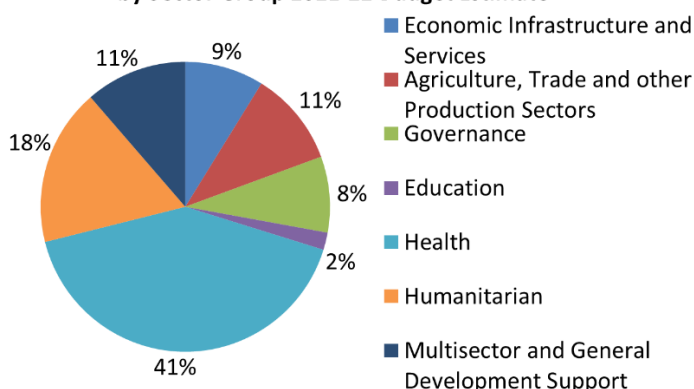


2021-22 ASEAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

The COVID-19 Development Response Plan for ASEAN and Southeast Asia has been extended through 2022-23. In 2022-23 we will deepen our engagement in Southeast Asia by committing an additional \$470 million in Official Development Assistance (ODA) over the forward estimates and establish an Office of Southeast Asia to coordinate our engagement with this dynamic region. The ASEAN and Southeast Asia regional program will continue to prioritise the implementation of the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) to promote regional integration and address complex challenges.

Program Budget	2021-22 Budget Estimate \$m*
Bilateral	0.0
Regional	174.4
Global	219.7
Other Govt. Departments	0.2
Total ODA	394.4

**Southeast and East Asia Regional Development Program,
by Sector Group 2021-22 Budget Estimate***



*Actual expenditure is expected to be available in early 2023. Due to rounding, totals may not match the sum of components.

Our development program to the Southeast Asia region contributes towards achieving the following Sustainable Development Goals:



The 2021-22 ASEAN and Southeast Asia Regional Development Program Progress Report summarises progress with implementation of the Australia – ASEAN and Southeast Asia COVID-19 Development Response Plan and highlights program results.

CONTEXT

The COVID-19 pandemic, geostrategic competition, and uneven economic growth continue to impact the development trajectory of Southeast Asia. The pandemic has caused widespread unemployment, worsened inequality, and increased poverty levels. In 2021, COVID-19 pushed 4.7 million people in Southeast Asia into extreme poverty with 9.3 million jobs lost. Southeast Asia's youth and women bore the brunt of COVID-19 economic losses. During late 2021 and throughout 2022, the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines reduced the health impacts of the pandemic in the region. While the acute phase of the pandemic is over, health systems remain under pressure and less resilient to future shocks. After setting out on the path to economic recovery in 2021, Southeast Asia has continued to realise economic gains as borders reopened. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) forecasts economic growth in Southeast Asia of 5.1 per cent for 2022 due to strong consumer spending, increasing exports and investment.

Despite strong headline figures, economic recovery has been fragile and uneven due to conflict, rising inflation and cost-of-living, pressure on global supply-chains, and expanding public debt. Our development cooperation is supporting economic recovery and resilience amidst challenging international circumstances. Australia has a vision for a peaceful, prosperous and secure region, where all nations' sovereignty is respected. This vision is shared by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and in 2021 we strengthened our relationship by establishing the ASEAN Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). Australia is committed to a regional order with ASEAN at



the centre, which was exemplified during the COVID-19 pandemic where ASEAN played a key role responding to the region's health, economic and stability challenges.

AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Health Security

Australia's response to COVID-19 in Southeast Asia helped to increase capacity and responsiveness in partner government health systems, and expedited access to essential vaccines, medicines and equipment at the peak of the pandemic.

In 2021-22, Australia delivered **over 36 million COVID-19 vaccine doses** to five countries in the region (Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Laos, and Vietnam) and supported local vaccination campaigns, trained health workers and strengthened cold-chain infrastructure. To help achieve vaccine equity, Australia **contributed \$215 million to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment, which provided vaccines to lower-income countries**. Australia's Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security partnered with the Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to enable the **approval of and access to high quality, safe and effective medicines for use in the region**. TGA partnered with local food and drug administrations to expedite approvals of new medicines, including antimalarial and HIV treatments.

The ASEAN-Australia Health Security Fellowship Program **increased health workforce capacity through 13 scholarships to epidemiologists from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam** to undertake high-level tertiary training in Australia. Australia also worked to strengthen sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) services in seven Southeast Asian countries (Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Philippines, Indonesia and Timor-Leste), which were disrupted during the pandemic. The Indo-Pacific Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights COVID-19 Response (C-Surge) assisted countries across South-East Asia to **restore traditional modes of service delivery and scale up innovative approaches to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic**, including mobile service delivery, home-based services, telemedicine and other digital health services.


Stability

Australia cooperated with partners in the region to address shared stability, security and transnational crime issues, such as trafficking in persons, cyber security and maritime security.

We **continued to provide humanitarian support, particularly to the people of Myanmar** in 2021-22. Our assistance prioritised the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people, including women and girls. This assistance was delivered through multilateral organisations, international and national NGOs, and civil society organisations, including to displaced and conflict-affected people.

Australia's eight year, \$30 million Mekong-Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime (MAP-TNC) is supporting **regional cooperation on transnational crime in response to cross border threats, such as illicit drugs, child sexual exploitation and financial crimes**. In 2021-22, Australia boosted partner government capacity by **sharing technical expertise and delivering training on financial intelligence and combatting tax crimes**. The \$80 million ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking Program continued to strengthen justice systems to address human trafficking, supporting just punishment of traffickers and protecting victim's rights. During 2021-22, this program trained law and justice officials to support women and girls vulnerable to trafficking as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021-22, Australia **strengthened cyber and critical technology capacity and resilience** through the Cyber and Critical Tech Cooperation Program (CCTCP), investing \$20.5 million over four years. Australia supported the region's engagement with critical technology standards through regional research and workshops, delivering an 'Enhanced Awareness of International Law in Cyberspace' workshop in partnership with Singapore and the Netherlands.

In 2021-22, Australia collaborated with Southeast Asian partners to **strengthen regional maritime legal and regulatory frameworks and capabilities**. This was delivered through a combination of tabletop exercises, legislative comparative



studies, and bespoke law of the sea training courses. These efforts enhanced Southeast Asian partners' knowledge of international best practice to promote good maritime governance, international law and the rules-based order.

The ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership facilitated the **second ASEAN-Australia Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Dialogue**, supported the ASEAN Women's Inter-faith Dialogue, and developed a research paper on integrating WPS principles into ASEAN COVID-19 recovery and policy decision-making. Australia also co-hosted the **inaugural Southeast Asia Dialogue of Women Leaders** in March 2022 in partnership with Indonesia. Attended by foreign ministers, business, academic and community leaders from across the region, this forum highlighted the importance of women's participation and gender equality in our collective recovery, stability and resilience.

Economic recovery

In 2021-22 Australia worked closely with Southeast Asian partners to respond to the immediate economic impacts of the pandemic and plan for economic recovery.

The ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II supported ASEAN-led measures to recover from COVID-19 and counter the pandemic's longer-term socio-economic impacts, including through guidelines for ASEAN policy makers on **how to strengthen the resilience of micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to crisis and disaster events**. Australia also supported the ASEAN Secretariat to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework.

Under the regional women's economic empowerment program, Investing in Women, there were **35 new investments in women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises** in 2021-22 that totalled \$3.3 million, and leveraged a further \$197.6 million. This was well above the target of 26 new investments and \$9 million in leveraged funds.

The Australia-Mekong Water Facility supported the Mekong River Commission to develop and implement the Mekong Basin Sustainable Hydropower Development Strategy, partnered with the ADB to **deliver modern water piping systems in five provinces in Vietnam, and supported water planning and legislation in Laos and Vietnam**.

The Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) program **provided technical advice and capacity building support to ASEAN and Southeast Asian governments to improve the development of quality infrastructure**. In 2021-22 P4I provided advisory services to support partners' energy transition, assisted with ASEAN's connectivity agenda, and improved infrastructure decision-making and capacity to attract quality private investment. In 2021-22, the Mekong-Australia Partnership (MAP) supported economic resilience in the Mekong subregion through **providing policy advice and training on public financial management** in Laos and Cambodia, and **strengthening environmental, social and governance safeguards in infrastructure**. Twelve short courses were delivered to Mekong countries, including on water, climate, energy and foreign investment themes, and **47 masters-level scholarships were offered to emerging leaders across the Mekong subregion to study at Australian universities**.

Australia continues to assist ASEAN member states to realise the benefits of greater trade liberalisation and regional economic integration. In 2020-21, the \$36.5m AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Program delivered **training to build capacity in competition policy, standards and phytosanitary measures** to support full implementation of the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA.

The \$24m Tripartite Action to Enhance the Contribution of Labour Migration to Growth and Development in ASEAN (TRIANGLE) continues to strengthen labour migration and mitigate exploitation of vulnerable migrant workers. This contributes to equitable, inclusive and stable growth in the ASEAN region. Migrant Worker Resource Centres provided **direct support to current, potential and returned migrant workers in 2021-22, including counselling, training, and legal assistance**.

ANNEX 1: PROGRESS AGAINST COVID-19 DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE PLAN RESULTS INDICATORS

Health Security

Key Results Indicators	Progress/Result
Evidence that partner countries in Southeast Asia have improved responses to health security threats	<p>Australia worked with partners in Southeast Asia to build collective resilience to health threats and end the acute phase of COVID-19. This included sharing over 36 million COVID-19 vaccine doses and supporting partners to implement effective vaccination campaigns, health worker training and cold-chain infrastructure development.</p> <p>Supported global efforts to achieve vaccine equity through contributing \$215 million to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment, which provided vaccines to lower-income countries.</p>
Coordinated surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases / pathogens in the animal and public health sectors in Southeast Asia	<p>ASEAN-Australia Health Security Initiative provided fellowships for ASEAN health officials to reduce the risk of pandemics in ASEAN. One Health provided fellowships to ASEAN government officials working on preventing animal-to-human disease transmission. The first 19 fellows commenced in February 2022.</p> <p>World Organisation for Animal Health collaborated with the Veterinary Services in Southeast Asia and established the Southeast Asia Wildlife Health Network. The Network will enhance participation of the Wildlife Health sector and enable sharing of best practices on wildlife disease surveillance to support early detection, and prevention, of zoonotic disease spillover.</p>
Evidence of strengthened health systems in Southeast Asia, including for health emergency preparedness, resulting from Australian support to partner countries	<p>The Environmental Surveillance Project shared Australia's experience to build the capability of Mekong countries to test and detect COVID-19 in wastewater. For example, Australian knowledge sharing activities with Thai Partners developed Thailand's Department of Disease Control and the Bangkok Municipality Authority's capability to use environmental surveillance to prevent and control COVID-19.</p> <p>The ASEAN Regional Support Unit (RSU) used multi-sector collaboration to better prepare and respond to infectious diseases. RSU delivered two ASEAN stakeholder engagement workshops, three bi-lateral consultations with Australian agencies, assisted seven countries with epidemiology and laboratory capacity frameworks, delivered field epidemiology training and provided technical advice to ASEAN meetings.</p>
Examples of Australia's support for ASEAN-led efforts to strengthen regional architecture for responding to public health emergencies	<p>Contributed \$21m to support the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), which is working to enhance regional capacity to prepare for, detect and respond to pandemics. Our funding will support the establishment of the ACPHEED secretariat in Thailand and facilitating offices in Indonesia and Vietnam.</p>
Contraceptive protection from unplanned pregnancies made available through Australian support in Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam	<p>Mekong Women's Empowerment Project (Empower) provided 36,828 couple years of protection (Cambodia: 13,556; Vietnam: 15,331; Myanmar: 7,941).</p> <p>More broadly across the region, the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) COVID-19 Response delivered 2,138,975 million SRH services to 442,625 clients in Southeast Asia.</p>

Stability

Key Results Indicators	Progress/Result
Evidence of technical and policy support for ASEAN-led processes in priority political security areas (maritime security, cybersecurity, women, peace and security and transnational crime)	<p>\$10 million ASEAN-Australia Political Security Partnership facilitated the second ASEAN-Australia Women, Peace and Security Dialogue and supported the ASEAN Women's Inter-faith Dialogue, "Regional Cyber Capacity Building: Seizing the Fourth Industrial Revolution" Workshop, and a research paper on integrating WPS principles into ASEAN COVID-19 recovery and policy decision-making.</p> <p>Under the Cyber and Critical Technology Cooperation Program, Australia supported 31 participants to attend the international law in cyberspace workshop (in partnership with Singapore and Netherlands), 100 participants to attend a safety and security prioritization workshop, 158 participants attendance at Critical and Emerging Technology Summit, delivered research on artificial intelligence and built technology standards metrics.</p>
Number of male and female police and law and justice officials trained	Under the ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking Program, Australia trained 3,942 government officials (2,079 female and 1,858 male), including court officials, judges, law enforcement officers, prosecutors and officials to provide services and protection to Trafficking in Persons victims.
High quality, transnational crime and border security analysis produced to inform policy frameworks and operational strategies	Under the Mekong Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime, Australia delivered high quality analysis on transnational crime in the Mekong. The Global Initiative against Transnational and Organised Crime (GI-TOC) delivered a six-part expert brief series to promote discussion on transnational and organised crime challenges faced by Mekong countries.
Examples of technical advice provided to domestic maritime agencies in partner countries to increase efficiency and coordination	Six law of the sea training courses were delivered on illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, support was provided to draft Standard Operating Procedures, and two tabletop exercises were delivered that focused on maritime coordination and enforcement.
Examples of policy advice and progress on reform initiatives with Southeast Asia governments and civil society networks	Research grants to the Australian National University, the Brookings Institution and The Asia Foundation produced and disseminated a rich body of policy-relevant research, analysis and dialogue, which has enhanced understanding of the domestic and regional dynamics influencing stability in Southeast Asia.
Evidence of increased women's leadership and participation in water resources and renewable energy projects / policy development processes	Under the Oxfam Inclusion Project, 1,165 women participated in 22 events on water and energy governance; contributing to national and regional forums and policy dialogues. Events include the Mekong River Commission's consultation process for the proposed Mekong mainstream Sanakham dam, and Cambodian Ministry of Environment's Gender Mainstreaming Strategy.

Economic Recovery

Key Results Indicators	Progress/Result
Evidence of policy support and/or change for water, energy and infrastructure decision-making including new government-to-government collaboration on planning, procurement, regulation, and inclusion of gender and social analysis	Under the MAP Mekong Safeguards Program, implemented by TAF, Australia supported policy advice to the Lao National Assembly and Thailand Ministry of Energy on energy and safeguards. This advice informed government policy on renewable energy including COP26 announcements. Under P4I Australia assessed opportunities for hydro energy storage, developed a climate change strategy with Indonesia, supported feasibility studies in the Philippines for off-grid electrification, delivered workshops on finance, electricity and carbon markets, strengthened infrastructure environmental, social and governance safeguards, and advised on gender inclusion for Malaysia's proposed High-Speed Rail.
Examples of policy and technical advice provided to partner countries or regional organisations on responding to the immediate economic impacts of COVID 19 and longer term sustainable and inclusive economic recovery	<p>Australia improved regional capacity to attract private investment in infrastructure under P4I. The partnership supported Cambodia to build capacity to review infrastructure projects and implement public-private partnerships, supported rail sector reforms to improve investment financing in the Philippines, and developed a sustainable wastewater cost recovery and financing framework with Cambodia.</p> <p>Under MAP, Australia delivered training to 150 senior officials in Cambodia on public financial management and public service delivery. 98 per cent of participants expressed strong satisfaction with the program.</p>
Evidence of policy, legislative and/or technical support on labour migration, reducing remittance costs, protection and gender equality for migrant workers	The Triangle in ASEAN program supported Migrant Worker Resource Centres, which provided direct services to 12,401 current, potential and returned migrant workers in 2021-22, including counselling, training and legal assistance.
Examples of ASEAN policy development, technical advice and capacity building to enable ASEAN to promote regional economic integration, including number of male and female officials trained to enhance the implementation of Free Trade Agreements and other related instruments	The AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Program assisted developing ASEAN members to implement their commitments under the AANZFTA and realise the benefits from greater trade liberalisation and regional economic integration. The program trained a total of 1046 participants (508 men and 538 women) in 2021 as part of AECSP implementation activities.
Examples of technical, policy and capacity building support provided to expand women's economic opportunities in Southeast Asia	<p>Investing in Women provided mentoring and support to women's small-medium enterprises (SMEs), including mentoring sessions for 61 women's SMEs in Vietnam and the Philippines as well as support to 60 tech-focused women start-ups creating a community of women entrepreneurs, investors and enablers in Vietnam.</p> <p>Through the Empower project, 272 women entrepreneurs (156 in Cambodia; 60 in Vietnam; and 56 in Myanmar) were provided with financial and/or business development services.</p>

ANNEX 2: INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE RATINGS

Investment Details	Year	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Gender Equality
ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Support Program Investment duration: 2008-22; Budget: \$64.2m	2022	4	4	3
	2021	4	4	3
AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Program Investment duration: 2008-22; Budget: \$35.7m	2022	4	4	3
	2021	4	4	3
Support to ERIA – 2nd phase Investment duration: 2014-23; Budget: \$6.7m	2022	4	5	4
	2021	4	4	4
ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking Investment duration: 2018-28; Budget: \$80m	2022	5	5	5
	2021	5	5	4
ASEAN-Australia Political Security Investment duration: 2019-24; Budget: \$8.1m	2022	4	4	5
	2021	4	4	5
TRIANGLE in ASEAN Investment duration: 2014-2027; Budget: \$24.5m	2022	5	5	5
	2021	5	5	5
ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards Initiative Investment duration: 2018-24; Budget: \$5.15m	2022	4	4	4
	2021	5	5	4
Quad Vaccines Partnership Investment duration: 2021-22; Budget: \$100m	2022	5	4	3
	2021	n/a	n/a	n/a
Partnerships for Infrastructure Investment duration: 2018-25; Budget: \$127.8m	2022	5	4	4
	2021	n/a	n/a	n/a
ASEAN-Australia Smart Cities Investment duration: 2018-24; Budget: \$20.7m	2022	4	4	3
	2021	4	3	4
Mekong Regional – MAP Economic Resilience Fund Investment duration: 2020-24; Budget: \$5.3m	2022	4	5	4
	2021	n/a	n/a	n/a
MAP Human Capacity- Pre-departure and On Award Enrichment Investment duration: 2021-24; Budget: \$0.7m	2022	5	5	4
	2021	n/a	n/a	n/a
Australia-Mekong Water Facility Investment duration: 2017-24; Budget: \$15.4m	2022	5	4	4
	2021	3	3	3
Inclusive Water Governance and Strengthening Climate Resilience in the Mekong Region Investment duration: 2019-25; Budget: \$9.9m	2022	5	4	5
	2021	4	4	5
Supporting Mekong Architecture – Mekong River Commission 2021-2025 Investment duration: 2021-25; Budget: \$7.9m	2022	4	5	4
	2021	4	4	5



FINAL INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE RATINGS

Investment Details	Year	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Gender Equality
Open, Inclusive and Accountable Governance in SEA	2022 FIMR	3	4	3
Investment duration: 2018-22; Budget: \$3.3m	2021 IMR	4	4	4

Definitions of rating scale:

Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)

6 = Very good; satisfies criteria in all areas.

5 = Good; satisfies criteria in almost all areas.

4 = Adequate; on balance, satisfies criteria; does not fail in any major area.

Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)

3 = Less than adequate; on balance does not satisfy criteria and/or fails in at least one major area.

2 = Poor; does not satisfy criteria in major areas.

1 = Very poor; does not satisfy criteria in many major area.