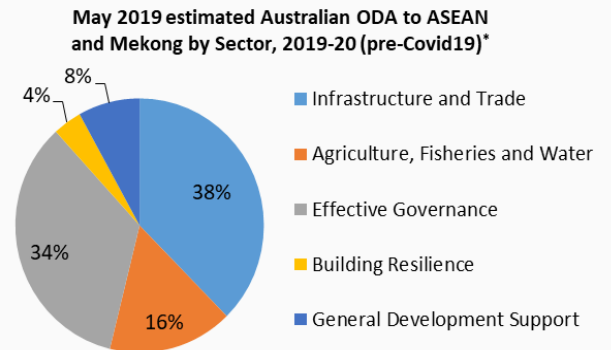




## 2019-20 ASEAN AND MEKONG REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

Program Budget	2019-20 Budget Estimate (\$m)*
Bilateral	-
Regional	33.7
Global	-
Other Government Departments	-
<b>Total Australian ODA to ASEAN and South Asia Regional Program</b>	<b>33.7</b>

\* Actual expenditure is expected to be available in December 2020



\* Due to rounding the total percentage may not add up to 100 per cent

### Program Highlights and COVID-19 Development Response

Australia’s well-established development program for ASEAN and the Mekong adapted quickly to respond to the outbreak of COVID-19. Moving forward, it will address the longer-term impacts of COVID-19. This report outlines early outcomes from the pivot to respond to the pandemic from the final quarter of the 2019-2020 financial year. It also outlines the ASEAN and Mekong development program’s progress against broader, pre-COVID-19 objectives for 2019-2020.

Australia’s development cooperation with ASEAN supports ASEAN’s Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which articulates a vision for a region that is open, inclusive, rules-based and respectful of sovereignty, and provides opportunities for cooperation between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners in the areas of maritime, connectivity, sustainability and economic issues.

Our flagship economic program, the ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II (AADCP II) responds to ASEAN priorities to enhance regional economic integration and connectivity and narrow the development gap among ASEAN Member States. In November 2019 ASEAN Foreign Ministers and Australia’s Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, the Hon Simon

Birmingham launched a work plan for regional connectivity infrastructure projects. The program later helped to shape ASEAN’s economic response following the outbreak of COVID-19. Australian expert advice helped identify opportunities to adapt the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity to the new context during its mid-term review.

The Shaping Inclusive Finance Transformations (SHIFT) in ASEAN program improves access to financial services for low income women and men in ASEAN. In 2019-20 it supported financial access to over 2.9 million low-income earners and enterprises in ASEAN. SHIFT policy guidance assisted ASEAN to implement financial inclusion strategies and monitoring frameworks in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. During the pandemic, SHIFT helped maintain economic activity in the region despite travel bans, isolation and social distancing by facilitating the uptake of digital finance products, including an e-wallet for remittances, insurance services, and access to credit.

Combatting human trafficking is a priority for Australia and ASEAN. This transnational crime crosses borders and requires a regional response. The ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking (ASEAN ACT) program convened 16 capacity development workshops, and trained 164 law and justice officials. The program helped establish a Trafficking in

Persons (TIP) case monitoring mechanism between the Supreme Court and Department of Justice in the Philippines. The program helped ensure counter-trafficking efforts continued by addressing new vulnerabilities arising from the pandemic. The program supported a regional COVID-19 situational analysis, strengthened the justice sector in seven countries and organised workshops for transnational investigative cooperation.

The Tripartite Action to Enhance the Contribution of Labour Migration to Growth and Development (TRIANGLE) in ASEAN supports safe migration in the Mekong region. The program supported Migrant Worker Resource Centres provide counselling, information, training and legal assistance to 26,977 migrant workers and helped to resolve 529 grievance cases involving 3,434 migrant workers. The program provided technical and financial support to the 12th ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour to support the ACMW<sup>1</sup> *Action Plan (2015-2020) to implement the ASEAN Declaration the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers*. TRIANGLE also supported Vietnam as ACMW<sup>2</sup> Chair to develop a new action plan for 2021-25. The TRIANGLE in ASEAN helped to minimise instability arising from the impact of COVID-19 on migrant workers through emergency food, personal protection equipment and hygiene for 17,829 migrant workers and family members.

The Disability Rights in ASEAN (DRiA) program is promoting inclusive development in the region by supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The program supported research on gender and disability to inform the 2019 ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Regional Dialogue on Gender Perspective on Disability Rights. The program helped to ensure the region's COVID-19 response included the needs of people with a disability through convening online forums with stakeholders and decision makers.

The AANZFTA<sup>3</sup> Economic Cooperation Support Program (AECSPP) supports ASEAN to implement its trade agreement commitments with Australia and New Zealand. In 2019-20 it supported the AANZFTA 2019 Sustainable Procurement Symposium on

sustainable procurement, international best practices, strategic issues for government procurement, and helped prepare participating official for AANZFTA upgrade negotiations. The program enabled the strengthening and standardisation of qualifications across ASEAN in line with the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework. A robust system may enable Australia to participate under the framework in the future.

The Greater Mekong Water Resources Program (GMWRP) supports stronger water resources cooperation and improved infrastructure development to ensure water, food and energy security in the Mekong. The program facilitated the first Mekong-Australia Renewable Energy Dialogue, showcasing Australia's renewable energy expertise to 13 senior energy and water officials from Mekong countries and the Mekong River Commission (MRC). The program supported 17 projects including the Laos National Water and Water Resources Management Strategy, the Laos National Dam Safety Review, improved irrigation modernization in Vietnam, national water information systems in Thailand, and groundwater mapping in Myanmar. The GMWRP supported the Mekong River Commission to complete the State of Basin Report to frame strategic decision making for the next decade.

The Mekong Business Initiative program (MBI) exceeded expected targets in delivering an improved business environment for Small and Medium Enterprises in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. MBI leveraged more than AUD83 million in additional funding to support companies to scale their social or environmental impact – a five-fold return on program funding.

Australia supported USAID and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization to improve biosecurity responses in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Through improved zoonotic disease control, the investment contributed to a reduction in reported bird flu outbreaks and established a foundation to support further Health Security investments to respond to COVID-19.

<sup>1</sup> ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers

<sup>3</sup> ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area



## PROGRESS AGAINST 2019-20 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

TITLE OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK INDICATOR/BENCHMARK	BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AGAINST INDICATOR/BENCHMARK
Objective 1: Enabling regional economic cooperation and inclusive growth	1.1 Evidence of high quality and timely economic research, policy advice and policy implementation support to ASEAN on priority ASEAN Economic Community issues (Target: survey results confirmed satisfaction by ASEAN regarding quality and timeliness of relevant research, advice and support).	<p>The Independent Review of AADCP II in 2019 found that AADCP II met its benchmark in supporting ASEAN on AEC implementation. The 35th ASEAN Summit Chairman’s Statement in November 2019 gave prominent mention to four recent AADCP projects. The Chairman commended the completion of the Initial Rolling Priority Pipeline of ASEAN Infrastructure Projects which presents opportunities for sustainable infrastructure development and investment in ASEAN.</p> <p>The ERIA support program’s Annual Report highlighted that capacity building activities received positive feedback from Cambodia, Lao and Myanmar government officials.</p>
	1.2 Evidence of AECSP capacity building projects supporting AANZFTA implementation (Target: 20 capacity building projects support AANZFTA).	The AECSP delivered over 50 regional and in-country activities across 17 active projects, 1043 female and 868 male participants, and 12 successfully completed projects, supporting AANZFTA implementation in 2019/20.
	1.3 Number of new challenge fund grant agreements that improve women’s financial inclusion under implementation (Target: 2).	SHIFT ASEAN exceeded its performance benchmark. In 2019-20, three new women enterprise grant agreements were signed in Southeast Asia. Seven projects in ASEAN are being implemented of which five were on track against project milestones pre-COVID-19. The Challenge Fund Facility continues to be used across the Asia-Pacific by the UN Capital Development Fund, including plans for a further window responding to COVID-19. In 2019, over 473,000 additional direct beneficiaries (38% women) accessed SHIFT supported financial services.
	1.4 Strengthened institutional water resource management frameworks (Target: 4).	<p>The Greater Mekong Water Resources Program met its performance benchmark with both national and regional frameworks strengthened:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supported the Mekong River Commission to implement procedures under the 1995 Mekong agreement, conduct routine monitoring and assessment and set strategic directions for the next ten years;</li> <li>2. Mobilised Australia’s water expertise to assist Mekong governments on their water reform priorities including dam safety inspection in Laos;</li> <li>3. Aided the government of Laos and Myanmar completing cumulative impact assessments to better manage environment &amp; social risk at basin level; and</li> </ol>

		4. Supported civil society to influence decision-making in water governance processes across the region, including through empowered women leadership.
Objective 2: Strengthening regional responses to trafficking and exploitation of migrant workers	2.1 Number of TIP case investigations in which partners are cooperating (Target: 10 or more TIP case investigations).	There were total of 34 active TIP case investigations as at end of 2019 in which partners from Philippines-Malaysia, and Thailand-Myanmar are cooperating. Face to face cooperation meetings to discuss these active cases were put on hold between January and June 2020 due to COVID-19. Online meetings were held over this period and planning is underway to resume bilateral meetings during the second half of 2020.
	2.2 Percentage of women and men trained under AAPTIP/ASEAN-ACT recording follow-on skill and/or knowledge changes demonstrated in the workplace (Target: 50 percent or more of sampled people reporting change).	ASEAN-ACT conducted 10 capacity development activities between January to June 2020 with a total of 367 women and men participants. 99% responded that the activity enhanced or improved their lessons/skills. A subsequent survey assessing the application of gained knowledge in the workplace (from a sample of these 10 CD events conducted in 2020) will be collected six months after the training during the second half of 2020.
	2.3 Number of women and men who receive support services through migrant resource centres (Target: 15,000 (W44%/M56%).	In 2019, Migrant Worker Resources Centres provided services to 26,977 migrant workers (M: 54.8%; W: 44.9%, others: 0.3%, significantly above the target of 15,000). Due to the increased use of remote counselling via telephone and internet counselling services increased, making up 75% of the caseload.
	2.4 Number of policies adopted or amended with ILO input on labour protection and gender equality for women and men migrant workers (Target: 4).	In this period, no additional policy or legislative instruments were adopted or amended with TRIANGLE in ASEAN input. However we made progress was made on several national legal frameworks with inputs into draft legislation, policy and related consultations in five priority countries (all except Myanmar): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic worker protection in national law (Malaysia and Thailand)</li> <li>• Dispute resolution guidelines (Cambodia)</li> <li>• Migrant workers support fund (Lao PDR)</li> <li>• Revision to law 72 on governance of migration and regulation of recruitment agencies (Vietnam).</li> </ul> Overall 34 policies adopted or amended with TRIANGLE in ASEAN technical support since the phase one of TRIANGLE in 2011 (predecessor project of TRIANGLE in ASEAN).

## ANNEX A: PROGRAM QUALITY

### Investment Monitoring Report ratings

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	year on year	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Gender equality
Shaping Inclusive Finance Transformations in ASEAN Program	\$9.9m 2014-2020	2019 AQC	5	4	5
		2020 AQC	5	5	5
Support to ERIA-2nd phase	\$5m 2018-2023	2019 AQC	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2020 AQC	4	4	2
ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Program	\$80m 2018-2028	2019 AQC	5	4	4
		2020 AQC	4	4	4
ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program II	\$57m 2008-2021	2019 AQC	4	4	3
		2020 AQC	5	4	3
AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Support Program	\$36m 2010-2021	2019 AQC	5	4	4
		2020 AQC	4	3	3
TRIANGLE in ASEAN	\$24m 2015-2027	2019 AQC	5	4	5
		2020 AQC	5	5	5
MAP-WARE: Australia-Mekong Water Facility	\$9.8m 2019-2023	2019 AQC	N/A	N/A	N/A
		2020 AQC	4	4	4
MAP-WARE: Oxfam Inclusion Project	\$9.2m 2014-2020	2019 AQC	5	5	5
		2020 AQC	5	5	5
MAP-WARE: Supporting Mekong River Commission Strategic Plan 2016-2020	\$6.5m 2014-2020	2019 AQC	4	4	3
		2020 AQC	4	3	3
MAP-WARE: IFC Sustainable Hydropower in the Mekong countries	\$8m 2014-2020	2019 AQC	5	5	4
		2020 AQC	5	5	3

### Final Investment Monitoring Report ratings

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Gender equality	Relevance	Monitoring and Evaluation	Sustainability
Emerging Disease Risk Reduction - Mekong	\$5.89m 2011-19	4	3	4	5	3	4
Mekong Business Initiative	\$15.3m 2013-19	5	5	4	6	4	5

#### Definitions of rating scale:

#### Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)

6 = Very good; satisfies criteria in all areas. 5 = Good; satisfies criteria in almost all areas.

4 = Adequate; on balance, satisfies criteria; does not fail in any major area.

#### Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)

3 = Less than adequate; on balance does not satisfy criteria and/or fails in at least one major area.

2 = Poor; does not satisfy criteria in major areas. 1 = Very poor; does not satisfy criteria in many major area.