

ASEAN STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (2011-2015)

I. INTRODUCTION

The ASEAN Strategic Framework and Plan of Action for Social Welfare, Family and Children is developed for the period of 2011-2015 to assist ASEAN in achieving the priorities set out in the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint in building a people-oriented ASEAN with special emphasis on measures that would safeguard the interests and rights, provide equal opportunities as well as raise the quality of life and standard of living for children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

The Strategic Framework is also aimed at implementing one of the purposes of ASEAN as set out in the ASEAN Charter, which entered into force on 15 December 2008, to enhance the well-being and livelihood of the peoples of ASEAN by providing them with equitable access to opportunities for human development, social welfare and justice.

This Strategic Framework is also guided by the relevant directives of the ASEAN Leaders and Ministers, including the: (a) Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children adopted at the 17th ASEAN Summit on 28 October 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam; (b) Brunei Darussalam Declaration on Strengthening Family Institution: Caring for the Elderly adopted at the 7th AMMSWD on 23-24 November 2010 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam; (c) Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children (2004); (d) Declaration on the Commitments for Children in ASEAN (2001); and (e) Resolution on the ASEAN Plan of Action on Children (1993).

The Strategic Framework will follow through and build on the past efforts to operationalise the previous Strategic Frameworks of 2007–2010 and 2003-2006. The Strategic Framework will also take into consideration the interest of ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and the relevant United Nations and international/regional agencies to work with ASEAN to support the ASEAN Community building by 2015.

II. STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

Essentially, the priority areas concern the family and the socially disadvantaged, especially children, older persons and persons with disabilities. Projects and activities should be doable and with sustained impact regionally and nationally. The strategies adopted are based on the comparative advantage of bringing together Member States in a regional context to address social welfare and development issues arising from the current situation in the region. The Strategic

Framework will continue to addressing the following concerns identified in the Strategic Framework of 2007-2010:

- a. Promoting the welfare of children by safeguarding their rights, ensuring their survival and full development; protecting them from abuse, neglect, violence, discrimination and exploitation; and encouraging their meaningful participation in society;
- b. Ensuring that the elderly are adequately cared for by promoting community-based support systems to supplement the role of the family as primary caregiver;
- c. Strengthening regional cooperation to promote self-reliance of older persons and persons with disabilities to be productive members of the community;
- d. Strengthening the quality, coverage and sustainability of social welfare and social protection through the enhancement of national capacities in responding to emerging social issues;
- e. Developing family support and family life education programmes to help and strengthen family resiliency, as the basic unit of society.

The ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) will promote cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination with other relevant ASEAN bodies in carrying forward its projects/activities. While initiatives concerning gender equality and women's advancement will be carried forward by the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) under its Work Plan for 2011-2015, the SOMSWD may initiative additional projects/activities to promote the welfare and development of women in collaboration with the ACW.

III. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation will take place to assess the effectiveness of the projects/activities undertaken to operationalise this Strategic Framework. The expected result sections highlighted throughout this Strategic Framework will guide the Senior Officials in assessing the effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the programmes.

Within the framework of the ASCC Blueprint, monitoring and evaluation will become a more central objective for ASEAN work. Currently, the draft user manual of the monitoring mechanism for the ASCC Blueprint implementation developed by the ASEAN Secretariat is being considered by the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies including the SOMSWD. This monitoring mechanism, once finalised and adopted, can be used as a reference to monitor the progress of implementation of this Strategic Framework. It is paramount, therefore, that realistic and clear outputs are identified in the design of each project/activity. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of this Strategic Framework will continue to be a regular item for discussion at the Meetings of SOMSWD.

Mid-term and final reviews, using the draft user manual of the monitoring of the ASCC Blueprint will be undertaken, following the Strategic Framework's completion to consider what may be required in future.

All components of the Strategic Framework are to be implemented using the following approaches:

- a) Regional in nature, appropriate and relevant to ASEAN Member States;
- b) Have high quality designs;
- c) Effective and can be improved during implementation if they are not;
- d) Efficient in allocating and using resources of Member States, donors and the ASEAN Secretariat;
- e) Have maximum impact; and
- f) Work towards sustainability and minimise risks.

IV. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Identifying Country Coordinators for Implementation (Lead Shepherd Approach)

Member States interested in coordinating regional activities on topics where they have expertise or experience to share (or wish to learn), may volunteer to lead a specific activity, and proceed to work with the ASEAN Secretariat in developing proposals for endorsement by SOMSWD. The ASEAN Secretariat will also assist the Country Coordinators in submitting the proposals for appraisal and approval. Resource mobilisation for the implementation of regional projects/activities can be either on a cost-sharing basis or with support from ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and/or other development partners, as relevant.

Utilising Cost-Sharing Arrangements

Cost-sharing in ASEAN means that a host country organising an activity will shoulder the organising costs while the participating Member States bear the costs of their travel and/or accommodation.

PRIORITIES ON CHILDREN

V. BACKGROUND

An estimated 195 million children under the age of 18 are living in the ASEAN region. Today, these children are generally better off: healthier, more educated and safer than they ever have been in the past. Over the last two decades there has been a significant reduction in child mortality, increase in school enrolment

and improvement in the quality of life for the majority of the population. Economic growth and social investments in development have all contributed to these successes.

While the region as a whole has made good progress in achieving the MDGs, the performance is uneven across countries and most visibly, within countries. Across countries, the regional differences are fairly consistent. The most critical areas where progress has been inadequate for children in the region are child protection, malnutrition, HIV/AIDS, sanitation and hygiene as well as particular aspects of education.

In many ASEAN Member States, national child protection systems are being developed, with child protection policies, laws and regulations largely in place, models for diversion and restorative justice for children in conflict with the law being developed, and mechanisms for the protection of child witnesses and victims of child abuse and exploitation, including child trafficking, in the nascent stages. Hence, investing in professional social work capacities to effectively support children and families is important. Multi-disciplinary approach in identifying and responding to cases of child neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation is needed. The implementation of child protection policies and laws need to be strengthened with an emphasis on preventive and responsive interventions and services.

In terms of progress in health, given that under-nutrition has both immediate and long-term impacts on a child's physical and cognitive development, this will pose a significant impact on human capital development and hence, socio-economic development. Furthermore, HIV and AIDS continue to challenge development efforts in the region. UNAIDS/WHO estimates that Asia Pacific has an estimated 4.9 million people living with HIV/AIDS. Women account for some 30% of the cases and 151,000 children (0-14 years) are infected with HIV. The number of women becoming infected, and potentially the number of children becoming infected from their mothers, is on the rise in Asia, in line with the global trend.

Specific aspects of education are also not keeping pace with progress, such as in terms of access to education, especially for children in rural remote areas; gender equality in education; and education quality at all levels. In East Asia and the Pacific region, over one third of girls and boys were not attending secondary school in the 2003-2008 period. Even at the primary level, about 3% of children were not attending primary school during 2000-2007, which in absolute numbers is about 5 million girls and boys. Finally, many children in Southeast Asia remain excluded from access to quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), with an average of only 40% of young children enrolled in pre-primary education

There are also emerging issues in the region which impact on children and require effective social welfare systems and social protection interventions for both children and their families. For example, migration (domestic and international) and urbanisation are creating new opportunities and challenges for

children's wellbeing. When not well-managed, migration can place workers, as well as their families and children, at great risk of exploitation, abuse and neglect, regardless of whether such children migrate with their families, migrate on their own, or are left behind. Pockets of exclusion and serious disparities have also become more prominent in spite of rapid economic progress, with large numbers of children from vulnerable and socially excluded groups - the poor, ethnic minorities, and children in remote and rural areas - remaining without adequate healthcare, nutrition, protection and education.

VI. PLAN OF ACTIONS

(a) Thematic Area: Capacity Building in Human Resources

Activity 1: Forum for sharing best practices on social work case management and multi-sectoral approaches responding to child protection concerns
Country Coordinator: the Philippines

In support of the ASEAN Social Work Consortium, and building on an analysis of current professional training and education in social work, ASEAN Member States will convene a regional forum for policymakers to strengthen child protection policies in educational settings and linkages to social welfare services for children and families (e.g. early childhood care and education, health services, child care, social protection schemes). The forum is also to review and discuss good practices in child protection, share information on strategies, challenges and potential solutions, and propose opportunities for regional initiatives and exchange.

Expected Results

- i) By the end of 2015, ASEAN Member States, especially CLMV, will have a shared approach for social work case management and multi-sectoral approaches to preventing and responding to child protection concerns.
- ii) By the end of 2015, ASEAN Member States will have strengthened knowledge and capacities to utilise existing resources to best advantage for social welfare and development.

Activity 2: Develop a model of multi-sectoral approaches responding to child protection concerns
Country Coordinators: Viet Nam and Indonesia

In support of the ASEAN Social Work Consortium, and building on growing evidence, ASEAN Member States will establish a model of approaches to social welfare and social work services, which emphasises prevention, utilises an ecological framework, and promotes the mobilisation of local resources and cultural assets. This work will be underpinned by the principles of non-discrimination, including in relation to gender, age, ability, religion, ethnicity or any other status, and the promotion of inclusion.

Expected Results

- i) By the end of 2015, ASEAN Member States will have identified a contextually appropriate model of approaches to social welfare and social work services which can be adapted to the diverse cultural contexts in the region;
- ii) By 2015, ASEAN Member States will have focused social welfare policy endeavours and resources for primary, secondary and tertiary prevention services in order to address violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

(b) Thematic Area: Research and Analysis

Activity 3: Study on social protection and care systems for children in ASEAN Member States, including on early childhood care and education
Country Coordinator: Viet Nam

Undertake an analysis of existing social protection and care systems in ASEAN Member States in relation to their impact on children. Social protection approaches are increasingly seen as being a social and economic imperative by governments. However, not all social protection programmes have a direct and/or significant impact on children. The principles of child-sensitive social protection - particularly the emphasis on intervening as early as possible and increasing the access of most vulnerable children (boys and girls) and their families to basic social services - can be used to analyse how the myriad social protection schemes in existence impact on the lives of the most vulnerable children and their families. The analysis would include the existing policies and services to promote early childhood care and education (ECCE).

Expected Result:

- i. By the end of 2015, ASEAN Member States will have revised existing social protection approaches to ensure more effective results for both boys and girls.

- i. By 2010, ongoing partnerships among education, health, social welfare and other relevant sectors will have resulted in strengthened collaboration amongst key actors to address common priorities and challenges.

Activity 4: Situation Analysis of children and families affected by armed conflict in ASEAN Member States
Country Coordinator: [to be confirmed]

Conduct an analysis of the situation of children and families affected by armed conflict in ASEAN Member States, with a particular emphasis on impacts to child and family welfare; child protection from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation; and access to social services.

Expected Result:

- i. By 2015, ASEAN Member States will have an increased understanding of the scope and nature of impacts on children and families affected by armed conflict, in order to use as a basis for strengthening laws, policies and services that can better promote and protect their wellbeing.

(c) Thematic Area: Promotion and Protection of Children from Abuse, Exploitation, Neglect and Violence

Activity 5: Workshop on the impact and cost of violence against children
Country Coordinator: Indonesia

Host regional inter-sectoral workshop for relevant ministries and NGOs on the impact and cost of violence against children and the efficacy of multi-sectoral prevention strategies

Expected Results:

- i. By 2015, ASEAN Member States will have a greater understanding of the impact of violence against children to inform policy directions and strategies.
- ii. By 2015, ASEAN Member States will have clear statistical parameters upon which to inform the commitment of sufficient resources to support cost effective social welfare systems for children and families.

Activity 6: Ministerial Forum on Prevention Strategies for Women and Child Trafficking
Country Coordinator: Malaysia and Lao PDR

Establish a platform to review and advise on effective prevention strategies for women and child trafficking and provide protection and rehabilitation services that conform to international standards in collaboration with the NGOs.

Expected Results:

- i. Availability of victim friendly rehabilitation services to ensure the mental and emotional well being of the victims and to assist them in the recovery process.
- ii. Collaboration with NGOs, foreign missions and relevant authorities to ensure rehabilitation, safe repatriation and reintegration of the victims to their place of origin so that they will not be re-trafficked.

PRIORITIES ON THE OLDER PERSONS

VII. BACKGROUND

World population is ageing at an unprecedented pace. This demographic transition is compressed in time and irreversible in nature. As a result of rapidly decreasing birth rates, as well as extended life spans, the structure of our populations is shifting dramatically.

Birth rates have reduced significantly, largely as a result of the inclusion of a large proportion of women into the labour force and the increased levels of education. In some countries, birth rates are around population replacement rates. By 2015 it is expected that at least four ASEAN Member States will be below replacement rates. At the same time, life expectancies are rising steadily. In the most advanced countries in ASEAN, life expectancies at birth are over 80 years. This dynamic of population will represent a larger proportion of people older than 60 years and a reduction of the proportion of children under 14.

Equally important is the growth of the older-olds, that is, people over 80 years of age. By 2050, one out four older people will be over the age of 80, and the number of centenarians will at least triple in the Southeast Asian region. Another important trend is the feminisation of ageing. The majority of older persons are

women. In most developing countries there are 67 men for every 100 women over the age of 80. This is a particularly vulnerable sector, especially as most women in this age group are widowed, live alone and in poverty.

Although not all older people are vulnerable, or need social assistance, societies still have to be geared up to the challenges that this increase in ageing population presents and adapt social and economic policies accordingly. The inclusion and protection of all older people in the ASEAN region will become a more important social issue within the next five years. There are three particular challenges facing older people in the region: 1) Income security in old age, 2) Access to health services, and 3) Community recognition and participation. These are also the challenges highlighted in the MIPAA¹ resolutions.

In order to develop and implement effective actions to address the wide range of challenges presented by population ageing, ASEAN Member States must also develop the necessary expertise and human resources capacity, and currently this is lacking at all levels (e.g. ranging from service provision, research, and policy formulation) in the majority of ASEAN Member States. The critical importance of informed policy formulation goes without saying. Cost effective, targeted policy and programs also require appropriate data based on research, which, across ASEAN, is very much still in its nascent stage of development.

a. *Income security in old age.* The proportion of older people living in chronic poverty tends to be higher than the proportion of poor in the general population. This is specially the case with older widows. Only 18% of the total population of ASEAN has a regular contributory pension after reaching retirement age. Non-contributory social pensions provide the possibility of drastically reducing poverty, improving the well-being not only of older people, but of the households as a whole.

b. *Active and Healthy Ageing.* As the population ageing, there is a rapid increase of chronic disease and disabilities among the older old. Health systems have been geared towards the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases and other acute illnesses, and the demographic transition is bringing tension to the health systems. The lack of long term care services and financing places further strain on an already stressed family system, which shows an increasing trend of not being able to care for its older people. A critically strategic way to socially adapt to this change is the promotion of self-help and appropriate health-seeking behaviours. Health systems at all levels need to develop a range of services to promote good health, prevent disability as well as care for the frail in their communities. The Homecare approach, already tested and implemented by ASEAN Member States, has not only demonstrated relevance but also viability in enhancing the community volunteer approach to caring and supporting needy or mildly disabled older people.

¹

Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), UN 2002

c. *Community involvement and support.* Traditional extended family support structures are transforming as societies modernise. Filial piety and intra-family support is strong in ASEAN societies. However, the pressures brought about by migration, reduced family size and urbanisation mean that a large proportion of older people are now living alone or have little interaction with community life, and their potential is not used in community development. Older People's Associations have been implemented in different ASEAN Member States with vigorous acceptance and participation from older people and support from governments.

d. *Strengthening policy formulation and policy-action translation.* Population ageing has far reaching implications and impact on almost every aspect of national life (ranging from labor market, economic development, health and transport systems, housing, etc, and even the military is affected when there are increasingly fewer young men available for national defense). While expertise is lacking in many areas, the strengthening of policy formulation capacity is critically important as governments lead actions to address the challenges of population ageing. Training and education programs targeted at policy makers (e.g. executive programs on public policy focused on ageing) that address population ageing situations and trends in ASEAN, potential impact on national development, good practices in policy and practice, etc. would be a high priority area in capacity building. To support effective policy formulation, strengthening research capacity on ageing would also be critical. The establishment of an ASEAN research network would be an effective way of building research capacity and the generation of high impact, policy relevant research data through a defined agenda, such as the identification of ASEAN wide priority research areas, sharing of research methodology and results, and comparative research.

(a) Thematic Area: Social Pensions for Older People in ASEAN Member States

Social pensions² are regular, non-contributory and predictable grants provided to older people above a certain age threshold. The UN and the World Bank endorse this approach as a valid tool for reducing poverty and promoting the inclusion of vulnerable sectors of society.

Although at least four of the ASEAN Member States have implemented this approach, which is only now expanding and becoming high on the development agenda, this is still an underutilised policy option. There is a growing body of evidence suggesting that social pensions help tackle poverty, increase income, improve education and nutrition in poor households, promote gender equity and

² At the Regional Consultation Workshop on Enhancement of Social Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children, 1-3 July 2010, Ha Long City, Vietnam, Member State Representatives observed that the term 'pension' has a specific connotation and a more culturally sensitive/understood term such as 'the dignity allowance' should be used in place of the words 'social pension'.

empower older people. In addition, social pensions have a positive effect on economic growth and the development of local markets.

The successful implementation of social pensions is not without challenges. The design of these approaches can be universal or means-tested. The simplicity in managing universal approaches (that is, benefiting everyone above a certain age) facilitates its transparent implementation. Means-tested approaches, on the other hand, can reach specifically targeted poor and needy older people. This, however, implies dealing with the difficulties in defining who is included and who is not³. The strength of targeted approaches depends on the transparency of their application, the efficiency of its management and the capacity of local administration to handle these social transfers.

One of the main arguments against social pensions has been cost, but evidence shows that modest transfers are affordable even in the poorest countries⁴. Each ASEAN Member State can study the options and costs implied in establishing or expanding social pensions. This requires some technical knowledge that can be shared through the structures of ASEAN.

To support these policy options, ASEAN can promote exchanges and sharing experiences in the analysis, design and monitoring of social pensions. For this purpose, additional support will be sought from different organisations, for example: HelpAge International, which has access to experienced technical experts, can put together a technical advisory team in consultation with the ASEAN Secretariat.

Activity 7: Building capacities and understanding of social pensions
Country Coordinator: the Philippines

To promote the consideration of social pensions as a tool for promoting social inclusion and protection of vulnerable older persons as well as enhancing the well-being of older persons, their families and communities

A regional workshop on social pensions aimed at disseminating and discussing experience within and beyond ASEAN, with the participation of Ministries of Social Welfare, Finance and Planning from the ASEAN Member States as well as international technical experts.

Following the workshop, a regional comparative study is to be undertaken on the socio-economic impacts of the growing trends of ageing societies and the

³ Errors of inclusion and errors of exclusion tend to limit the effectiveness of such approaches.

⁴ Social pensions in Thailand and Vietnam cost less than 1% of the GDP

existing social security and pension schemes in ASEAN Member States as a tool for promoting social inclusion and well-being of vulnerable older persons.

The study will also look into the technically reliable scenarios of affordability of the social pensions. In building the scenarios, variables like projections of economic growth, age of entry, amount of the pensions, are used. The impact of different scenarios on poverty and destitution is also analysed. This approach provides decision-makers with clear analysis of affordability, costs and impact of the approaches selected.

Expected Results:

- i. Better understanding and shared approaches on social pensions in ASEAN Member States;
- ii. Various models of social security and pension schemes in ASEAN Member States, including the design and monitoring of social pensions, are documented.

(b) Thematic Area: Promoting active and healthy ageing and community-care approaches

In order to harness the benefits of increasing longevity and avoid the “burden” of old age due to frailty, disability and dependence on others for care, older people need to be supported in their ability to avoid disease and disability, be functionally independent, care for themselves and be able to participate in – and contribute to – family and community life. This is particularly important for older people living in poverty or with limited resources, as good health and ability to work have the potential to lift families out of poverty, whereas poor health and disability pose additional strain on family resources, as family members would have to give up work and earning opportunities in order to provide care.

The transition to ageing societies is also changing the demand on family resources and health services all over the world, and in particular in ASEAN Member States, given the speed of the demographic transition. The prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCD) and increasing level of disability place strong demands on the Health systems. NCDs require different approaches as these are non-curable, frequently disabling illnesses that require attention for extended periods both for the health and family care giving systems. NCDs – such as hypertension, heart disease and stroke – are, however, largely linked to lifestyle and to a significant extent, preventable.

In this respect, the self-care approaches allow older people who are healthy to extend their spans of life in good health and functional independence, and those who are mildly ill or who have a certain chronic ailment to be able to manage it

through self-care and appropriate health-seeking behaviour. This approach is strongly endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The promotion of homecare approaches will also serve to support those older persons who are frail or mildly ill to manage their ailment and have a better life with support from volunteers from the community. This is an approach already being tested in the ten ASEAN Member States and in process of being assumed by governments as a valid, legitimate and funded approach.

Activity 8: Health and ageing conference for government officials and other key stakeholders
Country Coordinator: Singapore and Viet Nam

A conference on health and ageing to bring together Ministries of Health and of Social Welfare as well as relevant international organisations and international experts to discuss economic, social and other implications of ageing on health systems as well as strategic approaches that can effectively address population ageing related challenges.

Expected Result:

Strategic approaches responding to the economic, social and other impacts of ageing on health systems would be shared.

(c) Thematic Area: Self-Care approach to Health, Functional Independence and Active Ageing

Given that the collective impact of chronic diseases and disability (and hence, the loss of functional independence and the requirement for care) is the primary reason for the challenges of population ageing, promoting health and independence is critical for the well being of the older citizens, their families and the nation.

With chronic NCDs being among the leading causes of disease and disability among ASEAN Member States, and preventable and manageable through life style changes and appropriate health seeking behaviour, programs should be in place to educate older people and their families on the relationship between lifestyle and disease and disability, and motivate appropriate and sustained behaviour change in order to maintain functional independence.

Basic training for family members, community level health workers and primary care providers in health education and chronic disease management can bring significant extra value for early detection and control of potentially disabling chronic diseases, such as high blood pressure, diabetes and arthritis.

This approach should be tested in several ASEAN Member States through a pilot project which aims to gather conclusive evidence of the validity and impact of this approach. The project has three components: training, research and advocacy. The overall objectives of self-care approach are to:

- Empower and strengthen the ability of older people and their communities in preventing/managing disease and disability;
- Promote better health outcomes (e.g. hypertension, diabetes) through self care;
- Reduce health care needs and health service utilization;
- Reduce health care cost burden on the older individuals, families and health care systems;
- Reduce strain on health care system;
- Develop a self-sustaining, community based self-care replication model;
- Support capacity building of primary health providers in care of older people.

Activity 9: Piloting of a self-care program for the older persons in selected ASEAN Member States
Country Coordinator: Viet Nam

Workshop on community based self care for the older persons for ASEAN Member States will be conducted to design the pilot projects with the participation of government officials from social welfare and health sectors.

Following this, a pilot program aims to train older people and community stakeholders (including family members, community health workers and primary health care providers) on self-care (including healthy life style, NCD and infection prevention, chronic disease management and appropriate health seeking behaviour) will be implemented. The training will be based on a peer coaching methodology, utilising OPAs whenever available, to motivate sustained behaviour change, with community health workers trained to assume the ongoing training and support role.

Research forms an integral and important part of this pilot, which will evaluate the impact of the program – using comparisons with control groups – on key health outcome indicators (such as level of high blood pressure and diabetes control), health expenditure, health service utilization, and perceived well being of the older participants and family members.

Expected Result:

Government officials and key stakeholders of ASEAN Member States will be engaged throughout the pilot where progress, concerns as well as research data and other lessons learned will be shared and disseminated.

Activity 10: Home Care for Older People in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam

Country Coordinator: Lao PDR (with the active participation of the CLMV Countries)

ASEAN Member States are experiencing rapid ageing as it is estimated that the population of people over 60 years old in Southeast Asia will triple between 2000 and 2050. It causes growing care needs by family members for older people because of vulnerability and ill health in old age. However, the traditional family support system is under pressure due to the trend towards nuclear families, prevailing migration of children and increasing participation of women in the workforce. Despite the decline in family support, Government's policies in most ASEAN Member States remain reliant on the family as the primary support system.

In responding to growing needs from vulnerable older people, home and community based care is proved more cost-effective and traditionally acceptable in this region than institutional care. Home care is not a single solution to meet all needs of vulnerable older people, but it supports older people's independent living at home for as long as possible by supplementing family care-giving and reduces the caring burden of family members.

At the ASEAN level, Member States have been implementing the home care programme under the ROK-ASEAN Cooperation Project titled "Home Care for Older People for ASEAN Member Countries". The home care model in all countries was developed through learning from the Republic of Korean model but was adapted to suit the local context during the 1st phase from April 2003 to March 2006. A project for the expansion was completed by replicating the home care model developed at the previous phase into urban and rural areas in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organisations during the 2nd phase from June 2006 to May 2009. Activities to improve the delivery system, to formulate governmental guidelines and policy and to strengthen networking among Member States are in the process during the 3rd phase from June 2009 to May 2012.

In some Member States, home care was accepted as a government policy and is being integrated into a national action plan to cover the needs of vulnerable older people nationwide. But in some countries progress is slow because of a lack of commitment by government at central and local level. The coverage of home care services is still low while population ageing is rapidly increasing.

This project, with the technical support from the HelpAge Korea, is expected to continue its implementation by promoting home care for vulnerable older people nationwide in CLMV Countries. It is expected that the project could enhance the quality service of home care, to increase the coverage of services throughout the

country and to mainstream ageing issues including home care into government policies.

Objectives:

- i. To enhance the capacity of governmental organisations for the efficient delivery of Home Care nationwide at central and local level and non-governmental organisations for providing quality services at the community level.
- ii. To establish mechanism to involve multi-stakeholders on the process of planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation from central government level to the community level.
- iii. To increase public awareness to mainstream ageing issue and to assist Government policies of home care at the national and the international level.
- iv. To promote stronger regional and international cooperation in order to support national implementation process, to enhance awareness, to bring in international resources, and to engage international agencies.

Targeted results:

- i. To provide training, workshop, and exchange visits to enhance the capacity of officials both of central and local authorities, community workers, caregivers, volunteers, family members and older people.
- ii. To provide intensive cares to frail older people who need more health related services and regular visit by paid home care workers.
- iii. To improve service delivery system with developing monitoring and evaluation methodology.
- iv. To develop a national guideline which will ensure a quality services of home care nationwide.
- v. To establish a national committee / association on home care providers for sharing information, research, improving policy, collaborating with GOs and NGOs, raising public awareness.
- vi. To disseminate media materials for public awareness of the importance of public responsibility on providing adequate care to the vulnerable older people by the society.
- vii. Regular meetings among CLMV Countries in order to share common concerns, strategies and lessons.

(d) Thematic Area: Promoting the establishment and development of Older People's Associations in ASEAN Member States

Older people are an asset to their families, communities and society. Their contributions, such as careers, advisers, mediators, mentors and breadwinners, are invaluable, but frequently unrecognised. Harnessing and nurturing those capacities through Older People's Associations (OPAs) has proven to be a decisive contribution to development theory and practice.

OPAs are innovative, community-based organisations of older people, aimed at improving the living conditions for older people and developing their communities. OPAs utilise the unique resources and skills older people have, to provide effective social support, to facilitate activities and deliver services. The success of the OPAs can be attributed to:

- Their members, older people, are widely respected and have a wealth of community knowledge and experience.
- Older people tend to remain in their communities, providing continuity to the OPA and its activities, thus contributing to the sustainability of the organisation.
- The wider community members have a vested interest in the success of the OPA – the OPA benefits the community as a whole and people see themselves as future members of the associations.

OPAs⁵ work closely with local authorities enabling them to make a positive contribution, especially in the following areas:

- Building livelihood security, by promoting micro-credit schemes, livelihood grants, job training related to income generating activities. Evidence shows improvement in income and well-being from the livelihood-related activities of the OPAs.
- Improving healthcare of older people by organising trainings in self-care, medical check-ups and developing the Homecare approaches.
- Promoting participation in community life by providing a space for mutual support and friendship with other members, organising celebrations and religious ceremonies and supporting other members in times of emotional or physical hardship. Consistently older people taking part in the OPAs express that they have recovered the dignity that they felt in some cases had been lost. Women are particularly active in these associations.

In some Member States, OPAs are already legally recognised while in others this is a process that still needs some advocacy. Cambodia has now the official Guidelines for the Establishment of OPAs, while other Member States do include these associations in the laws or policies on ageing. There is technical expertise to support the implementation of the proposed activities. The implementation should involve the existing OPAs in ASEAN Member States.

Activity 11: Workshop to exchange views on the promotion of older people's associations (OPAs)
Country Coordinator: Cambodia and Indonesia

⁵ These assume different names: Older People's Clubs in Vietnam, Older People Self-Help Groups in Myanmar, Older People's Group in Lao PDR, Older People Organisations in the Philippines

To hold a regional ASEAN workshop with relevant participation from governments of the countries in the region in order to discuss best approaches and share experiences in promoting the development of OPAs and promotion of their wider recognition and support.

The workshop will also look into the supportive national legislations for the establishment of OPAs. This activity implies publications, use of the media and direct contacts with decision-makers in order to demonstrate the benefits of these associations for older people, their families and communities.

Expected Result:

Support to further developing associations of older people in ASEAN Member States would be received.

(e) Thematic Area: Strengthening Policy and Programming

**Activity 12: Capacity building on public policy focused on ageing
Country Coordinator: Brunei Darussalam**

A workshop on population ageing that is targeted to improve the capacity of senior policy makers from ASEAN Member States to help formulate policies on ageing. This workshop will increase knowledge on the ageing landscape in ASEAN, understanding implications on policy and development, familiarity with international and regional good practices and initiatives, and capacity to analyse and develop effective ageing policies. The workshop aims to combine the academic with the practical by integrating policy and ground experiences by bringing together policy experts with regional practitioners.

Expected Result:

Better understanding of government officials on how to formulate and implement effective policies on ageing.

**Activity 13: Establish an ASEAN wide research network on ageing
Country Coordinator: Malaysia**

Current research data and capacity for research on ageing are extremely limited in the region, further hampering the ability of national governments to formulate effective policy, resource allocation and program development.

An ASEAN wide research network will allow the establishment of a common, cohesive ASEAN research agenda; sharing of research methodology; benefit of comparative research; and easy dissemination of information and international/regional research resources within the ASEAN region.

Expected result:

An ASEAN research network on ageing is to be established to promote:

- i. An ASEAN-wide research network on ageing enabling Member States to conduct collaborative research;
- ii. Online directory of research on ageing;
- iii. Online directory of research experts;
- iv. Online capacity building workshops in research methodology and protocols;
- v. Regional research expertise in all fields of ageing; and
- vi. Online forum for researchers to interact and exchange information in the field of ageing.

**Activity 14: Capacity building for social workers and caregivers working in the area of elderly: training of trainers and workshop
Country Coordinator: Viet Nam**

Training of trainers and workshop will be convened to enhance the capacity of social workers and caregivers from ASEAN Member States which are focusing on older people and improve their service delivery. This activity can be implemented in collaboration with the ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASWC) members.

Expected Result:

- i. Better quality of services delivered by social workers and caregivers to the older persons in ASEAN Member States.
- ii. The social workers and caregivers participating in the training of trainers and workshop will impart their knowledge to other social workers and caregivers in their organisations and communities.

PRIORITIES ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

VIII. BACKGROUND

The United Nations estimated that 10% or 650 million of the world's population live with disability and 60% of them live in the Asia Pacific region. This implies around 400 million individuals with disabilities in the region are in the need of supports to enjoy their basic rights and access to opportunities without discrimination.⁶

It is widely accepted that most of persons with disabilities (PWDs) face poverty and marginalisation from the mainstream society. Limited access to basic rights including mobility and transportation, health care services, appropriate education, information and media, as well as employment opportunity, remains challenging. Greater attention from governments and related stakeholders is needed to allow PWDs to live with their full potential, become self-reliant, and achieve quality of life.

Many efforts have been taken globally and regionally to promote the rights and equal opportunity of individuals with disabilities. With the ultimate goal of mainstreaming persons with disability in development, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) called for the inclusion of concerns and experiences of PWDs as an integral dimension of policies and regulations in all spheres of ASEAN community to ensure that all those living with disabilities are given equal opportunity and access to the employment market.⁷

The UN World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons (WPA), adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 1982 by its resolution 37/52, serves as rights-based global strategy to enhance disability prevention, rehabilitation, full participation and equal opportunities. The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) adopted the Asia Pacific Decades of Persons with Disabilities of 1993-2002 and 2003-2012 aimed at strengthening the regional support and regional cooperation to resolve those issues especially concerning the full participation and equality of PWDs.

The Biwako Millennium Framework for Action (BMF) and Biwako Millennium Framework for Action plus five (BMF Plus 5) aim towards an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for PWDs in Asia and the Pacific which promotes a paradigm shift from a charity-based to a rights-based working approach to disability.

While several efforts have been made to promote equality of opportunity and quality of life of people with disabilities, domestic and regional mechanisms has not yet been sufficiently implemented to alleviate poverty and discrimination.

⁶ Information retrieved from Disability at Glance 2009: A profile of 36 Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific, UNESCAP, 2009.

⁷ <http://www.aseansec.org/21221.htm>

Major barriers commonly faced by people with disabilities and lead them to economic and social exclusion are in various forms, as follows:

- Physical and architectural barriers that result in limited opportunity to access and utilise the basic rights, be engaged in the community, and become productive members of the society;
- Attitudinal barriers that turn PWDs to be the most marginalised among the marginalised groups;
- Inability to access and utilise information and communication technologies (ICTs) including assistive technologies (ATs) that deepens the gaps between the rich and the poor and foster social exclusion;
- High illiteracy rate of PWDs and limited proper education available for PWDs;
- Systematic barriers as appropriate laws, policies, and measures are limited in some countries in terms of availability and effective implementation or were created without the participation of person with disabilities;
- High unemployment rate among individuals with disabilities due to illiteracy, limited work experiences, and limited job opportunities.

(a) Thematic Area 1: ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020): Towards an Inclusive Society

In promotion of network collaboration, inclusive development, and equity society for PWDs, ASEAN Member States will declare the period 2011-2020 as the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities. Various forms of activities will be conducted to enhance understanding and capacity of ASEAN Member States regarding disability issues as well as to promote collaboration with disable persons' organisations (DPOs) for the further development on disability issues.

Activity 15: Dialogue between GOs and NGOs on disability issues Country Coordinator: Thailand

Dialogues and close collaboration between government and non-government sectors are needed at the regional level in order to address disability issues and mainstream disability perspectives in policies and programmes and in building the ASEAN Community by 2015. Dialogues between the government officials and the DPOs may take place at the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development or other platforms, including those at the auspicious of DPOs.

Expected Results:

- i. By 2015, disability perspectives will be mainstreamed in the regional programmes and projects to operationalise the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint towards the ASEAN Community building;

- ii. By 2015, dialogues between GOs and NGOs, including DPOs, in addressing disability issues would be fostered.

Activity 16: Workshop on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Country Coordinators: Lao PDR and Thailand

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force in 2008, is the first disability-specific international convention to promote inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for PWDs and equal opportunity of PWDs in a manner that addresses the needs and situation of PWDs. So far, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand have ratified CRPD. Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam have signed CRPD.

The Workshop would allow government officials and other stakeholders working on disability issues to exchange views on the rights of PWDs and better understand CRPD and its implementation and challenges.

Expected Results:

- i. Better knowledge of government officials and stakeholders on the rights of PWDs and the key elements of CRPD.

Activity 17: Development of an ASEAN+3 Network for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Thailand-led Project from the Strategic Framework of 2007-2010)

Country Coordinator: Thailand

The project's activities will be divided into 5 parts as follows:

Part 1: The Regional Seminar on "Development of ASEAN+3 Networks for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities"

Part 2: The Regional Workshop on "Community-Based Rehabilitation through a Participatory Comprehensive Approach"

Part 3: The Regional Workshop on "Self-help Group of Persons with Disabilities towards Rights-Based and Sustainable Community Development"

Part 4: The Regional Workshop on "the Promotion of a Non-Handicapping Environment for Persons with Disabilities"

Part 5: The evaluation meeting of ASEAN+3 Network for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

Objectives:

- a) To set up a network for strengthening PWDs in ASEAN+3 Countries;
- b) To exchange knowledge and experiences on the empowerment of PWDs among ASEAN+3 Countries;
- c) To mobilize resources from ASEAN+3 Countries to be benefited by PWDs;
- d) To promote barrier-free society in ASEAN+3 countries.

Expected results:

- i. The network of ASEAN+3 countries will be set up to collaborate work in the empowerment of PWDs in ASEAN+3 countries;
- ii. Participants have more knowledge and experiences gained from resources persons and from sharing with others;
- iii. ASEAN+3 countries have awareness on how to empower PWDs and how to promote barrier-free concept in their countries.

**Activity 18: Project Evaluation for Persons with Disability (Philippines-led Project from the Strategic Framework of 2007-2010)
Country Coordinator: the Philippines**

This Project aims at providing a venue for ASEAN Member States to have technical cooperation on best practices and experiences related to provision of auxiliary social services, develop new strategies and programmes to improve auxiliary social services of government and private organisations serving PWDs; as well as enhance the advocacy skills and strategies of PWDs focal points.

Expected Results:

- i. Programmes of governments and private organisations related to auxiliary social services are evaluated and areas for improvement are identified;
- ii. Training materials and technical assistance modules on auxiliary services are developed;
- iii. PWDs focal points are equipped with knowledge and skills on the provision of technical assistance on the implementation of auxiliary services for PWDs.

**Activity 19: Workshop on Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) ASEAN
Country Coordinator: Malaysia and Indonesia**

Recently, WHO in collaborations with ILO and several international organisations have developed and launched new Community-based rehabilitation (CBR)

Guideline. CBR is considered an effective strategy for increasing opportunities for people with disabilities and improving quality of their lives. CBR is also recognised suitable to utilise in the region since it focuses on mobilising local and community resources as well as involvement of family. After the 1st Asia Pacific CBR Congress in February in 2008, the Asia Pacific CBR Network was established to promote CBR in this region. Promotion of the CBR approach as rehabilitation model for quality of life development of PWDs through establishment of ASEAN CBR Congress will be beneficial. The congress aims at promoting dialogue among government officials and stakeholders in promoting CBR as a strategy for reducing poverty and enhancing the quality of life of PWDs and their families.

Expected results:

- i. Better understanding on the concept of CBR as a rehabilitation model for the quality of life of PWDs;
- ii. Best practices on CBR are documented and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders following the congress.
- iii. Identified issues on CBR; implementation, sustainability and problem solving;
- iv. New approaches towards CBR as a one stop centre benefiting the PWDs, family and community is formulated;
- v. Development of small entrepreneur (Economic Empowerment Programme – EEP) and empowerment of PWDs are promoted through CBR programme to reduce poverty and enhance the quality of lives of PWDs and their families;
- vi. Expansion of CBR throughout the ASEAN Member States;
- vii. Generate support from community, corporate sectors, NGOs and Government, especially in funding and policy matters;
- viii. Establishment of PWDs’ parents support group; and
- ix. Establishment of PWDs’ self-advocacy groups.

Such a one stop centre would act as a centre for early intervention for the PWDs, as well as PWD resources, registration, advocacy and activity centre. Approaches in rehabilitation and developments for PWDs in CBR Centre would include rehabilitation in terms of medicine, education, vocational, and social.

Activity 20: Project for Improving the Overall Quality of Life and Well-being of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in ASEAN Phase I
Country Coordinator: Thailand

The project aimed at strengthening the capacity of ASEAN Member States in implementing Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Programmes for Person with Disabilities (PWDs) particularly in the CLMV Countries. The project aims at bringing the issues of PWD into the mainstream and included in the development process of ASEAN Member States as well as to empower PWD through capacity building programmes.

Expected results:

- i. Networks among governments, PWD leaders, PWDs, DPOs and business sector in the region are strengthened;
- ii. The capacity and knowledge of PWD leaders, PWDs and other resources are enhanced particularly on the new CBR guidelines by WHO and other international organisations that are contributing to the better performance of services for PWDs.
- iii. Baseline survey will be conducted to provide training needs analysis, baseline indicators of the project purposes, and preliminary information to design CBR (CBID) mini-projects of CLMV.
- iv. Development plan of mini-projects in CLMV will be formulated.

(b) Thematic Area 2: Capacity Building in Human Resources

Sustained development for PWDs and empowering them to take a leadership role in disability-related issues and to be active members of the society are important. By achieving these goals, PWDs need to be equipped with academic and practical knowledge through either formal or informal education. This thematic area focuses on capacity building in human resources in the area of leadership development, preschool programme and employment of PWDs. In connection with employment of PWDs, it also aims to encourage business sector in promoting employment of PWDs by providing economic incentive and technical support for business sector.

**Activity 21: Workshop on pre-school systems for children with disabilities
Country Coordinator: the Philippines *[to be confirmed]***

This activity is to support the promotion of universal access to primary education across ASEAN by 2015 with priorities to eradicate illiteracy and to ensure compulsory primary education for all and gender equality in education, through advocating for equal opportunity in education regardless of social class, geography, ethnicity, background, or disabilities.

A regional workshop would be convened to discuss and promote pre-school systems for children with disabilities including early intervention for effective inclusion of children with disabilities in education systems in ASEAN.

Expected results:

Models or best practices on pre-school service systems for children with disabilities from within and outside the ASEAN region are documented.

**Activity 22: Establishment of an ASEAN Network of Experts on Entrepreneurship
Country Coordinator: Thailand**

This activity is to implement Action Line A.6.iii of the ASCC Blueprint that calls for the establishment of an ASEAN network of experts on entrepreneurship to, among others, conduct skills training for out-of-school youth, the older persons and PWDs. This network is expected to, among others, support the promotion of jobs through ICTs for persons with severe disabilities.

Expected results:

- i. An ASEAN network of experts on entrepreneurship is established;
- ii. Skills of persons with severe disabilities to work at home to earn a living and live independently in community would be improved.

PRIORITIES ON FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

**Activity 23: Establishment of an ASEAN network for family development
Country Coordinator: the Philippines**

Family has been the fundamental building block of societies in ASEAN Member States. Strong families are indeed central to the overall effort to improve social development, create sustainable communities, and the early child care development and education. In urban areas, changing economic conditions and new patterns of consumption have increased the number of families where both parents work, leaving less time for children and family life. Growing number of divorce rates have created a culture of marital insecurity. In developing countries, such trends are compounded by the challenges of poverty, environmental degradation, inequalities between women and men, and the rise of global pandemics, such as HIV and AIDS.

The ASCC Blueprint (Action B.1.x) specifically calls for the establishment of an ASEAN network for family development. This network is expected to promote

activities and undertake studies in an effort to strengthen national planning and policies in support of strong families as the basic unit of society that is integral to social development. Those activities will make specific references to family-sensitive policies and family support systems, such as flexible working hours, part-time employment, work sharing, child care, parental leave, social security, disability benefits and assistance to families to care for dependents, and family welfare.

The network can also undertake a study on the changing structure of the family and its role in providing care and protection for children and the most vulnerable. This study would focus on how families and care practices in ASEAN Member States have changed due to the impact of economic integration, globalization, migration and the decentralization of state provided services.

Expected results:

- i. By the end of 2013, the ASEAN network for family development will be established and contribute to the efforts of ASEAN Member States to continuously strengthen the families, as the basic unit of society, and family support systems.
- ii. By the end of 2015, ASEAN Member States will have a basis to inform policy decisions on how to best support appropriate social welfare provision and thereby raise the impact of interventions for the most vulnerable families.
- iii. By the end of 2015, ASEAN Member States will have increased understanding of the changing dynamics of families and resulting child protection and care capacities in the context of economic stress.

REFERENCES:

ANNEX 1: PROJECTS UNDER THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (2011-2015)

ANNEX 2: PROJECTS UNDER THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (2007-2010) THAT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AFTER 2010

ANNEX 1

PROJECTS UNDER THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (2011-2015)

No.	Activity	Objectives	Country Coordinator
Priority Area : Children			
(a) Thematic Area: Capacity Building in Human Resources			
1	Forum for sharing best practices on social work and multi-sectoral approaches responding to child protection and promotion concerns	In support of the ASEAN Social Work Consortium, and building on an analysis of current professional training and education in social work, ASEAN Member States will convene a regional forum for policymakers to strengthen child protection policies in educational settings and linkages to social welfare services for children and families (e.g. early childhood care and education, health services, child care, social protection schemes). The forum is also to review and discuss good practices in child protection, share information on strategies, challenges and potential solutions, and propose opportunities for regional initiatives and exchange.	The Philippines
2	Develop a model of multi-sectoral approaches responding to child protection concerns	In support of the ASEAN Social Work Consortium, and building on growing evidence, ASEAN Member States will establish a model of approaches to social welfare and social work services, which emphasises prevention, utilises an ecological framework, and promotes the mobilisation of local resources and cultural assets. This work will be underpinned by the principles of non-discrimination, including in relation to gender, age, ability, religion, ethnicity or any other status, and the promotion of inclusion.	Viet Nam and Indonesia
(b) Thematic Area: Research and Analysis			
3	Study on social protection and care systems for children in ASEAN Member States, including on early childhood care and education	Undertake an analysis of existing social protection and care systems in ASEAN Member States in relation to their impact on children. Social protection approaches are increasingly seen as being a social and economic imperative by governments. However, not all social protection programmes have a direct and/or significant impact on children. The principles of child-sensitive social protection - particularly the emphasis on intervening as early as possible and increasing the access of most vulnerable children (boys and girls) and their families to basic social services - can be used to analyse how the myriad social protection	Viet Nam

		schemes in existence impact on the lives of the most vulnerable children and their families. The analysis would include the existing policies and services to promote early childhood care and education (ECCE).	
4	Situation Analysis of children and families affected by armed conflict in some ASEAN Member States	Conduct an analysis of the situation of children and families affected by armed conflict in ASEAN Member States, with a particular emphasis on impacts to child and family welfare; child protection from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation; and access to social services.	<i>[To be confirmed]</i>
(c) Thematic Area: Promotion and Protection of Children from Abuse, Exploitation, Neglect and Violence			
5	Workshop on the impact and cost of violence against children	Host regional inter-sectoral workshop for relevant ministries and NGOs on the impact and cost of violence against children and the efficacy of multi-sectoral prevention strategies	Indonesia
6	Ministerial Forum on Prevention Strategies for Women and Child Trafficking	Establish a regional forum to review and advise on effective prevention strategies for women and child trafficking and to undertake research on the current status of implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children in South East Asia.	Malaysia and Lao PDR
Priority Area: the Older Persons			
(a) Thematic Area: Social Pensions for Older People in ASEAN Member States			
7	Building capacities and understanding of social pensions	<p>To promote the consideration of social pensions as a tool for promoting social inclusion and protection of vulnerable older persons as well as enhancing the well-being of older persons, their families and communities</p> <p>A regional workshop on social pensions aimed at disseminating and discussing experience within and beyond ASEAN, with the participation of Ministries of Social Welfare, Finance and Planning from the ASEAN Member States as well as international technical experts.</p> <p>Following the workshop, a regional comparative study is to be undertaken on the socio-economic impacts of the growing trends of ageing societies and the existing social security and pension schemes in ASEAN Member States as a tool for promoting social inclusion and well-being of vulnerable older persons.</p> <p>The study will also look into the technically reliable scenarios of</p>	The Philippines

		affordability of the social pensions. In building the scenarios, variables like projections of economic growth, age of entry, amount of the pensions, are used. The impact of different scenarios on poverty and destitution is also analysed. This approach provides decision-makers with clear analysis of affordability, costs and impact of the approaches selected.	
(b) Thematic Area: Promoting active and healthy ageing and community-care approaches			
8	Health and ageing conference for government officials and other key stakeholders	<p>The self-care approaches allow older people who are healthy to extend their spans of life in good health and functional independence, and those who are mildly ill or who have a certain chronic ailment to be able to manage it through self-care and appropriate health-seeking behaviour. This approach is strongly endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO).</p> <p>The promotion of homecare approaches will also serve to support those older persons who are frail or mildly ill to manage their ailment and have a better life with support from volunteers from the community. This is an approach already being tested in the ten ASEAN Member States and in process of being assumed by governments as a valid, legitimate and funded approach.</p> <p>A conference on health and ageing to bring together Ministries of Health and of Social Welfare as well as relevant international organisations and international experts to discuss economic, social and other implications of ageing on health systems as well as strategic approaches that can effectively address population ageing related challenges.</p>	Singapore and Viet Nam
(c) Thematic Area: Self-Care approach to Health, Functional Independence and Active Ageing			
9	Piloting of a self-care program for the older persons in selected ASEAN Member States	<p>Workshop on community based self care for the older persons for ASEAN Member States will be conducted to design the pilot projects with the participation of government officials from social welfare and health sectors.</p> <p>Following this, a pilot program aims to train older people and community stakeholders (including family members, community health workers and primary health care providers) on self-care (including healthy life style, NCD and infection prevention, chronic disease management and appropriate health seeking behaviour) will be implemented. The training</p>	Viet Nam

		<p>will be based on a peer coaching methodology, utilising OPAs whenever available, to motivate sustained behaviour change, with community health workers trained to assume the ongoing training and support role.</p> <p>Research forms an integral and important part of this pilot, which will evaluate the impact of the program – using comparisons with control groups – on key health outcome indicators (such as level of high blood pressure and diabetes control), health expenditure, health service utilization, and perceived well being of the older participants and family members.</p>	
10	Home Care for Older People in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam	<p>At the ASEAN level, Member States have been implementing the home care programme under the ROK-ASEAN Cooperation Project titled “Home Care for Older People for ASEAN Member Countries”. The home care model in all countries was developed through learning from the Republic of Korean model but was adapted to suit the local context during the 1st phase from April 2003 to March 2006. A project for the expansion was completed by replicating the home care model developed at the previous phase into urban and rural areas in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organisations during the 2nd phase from June 2006 to May 2009. Activities to improve the delivery system, to formulate governmental guidelines and policy and to strengthen networking among Member States are in the process during the 3rd phase from June 2009 to May 2012.</p> <p>In some Member States, home care was accepted as a government policy and is being integrated into a national action plan to cover the needs of vulnerable older people nationwide. But in some countries progress is slow because of a lack of commitment by government at central and local level. The coverage of home care services is still low while population ageing is rapidly increasing.</p> <p>This project, with the technical support from the HelpAge Korea, is expected to continue its implementation by promoting home care for vulnerable older people nationwide in CLMV Countries. It is expected that the project could enhance the quality service of home care, to increase the coverage of services throughout the country and to mainstream ageing issues including home care into government policies.</p>	<p>Lao PDR</p> <p>Viet Nam encouraged for active participation of all CLMV Countries and continued support of HelpAge Korea</p>

(d) Promoting the establishment and development of Older People's Associations in ASEAN Member States			
11	Workshop to exchange views on the promotion of older people's associations (OPAs)	<p>To hold a regional ASEAN workshop with relevant participation from governments of the countries in the region in order to discuss best approaches and share experiences in promoting the development of OPAs and promotion of their wider recognition and support.</p> <p>The workshop will also look into the supportive national legislations for the establishment of OPAs. This activity implies publications, use of the media and direct contacts with decision-makers in order to demonstrate the benefits of these associations for older people, their families and communities.</p>	Cambodia and Indonesia
(e) Thematic Area: Strengthening Policy and Programming			
12	Capacity building on public policy focused on ageing	<p>A workshop on population ageing that is targeted to improve the capacity of senior policy makers from ASEAN Member States to help formulate policies on ageing. This workshop will increase knowledge on the ageing landscape in ASEAN, understanding implications on policy and development, familiarity with international and regional good practices and initiatives, and capacity to analyse and develop effective ageing policies. The workshop aims to combine the academic with the practical by integrating policy and ground experiences by bringing together policy experts with regional practitioners.</p>	Brunei Darussalam
13	Establish an ASEAN wide research network on ageing	<p>Current research data and capacity for research on ageing are extremely limited in the region, further hampering the ability of national governments to formulate effective policy, resource allocation and program development.</p> <p>An ASEAN wide research network will allow the establishment of a common, cohesive ASEAN research agenda; sharing of research methodology; benefit of comparative research; and easy dissemination of information and international/ regional research resources within the ASEAN region.</p> <p>Expected results of this initiative are: (a) the ASEAN-wide research network on ageing enabling Member States to conduct collaborative research; (b) Online directory of research on ageing; (c) Online directory of research experts; (d) Online capacity building workshops in research</p>	Malaysia

		methodology and protocols; (e) Regional research expertise in all fields of ageing; and (f) Online forum for researchers to interact and exchange information in the field of ageing.	
14	Capacity building for social workers and caregivers working in the area of elderly: training of trainers and workshop	Training of trainers and workshop will be convened to enhance the capacity of social workers and caregivers from ASEAN Member States which are focusing on older people and improve their service delivery. This activity can be implemented in collaboration with the ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASWC) members.	Viet Nam
Priority Area: Persons with Disabilities			
(a) Thematic Area: ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020): Towards an Inclusive Society			
15	Dialogue between GOs and NGOs on disability issues	Dialogues and close collaboration between government and non-government sectors are needed at the regional level in order to address disability issues and mainstream disability perspectives in policies and programmes and in building the ASEAN Community by 2015. Dialogues between the government officials and the DPOs may take place at the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development or other platforms, including those at the auspicious of DPOs.	Thailand
16	Workshop on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force in 2008, is the first disability-specific international convention to promote inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for PWDs and equal opportunity of PWDs in a manner that addresses the needs and situation of PWDs. So far, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand have ratified CRPD. Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam have signed CRPD. The Workshop would allow government officials and other stakeholders working on disability issues to exchange views on the rights of PWDs and better understand CRPD and its implementation and challenges.	Lao PDR and Thailand
17	Development of an ASEAN+3 Network for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Thailand-led Project from the Strategic framework of 2007-2010)	Objectives: a) To set up a network for strengthening PWDs in ASEAN+3 Countries; b) To exchange knowledge and experiences on the empowerment of PWDs among ASEAN+3 Countries; c) To mobilize resources from ASEAN+3 Countries to be benefited by PWDs;	Thailand

		d) To promote barrier-free society in ASEAN+3 countries.	
18	Project Evaluation for Persons with Disability (Philippines-led Project from the Strategic framework of 2007-2010)	This Project aims at providing a venue for ASEAN Member States to have technical cooperation on best practices and experiences related to provision of auxiliary social services, develop new strategies and programmes to improve auxiliary social services of government and private organisations serving PWDs; as well as enhance the advocacy skills and strategies of PWDs focal points.	The Philippines
19	Workshop on Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) ASEAN	Recently, WHO in collaborations with ILO and several international organisations have developed and launched new Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) Guideline. CBR is considered an effective strategy for increasing opportunities for people with disabilities and improving quality of their lives. CBR is also recognised suitable to utilise in the region since it focuses on mobilising local and community resources as well as involvement of family. After the 1 st Asia Pacific CBR Congress in February in 2008, the Asia Pacific CBR Network was established to promote CBR in this region. Promotion of the CBR approach as rehabilitation model for quality of life development of PWDs through establishment of ASEAN CBR Congress will be beneficial. The congress aims at promoting dialogue among government officials and stakeholders in promoting CBR as a strategy for reducing poverty and enhancing the quality of life of PWDs and their families. The 2 nd Asia Pacific CBR Congress is scheduled for 31 October – 1 November 2011 in Manila, the Philippines.	Malaysia and Indonesia
20	Project for Improving the Overall Quality of Life and Well-being of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in ASEAN Phase I	The project aimed at strengthening the capacity of ASEAN Member States in implementing Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Programmes for Person with Disabilities (PWDs) particularly in the CLMV Countries. The project aims at bringing the issues of PWD into the mainstream and included in the development process of ASEAN Member States as well as to empower PWD through capacity building programmes.	Thailand
(b) Thematic Area: Capacity Building in Human Resources			
21	Workshop on pre-school systems for children with disabilities	This activity is to support the promotion of universal access to primary education across ASEAN by 2015 with priorities to eradicate illiteracy and to ensure compulsory primary education for all and gender equality in education, through advocating for equal opportunity in education	The Philippines [to be confirmed]

		<p>regardless of social class, geography, ethnicity, background, or disabilities.</p> <p>A regional workshop would be convened to discuss and promote pre-school systems for children with disabilities including early intervention for effective inclusion of children with disabilities in education systems in ASEAN.</p>	
22	Establishment of an ASEAN Network of Experts on Entrepreneurship	This activity is to implement Action Line A.6.iii of the ASCC Blueprint that calls for the establishment of an ASEAN network of experts on entrepreneurship to, among others, conduct skills training for out-of-school youth, the older persons and PWDs. This network is expected to, among others, support the promotion of jobs through ICTs for persons with severe disabilities.	Thailand
Priority Area: Family Development			
23	Establishment of an ASEAN network of family development	<p>The ASCC Blueprint (Action B.1.x) specifically calls for the establishment of an ASEAN network for family development. This network is expected to promote activities and undertake studies in an effort to strengthen national planning and policies in support of a strong family as the basic unit of society that is integral to social development. Those activities will make specific references to family-sensitive policies and family support systems, such as flexible working hours, part-time employment, work sharing, child care, parental leave, social security, disability benefits and assistance to families to care for dependents, and family welfare.</p> <p>The network can also undertake a study on the changing structure of the family and its role in providing care and protection for children and the most vulnerable. This study would focus on how families and care practices in ASEAN Member States have changed due to the impact of economic integration, globalization, migration and the decentralization of state provided services.</p>	The Philippines

ANNEX 2

PROJECTS UNDER THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (2007-2010) THAT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AFTER 2010

PROJECTS	DESCRIPTION AND PROGRESS	PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCE
PRIORITIES ON CHILDREN		
<p>1. ASEAN Children's Forum</p>	<p>The Forum aimed at providing a platform for children from ASEAN Member States to participate in the ASEAN Community building by 2015; express views and pursue aspirations on issues affecting their lives and other regional issues of their interests; and cooperate and work together towards contributing to regional development.</p> <p>The 5th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (5th SOMSWD) held on 3-4 December 2008 in Manila, the Philippines, agreed to institutionalise the ASEAN Children's Forum. The Forum was established as a response to the recommendation of the Southeast Asia Children's Forum on 10-14 December 2006 in Antipolo City, the Philippines. Subsequently, The Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for the 7th AMMSWD held on 23-24 November 2010 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, agreed on the convening of the Forum once every two years.</p> <p>The First Forum was held on 19-22 October 2010 in Clark, Pampanga, the Philippines. The Second Forum has been scheduled for 2012 in Singapore.</p>	<p>Cost-sharing among ASEAN Member States</p> <p>Possibly to tap external funding support (e.g. UNICEF)</p>
<p>2. Training for Policy Makers, Social Workers, Judiciary, Practitioners and Front-Line Managers on Children in Need of Special Protection</p> <p><i>(Country Coordinator: Brunei Darussalam)</i></p>	<p>The training programme is expected to invite social workers/front-line managers, policy makers, judiciaries, and practitioners of children from the Member States to discuss the theoretical framework on the protection for children and to share the social work interventions used by selected agencies in working with children in need of special protection. Through the activities, the project aims to enhance the capacities of social workers, policy makers, and other relevant stakeholders in addressing the issues of children in need of special protection within the generalist of social work practice.</p>	<p>ASEAN-ROK Special Cooperation Fund</p> <p>(USD 85,476)</p>

PROJECTS	DESCRIPTION AND PROGRESS	PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCE
<p>3. Working Towards A Cyber Pornography and Cyber Prostitution Free Southeast Asia</p> <p><i>(Country Coordinator: The Philippines)</i></p>	<p>The project aims to understand the dynamics and to intensify the public's knowledge of cyber-pornography and cyber-prostitution, as well as to enhance the competencies of service providers on psychosocial interventions for women and children through capacity building programmes. The key activities of the project are Regional Conference on Cyber Pornography and Cyber Prostitution, policy dialogues in each of the Member States and training/workshops for service providers of bio-psychosocial interventions.</p>	<p>ASEAN-ROK Special Cooperation Fund</p> <p>(USD 162,275)</p>
<p>4. Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC)</p> <p><i>(Country Coordinator: Thailand)</i></p>	<p>The project is the initiative of Thailand to conduct a regional workshop to develop a regional cooperation on the child's rights particularly with regard to the compliance with the CRC where representatives of both the ASEAN Member States and The Plus Three Countries will be invited to participate. Upon completion of the first regional workshop, the activity will be continued to be conducted biennially on a voluntary basis from the ASEAN Member States. The project mainly aims to enhance the capacity of ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries in understanding, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the child's rights as well as preparing country reports through a system of knowledge sharing.</p>	<p>ASEAN-ROK Special Cooperation Fund</p> <p>(USD 89,850)</p>
<p>5. Seminar-Workshop on Early Childhood Care and Development (EECD) Systems Development</p> <p><i>(Country Coordinator: The Philippines)</i></p>	<p>The project plans to conduct a workshop to enhance the participants' knowledge, understanding and capacities in building an integrated EECD system for young children and to improve their capacity to respect, promote and fulfil the children's rights. Participants from the ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries will be invited to share best practices on EECD especially focusing on building EECD systems, ECCD policies and frameworks, ECCD governance and exploring applications of a human-rights based and systems approach to ECCD programming.</p>	<p>ASEAN-ROK Special Cooperation Fund</p> <p>(USD 110,472.73)</p>

PROJECTS	DESCRIPTION AND PROGRESS	PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCE
PRIORITIES ON THE OLDER PERSONS		
6. ASEAN Act (Active Ageing) <i>(Country Coordinator: The Philippines)</i>	<p>The project is the initiative of the Philippines to conduct a study for developing regional initiatives in promoting active ageing through developing regional guidelines and collaborative efforts among member countries, proposing change management processes on programs on ageing and examining replication and adaptability of the best practices of each Member States. The research will target mainly the eight Member States, namely; Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines , Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam who are classified as having an ageing population in ASEAN region. The main output of the project is the ASEAN ACT Report that will include an assessment of the impact of the community-based programs to the older persons and how it influences active ageing in ASEAN.</p>	ASEAN-ROK Special Cooperation Fund (USD 172,100)
PRIORITIES ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ¹		
7. Development of ASEAN+3 Network for Empowerment of People with Disabilities <i>(Country Coordinator: Thailand)</i>	<p>The project is the initiative of Thailand to conduct a regional forum to share good practices, experience and knowledge as well as to enhance cooperation among ASEAN and Plus Three Countries on the empowerment of persons with disabilities. The project also aims to develop the network among ASEAN and Plus Three Countries to empower persons with disabilities and contribute to the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022.</p>	Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) (USD 360,530)
8. Program Evaluation for Persons with Disability <i>(Country Coordinator: The Philippines)</i>	<p>This project is a regional forum to share best practices and experiences on the implementation of programmes related to auxiliary social services and advocacy strategies for Persons with Disability (PWD) among ASEAN Member States. The project aims to develop new strategies, documents and programmes to improve auxiliary social services of government and private organisations serving PWDs in ASEAN.</p>	Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) (USD 160,215)

¹ Planned projects under this theme are incorporated in the Strategic Framework on Social Welfare and Development (2011-2015) under the umbrella of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020): Towards an Inclusive Society.

PROJECTS	DESCRIPTION AND PROGRESS	PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCE
OTHER PRIORITIES		
<p>9. ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASWC)</p> <p><i>(Country Coordinator: The Philippines)</i></p>	<p>Action Line C.1.(iv) of the ASCC Blueprint specifically calls for the establishment of ASEAN Network of social workers by 2013 and Action Line C.1.(xv) calls for the establishment of an ASEAN Consortium of Social Welfare Practitioners, Educators and Schools of Social Work.</p> <p>The 4th SOMSWD held in December 2006 assigned Philippines and Thailand to jointly develop a project on the establishment of an ASEAN Consortium of Social Welfare Practitioners, Educators and Schools of Social Work. Subsequently, the Planning Workshop to establish the Consortium was held on 12-14 August 2008 in Manila, the Philippines. The Workshop's Resolution on the establishment of the Consortium was endorsed at the 5th SOMSWD in December 2008. Subsequently, the 6th SOMSWD in January 2010 endorsed the Terms of Reference of the Consortium.</p> <p>The purposes of the ASEAN Social Work Consortium are to, among others, strengthen solidarity among social work educators, practitioners, and schools of social work; promote and institutionalize effective collaboration towards the achievement of responsive and excellent social work education in the ASEAN region; and enhance and develop social work education and practice relevant to the region's social realities.</p> <p>The First Conference of the Consortium was held in October 2010 in Manila, the Philippines, and formulated its medium-term work plan. ASEAN Member States are to appoint their representatives to become members of the Consortium.</p>	<p>Cost sharing among ASEAN Member States</p> <p>Possibly to tap external funding support for the ASWC's projects</p>
<p>10. Comparative Study on the Social Welfare and Development Laws in ASEAN</p> <p><i>(Country Coordinator: Thailand)</i></p>	<p>The project aims at conducting a comparative study on social welfare and development laws in ASEAN for the duration of 2 years. The study results would be a useful feedback for ASEAN Member States in ensuring their national laws and regulations on social welfare and development are responsive to the peoples' needs and in building a people-oriented ASEAN Community by 2015.</p>	

PROJECTS	DESCRIPTION AND PROGRESS	PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCE
<p>11. Forum on the Promotion of Peace and Development for IDPs brought by Natural Disaster and Internal Conflict within a Country of the ASEAN Member States</p> <p><i>(Country Coordinator: The Philippines and Viet Nam)</i></p>	<p>The project is to organise a regional forum to facilitate exchange of information and knowledge in developing and implementing new programme and enhancement of existing agreements in ASEAN on Disaster Management and Emergency Response on IDPs. The project is expected to produce a Regional Plan of Action based on the UN Guiding Principle on Internal Displacement (UNGPID) developed in 1998 and the establishment of working group on humanitarian issues to address the impact of displacement in the region.</p>	<p>Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)</p> <p>(USD 144,960)</p>
<p>12. Training Workshop on Strengthening Capacities of Communities, Practitioners, and Policy Makers to Address Violence Against Women (VAW)</p> <p><i>(Country Coordinator: The Philippines)</i></p>	<p>The project will provide a venue for the ASEAN Member States and the Plus Three Countries to share experiences in strengthening capacities of communities, practitioners and policy makers to address VAW issues. The training workshop itself is a follow-up activity to the previous trainings conducted in the Philippines in October 2003 and November 2008 on “Community Strategies on the Prevention of Domestic Violence” and “ASEAN Training Workshop on Community Based Strategies for the Rehabilitation of Perpetrators of Domestic Violence” respectively.</p>	<p>ASEAN-ROK Special Cooperation Fund</p> <p>(USD 119,450)</p>