



ASEAN Through A Gender Lens

*Recommendations for the Full Implementation of the
Action Agenda on Mainstreaming
Women's Economic Empowerment in ASEAN*

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ASEAN



THROUGH A GENDER LENS

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Economic Empowerment
in ASEAN





The ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network (AWEN)





31 AUGUST 2017

The Philippines hosted the 1st ASEAN Women's Business Conference in Manila and the **Action Agenda on Mainstreaming Women's Economic Empowerment (AAWEE)** was launched.



13 NOVEMBER 2017

The AAWEE was adopted by the ASEAN Leaders who encouraged all ASEAN Member States mainstream women's economic empowerment through innovation, trade, and inclusive business.





The ASEAN Leaders adopted the Action Agenda on Women's Economic Empowerment



In November 2019, PhilWEN, as the designated Project Lead of AWEN, signed a partnership agreement with Oxfam for a project to mainstream AAWEE in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)



The Action Agenda on Mainstreaming Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) in ASEAN (AAWEE)'s

six (6) pronged approach on gender mainstreaming should be fully implemented through inclusive indicative activities in the revised AEC Blueprint, Regional Work Plans, or in any COVID-19 economic recovery plans by ASEAN sectors and leaders.

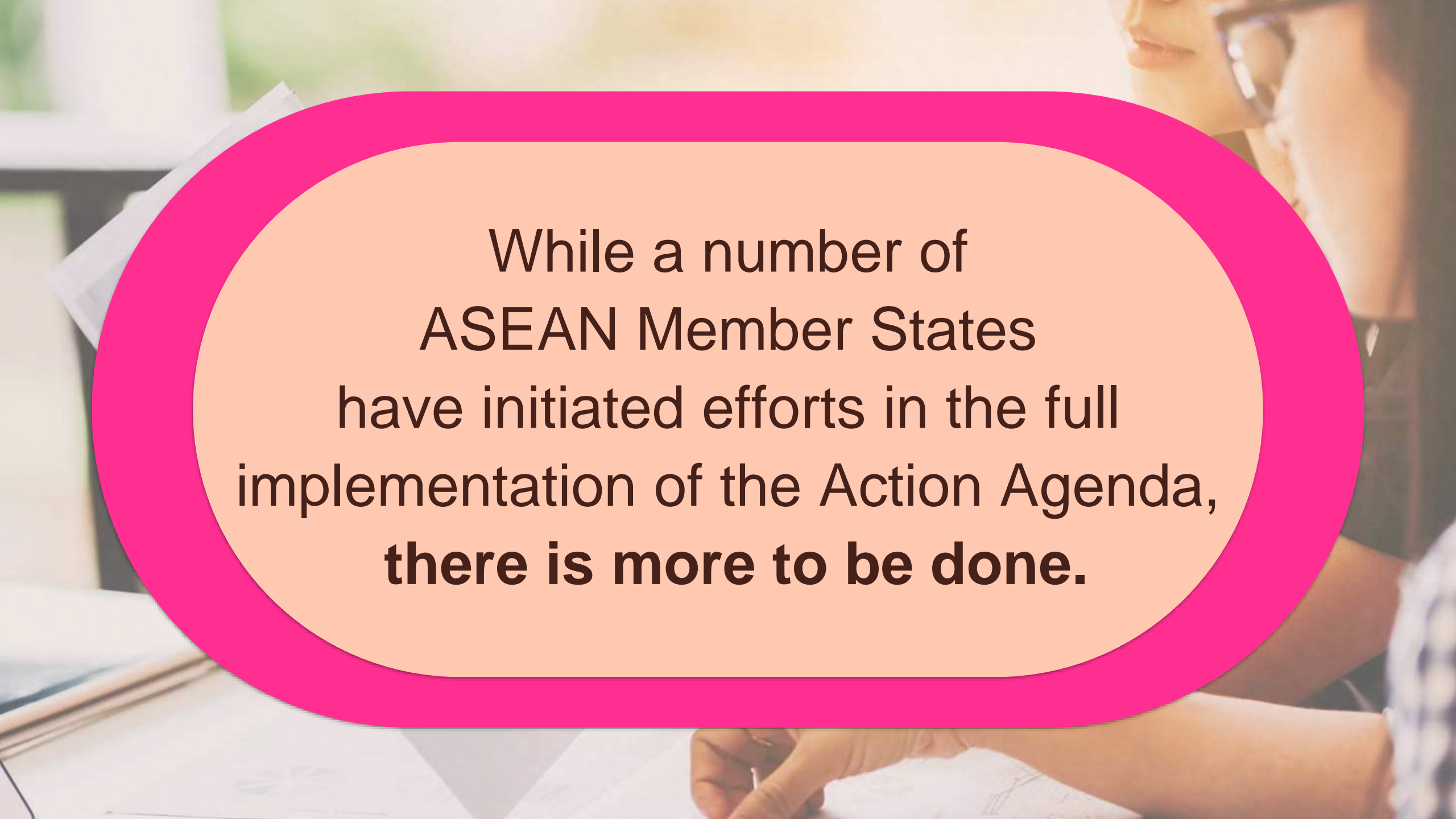




SIX-PRONGED APPROACH

of the Action Agenda on Mainstreaming Women's Economic Empowerment (AAWEE)



A woman with glasses is looking at a laptop screen in an office setting. The background is blurred, showing a desk with papers and a window with greenery outside. A large, semi-transparent pink oval with a white border is overlaid on the image, containing text.

While a number of
ASEAN Member States
have initiated efforts in the full
implementation of the Action Agenda,
there is more to be done.



COVID-19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in the social, political, and economic systems, which amplified its impacts, particularly among women and girls.

Strategic interventions for women's economic empowerment can be the next driver of the ASEAN's post-pandemic recovery and, in order to translate into resilience, these interventions must be inclusive.

Women must not be left behind.



WOMEN AND THE PANDEMIC

COVID19 is hitting the most vulnerable the hardest and exacerbating existing social and economic inequalities.



disproportionately affected
because they are most
exposed to risks at both
health and economic levels.



overrepresented in
precarious employment



COVID19 RESPONSE WITH A GENDER LENS

Unlocking women's economic and entrepreneurial potential as part of the recovery efforts can be a force for accelerated and inclusive economic recovery post- COVID-19.



Engage women as leaders and decision-makers in COVID-19 response and recovery



Channel economic stimulus packages and other economic support to workers, including in the informal sector, and SMEs



Specific attention aimed at sectors where women are predominantly employed in precarious contracts

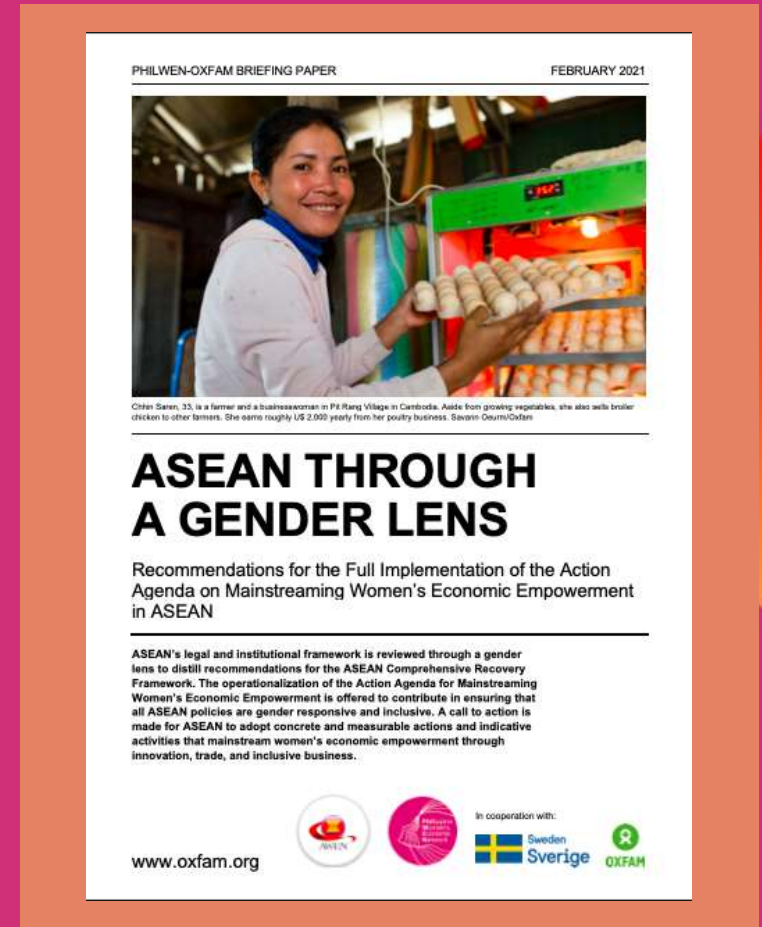


Accessible, affordable and quality care services



THE POLICY BRIEFING PAPER

- Specific, concrete, and measurable actions and policy recommendations the AEC needs to take to mainstream women's economic empowerment
- Also contains other recommendations to create an enabling environment for women-owned and led businesses to thrive in the region.





RECOMMENDATIONS



Gender disaggregation and intersectionality of data in the ASEAN Statistical Yearbook to provide in-depth information on women's economic participation and the challenges that confront certain groups of women.



REVIEW



of ASEAN instruments and policies to ensure a gender normative framework and recognize the differential impact of gender on macroeconomic policies. ▶▶

ASSESSMENT

of whether adequate representation is given to women in ASEAN, ASEAN BAC, ACCMSME, and other relevant sectors during policy making in the ASCC.





CREATION

of education programs for women, either as apprenticeships or ICT upskilling, to close the gender gap in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 to achieve a stronger, more inclusive, and integrated community.



A woman with short dark hair, wearing a black and white striped sleeveless top and a green measuring tape around her neck, is sitting at a table in a fashion studio. She is looking at a color palette and a book. In the background, there are mannequins and various fabrics.

INCREASE

programs that allow for smart gender investing in women-led and women-owned enterprises.

A group of business professionals in suits are standing in a line, holding hands in a supportive gesture. The background is a bright, slightly blurred office setting.

SUPPORT

to business and industry associations, such as AWEN, that extend assistance for women to access the marketplace and provide for opportunities in the ASEAN supply chain network.



Mainstreaming

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

requires multi-sectoral collaboration and a multi-dimensional approach that cuts across the three (3) ASEAN communities.



True inclusion means that all policy making work must not only be fair but must be equitable and should target the reality that is the feminization of poverty.



Pursuing transformative change goes beyond recognizing the benefit of empowering women; it involves the continued critical examination, challenge, and study of the structures and policies which shape our region. Ensuring that no one is left behind means that those who lack power, like women, are given the tools, means, and funding to be empowered.



WOMEN ARE NOT JUST LEFT BEHIND, BUT ALSO PAVE THE WAY FORWARD

THE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY OF ASEAN ECONOMIES DEPEND ON OUR CAPABILITY TO WORK ON AND IMPLEMENT OUR RECOVERY FRAMEWORKS WITH A "GENDER LENS."



The Policy Paper entitled, “ASEAN Through a Gender Lens” – Recommendations for the Full Implementation of the Action Agenda on Mainstreaming Women’s Economic Empowerment in ASEAN was launched in April 2021.





Executive Summary and Full Paper:
<http://bit.ly/ASEANGenderLensPaper>