

REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON COVID-19 RECOVERY:
**BUILDING FORWARD BETTER WITH WOMEN'S
 LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION**

15 – 16 March 2023
 Novotel Sukhumvit Soi 20, Bangkok



From
 the People of Japan



AGENDA – DAY 1

8:30 AM	Registration
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Knibbs, Regional Director a.i. for Asia and the Pacific, UN Women • Mr. Yuichi Oba, Deputy Chief of Mission, Minister and Permanent Representative of Japan to UN ESCAP <p>Moderator/MC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Holtsberg, Deputy Regional Director OIC, UN Women
<p>Theme One: Impacts and Lessons Learned on COVID-19 Response</p> <p>Session objectives: The objective of these initial sessions is to lay the groundwork for how women and girls were differently and negatively impacted by COVID-19 across different spheres of their work and lives. By setting the stage, we therefore have a strong shared understanding of the needs of women and girls to consider for recovery.</p>	
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	<p>Session 1: Impact of COVID-19 on Women Across Socio-Economic Spheres</p> <p>Session information: Following an opening video telling the stories of women across the Mekong region and how COVID-19 impacted their lives, the introduction session will unpack the range of ways in which women and girls have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, in line with the five critical areas noted in the background:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased risks for gender-based violence in the context of pandemic response policies. 2. Unemployment, economic and livelihood impacts for the poorest women and girls. 3. Unequal distribution of care and domestic work. 4. Women and girls' voices are not being included for an informed and effective response, particularly for those most left behind. 5. Policy response mechanisms do not incorporate gender analytical data or gender responsive plans. <p>Speakers/Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ha Linh, Communication and Foreign Affairs Officer, Center for Women and Development, Viet Nam Women's Union • Chaipasird Phunphouvanna, Programme Coordinator, Oxfam in Lao PDR • Thak Socheat, Executive Director, Cambodia Women Crisis Center • Sara Duerto Valero, Statistics Specialist, UN Women <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Holtsberg, Deputy Regional Director OIC, UN Women
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	Coffee break

<p>10:45 AM – 11:45 AM</p>	<p>Session 2: Women’s Leadership in COVID-19 Response</p> <p>Session information: The focus of this session is to understand the current state of women’s leadership and participation in COVID-19 response and recovery in Asia and to identify recommendations to better support women’s leadership and participation. The session will include an overview of the regional study that UN Women will launch to coincide with the event, which addresses the questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To what extent, and in what ways, have women’s rights/women-focused/women-led organisations been able to lead and participate in COVID-19 response and recovery in Asia? 2. What are the enablers and barriers for women’s rights/women-focused/women-led organisations to lead and participate in COVID-19 response and recovery in Asia? 3. What opportunities are there for humanitarian organisations, governments and donors to better support women’s rights/women-focused/women-led organisations to be able to lead and participate in COVID-19 response and recovery in Asia? <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamaiporn Siangyen (Kay), Researcher, Humanitarian Advisory Group • Phearong Sdeung, Executive Director, Bantey Srei Organization • Kohinoor Yeasmin, CEO, TARANGO <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sopheha Khun, Country Programme Coordinator for Cambodia, UN Women
<p>11:45 AM – 12:45 PM</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>Theme Two: Current Gender Integration in Recovery Efforts</p> <p>Session objectives: The objective of this session is to transition the conversation towards what recovery efforts are ongoing and to highlight what good practices or efforts exist to ensure women and girls are included, and indeed at the centre, of recovery policies and programming.</p>	
<p>12:45 PM – 1:45 PM</p>	<p>Session 3: Using Gender Data to Inform COVID-19 Policies and Recovery</p> <p>Session information: The COVID-19 pandemic had widespread economic, social and environmental effects. Data shows that in many cases the pandemic affected women and men differently. To mitigate these effects, governments put in place response and recovery measures, but only about a third of COVID-19 policies have been gender-sensitive. This session will explore why some of the policies respond to existing evidence on the gendered effects of the pandemic, but many show a disconnect with the gaps highlighted by available gender data. This session will build on previous research and consultations conducted with various countries across the region and will highlight barriers and enablers for evidence-based decision-making. In addition, the session will explore the importance of utilizing gender data to respond to, and better prepare for, future crises, including by showcasing available evidence and tools on what worked and what may work in the future.</p> <p>Speakers/Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sneha Kaul, Statistics Analyst, UN Women • Maria Kristine Josefina Balmes, Deputy Director for Operations, Philippines Commission on Women • Liat Biron, Ending Violence Against Women Response Programme Officer, UN Women <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Duerto Valero, Statistics Specialist, UN Women

<p>1:45 PM – 3:15 PM</p>	<p>Session 4: Engendering Regional Frameworks for COVID-19 Response and Recovery: Experiences from Southeast Asia</p> <p>Session information: This discussion on gender mainstreaming in the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) presents how gender data foundational to each Broad Strategy, outlines practical measures on gender mainstreaming in each, and most importantly, highlights the key gender-responsive policy measures and practices taken in each to enable collaboration and exchange not only within the region, but also showcasing ASEAN leadership and commitment towards a gender-responsive recovery globally. This panel discussion will showcase ACRF implementation, learning from country level experiences on mainstreaming gender equality throughout the recovery scheme and actions of ASEAN.</p> <p>Speakers/Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arief Rizky Bakhtiar (Abe), Senior Project Officer, ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework Support Unit, ASEAN Secretariat • Ngo Hoang, Vice Director of Legal Department, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs • Kanokrat Keuakij, Assistant Secretary General, Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre and Coordination Center for Children and Women <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryce Chanchai, Governance and Women, Peace and Security Lead for Indonesia and ASEAN, UN Women
<p>3:15 PM – 3:30 PM</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>12:45 PM – 1:45 PM</p>	<p>Session 5: Advancing Women’s Economic Empowerment to Building Inclusive and Resilient Economies in the Asia-Pacific</p> <p>Session information: The immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to women’s economic participation and livelihoods pose an extended threat to advancing gender equality and inclusive economic growth across the region. Multi-stakeholder action is urgently needed to ensure hard-won gains towards women’s economic empowerment in the Asia-Pacific are not reversed. The Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) – a set of 7 principles developed to guide corporates to become more gender-responsive across their value chain - offer a globally recognized framework for both private and public organizations to holistically assess progress and develop initiatives to increase women’s participation and leadership in the world of business. This session will bring together key stakeholders across the business ecosystem to discuss opportunities to advance women’s economic empowerment in the Asia-Pacific, including policy actions to get more women into workforce, as well as persistent challenges to women’s economic empowerment, such as women’s disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work.</p> <p>Speakers/Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Lenny N. Rosalin, Deputy Minister for Gender Equality, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection, Indonesia and Indonesia Representative of the ASEAN Committee on Women (virtual) • Susan Nio, Founder, LoveCare • Nattinee Netraumpai, Head of Corporate Affairs, Unilever Thai Trading Limited • Keiko Nowacka, Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), Asian Development Bank (virtual) • Kyaw Myat Soe, Director, ImpactHub Yangon <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siriporn Rathie, Programme Manager for WE RISE Together, UN Women
<p>5:00 PM - 5:15 PM</p>	<p>Closing remarks by Maria Holtsberg, Deputy Regional Director OIC, UN Women</p>
<p>5:15 PM – 8:00 PM</p>	<p>Networking cocktail evening</p>

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AGENDA - DAY 2

Note: The morning is a continuation of Theme Two: Current Gender Integration in Recovery Efforts.	
8:30 AM	Registration
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	<p>Session 6: COVID-19 Recovery in the Nexus - Transforming from Emergency Aid towards Long-term Recovery</p> <p>Session information: The COVID-19 pandemic has been more than a health crisis; it is an economic crisis, a humanitarian crisis, a security crisis, and a human rights crisis. COVID-19 highlighted the severe fragilities and inequalities within and among nations, and was further compounded by additional crisis factors across the Asia Pacific region, including conflict, climate change and a further weakened economy. Coming out of this crisis will require a whole-of-society, whole-of-government and whole-of-the-world approach. With different government departments, as well as different humanitarian and development actors responding to disaster and crisis, very recovery and rebuilding, this siloed approach creates a missing link. As we shift from response towards recovery, the COVID-19 pandemic provides an opportunity for conscientious programming at the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. This is an opportunity for us to better understand how working across the nexus can ensure sustainability when transitioning from response to recovery to build a more resilient future.</p> <p>Speakers/Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lahpai Nang Kha, Project Manager, Ethnic Equality Initiative, Kachin State Women's Network • Hannaleena Polkki, Protection, Gender and Inclusion Coordinator, Asia Pacific Disaster and Climate Crises Unit, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies • Leigh Fuentes, Humanitarian Partnership Platform Coordinator, Care Philippines & Wilyyn Valmores (Weng), Program Director for Mindanao, Assistance and Cooperation for Community Resilience and Development • Mona Stella Mariano Ramos, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Adviser for Asia Pacific, World Vision International <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athena Galao, Programme Analyst for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, UN Women

<p>10:00 AM – 11:00 AM</p>	<p>Session 7: Intersectionality in COVID-19 Recovery Efforts</p> <p>Session Information: Gender is an intersecting component of wider structural inequalities. This session considers the value and contributions, as well as the unique challenges of those experiencing overlapping conditions of marginalization, focusing on experiences of people with disabilities, LGBTQI+ people, and people with diverse SOGIESC. By recognising and empowering local leaders from the community, sharing knowledge, raising awareness, developing capacities, and supporting inclusive partnerships, the aim is to reduce the discrimination and stigma they experience and shift cultural and systematic norms to ensure COVID-19 recovery efforts uphold human rights and are truly inclusive of all.</p> <p>Speakers/Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean Chong, Co-founder of Sayoni; Executive Director and Founder of ASEAN Feminist, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Queer Network; Chairperson of ASEAN SOGIE Caucus • Supaanong Panyasirimongkol (NuNu), Networking and Collaboration Officer, Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability • Aiko Akiyama, Social Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan Joseph Figueiredo, Executive Director of Equal Asia Foundation
<p>11:00 AM – 11:15 PM</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>Theme Three: What is still needed for recovery going forward?</p> <p>Session objective: This final theme will bring our conversation together, in order to identify areas where further focus for advocacy, policy, and programming is needed to ensure women and girls not only recover from the pandemic, but that they build a stronger and better future.</p>	
<p>11:15 AM – 12:15 PM</p>	<p>Session 8: Youth Leadership in COVID-19 Recovery</p> <p>Session Information: From promoting gender equality to fighting climate change, protecting our oceans and biodiversity; young people are leading positive change with creativity and commitment in response to our fast-changing world. Yet, feminist gains are experiencing a huge drawback. Young women and girls face multiple barriers and disadvantages that include violence, limited and unequal access to resources, knowledge, networks, and jobs, as well as early marriage and childbearing in many Asia-Pacific countries. These multiple forms of discrimination are due to persistent inequalities, discriminatory laws, negative cultural norms, and unequal gendered social roles that are attributed to them within their communities and families. The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened some of these inequalities with school closures, increased unemployment and the suspension or closure of non-formal education and learning support services. Young people, especially young women and girls are more isolated, more at risk, more vulnerable to mental health challenges and more likely to be the victims of domestic and gender-based violence than before. This session will address the interlinkages between COVID-19, gender inequality, gender-based violence (GBV), and climate change and how it disproportionately affects young women and girls due to the rising social and economic pressures, as well as lockdown measures triggered by the pandemic. Young leaders will offer recommendations for their meaningful participation - co-creating and co-leading all processes, and engagement of COVID-19 recovery efforts.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phatteea Yongsanguanchai, Climate Activist, 30 for 2030 • Louise Mabulo, Chef, Farmer & Entrepreneur, 30 for 2030 • Jannatul Mouwa, Executive Director, BINDU Nari Unnayan Sangathan <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shreyasi Jha, Senior Gender Advisor, UNICEF

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM	<p>Session 9: Innovative Approaches to Strengthen Women’s Leadership and Participation in Governance</p> <p>Session Information: The pandemic has had a profound impact on all aspects of life, including health, social and economic systems, and governance. It has exposed existing inequalities and vulnerabilities and has demonstrated the need to invest in social safety nets and support mechanisms to safeguard the rights of women and the most marginalised groups. As countries in the region continue to work to recover, an integrated and coordinated approach is needed to address complex challenges that threaten long term development including climate change, conflict, and violence. The COVID-19 recovery has provided a unique opportunity catalysing transformative solutions anchored on gender equality and human rights that can build more resilient and adaptive systems.</p> <p>The discussion will cover the impact of COVID-19 on women facing intersectional issues and will highlight ways to strengthen women’s leadership to influence governance reforms, political and peace processes at national and regional level; as well as address inequalities as part of the COVID-19 relief and recovery. It will also touch upon how the COVID-19 pandemic affected the way digital platforms and technologies were used to make certain processes more effective and accessible to women for promoting a peaceful, just and inclusive society.</p> <p>Speakers/Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soraya Jamjuree, Academic from Prince of Songkla University; Coordinator of the Network of Civic Women for Peace (CIVIC WOMEN); President of the Coordination Centre for Children and Women in Southern Border Provinces (CCCW-SBP) • Sokchan Phoeurn, Senior Programme Manager, CARE Cambodia • Eleonore Fournier-Tombs, Senior Researcher, United Nations University <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koh Miyaoi, Regional Gender Advisor and Team Leader, UNDP
2:15 PM – 2:30 PM	Coffee break
2:30 PM – 4:00 PM	<p>Session 10: Closing Discussion - Next Steps and Moving Forward</p> <p>Session Information: This final session will wrap up the conversations of the past two days, identifying the key areas still needed for advocacy, policy changes, and further programming from governments and other stakeholders, in order to ensure we do not lose sight of the continued need for recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Speakers/Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yoshiko Motoyama, Chief of International Organization and Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to UN ESCAP • Anasuya Sengupta, Senior Social Policy Specialist, Development Pathways • Yu Matsuoka, Diversity Promotion Department, Sekisui House • Norul Mohamed Rashid, Policy Advisor on Governance and Peace & Security for Asia and the Pacific, UN Women <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patchari Raksawong
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Closing remarks by Sarah Knibbs , Regional Director a.i. for Asia and the Pacific, UN Women