

International Cooperation to Achieve SDGs in the Post-Pandemic World: **ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF)**

Dr. Ahmad Zafarullah Abdul Jalil

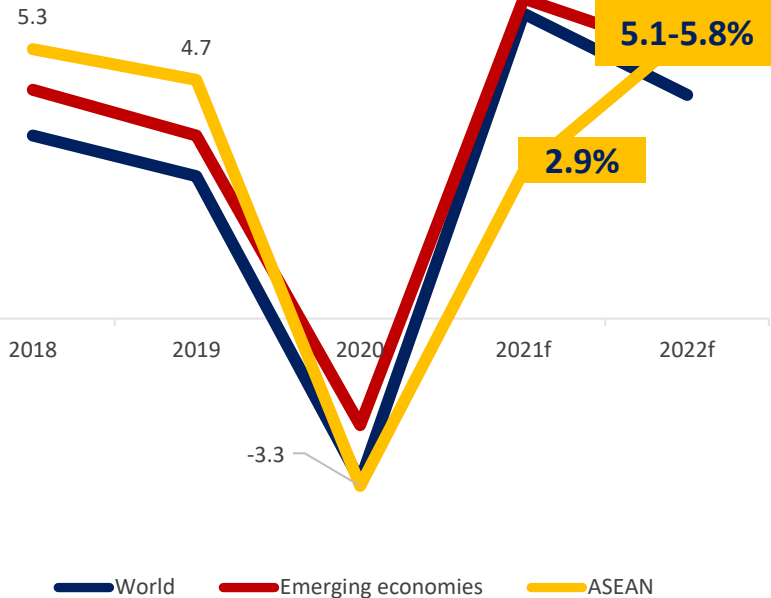
Director, ASEAN Integration Monitoring Directorate, ASEAN Secretariat
Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2022



30 March 2022

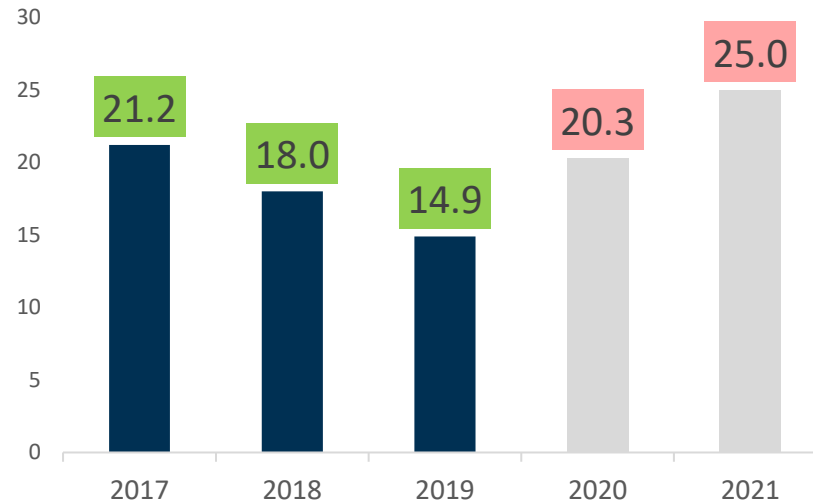
Multidimensional Impact of COVID-19

SDG 8:
GDP Growth, 2018-2022 (%)



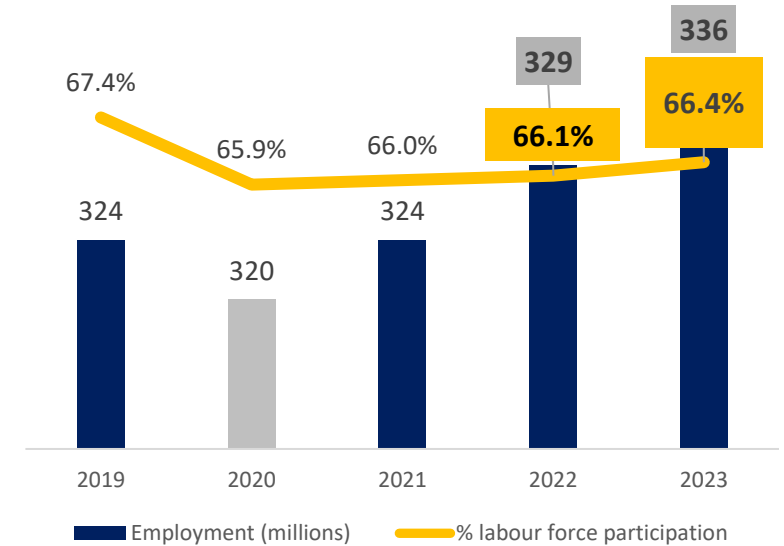
Source: ASEAN Stats, ADB (Dec 2021), World Bank, IMF, AMRO, calculated by ASEAN Secretariat

SDG 1:
People living below extreme poverty line (millions)



Source: Asian Development Bank (2022)

SDG 8:
Labour Force Participation (%)
Employment (millions)

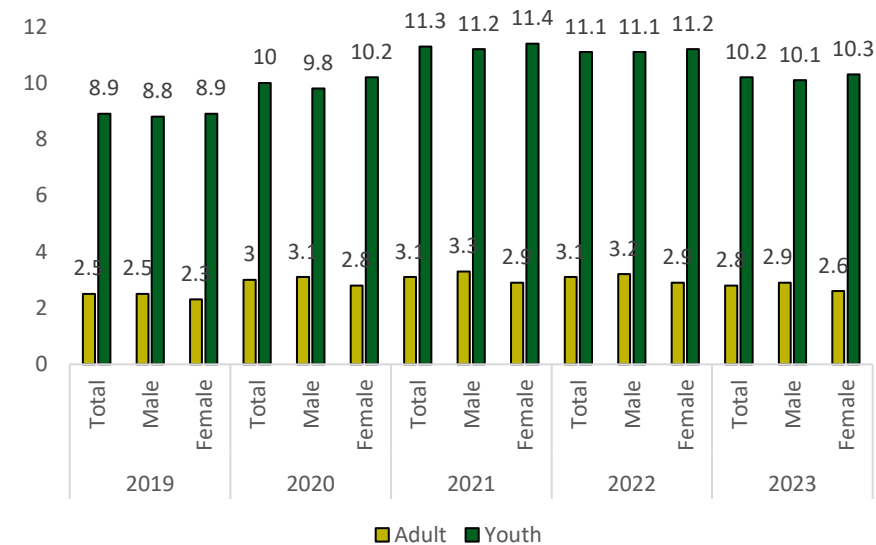


Source: ILO STATS 2022

- GDP grew by **2.9% in 2021** and between **5.1 to 5.8% this year**, supported by increased demand in trade and robust investment in services, manufacturing, and tech industries.
- However, the situation in Ukraine would **disrupt global supply chain**, particularly on **food, fuel, and fertilizer**.
- Since 2020, more than **10 million people** have been pushed back to extreme poverty level, hampering the 20-year progress of poverty alleviation in the region.
- Labour force participation rate improved slightly from 66% to **66.1% in 2021**, expected to improve **66.4% in 2023**.

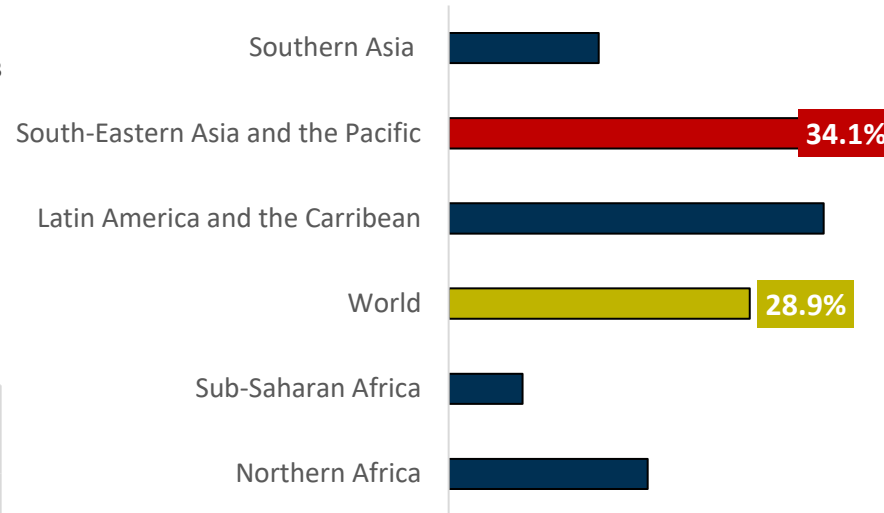
Post-Pandemic Trajectory in Achieving 2030 SDGs

**SDG 5 and SDG 8.
Unemployment Rate, ASEAN,
Sex and Gender Disaggregated, 2019-2023 (%)**



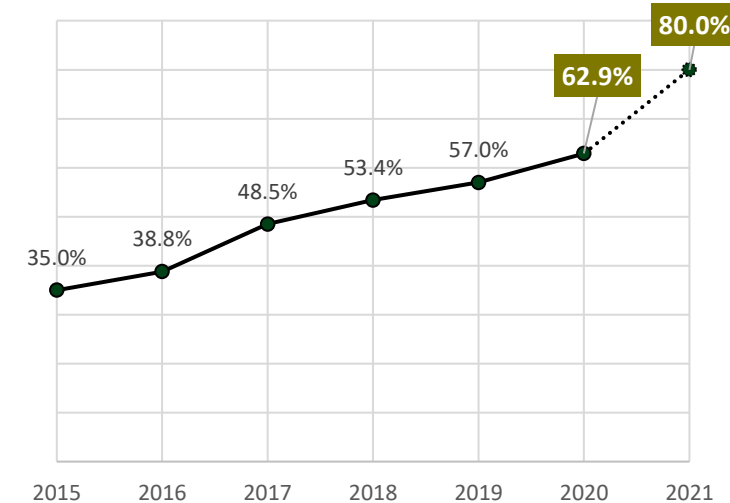
Source: ILO STATS 2022

**SDG 1. Effective coverage for protection of
vulnerable persons (%)**



Source: ILO, World Social Protection Report 2020-22

**SDG 17.
Internet subscribers in ASEAN (%)
2015-2021**

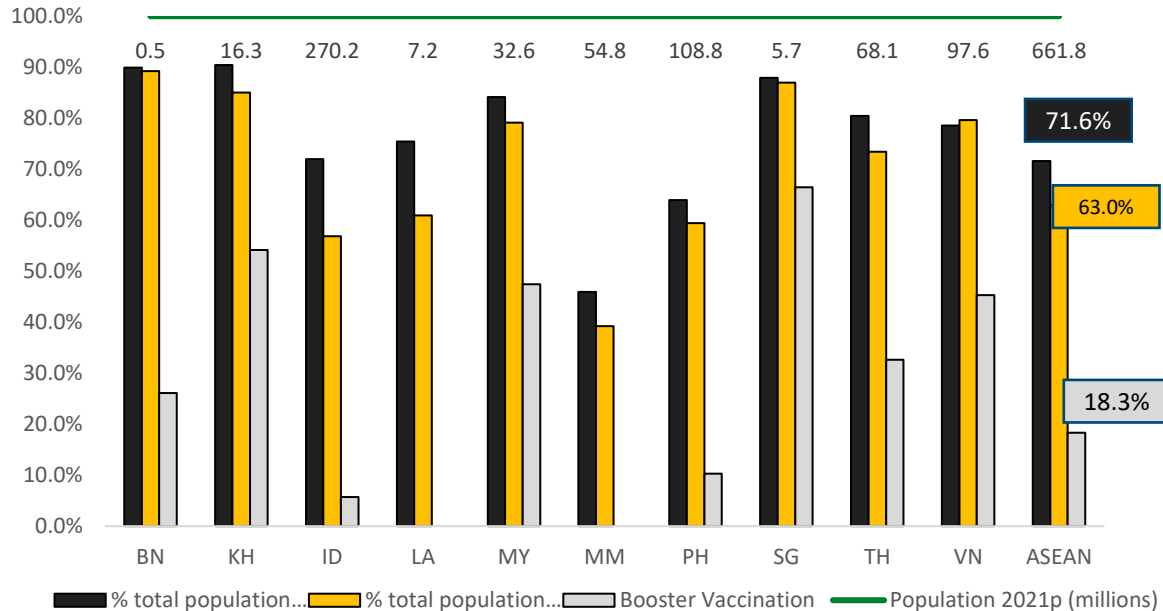


Source: For 2015-2020, ASEAN Statistical Yearbook (2021). For 2021, data for 6 AMS estimated from Google e-Economy SEA 2021.

- **Youth, particularly young women have been largely unemployed** (high unemployment rate: ±10-11. per cent). Albeit the recovery in job market will be gradual, **unemployment in youth is estimated to be reduced this year and in 2023.**
- Southeast Asia and Pacific region **covers more than one-third of its population** with social protection, surpassing the world average at 29 per cent. This will aid vulnerable communities to recover from the pandemic.
- **At least 80 per cent of ASEAN population have access to internet in 2021, almost tripled from 2015.** This will be an opportunity to expand further economic and education access to the most vulnerable in the post-pandemic.

Vaccination Rate and Reopening Status in ASEAN

Vaccination Rate (%) - 21 March 2022



Source: ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Centre, calculated by ASEAN Secretariat
As of 18 March 2022

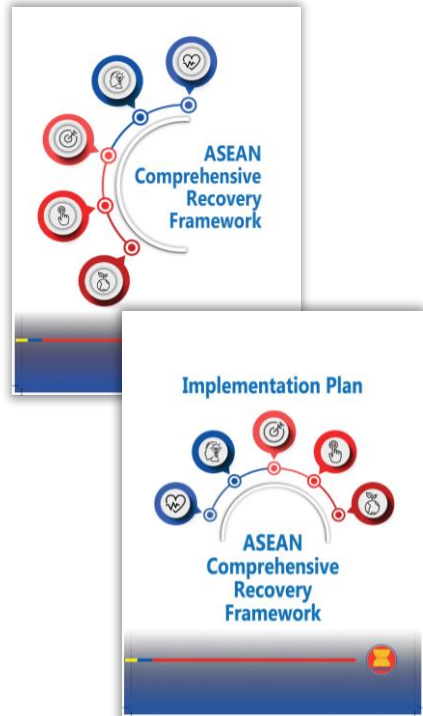
± **63%** of **ASEAN population** have been fully vaccinated (WHO target: **70% by mid-2022**). Most AMS have started their booster vaccination roll-outs, to be expedited through **COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund**.

Reopening Policies Across AMS

Member States	Planned/Existing Reopening Policies (for Fully Vaccinated Travellers)
BN	VTL with SG, ongoing plan with MY.
KH	No quarantine, no PCR tests (17 Mar).
ID	No quarantine. PCR tests upon arrival. (21 Mar).
LA	[For 31 selected countries, incl. 8 AMS] 24hr quarantine. PCR test in the last 72 hrs.
MY	Starting April 1, no quarantine. PCR test in the last 48 hrs + antigen test within 24hrs of arrival.
MM	Starting April 17, 2 PCR tests during the 7-day quarantine.
PH	For visa-free countries, no quarantine. PCR test in the last 48hrs.
SG	No quarantine, no PCR tests (31 Mar).
TH	Starting April 1, no quarantine. PCR test upon arrival.
VN	For selected countries, no quarantine/testing upon arrival.

Source: ABVC (March 2022) and Natic

ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework and its Implementation Plan



Adopted at the 37th ASEAN Summit (12 November 2020), serving as a **Whole-of-Community Exit Strategy** for ASEAN from COVID-19 crisis.



Addresses direct short-term impact of COVID-19, reopening, recovery, and long-term resilience



To sustain support and momentum, it requires **commitment from relevant sectoral bodies to implement, collaborate and coordinate and support for effective monitoring and evaluation,** and for coordination and follow-up.

Five Broad Strategies



1. Enhancing Health System



2. Strengthening Human Security



3. Maximizing the potential of intra-ASEAN market and broader economic integration



4. Accelerating inclusive digital transformation



5. Advancing toward a more sustainable and resilient future

Enabling factors

Policy measures and responses

Financing and resource mobilisation

Institutions and governance mechanisms

Stakeholder engagement and partnership

Effective monitoring

SDG17: Multistakeholder Partnership for Regional Recovery



COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, ASEAN Regional Reserve on Medical Supplies, ASEAN+3 Emergency Rice Reserve

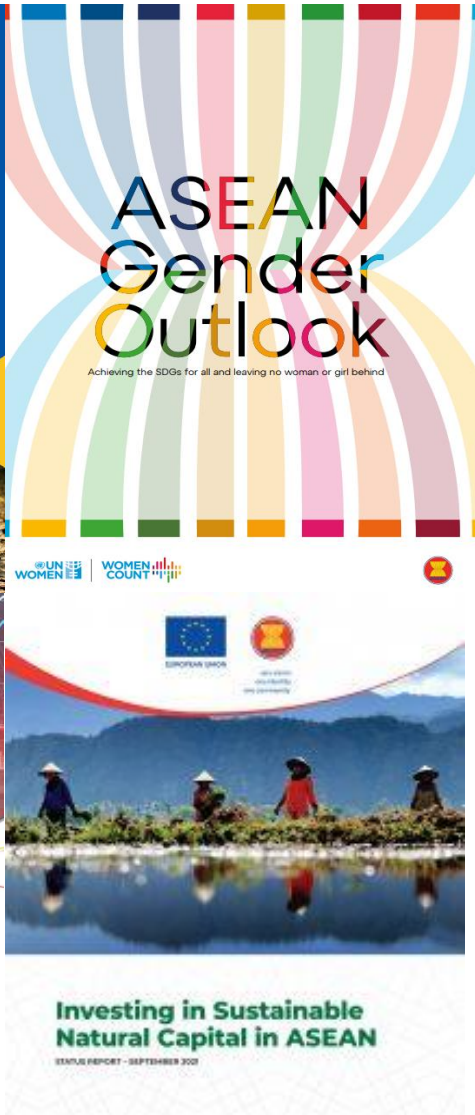
MoU Signing with OECD

- Strengthen cooperation in more than 35 policy areas
- Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP) Support for ACRF in 25 initiatives



High-Level Dialogue on Post-Pandemic Recovery (2020) and ASEAN-Global Dialogue on Post-COVID-19 Comprehensive Recovery (upcoming)

SDG17: Multistakeholder Partnership for Regional Recovery



The whole-of-Community approach

Partnering with international organisations, private sectors, academic communities, and civil society organisations.

Development of various studies and guidelines, including rapid assessment of the COVID-19 situation.

Engaging private sectors to support MSMEs in various capacity building initiatives.

Opportunities for **SDGs** in the post-pandemic recovery



ASEAN takes into account that the pandemic has brought an uneven impact, particularly on vulnerable groups. To ensure no one left behind, ACRF regards **institutions and governance mechanisms** and **stakeholder engagement and partnerships would be pivotal**.

Return to **‘business as usual’ is no longer an option** for ASEAN in the post-pandemic world. Paradigm shift required for governments, businesses, and civil society to work collectively to enable systemic change needed by the region for a sustainable and resilient future.

ACRF identifies the importance of **Whole-of-Community approach** for recovery, articulating ASEAN response by focusing on key sectors and segments of society that are most affected by the pandemic. This aligns with 2030 SDG, specifically with Goal 1, SDG Goal 4, Goal 5, and Goal 8.





ONE VISION, ONE IDENTITY, ONE COMMUNITY

www.asean.org

ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) Support Unit
The ASEAN Secretariat
ACRFSupportUnit@asean.org