Inclusive and Sustainable development and the COVID-19 pandemic in ASEAN

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Figure 1: COVID-19 epi curve confirmed cases (Source: (Association of Southeast Asean Nations (ASEAN) 2020c)
Human development index and cumulative cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 population in ASEAN Countries

Anand, 2020
Social and Cultural Aspects of Human Development

• Personal/individual: beliefs, knowledge, attitudes, skills, genetics

• Social/Cultural: interaction with other people including friends, family and the community

• Environmental/Spatial: the area in which an individual lives, e.g. school, work place, local shops and facilities, and wider factors including the economy (such as prices) and technology
STRUCTURAL VULNERABILITY AND KNOWN FOOD INSECURITY HOTSPOTS

UN Secretary General’s Policy brief on Covid-19
A systems approach to nutrition

- Nutrition, safe, affordable, and sustainable diets
- Adequate labelling and marketing of foods
- Fortification of complementary foods
- Fortification of staple foods
- Evidence-based food policies
- Evidence-based dietary guidelines

- Social transfers for child nutrition
- Social transfers for maternal nutrition
- Maternity leave protection and entitlements
- Breastfeeding in the workplace policies
- Family- and nutrition-responsive social protection programmes
- Social behavior change communication

- Counselling and support to breastfeeding
- Counselling on complementary feeding
- Use of micronutrient supplements as appropriate
- Maternal nutrition counselling in ante-natal/post-natal care
- Promotion of physical exercise and active living
- Early detection and treatment of severe malnutrition

UNICEF, 2020
Health Expenditure as a percentage of current GDP in ASEAN countries

Anand, 2020
Managing Behavioural change

• Mapping national responses to flatten the curve and learning from neighbours in ASEAN
  • managing the returns of intra-regional migrants, and trade corridors
  • preparing for future outbreaks- local delivery systems of food stocks that cannot be sold at the wholesale markets

• Narratives and messaging
  • Public health providing sufficient information and engaging through community networks-case of Vietnam: public information campaigns on the value of consuming fresh goods and focusing on more at risk populations, also for the general population to ensure a healthy low-sugar diet

• Inability to manage social distancing
  • Communities struggling to meet daily needs and anxious about food shortages-case of Indonesia, need for a fall-back option for future lockdowns and to reduce vulnerability to breakdown in national food supply chains
Internet users per 100 population in ASEAN nations

Internet users per 100 population 2017

- Vietnam
- Thailand
- Singapore
- Philippines
- Myanmar
- Malaysia
- Lao PDR
- Indonesia
- Cambodia
- Brunei Darussalam

Anand, 2020
Lessons from the region

• Evidence-base needed: to collect disaggregated data on the social impacts of COVID-19 through assessments, rapid and real-time data collection

• Social protection mechanisms to be deployed: targeting those who are the most vulnerable, both in relation to hunger and susceptibility to the disease, and using this data to improve ability withstand shocks.

• Linking health systems and food systems: proactive measures to prevent breakdown of micronutrient supplies for pregnant and lactating women and children, and also to link pressures of livelihood loss to propensity to onset of mental ill-health