

Introduction to and Launch of the project on Impacts of  
COVID-19 on Inclusive Development and Governance:  
Rapid and Post-Pandemic Assessment in the CLMV

WEBINAR SERIES—SESSION 1

Friday, 11 December 2020  
9:30-11:30 GMT+7

CONCEPT NOTE

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# Background

The COVID-19 pandemic is having unprecedented social, political and economic effects on economies of developed and developing countries. Global recession is projected the longer this pandemic persists. The impact could also be disproportionately distributed across countries, no exception for countries in the Mekong subregion, having small and low-income countries faced severe consequences given their weak health system, limited fiscal and monetary policy options, and a relatively strong reliance on external trade.

The pandemic continues to undermine the tourism industry, decreases employment, reduces exports and imports, hurts the vulnerable individuals, widens gender gap and inequality and accelerates the decline of demand for services across sectors. Despite hurting certain sectors and industries, COVID-19 open new doors for other sectors including agriculture and e-commerce which enable business and employment opportunities.

With financial and technical support from the International Development Research Centre, Canada and to contribute to the understanding of short- and long-term effects of this pandemic, a consortium of research institutes in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam is formed to:

- (1) provide a rapid-response and post-assessment of socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic—focusing on, but not limited to, effectiveness and efficiency of macro-economic responses (fiscal and monetary), the impact on business operations and profitability of enterprises and their mitigation strategies with the focus on women-led establishment, female-headed household, the poor and vulnerable—evidence of which will be provided to relevant government ministries and institutes, development partners, women business associations, and civil society organisations for evidence-based and informed decision and policymaking; and
- (2) to enhance partnerships and cooperation among research institutions in the Greater Mekong Subregion, encouraging information sharing and lessons learnt on COVID-19 responses and building the capacity of researchers of the institutes involved in the project. As the future unfolds and is untold, sufficient, realistic and scientific-based researches are very essential to set navigation and direction for countries' leaders and fellow citizens to follow in order to mitigate current risks caused by COVID-19 and to predict and be ready in solving any challenges in the future.

# Research Questions

## Pillar 1: Macro-economic responses

- RQ1: To what extent fiscal and monetary policies the government can/should adapt and adopt to respond and mitigate risks posed by COVID-19? To what extent are these policies gender sensitive?
- RQ2: How does the gender-sensitive and inclusive economy pathway look like in the Greater Mekong Subregion countries?
- RQ3: What is the impact of COVID-19 on cross-border trade and investment? And how does it affect supply chains (domestic, regional and/or global)?

## Pillar 2: Social protection and MSMEs

- RQ1: How does the COVID-19 pandemic affect micro, small and medium enterprises?
- RQ2: What is the impact of COVID-19 on women's employment, income, labour mobility and unpaid care work?
- RQ3: What are the options for immediate employment and social policy responses in supporting workers, mostly in the female and informal sector, and MSMEs in the fight against COVID-19?

## Pillar 3: Governance and coordination

- RQ1: What is the existing coordination mechanism in the implementation of the policy responses by the government?
- RQ2: What are the gender mainstreaming mechanisms that are put in place by the government in the pandemic time?
- RQ3: What is the impact of COVID-19 on democratic governance and political participation in the light of upcoming elections in November 2020? (Specific for Myanmar)

Gender mainstreaming in all level of analyses will be central investigating the impact on, but not limited to, women's jobs, incomes, social protection, labour mobility, unpaid care work and political and policy participation. Not only is gender a crucial topic in its own right but the pandemic which results in the lockdown (complete or partial) and other curtailment measures could have disproportionate effects on women relative to men.

# About this Webinar

## Objectives

The webinar aims to:

- (1) kick start and introduce the regional project including the glimpse of the project and its inputs and the outputs which are a part of dissemination purpose;
- (2) enable and boost connection between different regional institutions and stakeholders including think tanks, governments, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), policy makers and academics;
- (3) purposefully and meaningfully engage with the public by creating channels for wider and science-based inputs contributions.

## Speakers & Panelists



**Ms Gillian Dowie**  
Senior Program Officer,  
IDRC



**Dr Jayant Menon**  
Senior Visiting Fellow at  
ISEAS, Singapore



**Dr Kyoko Kusakabe**  
Professor, Asian Institute  
of Technology, Thailand



**Mr Roth Vathana**  
Director, Centre for  
Development Economics and  
Trade, Cambodia Development  
Resource Institute



**Dr Phouphet Kyophilavong**  
Vice Dean, Faculty of  
Economics and Business  
Management, National  
University of Laos



**Dr Zaw Oo**  
Director, Centre for  
Economic and Social  
Development



**Dr Nguyen Thang**  
Director, Centre for  
Analysis and Forecasting

# Agenda

09:30-09:35	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b> Dr Pech Sokhem, Executive Director, CDRI
09:35-09:40	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b> Dr Anindya Chatterjee, Regional Director, IDRC Asia
09:40-09:55	<b>POST PANDEMIC ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN ASEAN: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES</b> Dr Jayant Menon
09:55-10:00	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
10:00-10:15	<b>A REFLECTION ON THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 FROM GENDER LENS</b> Dr Kyoko Kusakabe
10:15-10:20	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
10:20-11:05	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> Moderator: Ms Gillian Dowie Panelists: Mr Roth Vathana Dr Phouphet Kyophilavong Dr Zaw Oo Dr Nguyen Thang
11:05-11:20	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
11:20-11:30	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b> Mr Roth Vathana

# Format & Support

To join this webinar:

[bit.ly/WebSes1](https://bit.ly/WebSes1)

It will be livestreamed on:

[\*facebook.com/CDRICambodia\*](https://facebook.com/CDRICambodia)

## Format

Participants will be asked to register first. The registered information is for logistics purpose and to keep track of participants only. After registration, participants will receive a link to join the Webinar.

Participants can ask questions or provide comments at any time during the Webinar by typing their questions in the chat box. Questions and comments will be addressed in the Q&A session. During this session, participants may also raise hand if they prefer to ask directly.

## Support

For further information on the Webinar and other arrangement, please contact Mr Hiev Hokkheang, Research Assistant at the Centre for Development Economics and Trade of CDRI via (+855) 011 47 77 24 or [hokkheang@cdri.org.kh](mailto:hokkheang@cdri.org.kh).