

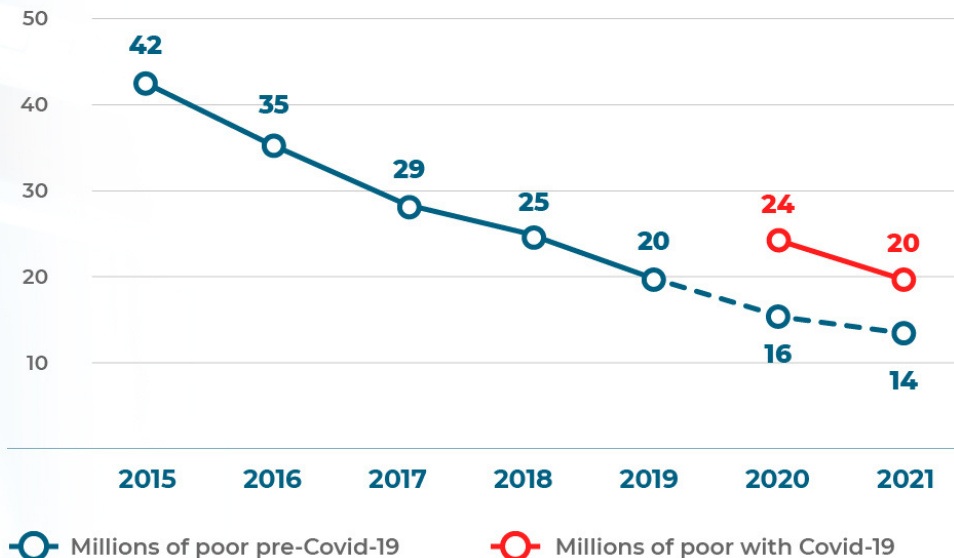
COVID-19 Impact and ASEAN Collective Response



The COVID-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges and resulted in economic, social and environmental disruptions in ASEAN.

ASEAN Member States are not only experiencing the severe demands of this pandemic on the public health system, but also the pressure it has caused on businesses, tourism and trade, among others. The pandemic has also stalled the progress of poverty alleviation in the region, with inequalities are expected to widen.

Extreme poor people in Asia Pacific 2015-2021 (million)

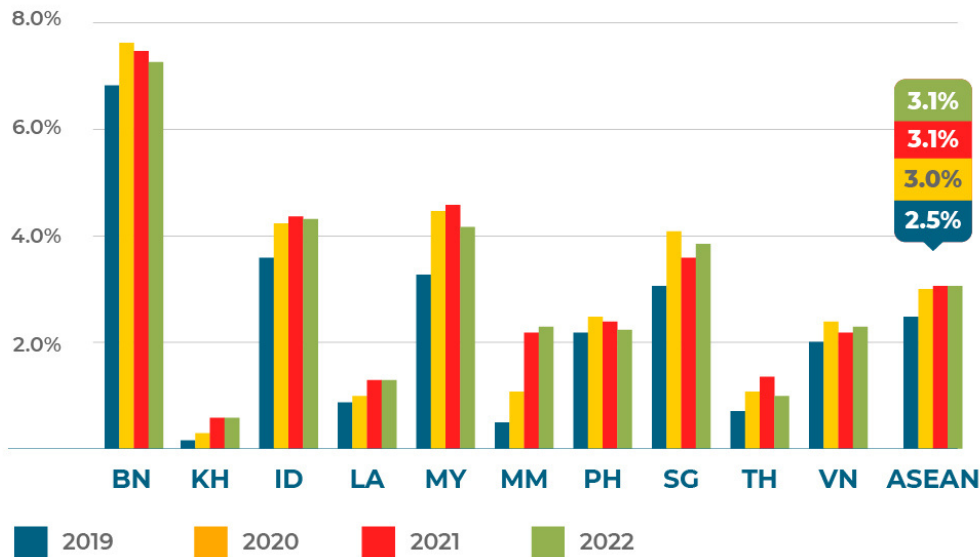


Source: PovCal World Bank

The pandemic has stalled the progress of poverty alleviation. Across East-Asia and Pacific, an additional of 4 million people was pushed to extreme poverty in 2020.

However, poverty was estimated to be reduced in 2021 with the gradual opening of economic activities.

Unemployment Rate in ASEAN 2019 - 2022 (%)

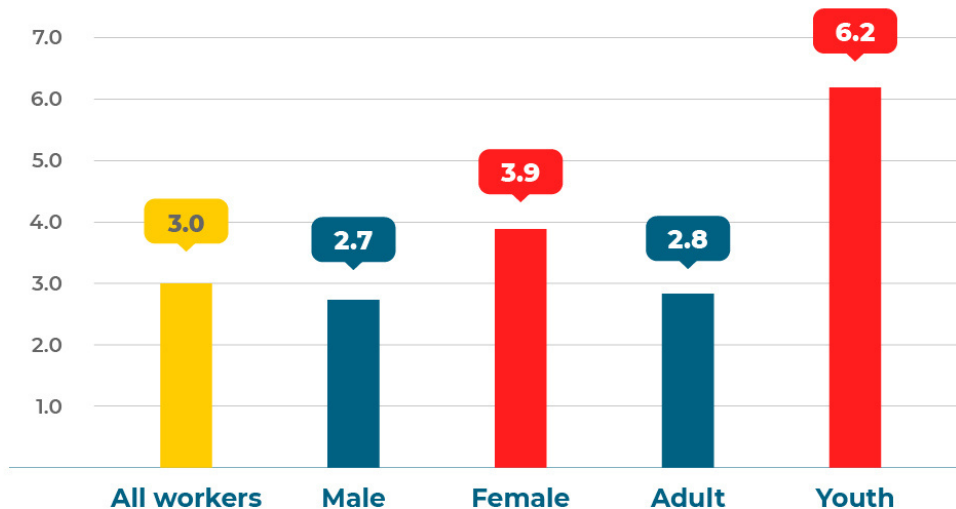


Source: ILO Stats (Last Updated 16 January 2022)

Unemployment in ASEAN rose from 2.5% in 2019 to 3.1% in 2021, stalling the 20-year achievement of the region in terms of labour force participation.

The unemployment rate in 2022 is projected to stagnate given the looming of new COVID-19 variants.

Employment loss in the ASEAN region 2020 (%)

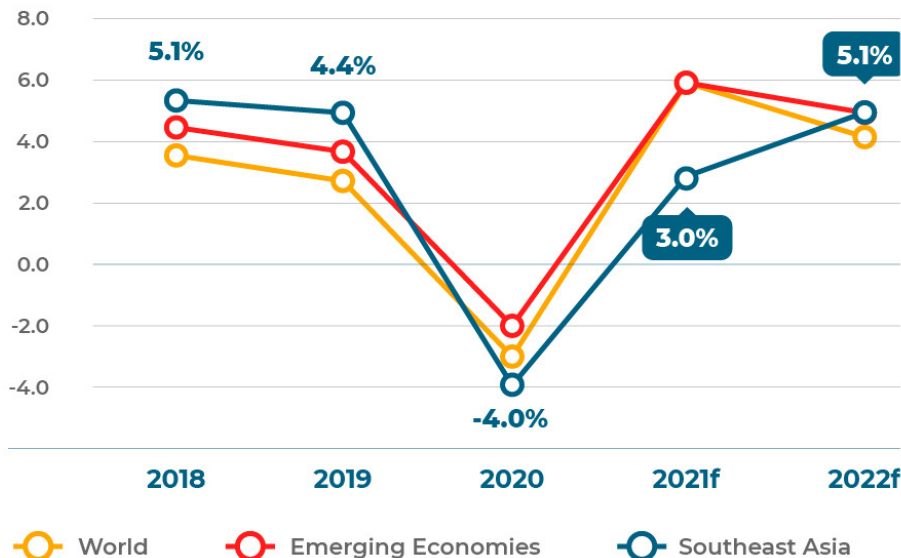


Source: ILO

Women and young workers have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

In many cases, women might have been forced to give up employment because of unpaid care responsibilities. The share of youth not in employment, education or training has also increased in large parts of the region, in line with the global trends.

GDP Growth, by Subregion 2018 - 2022



Source: Asian Development Bank (December 2021); ASEAN Stats

Similar to the global economic downward trend, the region's economy has dropped by 4% in 2020 due to the pandemic.

On a positive note, signs of economic recovery have been observed in 2021 and expected to continue to improve in 2022, contingent to ASEA's collective ability to expedite the vaccination roll-outs.

ASEAN responded early and swiftly to work together in combating the pandemic since the crisis began

ASEAN Coordinating Council Working Group on Public Health Emergencies (ACCWG-PHE),
a dedicated ASEAN body comprising senior-level officials from the three Community Pillars, has been set up to coordinate on ASEAN's response efforts

Subsequently, a number of initiatives has been launched including:



**COVID-19 ASEAN
Response Fund**



**ASEAN Regional Reserve of
Medical Supplies for Public
Health Emergencies**

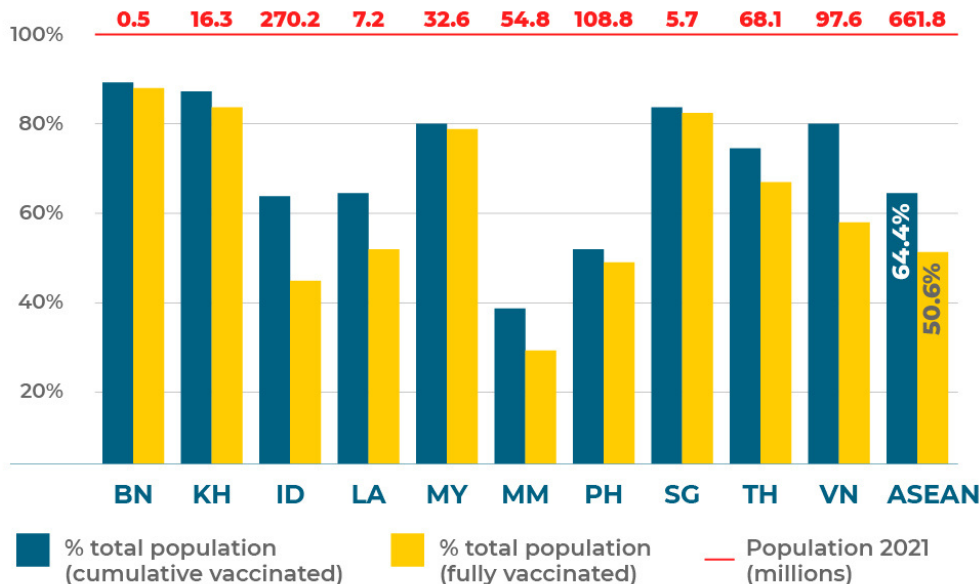


**ASEAN Strategic
Framework on Public
Health Emergencies**



**ASEAN Comprehensive
Recovery Framework and Its
Implementation Plan**

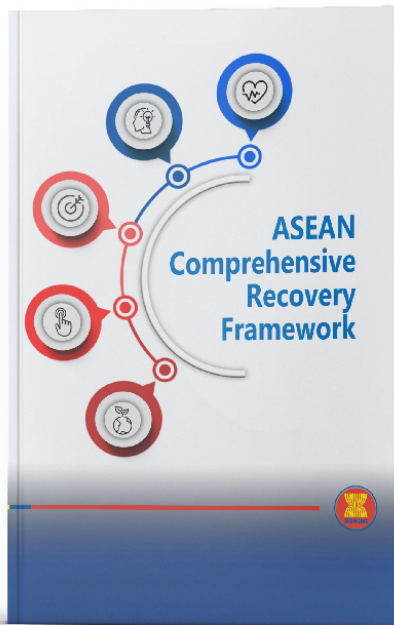
Vaccination Rate (As of 12 January 2022)



Source: ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Centre Update, 12 January 2022. Calculated by ASEAN Secretariat

As of 12 January 2022, an estimate of *more than 50% of ASEAN's total population* have been fully vaccinated while *more than 64% have received first-dose vaccination*.

This is a positive course to achieve WHO target to vaccinate at least 70% of population by mid-2022.



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