

**WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY
AND COVID 19
IN ASEAN**

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INTRODUCTION

1. ASEAN COMMISSION ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN OR ACWC IS AN ASEAN SECTORAL BODY WHICH HAS ROLE TO FULFIL IN PROMOTION AND PROTECTION THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN ASEAN
I REPRESENT INDONESIA ACWC REPRESENTATIVE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS
2. THE YEAR 2020 MARKS THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY.

3. WOMEN ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY COVID-19 GENERALLY SPEAKING THIS TIME OF CRISIS TENDS TO REVEAL AND REINFORCE SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES REDISTRIBUTION OF POWER IN SOCIETIES, LACK OF RESOURCES GENERALLY IMPACT WOMEN MORE THAN MEN.
4. SOCIAL RESTRICTIONS AND LOCKDOWN HAVE RESULTED IN INCREASED RISK OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND VARIOUS FORMS OF CYBER VIOLENCE TRIGGERED BY THE INCREASE IN THE USAGE OF ONLINE PLATFORMS BY CHILDREN

5. THE UN WOMEN HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE COVID-19 THREATENS TO PUSH BACK THE LIMITED GAINS ON GENDER EQUALITY AND EXACERBATE THE FEMINIZATION OF POVERTY
6. THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS MORE THAN HEALTH ISSUE SINCE IT CONTAINS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT.

SUB THEME 1 :

A. CHALLENGES AND IMPACTS WOMEN FACE IN TIMES OF GLOBAL PANDEMIC

1. The movement restrictions had resulted among others in heightened risk of domestic violence for women and children, and cyber violence triggered by the continued usage of online platform by children.
2. The pandemic has led to school closure resulted in tremendous demands for women as caregivers of their family, women are extremely overburden with domestic chores and family care.

3. In the workforce women are usually the ones who are laid off than men.
4. With the limited access of women to economic resource resulted in feminization of poverty.

B. STRATEGIC TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES AND IMPACTS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

(Taken from ACWC Special Online Meeting on Protective and Preventive Measures for Woman and Children at Risk of Violence Domestic During COVID-19 Pandemic on 5th June 2020)

1. Brunei Darussalam

Reported that their response to COVID-19 Pandemic covers three component, namely

- i) Maintaning the well being of the public through the establishment of isolation centre and mobile application to provide information on Covid-19 to people.
- ii) Protecting jobs and providing support for individual for example temporary suspension of recruitment of foreign works.
- iii) Supporting business for example a platform was established to monitor price of product in particular marks and hand sanitizer are repriced
- iv) There is a sufficient stock of rice and sugar.

2. Cambodia

Informed that the Pandemic has led to an increase in the incidence of domestic violence due to lockdown. In partnership with CSO and development partners develop access of women/community to prevention message , protective items and essential services through social media; assesment of impact of Covid-19 in select province focusing on gender – based violence.

3. Indonesia

Informed that task force on preventing and handling of Covid-19 was established through task force. Protocols were developed among others on the prevention and handling of violence against women and children through virtual consultation and hotline. The government also produced special assistance and basic needs to

women, children, the elderly and the disabled across the country to help with their economy.

4. Lao PDR

Informed that hotline were made available to receive calls related the Covid-19 Pandemic. Several platforms were utilized to raise awareness and to reach women and children and the production of TV Spot on coping with pandemic. Lao also provided support for returning workers.

5. Malaysia

Informed that the Government had dedicated hotline to provide counseling services to women and children/victim of domestic violence: in collaboration with CSO , establishment of temporary shelters home for victim including child care center.

6. Myanmar

Informed that National Helpline services was setup for people including women and children to provide psycho social support. One-stop-the centre was established too address gender based violence and provide child care services and online training for social workers to handle cases on domestic violence.

7. Philippines

Informed online platform such as social media are being used to spread information on securing assistance from the police and access legal and health services. An interagency council has been established to ensure the continued delivery of support services and help victim report incidence of violence while observe social distancing measure.

8. Singapore

Informed all services in the public, private and people sector remain operational, include ensuring access to Crisis Centre for victim of abuse and violence, scaling up the “Break in Silence Campaign”, counseling and mediation. A task force has also been set up involving community organization to tackle domestic violence. The government has also developed guidance on building resilience and staying safe at home.

9. Thailand

Informed the establishment of hotline centres, and one-stop-services at the community level and the conduct of an online-rapid survey. In partnership with UNICEF, Thailand is preparing guidelines on ensuring the safety of children in community.

10. Viet Nam

Informed the establishment of 24 hours hotline centres and shelters to women and children victims of domestic violence, and detection services that investigate incidence of violence. The government and enhanced communication and raised awareness on preventing gender-based violence.

Some ACWC recommendation at the regional level :

1. Can exchange best practices;
2. Could develop a study on the impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic to women and children in order to design programmes and activities;
3. To Coordinated with AEC Pillar to discuss impacts of Covid-19 to women and children and take part in addressing this issue;

4. Continue to campaign against violence against women and children, against rage and harrasment and create safe space for the victims;
5. Establish an information sharing platform on the prevention and mitigation of domestic violence and to consider using ACWC fund to support projects relating to helping vulnerable women and children affected by this pandemic;
6. Examine the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic in the lives of women and girls;
7. Exchange means of communication to race awareness on prevention and response to Gender-based violence;
8. Developed programs and projects at preventing and responding to gender-based violence.

SUB THEME 2 : MAINTAINING WPS AGENDA IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19

1. What is WPS agenda?

- UN Security council resolution 1325 adopted in October 2000 is identified as the cornerstone of the women, peace and security agenda at the United Nations.
- Resolution 1325 was the culmination of decades of activism and advocacy works by civil society organizations aimed at encouraging the United Nations.
- To recognize the gendered impact of armed conflicts and the active roles played by both women and men in the pursuit of lasting and sustainable peace.

- There are 3 pillars of WPS Agenda:
 - 1) Prevention (Of Violence and the derogation of rights)
 - 2) Protection (From Violence)
 - 3) Partisipation (In peace building and post-conflict reconstruction)
 - 4) And one more pillar just added which is the Political Economy of peace and security (the structural conditions necessary for the creation of lasting and sustainable peace).

2. The Importance of the Joint Statement in Promoting WPS adopted in 2017 by Asean Leaders

- The joint statement on WPS is very important in bringing UNSC resolution 1325 to the level of the implementation in Asia.
- The joint statement in promoting women, peace and security (WPS) Emanates from the Asean socio cultural community pillar, not from the Asean political security community pillar

The joint statement in promoting WPS agenda in Asean is crucial as it recognizes that peace and security are essential to the achievement of SDGs and are interconnected and vital to the future of Asean emphasizing women's equal, full and effective participant at all stages of peace processes given their indispensable roles in the prevention and resolution of conflict, peace building and peace-keeping.

- The joint statement was jointly developed and endorsed by the ACWC and ACW. Following the adoption of the joint statement by the Asean leaders in November 2017 and the endorsement of the proposed multi-years programmes to implement WPS agenda in Asean by ACW and ACWC in October 2018. The regional symposium on implementing women, peace and security agenda in Asean was held on 22 – 23rd August 2019 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The symposium aimed to foster awareness and understanding on WPS from local, national and regional perspectives; provide a platform for dialogue between Asean member state, Asean sectoral bodies, and Asean Institute for peace and reconciliation among others or challenges and opportunities in implementing WPS agenda. Shared good practices on WPS agenda relevant to the context of Asean, and identify potential areas and the framework for a scoping study on WPS and ways forward on possible establishment of network of WPS expert and practitioners within Asean.

- In this symposium, the WPS agenda in Asean encompassed a broader range of priority areas covering : preventing violent extremism, women in disaster setting, transformative role of women in the peace process and the economic livelihood aspect of sustainable peace and conflict recovery.

- The TOR of the Regional study on Women, Peace and Security was also discussed at the Symposium. Relatedly, a mapping initiative on Women, Peace and Security at the regional and global level was undertaken to locate and contextualize Asean – led initiatives related to WPS for strategic planning and programming.
- WPS agenda is also important to foster cross-community collaboration and meaningfully engage with partners across the region.
- There is going to be a side event during the 53rd Asean Multilateral Meeting (AMM) in August 2020 on the promotion of the WPS agenda. If the initial regional is submitted and approved by the Advisory Group as well as ACWC and ACW before that, there is a possibility of including a presentation/launch of the initial result during the AMM meeting.

- Learning from experience at the national level, not all Asean member state (except the Philippines & Indonesia) have developed and adopted National Action Plans on WPS.
- The development of WPS agenda and the regional study can contribute immensely to the development of the Asean Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework in particular how the strategic framework can be concretised across the 3 community pillars.
- Data collection and analysis of the drafting of the regional study on WPS is still on going and will continue to shape the final conclusion and recommendation that are ultimately made in the final study.

- **How can we ensure that the joint statement continue to be implemented? Among others**

- 1) Find common understanding on different definition of conflict and peace process adopted by each member states in order to identify mutual areas where AMS could collaborate.
- 2) Overcome the compartmentalization of “security” and Gender issues within Asean secretariat and across ASEAN as a whole.
- 3) Consider to enhance the role and status of states of Asean Women for Peace Registry Institute for Peace on reconciliation.
- 4) Covid-19 Pandemic has threatened to reverse some of the hard-fought-gains peacemakers and gender equality advocates by marginalizing them from engaging in the peace and security dimension of the pandemics. Women should

be involved in the decision making process of rehabilitation process and actively participating in promoting their rights and as agents development.

- 5) The need to identify and agree upon action points and ways forward in accelerating the implementation of WPS agenda using multi-sectoral approach and collaboration.

SUB THEME 3 :

WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT IN FIGHTING AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1. As already discussed, Covid-19 pandemic is creating a profound shock worldwide, with different implications for women and men.
 - Women are serving on the frontlines against Covid-19 and the impact of the crisis on women is stark.
 - Women face compounding burdens: they are over-represented working in health systems, and are exposed to greater risk of infection while they are underrepresented in leadership and decision making processes in the health sectors : they continue to do the majority of unpaid care work in households and social restrictions and lockdown imposed additional burdens to women.

Their faced highrisk of economic insecurity (both today and tomorrow) and they faced increazed risks of violence, exploitation, abuse and harrasment during times of crisis and quarantine. The pandemic has had and will continue to have a major impact on the health and well-being of many vulnerable groups, and women are among the most heavily affected.

- Despite all these women's voices are still not were presented the media, this risks leaving their expertise unheard and their perspective ignored on the policy respond to crisis.

2. Policy options to support women, workers and families with **caring** responsibilities :

- Offering public children options to working parents in essential services such as healthcare, public utilities and emergency services.

- Providing alternative public care arrangement.
- Offering direct financial support to workers who need to take leave.
- Giving financial subsidies to employers who provide workers with paid leave.
- Promoting flexible working arrangement that account for workers, families responsibilities.

3. Policy options to support women, workers and families **facing job** and income loss.

- Extending access to unemployment benefit to non-standart workers.
- Providing easier access to benefit targetted at low-income families, in particular single parents, who care predominantly female.
- Considering one-off payments to affected workers.

- Helping economically insecure workers stay in their homes by suspending evictions and deferring mortgage and utility payments.

4. Policy options to support **entrepreneurs and small business owners** actively informs firms about how to reduce working hours, provide relief for workers and manage redundancy payments related to temporary lay-offs and sickness.

- Set up dedicated financial facilities to help small business address the short term consequences of the outbreak including e.g temporary tax-relief, dedicated loan programs and direct financial support.
- Ensure that self-employed can access emergency financial measure, especially those who do not qualify for employment insurance.

- Strengthen business resilience e.g training or mentoring programming to help small medium enterprise and manage the financial impact of the crisis, go digital or find new markets.

5. Policy options to support victims of gender-based violence.

- Ensuring that service delivery for victims is intergrated across relevant spares – such as health, social service, education, employment and justice and that victims needs and safety are consideres when moving towards more electronically–based mode of communication during the Covid-19 crisis.
- Adopting a whole-of-goverment and risk based approach to end GBV so that all public agencies are engaged in this issue in a closely – coordinated manner and ensuring that timely access to justice remains intact during this period.

- Pushing back in social acceptance of domestic violence, in part by drawing attention to how this issue affect women in complinment.
6. Policy option to ensure policy responcees account for gender
- Integrating gender impact assesment process and tools in emergency management. This integration requires a-well-function system of gender mainstreaming, ready access to gender – disagregated evidence in all sectors and technical skills.
 - Gender budgeting can help ensure that a gender perspective is applied to measure included in the fiscal stimulus package and allow goverment to understand the collective impact of the package on gender equality objective.

- Ensuring that all policy and structural adjustment to support sustainable recovery go through gender and intersectional analysis.
- Stepping up measures to increase the role and number of women and women's agencies in decision making processing, including around prevention and responses to Covid-19.

7. Option for safeguarding progress of the Gender-related SDGs

- Building a strong political commitment to applying a gender perspective to policy responses, allowing arbitration of economic, social and environment priorities critical areas strained.
- Ensuring that basic health care services in particular related to reproductive and sexual health are maintain

- Providing and food aid, to mitigated the economic impact of Covid-19 and to prevent the most vulnerable-premarily, women and children – from falling into coverty.
- Guanranteing access to basic-service and supporting maesure for the most marginalized groups of women.
- Ensuring that data collected on the impact of the crisis are sistematicaly sex-disagregated to measure the effects of the outbreak in SDGs through gender-lense.

THANK YOU