
UNFPA Lao PDR July - August 2024 Newsletter

2 messages

Laos Office <laos.office@unfpa.org>
Reply-To: Laos Office <laos.office@unfpa.org>
To: apdcommunication@unfpa.org

Tue, Sep 3, 2024 at 6:10 PM

Lao PDR and UNFPA Commit to Working Together to Achieve the ICPD and SDGs



What's up in Laos?

Towards achieving universal access to SRHR and implementation of the ICPD PoA

For **People** - through **Progress** - with **Partners**

Bi-monthly Newsletter: July - August 2024

Lao PDR Renews its Commitment to Ending Inequalities on World Population Day

Representatives from government, embassies, development partners, civil society, media, the private sector, and young people united to celebrate World Population Day. The event aimed to raise awareness and support for Lao PDR's commitments made at the [7th Asia-Pacific Population Conference](#) and the [57th Commission on Population and Development](#). It also sought to engage stakeholders in advancing the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action.



The celebration featured innovative youth initiatives that highlighted inclusion and diversity. A particularly poignant moment was the youth-led fashion show, which showcased the Naga fabric and symbolized the intersection of national heritage with youth aspirations to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), end gender-based violence (GBV), and empower their roles in the community.

Overall, the event underscored the significance of World Population Day in raising awareness about national progress, [sharing success stories](#), and learning from best practices to expedite the ICPD Programme of Action.



Celebration of World Population Day 2024 in Lao PDR: weaving the promise to end inequalities

[Click to watch video](#)

Weaving the promise: “Ending inequalities in sexual and reproductive health and rights”

This year marks the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development. This celebration is about people; the vast tapestry of individuals that make up the globe and somewhat closer to home, the 7.6 million diverse individuals who make up this beautiful country.

Thirty years ago, at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) governments around the world agreed that reproductive health and rights are the foundation stones of global development – paving the way for decades of progress in realising rights and choices.

In 1994, Laos was one such government that embraced this landmark Programme of Action at the ICPD in Cairo, followed by national population policies, strategies, laws and related action plans to empower women, men, girls and boys. National efforts have primarily focused on placing people



reproductive health, gender, rights, human capital and life expectancy.

For example, the maternal mortality ratio in Laos has seen a 78.7 percent drop from 2000 - 2020, making it one of the fastest declines globally. The contraceptive prevalence rate among married women of reproductive age (15-49 years) increased from 42 percent in 2012 to 54.1 percent in 2017.

services, and services to address gender-based violence.

Laos is now in the middle stage of its demographic transition. A steady decline of fertility to 2.3 births per woman and increasing longevity have been a significant contributor to this demographic transition.

The population has grown from 6.7 million in 2015 to approximately 7.68 million in 2023 and

the demographic dividend and the economic growth potential especially require advancing young people's reproductive rights and equitable access to quality sexual and reproductive health care. This is to empower and expand opportunities and rights for young people.

Therefore, significant investments are essential to meet the rising demands for quality sexual and

living in a difficult to reach village in a remote area with limited access to health, sexual and reproductive health services and information as well as limited access to education. Her challenges are profound—healthcare providers may struggle to meet her needs, and family and community resources may fall short in supporting her potential. It is precisely for her and others like her that we must harness the power of data, informed strategies, and actionable policies. That young girl should be the bedrock of our strategies, our initiatives for better, timelier, and transparent data, and our commitment to better governance and policies.

Data from LSIS III shows us that:

Adolescent pregnancy remains very high compared to the countries in the region. Education plays a pivotal role here; girls with no education experience childbearing rates over eight times higher than those with higher levels of education.

- 1 in 3 women aged

crucial for reaching ethnic minorities and ensuring equitable maternal health and reproductive care.

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development calls for valid, reliable, timely, culturally relevant, internationally comparable data, including gender and ethnicity-specific information.

Disaggregated data by age, geography, and socio-economic status is critical for identifying who is left behind. In this regard, the upcoming Population and Housing Census is pivotal.

Furthermore, strengthening the data governance system will enable the country to empower its young generation and capitalise on the existing demographic window of opportunity.

As aptly put by Dr Natalia Kanem, in her message for World Population Day, “For humanity to progress, people must be counted, wherever they are and whoever they are – in all their diversity.”

Gender

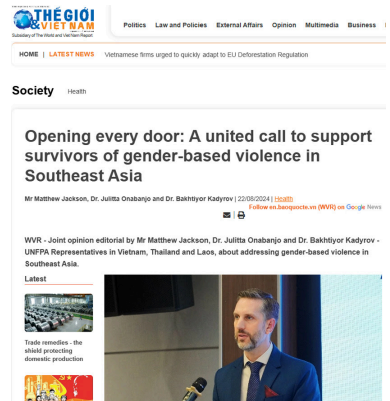
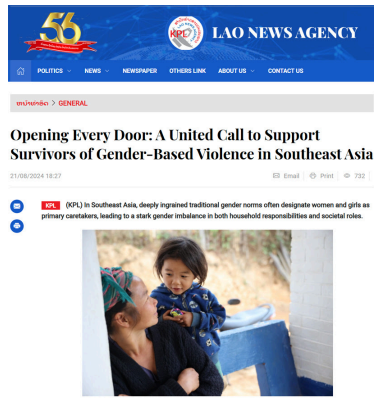
Laos, Thailand, and Viet Nam at the 3rd ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit

Join side event

The joint side event: “No Wrong Door: Sharing Good Practices on GBV Response,” at the 3rd ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit successfully highlighted the intersection of GBV and the Care Economy, showcasing effective GBV practices from Thailand, Vietnam, and Lao PDR.



The event engaged over 250 high-level delegates, including ASEAN member states, donor missions, and UN agencies, demonstrating UNFPA's key achievements and tangible results in South-South Cooperation. Additionally, UNFPA participated in significant sessions, including a Fireside Chat on preventing violence against women and a high-level discussion on the Care Economy. UNFPA statement emphasized integrating the GBV response, and SRHR into national policies, aligning with the upcoming ASEAN Declaration on Care Economy, to be endorsed later this year.



Lao officials joined the KNOWVAW data course

Representatives from Lao Statistic Bureau, National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children, Lao Women's Union, and UNFPA participated in the KNOWVAW data intensive training along with other participants from Asia and Pacific. Supported by Australia in Laos and Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade regionally, this program aimed at enhancing their skills to collect data on violence against women safely and accurately for the 2nd National Violence Against Women Prevalence Survey, marking over a decade since the last.



Youth

International Youth Day 2024: “From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development”

The Lao Youth Union (LYU) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) celebrated International Youth Day with a vibrant event filled with creativity, artistic performances, and demonstrations of youth leadership. The event gathered 300 young people and was attended by officials from the different line ministries as well as civil society organizations.



It highlighted the critical connection between digitalization and accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the essential contributions of young people to this transformative process.

[Read more](#)

South-South collaboration between Cambodia and Lao PDR to end HIV

UNFPA Cambodia, in partnership with UNAIDS hosted a South-South HIV Programme Learning Visit for a delegation from Lao PDR composed of representatives from the government, civil society organizations and UNFPA team. The objective of this visit was to gain insights on the comprehensive HIV prevention strategies implemented in Cambodia, with a focus on community-led services and innovative approaches to address gaps in HIV prevention, particularly in achieving the first 95 targets of the 95-95-95 goals.



UNFPA Cambodia @UNFPACambodia · Aug 14

@UNFPACambodia & UNAIDS Cambodia and our partners from Laos had insightful meetings w/ @MenCambodia, @Friends_Intl & #mithsamlanh to learn about community-led delivery of HIV care services.

Learning from each other S2S- to #EndHIV

Population and Development

The Government of Lao PDR concluded the pilot census in 04 provinces

In July, the Lao Statistics Bureau supported by UNFPA completed the pilot census in Bokeo, Houaphanh, Sekong and Vientiane provinces with 120 field staff, including enumerators, supervisors, and LSB central office personnel. This preparatory step is vital for the 2025 census's success, helping identify potential

issues and refine methodologies by testing the effectiveness and accuracy of census procedures and tools while familiarizing communities with the census questions.



Swiss Development Cooperation “SDC” joins the efforts to support the 5th Population and Housing Census

UNFPA secured a contribution of 750,000 CHF (over 840,000 USD) from SDC to support the preparation of the 5th Population and Housing Census in Lao PDR, planned for March 2025 by strengthening the technical and operational capacities of the Lao Statistics Bureau.



Prioritization workshop on the Demographic Dividend

The Ministry of Planning and Investment and UNFPA organized a Prioritization Workshop on the Demographic Dividend Road Map for Lao PDR. The Workshop gathered participants from the different line ministries, civil society and experts to prioritize the key actions that will enable Lao PDR to fully benefit from its young generation and drive sustainable growth through four strategic investments :

- Skills development and education
- Comprehensive health services, including SRH
- Decent job and employment
- Comprehensive social protection and social welfare system



Partnership with Private Sector

UNFPA strengthens the engagement of the private sector in the census

60 businesses in Lao PDR joined the 1st meeting on the private sector's role in supporting the 2025 Population and Housing Census. They received briefing on the census data use for informed decision-making, business planning, market research, workforce planning & growth opportunities. The meeting was organized by UNFPA in close collaboration with the Lao Statistics Bureau and the Australian Chamber of Commerce.



UNFPA renews its partnership with Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Suites Vientiane to empower youth and women

UNFPA Laos renewed its groundbreaking partnership with Crowne Plaza Vientiane, and Holiday Inn & Suites Vientiane: a major milestone in enhancing youth empowerment across Lao PDR. This initiative will offer new training and employment opportunities, aligning with national and global development goals. With over 60% of the population under 30, investing in youth is crucial for the future of the nation. This partnership will integrate support from government, development partners, and the private sector to new opportunities for youth to thrive and advance gender equality principles.



UNFPA in the news
(Images can be clicked to read more)

Statistics office, development partners mull plans for 2025 census

Times Reporters

As the government prepares for the 5th population and housing census taking place in March 2025, officials from the Lao Statistics Bureau, with support from the UNFPA, held a brainstorming session to discuss the plans.

The two agencies organised two partnership meetings aimed at strengthening the role of civil society and international NGOs, as well as the private



Government officials join development partners for a photo at the meeting in Vientiane recently.

sector, in partnership with the Australian Chamber of Commerce, to study private sector. Such data are critical for development planning, the distribution of infrastructure and social welfare programmes, and market analysis.

For the majority of countries, including Laos, the population and housing census estimate the primary source of data on the size and spatial distribution of the population and its related characteristics. The central role played by censuses in national data ecosystems is likely to remain for the foreseeable future.

The population and housing census is also an essential source of data on number of people, their spatial distribution, age and sex, their living conditions as well as about disadvantaged regions and vulnerable groups.

The Laotian Times



The Lao Youth Union (LYU) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFP) marked International Youth Day with a series of activities for young people from across Laos under the theme 'From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development'.

The event was attended by officials and youth representatives, emphasizing the intersection of digital technology and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year's event aims to highlight how technology drives global development. Participants engaged in a series of activities to share their ideas for using technology to advance progress.

The celebration marks the 20th anniversary of the global campaign 'Be the Hero, Be the Hero', which promotes children's rights to play and their role in social and economic development.

Lao News Agency

ASEAN Women Share Lessons on Responding to Gender-based Violence

The conference, themed "There is No Wrong Door," focused on improving coordination in handling cases of gender-based violence.



UNFPA and Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites Vientiane have renewed their cooperation through a groundbreaking agreement to enhance the empowerment and capacity-building of adolescents and young people across the Lao PDR.

Lao News Agency

UNFPA, Crowne Plaza Join Hands to Empower Youth, Advocate for Gender Equality in Laos

UNFPA and Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites Vientiane have renewed their cooperation through a groundbreaking agreement to enhance the empowerment and capacity-building of adolescents and young people across the Lao PDR.



Publications

(Images can be clicked to read more)

COVERAGE MAPPING

UNFPA Laos 2017-2024

- Nationwide Programs:**
 - Policy Advice
 - Family Planning
 - Data & Evidence
 - Strengthening Midwifery
 - Psychosocial support via hotline
 - Gender-Based Violence (GBV)
 - Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Primary School
- Piloting Sites:**
 - Nang Noi Girls Groups
 - Youth Friendly Services
 - Vocational skills training
 - Women Friendly Spaces
 - Engaging men & boys
 - Women's 3 Goods
 - BEMOC training
 - Midwifery Schools
 - Midwifery Center of Excellence
 - GBV Shelters Services
 - Telehealth
 - SRH Peer educators
 - CSE - Non Formal Education
 - CSE - Out of School
 - CSE TVET
 - CSE Teacher Training
 - CSE Secondary School
 - CSE in Universities (NUOL)
 - Psychosocial Support via Community Outreach
- Upscaling through partners:**
 - ChildFund
 - SFE
 - SNV
 - Plan International
 - ChildFund
 - ChildFund

Government Partners: Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao Statistics Bureau, Lao Youth Union and Lao Women's Union.

Strategic Partners: KOICA, UNICEF, UNFPA, USAID, UN Women.

Psychosocial support via hotline: SBH Inquiries, call VVG: #1361, #137; GBV concerns, call LWU: #1362; Youth mental health, call LYU: #1554.

Contact Us: laos.unfpa.org, t.me/unfpa_lao, www.facebook.com/unfpa.lao, www.instagram.com/unfpa.lao, www.youtube.com/unfpa.lao

Update: May 2024

Watch our recent videos

(Images can be clicked to watch)

Weaving the promise for young people

Global Parents Day: for inclusive SRH



UNFPA Laos is grateful to the following donors for their assistance as we work towards delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled:



Contact and follow us:



laos.office@unfpa.org

Copyright © 2023 UNFPA Lao PDR, All rights reserved.
Our mailing address is:

Lane Xang Avenue

P.O Box: 345, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

Laos Office <laos.office@unfpa.org>
Reply-To: Laos Office <laos.office@unfpa.org>
To: asia.co.all@unfpa.org

Tue, Sep 3, 2024 at 6:10 PM

[Quoted text hidden]