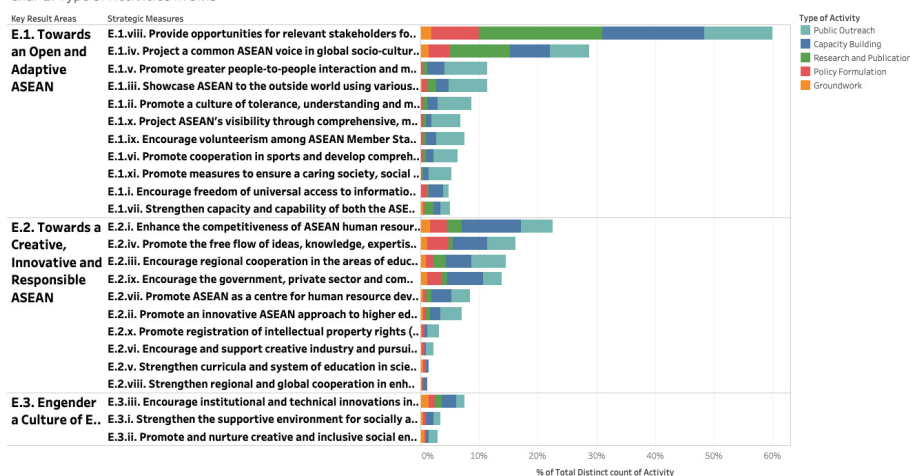
### **III.6.4 Type and Timeframe of Activities to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic E KRAs**

Figure 3.34 shows that public outreach and capacity building were the predominant activities used to deliver SMs for Characteristic E. Public outreach and capacity building activities were executed in tandem with the research and publication, policy formulation, and groundwork modalities.



Figure 3.36 Activities Implemented to Deliver Strategic Measures for Characteristic E KRAs

Char E: Type of Activities in SMs



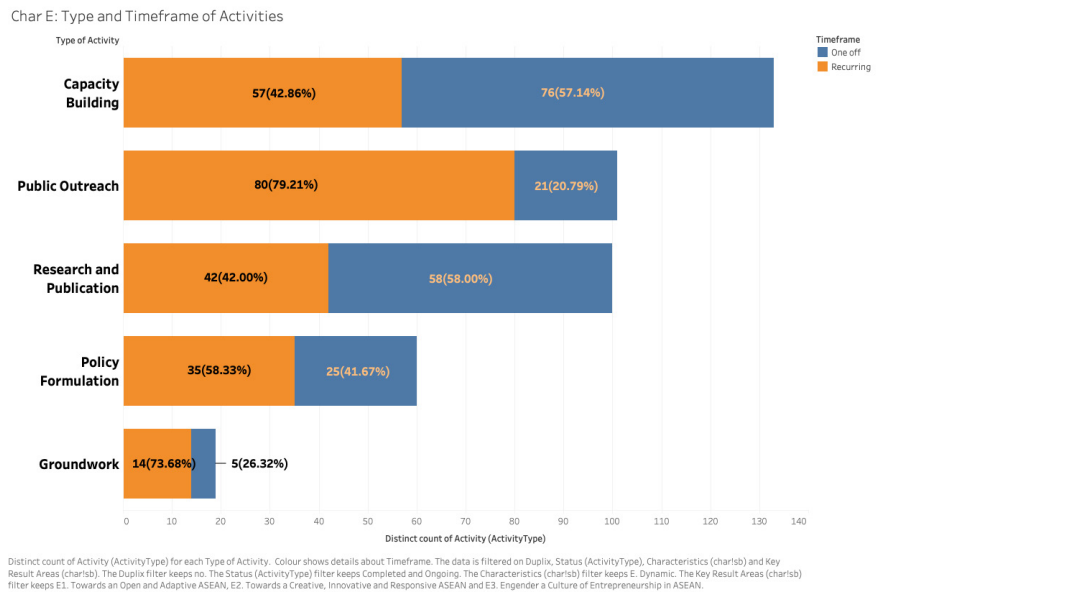
% of Total Distinct count of Activity for each Strategic Measures broken down by Key Result Areas. Colour shows details about Type of Activity. The data is filtered on Duplix, Characteristics and Status. The Duplix filter keeps no. The Characteristics filter keeps E. Dynamic. The Status filter keeps Completed and Ongoing. The view is filtered on Key Result Areas and Strategic Measures. The Key Result Areas filter keeps E.1. Towards an Open and Adaptive ASEAN, E.2. Towards a Creative, Innovative and Responsible ASEAN and E.3. Engender a Culture of Entrepreneurship in ASEAN. The Strategic Measures filter excludes Null.

Note: X axis shows total activities dedicated to each SM as percentage of total activities that are either completed or ongoing (413 activities). Percentage in bracket refers to the relative size of the type of activity to total activities for a particular SM.

Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

Figure 3.37 indicates that Characteristic E activities were conducted sustainably, rather than sporadically, as one-off activities.

Figure 3.37 Timeframe and Type of Activities under Characteristic E



Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

### III.6.5 Means of Implementation, Institutional Mechanism, and Resource Mobilisation for Activities under Characteristic E

Sectoral activities under Characteristics E reached targeted stakeholders. Sectoral Bodies recognised the importance of engaging relevant stakeholders, both directly and indirectly. For example, the Health Sector, through SOMHD as one of the main contributors to Characteristics A and E, included stakeholder engagement in all APHDA Work Programmes activities, from programme planning to acquiring AHMM adoption. For the Youth Sector, SOMY involved various youth organisations in AMS to take part in projects that promoted youth development in the region, such as the ASEAN Youth Forum. The Environment Sector, through ASOEN—the main SB contributing to Characteristic E—engaged multi-stakeholders and monitored expected deliverables to ensure the tangible impact of all activities for targeted stakeholders.

Other SBs also ensured the engagement of targeted stakeholders for Characteristic E activities, such as the Education Sector, through SOMED, for involving students, education personnel, and education policymakers in AMS; as well as the Sports Sector, through SOMS, by community engagement in the commemoration of ASEAN Sports Day and ASEAN Day, as well as increased public interest in the ASEAN-FIFA MoU signing, and the announcement of a possible ASEAN bid to host the World Cup 2034. Despite these laudable efforts, Sectoral Bodies acknowledged that a better mechanism was required to identify targeted stakeholders more effectively.

On effective budget allocations for Characteristic E, Sectoral Bodies complied in principle with financial guidelines to implement activities. Changes to budget utilisation during activity implementation were done in consultation with relevant ASEC desk officers and Partners to ensure compliance with the financial guidelines.

Taking into account the multi-layered nature of activities for 15 SBs under the ASCC, note that Sectoral Bodies reported constant challenges and constraints when implementing Characteristic E. Several commonalities emerged after FGDs with ASCC desk officers working with SBs:

- Work to streamline a large number of Sectoral activities into more doable and impactful activities has been challenging, given the gaps between the Blueprint and Sectoral work plans. While the progress for Blueprint implementation was measured and monitored using high-level outcomes and impacts, SB work plan activities were generally monitored by output, given their more operational, technical, and multidimensional nature.
- Lack of funding, technical capacities, and human resources.
- Changing priorities in AMS/Lead Countries.
- Delays in implementation or completion, especially due to COVID-19.

### **III.6.6 Results of Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospects for Upcoming Activities under Characteristic E**

Various results were delivered by completed activities under Characteristic E. On public outreach, examples include an increased awareness of sexual disease transmission, including prevention among young people, implemented through the Symposium Session: ASEAN Cities Getting to Zero at the Asia-Pacific Youth Forum.

Research and publication also delivered results with the publication of Productivity and Innovation Focusing on Performance Management in the Plus Three Countries. This was substantial step to enhance workforce competencies and standards and to build institutional capacity in the Public Sector.

Another example of results delivered by completed activities relates to fostering higher education in the area of socioeconomic development through the University-Industry Partnership. To develop stronger links between universities, industries, and communities, and to increase cross-border education programmes with support of the Private Sector, a capacity-building activity was completed: The Empowering Youth Across ASEAN Programme (EYAAP). An ASEAN Foundation initiative with support from Maybank Foundation, EYAAP focused on a community-building project in three ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia). During a two-week stay with local CSOs, participants learned about community building, programme management, and project sustainability. More than 2,600 youth from 10 AMS applied for EYAAP 2019.

For ongoing Characteristic E activities, progress was made for each activity, while deliveries modalities switched to online, as needed, due to COVID-19. Some activities have been collecting data pertaining to research, some have been developing joint revised concept notes to create bigger pipeline projects, while others are consulting with stakeholders.

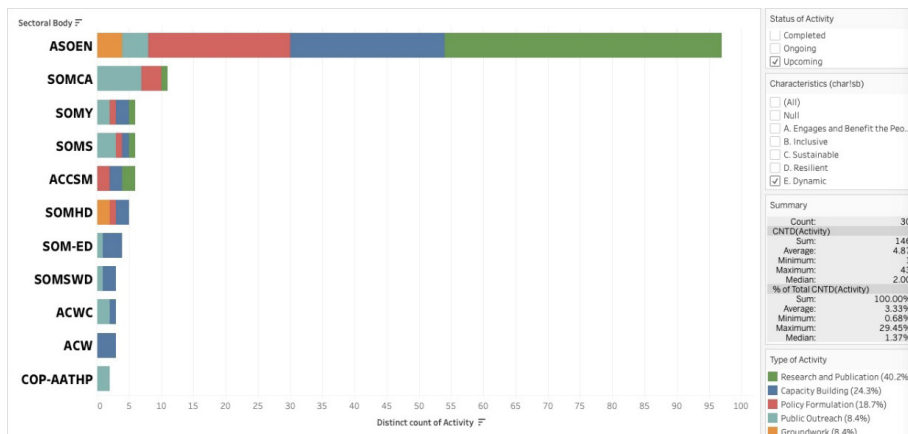
For upcoming projects, 146 of 559 (26.1%) activities in Sectoral work plans under Characteristic D were not fully implemented and will likely to be carried over to the next Sectoral work plan period (2021-2025). Tool 1 recorded that several activities reached a sufficient stage to consider mergers and collaborations with other activities to create bigger pipeline projects.

Figure 3.38 shows the number, distribution, and type of upcoming activities. Of 146 activities, ASOEN and SOMCA accounted for 108 (73.9%). The majority of activities comprised research and publication, capacity building, and policy formulation, at 33.9%, 27.4%, and 20.5% of the total number of activities, respectively.

For the Blueprint's end term, upcoming Characteristic E activities might align well with the ACRF especially, the ACRF's Broad Strategy 3, 'maximising the potential of intra-ASEAN market and broader economic integration', with key priorities including keeping markets open for trade and investment, as well as Broad Strategy 4, 'accelerating inclusive digital transformation', with

key priorities including promoting MSME digital upskilling and access to markets.

Figure 3.38 Distribution and Type of Upcoming Characteristic E Activities



Source: ASEAN Secretariat, the Blueprint Implementation-Focused Monitoring System using Tool 1 on 'Framework for Reporting on the ASCC Sectoral Bodies' Implementation of the Sectoral Work Plan', Updated Status as of 21 May 2020.

### III.7. ASEAN Declarations During 2016-2020 and Follow-Up Status

Based on Tool 2, there were 24 Statements or Declarations with corresponding national-level laws, policies, or programmes and 13 Statements or Declarations with no corresponding laws, policies or programmes during the assessment period. This is based on information captured in May 2020 by Tool 2 (Monitoring Matrix of Declarations/Statements under the ASCC). However, it is possible that relevant national policies or programmes were adopted before the adoption of a specific declaration, or as a follow-up to an adopted declaration, and have yet to be recorded in the Tool. Another caveat is that Tool 2 tracks the follow-up status of declarations that have been adopted or noted by Leaders at the ASEAN Summit, according to regular updates and inputs to the Tool by AMS.

Table 3.2. List of ASEAN Declarations with Corresponding National-Level Laws, Policies, or Programmes

Declaration/Statement	Event/Date
<b>A. Declarations/Statements with Corresponding National-Level Laws/Policies/Programmes (as recorded by Tool 2 as of May 2020).</b>	
<b>Cross-Sectoral</b>	
1. ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region.	28 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, 6 Sept. 2016, Lao PDR.
2. Joint Statement on the Promotion of Women, Peace and Security.	31 <sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit on 13 Nov. 2017 in Manila, Philippines.
3. ASEAN Declaration on Culture of Prevention for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society.	31 <sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit on 13 Nov. 2017 in Manila, Philippines.
4. ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and SDGs.	31 <sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit on 13 Nov. 2017 in Manila, Philippines.
<b>Education, Youth, and Sport</b>	
5. ASEAN Declaration on the Adoption of the ASEAN Youth in Climate Action and Disaster Resilience Day.	33 <sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit, 13 Nov. 2018, in Singapore.
6. ASEAN Declaration on the Adoption of the ASEAN Youth Development Index.	31 <sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit on 13 Nov. 2017 in Manila, Philippines.
7. ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth (OOSCY).	28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits, 6 Sept. 2016, in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

Table 3.2. List of ASEAN Declarations with Corresponding National-Level Laws, Policies, or Programmes

<b>Declaration/Statement</b>	<b>Event/Date</b>
<b>Health</b>	
8. ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition.	31 <sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit on 13 Nov. 2017 in Manila, Philippines.
9. ASEAN Declaration of Commitment on HIV and AIDS: Fast-Tracking and Sustaining HIV and AIDS Response to End AIDS Epidemic by 2030.	28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits, 6 Sept. 2016, in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
<b>Environment</b>	
10. ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 25th Conference of the Parties (COP-25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).	35 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 2 Nov. 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
<b>Social Welfare and Development, Poverty Eradication, Rural Development, and Gender</b>	
11. Joint Statement of the Third ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW).	33 <sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit on 13 Nov. 2018 in Singapore.
12. Joint Statement on Reaffirmation of Commitment to Advancing the Rights of the Child in ASEAN.	35 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 2 Nov. 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
13. Declaration on the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN.	35 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 2 Nov. 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
14. ASEAN Declaration on the Rights of Children in the Context of Migration.	35 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 2 Nov. 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Table 3.2. List of ASEAN Declarations with Corresponding National-Level Laws, Policies, or Programmes

Declaration/Statement	Event/Date
<b>Labour</b>	
15. ASEAN Declaration on Promoting Green Jobs for Equity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN Community.	33 <sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit, 13 Nov. 2018, in Singapore.
16. ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.	31 <sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit on 13 Nov. 2017 in Manila, Philippines.
17. ASEAN Labour Ministers' Statement on Improving Occupational Safety and Health for Sustainable Economic Growth.	Special Session of the ASEAN Labour Ministers on Occupational Safety and Health at the 21 <sup>st</sup> World Congress on Safety and Health at Work 2017, 3 Sept. 2017, in Singapore.
18. Vientiane Declaration on Transition from Informal Employment to Formal Employment toward Decent Work Promotion in ASEAN.	28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits, 6 Sept. 2016, in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
<b>Civil Service</b>	
19. ASEAN Statement on Promotion of Good Governance and Acceleration of an Agile Civil Service in a Digital Economy.	3 <sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Heads of Civil Service Retreat, August 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand.
20. ASEAN Declaration on the Role of the Civil Service as a Catalyst for Achieving the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.	30 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, April 2017, in Manila, Philippines.
<b>Culture and Information</b>	
21. Framework and Joint Declaration to Minimise the Harmful Effects of Fake News.	33 <sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit, 13 November 2018, in Singapore.



Table 3.2. List of ASEAN Declarations with Corresponding National-Level Laws, Policies, or Programmes

<b>Declaration/Statement</b>	<b>Event/Date</b>
22. Yogyakarta Declaration on Embracing the Culture of Prevention to Enrich ASEAN Identity.	33 <sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit, 13 November 2018, in Singapore.
23. Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on Culture and Arts to Promote ASEAN's Identity toward a Dynamic and Harmonious ASEAN Community.	12 <sup>th</sup> AMCA Meeting, 24 August 2016, in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
24. Vientiane Declaration on Reinforcing Cultural Heritage Cooperation in ASEAN.	28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits, 6 Sept. 2016, in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
<b>B. List of Declarations/Statements with No Corresponding National-Level Laws/Policies/Programmes or Have Not Been Recorded by Tool 2 (as of May 2020)</b>	
<b>Education, Youth and Sport</b>	
1. Bangkok Declaration on Advancing Partnership in Education for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in ASEAN.	35 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 2 Nov. 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
<b>Health</b>	
2. ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on ASEAN Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance.	35 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 2 Nov. 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
3. ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR): Combating AMR through One Health Approach.*	31 <sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit on 13 Nov. 2017 in Manila, Philippines.

Table 3.2. List of ASEAN Declarations with Corresponding National-Level Laws, Policies, or Programmes

Declaration/Statement	Event/Date
4. ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Disaster Health Management.**	31 <sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit on 13 Nov. 2017 in Manila, Philippines.
<b>Environment</b>	
5. ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019.	AMME's ad-referendum adoption by 20 Sept. 2019.
6. ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 24 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).	33 <sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit, 13 November 2018, in Singapore.
7. ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 23 <sup>rd</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-23).	31 <sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit, 13 Nov. 2017 in Manila, Philippines.
8. ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 22 <sup>nd</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-22).	28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits, 6 Sept. 2016, in Vientiane, Lao PDR
9. Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in ASEAN Region.	34 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 23 June 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
10. ASEAN-EU Joint Statement on Paris Agreement: Reaffirming Commitment to Cooperation to Address the Shared Challenge of Climate Change.	ASEAN-EU PMC+1 on 6 August 2017.

Table 3.2. List of ASEAN Declarations with Corresponding National-Level Laws, Policies, or Programmes

<b>Declaration/Statement</b>	<b>Event/Date</b>
11. ASEAN Joint Statement to the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 13).	28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summits, 6 Sept. 2016, in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
12. ASEAN Joint Statement to the Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 14).	33 <sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit, 13 November 2018, in Singapore.
<b>Culture and Information</b>	
13. ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the ASEAN Cultural Year 2019.	34 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 23 June 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.
Source: Tool 2 – Monitoring Matrix of Declarations/Statements under the ASCC	
* On-going consultations.	
** National capacity building on EMTs and public health EOC are ongoing.	



## IV DESCRIPTION AND STATUS OF BLUEPRINT OBJECTIVES

This chapter assesses the Blueprint's achievements (e.g., impacts and results). The assessment follows the Blueprint's logical framework, which states that there are specific end results, whether desired or expected, that will occur as a consequence, at least in part, of a given activity. This chapter's analysis will focus on achievements of activities intended to implement the Blueprint's five characteristics: engages and benefits the people, inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and dynamic.

The Blueprint's logical framework describes an underlying theory of change that links activities to desired objectives for each characteristic. It was assumed that the objectives of the characteristics would be achieved after Blueprint activities were implemented and delivered on Key Results Areas (KRA). The Blueprint contains 18 KRAs, specified under each characteristic's objectives.

To implement KRAs, outcome-oriented action statements were codified into 109 Strategic Measures (SM), representing expected changes in institutional or behavioural capacities for development conditions occurring between the completion of outputs (e.g., delivered by activities) and the achievement of the objectives (e.g., occurring through theory of change).

Third, the 109 Strategic Measures were translated into activities in the work plans of the Sectoral Bodies under the ASCC. The outcomes of each Sectoral work plan were considered ASCC-wide outputs expected to contribute to creating change in 18 KRAs as outcomes, and, in the end, to achieve the five objectives as impacts.

The assessment of each characteristic consists of two parts: a discussion of underlying logic or change theory linking the objective, KRAs and SMs for each characteristic, followed by an assessment of the achievements under the objective. Ideally, the latter should compare baseline indicators from the Blueprint's inception in 2016 to the current situation (as defined by this report). In the case of unavailable or insufficient data, discussions will be limited to targets and baselines only.

## **IV.1. Characteristic A (Engages and Benefits the People): Objectives and Outcomes**

### **IV.1.1 Characteristic A Objectives**

The first characteristic, as viewed from the ASSC and stipulated in the Blueprint, is that ASEAN is a Community that engages and benefits the people. This means that the ASEAN Community shall be characterised as one that engages and benefits its peoples in a manner upheld by good governance principles. Characteristic A focuses on multi-Sectoral and multi-stakeholder engagements, including those with Dialogue and Development Partners; sub-regional organisations; academia; local governments in provinces, townships, municipalities, and cities; private/public partnerships; community engagement; tripartite engagement between the Labour Sector, social enterprises, and government organisations; NGO and civil society organisation engagement; corporate social responsibility; and interfaith and inter-cultural dialogues, with an emphasis on raising and sustaining awareness of the caring societies of ASEAN, as well as deepening a sense of ASEAN identity.

The objective under Characteristic A is to enhance the commitment, participation, and social responsibility of ASEAN's peoples through an accountable and engaging mechanism for the benefit of all, toward a community of engaged and empowered ASEAN peoples, who have platforms to participate in ASEAN processes, as well as to enjoy the benefits from various initiatives.

The objective is expected to be achieved through two KRAs: KRA A.1, 'engaged stakeholders in ASEAN processes', and KRA A2, 'empowered people and strengthened institutions'. The 26<sup>th</sup> SOCA meeting on 15-16 May 2019 endorsed the Results Framework, which detailed the KPIs that would indicate whether the intended results and outcomes were achieved under each characteristic. The next section discusses current status of outcomes for Characteristic A.

### **IV.1.2 Current Status of Outcomes for Characteristic A**

There are five KPIs governing Characteristic A's KRAs and SMs. The current status for each KPI, and its relation to KRAs, is summarised in Table 4.1.

### *KRA A1: 'Engaged Stakeholders in ASEAN Processes'*

The first KPI, which addresses KRA A1, is KPI 1, 'increased engagement, i.e., number of negotiation and partnership forums between diverse stakeholders in ASEAN Member States promoting ASEAN initiatives'. If KPI 1 is proxied by the number of ASEAN accredited stakeholders, Table 4.1 shows mixed results. The number of entities associated with ASEAN in two categories (Parliamentarians and Others) has been increased. However, there was no increase in the number of Think Tanks and there was a decrease in the Business Organisation and CSO categories. Nevertheless, the absolute number of affiliated organisations, in total, remains high, above 70.

KPI 3 also demonstrates the process of raising awareness and engagement with ASEAN to benefit its people via KPI 3, 'increased number of ASEAN outcome documents, programmes, and activities under the ASCC, developed or implemented with engagement of stakeholders'. While there was no baseline data for KPI 3, Table 4.1 shows that all SBs worked together to deliver the results and objectives under Characteristic A through numerous programmes and their outcome documents. This was discussed in Chapter 3.

The rationale behind KPIs 1 and 3 was to ensure that effort was expended to involve people at all levels of ASEAN to enhance their commitment, participation, and social responsibilities to make it more likely that activities would produce benefits for ASEAN peoples. Benefits stemming from the engagement process were reflected in KPI 2a.

KPI 2a, under KRA A1, measures 'level of satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 4 on the quality of engagement in ASEAN of a representative sample of diverse AMS stakeholders'. Through an online survey conducted in September 2020, 100 respondents from various backgrounds (Parliamentarians, Business Organisations, Research Institutions, CSO, Government, and others), 60% were 'highly satisfied' with their engagement, followed by 37%, 2%, and 1% of those who said they were satisfied, unsatisfied, or highly unsatisfied respectively. Further, 43% of respondents reported that their satisfaction with ASEAN was unchanged, while 57% reported that their satisfaction had increased compared to their own previous reference point. These encouraging results dovetail with results from the Poll on ASEAN Awareness conducted in 2018 (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2018b).

KPI 2b, under KRA A1, measures 'maintained or increased Government Effectiveness measured under the World Governance Indicators'.

Government Effectiveness is a composite figure that captures perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of civil services and their degree of independence from political pressure, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of a government's commitment to such policies based on a set of representative sources (Kaufmann, Kraay, & Mastruzzi, 2010).

This indicator is among several monitoring the SDG's Goal 16, 'promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels' (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2017b). The indicator's target is a narrowed gap between the top group and the remaining AMS in comparison with the baseline.

According to Table 4.1, progress was made on KPI 2b. Eight of 10 AMS saw increases in their Government Effectiveness indicators, with the average score increase jumping from 0.24 in 2016 to 0.27 in 2019. One particular challenge is noteworthy: a widening gap in government effectiveness between AMS (from 3.18 to 3.37). Similar results were reported by the ASEAN Community Progress Monitoring System (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2017b).



Table 4.1 Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) for Characteristic A

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data	Progress/Changes																		
<b>KRA A.1. Engaged Stakeholders in ASEAN Processes</b>																				
<p><b>KPI 1:</b> Increased engagement, e.g., number of negotiation and partnership forums between diverse stakeholders in AMS in promoting ASEAN initiatives.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Organisation affiliated with ASEAN</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2019</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Parliamentarians and Judiciaries</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Organisations</td> <td>19</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Think Tanks and Academic Institutions</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Civil Society Organisations</td> <td>53</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Stakeholders</td> <td>4</td> <td>9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Organisation affiliated with ASEAN	2016	2019	Parliamentarians and Judiciaries	1	2	Business Organisations	19	15	Think Tanks and Academic Institutions	2	2	Civil Society Organisations	53	44	Other Stakeholders	4	9	<p>KPI 1 is proxied by number of ASEAN-accredited stakeholders. There were mixed results: an increased number of listed entities associated with ASEAN in two categories, constant numbers in another category, and decreases in two other categories.</p>
Organisation affiliated with ASEAN	2016	2019																		
Parliamentarians and Judiciaries	1	2																		
Business Organisations	19	15																		
Think Tanks and Academic Institutions	2	2																		
Civil Society Organisations	53	44																		
Other Stakeholders	4	9																		
<p><b>KPI 2a:</b> Level of satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 4 on the quality of engagement in ASEAN of a representative sample of diverse AMS stakeholders.</p>	<p>No available data on KPI 2a in 2016 (baseline).            Data obtained through survey (n=100) from respondents of various backgrounds (Parliamentarians, Business Organisations, Research Institutions, CSO, Government, and Others). The survey found the following level of satisfaction:            1 – Highly satisfied: 60%            2 – Satisfied: 37%            3 – Unsatisfied: 2%            4 – Highly unsatisfied: 1%            Further, 43% of respondents reported their satisfaction with ASEAN was unchanged; 57% reported that their satisfaction had increased compared to previous years.</p>	<p>In conclusion, the level of satisfaction is high, and increased compared to previous years.</p>																		

Table 4.1 Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) for Characteristic A

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data								Progress/Changes
<p><b>KPI 2b:</b> Maintained Government Effectiveness as measured by the World Government Indicators.</p>	Based on <a href="https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/">https://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/</a>								<p>Progress was made for KPI 2b. Eight of 10 AMS have seen increases in their Government Effectiveness indicators. Also, there was an increase in the average score (from 0.24 in 2016 to 0.27 in 2019). However, there was a widening gap in government effectiveness between AMS (from 3.18 to 3.37).  Note that conclusions cannot be made if data from AMS reports is used (right panel) because when AMS reported KPI Category 1, latest data (2019) was not available.</p>
	Based on AMS report on KPI Cat.1	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change	2016	2017	
	AMS	1.08	1.14	1.25	1.32	Increase	1.08	1.14	1.25
	BN	-0.69	-0.66	-0.57	-0.58	Increase	-0.69	-0.66	-0.57
	KH	0.01	0.04	0.18	0.18	Increase	0.01	0.04	0.18
	ID	-0.40	-0.38	-0.67	-0.78	Decrease	-0.4	-0.38	-0.67
	LA	0.87	0.83	1.08	1.00	Increase	0.87	0.83	1.08
	MY	-0.98	-1.05	-1.07	-1.15	Decrease	-0.98	-1.05	-1.07
	MM	-0.01	-0.05	0.05	0.05	Increase	-0.01	-0.05	0.05
	PH	2.21	2.22	2.23	2.22	Increase	2.21	2.22	2.23
	SG	0.34	0.38	0.35	0.36	Increase	0.34	0.38	0.35
	TH	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.04	Increase	0.02	0.01	0
	VN	0.24	0.25	0.28	0.27	Increase	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<b>Average</b>	3.18	3.27	3.30	3.37	Increase	N/A	N/A	N/A
	<b>Range</b>								
<p><b>KPI 3:</b> Increased number of ASEAN outcome documents,</p>	<p>Data unavailable for baseline (2016); 2020 data were used. Sectoral Body: No. of outcome docs (No. of programmes): ASOEN: 12 (5) COP-AATHP: 7 (8) ACDM: 14 (6) SOMRI: 7 (15)</p>								<p>For KPI 3, it was assumed that the number of outcome documents, programmes, and activities would need to be</p>

Table 4.1 Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) for Characteristic A

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data	Progress/Changes																														
<p>programmes, and activities under the ASCC, developed or implemented with engagement of stakeholders.</p>	<p>SOMCA: 6 (7)    SOMSWD: 8 (8)            SOMRDPE: 8 (8)    ACW: 11 (6)            ACWC: 24 (8)    SOMHD: 17 (20)            ACCSM: 2 (6)    SLOM: 7 (4)            SOMS: 1 (4)    SOMY: 4 (4)            SOM-ED: 6 (5)</p>	<p>developed and implemented with stakeholder engagement. Hence, the count of the number of outcome documents, programmes, and activities can be a valuable proxy indicator to assess the level of stakeholder engagement in ASEAN.</p>																														
<p><b>KRA A.2. Empowered people and strengthened institutions</b></p>																																
<p><b>KPI 4:</b> Increased institutional capacity through policies and measures/initiatives among AMS that raise awareness of ASEAN community building and public engagement.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No. of programmes, news items, or stories that promoted ASEAN identity produced and disseminated per year.</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> <th>2019</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Media type</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Programmes</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TV programmes</td> <td>855</td> <td>731</td> <td>-</td> <td>275</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Infotainment programmes</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TV advertorial plugs</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>50</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No. of programmes, news items, or stories that promoted ASEAN identity produced and disseminated per year.	2016	2017	2018	2019	Media type					Programmes	2	2	2	2	TV programmes	855	731	-	275	Infotainment programmes	7	7	8	8	TV advertorial plugs	-	-	50	-	<p>It was agreed to use the data for indicator 21 as a proxy indicator that measured increased number of programmes, news items or stories that promote ASEAN identity produced and disseminated per year.            Data show mixed results over the years.</p>
No. of programmes, news items, or stories that promoted ASEAN identity produced and disseminated per year.	2016	2017	2018	2019																												
Media type																																
Programmes	2	2	2	2																												
TV programmes	855	731	-	275																												
Infotainment programmes	7	7	8	8																												
TV advertorial plugs	-	-	50	-																												
<p>Note: *Baseline year is 2016, unless otherwise stated.</p>																																

## *KRA A2: 'Empowered People and Strengthened Institutions'*

There were mixed results for KPI 4, 'increased institutional capacity through policies and measures/initiatives among ASEAN Member States that raise awareness on ASEAN community building and public engagement'. KPI 4 was proxied by KPI 21, which measured an 'increased number of programmes, news items or stories that promote ASEAN identity produced and disseminated per year'.

Table 4.1 showed that there were two ASEAN programme promotions since 2016, including 855 TV programmes (which decreased to 275 by 2019), eight infotainment programmes in 2019 (down from seven in previous years), and 58 TV advertorial plugs implemented in 2018. The reduction in TV programmes can be understood in relation to KPI 22c, which will be discussed under Characteristic E (Section 4.5). According to KPI 22c, there was a substantial increase in traffic accessing, following, mentioning, or retweeting ASEAN's various social media accounts of ASEAN (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter). This underscores the shift from traditional media (such as TV) toward internet-based social media.

This changing communications landscape was recognized in the ASEAN Communication Master Plan 2018-2025 (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2019a). Communications across ASEAN are enormously varied; planning communications must take into account traditional media, such as TV, radio, newspapers, print media, and word of mouth. The communications landscape has changed enormously in the past three years and will no doubt be transformed again by 2025. Internet penetration across ASEAN, at 58%, already exceeds the global average, while several ASEAN countries have internet penetration rates exceeding 80%. The impact of high internet penetration is that mobile connectivity exceeds 100% across ASEAN, and social media penetration is more than 55%, with Facebook as the preferred social media platform across AMS in 2018 (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2019a).

### *Conclusion*

After assessing the five KPIs under Characteristic A, it is clear that there has been intense and diverse stakeholder engagement with ASEAN through various activities conducted by all Sectoral Bodies under ASCC. The direct outcome of this engagement has been a high level of stakeholder satisfaction. Looking to the end term of the Blueprint, the Characteristic A assessment suggests that implementation is on the right track to achieve overall objectives. Importantly, following COVID-19, support of the ACRF's

Recovery Framework and Implementation Plan is essential, and will require a number of cross-cutting factors, including stakeholder engagement and partnerships.

## **IV.2. Characteristic B (Inclusive): Objectives and Outcomes**

### **IV.2.1 Characteristic B Objectives**

In realising the overarching goals of an ASEAN Community 2025, the ASCC is envisioned to move towards a more inclusive community. This entails the promotion of equitable access to opportunities for ASEAN's people; as well as the promotion and protection of human rights of women, children, youths, the elderly/older persons, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, ethnic minority groups, and vulnerable and marginalised groups—throughout their lives, guided by a life-cycle approach and adhering to rights-based principles for the promotion of ASEAN policies and programmes under the ASCC Pillar.

Complementing the inclusive growth agenda of the ASEAN Economic Community, Characteristic B focuses on addressing the concerns of all ASEAN's peoples on welfare, social protection, women's empowerment, gender equality, the promotion and protection of human rights, equitable access to opportunities, poverty eradication, health, decent work, education and information.

Characteristic B's objective is an inclusive ASEAN Community that promotes an improved quality of life, addresses barriers to the enjoyment of equitable access to opportunities by ASEAN peoples, and promotes and protects human rights. The objective is expected to be achieved through the delivery of three KRAs: KRA B1, 'reducing barriers', KRA B2, 'equitable access for all', and KRA B3, 'protection and promotion of human rights'.

### **IV.2.2 Current Status of Characteristic B Outcomes**

There are 9 KPIs (KPI 5a through KPI 7b) measuring outcomes under Characteristic B. As of this report, not all the data needed to assess the KPIs was available. Available data is reported in Table 4.2.

### *KRA B1: 'Reducing Barriers'*

Under the Blueprint, reducing barriers relates to the goal of promoting an inclusive society that benefits from adequate social protection. ASEAN defines social protection as policies and programmes designed to reduce poverty, inequality, and the vulnerability of the poor and other populations at risk. These populations include women, children, older persons, workers, and persons with disabilities. Strengthening social protection has been a central focus at ASEAN Summit and Ministerial Meetings, as demonstrated by the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (ASEAN, 2016).

The Blueprint lists three KPIs tracking progress on social protection policies: 5a, 5b, and 7b. As shown in Table 4.2, there is not enough data to track progress of those indicators. However, given the unprecedented socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no better time to ensure these interventions are in place (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2020b), and this can be started by ensuring availability and reliability of data.

### *KRA B2: 'Equitable Access for All'*

The Blueprint measures equitable access for all by five KPIs: access to basic services as demonstrated by decreased prevalence of undernourishment (KPI 6a); reduced prevalence of stunting, wasting, underweight, and overweight children under five years of age (KPI 6b); increased mean years and expected years of schooling (KPI 6c); increased coverage of essential health services regardless of household income, expenditure, or wealth; place of residence, or gender (KPI 6d); and decreased population living in slums (KPI 6e).

Table 4.2 shows evidence of progress on KPI 6a, 'increased access to basic services as demonstrated by decreased prevalence of undernourishment (PoU in %)'. From 2015 until the latest data available in 2017, the average gaps between AMS have been decreasing. The average prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) decreased from 9.9% in 2016 to 9.8% in 2017. Likewise, the gap between AMS on PoU also decreased, from 14.6% to 14%. This indicates that there has been progress in each AMS as well as convergence within ASEAN.

For KPI 6b, there has been progress in reducing the number of stunted, wasting, or underweight children. Average rates of incidence and gaps between AMS decreased as expected. However, a problem appeared with the average percent of overweight children under 5 years of age, which

increased from 4.74% to 5.65%, while the gap between AMS increased from 10.10 to 10.23.

However, this problem is not an ASEAN phenomenon: 38.3 million children under five suffer from similar problems worldwide (Narzisi & Simons, 2020). The obesity/overweight problem is a serious concern, since the longer children are overweight, the more likely they are to be obese adults, with associated morbidities (Narzisi & Simons, 2020). This has also affected ASEAN's overall efforts to realise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ASEAN attaches great importance to collectively resolving this issue, as was reflected in the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition in November 2017 in Manila, the Philippines, and reiterated at the ASEAN Leaders' Gathering in Bali, Indonesia, in 2018 (ASEAN, 2017). Detailed analysis of the problem, as well as the policies and strategic measures needed to overcome it, have been formulated, including through a World Bank-supported policy note (The World Bank, 2019).

Through collective political commitment and strong partnerships, ASEAN has been addressing this problem through strategies detailed in the policy note. Hopefully, the next Regional Report on Nutrition Security in ASEAN (a sequel to the 2016 report (ASEAN, UNICEF, & WHO, 2016)) will show that these efforts have improved nutrition and ensured more healthy lifestyles for ASEAN's peoples, which will contribute to a more healthy, prosperous, and sustainable ASEAN Community.

Sufficient data was available to measure progress for KPI 6c, 'increased access to basic services as demonstrated by increase in average years of total schooling among: (i) people aged 15-24 and (ii) aged 25 and above'. There was clear progress made on KPI 6c from 2016 until the latest data in 2018. On mean years of schooling, the average value increased (from 7.86 to 7.91) and the gap between AMSs decreased (from 6.8 to 6.7). Likewise, the average expected years of schooling increased (from 12.96 to 12.99) and the gap between AMS decreased (from 6.3 to 6).

While insufficient data prevented analysis of KPI 6d, there was sufficient data for KPI 6e, 'increased access to basic services as demonstrated by decreased proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing or danger zones as defined by national laws/policies/regulations'. Progress was made in KPI 6e, as demonstrated by a decreased average value (from 34.1 to 33.3). However, there was a slight increase in the gap between AMS, from 42.2 to 42.3.

### *KRA B3: 'Protection and Promotion of Human Rights'*

The last KPI that can be assessed is KPI 7a, which measures 'increased regional policies, strategies, and programmes mainstreaming the promotion and protection of human rights for the identified target groups in AMS, as demonstrated by development and implementation of an action plan to implement the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers'. Table 4.2 shows a rising number of projects implemented or completed under the action plan to implement the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. This demonstrates that AMS have evinced effort to implement the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ASEAN, 2018).

One particular group of migrant workers that needs attention is women. As part of efforts to provide a comprehensive analysis of women migrant workers, a study has been done to better understand and fully recognize the impact of women's economic contributions to economies and labour markets in ASEAN destination countries (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2017c).

### *Conclusion*

Progress has been made to develop an inclusive ASEAN, based on the assessment of outcomes under Characteristic B using five KPIs with available and sufficient data. Human resources and human development have been the centre of attention. Achievements include decreased PoU rates; a reduction in prevalence of stunted, wasting, and underweight children; and increased education levels.

However, two issues demand attention for end-term implementation of the Blueprint: the prevalence of overweight for children under five years of age and an increasing need for adaptive social protections and universal health coverage, especially given the COVID-19 pandemic. Current approaches should be intensified and coupled with efforts reflecting other KPIs under Characteristic B. For instance, increasing the coverage, width, and depth of social protection (KPI 5a, 5b, and 7b).



Table 4.2. Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) under Characteristic B

Outcome Indicators (KPI)		Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data				Progress/Changes
<b>KRA B.1. Reducing Barriers.</b>						
<p><b>KPI 5a:</b> Number of AMS with institutionalised Social Protection Strategy (SPS) as endorsed by ADB.</p> <p><b>KPI 5b:</b> Increased proportion of the identified target groups in AMS to respective total population who are receiving social protection benefits, aimed at reducing barriers to an inclusive society.</p> <p><b>KPI 7b:</b> Proportion of target groups receiving social protection benefits.</p>	Indicator 5a		Total Social Protection Expenditure, as % GDP	Indicator 5b	Indicator 7b	<p>Progress cannot be measured as only one data point is available (2015).</p> <p>Data source: <a href="https://spi.adb.org/spidmz/">https://spi.adb.org/spidmz/</a></p> <p>** Data as of 2018.</p>
	SPI by Social Assistance, and Labour Market Programs					
A	Social Insurance Ratio	Social Assistance Ratio	Labour Market Programs Ratio			
M						
S						
BN	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
KH	0.1	0.5	N/A	0.8	42.5	
ID	1.4	0.6	0.1	2.1	90.4	
LA	0.7	0.1	N/A	0.8	33.5	
MY	4.3	0.1	N/A	4.2	91	
MM	2.72**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
PH	1.8	0.8	N/A	2.9	117.6	
SG	4.8	1.1	0.3	5.3	103.2	
TH	1.7	0.5	N/A	4.1	96.3	
VN	3.6	0.4	0.1	6.3	90.3	

Table 4.2 Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) under Characteristic B

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data	Progress/Changes																																																				
<b>KRA B.2. Equitable Access for All.</b>																																																						
<b>KPI 6a:</b> Decreased prevalence of undernourishment.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>AMS</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> <th>Change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BN</td> <td>3.1</td> <td>3.2</td> <td>Increase</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KH</td> <td>17.2</td> <td>16.4</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ID</td> <td>8.6</td> <td>8.3</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LA</td> <td>16.7</td> <td>16.5</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MY</td> <td>2.6</td> <td>2.5</td> <td>Increase</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MM</td> <td>10.6</td> <td>10.6</td> <td>Stagnant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PH</td> <td>13.5</td> <td>13.3</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SG</td> <td>NA</td> <td>NA</td> <td>NA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TH</td> <td>7.8</td> <td>7.8</td> <td>Stagnant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VN</td> <td>9.4</td> <td>9.3</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Average</b></td> <td>10.11</td> <td>9.9</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Range</b></td> <td>14.6</td> <td>14</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	AMS	2016	2017	Change	BN	3.1	3.2	Increase	KH	17.2	16.4	Decrease	ID	8.6	8.3	Decrease	LA	16.7	16.5	Decrease	MY	2.6	2.5	Increase	MM	10.6	10.6	Stagnant	PH	13.5	13.3	Decrease	SG	NA	NA	NA	TH	7.8	7.8	Stagnant	VN	9.4	9.3	Decrease	<b>Average</b>	10.11	9.9	Decrease	<b>Range</b>	14.6	14	Decrease	<p>Clear progress was made for KPI 6a. From 2016 until the latest data in 2017, both average and gap between AMS decreased. Five AMS recorded decreases, three recorded increases, and two were stagnant on KPI 6a.</p> <p>Note that the average and range were calculated by excluding SG.</p> <p>Data was taken from: <a href="https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SN.ITK.DEFC.ZS">https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SN.ITK.DEFC.ZS</a>.</p>
AMS	2016	2017	Change																																																			
BN	3.1	3.2	Increase																																																			
KH	17.2	16.4	Decrease																																																			
ID	8.6	8.3	Decrease																																																			
LA	16.7	16.5	Decrease																																																			
MY	2.6	2.5	Increase																																																			
MM	10.6	10.6	Stagnant																																																			
PH	13.5	13.3	Decrease																																																			
SG	NA	NA	NA																																																			
TH	7.8	7.8	Stagnant																																																			
VN	9.4	9.3	Decrease																																																			
<b>Average</b>	10.11	9.9	Decrease																																																			
<b>Range</b>	14.6	14	Decrease																																																			

Table 4.2. Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) under Characteristic B

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data										Progress/Changes
<p><b>KPI 6b:</b> Nutrition indicators: reduced prevalence of stunted, wasting, underweight and overweight children under 5 years of age.</p>	Source: KPI Category 1, as reported by AMS:										<p>There was progress on reducing the number of stunted, wasting, and underweight children. Average and gap on those variables decreased as expected for KPI 6b. However, the percent of overweight in children under 5 increased from 4.74 to 5.65, while the gap between AMS increased from 10.10 to 10.23.</p>
AMS	Stunting (%)		Wasting (%)						Change	Change	
BN	Baseline	Latest Data	Change	Baseline	Latest Data	Change	Latest Data	Change	Change		
KH	19.7 (2009)	19.7 (2013)	Stagnant	(2009)	(2013)	Increase	(2013)	Increase	Increase		
ID	39.8 (2010)	32.4 (2014)	Decrease	11.4 (2010)	10 (2014)	Decrease	10 (2014)	Decrease	Decrease		
LA	36.4 (2013)	30.5 (2018)	Decrease	13.5 (2013)	10.2 (2018)	Decrease	10.2 (2018)	Decrease	Decrease		
MY	35.5 (2015)	33.1 (2017)	Decrease	(2015)	9 (2017)	Decrease	9 (2017)	Decrease	Decrease		
MM	20.7 (2016)	N/A	N/A	11.5 (2016)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
PH	29.1 (2016)	26.7 (2018)	Decrease	7 (2016)	(2018)	Decrease	(2018)	Decrease	Decrease		
SC	33.1 (2015)	30.3 (2018)	Decrease	(2015)	(2018)	Decrease	(2018)	Decrease	Decrease		
TH	(2000)	N/A	N/A	(2000)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
VN	11.27 (2016)	15.16 (2019)	Increase	5.75 (2016)	6.08 (2019)	Increase	6.08 (2019)	Increase	Increase		
Average	24.3 (2016)	<23.0 (2019)	Decrease	(2016)	<5.2 (2019)	Decrease	<5.2 (2019)	Decrease	Decrease		
Range	28.65	26.35/75	Decrease	7.89	7.01	Decrease	7.01	Decrease	Decrease		
	28.53	17.94	Decrease	10.50	6.9	Decrease	6.9	Decrease	Decrease		

Table 4.2 Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) under Characteristic B

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data							Progress/Changes
	Underweight (%)			Overweight (%)				
	AMS	Baseline	Latest Data	Change	Baseline	Latest Data	Change	
BN	(2009)	(2013)	Stagnant	(2009)	(2013)	Stagnant		
KH	23.9 (2014)	N/A	N/A	(2010)	(2014)	Increase		
ID	19.9 (2013)	17.7 (2018)	Decrease	11.5 (2013)	8 (2018)	Decrease		
LA	25.5 (2015)	21.1 (2017)	Decrease	(2015)	(2017)	Increase		
MY	13.7 (2016)	N/A.	N/A	(2016)	N/A	N/A		
Mm	18.9 (2016)	19.1 (2018)	Increase	(2016)	(2018)	Decrease		
Ph	21.4 (2015)	19.1 (2018)	Decrease	(2015)	4 (2018)	Increase		
Sg	(2000)	N/A	N/A	(2000)	N/A	N/A		
Th	(2016)	N/A.	N/A	3.59 (2016)	11.03 (2019)	Increase		
Vh	13.8 (2016)	<12.5 (2019)	Decrease	(2016)	>7.4 (2019)	Increase		
Average	18.18	16.52	Decrease	4.74	5.65	Increase		
Range	15.9	11.5	Decrease	10.10	10.23	Increase		

Table 4.2. Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) under Characteristic B

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data										Progress/Changes	
<p><b>KPI 6c:</b> Average years of total schooling among aged 15-24 and aged 25 and above.</p>	Source: <a href="http://hdr.undp.org/en/indicators/69706#">http://hdr.undp.org/en/indicators/69706#</a> .										<p>KPI 6c evinced clear progress, from 2016 until the latest data in 2018. On mean years of schooling, the average value increased (from 7.86 to 7.91) and the gap between AMS decreased (from 6.8 to 6.7). Likewise, the average of expected years of schooling increased (from 12.96 to 12.99) and the gap decreased (from 6.3 to 6).</p> <p>If data reported by AMS for KPI Category 1 is used, change can only</p>	
AMS	Mean years of schooling (years)			Expected years of schooling (years)								
	2016	2017	2018	Change	2016	2017	2018	Change				
BN	9.1	9.1	9.1	Stagnant	14.5	14.4	14.4	Decrease				
KH	4.7	4.8	4.8	Increased	11.3	11.3	11.3	Stagnant				
ID	8	8	8	Stagnant	12.9	12.9	12.9	Stagnant				
LA	5.2	5.2	5.2	Stagnant	11.2	11.2	11.1	Decrease				
MY	10.2	10.2	10.2	Stagnant	13.7	13.5	13.5	Decrease				
MM	4.9	5	5	Increase	10	10	10.3	Increase				
PH	9.3	9.4	9.4	Increase	12.7	12.7	12.7	Stagnant				
SG	11.5	11.5	11.5	Stagnant	16.3	16.3	16.3	Stagnant				
TH	7.6	7.7	7.7	Increase	14.3	14.7	14.7	Increase				
VN	8.1	8.2	8.2	Increase	12.7	12.7	12.7	Stagnant				
<b>Average</b>	7.86	7.91	7.91	Increase	12.96	12.97	12.99	Increase				
<b>Range</b>	6.8	6.7	6.7	Decrease	6.3	6.3	6	Decrease				

Table 4.2 Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) under Characteristic B

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data										Progress/Changes
	Mean Years of Schooling (Years)					Expected Years of Schooling (Years)					
AMS	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
BN	9.1	9.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.5	14.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	
KH	4.7	4.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.7	11.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	
ID	7.98	N/A	8.17	N/A	N/A	12.8	12.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	
LA	5.2	5.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.2	11.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	
MY	10.2	10.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.7	13.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	
MM	N/A	5.99	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.45	N/A	N/A	N/A	
PH	9.3	9.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	12.7	12.7	12.7	N/A	N/A	
SG	11.65	11.4	11.62	N/A	N/A	16.1	16.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	
TH	7.6	7.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	14.3	14.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	
VN	8.49	8.56	8.64	9	9	11.45	11.47	11.54	12.21	12.21	
<b>Average</b>	8.2	8.0				13.2	12.5				
<b>Range</b>	7.0	6.6				4.9	9.8				

The following table use AMS report as the source:

be measured between 2016 and 2017. On mean years of schooling, average values decreased (from 8.2 to 8.0), and average expected years of schooling decreased (from 13.2 to 12.5). The gap between AMS decreased for mean years of schooling (from 7.0 to 6.6) but doubled for expected years of schooling (from 4.9 to 9.8).

Table 4.2. Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) under Characteristic B

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data		Progress/Changes
<p><b>KPI 6d:</b> Increased coverage of essential health services, regardless of household income, expenditure, wealth, place of residence, or gender.</p>	<p>UHC Coverage Index (SCI) for Essential Health Service (2017)</p> <p>Source: <a href="https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.UHC.SRVS.CV.XD">https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.UHC.SRVS.CV.XD</a>:</p> <p>BN: 81 KH: 60                      ID: 57 LA: 51                      MY: 73 MM: 61                      PH: 61 SC: 86                      TH: 80 VN: 75</p>	<p>UHC Service Coverage Index (SCI) for Essential Health Service (2017)</p> <p>Source: As reported by AMS for KPI Cat. 1</p> <p>BN: 83(2015)/81(2017); KH: 44(2016)/44(2017)                      ID: 53/53 LA: 41/41                      MY: 43/43 MM: 50/50                      PH: 49/49 SC: 44/44                      TH: 43/43 VN: 73/73</p>	<p>The target for KPI 6d was for each AMS to score a minimum of 80 for SCI. There were not enough data points to assess progress, but from the baseline (2017), there were three AMS scoring 80 for SCI.</p>

Table 4.2 Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) under Characteristic B

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data	Progress/Changes																																																																																												
<p><b>KPI 6e:</b> Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing or danger zones as defined by national laws, policies, or regulations.</p>	<p>Source: <a href="https://www.sdg.org/datasets/indicator-11-1-1-proportion-of-urban-population-living-in-slums-percent-6/">https://www.sdg.org/datasets/indicator-11-1-1-proportion-of-urban-population-living-in-slums-percent-6/</a> data?orderBy=sources:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>AMS</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2018</th> <th>Change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BN</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KH</td> <td>47.7</td> <td>45.1</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ID</td> <td>30.9</td> <td>30.6</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LA</td> <td>20.8</td> <td>21.1</td> <td>Increase</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MY</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MM</td> <td>56.6</td> <td>56.1</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PH</td> <td>43.5</td> <td>42.9</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SG</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TH</td> <td>24.6</td> <td>23.7</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VN</td> <td>14.4</td> <td>13.8</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Average</b></td> <td>34.1</td> <td>33.3</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Range</b></td> <td>42.2</td> <td>42.3</td> <td>Decrease</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	AMS	2016	2018	Change	BN	n/a	n/a	n/a	KH	47.7	45.1	Decrease	ID	30.9	30.6	Decrease	LA	20.8	21.1	Increase	MY	N/A	N/A	N/A	MM	56.6	56.1	Decrease	PH	43.5	42.9	Decrease	SG	N/A	N/A	N/A	TH	24.6	23.7	Decrease	VN	14.4	13.8	Decrease	<b>Average</b>	34.1	33.3	Decrease	<b>Range</b>	42.2	42.3	Decrease	<p>Source: AMS Reports on KPI Category 1:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>AMS</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2018</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BN</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>n/a</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KH</td> <td>1.60</td> <td>1.35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ID</td> <td>21.8 (2014)</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LA</td> <td>31.4 (2014)</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MY</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MM</td> <td>41 (2014)</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PH</td> <td>38.3 (2014)</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SG</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TH</td> <td>25 (2014)</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VN</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Average</b></td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Range</b></td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	AMS	2016	2018	BN	n/a	n/a	KH	1.60	1.35	ID	21.8 (2014)	N/A	LA	31.4 (2014)	N/A	MY	N/A	N/A	MM	41 (2014)	N/A	PH	38.3 (2014)	N/A	SG	N/A	N/A	TH	25 (2014)	N/A	VN	N/A	N/A	<b>Average</b>	N/A	N/A	<b>Range</b>	N/A	N/A	<p>Progress has been made in KPI 6e, as demonstrated by decreased average value (from 34.1 to 33.3). However, there is a slight increase in the gap between AMS, from 42.2 to 42.3.</p> <p>Note: Changes cannot be measured using data from AMS reports (right table).</p>
AMS	2016	2018	Change																																																																																											
BN	n/a	n/a	n/a																																																																																											
KH	47.7	45.1	Decrease																																																																																											
ID	30.9	30.6	Decrease																																																																																											
LA	20.8	21.1	Increase																																																																																											
MY	N/A	N/A	N/A																																																																																											
MM	56.6	56.1	Decrease																																																																																											
PH	43.5	42.9	Decrease																																																																																											
SG	N/A	N/A	N/A																																																																																											
TH	24.6	23.7	Decrease																																																																																											
VN	14.4	13.8	Decrease																																																																																											
<b>Average</b>	34.1	33.3	Decrease																																																																																											
<b>Range</b>	42.2	42.3	Decrease																																																																																											
AMS	2016	2018																																																																																												
BN	n/a	n/a																																																																																												
KH	1.60	1.35																																																																																												
ID	21.8 (2014)	N/A																																																																																												
LA	31.4 (2014)	N/A																																																																																												
MY	N/A	N/A																																																																																												
MM	41 (2014)	N/A																																																																																												
PH	38.3 (2014)	N/A																																																																																												
SG	N/A	N/A																																																																																												
TH	25 (2014)	N/A																																																																																												
VN	N/A	N/A																																																																																												
<b>Average</b>	N/A	N/A																																																																																												
<b>Range</b>	N/A	N/A																																																																																												
<b>KRA B.3. Promotion and Protection of Human Rights</b>																																																																																														



Table 4.2. Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) under Characteristic B

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data					Progress/Changes
<p><b>KPI 7a:</b> Development and implementation of an action plan to implement the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.</p>	2016	2017	2018	2019	<p>KPI 7a showed positive indications of progress, demonstrating that AMS have made efforts since 2018 to implement the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.</p> <p>Source: LCSD Records.</p>	
	No./ (Percent) of projects* implemented or completed under the action plan to implement the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers.	0	0	3 (8%)		5 (13%)
	No. of ongoing/regularly implemented projects.	0	0	10 (26%)		15 (40%)
	No. of planned projects.	0	0	25 (66%)		18 (47%)
	Total no. of projects in the action plan at year end.	0	0	38 (100%)		38 (100%)
*As per standard ASEAN definitions.						
<p><b>KPI 7b:</b> Proportion of target groups receiving social protection benefits. (See KPI 5a &amp; 5b).</p>						
<p>Note: *Baseline year is 2016, unless otherwise stated.</p>						

### **IV.3. Characteristic C, 'Sustainable': Objectives and Outcomes**

#### **IV.3.1 Characteristic C Objectives**

To realise the goals of the ASEAN Community 2025, the ASCC envisions the achievement of a sustainable environment in the face of social changes and economic development.

The objective of Characteristic C, 'Sustainable', is to promote and ensure balanced social development and a sustainable environment that meet the needs of ASEAN's peoples at all times. The aim is to strive for an ASEAN Community with equitable access to a sustainable environment that can support social development and a capacity to work towards sustainable development.

The objective is expected to be achieved through delivering four KRAs: KRA C1, 'conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources'; KRA C2, 'environmentally sustainable cities'; KRA C3, 'sustainable climate'; and KRA C4, 'sustainable consumption and production'.

#### **IV.3.2 Characteristic C: Current Status of Outcomes**

Four KPIs measure Characteristic C outcomes. Their status is summarised in Table 4.3.

*KRA C1: 'Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Natural Resources'*

The first KPI, KPI 8, measures 'increased number of regional initiatives regarding conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in AMS'. There is a clear indication of progress on KPI 8 as indicated by an increased number of ongoing and completed ASEAN activities on conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in AMS over the last four years.

Several efforts are aiming to ensure sustainable development, such as strengthening efforts in regional cooperation to promote and protect biodiversity and natural resources; capacity building for sustainable terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems; and preventing and controlling forest and land fires resulting in regional transboundary haze pollution. Reaffirmation of those efforts and commitments were demonstrated by the

Bangkok Declaration in Combatting Marine Debris (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2019e), among other things.

#### *KRA C2: 'Environmentally Sustainable Cities'*

Progress has been made on KPI 9, 'increased number of regional initiatives to promote and achieve environmentally sustainable cities in AMS'. Several regional initiatives to promote and achieve environmentally sustainable cities have been produced in the assessment period, indicating work toward achieving KPI 9's targets.

#### *KRA C3: 'Sustainable Climate'*

Progress has been made on KPI 10, 'enhanced capacity of AMS to achieve their respective/individual NDCs', demonstrated by an increased number of ongoing and completed ASEAN climate-change-related projects or activities to achieve the NDCs of individual AMS.

#### *KRA C4: 'Sustainable Consumption and Production'*

Progress has been made on KPI 11, 'established policies and institutional arrangements that incorporate Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) initiatives, including green jobs, in AMS'. There was an increase in the number of ASEAN-level activities supporting AMS in building SCP policies and institutional arrangements, from three in 2016 to seven in 2019.

#### *Conclusion*

Implementation has been on track during the assessment period to implement the Blueprint for Characteristic C, 'Sustainable'. Going forward, effort should be made to formulate results-based indicators and measurement methods to demonstrate quality outcomes, in addition to the number of projects.

Table 4.3 Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) under Characteristic C

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016**)	Latest Data					Progress/ Changes
<b>KRA C.1. Conservation and Sustainable Management of Biodiversity &amp; Natural Resources.</b>							
<b>KPI 8:</b> Increased number of regional initiatives on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in AMS.	Regional Level Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019	KPI showed clear indications of progress over the last 4 years.	
	No. of ongoing ASEAN activities* on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in AMS.	7	8	10	20		
	No. of completed activities.	11	11	8	10		
<b>KRA C.2. Environmentally Sustainable Cities.</b>							
<b>KPI 9:</b> Increased number of regional initiatives to promote and achieve environmentally sustainable cities in AMS.	Regional Level Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019	Progressive efforts to achieve KPI9 targets are in place.	
	No. of ongoing ASEAN projects* on environmentally sustainable cities.	1	0	1	1		
	No. of completed ASEAN projects.	2	5	1	2		
<b>KRA C.3. Sustainable Climate.</b>							
<b>KPI 10:</b> Enhanced capacity of AMS to achieve their respective and individual NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions).	Regional Level Indicator	2016	2017	2018	2019	KPI 10 shows progress in efforts made by ASEAN to deliver results.	
	No. of ongoing ASEAN climate-change-related projects or activities* to achieve AMS individual or respective NDCs as implemented in AMS.	1	0	0	5		
	No. of completed ASEAN projects.	3	4	4	9		

Table 4.3 Status of Outcome Indicators (KPI) under Characteristic C

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016**)	Latest Data				Progress/ Changes
<b>KRA C.4. Sustainable Consumption and Production.</b>						
<b>KPI T1:</b> Established policies and institutional arrangements that incorporate Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) initiatives, including green jobs, in AMS.	No. of ASEAN-level activities* supporting AMS to build SCP policies and institutional arrangements.	2016	2017	2018	2019	KPI T1 shows progress in efforts made by ASEAN to deliver results.
		3	4	3	7	
<p>Note: **Baseline year is 2016, unless otherwise stated.</p> <p>*As per standard ASEAN definitions, activities are counted as 'ongoing' once in the year in which they began, once every year they were still ongoing, and then counted as 'completed' projects in the year they were completed. Completed activities are counted once in the year they were completed; the figure is not cumulative.</p>						

## IV.4. Characteristic D (Resilient): Objectives and Outcomes

### IV.4.1 Characteristic D Objectives

Integrated, comprehensive, and inclusive approaches are necessary to build resilient communities in the ASEAN region post-2015. Resilience is an essential aspect of human security and the sustainable environment, and is addressed by integrating policies, building capacity and institutions, and forging stakeholder partnerships in disaster-risk reduction, humanitarian assistance, and community empowerment, among other things. Resilience must be inclusive, non-discriminatory, and incorporate market- and technology-based policies, including contributions from the Private Sector and the academic and scientific communities.

ASEAN Leaders, through the Declaration on Institutionalising the Resilience of ASEAN and Its Communities and Peoples to Disasters and Climate Change, adopted during the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in April 2015, committed 'to forge a more resilient future by reducing existing disaster and climate-related risks, preventing a generation of new risks, and adapting to a changing climate through the implementation of economic, social, cultural, physical, and environmental measures that address exposure and vulnerability, and thus strengthen resilience.'

Characteristic D's objective is to enhance capacity to collectively respond and adapt to current challenges and emerging threats. This reflects a recognition that socio-cultural resilience has cross-Pillar linkages within the ASEAN Community, and can be an effective force for moderation for the common good. Resilience also prepares AMS for natural and human-induced disasters, and socioeconomic crises, as they embrace the principles of comprehensive security.

Six KRAs were designed to realise Characteristic D:

- KRA D1, 'a disaster resilient ASEAN that is able to anticipate, respond, cope, adapt, and build back better, smarter, and faster'.
- KRA D2, 'a safer ASEAN that is able to respond to all health-related hazards including biological, chemical, radiological, nuclear, and emerging threats'.
- KRA D3, 'a climate-adaptive ASEAN with enhanced institutional and human capacities to adapt to the impacts of climate change'.

- KRA D4, 'strengthened social protection for women, children, youths, the elderly/older persons, persons with disabilities, ethnic minority groups, migrant workers, vulnerable and marginalised groups, and people living in at-risk areas, including people living in remote and border areas and climate sensitive areas, to reduce vulnerabilities in times of climate change-related crises, disasters, and other environmental changes'.
- KRA D5, 'enhanced and optimised financing systems, food, water, energy availability, and other social safety nets in times of crisis by making resources more available, accessible, affordable, and sustainable'.
- KRA D6, 'endeavour toward a "drug-free" ASEAN'.

#### IV.4.2 Characteristic D, Current Status of Outcomes

Table 4.4 shows that only three of eight KPIs under Characteristic D have sufficient data to allow measurement of progress: KPI13, KPI 17, and KPI 18.

KPI 13 measures 'increased number of resolutions as a result of cross-Sectoral consultations to synergise Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in AMS, aligned with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)'. Progress was made on KPI 13 as indicated by an increase in the number of resolutions as a result of cross-Sectoral consultations to synergise DRR and HADR in AMS, aligned with the AADMER.

Progress was made on KPI 17, as indicated by an increased number of regional initiatives to enhance and optimise financing systems, food, water, energy, and social safety nets in times of crisis, aligned with the principles and indicators in the Regional Framework and Action Plan to implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection.

Progress was also made on KPI 18, as demonstrated by an increased number of jointly coordinated cross-Pillar dialogues and forums on drug use and rehabilitation in AMS.

#### *Conclusion*

Available KPI data for Characteristic D concern the implementation process or efforts made toward objectives. Going forward, efforts should be made consistent to ensure impactful interventions in the Blueprint's end term. Results-based indicators and measuring methods should be developed to measure the quality of activity and outcomes.

Table 4.4 Status of Characteristic D Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data	Progress
KPI 12: Regional and national action plans to increase capacity and promote implementation aligned with the ASEAN Risk and Vulnerability Guidelines (RVA).	AMS	Level of RVA (DMHA to collect data through AMS self-assessment)
	BN	2016: National action plans in place to increase capacity and promote implementation aligned with the ASEAN Risk and Vulnerability Guidelines (RVA): (a) National Standard Operating Procedure (NASOP) 2012. (b) Brunei Darussalam Strategic National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (SNAP) 2012- 2020. (c) Development of Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework (DMSPF) 2018.
KPI 12: Regional and national action plans to increase capacity and promote implementation aligned with the ASEAN Risk and Vulnerability Guidelines (RVA).	ID	2016: Source of verification: Interview with ACDM.
	KH	Sectoral Body Climate Change Adaptation Plan performing similar to RVA.
	LA	N/A
	MY	N/A
	MM	a) Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (2017) States/Regional Disaster b) Management Plans, National Earthquake Preparedness and Response Plan (2019)
	PH	N/A
	SG	Whole-of-Government Integrated Risk Management (WOG-IRM) framework adopted in 2004
		Insufficient data to measure progress of KPI 12.



Table 4.4. Status of Characteristic D Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data					Progress	
	TH	VN	2016	2017	2018		2019
	2016: National Plan on DRR/M (The National Disaster Risk Management Plan on DRR, 2015) by the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation/DDPM, Ministry of Interior/MOI) already addressed the RVA issue.	N/A					
KPI 13: Increased number of resolutions as a result of cross-Sectoral consultations to synergise Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in AMS, aligned with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER).	No. of resolutions in the cross-Sectoral consultations meeting reports by year.	No. of cross-Sectoral consultation platforms to synergise Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in ASEAN Member States.	1 (Declaration on One-ASEAN One Response)	1 (Endorsement of the Work-Plan on Strengthening Institutional and Policy Framework on DRR-CCA)	1 (Establishment of the ACSCC on ASSI)	1 (Plan of Action of the ASEAN DRFI Phase 2 project)	Progress in KPI 13 as indicated by increase in number of resolutions as a result of cross-Sectoral consultations to synergise DRR and HADR in AMS, aligned with the AADMER.
			3 (TWG on CIMIC, JTF on HADR and ACSCC on DRFI)	3 (TWG on CIMIC, JTF on HADR and ACSCC on DRFI)	4 (TWG on CIMIC, JTF on HADR, ACSCC on DRFI and ACSCC on ASSI)	4 (TWG on CIMIC, JTF on HADR, ACSCC on DRFI, and CSCC on ASSI)	

Table 4.4 Status of Characteristic D Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data	Progress
KRA D.2. A Safer ASEAN that is Able to Respond to All Health-Related Hazards Including Biological, Chemical, Radiological, Nuclear, and Emerging Threats.		
KPI 14: Improved national core capacities in line with International Health Regulations (IHR) Framework, in response to all health-related hazards.	See Table 4.5 for KPI 14 baseline data.	Insufficient data to measure progress of KPI 14.
KRA D.3. A Climate-Adaptive ASEAN with Enhanced Institutional and Human Capacities to Adapt to the Impacts of Climate Change.		
KPI 15a: Enhanced capacity of AMS stakeholders to implement national adaptation action plans to climate change adaptation (CCA), aligned with UNFCCC and that are country-driven, gender sensitive, participatory, and transparent.	See Table 4.6 for KPI 15a baseline data.	Insufficient data to measure progress of KPI 15a.

Table 4.4. Status of Characteristic D Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data	Progress																				
KPI 15b: Proportion of local governments that have adapted and implemented local CCA and DRR strategies that are country driven, gender sensitive, participatory, and transparent. (as modified from SDG indicator 13.1.1)		Insufficient data to measure progress of KPI 15b.																				
KRA D.4. Strengthened Social Protection for Women, Children, Youths, the Elderly, Persons with Disabilities, Ethnic Minority Groups, Migrant Workers, Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups, and People Living in At-Risk Areas, Including People Living in Remote and Border Areas and Climate Sensitive Areas, to Reduce Vulnerabilities in Times of Climate Change-Related Crises, Disasters, and Other Environmental Changes.																						
KPI 16: Increased number of AMS implementing adaptive Social Protection to reduce vulnerabilities in times of climate change-related crises, disasters, and other environmental changes.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> <th>2019</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No. of countries that have approved adaptive and social protection policies by year.</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. of countries that have approved adaptive and social protection budget allocations.</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AND/ OR (as a weak proxy)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. of ASEAN level activities* supporting AMS implementation of adaptive Social Protection.</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*As per standard ASEAN definitions, activities are counted as ongoing once in the year in which they began, once every year they were still ongoing, and then counted as completed projects in the year they were completed.</p>		2017	2018	2019	No. of countries that have approved adaptive and social protection policies by year.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. of countries that have approved adaptive and social protection budget allocations.	N/A	N/A	N/A	AND/ OR (as a weak proxy)				No. of ASEAN level activities* supporting AMS implementation of adaptive Social Protection.	1	3	N/A	Insufficient data to measure progress of KPI 16.
	2017	2018	2019																			
No. of countries that have approved adaptive and social protection policies by year.	N/A	N/A	N/A																			
No. of countries that have approved adaptive and social protection budget allocations.	N/A	N/A	N/A																			
AND/ OR (as a weak proxy)																						
No. of ASEAN level activities* supporting AMS implementation of adaptive Social Protection.	1	3	N/A																			

Table 4.4 Status of Characteristic D Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data					Progress
KRA D.5. Enhanced and Optimised Financing Systems, Food, Water, Energy Availability and Other Social Safety Nets in Times of Crisis by Making Resources More Available, Accessible, Affordable, and Sustainable.  KPI 17: Increased number of regional initiatives to enhance and optimise financing systems, food, water, energy availability, and other social safety nets in times of crisis, aligned with the principles and indicators in the Regional Framework and Action Plan to implement the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection.	2016	2017	2018	2019	Progress has been made on KPI 17.	
	No. of regional initiatives to enhance and optimise financing systems, food, water, energy, and social safety nets in times of crisis, by year.	1 (ADRFI)	1 (ADRFI)	2 (ADRFI) and a study on SGBV in disaster)		3 (ASEAN DRFI and development of Disaster Responsive Social Protection Guidelines, and project on Scaling up FbF/EWEA and Disaster Responsive Social Protection with innovative use of climate risk information for disaster resilience in ASEAN.
KRA D.6. Endeavour toward a 'Drug-Free' ASEAN.						

Table 4.4. Status of Characteristic D Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016*) and Latest Data					Progress
	2016	2017	2018	2019		
KPI 18: Increased number of jointly coordinated cross-pillar dialogues on drug use and rehabilitation in AMS.	No. of ongoing projects or activities* on drug use and rehabilitation in ASEAN Member States jointly coordinated* by the Health Division and the Security Cooperation Division.	3 projects/ activities on mental health	3	3	3	Progress has been made on KPI 18.
	Number of ongoing projects and activities* contributing to the ASEAN Health Sector priority on mental health and HIV/AIDS, and projects or activities contributing to a drug-free ASEAN.	2 projects/ activities on HIV/AIDS	2	2	2	
**As per standard ASEAN definitions, activities are counted as ongoing once in the year in which they began, once every year they were still ongoing, and then counted as completed projects in the year they were completed.						

Note: \*Baseline is 2016, unless otherwise stated.

Table 4.5 National Core Capacities in Line with International Health Regulations (IHR) Framework, in Response to All Health-Related Hazards.

National Core Capacities (13)	BN	KH	ID	LA	MY	MM	PH	SG	TH	VN
	N/A	2016	2017	2017	N/A	2017	2018	2018	2017	2016
i. National Legislation, Policy, and Financing.										
Sufficient legislation, laws, regulations, administrative requirements, policies or other government instruments in place to implement IHR (2005).	N/A	3	3	3	N/A	2	2	5	5	3
State can demonstrate that it has adjusted and aligned domestic legislation, policies, and administrative arrangements to comply with IHR (2005).	N/A	3	3	4	N/A	2	2	5	4	3
ii. IHR Coordination, National Focal Point Communications and Advocacy.										
A functional mechanism has been established for the coordination and integration of relevant Sectors in the implementation of IHR(2005).	N/A	4	3	4	N/A	2	2	5	4	4
iii. Real-Time Surveillance.										
Indicator- and event-based surveillance systems.	N/A	4	3	4	N/A	4	3	5	4	4
Interoperable, interconnected, electronic real-time reporting system.	N/A	3	3	3	N/A	2	3	4	4	3
Integration and analysis of surveillance data.	N/A	3	2	4	N/A	3	4	5	4	3
Syndromic surveillance systems.	N/A	4	4	4	N/A	3	3	4	4	3
iv. Emergency Response Operations.										
Capacity to activate emergency operations.	N/A	2	3	2	N/A	2	3	4	3	2

Table 4.5 National Core Capacities in Line with International Health Regulations (IHR) Framework, in Response to All Health-Related Hazards.

National Core Capacities (13)	BN	KH	ID	LA	MY	MM	PH	SG	TH	VN
	2016	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2018	2018	2017	2016
EOC operating procedures and plans.	N/A	1	2	1	N/A	1	3	4	3	3
Emergency operations programme.	N/A	1	3	3	N/A	2	3	5	3	3
Case management procedures implemented for IHR relevant hazards.	N/A	1	3	2	N/A	2	N/A	4	3	3
v. Preparedness.										
National multi-hazard public health emergency preparedness and response plan has been developed and implemented.	N/A	1	3	2	N/A	1	3	5	4	2
Priority public health risks and resources have been mapped and utilized.	N/A	1	2	2	N/A	1	2	4	2	2
vi. Risk Communication										
Risk communication systems (plans, mechanisms, etc.).	N/A	2	3	2	N/A	1	3	5	4	3
Internal and partner communication and coordination.	N/A	3	3	3	N/A	3	2	4	4	3
Public communication.	N/A	3	4	3	N/A	3	3	5	4	3
Communication engagement with affected communities.	N/A	3	4	3	N/A	2	3	4	4	2
Dynamic listening and rumour management.	N/A	3	4	2	N/A	2	2	5	4	3

Table 4.5 National Core Capacities in Line with International Health Regulations (IHR) Framework, in Response to All Health-Related Hazards.

National Core Capacities (13)	BN	KH	ID	LA	MY	MM	PH	SG	TH	VN
	N/A	2016	2017	2017	N/A	2017	2018	2018	2017	2016
vii. Workforce Development.										
Human resources available to implement IHR core capacity requirements.	N/A	2	3	3	N/A	3	2	5	4	3
FETP or other applied epidemiology training programme in place.	N/A	3	4	3	N/A	3	5	5	5	4
Workforce strategy.	N/A	2	3	2	N/A	3	2	5	3	3
In-service trainings available (only for Philippines)	2									
viii. National Laboratory System.										
Laboratory testing for detection of priority diseases.	N/A	4	4	4	N/A	3	4	5	4	3
Specimen referral and transport system.	N/A	2	4	3	N/A	3	3	5	4	3
Effective modern point-of-care and laboratory-based diagnostics.	N/A	2	3	3	N/A	2	3	5	4	3
Laboratory quality system.	N/A	2	3	2	N/A	3	3	5	3	3
ix. Points of Entry.										
Routine capacities established at points of entry.	N/A	3	4	3	N/A	2	4	5	4	3
Effective public health response at points of entry.	N/A	2	4	2	N/A	2	3	4	3	2



Table 4.5 National Core Capacities in Line with International Health Regulations (IHR) Framework, in Response to All Health-Related Hazards.

National Core Capacities (13)		BN	KH	ID	LA	MY	MM	PH	SG	TH	VN
		N/A	2016	2017	2017	N/A	2017	2018	2018	2018	2017
x. Zoonotic Diseases.											
Surveillance systems in place for priority zoonotic diseases/ pathogens.		N/A	2	3	3	N/A	3	3	5	4	4
Veterinary or animal health workforce.		N/A	3	3	3	N/A	3	3	5	4	4
Established and functional mechanisms for responding to infectious and potential zoonotic diseases.		N/A	3	2	3	N/A	2	2	5	4	3
xi. Food Safety.											
Established mechanisms for multi-Sectoral collaboration to ensure rapid response to food safety emergencies and outbreaks of food borne diseases.		N/A	2	3	2	N/A	2	2	5	3	3
xii. Chemical Events.											
Established and functioning mechanisms for detecting and responding to chemical events or emergencies.		N/A	2	2	1	N/A	1	3	4	4	2
Enabling environment in place for management of chemical events.		N/A	1	3	1	N/A	1	2	5	4	2
xiii. Radio-Nuclear Emergencies.											
Established and functioning mechanisms for detecting and responding to radiological and nuclear emergencies.		N/A	2	3	1	N/A	1	2	3	4	3

Table 4.5 National Core Capacities in Line with International Health Regulations (IHR) Framework, in Response to All Health-Related Hazards.

National Core Capacities (13)	BN	KH	ID	LA	MY	MM	PH	SG	TH	VN
	Enabling environment in place for management of radiation emergencies.	N/A	2016	2017	2017	N/A	2017	2018	2018	2017
	N/A	2	3	1	N/A	1	2	3	4	2

Table 4.6 Level of Capacity of AMS Stakeholders to Implement National Adaptation Action Plans for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) aligned with the UNFCCC

	BN	KH	ID	LA	MY	MM	PH	SG	TH	VN
National Adaptation Plan adopted by Government.		Y	Y			Y	Y	Y		
Adopted in year:		2006	2018			2012	2011	2016		
Drafting ongoing (y/h).	N	-		Y		-	-	-	Y	Y
National Adaptation Plan actively under implementation? (y/h)	N	Y	Y	N		Y	Y	Y	N	N
Implementation of National Adaptation Plan completed? (y/h)										

Score Progress markers (on the level of achievement of National Adaptation Plan under UNFCCC):

Score	Definition
5	Comprehensive achievement has been attained, with commitment and capacities to sustain effort at all levels.
4	Substantial achievement has been attained, with some recognized deficiencies in commitment, financial resources, or operational capacities.
3	Some institutional commitment and capacities to achieve goals in National Adaptation Plan, but progress is neither comprehensive nor substantial.
2	Achievements have been made, but are incomplete, and while improvements are planned, commitment and capacities are limited.
1	Achievements are minor and there are few signs of planning or forward action to adopt and implement a National Adaptation Plan.

Please assign the score for each country in the table below:

Countries:	BN	KH	ID	LA	MY	MM	PH	SG	TH	VN
Score:										

## IV.5. Characteristic E (Dynamic): Objectives and Outcomes Status

### IV.5.1 Characteristic E Objectives

Characteristic E's objective is to strengthen ASEAN's ability to continuously innovate and be a proactive member of the global community. The objective aims to provide an enabling environment, with policies and institutions that engender people and firms to be more open and adaptive, creative, innovative, and entrepreneurial.

Three KRAs were designed to achieve Characteristic E: KRA E1, 'towards an open and adaptive ASEAN'; KRA E2, 'towards a creative, innovative and responsive ASEAN'; and KRA E3, 'engender a culture of entrepreneurship in ASEAN'.

### IV.5.2 Characteristic E Current Status of Outcomes

Of 19 KPIs measuring outcomes under Characteristic E, 10 had sufficient data points to measure progress for this assessment: seven KPIs indicated progress, and three indicated challenges.

Progress was observed under six KPIs that measured public outreach:

- KPI 19a, 'increased number of information and communication platforms, programmes, and audiences to support ASEAN integration to target groups based on the ASEAN Communication Master Plan (ACMP) Phase II, across the Pillars'.
- KPI 19b, 'increased number of online platforms to promote ASEAN Community to ASEAN youth'.
- KPI 20, 'increased number of media platforms that raise ASEAN awareness in ASEAN and AMS'.
- KPI 21, 'increased number of programmes, news items, or stories that promote ASEAN identity produced and disseminated per year.'
- KPI 23a, 'increased number of visitors seeking information on the ASEAN Website'.
- KPI23b, 'increased traffic from ASEAN website and social media to promote ASEAN activities/programmes and disseminate information on ASEAN'.

Progress was also observed under a research-focused indicator, KPI 25, 'maintained or increased number of ASEAN-wide, collaborative R&D activities, on research, innovation and development toward creation of an innovative and responsive ASEAN'.

Challenges were noted under three KPIs measuring outcomes: KPI26a, KPI 30, and KPI31c.

KPI 26a measured the Global Competitiveness Index. All AMS improved on the GCI, with the average score increasing from 62.47 to 64.5. However, the gap between AMS increased slightly from 34.4 to 34.7.

KPI 30 measured increased recognition for ASEAN films at the international level, which has been challenging, as only two movies from an AMS received awards at festivals monitored by ASSC: one in 2019 and one in 2020.

KPI 31c measured the proportion of youth, including those with disabilities, who were not in education, employment, or training (NEET). Five AMS recorded NEET increases, and five recorded decreases. The average NEET rate increased from 12.3% (2016) to 15.33% (2019)

Attention should be given to these three challenges.

Table 4.7 Status of Characteristic E Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016) and Latest Data*					Progress/Changes	
<b>KRA E.1. Toward an Open and Adaptive ASEAN.</b>							
KPI 19a: Increased number of information and communication platforms, programmes, and audiences to support ASEAN integration with target groups based on the ASEAN Communication Master Plan (ACMP), Phase II, across Pillars.		<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	Progress has been made on KPI 19a.	
	No. of information and communication platforms to promote ASEAN integration to target groups based on the ASEAN Communication Master Plan (ACMP) Phase II, across Pillars.	N/A	N/A	7	6		
KPI 19b: Increased number of online platforms to promote ASEAN Community to ASEAN youth [SOMY KPI].		<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	Progress has been made on KPI 19b.	
	No. of online platforms to promote the ASEAN Community to ASEAN Youth.	N/A	N/A	7	8		
KPI 19c: Digital natives: Percent of people 15-24 with five or more years of online experience.	<b>AMS</b>	<b>ASEAN Digital Natives as Percentage of Population 2013</b>					Insufficient data to measure progress on KPI 19c.
	BN	- 14.0					
	KH	- 3.0					
	ID	- 3.0					
	LA	- 3.0					
	MY	- 14.0					
	MM	- 3.0					

Table 4.7 Status of Characteristic E Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016) and Latest Data*					Progress/Changes					
	PH	- 3.0									
	SC	- 14.0									
	TH	- 9.0									
	VN	- 9.0									
<p>KPI 20: Increased number of media platforms raising ASEAN awareness in ASEAN and AMS.</p>		Media exposure: 110,1k	2016	Media exposure: 151,6k	2017	Media exposure: 100,2k	2018	Media exposure: 78,1k	2019	Media exposure: B - 49.3 B	<p>Progress has been made on KPI 20.</p>
	No. of media platforms that raise ASEAN awareness in ASEAN and AMS.	Potential reach in billions: 20.6 B* - 58.6 B	2016	Media exposure: 151,6k	2017	Media exposure: 100,2k	2018	Media exposure: 78,1k	2019	Media exposure: B - 49.3 B	
<p>KPI 21: Increased number of programmes, news items, or stories promoting ASEAN identity produced and disseminated per year.</p>			Media type	2016	2017	2018	2019				<p>Progress has been made on KPI 21.</p>
	No. of programmes, news items, or stories that promote ASEAN identity produced and disseminated per year.		Media type	2016	2017	2018	2019				
			Programmes	2	2	2	2				
			TV programmes	855	731	-	275				
			Infotainment programmes	7	7	8	8				
			TV advertorial plugs	-	-	50	-				

Table 4.7 Status of Characteristic E Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016) and Latest Data*					Progress/Changes
<p>KPI 22: Increased ASEAN awareness based on the results of the Poll on ASEAN Awareness.</p>	<p>Regional Level Indicator 2018</p>	<p>Businesses</p>	<p>Civil Society Organisations</p>	<p>General Public (All Age Groups)</p>	<p>Insufficient data to measure progress on KPI 22.</p>	
<p>I have heard of ASEAN.</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>96%</p>		
<p>I know what ASEAN is in general, when and why it was established.</p>	<p>69%</p>	<p>69%</p>	<p>72%</p>	<p>40%</p>		
<p>I know about the ASEAN Community and its three Pillars.</p>	<p>22%</p>	<p>22%</p>	<p>38%</p>	<p>23%</p>		
<p>I know the policies and the impacts that ASEAN has brought to my business or country in the past two years.</p>	<p>39%</p>	<p>39%</p>	<p>39%</p>	<p>40%</p>		
<p>I know how ASEAN plans to build a stronger region in the future.</p>	<p>46%</p>	<p>46%</p>	<p>49%</p>	<p>47%</p>		
<p>KPI 24: Increased perception of the benefits of ASEAN integration as identified by the Poll on ASEAN Awareness.</p>	<p>Baseline Year: 2018</p>	<p>Very Negative</p>	<p>Negative</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>Very Positive</p>
	<p>Business</p>	<p>0%</p>	<p>1%</p>	<p>42%</p>	<p>51%</p>	<p>6%</p>
	<p>Civil Society</p>	<p>1%</p>	<p>1%</p>	<p>44%</p>	<p>50%</p>	<p>4%</p>
	<p>General Public</p>	<p>0%</p>	<p>1%</p>	<p>16%</p>	<p>51%</p>	<p>32%</p>



Table 4.7 Status of Characteristic E Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016) and Latest Data*					Progress/Changes
KRA E.2. Towards a creative, innovative and responsive ASEAN.						
KPI 23a: Increased traffic to ASEAN website and social media to promote ASEAN activities and programmes and disseminate information on ASEAN.	<b>Regional Level Indicator</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	Progress has been made on KPI 23a.
	No. of visitors seeking information on the ASEAN website.	6,048,981	10,291,765	8,349,654	9,714,373	
KPI 23b: Increased traffic to ASEAN website and social media to promote ASEAN activities and disseminate information on ASEAN.	<b>Regional Level Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline 2016 - 2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	Progress has been made on KPI 23b.
	Traffic from ASEAN social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn followers) to promote ASEAN activities and disseminate information on ASEAN.	FB: 618K IG: 6.7K TW: 65K Li: N/A	FB: 681k IG: 25K TW: 90K Li: N/A	FB: 727K IG: 72K TW: 102K Li: 25K	FB: 769K IG: 100.5K TW: 118K Li: 41K	
KPI 24: Increased Perception of the Benefits of ASEAN Integration Identified by the Poll on ASEAN Awareness.						
						See KPI 22.

Table 4.7 Status of Characteristic E Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016) and Latest Data*				Progress/Changes
KPI 25: Maintained or increased number of ASEAN-wide, collaborative R&D activities, on research, innovation, and development toward the creation of an innovative and responsive ASEAN.	2016	2017	2018	2019	Progress has been made on KPI 25.
	No. of collaborative R&D activities*, on research, innovation and development conducted by ASEAN.			HD projects Sustainable Development Directorate: 49 projects	

\* As per standard ASEAN definitions, activities are counted as ongoing once in the year in which they began, once every year they were still ongoing, and then counted as 'completed' projects in the year they were completed.

Table 4.7 Status of Characteristic E Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016) and Latest Data*						Progress/Changes
	AMS	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change*	
KPI 26a: Increased competitiveness as measured by the Global Competitiveness Index. Source: <a href="http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GCR2016-2017/05FullReport/TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2016-2017_FINAL.pdf">http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GCR2016-2017/05FullReport/TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2016-2017_FINAL.pdf</a>	AMS	4.35 (58)	60.42 (46)	61.43 (62)	62.76 (56)	Increase	Progress has been made on KPI 26a.
	BN	3.94 (89)	49.37 (94)	50.19 (110)	52.08 (106)	Increase	All AMS rated higher on GCI.
	ID	4.52 (41)*	63.49 (36)	64.94 (45)	64.63 (50)	Increase	
	LA	4 (93)	48.56 (98)	49.27 (112)	50.1 (113)	Increase	
	MY	5.16* (25)	73.24 (23)	74.38 (25)	74.6 (27)	Increase	Average score increased from 62.47 to 64.5, while gap increased from 34.4 to 34.7, meaning that score improvement at the top tier was higher than that at the lower end.
	MM	3.32 (N/A)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	PH	4.39 (42)	59.8 (41)	62.13 (50)	61.87 (46)	Increase	
	SG	5.68 (3)	82.97 (3)	83.48 (2)	84.78 (1)	Increase	
	TH	4.72 (34)	66.25 (32)	67.5 (38)	68.1 (40)	Increase	
	VN	4.31 (60)	58 (74/80*)	58.1 (77)	61.5 (67)	Increase	
	Average	4.55/65 (51.1)	62.47 (56.89)	63.49 (58.56)	64.5 (58.22)	Increase	
	Range	25.6pp (90)	34.4pp (112)	34.2pp (110)	34.7pp (112)	Increase	
*Change is measured from 2017 to 2019. 2017 was chosen as the baseline since then there had been a change in method of GCI calculation.							
Also as reported by AMS in KPI Category 1.							

Table 4.7 Status of Characteristic E Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016) and Latest Data*					Progress/Changes	
	Baseline 2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
KPI 27: Increased number of intra-ASEAN networks and activities that support creative industries.	1	0	1	0	0	Insufficient data to measure progress.	
KPI 28: Increased number of participants taking part in networks.		X	X	X	X		
KPI 29: Increased number of ASEAN activities or participants related to creative industries.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
*As per standard ASEAN definitions, activities are counted as ongoing once in the year in which they began, once every year they were still ongoing, and then counted as 'completed' projects in the year they were completed.							
KPI 30: Increased recognition for ASEAN films at the international level.	Baseline 2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Some slow down for KPI 30.	
	Busan Film Festival	1	0	1	0		
	Berlin Film Festival	1	0	0	0		1
	Cannes Film Festival	0	0	0	0		0
	Total	2	1	0	1		1
KRA E.3. Engender a Culture of Entrepreneurship in ASEAN.							

Table 4.7 Status of Characteristic E Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016) and Latest Data*							Progress/Changes
	Indicator	AMS	Women	Youth	Elderly	People with Disabilities		
<p>KPI 31a: Increased access to finance, skill training, markets, and technology for MSMEs disaggregated by youth, persons with disabilities, women and vulnerable and marginalised groups, as demonstrated by availability and implementation of legislation, policies, or programmes for the promotion of entrepreneurship skills for women, youth, elderly, and persons with disabilities. (The availability component was also included in the 2015 ASCC Scorecard).</p>	Availability of legislation, policies, or programmes for the promotion of entrepreneurship skills for women, youth, elderly and persons with disabilities	BN	✓		✓	✓	Insufficient data to measure progress.	
		KH				✓		
		ID	✓		✓	✓		
		LA	✓		✓	✓		
		MY	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		MM	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		PH	✓	✓		✓		
		SG	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		TH	✓	✓	✓	✓		
		VN	✓	✓	✓	✓		

Table 4.7 Status of Characteristic E Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016) and Latest Data*	Progress/Changes												
<p>KPI 32: Implementation of national legislation, policies, or programmes in AMS dedicated to supporting entrepreneurship among youth, persons with disabilities, women, and vulnerable and marginalised groups.</p>														
<p>KPI 31b: Participation of youth and adults (including those with disabilities) in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months by sex.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>BL_year</th> <th>Baseline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BN</td> <td>2014</td> <td>                     Both sexes average: 1.53                      No data by sex available for females in UIS database. However, if 1.53 is average, 1.48 then females should be 1.58 and males 1.48.                 </td> </tr> <tr> <td>KH</td> <td>-</td> <td>No data available</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ID</td> <td>2014</td> <td>                     Both sexes average: 0.76                      Female: 0.68                      Male: 0.84                 </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		BL_year	Baseline	BN	2014	Both sexes average: 1.53 No data by sex available for females in UIS database. However, if 1.53 is average, 1.48 then females should be 1.58 and males 1.48.	KH	-	No data available	ID	2014	Both sexes average: 0.76 Female: 0.68 Male: 0.84	<p>Insufficient data to measure progress.</p>
	BL_year	Baseline												
BN	2014	Both sexes average: 1.53 No data by sex available for females in UIS database. However, if 1.53 is average, 1.48 then females should be 1.58 and males 1.48.												
KH	-	No data available												
ID	2014	Both sexes average: 0.76 Female: 0.68 Male: 0.84												

Table 4.7 Status of Characteristic E Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016) and Latest Data*		Progress/Changes
LA	2017	Both sexes average: 0.70% Female: 0.68 Male: 0.72	
MY	-	No data available	
MM	2015, 2017	Both Sexes average: 2.13 (2015), 0.35 (2017) Female: 2.14 (2015), 0.32 (2017) Male: 2.12 (2015), 0.39 (2017)	
PH	-	No data available	
SC	2015	Both sexes average: 56.62 Female: 52.92 Male: 60.38	
TH	2016	Both sexes average: 0.46 Female: 0.50 Male: 0.41	
VN	2015	Both sexes average: 0.17 Female: 0.13 Male: 0.20	

Table 4.7 Status of Characteristic E Outcome Indicators (KPI)

Outcome Indicators (KPI)	Baseline (2016) and Latest Data*					Progress/Changes
KPI 31c: Proportion of youth (15-34), including those with disabilities, who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET).	Proportion of youth (15-34), including those with disabilities, who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET).					
	AMS	2016 (%)	2017 (%)	2018 (%)	2019 (%)	
	BN	17.2 (2014)	20	20.7	20.1	
	KH	(2014)	6.1*	N/A	N/A	
	ID	22.4	21.4	21.7	20.5*	
	LA	(2010)	42	N/A	N/A	
	MY	11.69	11.8	12.47	N/A	
	MM	15.8 (2015)	16.6	13.0	14.9*	
	PH	22.2	21.6	19.89	18.76	
	SC	4.09	4.5	4.3	3.6*	
	TH	14.96	15.6	14.7	14.87*	
	VN	9.46	9.7	8.3	14.6*	
	<b>Average</b>	12.3	16.93	14.38	15.33	
	<b>Gap</b>	22.3	37.5	17.4	16.9	
	*Source: <a href="https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/si.uem.neet.zs">https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/si.uem.neet.zs</a>					
KPI 32: Implementation of National Legislation, Policies, or Programmes in AMS Dedicated to Supporting Entrepreneurship Among Youth, Persons with Disabilities, Women, and Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups.						See KPI 31a.



## V BLUEPRINT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Progress assessments for Blueprint implementation at the national level were conducted by National MTR Teams in ten AMS from June to September 2020. The national assessments, as provided in National MTR Reports, applied a similar method to that used by the regional assessment—examining progress made for the Blueprint's five characteristics against five dimensions of performance: attribution of activities, effectiveness of implementation, institutional mechanisms, means of implementation, and resources. This chapter summarises the major observations and findings from the National MTR Reports from ten AMS.

### V.1. Major Observations and Findings from National MTR Reports

#### V.1.1 Overall Progress of Blueprint Implementation

In general, all ten AMS made satisfactory progress in achieving the Blueprint's objectives since the start of implementation in 2016. The policies and programs of the ASSC's various Sectoral Bodies (SB) were, in general, aligned with the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the priorities stipulated by the Blueprint. Almost every SB in charge of implementing Blueprint activities secured funds from their own budgets. However, challenges remain—most notably in limited financial and human resources and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has delayed implementation of some activities.

SOCA and ASEC have been commendable for facilitating and providing support to Sectoral Bodies in implementing the Blueprint. This is especially true for areas of coordination between all 15 SBs with joint activities and between Pillars within the ASEAN structure, to better ensure a common approach to address cross-Sectoral issues in a timely and effective manner. Likewise, progress was made in engaging ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and relevant stakeholders to obtain technical and funding support for SBs in implementing cooperative programs.

On the basis of the five-dimensional assessment, here is a summary of the progress assessment for Blueprint implementation at the national level in 10 AMS during 2016-2020.

## **Attributions of ASCC Blueprint activities**

Activities in the Blueprint's objectives were acknowledged as relevant and aligned with national policies in all ten AMS. However, some AMS had concerns on the different nature of the activity ownership and the distinction between national and regional interests. Naturally, SBs under ASCC in AMS prioritised their national interests, whereas the ASCC, though the Blueprint, focused on regional cooperation. While the Blueprint was viewed as having broadly acceptable objectives and benefits for all ten AMS, national policies were understandably more relevant for AMS. The policy formulation done by 15 SBs was based on various national priorities and processes. When necessary, national policies referred to the international agenda and the Blueprint.

In addition, while the name of ASEAN is familiar to everyone, people's awareness of ASEAN is still limited. People do not understand the values or vision that ASEAN is striving for. The work of AMS to promote ASEAN identity is appreciated, as such initiatives will strengthen feelings of cultural similarities, language, and a way of life that grows from the interaction between art, communities, cultures, and civil society through various programmes.

## **Implementation Status of Blueprint's Activities**

Blueprint implementation in AMS was generally satisfactory, given that most activities in the work plans under 15 SBs were carried out in a timely manner. However, since the scale of the project activity directly attributed to the Blueprint were small, the Blueprint's impact was insignificant for the intended stakeholders. However, some outcome indicators showed progress during the assessment period.

## **Institutional Mechanisms at Sectoral level and Cross-Cutting Issues**

Fifteen SBs in ten AMS, coordinated by SOCA and SOCCOM, were responsible for implementing the Blueprint's objectives at the national level. At the regional level, there were different institutional capacities and arrangements between SBs. For example, some SBs had centres (e.g., ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity) while others were run through SOMs, affecting activity coordination and implementation. Stronger institutionalisation (e.g., through a centre) offered a better assurance of stronger coordination and implementation.

## Means of Implementation

The initiatives and programmes in the Blueprint's objectives were in general mainstreamed into AMS national policies, as the overarching nature of the Blueprint enabled commonality with national development agendas and policies.

## Resources

There were insufficient financial and human resources to implement the Blueprint at the national level. Insufficient human resources stem from how responsible desks have been overloaded by multiple tasks dealing with various international and bilateral cooperation; ASCC was often not a priority. Rotations of ASEAN desk officers at SBs also adversely affected institutional memory and expertise. While at there were sufficient financial resources at the regional level for Blueprint implementation, SBs had limited budgets for work at the national level.

### V.1.2 Progress for Characteristic A 'Engages and Benefits the People'

Activities of SBs were attributed appropriately to implementation of Characteristic A and its KRAs, mostly due to the common nature of the characteristic's objective of engaging and benefiting the people, which is generally compatible with a development agenda, especially in AMS.

Based on the National MTR Reports of AMS, good progress has been recorded in the outcomes of the Blueprint's Characteristic A activities as reflected by relevant KPIs.

There was increased engagement, such as in the number of negotiations, partnership forums, or activities engaging diverse stakeholders in AMS for promoting ASEAN initiatives (KPI 1). The level of satisfaction on the quality of engagement in ASEAN of a representative sample of diverse AMS stakeholders (KPI 2a) also increased. Specifically:

- Activities increased from five in 2016 to eight recently in raising awareness of the ASEAN community in Brunei Darussalam, with a high satisfaction level recorded on the quality of engagement in ASEAN reported by a representative sample of diverse stakeholders (3.44 out of 4).
- More activities related to ASEAN initiatives were mentioned in Cambodia's National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), with

indications of increased satisfaction and engagement quality among SBs.

- Number of ASCC-related programs in Indonesia increased from 20 in 2016 to 43 in 2019, coupled with increased numbers of ASEAN-accredited stakeholders from 4 to 19 in the same period. Engagement quality was reported at 3.25.
- Engagement quality for Blueprint implementation in Lao PDR exceeded 3 out of 4.
- Malaysia's ACCSM, SOMRI, and SLOM benefited from Blueprint implementation by engaging with international experts and learning from other AMS.
- At least 60 activities engaged diverse stakeholders in promoting ASEAN initiatives in Thailand, with an average score of satisfaction of 3.6.
- Increased stakeholder participation and capacity in formulating, implementing, and M&E of programs by all 15 SBs in Viet Nam for social welfare and development (assisting vulnerable groups), labour, disaster management, rural development, and poverty reduction.

Government effectiveness, as measured by the World Governance Indicators (KPI 2b) also increased in AMS during the assessment period. Based on the available information, progress was made under the World Governance Indicators by Brunei Darussalam (1.02 to 1.25), Cambodia (-3.12 to -2.29), Indonesia (0.17 to 0.18), Singapore 2.21 to 2.23), and Thailand (0.34 to 0.35).

Progress was made in increasing institutional capacity through policies, measures or initiatives among AMS to raise awareness of ASEAN community building and public engagement (KPI 4). In Brunei Darussalam, activities increased from 10 in 2016 to 18 at present for raising awareness on ASEAN community building and public engagement by ACCSM, SLOM, SOMCA, and SOMRI. In Thailand, activities increased from one in 2016 to 11 during 2017-2019. Similar progress was reported by Cambodia.

### **V.1.3 Progress in Characteristic B 'Inclusive'**

Characteristic B is crucial for AMS to improve the quality of people's lives, ensure equitable access to opportunities for all, and to promote and protect the human rights of women, children, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, the vulnerable, and marginalised groups.

Progress was seen implementation of activities attributed to Characteristic B, as indicated by KPIs in some AMS.

On KPI5b, which measured the proportion of identified target groups in AMS to respective total population receiving social protection benefits to reduce barriers to an inclusive society, Cambodia reported increased geographical coverage of identification of poor households through the IDPoor program, growing coverage from seven provinces in 2016 to 14 provinces in 2019.

Similarly, Thailand's Government Welfare Scheme targeted low income persons (less than 100,000 Baht/2,880 US dollars per annum) including persons with disabilities, older persons, and vulnerable groups. The scheme was first introduced in 2016; at present there are 11.47 million beneficiaries, accounting for 17.2% of the population. Indonesia reported a slight increase in the proportion of identified target groups receiving social protection benefits, especially under the Indonesia Smart Program, which saw coverage increase from 11.15% in 2016 to 11.59% in 2019, and its National Health Insurance program, which saw coverage increase from 44.09% to 56.06% in the same period.

Progress under Characteristic B is evident from available information from National MTR Reports in some AMS. In Brunei Darussalam, there was progress in reducing the prevalence of undernourishment (KPI 6a) and nutritional indicators (KPI 6b) have generally performed well. However, the prevalence of overweight in children under five years old at 9.6% was alarming. Cambodia also recorded good progress in decreasing the POU from 17.2% in 2016 to 16.4% in 2017. Indonesia reported a PoU drop from 8.6% in 2016 to 8.3% in 2017, along with drops in nutritional indicators, such as the prevalence of stunting, wasting, underweight, and overweight for children under 5.

On the average years of total schooling among those 15-24 years old and 25 years old and over (KPI 6c), Brunei and Singapore maintained the expected years of schooling for 15-24 year olds at 14.4 and 16.3 respectively, and kept the mean years of schooling for those 25 and over at 9.1 and 11.5 respectively in 2018—among the highest in ASEAN. Increases in mean years of schooling were also recorded in Cambodia (8.07 to 8.31) and Thailand (14.3 to 14.7) in 2018 and 2019, respectively. Indonesia increased its means years of schooling from 8.42 in 2016 to 8.75 in 2019 for 15-24 year olds, and from 7.96 to 8.34 for those 25 years and above in the same period.

Increases were reported for KPI 6d, in the coverage of essential health services regardless of household income, expenditure or wealth, place of residence or gender in AMS. While the coverage remained roughly constant at 83% in Brunei Darussalam, the figure was 43% in Thailand. Coverage in Indonesia increased from 53% in 2016 to 57% in 2017.

On KPI 6e, available information suggests a decrease in the proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements, inadequate housing, or danger zones as defined by national laws, policies, or regulations in Cambodia (2.65 to 1.35%) and Thailand (25% to 15%) from 2016 to 2018. The proportion of households living in slum areas in Indonesia declined, from 5.89% in 2016 to 5.25% in 2018, whereas households living in inadequate housing dropped from 5.95% to 4.30% in the same period.

#### **V.1.4 Progress in Characteristic C ‘Sustainable’**

Characteristic C covers activities or initiatives in AMS that promote social development and environmental protection through effective mechanisms to meet the current and future needs of the people. Progress has been made in biodiversity, nature conservation and protection, peatland management, water management, environmentally sustainable cities, and the coastal and marine environment.

On nationally determined contributions (NDCs), Brunei Darussalam is developing an updated NDC for submission to UNFCCC by 2020 (KPI 10), while Cambodia reported its second national communication with UNFCCC on developing NDCs. Indonesia reported an increased number (from 10 in 2016 to 12 in 2018) of ASEAN climate-change related projects and activities to achieve NDCs. Further, Thailand held two events: A Regional Training Workshop on Mitigation Mechanism and Decarbonization for Southeast Asian Countries, and a Regional Conference on Accelerating the Paris Agreement Implementation through Climate Finance, Technology, and Capacity Building in 2018. In 2019, Thailand staged a Workshop on Strengthening Climate Resilience of AMS through Experience Sharing and Lessons Learned on Progress of Climate Change Adaptation Activities (ONEP) and a regional training workshop titled Climate Finance: GCF Concept Note Write-shop in 2019.

On sustainable consumption and production (SCP), Indonesia established its 2015-2019 and 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plans on 10 Years of Sustainable Consumption and Production in Indonesia (10Y

SCP Indonesia). The Centre for Environmental and Forestry Standardization, under the Indonesian Environment and Forestry Ministry, became the Indonesian focal point in charge of SCP policies and issues.

On national climate change policy and strategies, every AMS has developed and implemented National Climate Change Policy and Strategies, paving the way for a more active environmental management and implementation of activities in the next five years of the Blueprint. ASOEN is the SB responsible for most activities in this area of Blueprint implementation.

#### **V.1.5 Progress in Characteristic D 'Resilient'**

Characteristic D activities attempted to ensure better outcomes for activities aimed at enhancing capacities and capabilities to adapt and respond to social and economic vulnerabilities, disasters, climate change, and emerging threats and challenges. Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia, through ACDM, ASOEN, and SOMHD, recorded good progress in Characteristic D activities, with the launch of national action plans for addressing disaster risk, national climate change adaptation and mitigation policy (KPI 12), as well as a joint external evaluation with WHO to assess their nations' capacity to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to public health risks (KPI 14). The latest data shows that Indonesia's national core capacities are in line with the International Health Regulations (IHR) Framework, achieving a score of 3.19 for responding to health-related hazards. Thailand also strengthened similar policies, with its National Disaster Risk Management Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction-DRR in place since 2015.

Indonesia enhanced stakeholder capacity to implement national adaptation action plans for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) that were aligned with the UNFCCC, country driven, gender sensitive, participatory and transparent (KPI 15A). Finally, the percent of local governments in Indonesia implementing disaster risk reduction (DRR) in their area increased from 19% in 2016 to 35% in 2019.

#### **V.1.6 Progress in Characteristic E 'Dynamic'**

Tracking progress for Characteristic E reviews activities that aimed to achieve a dynamic and harmonious ASEAN community that is aware and proud of its identity, culture, and heritage, and which has a strengthened ability to innovate and proactively contribute to the global community.

Brunei Darussalam SOMS made good progress in contributing to Characteristic E by promoting an active and healthy lifestyle, while SOMRI has been instrumental in raising ASEAN awareness and promoting ASEAN identity (KPI 20 and 21). Indonesia reported an increase in the number of ASEAN Studies Centres at Indonesian universities that promoted the ASEAN Community through online platforms, from 12 in 2016 to 69 in 2019, while its number of media platforms that raised ASEAN awareness also increased from 2 to 4 during the same period. Thailand has also reported maintaining online platforms to promote the ASEAN Community to ASEAN youth (KPI 19b), with four websites and three Facebook fan pages raising ASEAN awareness in Thailand, as well as programmes, news items, and stories that promote ASEAN identity developed by SOMRI Thailand.

An increase in number of programmes, news items, or stories that promoted ASEAN identity produced and disseminated (KPI 21) was reported in Indonesia by SOMY and SOMRI, leaping from two in 2016 to 12 in 2019.

Indonesia conducted one activity on research, innovation, and development (KPI 25) in 2019, while its competitiveness, as measured by the Global Competitiveness Index (KPI 26), increased from 63.49 in 2017 to 64.6 in 2019. Meanwhile, availability and implementation of legislation, policies, or programmes promoting entrepreneurship skills for women, youth, elderly, and persons with disabilities (KPI 31a) in Indonesia increased from one in 2018 to eight in 2019. Participation of youth and adults (including those with disabilities) in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months by sex (KPI 31b) also increased, from 70.8% to 72.4% among age 16-18 years, and from 23.9% to 25.2% for age 19-24 years from 2016 to 2019.

Also in Indonesia, the proportion of youth (15-34), including those with disabilities, who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) (KPI 31c) remained unchanged, around 32%. Implementation of national legislation, policies, or programmes dedicated to supporting entrepreneurship among youth, persons with disabilities, women, and vulnerable and marginalised groups (KPI 32) were also in place in Indonesia, with the number of programmes increasing from one in 2016 to four in 2019.

Brunei Darussalam reported a similar increase in its GCI ranking, with contributions from ACCSM, SLOM, SOMCA, and SOMHD. However, its proportion of NEET (KPI 31c) increased significantly to 20.1%—the third highest among AMS—and is a pressing national concern. Entrepreneurship programmes, including those under the SOMED work plan, were actively



promoted to encourage locals to pursue alternative careers. Thailand also increased its GCI ranking, from 46.4 in 2016 to 68.1 in 2019. Singapore has constantly maintained its competitiveness at more than 80% since 2017 and managed to reduce the proportion of NEET from 4.09% in 2016 to 3.6% in 2019.

## **V.2. Recommendations from National MTR Reports**

Based on the National MTR Reports, all SBs showed good progress in implementing activities dedicated to five Blueprint characteristics, despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic. The number of policies, measures, and initiatives among AMS to raise awareness on ASEAN community building and public engagement was increased. However, activities to empower people and strengthen institutions were still limited to specific groups. In addition, activities to engage stakeholders in ASEAN processes should be expanded in the future to allow more participation and to strengthen partnerships.

The following are more specific recommendations arising from the national assessments of the Blueprint, as indicated by National MTR Reports:

1. Further efforts can be made to improve AMS' contributions to the implementation of the Blueprint, particularly for Characteristic C 'sustainable'. However, as AMS prioritisation focuses on national development outcomes and not ASEAN goals, increased advocacy at the regional level on the importance for individual AMS is needed to push for national action.
2. Capacity building and adequate financing mechanisms must be boosted if concerned agencies are expected to fulfil their performance indicators. There should be more focus and funding to strengthen staff capacity. At most ministries or agencies, a maximum of two or three staffers were tasked with international affairs, including ASEAN matters. Turnover among these focal points has been high.
3. Understanding of and engagement with ASEAN activities and processes must be improved. Several Sectoral Bodies had difficulties in identifying programmes, activities, and initiatives that aligned with the Blueprint.
4. Investment in proper databases for record keeping and easy retrieval of programme information is necessary. Significant delays were observed in compiling information, especially from earlier years. This should be

supplemented by efforts to establish clear lines of accountability and documentation processes to preserve institutional memory.

5. Data points for some KPIs were not available or updated, such as social protection and entrepreneurship promotions broken down by the numbers of women, children, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, or vulnerable and marginalised groups. Data collection efforts should be improved to track progress more precisely.
6. SB must rethink their approaches and move toward a more effective and cost-effective execution through three key activities:
  - Maintain multi-stakeholder knowledge networks of Sectoral action programmes and activities.
  - Put in place regular monitoring and evaluation activities and matrices with the number of beneficiaries or targets tracked by gender or other variable, as needed.
  - Establish a research platform for each SB to support activity implementation and operation of an evidence-based monitoring & evaluation system in a sustainable manner.
7. Rethink and review each SB's work plans for appropriateness given COVID-19. The pandemic forced several ASEAN-level activities to shift online, minimizing implementation costs. The pandemic is an excellent time to rethink about how SBs conduct activities and programmes effectively. SBs must also think about capacity building as part of a dynamic process of growth and evolution to reach more people.
8. The overall design of the Blueprint Results Framework has several flaws that need correction, if possible. One deficiency is the delineation of the items to be assessed at the regional and national levels. For example, under Characteristic C, 'sustainable', which comprises four sections in the Blueprint, the national MTR teams of all ten AMS were asked to assess just sections C3 and C4 (indicated by N in the matrix), while the regional MTR team assessed C1 and C2 (marked by R in the matrix). This delineation was arbitrary and problematic.

## VI CONCLUSIONS MTR MAIN FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This exercise was undertaken to assess implementation of the Blueprint at its midterm point, based on Tool 1 and Tool 2 of the Blueprint's implementation-focused monitoring system and by a review the Blueprint's outcome status based on its theory of change and logical framework.

The Blueprint's theory of change defined five Characteristics, each of which had an established objective to be achieved via the realisation of Key Result Areas (KRA) that were delivered by Strategic Measures (SM) through activities defined by Sectoral work plans. The MTR Report, ideally, should have captured the progress (positive changes) or problems (negative changes) related to outcome indicators against the baseline, and offered evidence linking those changes to implementation of the Blueprint's activities.

However, it was not possible, at the midpoint of the Blueprint, to make a comprehensive link between intervention and outcomes that was supported by empirical evidence. Targets and baselines were not identified or defined in some cases. Even with well-identified and well-defined baselines and targets, there were many instances where empirical data (whether quantitative or qualitative) were not yet available.

Thus, this chapter's conclusions and recommendations will focus on implementation of the Blueprint as discussed in Chapter Three. Its conclusions—derived from Chapter Four, which assessed outcomes—will illustrate possible outcomes that were delivered by activities without necessarily providing a cause-and-effect analysis.

### VI.1. Main Findings

#### VI.1.1 General Overview of Implementation, Results, and Latest Status of Outcomes

##### *Sectoral Work Plans and Implementation Status*

The Blueprint was translated into concrete and measurable actions in the work plans of Sectoral Bodies (SB). There were 977 distinct activities assigned to 15 SBs under ASCC, all of which recorded different levels of completion during the assessment period.

Thirteen activities were withdrawn, for either technical reasons, operational reasons, a lack of funding or implementing partners, or a retraction of support or participation by an AMS. Withdrawn activities comprised 1.33% of the total.

Figure 1 shows that 71.8% of activities were either completed or are ongoing. Therefore, it can be concluded that there was a satisfactory level of activity completion as of the MTR.

There were five type of activities:

- Capacity building (comprising 29.5% of total activities), including trainings, knowledge sharing, staff exchanges and institutional strengthening.
- Research and publication (23.9%), including assessments and reviews of policies or initiatives, development of guidelines or manuals, issuing ASEAN Joint Statements, data/information management, and M&E systems.
- Public outreach (21%), including public awareness and multi-stakeholder engagements.
- Policy formulation (19.2%), including new initiatives, policy/initiative implementation, and resource mobilisation.
- Groundwork (6.5%), including pilot projects on groundwork activities and the application of technologies or methods.

#### *Overall Results Delivered by Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospects for Upcoming Activities*

Completed activities delivered various results depending on their type and modality. Research and publication activities resulted in reports that provided evidence-based analysis of important or strategic issues for ASEAN. For instance, the study on Women Migrant Workers in the ASEAN Economic Community was completed and launched at the ASEAN High-Level Policy Dialogue on Women Migrant Workers in the AEC on 7 July 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2017c).

On capacity building, completed activities addressed strategic issues in ASEAN. For nature conservation and biodiversity, for example, activities were done to build the capacity of AMS to improve understanding of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) concept and framework, as well as to manage and implement ABS measures.

On policy formulation, many activities delivered results. For instance, to promote policy measures to response to emerging trends in employment relations (including the impact of ICT and outsourcing), SLOM endorsed the study results on the adequacy of legislation in regulating employment relationships. The endorsement suggested that the results of the study be followed by further measures, such as new policies.

Public outreach activities delivered expected results, as in the case of public awareness campaigns for safe schools, through the regular ASEAN School Safety Award, sister-schools programme, and other innovative public awareness campaigns. This was a scale-up activity based on the accomplishment of previous ASCC programmes.

Groundwork, which includes initiating or implementing a new model or solution for a certain issue, also delivered results. For instance, on improving ASEAN workforce quality, groundwork was done by supporting and assisting the development of the Manual of TVET (Technical-Vocational Education and Training) Professional Educators Standard. This was an important step to equip workers in ASEAN with practical skills relating to occupations in various Sectors of economic life and social life.

An assessment was done of the progress made by ongoing activities, that were implemented by the same modalities for completed activities: research and publication, capacity building, policy formulation, public outreach, and groundwork. As of the MTR, ongoing activities are at various stages of progress. For instance, some research projects are in the data collection stage, while many capacity-building activities have been conducted online.

Finally, activities with an upcoming status were assessed. Upcoming activities will most likely be carried forward to work plans toward the end term of the Blueprint (2021-2025). Given the different context between the time of initial work plan development (2016) and the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic (2020), SBs must identify potential alignments with the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF). The ACRF is a quick response demonstrated by ASEAN to develop a post-pandemic recovery plan to share lessons learned; restore ASEAN connectivity, tourism, normal business, and social activities; and prevent potential economic downturns. It was declared in the Special ASEAN Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on 14 April 2020.

An assessment of the potential alignment of upcoming activities with the ACRF shows that each Blueprint characteristic has a strong relevance and

connection with the ACRF's Broad Strategy and Enabling Factors. Upcoming activities under Characteristic B are closely related to Broad Strategy 1 of the ACRF 'enhancing health systems'. Characteristic C and D activities closely relate to Broad Strategy 5, 'advancing towards a more sustainable and resilient future'. Characteristic E falls under the umbrella of Broad Strategy 2, 'strengthening human security'; Broad Strategy 3, 'maximising the potential of intra-ASEAN market and broader economic integration', and Broad Strategy 4, 'accelerating inclusive digital transformation'. Finally, Characteristic A is a good match with the ACRF's fourth Enabling Factor, 'strengthening stakeholder engagement and partnerships'.

#### *Latest Status of Outcomes as Measured by KPIs*

The MTR also assessed the Blueprint's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), which were designed to measure the achievement of outcomes against the baseline year, 2016, up to 2019, the year with the most recent available data.

Three metrics, when data permitted, measured progress or outcomes: simple averages, which allowed easy interpretation of collective process over time; gaps, or the range between minimum and maximum values for a KPI, and changes in each AMS for each KPI being measured. This last metric was important; each AMS had a unique trajectory of progress that depended on local national factors and individual contexts.

Thirty-two KPIs were developed to measure the Blueprint's outcomes, which were broken down into 45 KPIs, 19 of which lacked sufficient data for measurement (e.g., two data points to measure progress against the baseline). Of 26 KPIs with sufficient data points, there was clear evidence that progress was made in 21 KPIs. Only five KPIs demonstrated mixed results. Based on the progress made on 26 KPIs, implementation has been satisfactory, and the Blueprint is well on its way toward achieving its objectives in the end term.

### **VI.1.2 Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic A: Engages and Benefits the People**

#### *Sectoral Work Plans Under Characteristic A and Implementation Status*

On implementation status, 297 of 387 Characteristic A activities (76.8%) were either completed or are ongoing as of the MTR, 5% ahead of the Blueprint's general completion rate (71.8%). Since only 23.3% activities are slated for

the Blueprint's end term, implementation progress for activities under Characteristic A can be said to be satisfactory.

Assessment of those activities shows evidence of concerted effort between SBs to implement Strategic Measures (SMs) and deliver KRAs. Of nine SMs for Characteristic A, there was no one that was implemented only by a single SB. There were always multiple SBs working on every SM. This to some extent is evidence of cross-Sectoral work implemented indirectly.

Public outreach and capacity building were the predominant activities used deliver SMs for Characteristic A, although every other type of activity was also implemented, indicating a comprehensive approach to Blueprint implementation.

*Results Delivered by Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, Prospects for Upcoming Activities for Characteristic A*

Various results were delivered by activities with completed status. On research and publication, examples of results included the writing and reporting of stocktaking of existing injury compensation institutions in ASEAN Member States for OSH (Occupational Safety and Health) standards and performance enhancement. Stocktaking was completed and was reported to the 20th ASEAN-OSHNET CBM.

Capacity-building activities completed as of the MTR include the launch of an online learning platform, *futurereadyasean.org*, by the ASEAN Foundation under the ASEAN Digital Innovation Programme partnership with Microsoft. The platform is expected to be a learning source to prepare ASEAN youth for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

On policy formulation, the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework is under development, based on the outcomes of the Senior Officials Conference on Gender Mainstreaming in the ASCC Sectoral Bodies. The activity was conducted to implement SM A.2.vii, 'work towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls', under KRA A.2, 'empowered people and strengthened institutions'.

On public outreach, successes include the 6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Future Leaders Summit (AFLES), which involved 200 university students from AMS.

For ongoing activities under Characteristic A, progress has also been made, covering various modalities and in various stages of execution. Some research

projects are in the data collection stage and capacity building activities have shifted to web seminars and other online modes, following COVID-19.

Ninety of 387 (23.3%) activities in Characteristic A work plans were not implemented during the first term (2016-2020). Those activities will most likely be implemented during the Blueprint's end term or carried over to the next Sectoral work plan period (2021-2025).

On upcoming Characteristic A activities, the MTR indicates that work progressed until a certain stage, although activities were not yet implemented. Some activities are currently revising concept notes or project proposals, some are meeting or consolidating stakeholders, and some are exploring potential funding sources or submitting proposals to potential funders.

To increase the likelihood of successful implementation in the Blueprint's end term, it is important to consider the changes in context from 2016, when work plans were developed, and the present day, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities that are to be carried forward must be aligned with the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF). In practice, SBs with upcoming activities must expedite their concept notes, proposals, and other detailed activity plans to ensure relevance with the ACRF's priorities and strategy.

#### *Latest Status of Outcomes for Characteristic A*

Characteristic A has five KPIs, including KRA A1, 'engaged stakeholders in ASEAN processes'; and KRA A2, 'empowered people and strengthened institutions'.

The MTR shows that there has been intensive and diverse stakeholder engagement with ASEAN through various activities conducted by all Sectoral Bodies. The direct outcome has been a high level of stakeholder satisfaction, as reflected in the survey conducted by ASEC.

Progress was also recorded on KPI 2b, as evinced by the external Government Effectiveness Index (KPI 2b). It is a composite figure, capturing perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of a government's commitment to such policies. The Government Effectiveness Index increased across AMS. On average, ASEAN scored better, rising from 0.24 in 2016 to 0.27 in 2019.



The overall assessment of Characteristic A outcomes suggests that Blueprint implementation is on the right track to achieve its overall objective to enhance the commitment, participation, and social responsibility of ASEAN's peoples through an accountable and engaging mechanism for the benefit of all; and to move to a community of engaged and empowered ASEAN peoples who have been provided the platforms to participate in ASEAN processes, as well as to enjoy the benefits from the various initiatives.

### **VI.1.3 Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic B: Inclusive**

#### *Sectoral Work Plans under Characteristic B and Implementation Status*

For the Blueprint's Characteristic B objectives, there were 315 (78.3%) of 402 activities that were completed or are ongoing in Sectoral work plans in the assessment period.

Public outreach and capacity building were the predominant activities used deliver SMs for Characteristic B and were supported or conducted in conjunction with other activity types. For instance, research and publication was evident across SMs. Likewise, policy formulation and groundwork activities were also represented across SMs.

#### *Results Delivered by Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospect of Upcoming Activities for Characteristic B*

Various results were delivered by completed activities under Characteristic B. On capacity building, examples include the Workshop to Formulate the ASEAN Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Nutrition—a milestone toward establishing an ASEAN Nutrition Surveillance System as an instrument to tackle nutritional problems in ASEAN.

On research and publication, results included a study on vulnerable and marginalized groups in AMS to identify most-needy groups for social protection. On policy formulation, results included development of legislation and policies for autistic children—an essential step to implement the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of the Persons with Disabilities in ASEAN Community and the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020).

On ongoing Characteristic B activities, progress was made, despite mobility limitations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some research projects have implemented; others have been conducted online.

On upcoming activities, 87 out of 402 (21.64%) activities in the Sectoral work plans under Characteristic B were not implemented during the first term (2016-2020) and will probably be carried over to the next period of Sectoral work plans (2021-2025). Some activities are currently revising concept notes or project proposal, some are meeting and consolidation stakeholders, and some are exploring potential funding sources or submission proposals to potential funders.

#### *Latest Status of Outcomes for Characteristic B*

Nine KPIs (KPI 5a through KPI 7b) measure three KRAs under Characteristic B. The first KRA 5a, 'reducing barriers', relates to the goal of promoting an inclusive society that benefits from adequate social protection, defined as policies and programmes that reduce poverty, inequalities, and the vulnerability of the poor and other populations at risk. Strengthening social protections has been a central focus at ASEAN Summit and Ministerial Meetings as demonstrated by the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection (ASEAN, 2016).

KRA B2, 'equitable access for all', was measured by several KPIs: KPI 6a, access to basic services, as demonstrated by decreased prevalence of undernourishment (PoU); KPI 6b, reduced prevalence of stunting, wasting, underweight, and overweight for children under five years of age; KPI 6c, increased mean years of schooling (MYS) and expected years of schooling (EYS); KPI 6d, increased coverage of essential health services regardless of household income, expenditure or wealth, place of residence, or gender; and KPI 6e, decreased population living in slums. Available data shows progress in decreasing PoU, a reduction in stunting, wasting, and underweight children under 5, and increasing MYS and EYS.

The last KPI that can be assessed is KPI 7a, measuring KRA B3, 'increased regional policies, strategies and programmes mainstreaming the promotion and protection of human rights for the identified target groups in AMS, as demonstrated by development and implementation of an action plan to implement the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers'.

Available data shows that progress was made on KPI 7a, such as through an increased number of projects implemented or completed to implement the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, demonstrating the resolve of AMS.

In conclusion, progress has made toward an inclusive ASEAN. Complementing the inclusive growth agenda of the AEC, activities implemented in support of Characteristic B have created a more inclusive ASEAN Community that promotes an improved quality of life, addresses barriers to the enjoyment of equitable access to opportunities by ASEAN peoples, and which promotes and protects human rights.

#### **VI.1.4 Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic C: Sustainable**

##### *Sectoral Work Plans and Implementation Status*

During the assessment period, 229 of 362 Characteristic C activities (63.3%) were either completed or are ongoing.

ASOEN and COP-AATHP, two leading Sectors in environmental issues, dominated activities, which were distributed across 10 Sectoral Bodies. Five SBs did not have activities under Characteristic C: ACDM, ACWC, ACCSM, SOMRI, and SOMS.

Policy formulation and capacity building under Characteristic C were supported or conducted in conjunction with other activity types as well.

##### *Results of Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospect of Upcoming Activities Under Characteristic C*

Various results were delivered by completed activities under Characteristic C. On capacity building, results included a workshop on the ASEAN Mechanism to Enhance Surveillance against Illegal Desludging and Disposal of Tanker Sludge at Sea. This workshop was in line with the ASEAN Guideline on the ASEAN Marine Water Quality Criteria: Management Guidelines and Monitoring Manual (ASEAN, 2008). The activity was done to promote cooperation for the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of the coastal and marine environment, and to respond to and deal with the risk of pollution and threats to marine ecosystem and coastal environment, in particular for ecologically sensitive areas.

On policy formulation, a Multi-Sectoral Workshop on Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture was held to refine, prioritize, and recommend a five-point action plan, with options for institutional mechanisms to implement actions.

For Characteristic C's ongoing activities, progress has been made for all activities, with a pronounced shift to online delivery modes during the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 133 of 362 (36.7%) activities under Characteristic C that were marked ongoing will likely be carried over to the next Sectoral work plan period (2021-2025). According to Tool 1, several Characteristic C activities have a good likelihood of implementation in the near future, after reaching milestones, such as merging or collaborating with other activities to create a bigger pipeline project, mainstreaming with another Sectoral work plan, or adoption into a local framework.

There is an excellent opportunity for SBs with upcoming Characteristic C activities to align their work plans with the ACRF, especially its Broad Strategy 5, 'advancing towards a more sustainable and resilient future'. Key Characteristic C priorities that might be included in that Broad Strategy are promoting a sustainable and green infrastructure (including smart cities) and facilitating transition to sustainable energy.

#### *Latest Status of Outcomes for Characteristic C*

KRA C1, 'conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources', was measured by KPI 8, 'increased number of regional initiatives regarding conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in AMS'. There were clear indications of progress for KPI 8 in the number of ongoing and completed activities on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in AMS in the assessment period.

To ensure sustainable development, the Blueprint emphasised strengthening regional cooperation efforts to promote and protect biodiversity and natural resources; capacity building for sustainable terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems; and the prevention and control forest and land fires resulting in regional transboundary haze pollution. Reaffirmation of those efforts and commitments was demonstrated by the Bangkok Declaration in Combatting Marine Debris (The ASEAN Secretariat, 2019e).

KPI 9, 'increased number of regional initiatives to promote and achieve environmentally sustainable cities in AMS', was measured by KRA C2,

'environmentally sustainable cities'. Progress was made in this area, as shown by an increased number of regional initiatives to promote and achieve environmentally sustainable cities during the reporting period.

KPI 10, which measured the enhanced capacity of AMS to achieve their individual NDCs, showed demonstrated progress in the increased number of ongoing and completed ASEAN climate-change related projects and activities to achieve individual AMS NDCs.

KPI 11, which called for the establishment of 'policies and institutional arrangements that incorporate sustainable consumption and production (SCP) initiatives, including green jobs, in AMS', was measured by KRA C4, 'sustainable consumption and production', and showed progress, as the number of ASEAN-level activities supporting AMS in building SCP policies and institutional arrangements increased from 3 in 2016 to 7 in 2019.

Blueprint implementation for Characteristic C has been on the right track during the reporting period. Going forward, results-based indicators and measuring methods must be formulated that demonstrate quality outcomes, in addition recording to the number of projects.

### **VI.1.5 Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic D**

#### *Sectoral Work Plans and Implementation Status*

On implementation status, 218 of 325 Characteristic D activities (67.1%) were either completed or are ongoing as of the MTR.

As opposed to Characteristics A, B, or C, where two Sectoral Bodies were responsible for most activities under the Blueprint during the assessment period, different KRAs were led by different Sectoral Bodies for Characteristic D. While there was a clear separation of SBs based on their prevalent work at the KRA level, there was an equally clear indication of cross-Sectoral work at the SM level. For instance, for KRA D1—where ASOEN and ACDM are dominant figures, a substantial role was played by SOMY and SOMRDPE in implementing SM D.1.vii

Research and publication and capacity building were the predominant activities used deliver SMs for Characteristic D. These activities were not stand alone and were executed in conjunction in tandem with other activity types.

*Results of Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospects for Upcoming Activities under Characteristic D*

Various results were delivered by completed activities under Characteristic D. On capacity building, results included a workshop on the ASEAN Mechanism to Enhance Surveillance against Illegal Desludging and Disposal of Tanker Sludge at Sea, in line with ASEAN Guidelines on the ASEAN Marine Water Quality Criteria: Management Guidelines and Monitoring Manual (ASEAN, 2008). The activity was done to promote cooperation for the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of the coastal and marine environment, to respond and deal with the risk of pollution and threats to the marine ecosystem and coastal environment in ecologically sensitive areas.

On policy formulation, highlights included a Multi-Sectoral Workshop on Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture. The workshop refined, prioritized, and recommended a five-point action plan, with options on institutional mechanisms for implementation.

On public outreach activities, highlights included establishment of the ASEAN Urban Planners Forum to engage urban planners to collaborate and contribute on innovative ideas for urban resilience. This was done to increase the competencies and resilience of relevant stakeholders, providing advanced technological and managerial skills to improve institutional capacities to address current challenges and emerging trends, such as disasters, pandemics, and climate change.

For Characteristic D's ongoing activities, progress has been made for all activities, with a substantial shift to online delivery modes.

One-hundred-seven of 325 (32.9%) ongoing Characteristic D activities in Sectoral work plans are likely to be carried over to the next Sectoral work plan period (2021-2025). Several activities might be merged and or benefit from collaboration between Sectoral Bodies to create bigger pipeline projects, mainstreaming into other Sectoral work plans, or adoption into local frameworks. Of the 107 activities, ASOEN and ACDM accounted for 118 (88.7%). Research and publication, capacity building, and policy formulation comprised 40.2%, 24.3%, and 18.7% of activities, respectively.

Going forward, upcoming Characteristic D activities might align well with the ACRF, especially ACRF Broad Strategy 5, 'advancing towards a more sustainable and resilient future', especially for promoting sustainable

development (including through education), the circular and green economy, sustainable production, and consumption.

#### *Latest Status of Outcomes for Characteristic D*

Only three of eight KPIs under Characteristic D had sufficient data to allow progress to be measured.

KPI 13 measured an increased number of resolutions as a result of cross-Sectoral consultations to synergise Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in AMS, aligned with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER).

Progress was made on KPI 13, as indicated by an increased number of resolutions resulting from cross-Sectoral consultations to synergize DRR and HADR in AMS, aligned with the AADMER.

Progress was made on KPI 17, as indicated by an increased number of regional initiatives to enhance and optimise financing systems, food, water, energy, and social safety nets in times of crisis that aligned with the principles and indicators in the Regional Framework and Action Plan that implements the ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection.

Progress was also made on KPI 18, as demonstrated by an increased number of jointly coordinated cross-Pillar dialogues or forums on drug use and rehabilitation in AMS.

Efforts under Characteristic D efforts should be made consistent to ensure impactful interventions toward the end term of the Blueprint. Results-based indicators and measuring methods must be developed to demonstrate the quality or outcomes of projects.

### **VI.1.6 Progress Review of Blueprint under Characteristic E**

#### *Sectoral Work Plans and Implementation Status*

There were 559 activities SB work plans supporting Characteristic E distributed across all 15 Sectoral Bodies except ACDM. According to the Results Framework, ASOEN was responsible for 44.2% of Characteristic E activities, followed by SOMHD with 14.1%. Characteristic E had the largest

number of activities, 559, covered by Sectoral Body work plans, followed by Characteristic B with 402 and Characteristic B with 325.

Sectoral Bodies contributed or worked in a cross-Sectoral fashion to implement SMs and deliver KRAs under Characteristic E. Unlike Characteristic D, which was implemented primarily by two SBs, Characteristic E demonstrated a distribution of implementation responsibility between Sectoral Bodies over various SMs and KRAs.

Public outreach and capacity building were the predominant activities used deliver SMs for Characteristic E. Public outreach and capacity building activities, however, were executed in tandem with the research and publication, policy formulation, and groundwork modalities.

#### *Results of Completed Activities, Progress of Ongoing Activities, and Prospects for Upcoming Activities under Characteristic E*

Various results were delivered by completed activities under Characteristic E. On public outreach, examples include an increased awareness of sexual disease transmission, including prevention among young people, implemented through the Symposium Session: ASEAN Cities Getting to Zero at the Asia-Pacific Youth Forum.

Research and publication also delivered results with the publication of Productivity and Innovation Focusing on Performance Management in the Plus Three Countries. This was substantial step to enhance workforce competencies and standards and build institutional capacities in the Public Sector.

Another example of results delivered by completed activities was related to fostering the role of higher education in the area of socioeconomic development through the University-Industry Partnership. In order to develop stronger linkages between universities, industries, and communities and increase cross-border education programmes with support of the Private Sector, a capacity-building activity has been completed, Empowering Youth Across ASEAN Programme (EYAAP). An ASEAN Foundation initiative with the support of Maybank Foundation, EYAAP focused on community building projects in three ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia). During their two-week stay with local CSOs, participants learned about community building, programme management, and project sustainability. More than 2,600 youth from 10 AMS applied for EYAAP 2019.



For ongoing Characteristic E activities, progress was made for each activity, while delivery modalities switched online, as needed, due to COVID-19. Some activities are collecting data pertaining to research, some are developing joint revised concept notes to create bigger pipeline projects, and others are consulting with stakeholders.

Of 146 upcoming activities, ASOEN and SOMCA accounted for 108 (73.9%). The majority of activities comprised research and publication, capacity building, and policy formulation, at 33.9%, 27.4%, and 20.5% of the total number of activities, respectively.

For the Blueprint's end term, upcoming Characteristic E activities might align well with the ACRF especially, the ACRF's Broad Strategy 3, 'maximising the potential of intra-ASEAN market and broader economic integration', with key priorities including keeping markets open for trade and investment, as well as Broad Strategy 4, 'accelerating inclusive digital transformation', with key priorities including promoting MSME digital upskilling and access to markets.

#### *Latest Status of Outcomes of Characteristic E*

Of 19 KPIs under Characteristic E, 10 had sufficient data for an assessment; seven of those 10 indicated progress, three indicated challenges.

Six of the KPIs with positive assessments (19a, 19b, 20, 21, 23a, 23b) measured public outreach. The remaining positive indicator, KPI 25, measured the number of 'maintained or increased number of ASEAN-wide, collaborative R&D activities, on research, innovation and development toward creation of an innovative and responsive ASEAN'.

Challenges emerged with KPIs 26a, 30 and 31c.

KPI 26a measured AMS performance against the external Global Competitiveness Index. Every AMS experienced an increase in its GCI ranking, leading to an increase in the average ranking across ASEAN, from 62.47 to 64.5. However, the gap between AMS increased slightly, from 34.4 to 34.7.

KPI 30 measured recognition for ASEAN films at the international level. Only two ASEAN movies received awards at the three festivals tracked by the KPI in 2019 and 2020.

KPI 31c, which measured the proportion of youth, including those with disabilities, who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET), was also problematic. Five AMS saw increases in their NEET, whereas another five saw decreases. Average NEET across ASEAN increased from 12.3% (2016) to 15.33% (2019).

### **VI.1.7 Assessment Findings on Means of Implementation, Institutional Mechanisms and Financing**

One of the major methods used to implement the Blueprint was the regular issuance of declarations and statements on ASCC Sectoral and cross-Sectoral matters by ASEAN Leaders at ASEAN Summits. Since 2016, when the Blueprint was launched, there have been 36 declarations or statements providing major direction for follow up by the ASCC at both national and regional level. Progress can be monitored based on the number of AMS that have existing laws, policies, or programmes corresponding to declarations or statements since 2016.

Based on Tool 2, which captured data as of May 2020, there have been 23 statements or declarations corresponding national-level laws, policies, or programmes and 13 statements or declarations without corresponding laws, policies, or programmes. Additional policies or programmes may have been implemented since that date.

The ASSC Blueprint has been grouped with the AEC Blueprint 2025 and the APSC Blueprint 2025 under one master blueprint, ASEAN Vision 2025: Forging Ahead Together. Despite this grouping, there have been challenges in strengthening cross-Pillar and cross-Sectoral coordination, such as overlapping initiatives, a lack of communication platforms resulting in information gaps, and inadequate resource mobilisation.

At the AMS level, existing domestic institutions have been responsible for implementing the ASCC Blueprint. Regionally, there have been differences in both institutional capacities and arrangements, where some Sectors have centers (e.g., ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity) and others are led by respective SOMs. It was found that stronger institutionalization (e.g., through a Centre) ensured stronger coordination and implementation.

Distribution of activities across all Sectoral Bodies and the contributions of each activity demonstrate that the Blueprint is harnessing cross-Sectoral activities in the ASCC Pillar. This design is supported by findings from Tool

1, which showed that a sizeable number of activities were implemented by various SBs working together to deliver SMs and KRAs.

One finding from National MTR Reports on institutional mechanisms shows that three AMS argued that full and accredited institutional recognition made it easy to ensure that relevant ministries would implement the activities of SB action plans. It remains a challenge to get ministries to develop a feeling of joint ownership over the personnel rotation system, where government staff members are transferred to other sections. Experienced officials, especially in International Affairs, tend to be more engaged with ASEAN activities and processes.

Financing has come from various sources, such as government budgets, ASEAN allocated funds, and External Partners or donors. However, as funding is always limited, AMS have prioritised domestic activities. Hence some Blueprint programmes, initiatives, or activities have been underfunded. This concern will intensify given the COVID-19 pandemic.

On human resources at government offices in AMS, frequent staff rotations have led to institutional memory loss. Further, there have been issues with the English proficiency of staff members, as well as an overload on desk officers overseeing multiple international agreements, regional mechanisms, and bilateral arrangements. ASCC has often become a second priority.

## **VI.2. Progress of the Implementation of the Blueprint at the National Level**

All 10 AMS made satisfactory progress in achieving the objectives of the Blueprint in the assessment period. SB policies and programs under the ASCC in AMS were aligned with the ASEAN Vision 2025 and the Blueprint. Almost every SB in charge of implementing an activity secured funding from its own budget. However, challenges remain, most notably limited financial and human resources and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

SOCA and ASEC have been commendable for facilitating and providing support to Sectoral Bodies in implementing the Blueprint. This is especially true for coordination, with all 15 SBs conducting joint activities between Pillars within ASEAN, to better ensure the cooperation needed to address cross-Sectoral issues. Likewise, progress has been made in engaging Dialogue Partners and relevant stakeholders to obtain technical and funding support for SBs in implementing cooperative programs.

### **VI.2.1 Attributions of the ASCC Blueprint's Activities**

The Blueprint's activities were acknowledged as relevant and aligned with national policies in all ten AMS. However, some AMS expressed concern on activity ownership and the distinction between national and regional interests. SBs under ASCC in AMS prioritise their national interests, whereas the ASCC, through Blueprint implementation, focuses on regional cooperation. The policy formulation done by 15 SBs has been based on various national priorities and processes. When necessary, national policies refer to the international agenda and the Blueprint.

While the name of ASEAN is familiar to everyone, people's awareness of ASEAN is limited and there is a lack of understanding of the values and vision toward which ASEAN strives. The work of AMS to promote ASEAN identity has been appreciated and will strengthen feelings of cultural similarity, language, and a way of life that grows from the interaction between art, communities, cultures, and civil society in various programs.

### **VI.2.2 Implementation Status of the Blueprint's Activities**

Implementation of Blueprint activities in AMS was satisfactory, given that most activities were carried out in a timely manner. However, since the scale of project activity directly attributed to the Blueprint was small, the impact of the Blueprint's activities was insignificant for the intended stakeholders. However, some outcome indicators showed progress during the assessment period, as indicated in the review of each of the Blueprint's characteristics.

### **VI.2.3 Institutional Mechanisms at Sectoral Level and Cross-cutting Issues**

Fifteen SBs coordinated by SOCA and SOCCOM in ten AMS were responsible for implementing the Blueprint at the national level. There were different institutional capacities and arrangements between SBs at the regional level. For example, some SBs had centres (e.g., ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity) while others were run through SOMs, affecting the extent of coordination and implementation. Stronger institutionalisation (e.g., through a centre) is a guarantor of stronger coordination and implementation.

## VI.2.4 Means of Implementation

The initiatives and programmes in the Blueprint's objectives were in general mainstreamed into AMS national policies, as the overarching nature of the Blueprint enables commonality with national development agendas and policies. However, AMS naturally prioritise their individual national agendas over the Blueprint.

## VI.2.5 Resources

There are insufficient financial and human resources to implement the Blueprint at the national level. Insufficient human resources stem from overloaded desk officers dealing with various international and bilateral cooperation, leaving ASSC in second place, at best. Rotations of ASEAN desk officers at SBs also adversely affected institutional memory and expertise. While sufficient financial resources were available at the regional level, that was not the case for SBs at the national level.

## VI.3. Recommendations

### VI.3.1 Recommendations on Outcome Indicators

Nineteen KPIs lacked sufficient data points for evaluation during the Midterm Review. The shortcomings, which fall into three broad categories based on data source, are discussed below, along with potential solutions:

- KPIs using data recorded by SBs that are compiled and managed by the ASCC Monitoring Division. Such data can be collected easily if the monitoring tool is improved and SBs commit to regular updates. Examples include KPI 3.
- KPIs using data on policies in the formulation process or enacted by individual AMS under the common framework of ASEAN or another international organisation. Examples include policies on Adaptive Social Protection (KPI 16) and universal health coverage (KPI 6d). ASEAN, especially ASCC, should engage with a focal point in each AMS to continuously monitor development of this type of data. While data might be regularly collected by agencies in each AMS, updates are not necessarily reflected in the Statistical Office immediately. Focal points would facilitate this process.

- KPIs measuring general public perceptions or awareness on issues should be measured using data collected through research or surveys. Examples include KPI 22, on ASEAN awareness, and KPI 24, on ASEAN benefits.

From an assessment of available data on KPIs for Characteristic A, it is recommended to enhance the awareness and engagement of affiliated stakeholders and the general public.

From an assessment of available data on KPIs for Characteristic B, two issues require attention: how to reduce the prevalence of overweight children under five, and how to increase the coverage, width, and depth of social protections—especially during the COVID-19 pandemic (KPIs 5a, 5b, and 7b).

From an assessment of available data on KPIs for Characteristic C, Blueprint implementation has on the right track. Results-based indicators and measuring methods must be developed to demonstrate quality outcomes.

From an assessment of available data on KPIs for Characteristic D, efforts should be made consistent to ensure impactful intervention in the end term of the Blueprint. Results-based indicators and measuring methods must be developed to demonstrate quality outcomes.

From an assessment of available data on KPIs for Characteristic E, while progress has been made as demonstrated by several KPIs related to public outreach and research (processes), efforts should be strengthened to increase Global Competitiveness Index (KPI 26a), increased international recognition for ASEAN films (KPI 30), and to decrease NEET (KPI 31c).

### **VI.3.2 Recommendations to Harness Attribution of Activities to the Blueprint**

Tool 1 has been essential for collecting information on the progress of implementation of Sectoral work plans to check activity attribution against the Blueprint. Two things must be done improve data collection, monitoring tools, and coordination. First, data entry processes should follow the golden rules of data management: data must be cleaned and entered in a uniform format, and data must be readable by any standard application. Second, Tool 1 should become a digital platform, where SBs can report data and read data from other SBs to see who has been doing what to implement the Blueprint.

The main issue in mainstreaming the Blueprint has been prioritisation. Individual AMS must commit to translating regional priorities as stipulated in the Blueprint into individual national priorities. The Blueprint must be aligned with national priorities from the formulation stage, otherwise mainstreaming will be difficult. If national interests differ from regional priorities, it is expected that AMS will focus on their national interests.

While ASEAN coordinates a multitude of agendas, prioritisation means that ASEAN must identify the measures and initiatives needed to achieve results—which are all that matter to AMS and ASEAN's peoples at the end of the day.

Accordingly, thorough bottom-up planning is needed to increase attribution of Sectoral activities to the Blueprint. SBs, each with their own process in each AMS, must propose activities to implement the Blueprint. However, the activities proposed by SBs to realise the Blueprint should be of national concern to all AMS. To implement this process, Sectoral Bodies should be given time and opportunities to propose initiatives drawing from their national or internal strategic plans.

After establishing a priority agenda to implement SB work plans at the regional and national level, SOCA must convene a strategic coordination and engagement session with the SBs to monitor implementation of the Blueprint's agreed-to KRAs and KPIs.

Further, Blueprint implementation must be recognized by and aligned with each AMS national master plan (long term or 10-year planning) or midterm plan (if every five years). This would result in consistent implementation, including a guarantee of requisite financial and human resources, which would create a foundation of common awareness nationwide on meeting the goals of the ASEAN2025 Vision.

### **VI.3.3 Recommendations to Increase Effectiveness of the Implementation of Activities**

To yield impactful activities, the quality of activities must be emphasized over quantity, meaning that only high-impact projects with local contexts should be considered, and then implemented with sufficient resources.

After prioritisation and alignment of activities with national agendas, the next step is to categorise programmes and activities. This may hold the key to success for the Blueprint. If possible, programmes and activities should be

categorised into low-hanging fruit (e.g., quick wins), medium term and long term, to ensure effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation, cost effectiveness, and optimal results.

Along the way, close monitoring and evaluation mechanisms must be in place to ensure that challenges are identified and overcome, and that best practices are recognized and scaled up or replicated if necessary.

Finally, it is important to ensure effective coordination at the country level in managing issues across all agencies. Otherwise, it will be difficult to address issues.

#### **VI.3.4 Recommendations to Harness Institutional Mechanisms**

Eliminate the overlap or conflict between Sectoral policies, programmes, and activities that results from when Sectoral Bodies focus only on their remits.

National policies must be assessed and integrated with all aspects of activity development, including information sharing, planning, decision making, budgeting, and implementation.

Cross-Sectoral coordination at the national and regional level must be transformed using more engagement sessions to mutually discuss and solve cross-cutting issues.

Lessons learned from successful AMS when coordinating ASEAN work should be identified and adapted as possible.

The leading Ministry of each Pillar, if possible, should play a coordinating role in monitoring and advising the way forward while working toward the same Strategic Measures and Key Results Areas.

Existing SOC-COM and JCM mechanisms to discuss cross-cutting issues should be retained and enhanced, and the role of SOC-COM should be expanded to keep strengthening cross-Sectoral and cross-Pillar coordination. SOC-COM must more interactive and promote engagements between Sectoral Bodies, particularly on cross-Sectoral issues and cooperation.

Quarterly meetings and regular updates among AMS Sectoral Bodies are needed to drive the coordination and monitoring of SB work plans to ensure that implementation is aligned with the Blueprint.



### **VI.3.5 Recommendations to Improve Means of Implementation**

Institutes or Centres also play a leading role as centres of excellence in executing activities that attract financial grants and encourage collaborations with regional and international organizations that share international best practices and resources.

Evidence, experience, and risk assessments should be made accessible to support cross-Sectoral decision-making. After all, a key function is transparency in sharing data and information activity and reviewing cross-Sectoral activities and performance.

ASEAN and related government agencies must rethink the approach to popularise and turn the Blueprint into action plans for the ASEAN community without creating new entities.

The role of the ASEAN Secretariat must be re-evaluated to include a significant advisory role, which is needed to support Blueprint implementation. Specifically, ASEC departments and divisions should advise on relevant activities that support Blueprint implementation.

So far, initiatives have been established while those previously existing have neither been fully nor properly implemented. ASEAN should first consider bolstering existing initiatives.

### **VI.3.6 Recommendations Concerning Financial and Human Resources to Implement the Blueprint**

It is true that ASCC activities are underfunded and second to national activities. One way to promote sustainable Blueprint implementation is to translate and integrate it into AMS SB national long-term and short-term implementation plans. Each AMS must establish a national ASCC office or secretariat that includes a strong M&E system that is adequately equipped with resources, especially human resources, to ensure sustainability.

The availability and sufficiency of internal resources reflect an organization's level of commitment. However, the fact is that ASCC activities are overdependent on External Partners and funding. This has been an issue during the COVID-19 pandemic, as countries operate under economic difficulties. However, as ASEAN and the world recover from the pandemic, there is no excuse not to invest in ASEAN's financial and human resources.

To avoid an overdependence on external resources such as the ASEAN fund, AMS should enhance work to secure budgets from Ministries and Agencies to implement the Blueprint.

Further, the COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that many programmes and activities should be implemented online, via teleconference or social media to expand their reach and minimize costs.

On resources, ASEAN should encourage contributions from multinational companies and the Private Sector through their corporate social responsibility programs. ASEAN Aid is a good start.

To gain increase financial support from Dialogue Partners and potential External Partners, the prioritisation and categorisation of activities as discussed previously is paramount. Priority should be given to upstream activities that will have a greater impact on ASEAN's peoples and promote regional cooperation and collaborations in a sustained and concrete manner.

On the COVID-19 recovery, ASEAN should collaborate with Dialogue Partners and External Partners from all three Pillars. Since AMS prioritise funding for domestic priorities, some ASCC activities can be carried out on a cost-sharing basis with interested DPs and EPs, if they are in line with the lead SBs goals and vision.

On staff development, there should be regular training on project management, communications, multimedia and graphic design, survey and research, and leadership, among other topics. Online platforms should be used for staff development, to reflect the new normal under COVID-19.

Capacity-building programs should also be held to improve access to public health, encourage social welfare and technology transfers, promote trade, investment and the greater use of e-government activities, further the application of IT and IT-assisted technology and machinery equipment in business, boost public communication and education, and action on the climate and green economy.

### **VI.3.7 Recommendations Specifically Arising from National MTR**

Further efforts can be made to improve AMS contributions implementing the Blueprint, particularly in Characteristic C, 'sustainable.' However, as individual AMS priorities focus on national development outcomes, and not

ASEAN goals, there must be increased advocacy at the regional level for individual AMS to push for national actions.

Again, capacity building and adequate financing require continued attention if Sectoral Bodies are expected to meet their commitments under the Blueprint. Sectoral Body understanding of and engagement with ASEAN activities and processes must be improved. Several SBs had difficulties in identifying programmes, activities, and initiatives that aligned with the Blueprint.

Investment in proper databases for record keeping and the easy retrieval of programme information is needed. Significant delays have been observed in compiling information, especially from earlier years. This must be supplemented by establishing clear lines of accountability and documented processes to preserve institutional memory.

Some KPIs were not available or updated during the assessment period, such as those requiring that data be broken out to count women, children, youth, the elderly, etc.... Data collection efforts should be improved to track these groups..

The ASSC must rethink and move toward a more effective and cost-effective implementation of the Blueprint through three key activities:

- Maintaining multi-stakeholder knowledge networks of Sectoral action programmes and activities.
- Putting in place regular monitoring and evaluation activities and matrices among Sectoral Bodies with the targets delineated by gender, age, or other such factors, where applicable.
- Establishing a research platform for each Sectoral Body to support sustainable implementation and evidence-based monitoring & evaluation data.

The ASSC must rethink each Sectoral Body's activities against the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a critical time for reviewing how to conduct activities and capacity building in a dynamic environment to reach more people.

Finally, the overall design of the Blueprint's Results Framework has flaws that must be corrected. One deficiency is the delineation of items assessed at the regional and national levels. For example, under Characteristic C, which contains four sections in the Blueprint, national MTR teams of all

ten ASEAN countries assess Sections C3 and C4, while regional MTR teams assess Sections C1 and C2. These types of arbitrary delineations have been problematic.

#### **VI.4. Conclusion**

The ASCC Blueprint 2016-2025 reached its midpoint with a satisfactory implementation rate, demonstrated by the progress documented by 21 KPIs with available data. However, fallout from COVID-19 continues and the full extent of the pandemic's effects cannot yet be measured accurately. Various studies have shown that the progress in development achieved during the last decade might be lost. Of course, the pandemic impacted the first term of the Blueprint's implementation and has become the single most important factor affecting its end-term implementation, from 2021 to 2025.

Realising this challenge, the 36<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, held virtually on 26 June 2020 announced the start of ASEAN's efforts to recover from impacts of COVID-19 by developing the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF). It is timely for the ASCC to incorporate and align the substantive, strategic and operational aspects of the Blueprint's end-term implementation with the ACRF. ASCC Sectoral Bodies must develop Sectoral work plans for the 2021-2025 period considering two factors: carrying forward the Blueprint's upcoming activities and aligning their activities with ACRF.

## References

- ASEAN. (2008). *MARINE WATER QUALITY Management Guidelines*.
- ASEAN. (2016). *ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection*.
- ASEAN. (2017). ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition.
- ASEAN. (2018). ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. Retrieved from <http://asean.org/storage/2017/11/ASEAN-Consensus-on-the-Protection-and-Promotion-of-the-Rights-of-Migrant-Workers.pdf>
- ASEAN, UNICEF, & WHO. (2016). *Regional Report on Nutrition Security in ASEAN*. ASEAN (Vol. 2).
- Kaufmann, D., Kraay, A., & Mastruzzi, M. (2010). *The worldwide governance indicators: Methodology and analytical issues*. Policy Research Working Paper. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1876404511200046>
- Narzisi, K., & Simons, J. (2020). Interventions that prevent or reduce obesity in children from birth to five years of age: A systematic review. *Journal of Child Health Care*, XX(X), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1367493520917863>
- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2016). ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint. *The ASEAN Secretariat*.
- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2017a). A Guide to Monitoring and Evaluation of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025. *The ASEAN Secretariat*.
- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2017b). ASEAN Community Progress Monitoring System 2017.
- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2017c). *Women Migrant Workers in The ASEAN Economic Community*. Retrieved from <http://asean.org/storage/2012/05/AEC-Women-migration-study.pdf>
- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2018a). ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Lessons for Malaysia. *The ASEAN Secretariat*. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-3859-9\\_23](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-3859-9_23)

- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2018b). *Poll on ASEAN Awareness 2018*.
- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2019a). Asean Communication Master Plan II 2018-2025.
- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2019b). ASEAN DECLARATION ON PROMOTING GREEN JOBS FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH OF ASEAN COMMUNITY. *The ASEAN Secretariat*.
- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2019c). ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 25th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP25).
- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2019d). ASEAN Youth Bites. Stories on successful initiatives of ASEAN Youth. *The ASEAN Secretariat*.
- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2019e). BANGKOK DECLARATION ON COMBATING MARINE DEBRIS IN ASEAN REGION.
- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2020a). CLIMATE CHANGE: The time to Act is Now. *The ASEAN*, (5). <https://doi.org/10.1097/01.orn.0000341029.62694.f0>
- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2020b). Social Protection for All in ASEAN. *The ASEAN*, (03).
- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2020c). Youth and Skills Development: Building Blocks for Better Communities. *The ASEAN*, (04).
- The ASEAN Secretariat. (2019). ASCC BLUEPRINT 2025 RESULTS FRAMEWORK.
- The World Bank. (2019). *Addressing the Double Burden of Malnutrition in ASEAN*. *The World Bank*. <https://doi.org/10.1596/33142>

## **Annex 1: Lady Firefighter – The Story of AATHP and ASOEN**

Implementing the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP), as part of the ASSC Blueprint 2025, rarely has been more dramatic.

On New Year's Day in 2020, a strong wind was blowing in Riau, Indonesia. Smog covered the neighbourhood of Dayun in Siak District. Fire had spread over a hectare of peatlands and shrubs—and was fought back by brave men and women from the Manggala Agni Team (MPA)—a special forest and land firefighting group formed by the Indonesian Environment and Forestry Ministry in 2003. After long hours of dangerous work, the firefighters stopped inferno's spread.

One of the smoke eaters on that day in January was a woman named Gustianingsih, nicknamed Neneng. The 35 year old has been battling blazes for the MPA since 2005—although her regular work, on the staff of Daops Manggala Agni Sumatera VI, is more mundane. “My job is actually administration, but sometimes I've been involved with fire prevention patrols and firefighting,” said Neneng, the mother of three.

The New Year's Day fire in 2020 wasn't her first. Neneng's debut on the Manggala Agni Team came in 2019, when a conflagration struck in nearby Koto Gasib. More than 30 hectares of forest and the surrounding area were engulfed in flames. The team worked for nine days. In a firefighter's gear—helmet, flame-retardant clothes and oxygen mask—Neneng wielded a hose against the fire, sweat streaming down her face.

The hard-to-reach site, heat, and thick smog didn't stop Neneng. Walking up to the blaze, she broke through the bush with her teammates, treading through the meter-deep mud in the peatlands with caution.

Some blazes can't be reached by fire truck or motorcycle. “We've walked a very long way,” Neneng said. “Bruised feet are common.” Carrying hoses, the team had to scout out water before getting to work. “Sometimes, we go far into [the fire] and there's no source of water.”

The Manggala Agni Team weren't the only ones fighting conflagrations in the area. There were also teams from the local branch of the Indonesian Disaster Management Agency (BPBD), the Indonesian Army (TNI), and the Indonesian National Police (Polri). Everyone worked around the clock, leaving family and friends behind.

For Neneng, working on the Manggala Agni Team is a point of pride.

“I joined the firefighters in Dayun and Sri Gemilang, Siak, simply because my heart was calling me. We have a sense of satisfaction in the field when we succeeded.”

### **Forest and Land Fire Prevention**

When not battling blazes, members of the Manggala Agni Team promote fire prevention during routine fire patrols, taking time to meet with community leaders, local residents, and indigenous people.

“We talk to the community about the impact and the hazards of [fires]—things that are very hazardous for the environment. We try to raise awareness among those who continue [shifting agricultural burning], that this is very dangerous for the future and the next generation,” Neneng said.

Separately, Ferdian Krisnanto, known as Ferdi, chief of the local Climate Change and Forest and Land Fire Control Agency (BPPIKHL), said that the Environment and Forestry Ministry has changed course since a particularly massive blaze struck in 2015. “Fires in Indonesia are 99% attributable to human actions. We think that prevention has to be strengthened. Previously we stressed fire fighting. These days, we’re strengthening fire prevention efforts.”

Community approaches have taken off since 2016, under the Environment and Forestry Ministry’s Climate Change Control Directorate, offices of the Climate Change and Forest Fire Control Agency in Sumatra and throughout Indonesia, Ferdi said. “The President [Joko Widodo] said that forest and land fire prevention must start from early detection and approach villages and the people. We made a breakthrough through integrated patrolling by involving the community in locating frequent forest fires.”

Ferdi said firefighters these days were better prepared for the drier weather brought by the El Nino Southern Oscillation in 2019, after wet weather from 2016 to 2018 decreased the incidence of fires. “We were more ready. Early detection technology has helped us to handle [fires] faster.”

Local communities deserve credit, he added. “We educated Manggala Agni not to focus 100% on fire fighting. The Manggala Agni Team has to boost their capacity to identify community potential.”



Manggala Agni Team members have since gone into communities to preach fire prevention, working with neighbourhood security officers and focusing on villages that have been the site of frequent fires. The team also helped residents of Siak cultivate honey from local forests to boost their income—and to increase community’s stake in keeping the forests free from flames, Neneng said.

Ferdi said community approaches differed from village to village. “We have to find out what needs to be changed. Maybe a community already has the knowledge. We have to distinguish between indigenous people, who have a controlled-burn system, and those who claim they’re indigenous, but burn land haphazardly.”

The indigenous community offers a good example of local wisdom, Ferdi said. People whose livelihoods depend on the natural balance understand that disasters result from environmental mismanagement. “If we don’t take care of nature, then the nature will do the same to us.”

In Riau, it looks like the Environment and Forestry Ministry’s community approach is working. Data from the Ministry’s SiPongi Karhutla Monitoring System shows the incidence of fire in Riau is down 50 percent.

Thank you, Neneng—and to the fire fighters and local residents of Riau for protecting communities and our natural environment.

**Source: Indonesia MTR Report.**

## **Annex 2: Hope in the Hinterlands – The Story of SOMED**

As the rain fades to a drizzle in Merauke; Nur Rohim gets back on his motorcycle and continues deep into the heart of Papua–Indonesia’s easternmost province and 3,700 kilometres from Jakarta, the capital.

The schoolteacher has another 100 kilometres of rough-road travel before he will reach Gutti District, where he’ll park his bike and walk 45 minutes to the elementary and junior-high schools where he works on a permanent contract.

“It’s quite a long way,” Rohim says. “We have to cross two rivers—the Kumbe and the Bian. If road conditions are dry and we leave in the morning, we’ll arrive by dusk. However, in the rainy season, it might take two days.”

A graduate of Cendrawasih University’s Biology Education Faculty in Merauke, Rohim, 25, is a veteran of SM-3T, an Indonesian Government program that sends undergraduate teachers to frontier, outermost, and underdeveloped areas. Some of the program’s support stems from deliberations of the by Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOMED), as it implements the ASSC Blueprint 2025.

Rohim lives with his parents, who settled in Bupul village in Elikobal District—about 300 kilometres from Merauke City, near the Papua New Guinea border. “When I was just 3 years old, my parents followed the national transmigration program to Papua, in 1995.”

While 300 kilometres doesn’t sound too far, it’s an arduous journey. “From Bupul, I need to go to Merauke first [...] to buy supplies and equipment, then make my way to Domade District, crossing the Kumbe River in a wooden boat,” Rohim said.

From Domade, he heads downstream, until the Kumbe meets the Bian—unless it’s high tide, when Rohim makes a detour through a forest by the beach. “There are no roads like there are in Java.”

At the Bian River, Rohim waits for a tiny boat—just big enough to hold a few motorcycles—before making his crossing and then traverses a road pockmarked with potholes.

Asked about the toughest part of his job, Rohim, with an easy grin, said he had no hardships. “We are taught to always be grateful, aren’t we?”

He's been teaching in Gutti for more than a year, making the arduous trip home to Bupul to visit his parents every three months. Rohim obviously loves his job, saying that local residents appreciate and respect teachers.

At the junior high school in Gutti, Rohim is one of five teachers, including three from the SM-3T program. "We're called 'child teachers' by the local tribal chief," Rohim says. We stay in a house that belongs to the chief that was loaned to us."

Teaching and learning are done differently deep in Papua—and the work of Rohim and his fellow teachers doesn't stop with reading, writing, and arithmetic. They've had to tend to the wounds that the students received working in the fields.

"I found the legs of my students full of scabs—not just one student, but dozens of them. They usually went with their parents to the forest to look for sago or to hunt. They get hurt from thorns, twigs, or rocks." Rohim got medical supplies from the local community health centre and then cleaned their wounds. He was surprised that the students weren't in pain. "I asked 'Does it hurt?' They shook their heads," Rohim said. Dozens of students were treated by the teachers; their wounds cleared up with antibiotics after three days.

Rohim likens his teaching work to sculpting, chiselling fine young men and women from a situation that is harder than stone. "It feels good that we can give encouragement to the kids—that we can motivate them—which gives them the strength to change and do something better.

Starting off his career with a year spent as a contract teacher in Papua, Rohim then volunteered for the SM-3T program, run by the Indonesian Education and Culture Ministry, in pursuit of a scholarship. The program gives undergraduate students teaching experience in the field while accelerating education in frontline, outermost, and underdeveloped areas. Rohim was sent to Gayo Lues, in Aceh—on the other side of the Indonesian archipelago.

In Aceh, Rohim taught at the base of the Leuser Mountains—a different experience from the swamps, jungles, and tropical rainforest of Papua. However, the experience he had in Aceh was just as fun as his time in Papua. Teachers were respected and appreciated in Aceh, too, and he was regarded as a member of the family by local residents. "When I said goodbye as the school year was over, the students cried. They didn't want to go home," Rohim said.

Students in Gayo Lues were desperate to continue their education. “Students who graduated elementary school had to continue studying in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade because there was no junior high school,” Rohim said.

That situation changed when Satu Atap junior high school opened. Rohim was one of the first teachers assigned there, and initially had to promote the school to local youths and motivate elementary school graduates to continue their studies. “Some wanted to continue, others didn’t want to go to school. Of course, I couldn’t force them. I just came to share their hopes.”

These days, Rohim is contract teacher in State Middle School 1 in Elikobel District in Merauke. Teaching middle school gives Rohim a chance to work with young people as they build their own sense of identity. “It is interesting—entering their world, where I can share knowledge and experience. We became partners and learned from each other.”

Rohim smiled when he said he would be happy to be a teacher wherever he might be. “I just feel happy! I supported them, which is like giving something that’s worthwhile to them.”

He’d love to have more technology in the classroom. “When I explained about chlorophyll in plants, I wished the students could really see inside the parts of the leaves, not only imagine it.”

Young men and women in remote places like Aceh and Papua have aspirations, dreams, and hopes. Rohim is a passionate teacher dedicated to realising their potential. Indonesia needs more educators with his skill, fortitude, ability, and intelligence.

**Source: Indonesia MTR Report.**

### **Annex 3: Implementating Haze Pollution Controls in Myanmar –The Story of AATHP**

In Myanmar, implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP), as part of the ASSC Blueprint 2025, has taken aim on a serious health and economic problem.

Haze originates from the emissions of forest and land fires and reduces visibility. It affects human health, natural resources, ecosystems, material property, and climate. Transboundary haze pollution is an ongoing problem experienced by ASEAN Member States (AMS). Indonesia is the primary cause of transboundary haze pollution in ASEAN.

The amount of haze that originates in Indonesia is huge and impacts peninsular Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, and Laos in mainland Southeast Asia, and Brunei, in archipelagic Southeast Asia. The haze crisis of 1997 was the most damaging air pollution event in ASEAN's history, causing US\$9 billion in economic, social, and environmental losses, as well as creating losses in destroyed biodiversity and habitats. Upwards of two billion tons of carbon were released into the atmosphere. Millions in the region suffered from haze for weeks, leading to increased mortality rates in Malaysia and lowered infant and aged survival rates in Indonesia.

While there are several challenging transboundary environmental issues, including illegal logging and the wildlife trade, haze pollution is a critical issue requiring great emphasis.

#### **ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP)**

By realising the harmful effect of haze pollution in the whole region, institutional strengthening, by entities like the ASEAN Haze Technical Task Force in 1995, the Technical Working Group in 2008, and the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee in 2010, has been initiated to implement the Regional Haze Action Plan that was endorsed in 1997.

Regional entities also developed the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, which was signed in 2002. It was the first regional agreement in the world to tackle transboundary haze resulting from forest, peat, and land fires. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) characterised it as a global role model for tackling of transboundary issues. Myanmar ratified the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution in 2003 and all AMS ratified the AATHP on 20 January 2015.

## **Current Actions and Initiatives**

Myanmar has been promoting sustainable management of its forest resources and has taken precautions against forest fires. In Myanmar, the main drivers of vegetation fires include burning for land clearance (agricultural expansion, shifting cultivation practices, plantations, urban development, fire prevention in the forest areas and grazing), burning for collection of wood and non-wood forest products, careless and accidental fires (camping, logging, and illegal logging), and burning for hunting and the removal of agricultural residues. Fire due to prolonged drought was not reported as a major issue. Many residents of mountainous areas practice burning for shifting cultivation, which is the major cause of forest fires. Many hotspots occur in hilly regions.

Smoke pollution due to wildfires is an important public health issue and environmental risk. Smoke and haze from planned or unplanned fires also adversely impacts people and the environment. Myanmar has been taking measures to discourage shifting cultivation and to replace it with upland or terrace cultivation by promoting agroforestry, community forestry, and community-based forest management using a participatory approach.

In this context, the final draft of the Action Plan for Transboundary Haze Pollution Control in Myanmar has been prepared to contribute to the implementation of AATHP. The objective of the plan is to prevent and mitigate pollution by transboundary haze from forest fires and other types of fires in Myanmar.

The main activities of the action plan are (1) agricultural fire prevention, including the development of upland and cold-tolerant rice varieties and awareness raising for farmers to transform shifting cultivation to permanent cultivation and to control agricultural residue burning; (2) forest fire prevention, including fire protection to avoid losses from forest fires and illegal burning in natural forests and forest plantations, introducing zero-burning techniques in forest plantation establishment, fire protection activities such as the construction of fire protection roads and fire watchtowers on grazing lands and in planted forests, hiring fire guards, patrolling, posting warnings, extending reserved forests and protected public forests, protecting remaining natural forests, and awareness-raising activities; (3) burning prevention in the Agriculture and Waste Sectors, under the National Waste Management Strategy and Master Plan (2018-2030) to achieve zero waste by 2030 and launching the common declaration “Sustainable, Green, Clean and Healthy

Environment toward a Brighter Future for Myanmar” in 2019 to develop and implement holistic and integrated waste management strategies based on inclusiveness, zero waste, zero emissions, and the circular economy; (4) assessing and monitoring transboundary haze, forest fires, and other types of fires based on the information from ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre (ASMC); (5) raising awareness of agricultural waste burning, shifting cultivation to permanent agriculture, and improving current land use through advanced farming techniques, waste disposal practices (3Rs, open burning, etc.), prevention, control, and monitoring transboundary haze pollution as a result of forest fires and other types of fires; (6) promoting public education, awareness-building campaigns, and strengthening community participation in mitigating haze pollution; (7) cooperating and coordinating with ASEAN countries and international organisations to control and monitor transboundary haze pollution; and (8) ambient air quality monitoring in the downtown area of Tachileik on the border between Myanmar and Thailand.

Myanmar’s Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) is the focus for implementing the AATHP in Myanmar, working in coordination with relevant departments to control forest and land fires during the dry season and to mitigate transboundary haze pollution.

### **Potential Cooperation and Further Activities**

The Myanmar State Counsellor and the Prime Minister of Thailand met on 19 March 2019 to discuss controlling transboundary haze pollution through cooperation between the countries. Subsequently, a project will run from 2020 to 2022, titled “Development of Air Quality Monitoring and Policies in Myanmar”, to create a data set for ambient air quality, develop air quality standards and policies, monitor ambient air quality, evaluate the transboundary air pollution situation, and build capacity for operating air monitoring units. The project will be implemented in one urban area and one border area as part of a bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand.

Furthermore, Myanmar has a plan to sign an MOU with Singapore for technical assistance cooperation to control and prevent transboundary haze.

Myanmar’s Environmental Conservation Department has been cooperating with relevant departments and AMS to control and monitor transboundary haze pollution at the national and regional levels. Locally, five states and regions (Shan, Kayin, Kayah, Mon and Tanintharyi), located on the border of

Myanmar, have been conducting actions to reduce the number of hotspots and control haze pollution with the implementation of the AATHP by fostering cooperation with relevant departments and communities.

Future planned actions include developing an emergency response plan; promoting research and development; establishing ambient air quality monitoring networks by fixed stations at the most polluted areas and sensitive areas and mobile stations in urban and rural areas; capacity building; enhancing public participation; and promoting cooperation between relevant organisations at the national, regional, and sectoral level.

**Source: Myanmar MTR Report.**



## **Annex 4: Boosting ASEAN Through Traditional Dance – The Story of SOMCA Myanmar**

Surprisingly, the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Culture and Arts (SOMCA) resulted in a traditional dance competition—a unique way to implement the ASSC Blueprint 2025.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN in 2017 also marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar’s accession as an ASEAN Member State (AMS). To further develop a sense of ASEAN spirit, Myanmar’s Religious Affairs and Culture Ministry organised the ASEAN Traditional Dance Competition on 7 August 2016 at the National Theatre in Yangon to introduce the beauty of artistic and cultural dances from AMS to people inside and outside the region. It was a significant way to promote awareness of ASEAN to the public.

The Competition addressed several strategic areas from the ASSC Blueprint 2025, including “E.1., Showcase ASEAN to the outside world using various approaches”; and “A.2., Empowered People and Strengthened Institutions”.

Thirty performers, three per AMS, were invited. Three different traditional dances were presented for each AMS. Performers, who were all Myanmar nationals, came from the Myanmar Religious Affairs and Culture Ministry, while judges came from the nine Embassies of AMS in Myanmar and one representative from Myanmar. Traditional songs were presented in consultation with individual AMS. The performers all had to learn the traditional dances, music, and costumes of other AMS. Ten winners were selected.

The project was in line with the SOMCA Strategic Plan for Arts and Culture 2016-2020 and its Key Performance Indicators (KPI):

- Key Strategy 3.1: Encourage a multi-stakeholder approach in promoting an ASEAN mind-set and identity to increase appreciation of the ASEAN Community’s histories, cultures, arts, traditions, and values.
- Key Strategy 3.2: Promote the cultural diversity of ASEAN with an emphasis on the long-lasting cultural threads that bind the region to advance intercultural understanding as a counter against violent extremism that may emerge from a lack of understanding of each other’s cultures.

- KPI 4: “Increased institutional capacity through policies and measures/initiatives among AMS that raise awareness of ASEAN Community building and public engagement”, which is in line with ASCC Blueprint objective ‘A2 Empowered People and Strengthened Institutions’”.

Through the dance competition, SOMCA successfully promoted ASEAN awareness to people inside and outside of the region through offline and online modes. The project commanded the attention of the public. The dances were presented as a bilateral and multilateral cultural collaboration among AMS. Performers have been sharing their experiences and knowledge—and are still performing, for example at the Youth at the Multi-Purpose Youth Development Festival, held in Mandalay on 13 August 2018.

### **Benefits of Collaboration**

The Competition demonstrated a collaboration between SOMCA, the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting Responsible for Information (SOMRI), the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOMED), the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD) under the ASCC Pillar, and the Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs Ministries under the APSC Pillar. Ambassadors and Representatives from nine AMS Embassies in Myanmar also participated. Officials from the Yangon Regional Government were invited. News of the ASEAN Traditional Dance Competition project was created by AMS Embassies in Yangon, newspapers (Myanmar/English), media, and on Facebook. Information was disseminated to the media by a press conference. The competition was open to the public and approximately 700 students and members of the public attended.

The ASEAN Traditional Dance Competition revealed the unity, shared values, and common perspective of ASEAN’s peoples. It targeted the general public, regardless of religion, age, status, or gender difference. Subsequently, traditional dances from AMS are currently taught at the National Universities of Culture and Arts and the State High Schools of Fine Arts in Yangon and Mandalay.

The performing arts are a way to communicate with people to promote understanding and to acknowledge the traditional arts, culture, and history of ASEAN Member States, which is one of the main responsibilities of SOMCA. Art expresses feelings and emotions. It makes clear the motivation of people and promotes cooperation and the exchange of social norms. The ASEAN Traditional Dance Competition presented the diversity of ASEAN to the public, who witnessed traditions and enjoy a raised awareness of ASEAN.

**Source: Myanmar MTR Report.**

## **Annex 5: ASEAN Culture Centre – The Story of SOMCA**

The ASEAN Cultural Centre in Thailand—supported by the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Culture and the Arts (SOCMA) as part of implementing the ASSC Blueprint 2025—is an outstanding landmark for the promotion of ASEAN culture and identity to the people of all nations.

Established by the Thai Culture Ministry, the ASEAN Cultural Centre in Bangkok—the first in Southeast Asia—showcases the ASEAN Community’s histories, cultures, arts, traditions, and values, while delivering a public message about the shared culture heritage and values of Southeast Asia and its peoples. It is an interactive learning centre that presents information on the cultural heritage of all 10 ASEAN Member States (AMS) through multimedia technology, exhibitions, and workshops.

The ASEAN Cultural Centre comprises three permanent exhibitions (“The Melting Pot of ASEAN”, “We Are ASEAN”, and “The ASEAN Streets”), a temporary arts and culture exhibition, the ASEAN E-Library Park, and a Cultural Knowledge Lab.

A host of activities have been offered under the concepts of variety, creativity, and sustainability to promote the cultures of AMS and sustainable cultural tourism to the international community, and to drive innovative economic development.

The decisive factor for the Centre’s successful establishment and operation has been the strong commitment of the Thai Government. The Centre’s was a deliverable for Thailand’s ASEAN Chairmanship, under the theme of “Advancing Partnership for Sustainability”. Also crucial was strong leadership from the ASEAN Heads of Government, who cooperated to encourage their communities to share their cultures, respect differences, and promote human security.

Nevertheless, this initiative has been expensive to build, operate, and maintain. The Thai Government has faced difficulties mobilising resources from other donor agencies and AMS. This has been the first time that ASEAN, particularly the Thai Government, has implemented an “ASEAN branding” campaign with a socio-cultural approach.

While the Thai Government currently allocates a budget for the Centre’s programmes and operations, further engagement is needed with other

partners and AMS to mobilise resources for the Centre's sustainability, such as by expanding or upscaling its operation in other AMS.

Using a socio-cultural approach has proven a good practice and has benefited ASEAN's peoples by branding their own cultures along with ASEAN. With significant support from ASEAN and the international community, Thailand might intensify the theme of "Advancing Partnership for Sustainability" to promote sustainability in all dimensions by forging partnerships with relevant stakeholders, both inside the region and with the international community.

**Source: Thailand MTR Report.**

## **Annex 6: Fighting for the Disabled—The Story of CPRD**

Saowalak Thongkuay is a passionate advocate with a progressive mind. For almost 20 years, she's contributed to public and social development at the national and regional level, fighting for the rights of women and girls with disabilities, accessibility, the empowerment of persons with disabilities, and the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in ASEAN and Asia and the Pacific.

Thongkuay has been executive board member of the Asia Pacific Development Centre on Disabilities since 2007, a founding member and member of the Steering Committee of the ASEAN Disability Forum since 2011, and a member of Network of Experts on Inclusive Entrepreneurship for ASEAN since 2016.

Born and raised in rural Thailand, Thongkuay had a childhood typical of the countryside, where economic development has yet to make its mark. She wasn't aware of how unfair income and wealth disparities contributed to social and economic problem until starting at university in Bangkok.

Thongkuay discovered exactly how the unequal division of opportunities was connected to inequality after she was severely injured in a car accident in 1993. As a person with disabilities, she spent most of the next eight years in physical rehabilitation and working on her psychological empowerment. By 2001, Thongkuay was ready to rejoin the world and the workforce, but she couldn't find a job. Society did not welcome women with disabilities.

This discrimination prompted her to work as an activist starting in 2002, representing persons with disabilities, especially women and girls who have experienced inequality. Thongkuay connected with like-minded people around the world, exchanging ideas concerning intersectionality, disabilities, and human rights. She drew strength from their determination to knock down the barriers faced by all persons with disabilities, no matter where they lived.

Direct experience with inequality and discrimination changed Thongkuay's perspective on the meaning of disability. A human rights-based approach became her guiding value. She believes that women with disabilities can be agents of change.

Thongkuay has worked for better implementation of the CRPD at the national, regional and international levels by running capacity building

and training programs. Among her achievements, Thongkuay developed a CRPD training module in the ASEAN context and shared her experiences with ASEAN through workshops and seminars in Central Asia. She was also a project manager and trainer on the rights of women and girls living with disabilities in the Northeastern and Southern regions of Thailand.

Equipped with rich experiences in the financial sector, Thongkuay says that the work of implementation is not the sole remit of states, and must be shared with stakeholders in the Private Sector, civil society organisations, academia, and the media. She says its important to assist persons with disabilities to overcome challenges in employment and entrepreneurship, as well as enabling them to live independent lives.

Thongkuay has continually supported the dissemination of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, inclusive policy planning, and the mainstreaming of the disabled in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She says that the social inclusion of persons with disabilities is key for making sustainable and transformative progress in the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

On the rights of women and girls with disabilities in vulnerable situations, Thongkuat has committed to promoting gender equality at the national and regional levels, serving on an expert panel for the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand. She has proposed developing guidelines to establish accessibility standards for persons with disabilities, especially for women, girls, and those in vulnerable situations.

**Source: Thailand MTR Report.**

## **Annex 7: In Viet Nam, Raising Youth Awareness of ASEAN–The Story of SOMY**

The Central Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union (hereafter the “Youth Union”) has been key for raising the awareness of youth in Vietnam of ASEAN, and has been supported by the Senior Officials Meeting on Youth, as part of implementing the ASSC Blueprint 2025.

Work of the Youth Union has been in line with ASSC Blueprint 2025 KRA E2 (“Improved visibility and understanding of the benefits of ASEAN integration by the people of ASEAN and the international community”). The Youth Union has brought many benefits to Vietnamese youth—and also enhanced implementation of Decision No. 161 of the Prime Minister (implementing the ASSC Blueprint 2025) and Plan No. 614-KH/TWĐTN-BQT of the Central Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, which implements Master Plan No.161.

The Youth Union has laboured to raise the awareness of Vietnamese youth on ASEAN and the ASEAN Community, making this goal a part of work plans at all levels. Content and progress has been monitored regularly using established criteria.

At the central level, the Youth Union has regularly organised awareness-raising activities for ASSC and ASEAN Youth cooperation. At least one article a week related to ASEAN has been published by the Youth Union’s media arms and associations such as *Thanh Nien Daily*, *Tien Phong Newspaper*, *Youth Newspaper*, Central Youth Portal, and Thanh Giong Knowledge Portal. The Youth Union’s social media accounts, as well as its other departments and units, regularly offer updates on ASEAN and ASEAN youth that receive attention nationwide. On activities, the Youth Union regularly organises seminars, events, programs, and competitions on ASEAN for its officials to improve their understanding and knowledge of Vietnamese youth in an ASEAN context. On international activities, the Youth Union has integrated ASEAN content into the interview and training process required before joining activities and work programs for delegations.

At the local level, as part of implementing Plan No. 614, provincial branches of the Youth Union have carried out programs to raise awareness of the ASSC and ASEAN Youth cooperation that received huge attention. On press and social media, at least five articles a year have been published by the mass media arms of provincial Youth Unions, while each province or city has organised at least one conference, seminar, or forum on ASEAN. Some

localities have gone further, organising propaganda activities on ASEAN, such as the ASEAN Camp or ASEAN Competition.

**Source: Viet Nam MTR Report.**



## **Annex 8: Eliminating Domestic Violence in Dien Bien–The Story of ACWC**

Viet Nam’s Labour Department (Invalids and Social Affairs) in Dien Bien (hereafter, “the Department”) has been key in working to eliminate domestic violence in the province, which has been an overarching goal of the ASSC Blueprint 2025, as supported ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).

The family is the basic unit of society. It is where personalities are formed, nurtured, and shaped. It is a key forum for preserving and promoting traditional culture—and for combatting social evils and fostering the human resources needed to build and secure the nation. In Viet Nam, the Government has developed policies and laws to promote families, including initiatives such as the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control, Law on Gender Equality, Law on Marriage and Family, Law on Children, and other guiding documents to create a legal framework that prevents and limits domestic violence more effectively.

This work has been essential in reducing domestic violence, especially violence affecting women and girls, which is required to promote equality and the advancement of women.

While offering specific solutions for domestic violence prevention and control at every level and sector, the Department has several programs aimed at helping children that maximise implementation of the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control. The Department also aimed to raise awareness of the responsibilities of authorities, agencies, and organisations at every level, as well of families and individuals, in implementing the law. Steps were taken to prevent and gradually reduce the incidence of domestic violence in Dien Bien Province—something that contributed to building more prosperous, progressive, happy, and sustainable families.

Solutions implemented by the Department included several strategies.

First, leadership of the Party Committee and management direction of authorities at all levels was strengthened for family affairs. Family affairs were mainstreamed into the regular work plans and programs of Party Committees, authorities, and localities. Family targets were linked to local socio-economic development targets.

Second, information and education were disseminated to inform people of their obligations under the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention

and Control and the Law on Gender Equality. Communication was achieved through television, radio, newspapers, magazines, leaflets, and Party Committee loudspeakers. The influence of authorities, unions, and population collaborators was leveraged through meetings that were joined by a broad selection of citizen groups, especially those representing poor families, which raised awareness about changing attitudes to domestic violence regardless of class.

Third, more training and education was offered to families on (a) family building; (b) the guidelines, policies, and laws related to families; (c) life skills, such as parenting and improving the relationships between family members and the community; (d) building families that are safe environments for children; (e) raising awareness of the responsibilities of men to contribute to domestic work; (f) ensuring women's rights in the family; (g) promoting the traditional family values; and (h) learning from developed societies.

Fourth, work was done to promote building families and villages that are infused with an ethos that rejects domestic violence, alcohol abuse, gambling, and drugs.

Fifth, professional organisations were given additional responsibilities for disseminating information and techniques to (a) increase household access to and participation in labour, production, and economic development; (b) improve life quality; (c) recognise gender equality in the family; (d) support the victims of domestic violence; (e) and improve labour and production efficiency.

Sixth, to promote the socialisation of family work; residential communities, social organisations, clans, and individuals were mobilised to raise the awareness of families and promote prosperous, progressive, and happy family building.

Seventh, building sustainable family institutions was promoted as an internal solution to prevent domestic violence, while regulations were developed based on local characteristics and cultural traditions to limit differences and potential sources of conflicts.

Eighth, implementation of domestic violence prevention and control activities were monitored, while intervention models were integrated with a broader movement of building a cultural life. Acts of domestic violence were handled strictly under the requirements of Decree No. 110/2009/ND-

CP, which codified regulations sanctioning administrative violations for the prevention of domestic violence.

Three additional solutions targeted specifically children and domestic violence.

1. Awareness was raised in society of the responsibilities of families, schools, and communities to mitigate violence aimed at children, by offering parenting knowledge to parents, caregivers, and families.
2. Awareness was also raised of the impact of violence on children, and to identify the community responsibilities at every level, by strengthening the links between schools, families, and society for child management, education, and protection.
3. Prevention was promoted through the “exemplary adults, obedient children” campaign to build friendly schools that contributed to sustainable child development in communes and wards.

## **Results**

The initiative of the Department was applied effectively in six communes in Dien Bien Dong, Tuan Giao, Dien Bien, and Tua Chua Districts. Results have been promising.

There has been increased awareness of officials, collaborators, and people on gender equality. The number of domestic violence cases has decreased. Domestic violence cases have been handled with strict legality. People have bravely reported acts of domestic violence. These indicators show that the applied solution has been effectively implemented in communities. This has contributed to building a sustainable, resilient, and engaged ASEAN Community that benefits the people.

Implementation of Master Plan No. 161 of the Government of Viet Nam has helped implement the objectives of the ASCC Blueprint 2025.

**Source: Viet Nam MTR Report.**



[www.asean.org](http://www.asean.org)



@ASEAN