

# *Social welfare, health, and labour sectors in ASEAN: Regional Initiatives*

ASEAN Secretariat  
22nd ASEAN and Japan High-Level Officials  
Meeting on Caring Societies  
25-27 November 2024,  
Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan





## A Virtuous Cycle of Achieving UHC and Promoting a Healthy Society

Regional Alignment of  
Sectoral Work through the  
ASEAN Socio-Cultural  
Blueprint 2016-2025:

*Promoting UHC,  
Focusing on Aging  
Populations and Health  
Coverage for Key  
Populations*





# ASEAN Health SECTOR



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# ASEAN Health Clusters and Health Priorities 2021-2025

## Promoting healthy lifestyle

1. Prevention and control of NCDs
2. Reduction of tobacco consumption and harmful use of alcohol
3. Prevention of injuries
4. Promotion of occupational health
5. Promotion of mental health
6. Promotion of healthy and active ageing
7. Promotion of good nutrition and healthy diet

AHC 1

AHC 2

## Responding to all hazards and emerging threats

8. Prevention and control of communicable diseases, emerging infectious diseases, neglected tropical diseases, and zoonotic diseases
9. Regional preparedness and response to public health emergencies
10. Strengthening laboratory capacity
11. Combating antimicrobial resistance
12. Environmental health, health impact assessment and health impact of climate change
13. Disaster health management

AHC 3

## Strengthening health systems and access to care

14. Traditional and complementary medicine
15. Reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health
16. Universal health coverage, including health financing and health service delivery
17. Migrants' health
18. Pharmaceutical development
19. Human resources for health
20. Digital health and health information system

AHC 4

## Ensuring food safety

21. Food safety

**Vision:**  
A Healthy,  
Caring and  
Sustainable  
ASEAN  
Community

**Political Declaration  
of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage  
“Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”**

We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, assembled at the United Nations on 23 September 2019, with a dedicated focus for the first time on universal health coverage, reaffirm that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and strongly recommit to achieve universal health coverage by 2030, with a view to scaling up the global effort to build a healthier world for all, and in this regard we:

1. Reaffirm the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;
2. Reaffirm General Assembly Resolution 70/1 of September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, stressing the need for a comprehensive and people-centered approach, with a view to leaving no one behind, reaching the furthest behind first, and the importance of health across all the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which are integrated and indivisible;
3. Reaffirm General Assembly Resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which reaffirmed strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity;

**ASEAN  
Framework on  
the Health  
Coverage of  
Documented  
Migrants  
including  
Migrant  
Workers and  
Special  
Populations**



**ASIAN Center for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI)**

The ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI) is an ASEAN centre to enhance better life quality of ageing and well prepare ASEAN to be ready for ageing society in the future. The Centre is another deliverable of Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship under the theme of “Advancing Partnership for Sustainability”.

**ASEAN Plus Three Universal Health Coverage Network** aims to share and collectively build up the national and regional capacity to assess and manage the equitable and efficient health systems to support UHC



Progress of the realization  
towards UHC by AMS



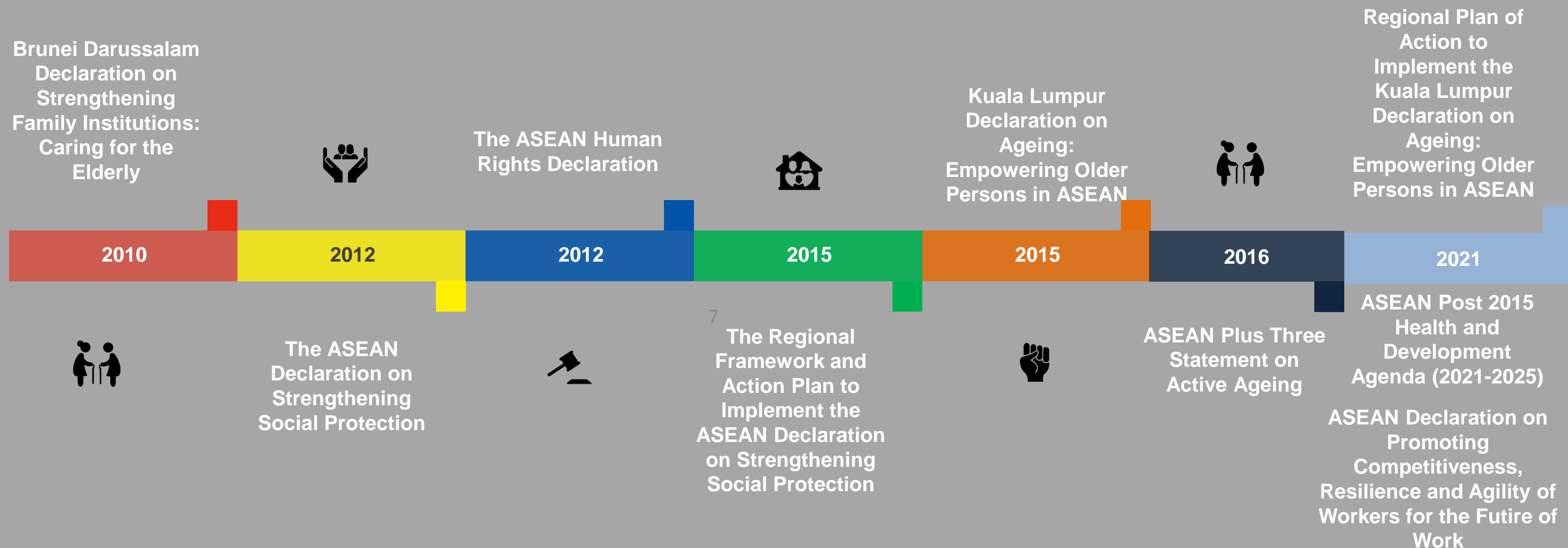
# ASEAN Social Welfare SECTOR



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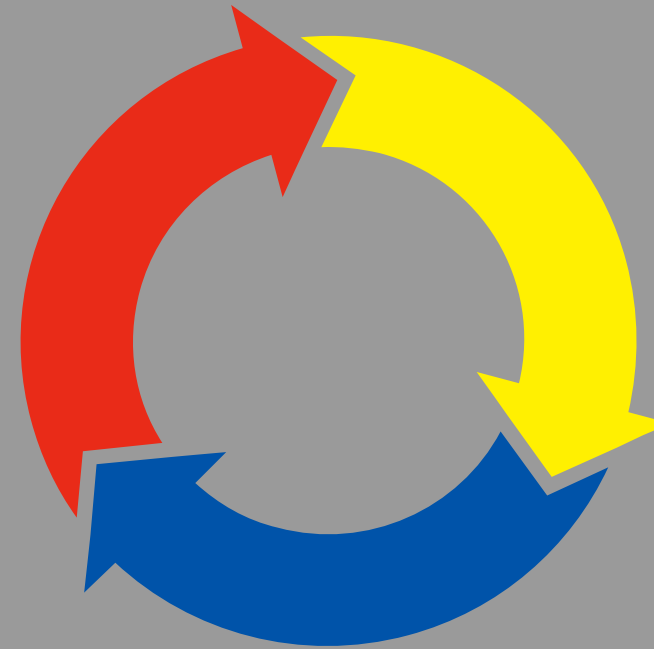
# Key regional instruments which affirm and promote active ageing, and the rights and welfare of older persons in ASEAN





## Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN

*Adopted by the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in 2015*



## Regional Plan of Action on Implementing Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Ageing: Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN

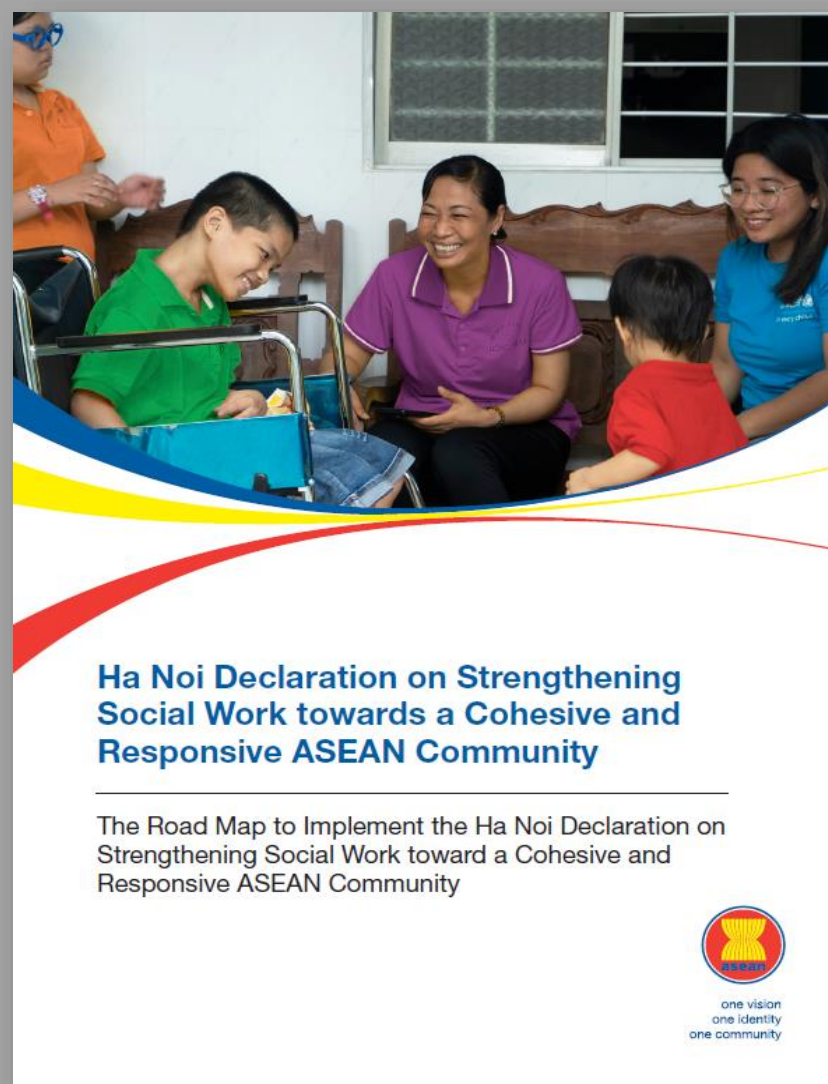
*Noted by the 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in 2021*

### 10 commitments under Regional Plan of Action

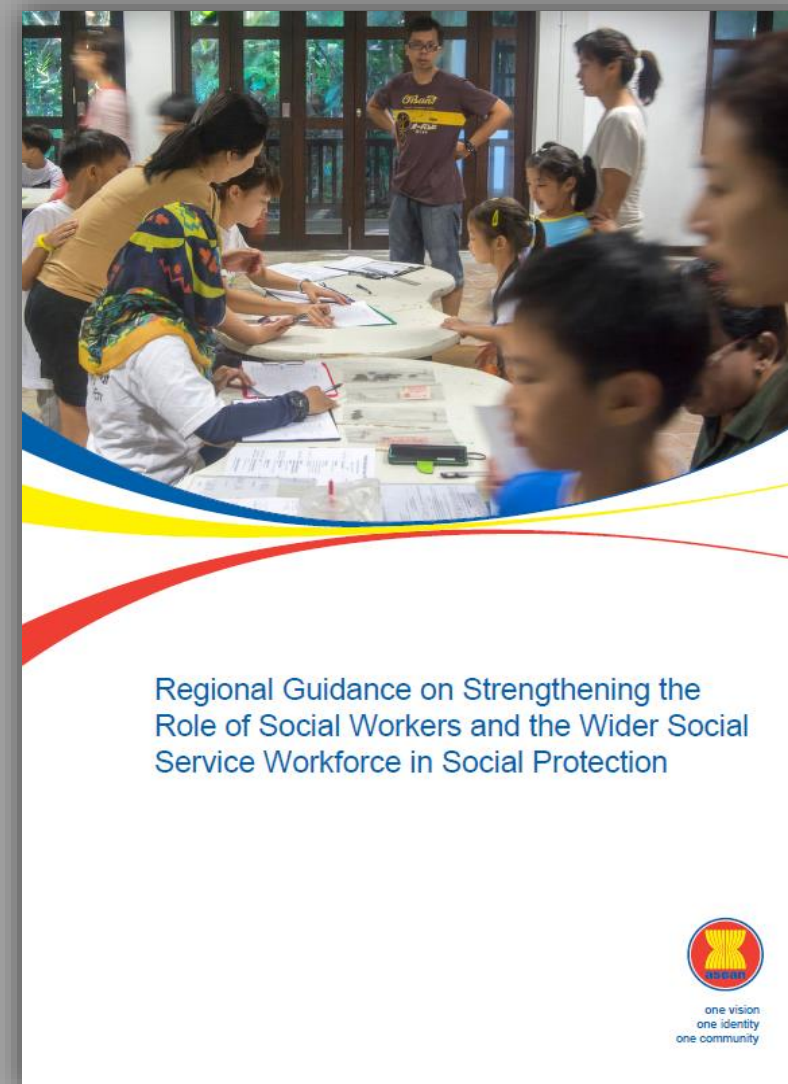
1. Promote shared responsibilities in supporting care givers
2. Promote intergenerational solidarity
3. Promote rights-based/needs-based and life-cycle approach, and eliminate all forms of maltreatment base on old age
4. Mainstream ageing into public policies and national development plans, programmes
5. Promote the development of human capital
6. Development of reliable, evidence-based, gender-disaggregated data on ageing
7. Strengthen capacity of all stakeholders and improve delivery services at all levels
8. Encourage development of older people's associations or other form of networking
9. Promote age-friendly communities/cities
10. Build and strengthen networking and partnership within and among AMS, and with other partners



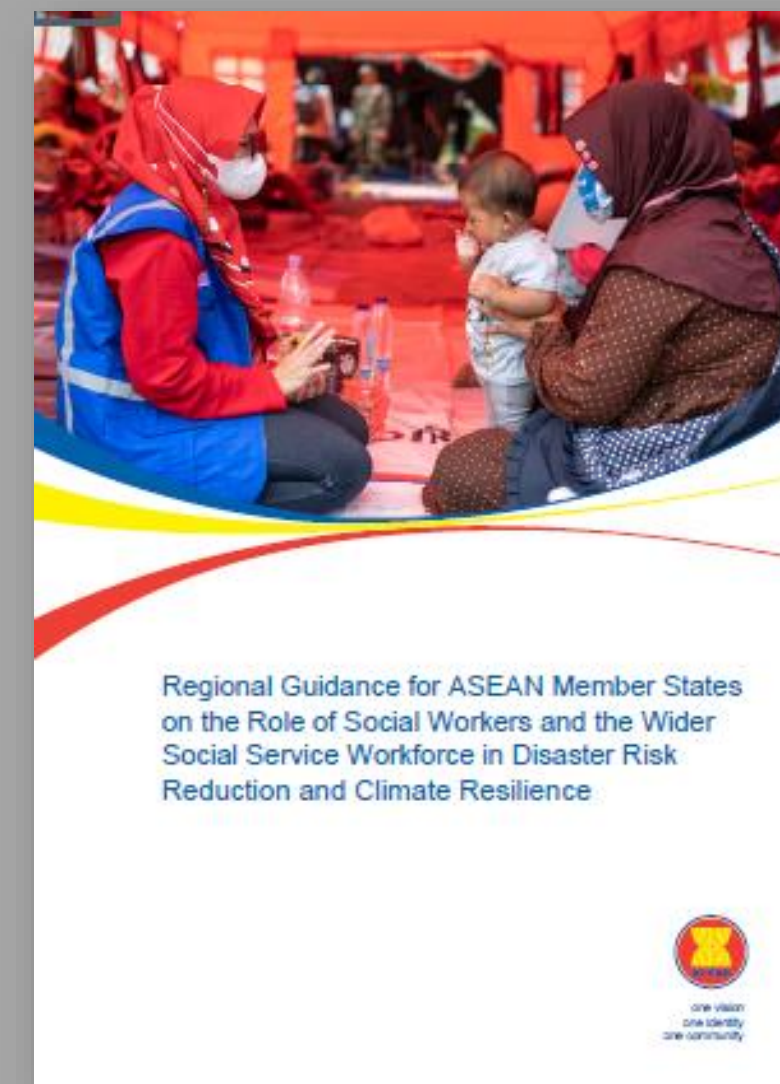
# *Strengthening Social Work and the Social Service Workforce in ASEAN*



<https://asean.org/ha-noi-declaration-on-strengthening-social-work-towards-cohesive-and-responsive-asean-community/>



<https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/10.-a.-Regional-Guidance-Strengthening-Role-of-SSW-in-Social-Protection.pdf>



<https://asean.org/book/regional-guidance-on-strengthening-the-role-of-social-workers-and-the-wider-social-service-workforce-in-social-protection/>



## SOMSWD Initiatives on Empowering Older Persons in ASEAN

- Data Sheet on Ageing - 2020 Older persons in ASEAN in numbers (completed)
- Establishment of ASEAN-WIDE Research Network on Ageing (completed)
- Study on Old Age Poverty and Active Ageing: Trends and Opportunities (completed)
- ASEAN+3 Regional Conference on Promoting Inclusive Society for Older Persons (completed)
- ASEAN Act (Active Ageing): ASEAN Regional Impact Research Study Assessment on Active Ageing (completed)
- Research on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Income Security of Rural Older People in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam (completed)
- **Regional Study on the Impacts of 4IR on Women, Children, Youth, the Elderly Persons, Persons with Disabilities and other Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups (ongoing)**

## Multi-stakeholder Mechanisms Established by SOMSWD

- ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASWC)
- ASEAN Training Centre for Social Work and Social Welfare (ATCSW)
- Network of Experts on Inclusive Entrepreneurship in ASEAN (NIEA)
- ASEAN GO- NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development (annually)
- **ASEAN High-Level Inter-Sectoral Conference on Social Protection**
- ASEAN Research Network on Ageing
- Public-Private-People's Partnership Forum on the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025



# ***Strengthening Families and Building Family Resilience in ASEAN***

A diagram on the left side of the slide features three white circles arranged vertically. They are connected by a blue line that forms a continuous loop, with each circle acting as a node in the loop.

Bandar Seri Begawan Declaration on the Importance of the Family for Community Development and Nation-Building [2021]

ASEAN Declaration on Gender Equality and Family Development [2023]

ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Inclusive and Equal Care Economy and Resilience Towards ASEAN Community Post-2025 [2024]



# ASEAN Labour SECTOR





## **ASEAN Labour Ministers' Statement on Improving Occupational Safety and Health for Sustainable Economic Growth 2017**

[https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/SIGNED\\_ASEAN-Labour-Ministers-Statement-on-Improving-OSH-for-Sustainable-Economic-Growth.pdf](https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/SIGNED_ASEAN-Labour-Ministers-Statement-on-Improving-OSH-for-Sustainable-Economic-Growth.pdf)

- Protect safety, health and welfare of workers in ASEAN by:
- Raising OSH standards through developing and regularly reviewing OSH legislation relevant with the changing world
  - Building OSH inspection capabilities and capacities to ensure that inspectorates are adequately resourced and skilled to enforce their OSH legislation
  - Enhancing collection of OSH data through ASEAN-OSHNET scorecard
  - Promoting sharing of experiences, best practices and knowledge on OSH through capacity building activities
  - Improving private sector OSH capability through ASEAN-OSHNET Awards
  - Reducing social costs of injury and illness



## **ASEAN-OSHNET's Guide for the Development of a Common Risk Management Framework 2019**

## **Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Risk Management for Small and Medium Enterprises in ASEAN Member States 2020**

Support the undertaking of AMS in the Joint Statement on Improving Occupational Safety and Health for Sustainable Economic Growth to strengthen risk management capabilities in ASEAN which provides the foundation to improve OSH standards.

[https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Endorsed ASEAN-OSHNETs-Guidelines-for-Development-of-A-Common-Risk-Mana...pdf](https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Endorsed_ASEAN-OSHNETs-Guidelines-for-Development-of-A-Common-Risk-Mana...pdf)

Provide a systematic and objective approach to identifying the hazard, assessing the risk, controlling the risk and monitoring and reviewing the risk management process and performance to ensure continuous improvement in small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

<https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines-on-OSH-Risk-Management.pdf>



## **ASEAN Declaration on Portability of Social Security Benefits for Migrant Workers in ASEAN and Its Guidelines**

Declaration:

<https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/30-ASEAN-Declaration-on-Portability-of-Social-Security-Benefits-for-Migrant-Workers-in-ASEAN.pdf>

Guidelines:

<https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/43-Final-ASEAN-Guidelines-on-Portability-of-Social-Security-Benefits-for-Migrant-Workers-in-ASEAN.pdf>

Explore the feasibility and potential towards the portability of social security benefits for migrant workers in ASEAN through:

- Appropriate and comprehensive migration policies
- Establishment and conclusion of bilateral and/or multilateral agreements or memorandums of cooperation
- Conduct of research/study
- Use of technology for labour migration and social security benefits management and administration
- Strengthening of the capability and performance of relevant officials

**Guidelines:**

provide guidance to establish portability of social security benefits in the region

## Old-Age Income Security in ASEAN Member States: Policy Trends, Challenges and Opportunities



Highlights the urgency of measures to reduce the old-age pension coverage gap, increase benefit adequacy and improve financial sustainability of pension systems.

Follow up: Capacity Building Webinars on Social Protection for ASEAN Member States

[https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/FINAL\\_old-age-2021.pdf](https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/FINAL_old-age-2021.pdf)

## Extension of Social Security to Workers in Informal Employment in the ASEAN Region



Outlines recent trends, challenges and opportunities for the extension of social security to workers in informal employment.

Highlights the gaps and needs of specific groups of workers that are more likely to be excluded from social protection coverage.

<https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Regional-Study-on-Extension-of-Social-Security-to-Informal-Workers-in-ASEAN.pdf>

## Research on Economic Justification of OSH Implementations in the Construction Sector



Examined the economic benefits of the implementation of OSH programmes in the construction sector.

<https://asean.org/book/research-on-economic-justification-of-occupational-safety-and-health-osh-implementation-in-the-construction-sector/>

## Study Report on the Portability of Social Security Rights between ASEAN Member States



- Overview of national social security systems in AMS
- Analyses on key aspects to be considered in working towards transferability of social security benefits of migrant workers to other countries.
- <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EPUB-Study-Report-on-the-Portability-of-Social-Security-Rights-between-ASEAN-Member-States-Final-Sep2021.pdf>



# THANK YOU

