



SIMPLIFIED ANNUAL REPORT 2024

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE

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



2024 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 Canada through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development: 1 April 2021 – 31 December 2025 Government of the Republic of Korea: 1 January 2021 - 30 June 2023 Government of the United Kingdom: 8 December 2021 to 31 March 2022 16 January 2022 to 31 March 2023 25 November 2024 to 31 March 2025 16 August 2023 to 31 December 2025
Reporting Period:	1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024
Countries Covered:	ASEAN regional implementation with selected country-level implementation in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam, as well as Cambodia and Malaysia
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 3,194,784 funded by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Responsible Parties	Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (ASEAN-IPR)

Project Background

With the generous support from the Government of Canada through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the **Empowering Women for Sustainable Peace: Preventing Violence and Promoting Social Cohesion in ASEAN** project aims to advance the implementation of the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda at the national level in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam as well as regionally. The project seeks to improve normative frameworks, provide capacity-building and knowledge exchanges, and disseminate good practices.

This fourth annual report covers the period from January to December 2024.

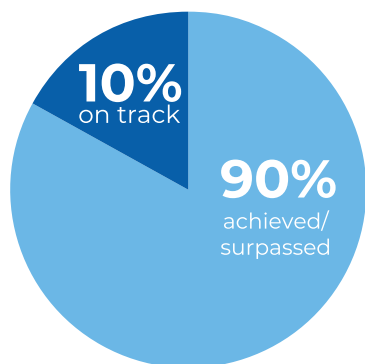
Cover image: Local youth transformed the Women's Economic Center in Pattani, Thailand, by painting vibrant peace murals, turning it into a symbol of hope and unity. Photo: UN Women/Naruedee Janthasing.

Progress highlight



In 2024, the project achieved or surpassed 97 per cent of its annual targets and 90 per cent of immediate outcome and output targets (Figure 1) :

Figure 1 Progress until December 2024



Percentage of project targets achieved at immediate outcome and output levels

ASEAN and its member States sustained strong momentum in the second year of implementing the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (RPAWPS), making progress at the regional and national levels. At the regional level, ASEAN sectoral bodies and institutions demonstrated strengthened capacity and commitment to WPS. With UN Women technical assistance, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) adopted its Plan of Action on Enhancing Women's Political Participation and Leadership and its Implementation Matrix, which complement the participation pillar of the RPA WPS.

Nationally, governments in Timor-Leste and Viet Nam advanced their commitments to the WPS agenda by adopting their second and first national action plans (NAPs) on WPS, respectively. The Government of the Philippines bolstered

accountability for WPS implementation through the development and launch of a monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) handbook. Timor-Leste became the second country in the region, after Indonesia, to establish formal accountability mechanisms for its NAP. Indonesia demonstrated further progress by launching its first NAP WPS implementation report. In Thailand, the draft of the first NAP WPS received approval from the Committee for the Promotion of the Status of Women and is undergoing final political adoption. Additionally, in Timor-Leste, the National Police enhanced institutional commitment to gender equality by launching a Gender Strategy.

ASEAN Secretariat and sectoral bodies and institutions increased their capacity to oversee and coordinate implementation of the RPA WPS. All ASEAN representatives from these bodies who participated in the ASEAN WPS Advisory Group reported improved knowledge and skills on gender and WPS through UN Women's support. This led to more effective coordination and reporting mechanisms at the regional level.

"Political bodies and institutions are encouraged to support the implementation of equitable and meaningful participation of women in the political, peace and security, and socio-economic spheres at both national and regional levels identified in the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework 2021-2025."

Plan of Action on Enhancing Women Political Participation and Leadership in ASEAN (2024–2030)

Out of 703 stakeholders from ASEAN, ASEAN Member States and civil society organizations (CSOs) (428 women, 96 men, 2 other/non-binary, 177 unidentified) who participated in 18 WPS implementation events organized with UN Women's support, 213 (168 women, 39 men, 6 other/non-binary; 94 state actors, 90 non-state actors, 29 unidentified) reported greater knowledge and capacities. Capacity-building has fostered synergy between regional and country efforts to implement the RPA WPS and inspired national action.

ASEAN sectoral bodies, institutions, media and civil society representatives enhanced their knowledge and advocacy on WPS through participation in 14 cross-sectoral dialogues. This improvement grew from sustained support to the ASEAN WPS Advisory Group as a regional coordination platform and through UN Women's partnership with GNWP. The latter expanded space for dialogue and regional knowledge exchanges between governments and civil society in ASEAN.

A total of 953 stakeholders (701 women, 241 men, 11 non-binary/other) strengthened their knowledge of the WPS agenda across Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. This improvement resulted from UN Women's outreach and capacity-building among 3,342 stakeholders (1,898 women, 926 men, seven non-binary individuals, 511 unidentified), significantly exceeding project targets.

In 2025, UN Women will continue providing technical assistance to ASEAN and member States, including for NAP WPS development, implementation and

monitoring in at least five countries, and for advancing institutionalization of a regional community of practice to sustain peer exchanges and capacity-building. It will conduct a final evaluation of the project to capture results and inform a potential second phase.

New Developments

In 2024, political commitment to advancing the WPS agenda was sustained across ASEAN, with notable momentum in the observer State of Timor-Leste. Timor-Leste leveraged long-standing engagement on WPS as part of its broader strategy to support its anticipated accession to ASEAN and launched its second NAP WPS. Momentum generated by the adoption of the RPA WPS in November 2022 continued to grow, particularly through the roll-out of the ASEAN RPA WPS localization toolkit and guidelines. These were disseminated through regional knowledge-sharing events co-organized by the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) Cambodia, the ASEAN-IPR and UN Women. These efforts inspired several ASEAN Member States – including Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand – to initiate processes to develop NAPs on WPS, and others to launch NAPs, such as Viet Nam.

Challenges and Opportunities

Sustaining RPA WPS implementation without its integration into the post-2025 ASEAN Community Vision could be a major challenge. It poses the risk of diminishing momentum and the prioritization of the WPS agenda by ASEAN member States and sectoral bodies. UN Women addressed this concern by coordinating

joint advocacy with dialogue partners such as the governments of Canada and the United Kingdom. It also coordinated closely with champion ASEAN member States and the ASEAN Secretariat to engage in strategic regional consultations to inform the Community Vision and Strategic Plans.

Lessons Learned

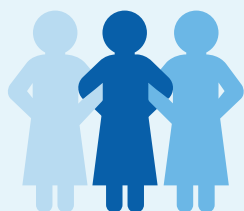
At the regional level



Proposing new accountability mechanisms in regional intergovernmental settings requires a context-sensitive approach that builds on existing systems and capacities.

Early mapping of institutional monitoring frameworks, joint consultation processes with key stakeholders and clear articulation of the value added by proposed mechanisms are essential to securing buy-in, ensuring relevance and fostering ownership

At the national level



Effective implementation of national WPS action plans requires strong political will across multiple ministries, not solely within women's machineries.

An inclusive, participatory NAP development process galvanizes the necessary political buy-in, ownership and accountability to ensure success in implementation.



The process of developing NAPs is as important as the final plan.

Inclusive engagement of diverse stakeholders – government institutions, civil society and security actors – ensures that NAPs are context-specific, actionable and widely supported.

Next steps

2025 will be a crucial year for UN Women to maintain strong engagement with ASEAN, ensuring that WPS is integrated in the Post-2025 ASEAN Community Vision and Strategic Plans of the three ASEAN community pillars, which will set the strategic direction and priorities for the region for the next 20 years.

Building on achieved results, the focus will be capacity-building, institutionalization and the sustainability of results. The ASEAN WPS Advisory Group will continue to oversee the RPA WPS 2025 workplan and report,

while policy research on conflict and crisis prevention mechanisms and the regional study on youth, peace and security led by ASEAN-IPR will promote strategic actions.

Efforts in 2025 will expand space for CSOs and disadvantaged groups to engage in constructive dialogue with ASEAN and its Member States. The planned establishment of a community of practice, in partnership with ASEAN-IPR, will further reinforce this space while enhancing multistakeholder collaboration and knowledge-sharing.



It is also with pride that I acknowledge how far ASEAN has come together as a region in developing, mainstreaming, and implementing the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (RPA WPS).

- H.E. I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja,
Executive Director of ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

Key partnerships

- ASEAN WPS Advisory Group
- ACW (ASEAN Committee on Women)
- ACWC (ASEAN Commission on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children)
- Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crimes
- ASEAN Defense Senior Officials' Meeting
- ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights
- ASEAN-IPR (ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation)
- ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network
- Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
- Poverty Eradication and Gender Division, ASEAN Secretariat
- The Asia Foundation
- United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Department of Peace Operations (UN DPPA-DPO)

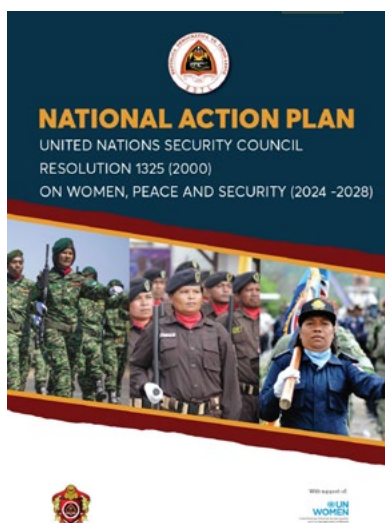
At National Level

- **Cambodia:** Ministry of Women's Affairs
- **Indonesia:** Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection; Coordinating Ministry of Human Development and Cultural Affairs
- **Malaysia:** Minister of Women, Family and Community Development
- **Philippines:** Ministry of Peace and Security, Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity; Bangsamoro Women Commission
- **Thailand:** Ministry of Social Development and Human Security; Coordination Centre for Children and Women in Southern Border Provinces
- **Timor-Leste:** Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- **Viet Nam:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs

UN Women's work is funded almost entirely through the voluntary support of our partners in governments, civil society and the private sector. Contributions from the Government of Canada through the Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development, the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland enable UN Women to deliver on its mandate to protect the

rights of women and girls and foster an enabling environment where they can thrive alongside men and boys as equals and have opportunities to reach their full potential in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. We take this opportunity to thank the Governments of Canada, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for their commitment, confidence and trust in UN Women.

Featured resources and stories



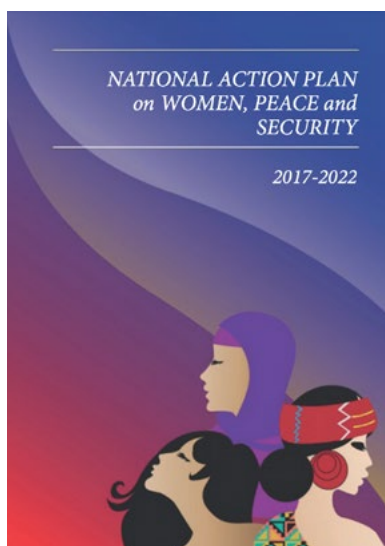
[Timor-Leste National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security \(2024-2028\)](#)



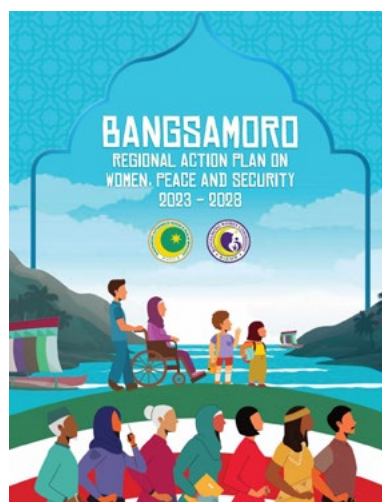
[Cambodia's 2023 Report on Results of the Measuring Opportunities for Women in Peace Operations \(MOWIP\) Assessment](#)



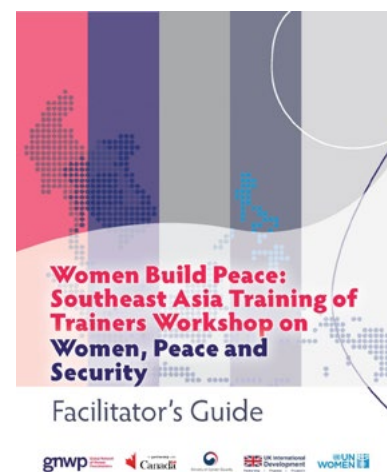
[Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Indonesia](#)



[Philippines: National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2017-2022](#)



[Philippines: Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security \(RAP-WPS\) 2023-2028](#)



[Women Build Peace: Southeast Asia Training of Trainers Workshop on Women, Peace and Security Facilitator's Guide](#)

Access more knowledge products

Take Five: We hope to create lasting change by embedding women, peace and security principles into national policies and leadership programmes



Luong Thu Hien is Vice Director of the Institute for Human Rights at Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy and Director of the Vietnam Center for Gender and Women's Rights Studies. She participated in "NAP Academy" Training Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand in 2024. The workshop convened participants from Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to exchange experiences in national action plans (NAPs) to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (WPS).

Why is it important to promote Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in Viet Nam?

Viet Nam has a Gender Equality Law and other national statutes supporting gender equality. However, new and emerging security issues are not yet fully addressed in these existing legal frameworks. The National Action Plan on WPS will help cover these gaps by incorporating contemporary challenges.

Additionally, traditional security concerns have often overlooked the perspectives of women and girls, making a comprehensive NAP essential to ensuring their voices and experiences are fully considered.

How did participating in the workshop help you to understand the localization of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security?

The workshop has been incredibly valuable. Learning from other countries that have implemented NAPs has been particularly beneficial, as we gained insights into how countries are effectively implementing their NAPs. It helped me understand various aspects of a high-impact NAP such as the importance of prioritization, measurable outcomes and cross-sector collaboration among government actors.

What key lesson stood out to you?

The event emphasized the importance of women's participation in peace and security while identifying barriers to leadership roles. This NAP Academy inspired me to strengthen WPS education in the leadership programmes at Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy, where we train 20,000 government

leaders every year, ensuring future policymakers are equipped to drive change. This initiative will also support the implementation of Viet Nam's newly adopted NAP on WPS.

What role does the Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy play in advancing WPS?

As the Vice Director of the Institute for Human Rights at Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy and Director of the Vietnam Center for Gender and Women's Rights Studies, I see an essential role for our institution in WPS implementation. We will collaborate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UN Women to integrate WPS and prevention of sexual harassment into the leadership training programme that is mandatory for national leaders. By mainstreaming WPS into our curriculum, we will equip future leaders with the knowledge and skills to advance gender equality in the governance and security sectors.

What do you hope to achieve through this collaboration with UN Women?

Our goal is to build a robust, practical and effective NAP that addresses both traditional and emerging security challenges for women in Viet Nam. We aim to strengthen leadership training on WPS and ensure that decision makers are well-informed about both national and international frameworks. Through collaboration with UN Women and other stakeholders, we hope to create lasting change by embedding WPS principles into national policies and leadership development programmes.

Take Five: “Women started to understand that their roles are not confined to household work”



Lidia Lopes de Carvalho is Director of the National Directorate for Community Conflict Prevention of Ministry of Interior, Timor-Leste. Timor-Leste has adopted its second national action plan on women, peace and security, for 2024-2028. UN Women is supporting Timor-Leste in developing and implementing its plan. In June 2024 Ms. Lopes de Carvalho attended a training on national action plans on women, peace and security, jointly organized in Bangkok, Thailand by ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and UN Women.

Why is it important to have women in peace and security work in Timor-Leste?

Every solution to conflict should go through peace process, not violence. In the first national action plan, we recruited 40 mediators (47 per cent are women) to work on peacebuilding to identify conflict signs, resolve and prevent conflicts. We have to involve more women because they are patient and understand the specific needs of communities and women, and they know how to use an empathetic and “heart-to-heart” approach to engage individuals and mediate conflicts.

How has the national action plan promoted gender equality?

Timor-Leste has adopted a 30 per cent gender target in the National Parliament and now we have the first female President of the National Parliament. We also have a Chief of Staff at the office of the President of the Republic [who is a] woman. Timor-Leste has increased the number of women police and women in the military force, and has been promoting women's empowerment and gender equality, such as the establishment of a department of gender equality in the military force and ... the first National Police Gender Strategy in 2018. We also had the first female police Operation Commander at the national level in 2023, the first female police to lead the Directorate General for Immigration Services and many more women promoted to decision-

making positions in public affairs or diplomatic spaces, including in UN peacekeeping missions. The Timorese women organizations also tirelessly fought for more opportunities for women.

What are the lessons learned from first national action plan?

Women started to understand that their roles are not confined to household work but they have rights to ... education, justice ... to own land, that they can drive a car and be part of the security or military forces. We can see that there's significant change from the past. Women can participate in all levels of decision-making and in all levels of sectors – in politics, social, justice, education, economy, culture, etc.

[In developing the national action plan] we consulted various stakeholders such as line ministries; veterans; women, including women survivors; civil organizations working with people with disabilities; LGBTIQ+ groups; and faith-based leaders in participatory approach. However, we need to strengthen ... ownership, which is limited at the subnational level. We must ensure to make the community to feel proud of the [plan], that it's written by Timorese, and especially for women to know their roles are crucial.

What is the important next step to ensure peace is sustained?

It's educating and shaping the next generation as successors.

Young people are involved in conflicts because there is lack of employment opportunities, or the family cannot support their education. The Secretariat of State for Vocational Training and Employment is providing vocational trainings and small funding assistance to young people so they can start businesses rather than [get involved] in conflicts. Through civic education, we must also teach young people about democracy, human rights, ethics and morals to promote nationalism and patriotism of young people and the society in general.

What are some of the emerging security challenges in Timor-Leste?

The victims of natural disasters are always women and girls. We need to do more on mitigation and increase the knowledge of communities to stay away from risk-prone areas. Early warning systems for natural disasters are needed.

We need to continue sensitizing people to ... signs of human trafficking and to be mindful of the risk of using and spreading narcotics.

Take Five: “Indonesia must share more experiences on Women, Peace and Security with fellow stakeholders in ASEAN countries.”

What was your key takeaway at the regional National Action Plan Academy?

We acknowledged that there are WPS issues that are not addressed by the current NAP WPS such as conflicts that often include violence, which are actually in the realm of WPS. Also, the issue of disaster has not been accommodated or terrorism, climate change and most recently cyber threats.

Also, there was an internal agreement among Indonesian participants that we need to improve the NAP with detailed action plan including target results.

Thanks to NAP Academy, now, our determination to improve the NAP is even stronger. We want to truly implement the WPS agenda encompassing disaster, climate change, terrorism, human-trafficking and cyber security.

Could you share results of Indonesia on women, peace and security (WPS) agenda?

We have succeeded in encouraging a number of local governments to issue legal umbrellas in the context of implementing the national action plan in their respective regions. There is one more achievement – on how to ground the role of women in peace. This was done by civil society organizations (CSO) in several places. With the issuance of Presidential Regulation No. 18 of 2014, which is the policy foundation of the NAP WPS, it became legitimate for a number of CSOs and development partners to provide socialization and training on how to empower women to build peace in conflict and to manage disasters.

Lastly, the government launched a report and data on the implementation of nearly a decade-long NAP WPS on International Women's Day in 2024. It was also the first report of NAP WPS implementation delivered to the President.

What is the success factor to promote and implement women, peace and security agenda in Indonesia?

When we draft the policy, we open the door to the widest possible participation for all parties, and we as policymakers must also be open-minded. Effective coordination is important, too.

As UN Women noted, our current achievements, including compiling a report on nearly a decade of implementation of the National Action Plan on WPS, were made possible through strong coordination by the government, especially the trio: the Coordinating Ministry of Human Development and Cultural Affairs, the Coordinating Ministry of Political, Legal, and Security Affairs, and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection.



Asril is Assistant Deputy Minister on Disaster Mitigation and Social Conflict, Coordinating Ministry of Human Development and Cultural Affairs, Indonesia. The Ministry coordinates the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on promoting women's participation in preventing and resolving conflicts. In June 2024, Asril attended the National Action Plan Academy (NAP Academy) for South-East Asia country representatives to learn about good practices in localizing the WPS agenda.

The Government cannot do everything ourselves. We are supported a lot by CSOs and Government Partners. At NAP Academy, Indonesia can share experiences and also increase the capacity on Women, Peace and Security through networks with fellow stakeholders in ASEAN countries.

Are there any challenges?

Indonesian Government's commitment to adapt the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on WPS is in the Presidential Regulation No. 18 of 2014. The Presidential Regulation mentioned earlier is under the Law No. 7 of 2012 on social conflict management. Therefore, this policy framework only covers social conflicts limited to communal conflicts. This is why many aspects of WPS agenda were missed in the NAP WPS in reality.

Do you plan to develop the third generation of the national action plan?

The victims of natural disasters are always women. We are definitely processing the third generation of our NAP; we have asked for support from UN Women. One important insight we got from the NAP Academy: the action plan must be “result oriented”. We want to improve the plan with detail action plan, as I said earlier, and to make sure it covers the broader WPS issues.

**#WPSASEAN
#ASEANRPWPS**



EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE

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

