



SIMPLIFIED ANNUAL REPORT **2022**

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE

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



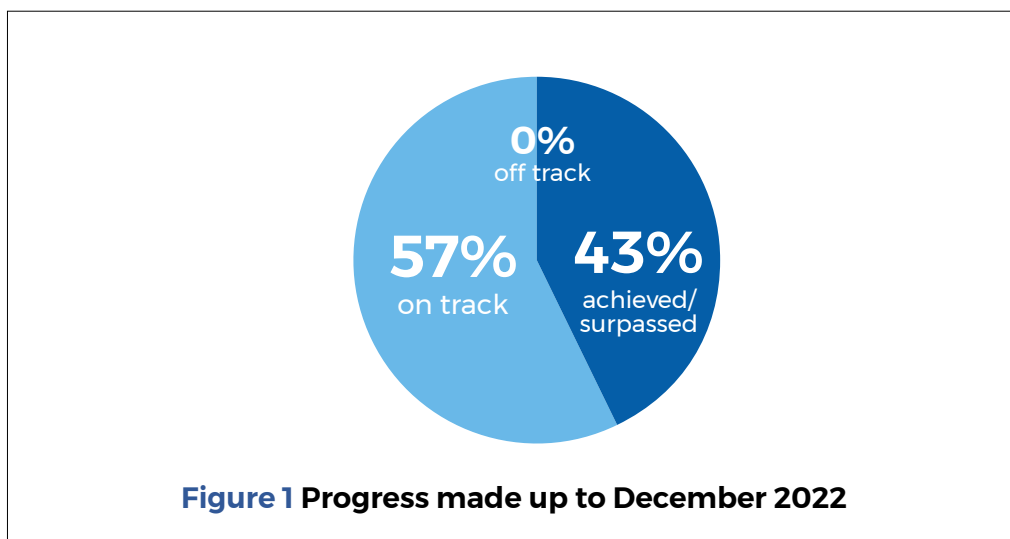
2022 Annual Report

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

Project Background

With generous support from Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Development, the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the regional project, **Empowering Women for Sustainable Peace: Preventing Violence and Promoting Social Cohesion in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** aims at advancing the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in ASEAN. This project covers the period from October 2020 to 30 June 2025, and focuses primarily on enhancing normative frameworks, on capacity-building and on the exchange of knowledge and good practices at the regional level. It also supports national-level implementation in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, which have in turn promoted strong synergies across countries.

Significant progress has been made in the second year of implementation (January to December 2022) of the project, with all annual targets achieved and 43 percent of immediate outcomes and output-level project targets already reached or surpassed, while the remaining targets are on track¹ (see Figure 1). Highlights of the progress and results attained by outcomes are described below:



The ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on WPS (RPA WPS) was adopted by ASEAN leaders during the ASEAN Summit in November 2022. With the support of UN Women, in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-PROSPECT, the ASEAN WPS Advisory Group successfully led the drafting of the RPA WPS, including its strong technical content and demonstrating ownership within ASEAN. The process included policy advocacy and engagement through knowledge-sharing and capacity-building sessions, and multistakeholder consultations, including with civil society, the UN and dialogue partners.



The development of the ASEAN RPA WPS is a major step forward in fulfilling ASEAN's vision in achieving gender equality. Promoting women's roles and participation across all realms of peace and security ranging from conflict prevention, peacebuilding, preventing violent extremism and tackling emerging security risks, such as disasters and pandemics, in the region is imperative to reach our goal as an inclusive and people-centred Community. ASEAN is committed to continuing to forge ahead with advancing the WPS agenda, and the ASEAN RPA WPS will guide our way.

**- H.E. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs, Cambodia
at the Launch of the RPA WPS**

1. The project team has evidence of progress made against these indicators, although the targets, which are expected to be reached by the end of the project, have not yet been met

UN Women supported the expansion of the ASEAN WPS Advisory Group to include 11 sectoral bodies and institutions across three ASEAN community pillars, which was critical to ensure cross-pillar engagement. Fifty-eight percent of the WPS Advisory Group members reported increased capacity on gender and on WPS as a result of their participation in RPA WPS development. In addition, ASEAN also gained access to expertise to implement relevant policy frameworks, such as the ASEAN Regional Framework on Protection, Gender and Inclusion led by the ASEAN Committee on Disasters Management (ACDM), which is also a member of the WPS Advisory Group. With the support of UN Women and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, ACDM developed a [policy brief](#) for integrating gender equality and social inclusion into Disaster Responsive Social Protection and Anticipatory Action.

21 members (14 females; 7 males) of 12 sectoral bodies and institutions reported improved knowledge and capacities in the implementation of regional policies on WPS, and 59 percent reported having the confidence to use the knowledge and skills acquired in day-to-day work as a result of UN Women technical assistance.

The WPS Advisory Group, a regional platform for cooperation, was developed to promote good practices and evidence on WPS among ASEAN Member States with the support of UN Women. Members of the WPS Advisory Group organized nine cross-sectoral dialogues, including knowledge-exchange on WPS within the regions and with other regions, such as the Pacific. Furthermore, UN Women launched and supported three new knowledge products on WPS and an [ASEAN WPS website](#).

UN Women exceeded the result targets to support targeted countries in developing and implementing WPS frameworks. A total of **469 stakeholders (408 females, 58 males, and 3 who preferred not to disclose their names) reported having increased their knowledge in areas related to the WPS agenda.**

New Developments

During the reporting period, ASEAN continued demonstrating a strong political commitment to advance the WPS agenda. In 2022, Cambodia as the ASEAN Chair prioritized the WPS agenda. ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Cambodia took leadership as the Chair of the ASEAN WPS Advisory Group. In addition, Cambodia also promoted the 'Youth Peace agenda' during the ASEAN Year of the Youth, which enabled the advancement of the consensus-building process on the importance of implementing the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda in ASEAN, considering the interlinkages with the WPS agenda.



Due to the pandemic, in-person engagement was very limited. However, this challenge presented new opportunities since the drafting of the RPA WPS was done virtually and the environmental costs with respect to travel were reduced. Moreover, participation increased thanks mainly thanks to individuals who could not travel and to organizations who introduced a no-travel policy. Virtual civil society consultations, for instance, were well attended and were used to identify priorities for the RPA WPS drafting team.

Lessons Learned

At the regional level



Engaging with regional intergovernmental organizations and leveraging their convening power to address the increasingly complex and transboundary impacts of emerging security challenges, and to expand the space for the participation of CSOs to advocate for the WPS agenda. This is a way to ensure accountability for the commitment to advance the WPS.



Coordinating multilateral collaboration and partnerships are key to advancing the WPS agenda and ensuring sustainability in the ASEAN region. UN Women has played a crucial role in coordinating stakeholders, ASEAN dialogue partners and external partners who are interested in contributing by facilitating information-sharing, by exchanging lessons learned and by providing references to interested parties. Building trust and collegiality among ASEAN stakeholders and external partners is essential for success. For example, Canada's initiative to collaborate with other dialogue partners demonstrates leadership and a genuine commitment to promoting peace and stability in the region.

At the national level



The monitoring and reporting mechanisms of NAPs should be aligned with existing government monitoring and reporting mechanisms and changes to the Ministries and Government personnel should be expected and factored into the design of future WPS capacity development efforts.



Sustainable implementation of NAPs requires meaningful translation at the local level and ensuring adequate funding.

Effective WPS NAP localization is critical for meaningful ownership and sustainable implementation, especially to integrate WPS NAP priorities into local plans. As per existing global best practices, gender-responsive budgeting has been identified as a way to generate some sustainable funding for NAPs for effective implementation to translate policy into action. Supporting Governments to establish and strengthen existing coordination mechanisms is key to localising the WPS agenda in targeted.

Next steps

Following the adoption of the RPA WPS in November 2022, the priority for 2023 is the implementation of the RPA WPS and, in particular, the implementation of the priority actions set out in the RPA WPS.

At the National level, UN Women will continue to support targeted AMS to localize the RPA WPS and develop national WPS frameworks and strengthen the capacities of state and non-state actors on WPS and GRB to advance the WPS agenda at the country level.

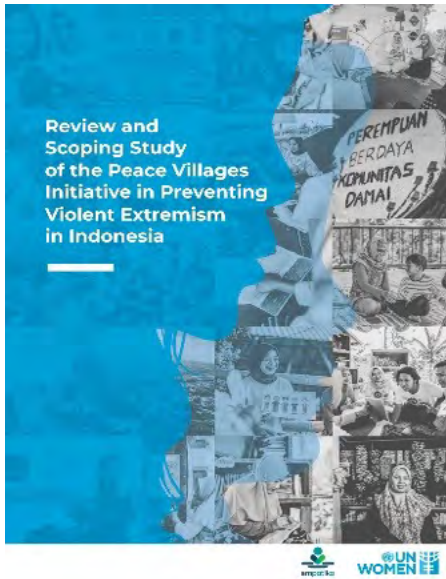
Key partnerships

- ACW (ASEAN Committee on Women)
- ACWC (ASEAN Commission on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children)
- ACDM (ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management)
- ASEAN-IPR (ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation)
- ASEAN Women for Peace Registry
- AHA Centre (ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance)
- TW PGI (Technical Working Group on Protection, Gender and Inclusion)
- ASEAN WPS Advisory Group
- USAID through USAID-funded PROSPECT project for RPA WPS
- United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Department of Peace Operations
- Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection in Indonesia
- Ministry of Peace and Security, Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity
- Bangsamoro Women Commission
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam
- Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of the Royal Thai Government
- Coordination Center for Children and Women in Southern Border Provinces of the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre in Thailand
- Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
- Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy
- South China Morning Post

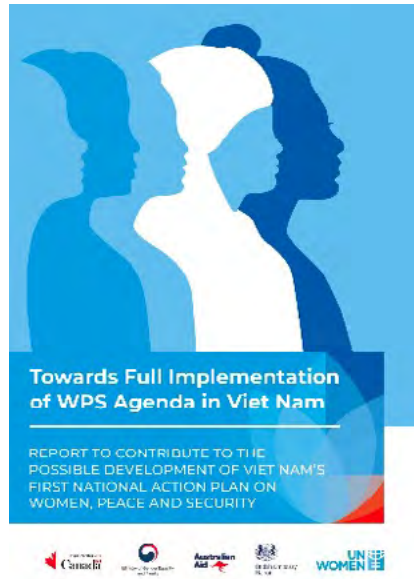
UN Women's work is funded almost entirely through the voluntary support of our partners in government, civil society, and the private sector. The contributions from the Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development Office, The Government of the Republic of Korea and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the Government of the United Kingdom enable UN Women to deliver on its mandate to protect the rights of women and girls, to foster an enabling environment where they can thrive alongside men and boys as equals, and to enable opportunities to reach their full potential in Indonesia, Viet Nam, Philippines, and Thailand. We take this opportunity to thank the Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development Office, The Government of the Republic of Korea and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, for their commitment, confidence, and trust in UN Women.



Featured resources and stories



[Review and Scoping Study of the Peace Villages Initiative in Preventing Violent Extremism in Indonesia](#)



[Towards Full Implementation of WPS Agenda in Viet Nam](#)



[Gender Analysis of Violent Extremism and the Impact of COVID-19 on Peace and Security in ASEAN: Evidence-based Research for Policy](#)



Enter WPS Photo Exhibition

Take Five: “The contribution of women and girls to sustaining peace and security will be recognized”



H.E. Kheng Samvada is Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Women's Affairs of Cambodia and representative of ASEAN Committee on Women Cambodia. She chairs the ASEAN WPS Advisory Group, which led development of the ASEAN RPA WPS..

What does the adoption of ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (RPA WPS) mean for ASEAN and women and girls in the region?

There was a need for a systematic approach with clear plan and strategic direction since the adoption of the Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN in 2017, to ensure continued and concerted progress was made and that no aspects of the agenda were excluded. It was even more important for us given the pandemic and emerging threats in our region.

The adoption of this new framework means that there's a high level of political will and commitment to forge ahead with this pivotal agenda. Also, it means that the contribution of women and girls to sustaining peace and security will be recognized, that women and girls will be acknowledged as agents of change, and their roles in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and mediation will be made visible, with a robust plan and framework for all stakeholders to support them even better.

How does the RPA WPS development link to other efforts made by ASEAN to promote the women, peace and security agenda?

When we developed the RPA WPS, we didn't start from zero but built on existing ASEAN regional frameworks, especially the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, which calls for gender mainstreaming in COVID-19 response and recovery, and ASEAN Vision 2025, which stresses “No one is left behind”.

We also developed a holistic communication and advocacy strategy for the women, peace and security agenda. I am very happy that we will have a ASEAN Women, Peace and Security website and organize a women, peace and security photo exhibition in Phnom Penh.

Could you briefly explain the development of the ASEAN RPA WPS?

The formulation of the RPA WPS included consultations and brainstorming sessions with ASEAN sectoral bodies and institutions across the three “community pillars” (political-security, economic and sociocultural) of ASEAN. We also had a series of interfaces with development partners, the private sector, think tanks, youth groups, and civil society organizations.

We appreciated UN Women and the PROSPECT project funded by United States Agency for International Development. They provided technical support but also facilitated discussions to come up with a regional plan that is understandable, realistic, fits the local context, and is doable by all stakeholders.

What worked well in the RPA WPS development that other regions or countries can learn from?

I'd like to commend the inclusiveness of its development as a best practice for other regions. We convened multiple consultation and brainstorming sessions with different stakeholders, both internal and external to ASEAN and the three community pillars, to hear from different groups of people. We had a goal to ensure that the (plan) is inclusive, sustainable and relevant to everyone.

What are the next steps for the RPA WPS?

The next step for ASEAN is to ensure good implementation of the plan. The ASEAN Working Group on Women, Peace and Security led by Cambodia will oversee implementation and develop a monitoring and evaluation framework from 2023.

While implementation will require synergy and efforts from different stakeholders, a lot remains to be done to have the wider public understand why we believe in women's transformative roles in sustaining peace and security. That is why we will also accelerate the roll-out of communications and advocacy activities. We need to keep the momentum going.

Download ASEAN RPA WPS:
<http://unwo.men/voXL50PEbjG>

**#WPSASEAN
#ASEANRPAWPS**



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