

UNFPA Lao PDR November - December 2024 Newsletter

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

Thu, Dec 19, 2024 at 1:28 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: November - December 2024

Vientiane Landmark illuminates in Orange to say "NO" to Violence Against Women and Girls

In collaboration with the Government of Lao PDR, the EU, and KOICA, UNFPA illuminated the iconic Patuxay Monument in orange to mark the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Held under the global theme, "Toward 30 Years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls," the event brought together a wide range of stakeholders to advocate for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.



As part of the campaign, the "Empowerment Runway" fashion show, an artistic and symbolic event, took place at the ASEAN Park in Vientiane Capital. The show creatively highlighted the different forms of violence faced by women and girls while promoting inclusivity, equality, and respect for all.

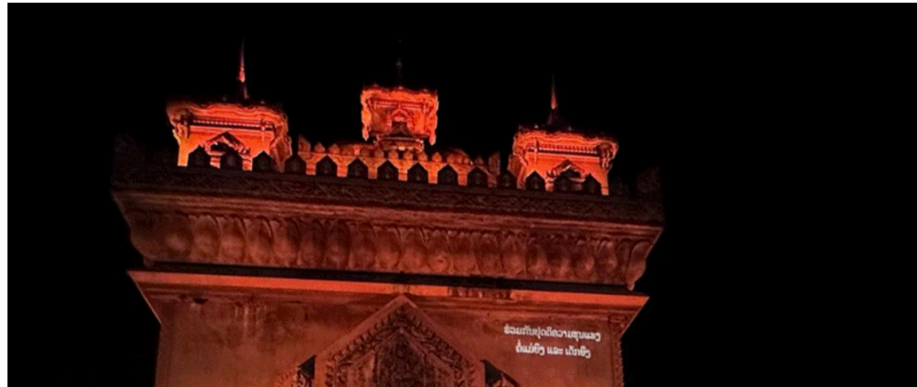
The 16 Days of Activism engaged over 45 partners from various sectors and included a diverse array of activities such as seminars, media campaigns, and public discussions. Key topics addressed included mental health, HIV/AIDS, and the rights of people with disabilities, reinforcing a comprehensive approach to advocacy and awareness.



[Click to read more](#)

Vientiane Landmark illuminates in Orange to say “NO” to Violence Against Women and Girls

To commemorate the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, the Lao Government, in collaboration with the United Nations and partners, held an event yesterday to light up the Patuxay Monument in orange, marking the launch of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.



Joint Country Op-Ed: Forging a Path to End AIDS in Cambodia and Lao PDR

By: **Sandra Bernklau, UNFPA Representative, Cambodia**

Bakhtiyor Kadyrov, UNFPA Representative, Lao PDR

Patricia Ongpin, UNAIDS Country Director for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Malaysia

In the heart of Southeast Asia, Cambodia and Lao PDR stand united in efforts to end the HIV epidemic. While significant progress has been made, there is still much to do. UNAIDS data shows that ending AIDS as a public health threat is achievable by 2030, but only if countries, communities and partners close the gaps holding back progress. The bottom line is we can only end AIDS as a public health threat by overcoming it everywhere, for everyone.



[Click to read more](#)

Opinion

Forging a path to end AIDS in Cambodia and Laos

In the heart of Southeast Asia, Cambodia and Laos stand united in efforts to end the HIV epidemic. While significant progress has been made, there is still much to do. UNAIDS data shows that ending AIDS as a public health threat is achievable by 2030, but only if countries, communities and partners close the gaps holding back progress.

The bottom line is we can only end AIDS as a public health threat by overcoming it everywhere, for everyone.

The actions we take today to end AIDS will help advance the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals, ensure countries are prepared to overcome the pandemics of the future, and help secure a safer, fairer world for everyone.

This means all countries need to continue learning further from each other's experiences and working together to strengthen their HIV response. Despite tremendous strides taken in Cambodia and Laos and the region over the

past two decades, AIDS is not over—a great deal of unfinished work lies ahead.

That is why a recent UNAIDS and UNFPA-facilitated learning exchange between the two

and youth networks.

The primary objective was to gain insights into successful HIV prevention strategies implemented in Cambodia, with a focus on achieving the so-called "95-

achieved 89-99-98 of these targets, key lessons can be learnt – particularly in community-led services and innovative approaches to address gaps in HIV prevention.

A key feature of helping young people make safe choices is the Comprehensive Sexuality Education curriculum, with UNFPA working with the ministries of Education in both countries to ensure individuals have the knowledge and skills to understand HIV transmission and prevention, promoting safe practices and reducing stigma, which are essential steps toward healthy behaviour and ending AIDS.

This work is critical as young people remain at risk in both countries, with 43 percent of new infections occurring among young people aged 15-24 years in Cambodia – compounded by only 23 percent of young people aged 15-24 years having comprehensive knowledge about HIV, a decline from 38 percent in 2014. In Laos, 43 percent of new infections were among young people aged 15-24 years in 2023.

With Cambodia and Laos committed to ensuring the sustainability of HIV response, UNAIDS and UNFPA are working with the respective governments as well as stakeholders and partners to realise the 95-95-95 and national targets to address inequality to end AIDS.

as both countries face unfinished agendas to address stigma, discrimination, and other legal, human rights, social and gender-related barriers that make people vulnerable to HIV transmission and hinder their access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services.

UNAIDS and UNFPA, with the principle of leaving no one behind, reaffirm our commitment to support the governments of Cambodia and Lao PDR in strengthening HIV prevention and treatment. Together with all stakeholders – including civil society, media and communities of people living with HIV, youth and key populations – we will continue to advocate for the protection of the rights of people living with HIV, the elimination of stigma and discrimination, and to ensure that all young people have access to the information, support and services they need to make healthy choices for their lives.

Author : Sandra Bernklau, UNFPA Representative, Cambodia
Bakhtiyor Kadyrov, UNFPA Representative, Lao PDR
Patricia Ongpin, UNAIDS Country Director for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Malaysia

With Cambodia and Laos committed to ensuring the sustainability of HIV response, UNAIDS and UNFPA are working with the respective governments as well as stakeholders and partners to realise the 95-95-95 and national targets to address inequality to end AIDS.

countries is so encouraging. As part of this quest to help close knowledge gaps, 18 delegates from nine institutions in Laos visited Cambodia, including government stakeholders, United Nations representatives, civil society organisations

95-95 goals", to diagnose 95 percent of all people living with HIV, provide antiretroviral therapy for 95 percent of those diagnosed and achieve viral suppression for 95 percent of those who are on HIV treatment by 2030. With Cambodia having already

Fresh initiatives, under Cambodia's National Policy for Ending AIDS and the Sustainability of HIV Programme for 2023-2028, prioritises identifying, testing, and treating nearly 10,000 undiagnosed people living with HIV among other priorities. This includes encouraging those at risk of HIV transmission – particularly young people, men who have sex with men, transgender people, people who inject drugs and sex/female entertainment workers – to seek testing and access health and social protection benefits.

Vientiane Times Subscription 2024			
1 DOMESTIC SUBSCRIPTION (6 issues/week) and online fee			
	66 issues (3 months)	363,000k	+350,000k □ 713,000k □
Regular price	132 issues (6 months)	726,000k	+350,000k □ 1,076,000k □
	264 issues (1 year)	1,452,000k	+350,000k □ 1,802,000k □
	528 issues (2 years)	2,904,000k	+350,000k □ 3,254,000k □

Health

Mobile Clinic Outreach to Promote Rights and Choices

The VWYC Health Providers organized a mobile clinic outreach focused on Sexual and Reproductive Health Counseling at Trimax Co., Ltd. in Vientiane Capital. With the support of UNFPA, this outreach aimed to promote the health and well-being of Lao and Myanmar workers at Trimax by providing confidential health counseling and educational resources. By empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their health and bodies, this initiative underscores the importance of promoting sexual and reproductive health rights.



Strengthening Maternal, Adolescent and Child Health in Laos

The UN Joint Programme (UNJP) Steering Committee Phase III on maternal and child health co-chaired by the Minister of Health, and the Chargé D'affaires of the Luxembourg Embassy in Lao PDR, brought together representatives from UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and the Ministry of Health to review progress in implementing the UNJP's strategic objectives in 03 provinces: Bokeo, Bolikhamxay, and Savannakhet. Partners discussed challenges, lessons learned, and opportunities for the program's extension, and proposed activities for 2025 to further improve maternal, adolescent and child health, aiming to ensure universal coverage and leaving no one behind.



Paving the Way for Midwifery Development in Laos

The Ministry of Health (MOH), UNFPA, and partners in Lao PDR are making transformative investments for maternal, adolescent and child health through the development of the midwifery profession and services.

Midwifery stakeholders, including MOH Departments of Health Personnel, Hygiene and Health Promotion, Health Care, all nine colleges of Health Sciences, as well as key technical midwives from central, provincial, and district hospitals, WHO, UNICEF, and JICA, convened to develop a five-year National Action Plan for Midwifery (APM) 2025-2030. The plan sets out a roadmap to strengthen midwifery education, training, and service delivery. Its overarching goal is to provide quality maternal and child health (MCH) services, focusing on reducing maternal and neonatal mortality rates—a critical priority for the country.



Promoting Disability Inclusion in Maternal and Child Health and Sexual Reproductive Health Services

An engaging orientation was held at the Ministry of Health to promote disability inclusion in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services. Organized by the Humanity & Inclusion Lao PDR, UNFPA Laos, and the Ministry of Health, the session presented ways on how to break down barriers and ensure inclusive healthcare for persons with disabilities. Key areas of the orientation focused on a wide range of topics including deepening understanding on disability, ensuring inclusive SRH services for persons with disabilities, empowering local organizations to promote rights, raise awareness, and deliver tailored healthcare services. Prioritization of preventive care to mitigate disabilities stemming from high-risk pregnancies and birth complications was also presented in the session.



Luxembourg Embassy, UNFPA and UN Agencies Visit Bolikhamxay Provincial Hospital

Representatives from the Luxembourg Embassy in Laos, LuxDev (the Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency), UNICEF, WHO, and UNFPA visited the Bolikhamxay Provincial Hospital in Paksan.



The Lao-Luxembourg Health and Nutrition Programme has supported part of the construction of the hospital, and the UN Joint Programme on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health, focuses on improving the quality, efficiency, and sustainability of provincial health services, particularly in Mother and Child health.

Gender

**UNFPA and NCAWMC Empower Journalists to Advocate
Against Gender-Based Violence**

UNFPA, in collaboration with the National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mother and Children (NCAWMC), organized a media training workshop for journalists from both public and private sectors in Laos. The training aimed to equip journalists with the knowledge and tools to report ethically and responsibly on gender-based violence (GBV), ensuring their work supports efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls.



The workshop delved into the nuances of GBV, focusing on its root causes, impacts, and the importance of gender-sensitive reporting. Participants were encouraged to uphold ethical standards, challenge harmful stereotypes, and amplify the voices of survivors while safeguarding their dignity. By fostering a deeper understanding of GBV issues and promoting the rights of women and girls, the training reinforced the media's crucial role in raising awareness and shaping a safer, more inclusive society for all.

As part of the initiative, a media trip was organized in Vientiane, offering journalists an opportunity to witness firsthand the work being done to combat GBV and support survivors.

The Closing Ceremony of the 16 Days Of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls

Under the theme: "Breaking Barriers to End GBV and Securing Rights for All", the closing ceremony of the 16 Days of Activism took place at the French Résidence, jointly organized by the French and Australian Embassies, the National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mother and Children (NCAWMC), UNFPA and UNDP, coinciding with the celebration of Human Rights Day on the 10th of December. The event brought together government officials, UN agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sectors who called for collective action to invest in prevention, provide survivor-centered responses, and build a society free from violence.



Adolescents and Youth

UN, Development Partners, Stakeholders Meet for Joint Programming to Empower Youth and Address Gender-Based Violence

The Lao Women's Union, Lao Youth Union, as well as UN agencies under the Resident Coordinator leadership: UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, ILO and UNESCO organized a donors briefing meeting to discuss joint efforts on youth empowerment and gender-based violence prevention and response in Lao PDR. Two Joint UN programs were presented to the stakeholders for feedback and potential collaboration. Through this initiative, UN agencies aim to strengthen the resource mobilization approach and to harmonize efforts for accelerated progress towards SDGs, especially for vulnerable populations.



Celebration of World AIDS Day

UNFPA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, CHAS, and WHO marked the World AIDS Day in Lao PDR by reaffirming commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. UNFPA emphasized the importance of taking the RIGHTS path advocacy call of UNAIDS - to health and equality to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.



Third Lao National Urban Forum

UNFPA joined an inspiring panel discussion on youth engagement as part of the Third Lao National Urban Forum (LNUF). The event was held by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, and UN-Habitat Lao PDR under the theme of “SDG Localization: Partnering with Youth for Achieving SDGs. At the panel discussion participants including government officials, representatives from youth-led organizations, civil society, and young changemakers debated critical issues including the impact of technology on youth development, gender-based violence, male engagement in GBV prevention, youth-friendly health services, inclusion of LGBTQIA+ communities, and meaningful youth participation in national decision-making.



Population and Development

Significant Progress Made in Preparing for Lao PDR's 5th Population and Housing Census 2025 (5th PHC)

The Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB), Ministry of Planning and Investment, and UNFPA convened a stakeholder meeting to solidify preparations for the upcoming 5th PHC. The event served not only as a platform to review progress but also aimed to mobilize additional resources and engage more partners to ensure the census's success.

Throughout the first half of 2024, the LSB, with support from UNFPA, has established strategic partnerships with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Luxembourg Aid and Development, USAID, and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The census initiative received a further boost with the participation of China Aid, which has committed direct support to LSB for the census. These partnerships alongside strengthened collaboration with civil society, the private sector, and international experts, have significantly enhanced readiness for the main census operation.



Forging a Path to End AIDS in Lao PDR and Cambodia

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** In the heart of Southeast Asia, the Lao PDR and Cambodia stand united in efforts to end the HIV epidemic. While significant progress has been made, there is still much to be done. A UNCTAD report shows that ending AIDS as a public health threat is achievable by 2030, but only if countries, communities and partners own the plan leading back to zero. The Vietnam Times has carried only AIDS as a public health threat by weaving a tapestry of responses, for everyone.



OP-ED: Forging a Path to End AIDS in Laos, Cambodia



Opinion

Forging a path to end AIDS in Cambodia and Laos

By Anurag Chandra, UNCTAD Deputy Director General and Director of the UNCTAD Centre for Enterprise, Investment and Innovation, and Director of the UNCTAD Centre for Enterprise, Investment and Innovation

HIV in Cambodia and Laos committed to ending the transmission of HIV, ending the epidemic by 2030. The respective governments as well as stakeholders and partners to realize the 95-95-95 and national targets to address inequality in end AIDS.

Vientiane Times Subscription 2024

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Census data to steer Laos' development goals

Times Reporters explaining demographic out efficiently and cost-trends in Laos and effectively identifying the sector. He also reaffirmed

Significant Progress Made in Preparing for Lao's 5th Population and Housing Census

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** The Lao Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Planning and Investment and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) had today a stakeholder meeting to strengthen the preparation of the upcoming 5th Population and Housing Census (PHC) in the Lao PDR, scheduled for 2025.



Significant Progress Made in Preparing for Lao PDR's 5th Population and Housing Census

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** The Lao Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Planning and Investment and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) had today a stakeholder meeting to strengthen the preparation of the upcoming 5th Population and Housing Census (PHC) in the Lao PDR, scheduled for 2025.



Laos, United Nation Team Up on Youth Empowerment, Gender-Based Violence Initiatives

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** The Lao Women Union, the Lao Youth Union, the United Nations agencies and key development partners on November 12 came together to discuss groundbreaking initiatives to empower youth and address gender-based violence in the Lao PDR.



UN, Development Partners, Stakeholders Meet for Joint Programmes to Address Gender Based Violence

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** The Lao Women Union, the Lao Youth Union, the United Nations agencies and key development partners on November 12 came together to discuss groundbreaking initiatives to empower youth and address gender-based violence in the Lao PDR.



UN, partners launch programmes for youth empowerment, gender equality

Times Reporters sanitation, and hygiene is vital not only for personal growth but also for national

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** The Lao Women Union, the Lao Youth Union, the United Nations agencies and key development partners on November 12 came together to discuss groundbreaking initiatives to empower youth and address gender-based violence in the Lao PDR.



Vientiane Times

The first National English Language Newspaper published in PDR

PM reaffirms Laos' commitment to end violence against women

Times Reporters Prime Minister Phommavithayana has reaffirmed Laos' commitment to end violence against women and girls, symbolising a bright future free from violence against women and girls. Together, we can take a stand—support survivors, empower them with vital information to access justice,



Vientiane's Patuxay Turns Orange to Say "NO" to Violence Against Women and Girls

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** The iconic Patuxay Monument in Vientiane was illuminated in orange on November 25 to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.



Patuxay Monument Illuminated in Orange to Say "No" to Violence Against Women and Girls

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** The iconic Patuxay Monument in Vientiane was illuminated in orange on November 25 to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.



Govt, partners light up orange against gender-based violence

Times Reporters The urgent need for enhanced coordination and efforts to effectively prevent violence, provide accessible support services, and ensure that survivors are met with compassion, dignity and respect, he added.

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** The Lao Women Union, the Lao Youth Union, the United Nations agencies and key development partners on November 12 came together to discuss groundbreaking initiatives to empower youth and address gender-based violence in the Lao PDR.



The Star

Landmark in Vientiane illuminates in orange to say "NO" to violence against women and girls

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** The iconic Patuxay Monument in Vientiane was illuminated in orange on November 25 to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.



Opinion

How can we put an end to violence against women?

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** The Lao Women Union, the Lao Youth Union, the United Nations agencies and key development partners on November 12 came together to discuss groundbreaking initiatives to empower youth and address gender-based violence in the Lao PDR.



Heeding the Voices of Persons With Disabilities for the Benefit of All

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** The Lao Women Union, the Lao Youth Union, the United Nations agencies and key development partners on November 12 came together to discuss groundbreaking initiatives to empower youth and address gender-based violence in the Lao PDR.

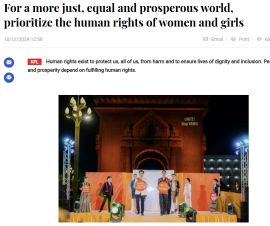


For a more just, equal and prosperous world, prioritize the human rights of women and girls

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** Human rights added to protect us, all of us, from harm and to ensure lives of dignity and inclusion. Peace and prosperity depend on fulfilling human rights.



For a more just, equal and prosperous world, prioritize the human rights of women and girls

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** Human rights added to protect us, all of us, from harm and to ensure lives of dignity and inclusion. Peace and prosperity depend on fulfilling human rights.



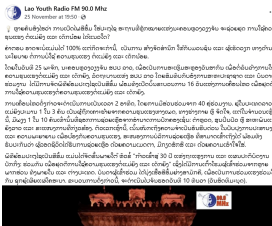
Opinion

How can we put an end to violence against women?

16/11/2024 13:28

📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** The Lao Women Union, the Lao Youth Union, the United Nations agencies and key development partners on November 12 came together to discuss groundbreaking initiatives to empower youth and address gender-based violence in the Lao PDR.



Heeding the Voices of Persons With Disabilities for the Benefit of All

16/11/2024 13:28

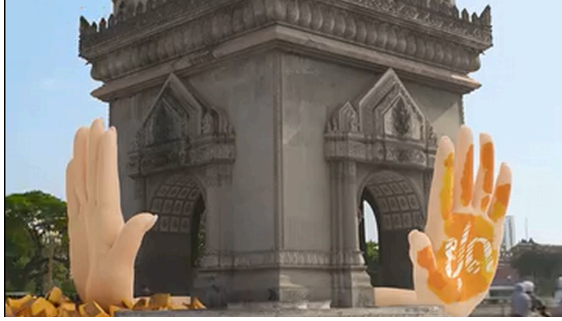
📄 📧 📧 📧 📧 📧

📌 **🇇🇵** The Lao Women Union, the Lao Youth Union, the United Nations agencies and key development partners on November 12 came together to discuss groundbreaking initiatives to empower youth and address gender-based violence in the Lao PDR.



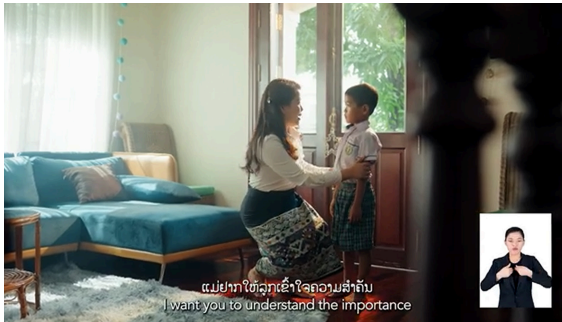
Watch Our Recent Videos
(Images can be clicked to watch)

kick Off 16 Days of Activism Ending GBV and Harmful Practices



Respect Begins at Home

Message from the Prime Minister of Lao PDR



16 Days of Activism Recapitulation 2024 in Lao PDR

Lighting Up Patuxay in Orange to Kick Off the 16DOA



UNFPA Lao PDR 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](#)