

# ONLINE ROLL-OUT OF THE ASEAN GENDER OUTLOOK:

Enhancing the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development through a gender lens in the context of COVID-19 recovery

EVENT REPORT, 25 MAY 2021

The Thailand Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), in partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) co-organized an online event to roll out the ASEAN Gender Outlook in Thailand. The event also featured a dialogue in support of the “Complementarities Initiative” to explore how the ASEAN Gender Outlook supports the complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through a gender lens, including in the context of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The event took place online on Tuesday, 25 May 2021, and it was broadcasted via the MFA Facebook account.

The ASEAN Gender Outlook, a regional flagship publication, was jointly produced by the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW),

the ASEAN Secretariat and UN Women, and the regional launch took place on 1 March 2021. The publication provides a unique perspective on progress in ASEAN towards realizing each of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from a gender lens, including by showcasing the gendered impact of COVID-19 on sustainable development across the region.

At the online roll-out event in Thailand, prominent Thai female panellists shared their views and practical suggestions on mainstreaming gender to support the attainment of the SDGs and post-COVID-19 recovery. More than 200 people joined the meeting to represent diplomatic corps and international organizations in Thailand, government agencies, the private sector, academic institutions and civil society organizations. The public broadcast of the meeting also reached a wide audience among the general public.

## Opening session

**Mr. Thani Thongphakdi, Permanent Secretary of the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, commended the ASEAN Gender Outlook and underlined the need to develop more targeted policies at both national and regional levels to empower women and girls and build their resilience, especially in response to COVID-19. A cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnership is needed to advance gender equality and its linkages with sustainable and inclusive development. As Thailand served as the ASEAN Coordinator on Sustainable Development Cooperation and was elected to UN Women's Executive Board for 2022–2024, he reaffirmed Thailand's commitment to work with all partners to create a future with equal opportunities for all.

**Ms. Patcharee Arayakul, Permanent Secretary of the Thai Ministry of Social Development and Human Security**, stressed that gender equality is a priority for ASEAN and Thailand. The findings of the ASEAN Gender Outlook showed that gender inequalities persist in the ASEAN region and a collective response is needed to address this issue. Thailand is contributing to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in ASEAN by, for instance, taking the lead on promoting the elimination of gender stereotypes and discriminatory practices in the education system. At the national level, it is important to use gender-responsive budgeting practices and provide targeted support and

services for women and vulnerable population groups, especially during the COVID-19 crisis.

**Mr. Mohammad Naciri, Regional Director of UN Women's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**, reiterated that gender equality is at the heart of the Complementarities Initiative and that gender statistics are a critical building block for mainstreaming gender throughout the Initiative. As a regional flagship publication, the ASEAN Gender Outlook is the first of its kind, because it is owned and led by ASEAN. It calls for a specific focus on "reaching the furthest behind", particularly women living in the poorest rural households and ethnic minority women in the region. The ASEAN Gender Outlook identified key opportunities to overcome challenges, with particular attention to investing in the production and use of gender data to inform policymaking. In particular, much of the gender data needed to monitor environment-related SDG indicators is missing. Mr. Naciri reaffirmed UN Women's commitment to support ASEAN in gender mainstreaming and the production and use of gender data to track progress towards the SDGs through South-South cooperation. This can be done by facilitating the exchange of good statistical practices and expertise that already exist in the ASEAN region.

**A snapshot of the ASEAN Gender Outlook is annexed to this publication, and the full text is available [here](#).**

## Panel discussion on Promoting Gender Mainstreaming and Gender Equality towards Achieving the SDGs: Innovative Approaches and Practical Recommendations in the context of COVID-19 Recovery

Moderated by Mr. Narong Sasitorn, Executive Director of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue

**Gender Actions in Thailand and ASEAN by Ms. Ratchada Jayagupta**, Representative of Thailand to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and Senior Researcher and Lecturer at the Asian Research Center for Migration, Institute of Asian Studies at Chulalongkorn University

In the context of the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing progress towards the achievement of the SDGs, Thailand implemented strategies to respond to violence

against women, enacted special measures to support women and girls to cope with the crisis and promoted women's leadership role. For instance, Thailand has a one-stop crisis centre that provides survivors of violence with medical support (physical and mental) as well as legal assistance. The centre also manages a 24-hour hotline for victims of domestic violence. Special measures to support women during the COVID-19 pandemic include the provision of shelter, food and medical care as well as debt suspension to assist women facing economic hardship. She highlighted the important role played by women in Thailand in responding to the crisis, as primary frontline community health personnel for COVID-19 prevention and response. The ASEAN Gender Outlook revealed some of the gendered effects of the pandemic, thus the data

may be particularly useful to inform future actions to promote women in leadership roles, including for crisis recovery.

Thailand's role in ACWC has also been important to advance gender equality at the regional level, including by influencing the mid-term review of the Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women as well as leading the ASEAN campaign on the elimination of violence against women. Thailand is also piloting the implementation of the ACWC Gender Sensitive Guideline for Handling Women Victims of Trafficking in Persons, by organizing trainings for frontline workers. In addition, the country has contributed to the development of the ASEAN Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework, led by ACW and ACWC, which will provide guidance for gender mainstreaming in project planning and implementation.

The draft five-year work plan of ACWC (2021–2025) has a strong focus on women's economic empowerment, ending violence against women, ensuring access to legal identity for women and children, as well as support to women of marginalized groups, an area of need particularly highlighted in the ASEAN Gender Outlook. In line with the Outlook's recommendation to enhance the availability and use of gender data across the region, the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, adopted in November 2020, has a strong emphasis on the production of gender data.

**Role of the Private Sector in Women's Economic Empowerment for COVID-19 Response and Recovery by Ms. Nusra Chankaew, Regional Procurement Director for South-East Asia, Australia and New Zealand at Unilever, Bangkok**

COVID-19 is having a disproportionate impact on women and girls, especially through the increased burden of unpaid care and domestic work, which was highlighted prominently in the ASEAN Gender Outlook. As a private sector corporation, Unilever promotes gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and society at large by utilizing gender-sensitive recruitment policies, offering paternity leave, equal pay, as well as support for women to take leadership roles in the organization. In the marketplace, Unilever works with several partners, including UN Women, to promote gender equality and women's economic opportunities. For instance, through its RISE Academy, Unilever builds the capacity of retailers to grow their businesses and compete in the digital economy. The organization also promotes gender-responsive distribution models and supports women-owned micro- and small suppliers. This demonstrates the important role the private sector can play in promoting inclusivity and diversity, along with ending discrimination. The private sector can also

be an important contributor to the production of gender data, which could be used to complement official statistics or to fill gaps in new and emerging areas.

**Encouraging Positive Change in Addressing Social Issues by Ms. Aliza Napartivaumnay, Co-Founder of Socialgiver**

Socialgiver is an award-winning social enterprise that collaborates with more than 400 businesses. Its profits have been used to fund over 40 social projects across the region, many of which are in line with commitments made through the 2030 Agenda. During the pandemic, it provided psychological support to women through an application, in partnership with the Thai Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. Promoting gender equality and women's well-being is essential for creating a just and peaceful society, including addressing gender-based violence and providing economic opportunities for women. Thus, the importance of individuals taking action to create meaningful change cannot be overstated. As noted in the ASEAN Gender Outlook, substantial progress has been made in producing data on women's economic empowerment across the region, but some data gaps remain. Civil society organizations can play an important role in filling these gaps, both by partnering with national governments and international partners to produce gender data and by using available data and advocating for better gender statistics.

**Mainstreaming Gender in Disaster Response and Humanitarian Action in the COVID-19 Pandemic by Ms. Ravadee Prasertcharoensuk, Director of the Sustainable Development Foundation**

Gender equality is a pre-condition for reducing poverty and ensuring dignity and respect for all. As a result of climate change, Thailand has seen a rise in the frequency of natural hazards and greater magnitude of drought and flood episodes over the past decades. As noted in the ASEAN Gender Outlook, women in the ASEAN region depend largely on natural resources and are significantly employed in agriculture: 64 per cent of employed women in the Lao People's Democratic Republic are engaged in agriculture. This figure amounts to 39 per cent in Viet Nam, and 34 per cent in Cambodia. An estimated 28 per cent of women in ASEAN live in households that primarily use wood as cooking fuel. Climate-related hazards have a disproportionate impact on these women, and these impacts are particularly noticeable in rural areas. Building women's resilience to climate-related shocks and promoting their participation to prevent climate-related disasters are crucial steps to mitigate and reduce risks and vulnerabilities. Gender must be mainstreamed across

all areas of disaster risk reduction – from gender-responsive disaster preparedness, to prevention, mitigation, response and recovery. Environment-related gender data is essential to inform these policies and perform gender-responsive budgeting and effective monitoring. As data availability is lowest for statistics that capture the gender-environment nexus in ASEAN, adequate human and financial resources must be made available for this purpose.

**Increasing Women’s Participation in Peace and Decision-Making Processes to Ensure a More Peaceful, Stable and Sustainable Society** by Ms. Suphatmet Yunyasit, Lecturer at the Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University

In the southern border provinces of Thailand women, regardless of their religion or ethnic or social backgrounds, have suffered from unrest in the area. For instance, widowed women may have to provide for their family and, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, they are encountering more barriers to accessing health care and job opportunities, as noted in the ASEAN Gender Outlook.

The United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Universal Periodic Review process and the SDGs have served as important means to promote women’s roles in peace and security. As the ASEAN Gender Outlook highlighted, women’s engagement in peacekeeping and decision-making in peacebuilding processes is essential, but in the southern border provinces women have only engaged in track 1.5, 2 and 3 forums. Track 1 dialogue has not included female representation so far. State and non-State actors can also play an important part in supporting women’s participation by empowering women and building their skills, as well as by

creating platforms for meaningful interactions between women and other stakeholders. Many data gaps persist in the area of women, peace and security for the ASEAN region. Although the ASEAN Gender Outlook presents an important picture of progress, greater efforts are needed to fill data gaps related to women, peace and security.

**Women’s Leadership in Diplomacy and International Law** by Ms. Vilawan Mangklatanakul, Director-General of the Treaties and Legal Affairs Department, MFA

According to the ASEAN Gender Outlook, although ASEAN has made progress in gender equality, women still have less access to education, health care, decent work and benefits. It also showed that women’s participation in politics is increasing, but no data is available to assess how much decision-making power women hold in other administrative positions. Similarly, the ASEAN Gender Outlook notes that women are increasingly joining the labour market but a glass ceiling remains. This can be found in several government agencies and legal institutions in Thailand. It reflects the need to achieve gender parity in decision-making – which could contribute to enhancing overall performance and establishing more gender-responsive policies.

An immediate change in social policy to meet women’s unique needs is required. Such a change would include the provision of a longer period of paid maternity leave, free child care, flexible working hours and tele-working arrangements for parents. It is also important to facilitate reintegration to the workplace after workers take long-term family leave and career breaks. To achieve this, related regulations and incentives could be put into practice.

## Questions and answers

**On additional gender data needed in the ASEAN region**, Ms. Prasertcharoensuk highlighted the need for more gender data on natural disasters and climate change, including to measure the impacts on informal women workers, small-scale fishers and farmers. Ms. Chankaew added that more establishment data on female suppliers would also be helpful for private sector entities to better understand and promote women’s roles in supply and value chains. Ms. Yunyasit noted that, in addition to the data on female peacekeepers presented in the ASEAN Gender Outlook, more granular data is needed to fully understand women’s engagement in peacemaking and

peacebuilding processes, to create a more complete picture of women’s participation in overall peace operations.

**On the role of the patriarchy in limiting opportunities for women in achieving the SDGs in ASEAN**, Ms. Prasertcharoensuk believed that this is a structural issue. Resolving it requires the full understanding and commitment of policymakers. She reiterated the importance of using gender data for gender-responsive budgeting and effective monitoring, in order to ensure that gender equality is promoted across all policy areas. Ms. Napartivaumnay added that transparency on

budgeting is also crucial for accountability and progress monitoring.

*On the desired contributions of women to leadership*, Ms. Mangklatanakul remarked that having more women in

decision-making could contribute to better policies and rule-making. Gender-responsive policy could, in turn, strengthen adherence to principles of social justice and decent work. Concerted efforts are still necessary to create gender-sensitive laws, regulations, policies and data.

## Closing remarks

**Ms. Usana Berananda, Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department, MFA**, expressed appreciation to all speakers, panellists and participants and highlighted key points from this event. First, “there is nothing that men can do and women cannot” as evidenced in the growing number of successful women in leadership positions. Evidence-based policies that promote gender equality must be further encouraged and implemented. Second, “women are key and equal contributors towards the attainment of the SDGs” as clearly seen from the evidence showcased in the ASEAN Gender Outlook and the contributions of the female

panellists. Third, the “disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women” means efforts must be strengthened towards an inclusive post-pandemic recovery, by ensuring that evidence-based policies are put in place to provide equal social protection, employment opportunities, capacity-building and access to finance. Lastly, it is essential to enhance partnerships and raise public awareness for promoting gender mainstreaming, including in the area of statistics. She encouraged all the participants to share these key points as widely as possible and take them forward in order to make positive change in society.

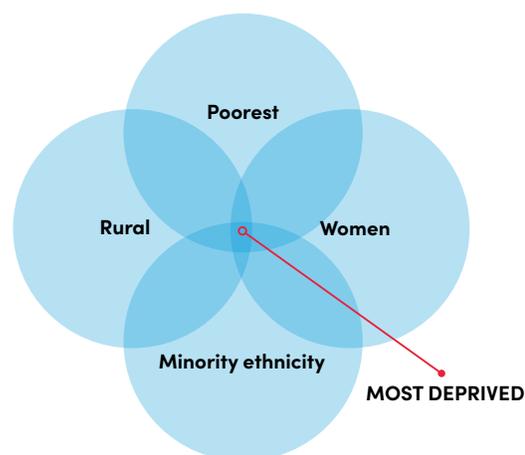
# ANNEX:

## Snapshot of the ASEAN Gender Outlook

The promise to leave no one behind can only be realized if the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are achieved for all women, girls, men and boys. However, data for the ASEAN region shows that select groups of women are disadvantaged.

When different forms of discrimination overlap, the barriers these women face may increase.

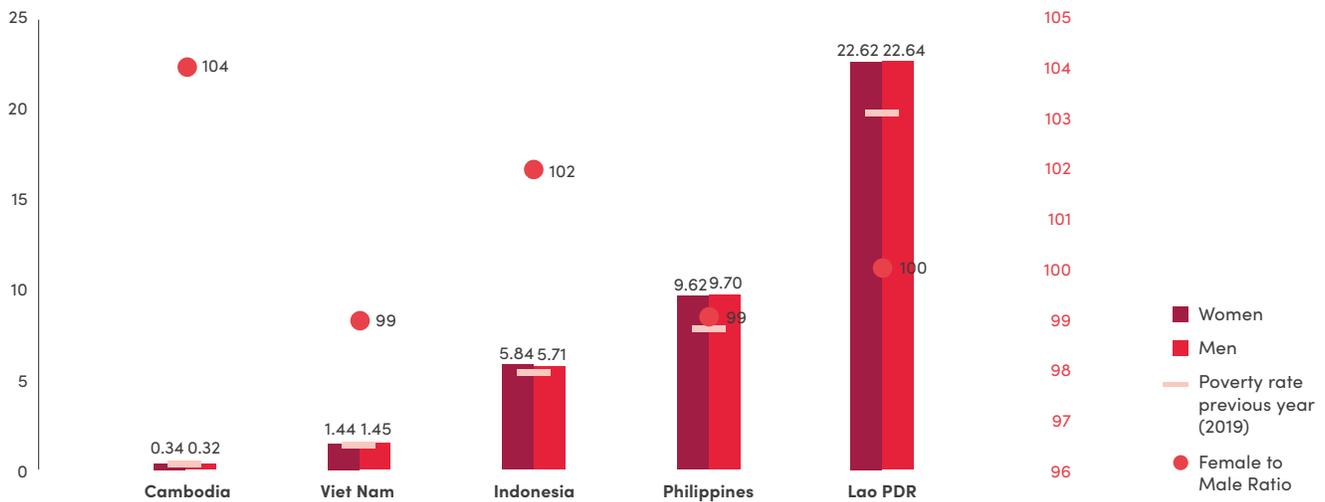
The ASEAN Gender Outlook tracks progress towards each of the Sustainable Development Goals through this multiple-deprivation lens.





Poverty rates have increased over the past year in several ASEAN Member States, and in places such as Cambodia and Indonesia, women are more likely than men to live below the poverty line. For every 100 men who now live in poverty in Cambodia, there are 104 women living in poverty. In Indonesia, there are 102 women living in poverty for every 100 men living in poverty.

**FIGURE 1** Proportion of people living in extreme poverty, by sex, 2020 projections (percentage)



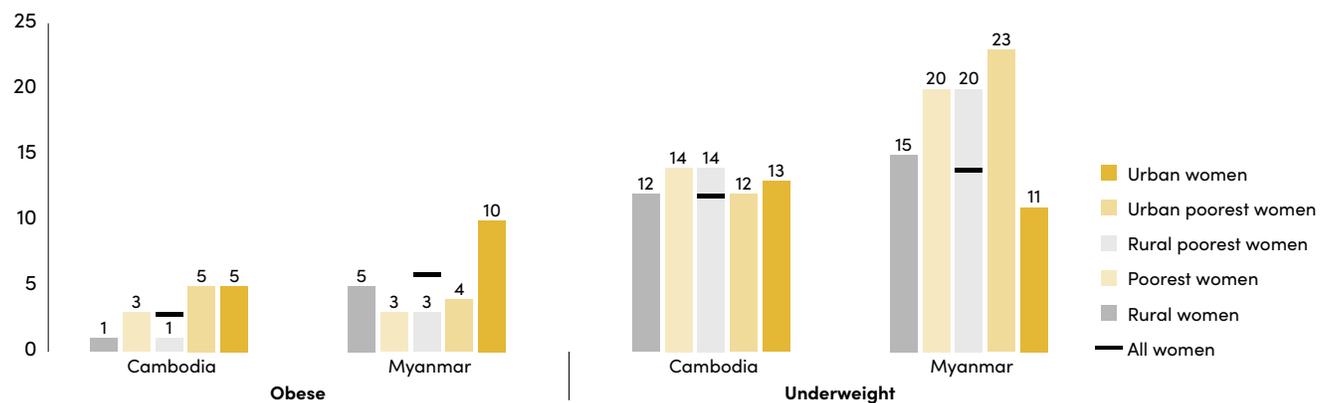
Source: From Insight to Action: Gender Equality in the wake of COVID-19. Available from: <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/insights-action-gender-equality-wake-covid-19>

Note: Poverty estimates for women and men have been rounded off to two decimal places. In some cases, this may explain why the female to male ratio appears different.



Anaemia and underweight, both measures of malnutrition, are highest among people age 15–19. Women are more likely to be underweight if they live in a poor household.

**FIGURE 2** Proportion of women age 18–49 who are underweight (low Body Mass Index) and obese (BMI ≥ 30), by location and wealth (percentage)

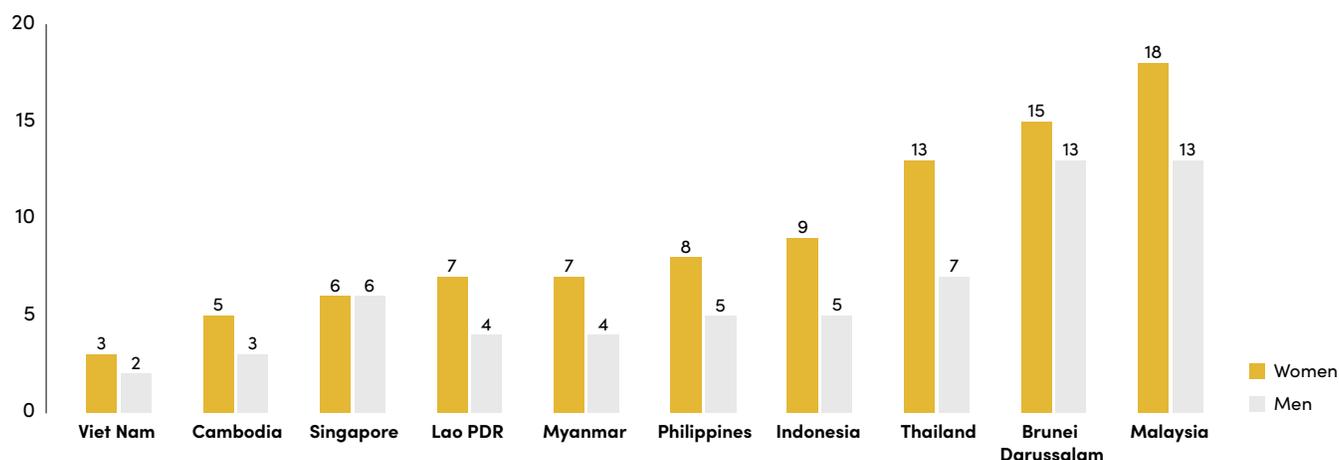


Source: UN Women calculations based on Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). Only countries with available data have been considered for this analysis.

The story of malnutrition in the region would be incomplete without considering the situation of the urban population. As urban diets increasingly rely on cheap and convenient processed foods rich in fats, sugar and salt but low in nutrients, population segments are increasingly overweight but malnourished. In all countries, women are worse off than men.

**FIGURE 3**

**Proportion of adult population (18+) who are obese (BMI ≥ 30, age-standardized), 2016 (percentage)**



Source: Global SDG Indicators database, available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>.

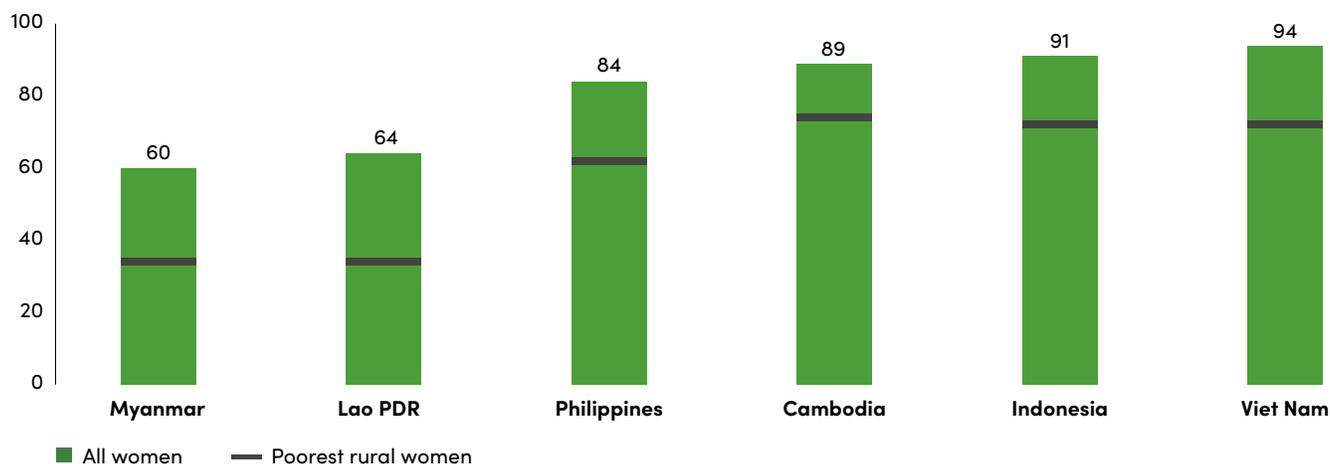
**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**



Maternal mortality in the ASEAN region has dropped from 214 to 137 per 100,000 live births in the past two decades, partly due to increased access to health care, including professional obstetric and gynaecological care. About 90 per cent of deliveries in the region are now attended by skilled professionals, but for women living in rural areas and the poorest households, this figure is much lower. An estimated 33 per cent of births to these women take place unattended by skilled health personnel.

**FIGURE 4**

**Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel, latest available year (percentage)**



Note: Data refers to births in the past five years, except for the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, where only births in the past two years were considered. Data for national aggregates has been drawn from the Global SDG Database.

**4** QUALITY EDUCATION

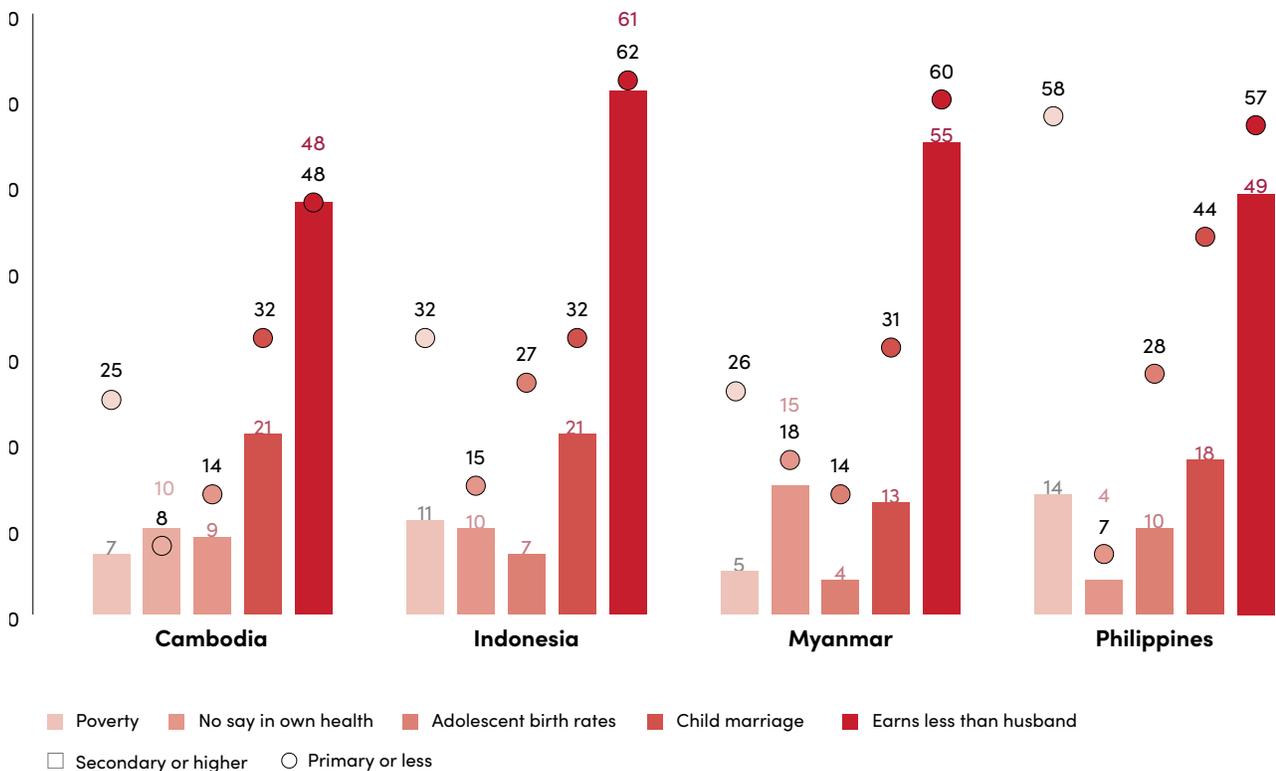


In all ASEAN Member States with available data, less educated women are more likely to marry early and become adolescent mothers. Early marriage often keeps women out of paid jobs and reduces their decision-making power at home, including in matters regarding their own health.

ASEAN's younger generations are completing higher levels of schooling and gender gaps are slowly closing, but to truly achieve universal education the region must ensure access to education for ethnic minorities and women in remote areas. For instance, in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, where roughly half of the female population completes education beyond primary, almost none of the poorest women of Chinese-Tibetan ethnicity living in rural areas without roads completed education beyond the primary level.

**FIGURE 5**

**Socio-economic outcomes for women age 15-49, by educational attainment, latest available year (percentage)**



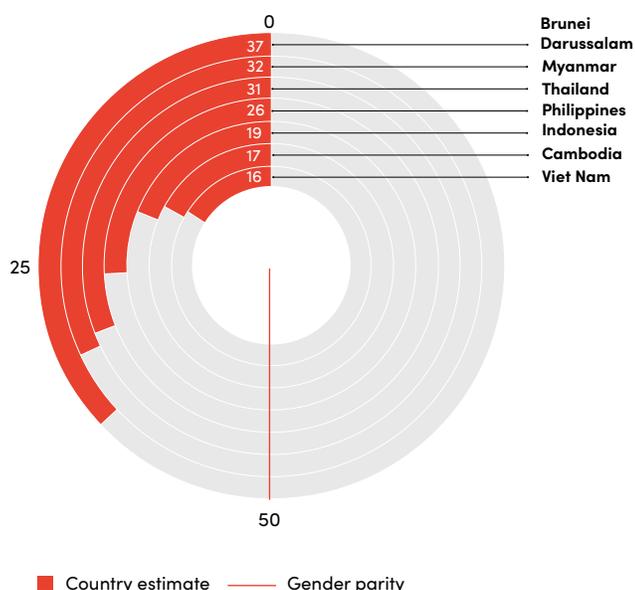
Source: UN Women calculations based on Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). Note: Only countries with publicly available microdata for all five indicators are considered. Women living in households in the lowest wealth quintile have been classified as having higher chance of "poverty". This classification is based on the DHS wealth index, which is a composite measure of a household's cumulative living standard. The wealth index is calculated using data on household's ownership of selected assets, such as televisions and bicycles; materials used for housing construction; and types of water access and sanitation facilities. Therefore, this poverty measure differs from the international poverty line measure.

**5 GENDER EQUALITY**

Some ASEAN Member States are making great progress on some areas of gender equality. For instance, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, the Philippines and Viet Nam have the region’s highest female representation rates in parliament – even higher than the global average. Lao and Filipino women are also the most likely in the ASEAN region to be represented in local government and to be managers at work. However, a glass ceiling is still in place. Although there is parity among lower managers in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the Philippines, very few women hold higher level positions.

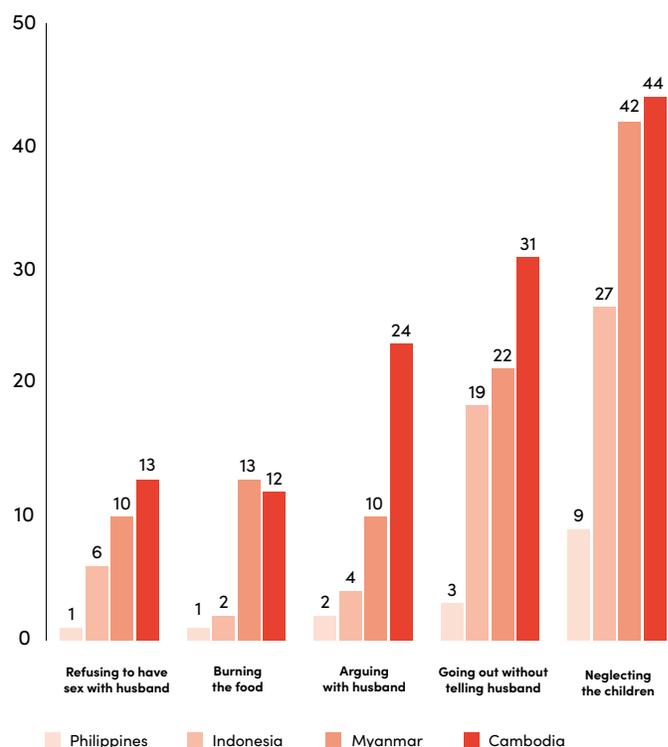
**FIGURE 6**

**Proportion of women in middle and senior managerial positions, latest available year (percentage)**



**FIGURE 7**

**Proportion of women age 15–49 who agree that wife beating is justified, by reason, latest available year (percentage)**



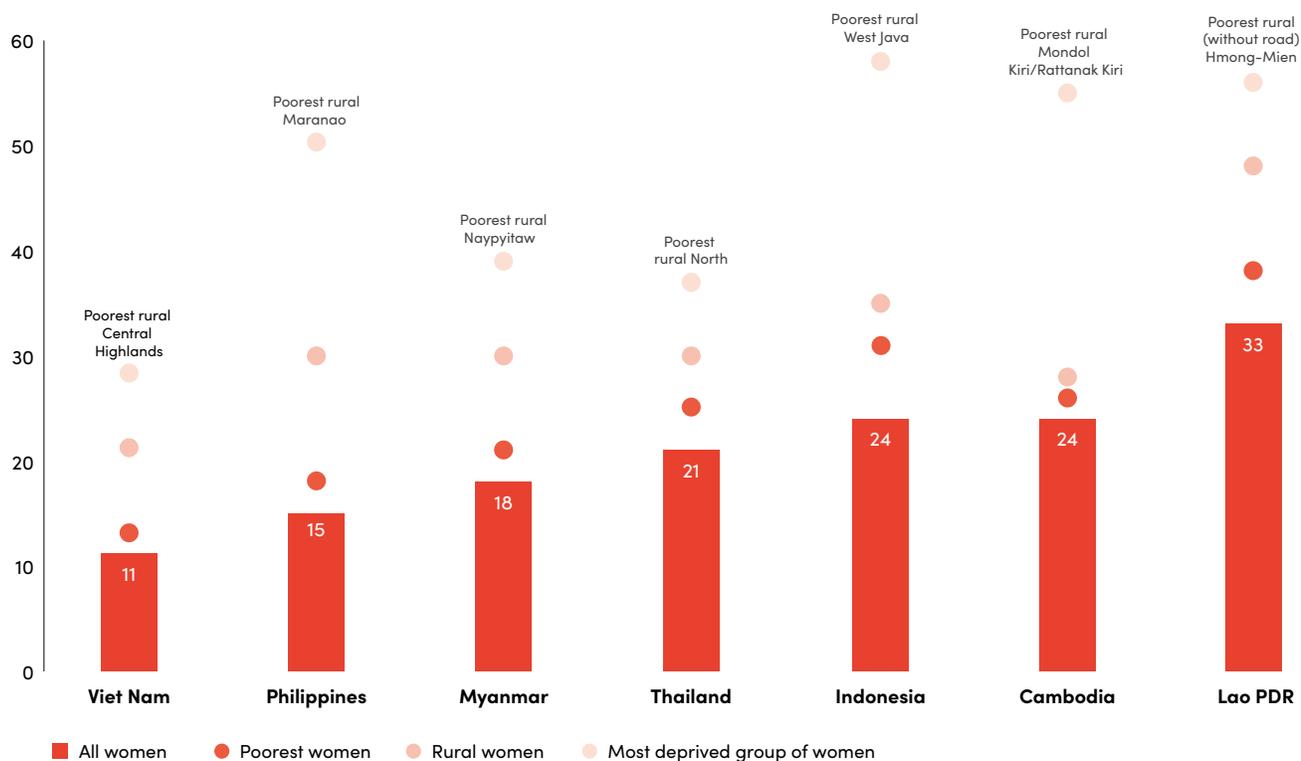
Source: Global SDG Indicators database, available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>.

Source: DHS STATCompiler. Only countries with available data are considered. Available at: <https://www.statcompiler.com/en/>.

Data for South-East Asia shows low prevalence of violence against women by an intimate partner compared to other regions of the world. But still, between 6 and 11 per cent of women in ASEAN Member States report experiencing violence at the hands of their partner in the past 12 months. Eliminating violence against women will require changes in social norms. An estimated 25 per cent of women still think it is justified for a man to beat his wife if she neglects the children.

**FIGURE 8**

**Proportion of women age 18-49 who were married before 18 years of age, latest available year (percentage)**



Source: UN Women calculations based on DHS and MICS. Only countries with available data are considered. Note: most deprived groups have been identified through DHS/MICS data for this indicator, although these groups may not be the most deprived for all indicators.

Living in rural areas or remote provinces increases girls’ chances of becoming child brides. For instance, Viet Nam, which has one of the lowest child marriage rates in the ASEAN region at 11 per cent, also has rates of child marriage as high as 32 per cent for rural people living in the poorest households in the Central Highlands region.

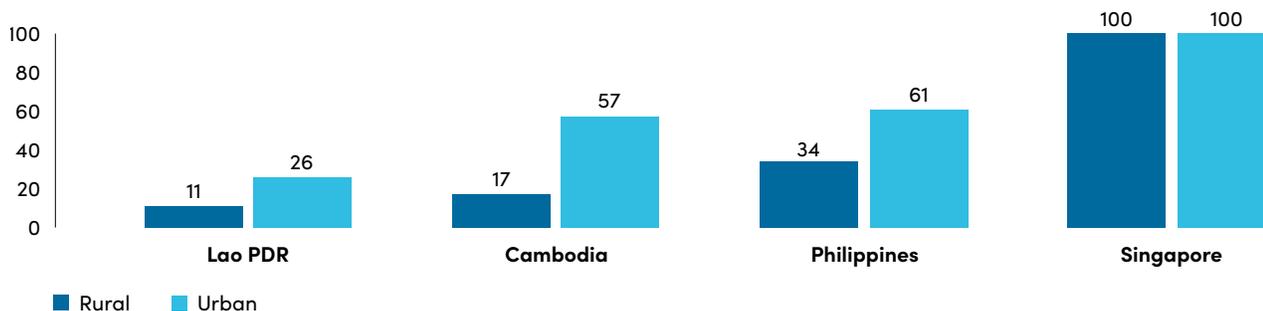
**6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**



An estimated 92 million people in the ASEAN region have gained access to safe drinking water since the year 2000. This is a remarkable achievement, but climate change and pollution are intensifying stress on water sources. In households where basic drinking water is not available, residents must go and fetch it. The median time to collect water for those who do not have it at home ranges between 3 and 10 minutes in the region. However, for rural residents, these times are longer. In Thailand, for instance the median time to water collection is 10 minutes overall, but some rural households spend more than 3 hours. Women are often in charge of shouldering this burden. In Viet Nam, for instance, women are in charge of water collection in 67 per cent of the households.

**FIGURE 9**

**Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water, by location, latest available year (percentage)**



Source: SDG Database, available from: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>.

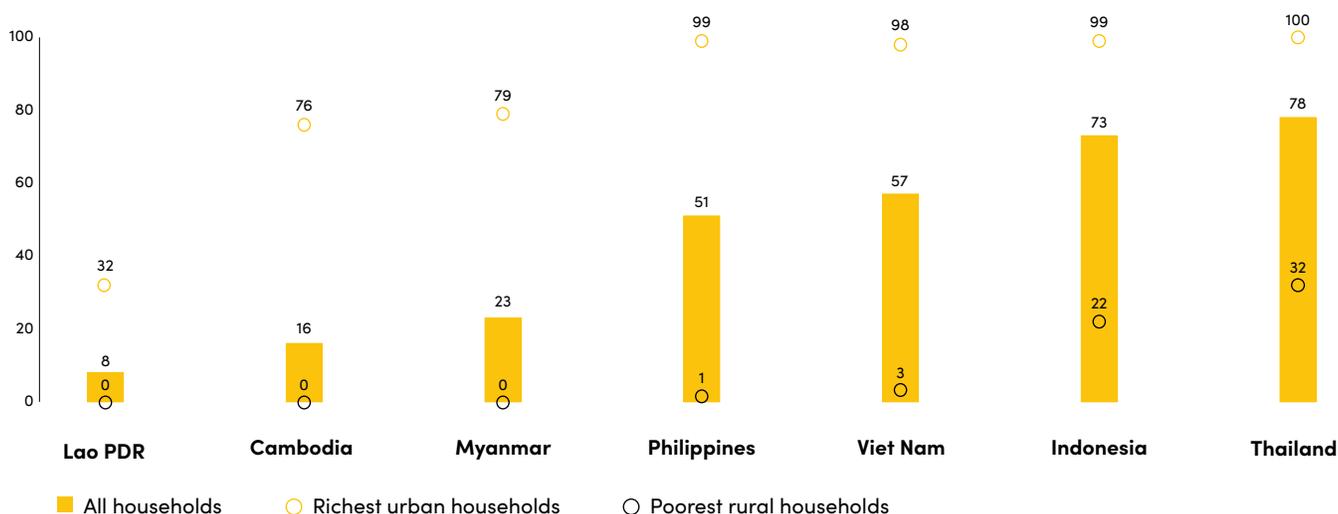
**7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**



Rapid economic development in the ASEAN region has raised energy needs. Insufficient investment in renewable energy has meant that the 80 per cent increase in demand since 2000 has been met by a doubling in fossil fuel use – and the women, men and children living in the ASEAN region are suffering the consequences. Air pollution is linked to heart and respiratory diseases. For pregnant women, it correlates with low birth weight, pre-term birth and small-gestational-age births. As women are often in charge of caring for those who are ill, these diseases affect their well-being both directly and indirectly. And yet, it is men who are seeing the bulk of the economic benefits from fossil fuel production: crude, petroleum and natural gas extraction falls almost completely in the hands of men in most ASEAN Member States.

**FIGURE 10**

**Proportion of households using clean fuels for cooking, by wealth and location, latest available year (percentage)**



Source: UN Women calculations based on Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). Only countries with available data are considered.

In ASEAN households, the use of harmful fuels such as charcoal, wood or crop waste, is still widespread. Their effect on indoor air quality affects women disproportionately, since they are often in charge of cooking and spend more time at home. In rural areas, and particularly in the poorest households in these areas, the chances of using harmful fuels are much higher.

**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

In the ASEAN region, 56 per cent of women participate in the labour force, compared with 79 per cent of men. Of those employed, an estimated 67 per cent are engaged in the informal sector and 3 per cent are employed but live in poverty. Initiatives to guarantee productive employment and decent work for all should target young women ages 15–24. In 2019, 24 per cent of them were out of school but had no jobs, compared to 13 per cent of young men. Attention should also be placed on women with children – who often leave the labour market to take on unpaid domestic and care responsibilities. Only 33 per cent of mothers with newborns have access to maternity benefits in the ASEAN region.

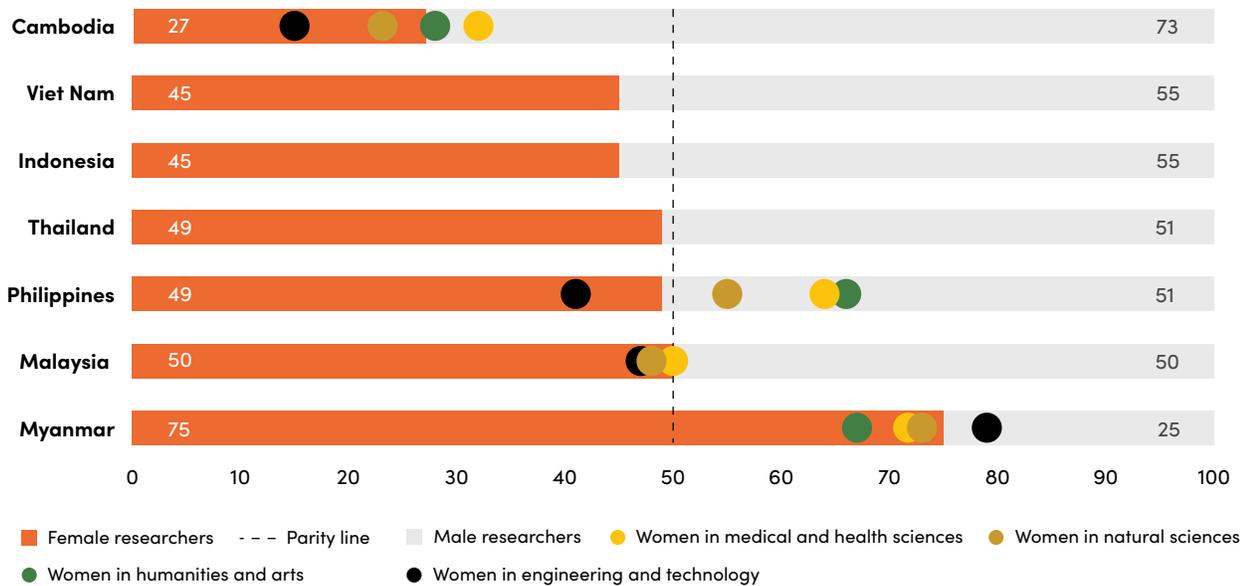


**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In most countries in the region (with the exception of Malaysia and Myanmar), men hold the majority of research jobs. This may result in innovation that fails to meet women’s needs. Gender gaps in the region are largest in the field of engineering and technology. Men are also more likely to be engaged in information-related jobs. Promoting women’s involvement in information and communication jobs could help promote the development of innovation and infrastructure that better fits women’s needs.

**FIGURE 12**

Share of female researchers, by field of research, latest available year (percentage)



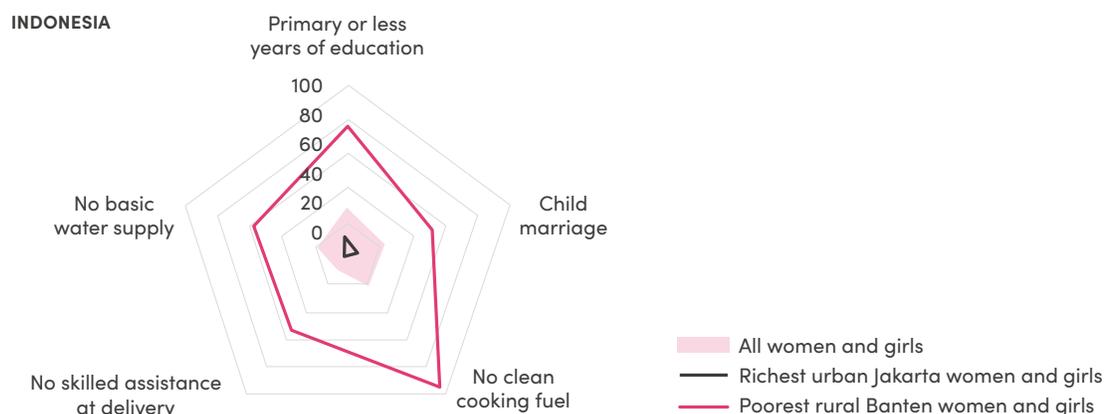
Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Available at <http://data.uis.unesco.org/#>.



ASEAN Member States have progressed toward gender equality in recent years. But most of the SDGs are still far from being achieved for women and girls living in poor rural households. This goes back to the concept of multiple forms of discrimination clustering together. The poorest women living in remote provinces lag the furthest behind across multiple dimensions, from basic education to health care, clean energy and water.

**FIGURE 13**

**Inequalities in SDG-related outcomes between different groups of women and girls, Indonesia, latest available year (percentage)**



Note: The graphs show a comparison from “richest major city” vs “rural poorest deprived province”. The data shown with pink lines is for one of the most deprived groups. It does not mean that this population group was the most deprived for all the indicators considered, but rather for many of them. In some countries, several groups may have been equally deprived across multiple dimensions. In those cases, one of them was selected for illustrative purposes. Refer to the ASEAN Gender Outlook publication to see graphs for all ASEAN countries with available data.

Source: UN Women calculations based on DHS and MICS depending on the country. Only Indonesia data is shown in this summary. Refer to the full report to view other countries.

In Indonesia, for instance, 23 per cent of women and girls lack access to clean cooking fuels, almost 24 per cent are child brides, and 29 per cent are education-poor – meaning they completed only primary schooling at most. The shaded area of figure 13 shows values for the totality of women in Indonesia.

An analysis of the same indicators for the poorest women and girls living in rural households in select provinces – such as Banten (the solid pink line) – shows that 93 per cent of them lack access to clean cooking fuels, 52 per cent marry as children and 77 per cent are education-poor. The gaps are even more striking when compared with the richest urban women and girls in Jakarta (the gray line). None of them lack access to clean fuels.

This example illustrates that it is the same group of women and girls (in this case the poorest rural women and girls in Banten Province) that lag the furthest behind across many aspects of sustainable development. The same finding was true for all of the ASEAN Member States where data was available for this type of analysis, as shown in the ASEAN Gender Outlook.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



In many cities across the ASEAN region, large shares of residents live in slums – an estimated 40 per cent of the urban population. Female slum dwellers are particularly vulnerable as they often have to deal with water collection and cook with harmful fuels. For instance, 21 per cent of all female slum dwellers in the Philippines have to walk more than 30 minutes to fetch water, compared to 3.7 per cent of female urban non-slum residents. Similarly, 36 per cent of women slum residents cook with unclean fuels, compared with 15 per cent of their urban non-slum counterparts.

40%

OF URBAN RESIDENTS live in slums



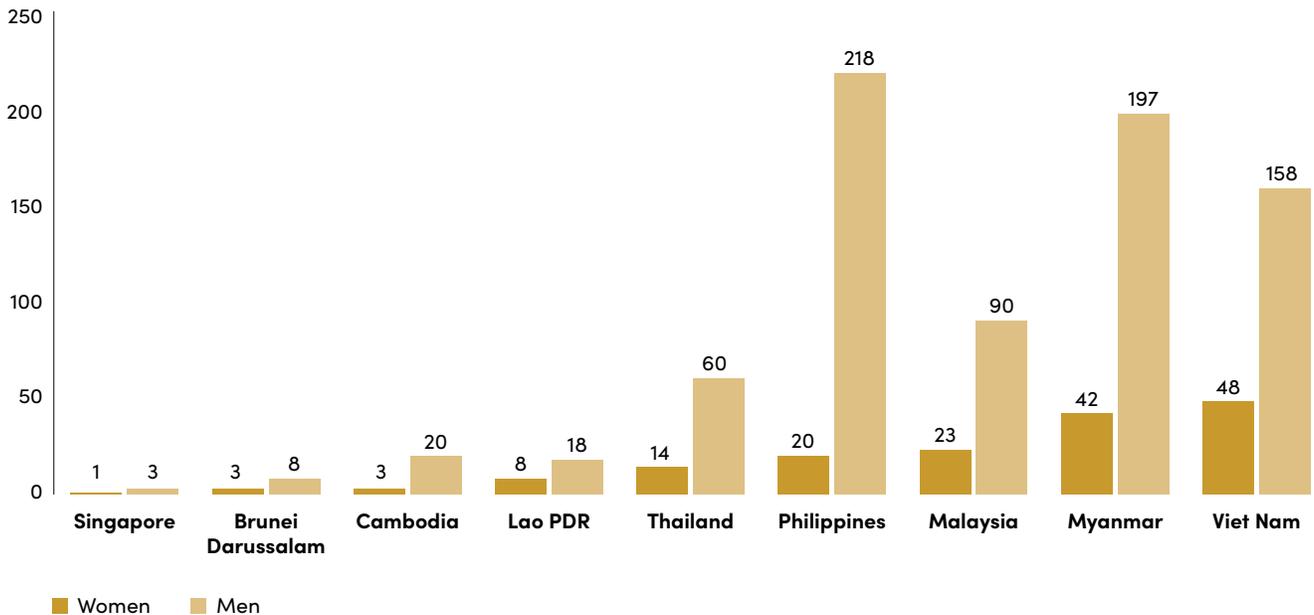
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Men in ASEAN Member States are notoriously overrepresented in highly polluting industrial activities, such as mining and manufacturing of plastics and chemical products.

FIGURE 14

Total number of individuals age 15+ engaged in mining and quarrying activities, by sex, 2020 (thousands)

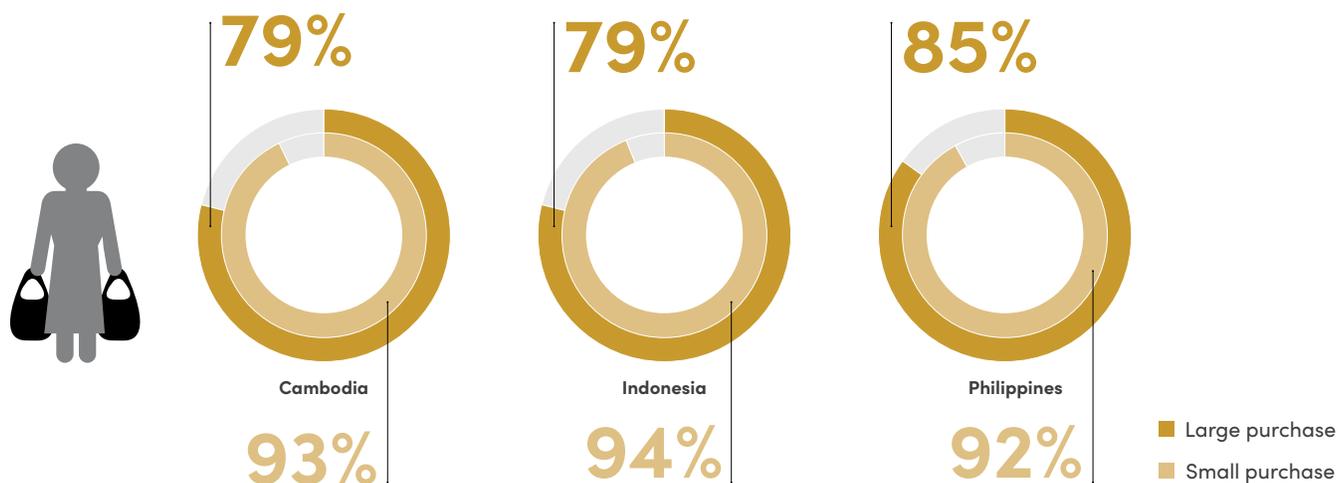


Source: ILOSTAT, available at: [https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer1/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=EMP\\_2EMP\\_SEX\\_ECO\\_NB\\_A](https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer1/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=EMP_2EMP_SEX_ECO_NB_A)

Women, on the other hand, have a bigger say in household consumption. More than 90 per cent of women have the final say on smaller household purchases. To preserve the region’s remarkable biodiversity and the health and quality of life of its people, it is important that both men and women play a part by making sustainable production and consumption choices.

**FIGURE 15**

**Proportion of women who alone or jointly (with partner/husband) have the final say in household purchases, by type of purchase, latest available year (percentage)**



Source: DHS STATCompiler, available at: <https://www.statcompiler.com/en/>

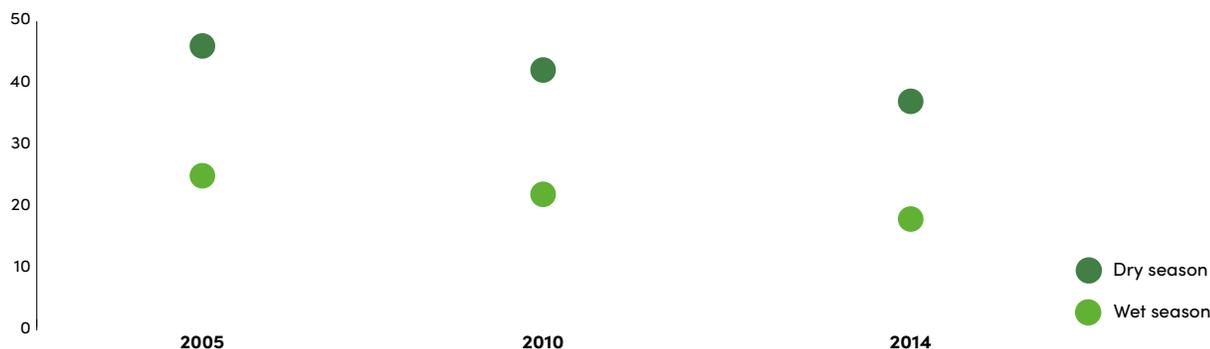
**13 CLIMATE ACTION**



ASEAN Member States have seen an increase in the frequency and magnitude of drought and flood episodes over the past decades as a result of climate change. For women who depend disproportionately on natural resources for their livelihoods, this has important consequences. In the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, for instance, as many as 64 per cent of employed women are engaged in agriculture. Their livelihoods are at stake. In addition, environmental changes, such as increased aridity, will increase their time burden. In Cambodia, the only ASEAN Member State where seasonal data is available, the proportion of people who lack basic water services more than doubles during the dry season. As climate change intensifies aridification, these burdens may increase further.

**FIGURE 16**

**Proportion of people aged 15-49 that lack access to basic drinking water in Cambodia, by season and year (percentage)**



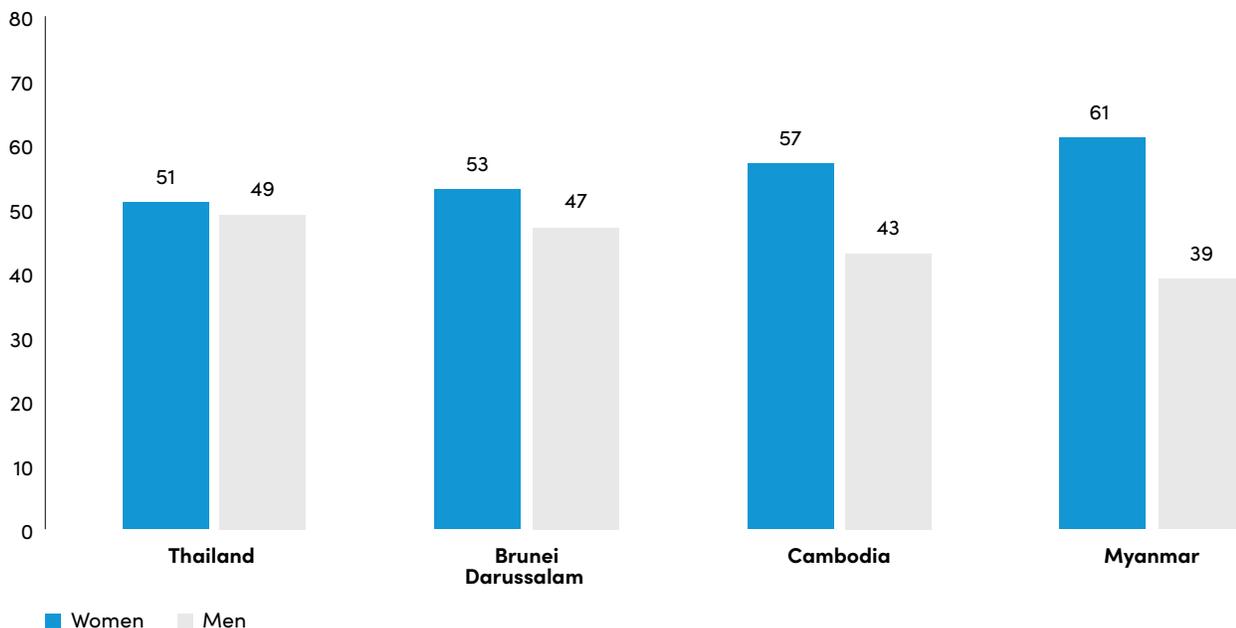
Source: UN Women calculations based on DHS Cambodia, years 2005, 2010, and 2014



In Cambodia and Malaysia, for instance, women make up as many as 57 per cent of those involved in fish harvest and post-harvest operations. Post-processing, in particular, is largely concentrated in women’s hands, with more than half of all processing and preserving of fish carried out by women.

**FIGURE 17**

**Employment in the fish processing sector, by sex, latest available year (percentage)**



Source: OECD STAT, available at [https://stats.oecd.org/In dex.aspx?D ataSetCode=FISH\\_E MPL#](https://stats.oecd.org/In dex.aspx?D ataSetCode=FISH_E MPL#); Brunei Labor Force Survey 2019; World Bank, (2012), available at <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/515701468152718292/pdf/664690ESW0P1210120HiddenHarvest0web.pdf>; Myanmar, Labor Force Survey.

Furthermore, coastal tourism drives much of the tourism revenue in many ASEAN Member States, which represents 18 per cent of all exports in Thailand and 9 per cent in the Philippines. Women are also more likely than men to engage in tourism-related jobs. As many women dependent on the ocean for their livelihood, it is important that ASEAN Member States place marine conservation at the centre of their development priorities.

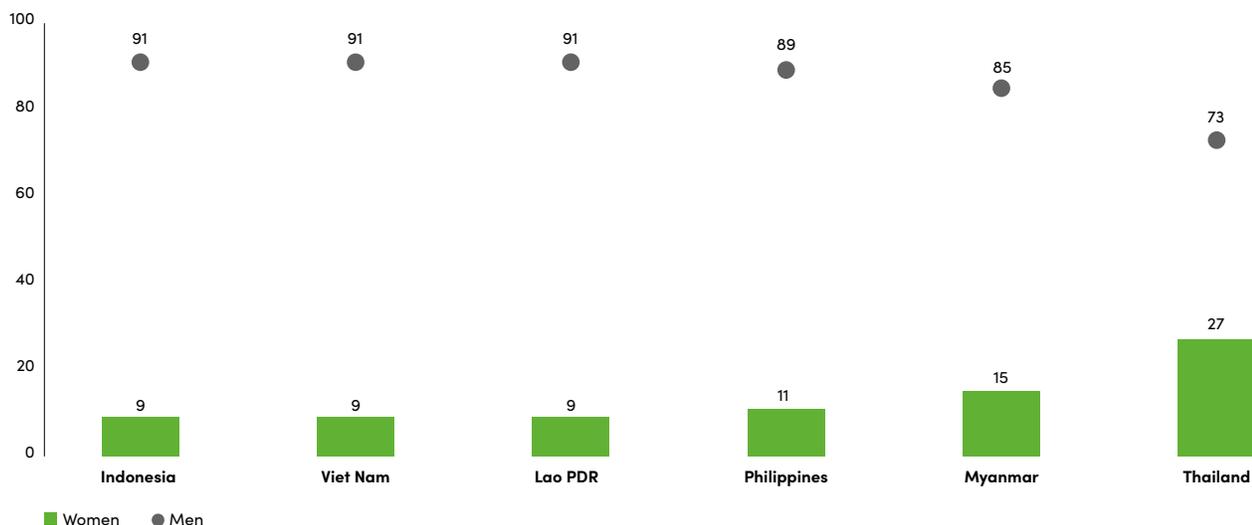


The ASEAN region is home to 15 per cent of the world’s tropical forests, but it also has the most alarming deforestation rates in the world. Due to industrialization, logging and damaging agricultural practices in the region, such as monoculture of palm oil and rubber, the proportion of total land area occupied by forest has dropped from 52 to 48 per cent in the past 20 years. As a result, the share of degraded land in the region currently stands at 24 per cent. Over the past decades, men have abandoned many of these degraded lands and migrated to urban areas to find jobs, leaving women in charge of repurposing it.

While women are often the users of agricultural land, holdings are still concentrated in the hands of men. In Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and the Philippines an estimated 90 per cent of agricultural holders are men. This often means men make decisions on crop selection, pesticide use and resource use – decisions which have significant consequences for biodiversity loss and land degradation.

**FIGURE 18**

Distribution of agricultural holders, by sex, latest available year (percentage)



Source: FAO Gender and Land Rights Database, available at: <http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/data-map/statistics/en/>

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

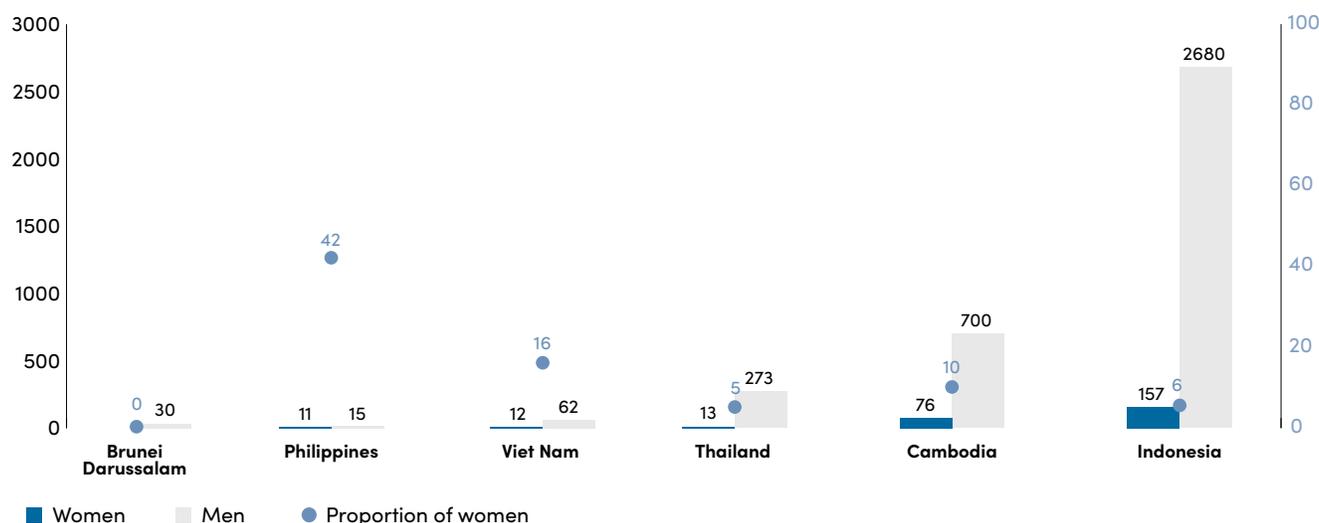


In 2020, Indonesia alone sent more than 2,600 troops and other personnel to United Nations peacekeeping missions. In almost every ASEAN Member State, however, more male than female officers are being deployed. Promoting women’s participation in national security institutions and among personnel deployed to peacekeeping operations can help enhance the safety of women across the region and beyond, as female survivors of crime and conflict may be better able to seek help from fellow women in security forces.

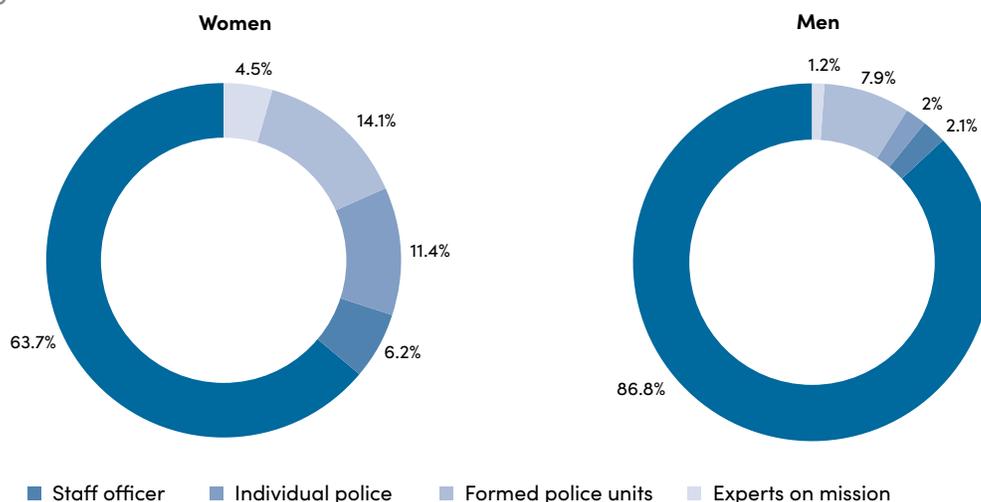
**FIGURE 19**

Total number of troops contributed by ASEAN Member States to peacekeeping missions, by sex (bars) and proportion of women in peacekeeping, by type of function (donuts), August 2020 (percentage)

(first part)



**FIGURE 19**  
(second part)



Source: United Nations Peacekeeping, last accessed October 2020. Available from: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/data-troop-and-police-contributions>

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

ASEAN Member States have made substantial progress when it comes to data availability to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective. Across sectors, gender data is increasingly available for socioeconomic indicators, but it is largely missing for environmental indicators. In a region where women depend heavily on natural resources and where natural disasters occur with high frequency, the need for this data cannot be overstated. It is also essential that all ASEAN Member States prioritize the production of gender data disaggregated at multiple levels, to ensure the achievement of the promise to “leave no one behind”.

To promote its availability, key steps could include:

- National development strategies that put this issue at their centre;
- Adequate availability of human and financial resources for gender data production;
- Capacity-building for producing gender estimates;
- Enhancing the use of such data by decision-makers and advocates.

More data about gender-related SDG progress in the ASEAN region and how COVID-19 may be affecting SDG progress it is available in the ASEAN Gender Outlook:

<https://data.unwomen.org/publications/asean-gender-outlook>.



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