

In realizing the goal, UNFPA focuses on the **3 transformative results by 2030**

Ending the unmet need for family planning

Ending preventable maternal deaths

Ending gender-based violence and harmful practices such as child marriage and adolescent pregnancy

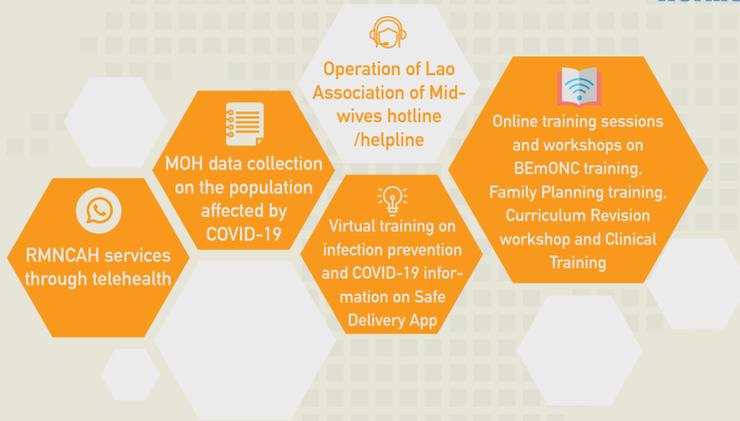
UNFPA supports the Government of Lao PDR to accelerate the implementation of ICPD guided by the UNFPA Strategic Plan in line with the National Socio-Economic Development Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aiming to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

COVID-19 pandemic has undermined the progress made in sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. UNFPA Laos responded quickly to the situation by supporting the government in the COVID-19 response focusing on the continuity of sexual and reproductive health information and services provision and ensuring women and girls' rights are protected. We support the government through policy dialogues, capacity building, knowledge sharing, service provision, population data, and advocacy.

### Our Interventions

#### Sexual and Reproductive Health

Continuity of sexual and reproductive health services and interventions, including protection of the health workforce



#### Ensuring the supply of modern contraceptives and other reproductive health commodities

- Monthly support to the technical working group and health logistics partners to ensure uninterrupted supply and SRH services
- Procured personal protective equipment to protect the safety, wellbeing and rights of women and girls in quarantine centers, isolation facilities, protection shelters and WFS during COVID-19

#### Mental Health and Psychosocial support (MHPSS)

Providing psychosocial support for GBV survivors and vulnerable/young female and women migrant workers

- Providing mental health and psychosocial support to adolescents and young people through telephone helplines
- Support the National University of Laos to develop a training course on mental health psychosocial
- Training of the telephone helpline counselors from Lao Youth Union, Lao Women Union and Vientiane Youth Center

#### Risk Communication

- IEC materials for GBV/psychosocial support and referral pathway
- 58 Social Media posts on protections and prevention from COVID-19 developed focusing on needs of women and girls, pregnant and lactating women, young people out of school disseminated

#### Advocacy

- Partner with EU and ADB to highlight impact of COVID-19 on women and girls
- Collaborate with SingHealth Duke-NUS for series of regional webinars on adolescent health and well-being at regional level reaching over 800 people across the region to showcase Lao policy and programme interventions in support of young people health and well-being

#### Coordination

- Co-Chair Adolescent Girls' Working Group to promote collective advocacy and responses to COVID-19 keeping adolescent girls and women in the center of responses
- Co-chair with EU and ADB discussions in support of Women and Girls in Lao PDR
- Active in the Government led coordination mechanisms such as Health Cluster for continuity of essential services for sexual reproductive health and safe motherhood
- Active in UN coordination mechanisms including as a core member of the UN Crisis Management Team

#### Sexual and Reproductive Health

- 2150 mothers received ANC
- 989 mothers received PNC
- 6,953 mothers received the FP services and information through telehealth and facility in LPB
- Nationally, 140,716 pregnant women received ANC
- 77,895 women visited for PNC
- 477,058 women and adolescent girls received the SRH including FP services
- 60 midwives trained on COVID-19 prevention and information on Safe Delivery App
- Gender-based Violence
- 29,000 women projected to be covered by LAM hotline/helpline
- 590 people called the LWU hotline seeking psychosocial support and counseling
- More than 2,000 women and girls received essential supplies (facemasks, soaps, sanitary pads)
- More than 70 participants representing over 30 development organisations participated the Gender Working Group

#### Adolescent and Youth

- Over 5,000 adolescents and young people downloaded the 'Noi Yakhoo' Mobile App
- 2,347 young people received mental health and psychosocial support and counseling from the telephone helplines
- 1,283 young people (769 females) received mental health and psychosocial support and counseling from these telephone helplines
- 90,000 amongst the total 20,000 followers reached by 87 Facebook posts on COVID-19

#### Social Media Engagement

- 95,892 people reached COVID-19 Facebook posts

#### Partnership and Financing

- UNFPA Laos COVID-19 response is supported by the Government of Australia through the Referral Pathway in Place for Women and Girls' Victims and Survivors of Violence in Lao PDR and improving Social and Health Services for GBV Responses
- By Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) for the UN Joint Program (UNFPA, IOM, UN-Habitat) - Protection and Services for Vulnerable settlements, Migrants, and Youth in Savannakhet and Champassak
- Private sector partners including the Crowne Plaza and BFL are contributing support in kind for essential supplies for women, girls and youth

#### Our intervention sites

- Support for policy and systems design and response through partnerships with Line Ministries and Government authorities
- MHPSS telephone helplines and Mobile applications are providing remote information and counselling across the country
- Programme interventions in Luangprabang, Champasack, Savannakhet, Bokeo and Vientiane Capital

#### What's next?

- Maintain continuity of essential SRH and GBV services and focus on a female and vulnerable groups centered response
- Expand the telehealth to provinces with a high number of COVID-19 cases, including: Bokeo, Savannakhet, Champasack and Vientiane Capital
- Continue support dissemination of key messages on COVID-19, SRH, GBV and adolescent and youth

#### Adolescent and Youth

- Provide comprehensive sexuality education via video series and online learning through the MoES Khang Panya app and the website for adolescent and young people during the lockdown
- Promote Noi Yakhoo mobile App
- Procured and distributed COVID-19 prevention materials such as (Thermometers, Masks and Alcohol Gels) for LYU staff and volunteers for strengthening adolescents and youth focused COVID-19 response

#### Gender-based Violence

IEC materials like GBV/psychosocial support and referral pathway

- Hotlines/helplines to provide mental health and psychosocial support to survivors of violence, including a hotline run by of LWU protection shelter 24/7
- Timely GBV response through strengthening and scaling MHPSS, the improvement of hotlines and capacity building for government staff on PFA and counseling, ongoing case management
- Procured essential supplies to protect the safety, wellbeing and rights of women and girls in quarantine centers, isolation facilities, protection shelters
- Initiated and co-chaired, with the EU and ADB, a Gender Working Group
- Developed and published a Guidance Note on Protecting the Rights of Women and Girls in Lao PDR: COVID-19 context

#### Our Implementing Partners (IPs)

- Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao Youth Union, Lao Women Union