The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW) and UNFPA’s Noi Friendly Business Criteria aims to:

1. Provide counselling and psychosocial support during strict lockdowns.
2. Increase the number of people seeking counselling.
3. Steadily increase the number of people who reach popular social media platforms.
4. Seek counseling has sharply increased since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. Power cuts have steadily increased.

The number of calls to national hotlines for counseling and psychosocial support increased during strict lockdowns, especially calls from women. The number of people seeking counselling has steadily increased since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Power cuts impact accessibility of the hotlines. There was a sharp rise in the number of people reached when popular social media was used.

The MoLSW and UNFPA’s Noi Friendly Business Criteria aims to:

1. Increase school retention;
2. Empower adolescent girls and young women;
3. Prevent workplace violence, trafficking and child labour.
4. Ensure access to health information and services; and
5. For trainers, 10% are women.

The number of calls to national hotlines for counseling and psychosocial support increased during strict lockdowns, especially calls from women. The number of people seeking counselling has steadily increased since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Power cuts impact accessibility of the hotlines. There was a sharp rise in the number of people reached when popular social media was used.

The above graph shows when contraceptive use increases, the number of complicated abortions is reduced.

NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS

**Violence and/or trafficking**
- 1362

**Stress, mental health and relationship counselling for youth**
- 1554

**Sexual and reproductive health**
- 1361
- Women: 1361
- Men: 137

**Noi Yakhoo app**
- For more information on sexual and reproductive health

"Technology and innovation can be game changers for women and girls’ rights if design and use respond to their specific needs”
— Mariam A. Khan, UNFPA Representative

**Women-led enterprises** reported the use of information and telecommunication technology in business.

Annually Lao PDR has over 84,000 new entrants to the job market, half of these are young women.

One-fourth of agricultural researchers are women. More data on women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) in Lao PDR is needed.

**Women in STEM in the region:**
- 52% in Philippines
- 51% in Thailand
- 49% in Malaysia

**Labour**

**30%**

**Men**

**30%**

**Women**

**Data from the Ministry of Education and Sports shows:**

**Women make up about 30% of national-level players:**
- 12%

For junior players, 12% are girls or adolescent girls; and
- 10% For trainers, 10% are women.

**Sport**

**The Lao Rugby Federation integrated rugby and life skills, such as leadership, gender equality, and health.**

**Media**

Data from the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism shows that fewer than 30% of registered journalists are women.

**Politics**

Recent data shows that more than 30% of Provincial Assembly members are women.

**30%**

**Women**

**70%**

**Men**

**NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS**

Initiatives to educate media on gender equality:
- Capacity building with government media outlets on ethical reporting of gender and Gender-Based Violence (GBV).
- Gender equality training for the E-Learning and Information and Media Centre teams of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES).
Technology and innovation can be game changers for women and girls’ rights if design and use responds to their specific needs.  

**EDUCATION**

Over 100,000 girls and boys access Khang Panya Lao online.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>52,907</td>
<td>52,821</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Between 2017-2022, women made up 70% of the enrolment in project-supported Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Skills Development courses were women (8640 women and 3713 men) in 2017-2022.

**NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS**

- To improve enrolment rates and reduce school dropouts due to pregnancy and early marriage, the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are rolling out Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) curriculum for students in teacher training, primary, secondary, non-formal education, TVET and university.
- The Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) and partners developed online teaching and learning platforms and broadcast through Khang Panya Lao, satellite TV, and national TV.

**NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS**

- Awareness-raising campaigns such as “Me, My Body, My Future, My Planet”;
- Civil society organisations working on gender and climate change;
- Building capacity of organisations from land, forestry and natural resources sectors.

**TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SPACES**

UNFPA held discussions in 2022-2023 which revealed technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) in Lao PDR included:

- Social media based recruitment for sex work and trafficking;
- Image-based abuse;
- Cyberstalking.

Women, young people, and diverse populations are targeted mainly by male perpetrators.

**FINANCE**

People in Lao PDR who have a bank account.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women-owned businesses had challenges accessing trade finance, with 70% of those surveyed reporting that their applications were totally or partially rejected.

**Women**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Registrations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women-led</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men-led</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS**

- BFL’s “Banking On Women” initiative provides gender-responsive financial services to Lao women entrepreneurs, including access to a personal banker, free finance trainings, and preferred rates on financing solutions.
- Marginalised women in communities have greater control over their resources through “Village Savings Loan Association” and “Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship.”
- Formalising women-led savings groups provides:
  - Secure savings;
  - Access to short term microfinancing for small business;
  - Increased adaptation to economic stress and shock; and
  - Transformed community attitudes to women’s financial capacity.

**EDUCATION**

A majority of Lao women (63%) aged 15-49 years can read and write. However, this varies greatly depending on location, education, ethnicity and wealth.

**Women can read and write**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saravan and Huaphan</th>
<th>Chinese-Tibetan ethnic women</th>
<th>Poorest wealth index quintile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS**

- The gross enrolment ratio in both lower and upper secondary schools reduced sharply in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20. The gross enrolment ratio of girls reached its lowest at both lower and upper secondary schools in 2020-21.

**Do women have equal access to public life in Lao PDR?**

Women make up about 50% of the agricultural workforce in Lao PDR. They are more vulnerable to climatic shocks and stresses since they have less diversified livelihoods than men.

**NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS**

- Awareness-raising campaigns such as “Me, My Body, My Future, My Planet”;
- Policy work with duty bearers on issues such as “Human Rights and the Environmental Rule of Law”;
- Civil society organisations working on gender and climate change;
- Building capacity of organisations from land, forestry and natural resources sectors.

**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

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