

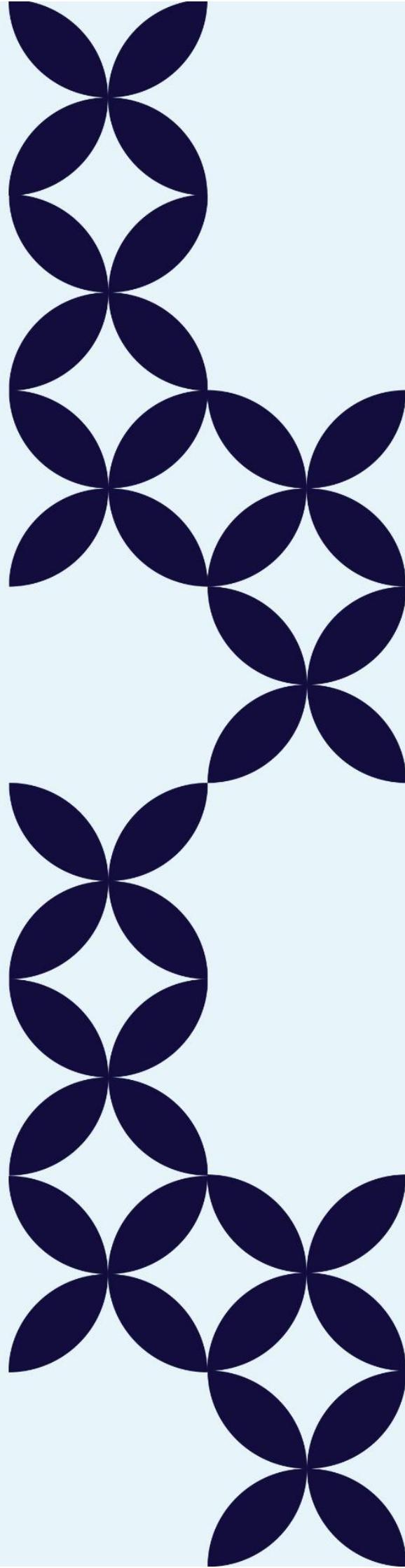
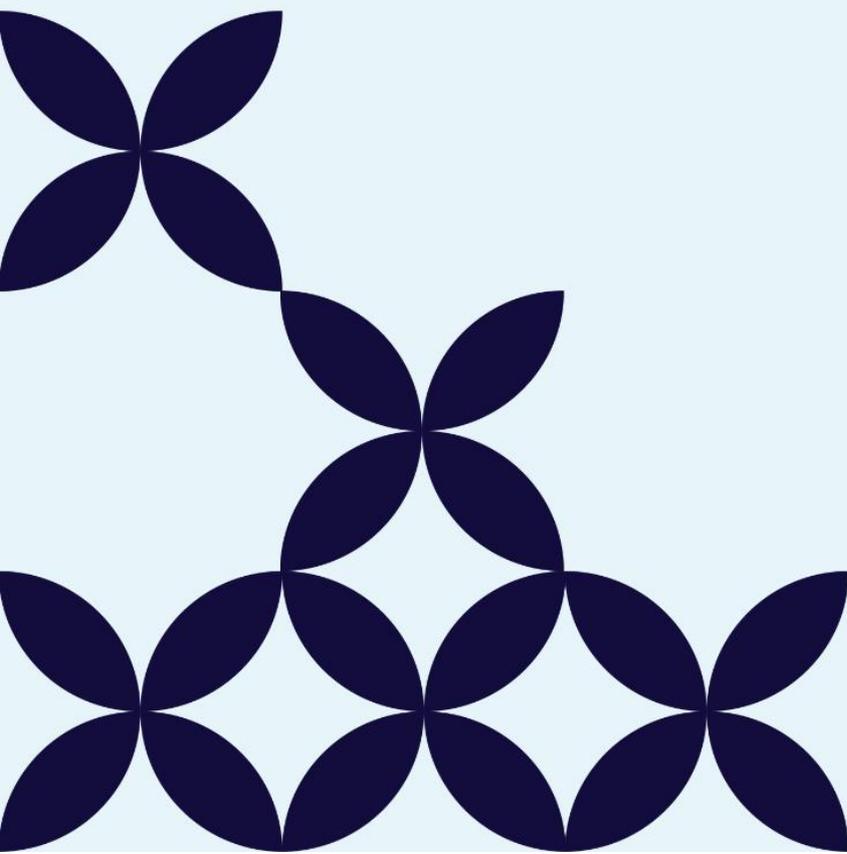


**NEW ZEALAND**  
**FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE**  
Manatū Aorere

**ASEAN**

# **Four Year Plan**

**December 2021**



This document is one in a series of Four Year Plans published by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. For the latest version please go to [www.mfat.govt.nz](http://www.mfat.govt.nz)

ISSN 2744-7278

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## Purpose of this document

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) has developed this Four Year Plan (4YP) to guide the planning and management of New Zealand’s development cooperation with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its eligible Member States<sup>3</sup>, and as a platform for dialogue. The 4YP is used to bring clarity to what work should be prioritised and to help monitor progress to achieve shared outcomes and strategic goals.

This is a living document that will be refreshed regularly to ensure it responds to changes in country context, including impacts of external shocks such as COVID-19.

### An integrated approach

Aotearoa New Zealand pursues an integrated approach to engagement with ASEAN and its Member States. We focus on coherence across our diplomatic, trade and economic, climate change, environment, security and development objectives to deliver sustainable progress in developing countries, and advance New Zealand’s interests and values. As such, our development contribution (both policy and financial) is an integral pillar of our foreign policy – it reflects our network of international relationships and commitments, and is an expression of our values.

## Enduring principles for New Zealand’s development cooperation outside of the Pacific

New Zealand’s 20-year global development vision is: ‘**Kia tuitui i ngā muku, koa herea ki tōna painga**’ – tying together the strands to make a strong bind for the greater good.

The enduring principles which guide New Zealand’s engagement outside of the Pacific are:

- **Te Puna Manaaki** (Fountain of support):

Our engagement will be underpinned by the values of whakahoahoa (partnership), including honesty, trust and respect. We will listen and consult, and act in partnership with predictability and consistency. We will confidently share New Zealand’s views and perspectives, being clear about the things we will do and the things we will not do. The strength of our partnerships empower us to communicate openly even where our views may differ.

- **Raranga te Muka** (Weaving the strands):

New Zealand’s global development investments contribute towards global and regional security and prosperity, and to our national interests. Our support helps to address global development challenges and issues that are too big for any country to address on its own,

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<sup>3</sup> Our development cooperation in the ASEAN region incorporates regional initiatives and bilateral programmes in the three Least Developed Countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar; and the three Lower-Middle Income Countries of Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam. Malaysia and Thailand are Upper-Middle Income countries and therefore now only receive scholarships.



while securing a platform on which to advocate for the things we value, including the Pacific. Through this approach we achieve pānga ngātahi (collective impact).

- **Tātou Tātou** (All of us together):

We will focus on collaborating with partners to upscale our ambition and magnify our impact, especially in the Indo-Pacific region where our engagements will contribute to ensuring New Zealand's own prosperity together with that of our regional and country partners. Through this approach we achieve painga takirua (mutual benefit).

- **Te Pae Tawhiti** (A shared horizon):

Our engagement will bring a long-term pakari (resilience) perspective, consistent with New Zealand's enduring interests. We will seek lasting impact through a focus on human capability development; economic and climate resilience, and kaitiakitanga (stewardship).

## ASEAN regional overview

ASEAN Member States	Land Area (sq. km)	Population ('000)	Urban pop. (%)	GDP per capita (USD)	Population living below national poverty line (%)	Net enrolment primary/secondary education (%) <sup>4</sup>
Brunei Darussalam 	5,765	459.5	77.9	29,343	0	93.2 / 82.7
Cambodia 	181,035	16,289.3	24.9	1,664	13.5	92.4 / 41.9
Indonesia 	1,916,862	266,911.9	56.0	4,201	9.8	97.6 / 78.8
Lao PDR 	236,800	7,123.1	35.6	2,645	23.4	98.8 / 60
Malaysia 	331,388	32,581.4	76.2	11,185	0.4	96.6 / 90.2
Myanmar 	676,577	54,100	30.9	1,229	24.8	97 / 57.8
Philippines 	300,000	108,274.3	47.1	3,483	16.6	94.1 / 79.9
Singapore 	725	5,703.6	100.0	65,233	0	99.5 / 99.3
Thailand 	513,139	67,989.8	50.7	8,001	7.9	96 / 83.4
Viet Nam 	332,703	96,484	34.7	2,711	6.8	97.3 / 92.4

<sup>4</sup> ASEAN Secretariat, *ASEAN Statistical Leaflet 2020* – data valid as at August 2020



## Context

ASEAN was established in 1967 and comprises ten countries with a total of 655 million people, or 8.5% of the world's population.

As a bloc, ASEAN contributes 3.7% of global GDP<sup>5</sup>. From 2015 until to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the South East Asian region's economic dynamism drove significant development progress; especially with respect to improving incomes and reducing poverty. The region was also experiencing an expanding middle class, improvements in health and education, a growing workforce, and a rapidly rising urban population<sup>6</sup>. It was on track to achieving Sustainable Development Goal<sup>7</sup> targets for quality education (SDG4) and industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG9). Good progress had also been made towards zero hunger (SDG2) and good health and well-being (SDG3); although much still needed to be done on reducing inequalities (SDG10), climate action (SDG13), and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG16)<sup>8</sup>.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic now threatens to increase existing inequalities within ASEAN countries, as millions of people remain vulnerable to poverty due to external shocks such as economic crises or natural disasters. While some Member States reacted quickly to control the spread of COVID-19 early in the pandemic, there are now more than 8 million reported cases of COVID-19<sup>9</sup>. Subsequent waves of outbreaks are also overwhelming exhausted health systems and threatening progress towards SDG targets across ASEAN<sup>10</sup>.

In late 2020 the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted that the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on ASEAN economies would be a contraction of 3.4%. The IMF also predicted that tourism and sectors relying on external demand such as agriculture and garment manufacturing would collapse<sup>11</sup>. Significant pockets of poverty have persisted across the region, with 54 million more people expected to be forced into poverty across East Asia (inclusive of the ten ASEAN countries) and the Pacific as a result of the indirect economic impacts of COVID-19<sup>12</sup>. Remittances have slowed by approximately 13%<sup>13</sup>, while workers returning home from overseas are placing additional burden on already vulnerable communities. The pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerability of migrants, refugees and internally displaced people across ASEAN who are ineligible for social protections<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> ASEAN Secretariat, *ASEAN Key Figures 2020*

<sup>6</sup> ASEAN Secretariat, *ASEAN Socio-cultural Community Blueprint 2025*

<sup>7</sup> The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The 17 SDGs are defined in a list of 169 SDG Targets. Progress towards these Targets is agreed to be tracked by 232 unique Indicators. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2020*

<sup>9</sup> Centre for Strategic and International Studies, <https://www.csis.org/programs/southeast-asia-program/southeast-asia-covid-19-tracker-0>, Data as at 3 September 2021

<sup>10</sup> Asian Development Bank, *Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021*

<sup>11</sup> International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook: October 2020*

<sup>12</sup> ASEAN Secretariat, *ASEAN Rapid Assessment: The Impact of COVID-19 on Livelihoods across ASEAN*

<sup>13</sup> ASEAN Secretariat, *ASEAN Rapid Assessment: The Impact of COVID-19 on Livelihoods across ASEAN*

<sup>14</sup> NZIER report to Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade, *ASEAN profiles: Economic, social, environmental, institutional, and security snapshots*



There is also a risk that loss of life and social capital, food insecurity, and economic recession will exacerbate ongoing political uncertainties and frictions, and result in further increases in irregular migration, instability and conflict. In addition, the crisis has had a disproportionate impact on women and girls in all their diversity, with women's employment at greater risk than men's due to the downturn in the service and informal sectors, the increased burden of unpaid care, and an increase in gender-based violence under lockdown conditions<sup>15</sup>. Education inequalities may also increase, particularly for girls taking on additional domestic labour.

The ASEAN Community Vision 2025 highlights complementarity with the SDGs in aiming to improve living standards. It envisions a peaceful, stable and resilient community; with enhanced capacity to respond effectively to challenges. However, ensuring more inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable growth presents a key challenge<sup>16</sup>. A range of risk factors including age, gender, disability, rural locations, and ethnic minority or citizenship status, affect the accessibility of social safety nets, education, and healthcare<sup>17</sup>. Constraints on livelihoods, particularly from high levels of informal work across the region, and food security challenges will also restrict pathways out of poverty and contribute to re-improvement<sup>18</sup>.

Fragility and conflict are also intensifying in some countries. The most recent and severe example of this is the 1 February 2021 military coup in Myanmar, which has led to profound regression across all development indicators<sup>19</sup> in that country.

The South East Asian region is also one of the most vulnerable in the world to climate change due to its long coastlines and heavy concentration of populations in low-lying areas. The impact of climate change will be significant and will complicate the region's achievement of economic prosperity and resilience, food security, and stability<sup>20</sup>. Severe weather events are already increasing, and the effects of extreme drought and flooding in 2020 are acute for countries of the Lower Mekong and East Asia respectively. ASEAN's total greenhouse gas emissions are reported to be 4.6% of global emissions and are dominated by non-renewable energy generation and agriculture<sup>21</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup> ASEAN Secretariat, *ASEAN Rapid Assessment: The Impact of COVID-19 on Livelihoods across ASEAN*

<sup>16</sup> ASEAN Secretariat, *Report of the ASEAN Regional Assessment of MDG Achievement and Post-2015 Development Priorities*

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> ODI Briefings, *From pandemics to poverty: hotspots of vulnerability in times of crisis*

<sup>19</sup> UNDP Asia and the Pacific, *COVID-19, Coup d'Etat and Poverty: Compounding Negative Shocks and Their Impact on Human Development in Myanmar*, April 2021

<sup>20</sup> Asian Development Bank, *A Region at Risk: the Human Dimensions of Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific*

<sup>21</sup> IFC, *Boiling Point*, September 2018



## New Zealand's partnership with ASEAN

Aotearoa New Zealand has been a Dialogue Partner to ASEAN since 1975 and a Strategic Partner since 2015. ASEAN and Aotearoa New Zealand have a strong history of working together to advance peace, stability and prosperity in our near neighbourhood beyond the Pacific. Our relationship is characterised by both breadth and depth – as trading partners, defence and security partners, and with our strong development cooperation and people-to-people links.

Aotearoa New Zealand has diplomatic missions located in Bangkok (also accredited to Cambodia and Lao PDR), Ha Noi, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (also accredited to Brunei Darussalam), Manila, Singapore, and Yangon, although Yangon Post is currently under remote management. Currently, three of these Posts have seconded Development Counsellors and five have staff employed at Post responsible for development activity management.

ASEAN is New Zealand's third largest trading partner, and more than 132,000 residents of Aotearoa New Zealand were born in the ASEAN region<sup>22</sup>. In 2019 7,555 tertiary students in Aotearoa New Zealand (12.5% of all international students) were from ASEAN countries.

Since its formation, ASEAN has underpinned decades of regional peace and stability, and has helped to manage the diverse geostrategic relationships and interests within the region. It enables Member States to act collectively in response to international and regional issues; for example, responding to the recent military coup in Myanmar. New Zealand's engagement with ASEAN provides an opportunity for us to work with ASEAN Member States and other likeminded partners in support of these efforts. ASEAN also serves as an important vehicle for collective action on pressing social and environmental challenges, through providing a platform for promoting climate change action and investing more into climate change cooperation.

Our partnership is underpinned by the ASEAN-New Zealand Plan of Action 2021-2025, which was adopted at the ASEAN-New Zealand Ministerial Meeting in September 2020. The full and complete implementation of the previous ASEAN-New Zealand Plan of Action 2016-2020 demonstrated New Zealand's value proposition as a reliable and relevant partner. New Zealand's approach to the new Plan of Action is framed around the four themes of: Peace, Prosperity, People, and Planet, and with a focus on areas where ASEAN and Aotearoa New Zealand have expertise and mutual interests. This aligns with the three community pillars of the ASEAN Community, which are: Political-Security Community, Economic Community, and Socio-Cultural Community.

In line with New Zealand's International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development policy<sup>23</sup>, South East Asia is a secondary geographic focus for our International Development Cooperation. Our development cooperation in the ASEAN region incorporates regional initiatives and bilateral programmes in:

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<sup>22</sup> 2018 New Zealand census data

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Aid-Prog-docs/Policy/Policy-Statement-New-Zealands-International-Cooperation-for-Effective-Sustainable-Development-ICESD.pdf>



- the three Least Developed Countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar, and
- the three Lower-Middle Income Countries of Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

Malaysia and Thailand are Upper-Middle Income countries and therefore now only receive scholarships. As developed countries, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam are not eligible to receive Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding but are offered New Zealand funded places on short-term training courses to ensure regional coverage<sup>24</sup>.

Aotearoa New Zealand is committed to deepening engagement with ASEAN, and as we head into the new triennium we have signalled our intention to step up our contribution to genuinely regional cooperation that includes all eligible Member States. The focus will be on credible and visible development activities that benefit all ODA-eligible ASEAN Member States and ASEAN regional bodies where appropriate. This is complemented by bilaterally delivered development programmes in six ASEAN Member States.

## **New Zealand's 4YP strategic goals in ASEAN**

As the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be felt across the region there is a need to maintain current interventions across a range of existing sectors, including food production, livelihoods, disaster preparedness, and effective governance. These interventions will be supplemented by new activities designed to address immediate needs arising from the impacts of the pandemic. This approach will contribute to ASEAN's and Member States' responses to COVID-19, and to ongoing recovery that supports ASEAN's aim to build back better. The regional recovery framework prioritises resilience, inclusive social supports and effective delivery of public services, as well as advancing sustainable development, including through accelerating the transition to clean energy and green infrastructure<sup>25</sup>.

The ASEAN-New Zealand Plan of Action 2021-2025 provides an agreed, overarching set of priorities for our international development cooperation across the region. The ASEAN 4YP strategic goals outlined below and associated thematic focus areas are closely aligned with the Plan of Action and then tailored for delivery at a bilateral level, based on specific country contexts and the identified needs.

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<sup>24</sup> The OECD Development Assistance Committee revises the ODA-eligibility list every three years. There is a GNI per capita threshold that countries must exceed for three consecutive years to transition up a status. Once countries reach Upper Middle Income Country (UMIC) status, New Zealand's bilateral assessment gradually declines.

<sup>25</sup> ASEAN Secretariat, *ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework: Implementation Plan*



## Strategic goals

**Goal One:  
Aotearoa  
New Zealand's  
targeted  
development  
cooperation  
contributes to  
enhanced stability,  
resilience and  
economic integration  
in South East Asia**

**Medium Term Outcome:** Aotearoa New Zealand is a trusted partner contributing to climate and economic resilience, inclusive development, governance and democracy.

All ASEAN Member States are signatories to the Paris Agreement on climate change and as such have submitted emissions reduction targets. Increasing population, rapid urbanisation and progressive economic development have led to increased demand and consumption of food, water and energy. The region has a rural population of 300 million people, many of whom are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods<sup>26</sup>. Agriculture is highly vulnerable to climate change, and rural poverty remains endemic. As demand for food, resources and energy increases, increasing agricultural productivity while also reducing emissions intensity will be critical, as will supporting sustainable resource management and renewable energy development to reduce import fuel costs, increase economic resilience, and lower emissions.

In working towards this goal we will also promote opportunities for all women, and people and groups at risk of being left behind, to drive and benefit from resilient livelihoods and economic growth.

The ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint strives for a highly integrated and cohesive, competitive, innovative and dynamic economy that supports sustained equitable development and inclusive growth.

The ASEAN region has also been facing a rise in average and extreme temperatures; increases in wet season rainfall, rainfall intensity and duration; and greater frequency of extreme events such as typhoons, droughts, floods, land and/or forest fires<sup>27</sup>. Aotearoa New Zealand supports ASEAN's ambition to be a world leader in managing disaster risk. The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint prioritises sustainable development that promotes environmental protection and enhanced capacity and capability to adapt and respond to disasters, climate change and emerging threats.

<sup>26</sup> ASEAN Social Forestry Network, *ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change Program Document 2011–2013*

<sup>27</sup> ASEAN Secretariat, <https://asean.org/our-communities/asean-socio-cultural-community/environment/>



## Strategic goals

As communities in the region suffer from collective stress, legitimate, transparent and accountable government will be critical for maintaining public trust and social cohesion. Our support for social cohesion activities will strengthen locally-led conflict prevention and peace building at community levels which will enhance resilience and stability. The ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint strives for a united, inclusive and resilient community through a safe, harmonious and secure environment, promotion of human rights and a rules-based approach, and the principles of democracy and good governance.

**Goal Two:  
Partners in South East  
Asia actively pursue  
and make progress  
against the  
Sustainable  
Development Goals**

**Medium Term Outcome:** Gap reduced between the most and least developed ASEAN countries.

Aotearoa New Zealand has committed to supporting ASEAN's ambitions for closer regional integration and closing the development gaps between the most and least developed Member States. ASEAN's unity and cohesion contributes to prosperity, resilience and stability across the region. Our development cooperation will be weighted towards ASEAN's Least Developed Countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar) as well as continuing cooperation with Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam as they transition towards Upper Middle Income Country status. The impacts of COVID-19 (and the coup in Myanmar) are expected to extend transition timeframes for development cooperation for these countries and our related planning. Regional activities and activities focused on sustainable, equitable economic development, including capacity building and knowledge and skills-based initiatives, will play a key role in supporting closer integration.

Our first strategic goal aligns with priority areas in the ASEAN-New Zealand Plan of Action including: good governance and human rights, agriculture, renewable energy, human capacity building for public administration and governance, education and leadership, disaster management, and environment and climate change. Our second strategic goal aligns with our commitment in the Plan of Action to continue supporting ASEAN's efforts to implement the Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan IV (2021-2025), alleviate poverty, and promote sustainable development.



## Specific outcomes linked to our strategic goals

The logic diagram annexed to this 4YP sets out how our strategic goals, which are long term outcomes, drive more specific medium and short term outcomes.

The short term outcomes reflect the key thematic priorities for regional integration, prosperity, resilience and stability in ASEAN. They also recognise the importance of people to people links in establishing Aotearoa New Zealand as a trusted partner for ASEAN. Aotearoa New Zealand will work towards these outcomes in partnership with ASEAN and its Member States.

## Assumptions

In setting out the logic diagram and outcomes, we have made the following **key assumptions** which we will continue to test and monitor during the implementation of this 4YP:

- ASEAN Member States experience partial recovery in their economies within the next three years.
- The political and humanitarian crisis in Myanmar is protracted.
- Partner countries continue to have capacity to engage with Aotearoa New Zealand in spite of COVID-19 priority responses.
- Post staff have capacity to monitor and visit key activities where possible.
- Borders reopen to allow resumption of the Manaaki New Zealand Scholarships Programme this triennium and/or scholarships delivered online are valued by ASEAN Member States.

## Risks

We have noted the following **key risks** which we will continue to monitor and develop mitigation measures for during the implementation of this 4YP:

Strategic level risks	Mitigation measures
The COVID-19 pandemic continues to limit the free movement of technical assistance, as well as incoming scholars to Aotearoa New Zealand.	Continue to explore innovative delivery options with our implementing partners, including online capability and connectivity.
COVID-19 impacts could change partner countries' priorities; divert resources and attention from ongoing development investments; and increase calls on New Zealand's international development cooperation outside of thematic focus areas.	Continue to support immediate response efforts and reinforce our contribution to longer term recovery.



Strategic level risks	Mitigation measures
<p>The temporary closure of and staffing pressures on New Zealand missions, together with fewer outward visits in the region, limits our ability to maintain relationships and to monitor and adapt to possible changing priorities.</p>	<p>Adopt virtual diplomacy and seek innovative ways to improve Post operability.</p>
<p>The political crisis in Myanmar continues, interrupting our international development cooperation programming bilaterally and regionally.</p>	<p>Continue to review what is feasible and realistic to address emerging needs, in line with our policy settings.</p>
<p>Partner countries are impacted by further extreme weather events or health threats, resulting in significant loss of life, damage or disruption to New Zealand’s development investments.</p>	<p>Embed climate resilience and disaster preparedness across all activities. Aotearoa New Zealand stands ready to consider all requests for humanitarian assistance.</p>



## Key themes supporting these outcomes

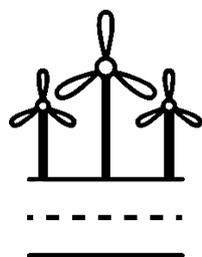
The key thematic focus areas for New Zealand's development cooperation within ASEAN are as follows:

### Climate and environment, infrastructure and energy

A healthy natural environment is central to a prosperous, secure, and sustainable future. Climate change is a 'threat-multiplier'. It is a serious and accelerating international challenge that poses unprecedented risks to the economy, environment, security and wellbeing in all countries. Urgent collective action is required to lock in low-emission and climate-resilient recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.



We will focus on increasing access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy that will reduce emissions and contribute to economic resilience through capacity building, advocacy and policy development, and provision of technical expertise.



We will support humanitarian efforts in the region, aiming to be a strong supporting partner and assisting affected partner governments when the scale of the disaster exceeds national capabilities. We will continue to support disaster risk reduction efforts and provide recovery support post-event, including demining support to release contaminated land for activities supporting economic recovery.

### Industry and innovation

The agriculture sector in ASEAN plays a vital role in economic development and food security, and is critical to sustainable livelihoods and economic recovery. We will focus on improved economic returns, food security and resilience from productive, sustainable and climate-smart agriculture. This will include support for market systems development, agricultural science, technology and innovation, and fisheries management.



### Equity and inclusion, and education

Inclusion and equitable development principles will be mainstreamed across these activities, considering the disproportionate effects of COVID-19 on vulnerable, marginalised and at-risk people and groups, to ensure no one is left behind and to achieve broad economic growth and stability.



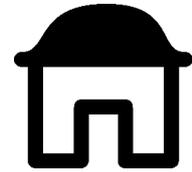
Knowledge and skills development in each of these thematic areas will be integrated into activities and delivered through aligned scholarships offerings.



## Governance and institutions

Effective and participatory governance is critical for achieving sustainable development. It underpins the social contract between governments and their citizens, and supports stability and resilience through kaitiakitanga (stewardship) and sustainable management of resources for the benefit of future generations.

We will focus on transparent and inclusive processes for allocating and managing resources, and their targeted, effective, fair, efficient and sustainable use. We will support duty bearers and civil society to strengthen institutions and mechanisms to enhance human rights and climate action. This will contribute to strengthened effectiveness, transparency and inclusiveness in governance for equitable sustainable development.



Strengthened human resources are essential for providing effective services to enable economic growth and equitable development. Knowledge and skills development will be a key mechanism for delivering activities in this thematic area. More specifically, our scholarships offerings including English language training for officials and short term training themed around public sector leadership and governance will target supporting the effective functioning of regional fora and governance systems. This will also contribute to building people to people linkages with current and future leaders.

ASEAN 4YP strategic goals and outcomes are supported through other programmes such as multilateral, humanitarian and partnerships programmes that may be working outside of key thematic areas identified in this 4YP. Alongside the ASEAN programme, these programmes have a key role in realising strategic goals and outcomes.

## Achieving development outcomes that are effective, inclusive, resilient and sustained

New Zealand's International Cooperation for Effective, Sustainable Development policy statement identifies four development principles that guide New Zealand's work with partner countries: effective, inclusive, resilient and sustained<sup>28</sup>.

**Effective development** is values driven, partnership focused, adaptive, outcomes focused, and evidence based.

In the ASEAN region we deliver effective development outcomes by working closely with partner governments<sup>29</sup> and the ASEAN Secretariat to identify where Aotearoa New Zealand can add value in addressing development needs. This enables our development cooperation to

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<sup>28</sup> <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Aid-Prog-docs/Policy/Policy-Statement-New-Zealands-International-Cooperation-for-Effective-Sustainable-Development-ICESD.pdf>

<sup>29</sup> Current policy settings restrict engagement with the military regime of Myanmar following the February 2021 coup.



remain targeted, relevant to national and regional priorities, and responsive to emerging development needs and contexts. We will maintain a mixed portfolio of modalities and implementing partners to increase the reach and flexibility of our activities, including international and local non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, research organisations and the private sector, working alongside government systems where possible. We will coordinate with other development partners to ensure efficiency and to leverage impact. We will prioritise monitoring and evaluation to ensure that our activities are managed adaptively, based on timely and context-specific evidence.

**Inclusive development** addresses exclusions and inequality created across all dimensions of social identity, while promoting human rights, and equitable participation in the benefits of development.

In ASEAN we deliver inclusive development outcomes by understanding and responding to the root causes and incidence of poverty and exclusion. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequalities, particularly for women and girls in all their diversity, and those at risk of being left behind. We mainstream social inclusion through meaningful participation in our activity design processes and by ongoing monitoring for gaps in implementation, and we learn from evaluations of selected interventions. Where appropriate we target and advocate for the realisation of human rights and gender equality. We recognise the specific opportunities and needs of women and young people; disabled people; rural and remote communities; people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC); indigenous people and ethnic minorities in ensuring shared prosperity and well-being.

**Resilient development** strengthens the environment, economy, and societies to withstand shocks and manage crises while protecting future well-being.

In ASEAN we deliver resilient development outcomes by mainstreaming economic and social resilience to climate change, disasters and other external shocks; identifying and managing negative impacts on the environment; and promoting sustainable management of natural resources. We support the transition away from fossil fuel use through our focus on renewable energy. Our work in the governance sector supports government stability and resilient institutions. Our support for agriculture has a strong focus on environmental sustainability and climate change resilience. We will continue to be responsive to countries emerging from conflict through contributing to economic resilience.

**Sustained development** enables lasting progress and is locally owned to uphold results in the long term.

In ASEAN we deliver sustained development outcomes by building lasting capability and providing tools to inform and pursue evidence-based solutions at local, national and regional levels. Our capacity building work through regional mechanisms multiplies our impact and reach, and embeds approaches for achieving development outcomes across all ASEAN Member States. We co-design and actively seek widespread buy-in for development activities to promote ownership of development outcomes by communities, local organisations and partner governments.



## How we put this plan into action

To operationalise this 4YP and therefore contribute to achievement of agreed goals Aotearoa New Zealand uses a range of actions and works with multiple partners. Primarily, we are guided by our ASEAN-New Zealand Plan of Action 2021-2025 which identifies agreed, targeted actions to progress towards these goals. These actions are then delivered at both a regional level, where it is appropriate to work through regional mechanisms, and at a multi-country/bilateral level.

At a bilateral level, we ensure priorities and approaches are adapted to country contexts. To deliver on Strategic Goal Two (partners in South East Asia actively pursue and make progress against the SDGs), programming is weighted towards the Least Developed Countries. We have a range of partnership arrangements in place with partner governments, in-country agencies and organisations to ensure activities delivered bilaterally align with national development goals, and to achieve painga takirua (mutual benefit). Our Aotearoa New Zealand missions provide valuable insights, monitor development activities, coordinate with other donors, build relationships with in-country partners, and use small grant funding to expand our footprint through agile and responsive development activities.

New Zealand's development cooperation is a small portion of total development assistance into the ASEAN region. As such, we must tailor our activities in the identified thematic areas to each country context, and we must work in coordination with other actors to magnify our impact and achieve our strategic goals. Not all thematic areas will be pursued in each location as a result. Our value proposition in ASEAN is to deliver on our commitments and remain responsive to emerging needs and contexts. We work closely with and through regional bodies to promote ASEAN centrality, recognising that complex challenges can only be addressed through pānga ngātahi (collective impact). We appreciate the complementarity and importance of sub-regional cooperative frameworks, such as in the Mekong, and will continue to engage constructively with these relevant mechanisms.

We will work through multilateral institutions to demonstrate our commitment to the international rules-based order and good international citizenship. We will facilitate involvement in, and implementation of, multilateral mechanisms to address common challenges and we will play a role in leading global action on climate change and human rights.

We will also engage with civil society to strengthen peacebuilding, increase capability in inclusive development, and advocate for rights-based approaches. We will focus on building lasting partnerships with in-country partners that will endure beyond our development assistance. This will be driven by our Te Tiriti o Waitangi experience, which will help us to engage more deliberately to bring about intergenerational change, particularly through creating connections with our indigenous knowledge and approaches.

Our scholarships offerings and continued engagement with alumni, while impacted by the COVID-19 border closures, are aligned with our thematic areas to contribute to achievement of our strategic goals. These offerings will enhance professional skills and knowledge in priority areas that contribute



to development in scholars' respective countries. They enable strong people to people links and are a critical component of our relationships in the region, building affinity between countries.

### Key indicators of progress

**Goal One:**  
**Aotearoa**  
**New Zealand's**  
**targeted**  
**development**  
**cooperation**  
**contributes to**  
**enhanced stability,**  
**resilience and**  
**economic**  
**integration in South**  
**East Asia**

ASEAN Member States make meaningful progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the following indicators, which are reported by each country<sup>30</sup>:

- Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status (SDG 2.3.2)
- Proportion of population with electricity (SDG 7.1.1)
- Installed renewable energy-generating capacity (watts per capita) (SDG 7.b.1)
- Direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters (SDG 11.5.2)
- Total greenhouse gas emissions per year (SDG 13.2.2)
- Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group (SDG 16.7.2)
- Number of scholars completing Manaaki New Zealand Scholarships
- Feedback from ASEAN on progress towards implementing the ASEAN-New Zealand Plan of Action 2021-2025

**Goal Two:**  
**Partners in South**  
**East Asia actively**  
**pursue and make**  
**progress against the**  
**Sustainable**  
**Development Goals**

ASEAN Member States make meaningful progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including comparing the following indicators, which are reported by each country:

- Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age (SDG 1.2.1)
- Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (SDG 8.1.1)
- Annual UNDP Human Development Index rankings

<sup>30</sup> Full list of SDG Indicators available here: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>



## How we assess progress against this plan

We report back on progress towards our goals in ASEAN overall via MFAT's Annual Report<sup>31</sup>.

In addition, we report back on progress against the ASEAN-New Zealand Plan of Action 2021-2025 at varying levels of detail at the following annual meetings:

- ASEAN-New Zealand Ministerial Meeting
- ASEAN-New Zealand Strategic Dialogue (Senior Officials), and
- ASEAN-New Zealand Joint Cooperation Committee (Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat).

At a bilateral level, we also have High Level Consultations with partner governments. This not only gives us an opportunity to discuss what has been achieved in partnership but also to test whether our plan remains fit-for-purpose or we need to change anything.

ASEAN Member States' progress against the key indicators for each strategic goal help us to monitor progress at the highest level. We support and use country-owned statistics and data to monitor country progress at the macro level, avoiding having separate country-level measurement frameworks.

In addition, we monitor and evaluate our development activities to enhance accountability and transparency and inform continuous improvement. Evaluations assess whether development interventions are relevant to context, coherent with other interventions, achieve the desired objectives, deliver results efficiently, and have lasting effects. These evaluations, where appropriate, will be published in full or in summary form. They will be shared with partners and used to inform regular updates of this 4YP.

As is standard practice for New Zealand's international development cooperation, every 6-8 years we will commission a strategic independent evaluation in partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat. This will look at progress against outcomes, challenges and lessons learned to inform the ongoing improvement of our engagement towards the strategic goals.

### For further information

For more about MFAT's engagement with ASEAN go to our website at <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-aid-partnerships-in-south-east-asia/aid-partnership-with-the-association-of-south-east-asian-nations-asean/> or contact [GDS@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:GDS@mfat.govt.nz).

For more about the scholarships programme, go to our website at <https://www.nzscholarships.govt.nz/> or contact the Global and Scholarships Division, Pacific and Development Group, at [scholarships@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:scholarships@mfat.govt.nz).

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<sup>31</sup> <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/mfat-annual-reports/>





# Appendix: Logic diagram for ASEAN 4 Year Plan

## STRATEGIC GOALS

### STRATEGIC GOAL 1:

Aotearoa New Zealand’s targeted development cooperation contributes to enhanced stability, resilience and economic integration in South East Asia

### STRATEGIC GOAL 2:

Partners in South East Asia actively pursue and make progress against the Sustainable Development Goals

## MEDIUM TERM OUTCOMES

### MTO1:

Aotearoa New Zealand is a trusted partner contributing to climate and economic resilience, inclusive development, governance and democracy

### MTO2:

Gap reduced between the most and least developed ASEAN countries

## SHORT TERM OUTCOMES: key changes expected to result from MFAT activities and engagement in 3–5 years

### STO1:

Improved preparedness, response and recovery from shocks including climate change, pandemics and disasters

### STO2:

Improved economic returns, food security and resilience from productive, sustainable and climate-smart agriculture

### STO3:

Increased access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

### STO4:

Supported inclusive economic recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 through reliable and environmentally sustainable sectors

### STO5:

Strengthened effectiveness, transparency, inclusiveness and sustainability in governance practices, leadership and systems

### STO6:

Increased participation of women and girls, and groups at risk of marginalisation in social, economic and political decision making, leading to greater social cohesion

### STO7:

Improved knowledge, skills and networks for current and future leaders

Increasing influence of external/ contextual factors

MFAT has more influence