

## UNFPA Lao PDR January to March 2025

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



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

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

### What's up in Laos?

Quarterly newsletter: January - March 2025

### Happy Lao New Year from all of us at UNFPA!

Wishing you a joyful celebration, good health, and prosperity in the year ahead. We're excited to keep working together towards dignity, equality, and well-being for all.

Let's make this year brighter, together!

Happy Lao New Year  
2025 🌸



## Population and Development

### Lao PDR delegation concludes successful south-south exchange with Cambodia on Population and Development

A Lao PDR delegation, led by Vice Minister of Planning HE. Phonevanh Outhavong, visited Cambodia to learn from Cambodia's successful inter-ministerial coordination on population and development. The visit focused on Cambodia's Special Interministerial Committee for advancing the ICPD Programme of Action and included exchanges on reproductive health, gender equality, youth empowerment, and addressing gender-based violence to inform Lao PDR's national efforts.



### Government Launches 2025 Census Implementation Process

The Government of Lao PDR officially launched the 2025 Population and Housing Census operations and preparation at the National Convention Centre, led by Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Professor Dr. Kikeo



Khaykhamphithoune and UNFPA representatives. The event marked a key milestone to accelerate preparations for the main fieldwork census taking place in October, which will provide vital data on population trends, labor markets, education, housing, and urbanization to support national development planning.



### **Lao PDR prepares to establish its first Population Policy Coordination Committee to Accelerate National Development Goals**

UNFPA and the Ministry of Planning and Investment convened national stakeholders and partners to launch the Population Policy Coordination Committee (PPCC). The committee is established to drive the implementation of Lao PDR's National Population and Development Policy (2019-2030) and advance ICPD PoA commitments, helping the country seize its demographic dividend for sustainable growth and improved well-being.



### **Government of Lao PDR and UNFPA hold annual review meeting to celebrate 2024 achievements and present priorities for 2025**

The Government of Lao PDR and UNFPA held an annual review, highlighting 2024 achievements and setting 2025 priorities under the 7th Country Programme (2022–2026). The meeting focused on advancing reproductive health, family planning, and gender equality, with inputs from government, UN agencies, partners, and CSOs. Initiatives in 2024 empowered rural youth with life skills and rights awareness, supporting national efforts to end preventable maternal deaths, unmet need for family planning, and gender-based violence.



## Adolescents and Youth

### Building vocational skills of youth in Lao PDR

Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Suites Vientiane hosted 20 students from Pakpasack Technical and Vocational College for an orientation on hospitality careers. Through this partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sports and UNFPA, Crowne Plaza provided students with valuable insights and internship opportunities in hotel management and hospitality, helping them gain practical skills and experience for their future careers. Following the orientation, 7 trainees joined Crowne Plaza kitchens for an intensive training to boost their employment skills in the hospitality sector.



## Gender

**LWU, UNFPA and Australia Strengthen Commitment to Supporting Survivors of Gender-Based Violence in Lao PDR**



The Lao Women's Union (LWU), UNFPA, and the Government of Australia jointly visited Bokeo province to assess progress at the protection and counseling center for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). The visit reaffirmed the partnership's commitment to advancing gender equality and strengthening GBV response mechanisms in Lao PDR. Delegates engaged with staff, service providers, and survivors who shared how access to safe accommodation, medical care, psychosocial counseling, legal aid, and vocational training has helped rebuild their lives.



## Partners Unite to Advance Gender Equality: Continuing the March on International Women's Day

The Embassy of France, UNFPA, and UNDP hosted a vibrant International Women's Day celebration at the French Institute of Laos under the theme "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment." The event gathered government officials, development partners, civil society, youth, and women from diverse sectors to celebrate achievements, address challenges, and strengthen commitments to gender equality in Lao PDR. Highlights included interactive sessions on GBV response, the "Wearing Her Hat" exhibition, and panel discussions with key service providers. Information booths offered resources on women's rights, free health check-ups, and empowerment programs.



**Health**

## UNFPA Representative Visits Vientiane Women and Youth Center

Dr. Bakhtiyor Kadyrov, UNFPA Representative in Lao PDR, visited the Vientiane Women and Youth Center to observe the delivery of adolescent youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services. During the visit, UNFPA handed over more than 3,800 information, education, and communication materials aimed at empowering young people with vital knowledge on gender, sexual and reproductive health services and right, and mental health, supporting them to make informed decisions.



## UNFPA Supports Strengthened Family Planning Data System in Lao PDR

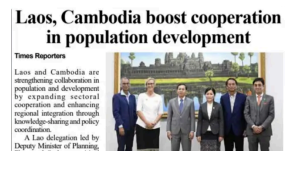
UNFPA has handed over 12 laptops to the National Center for Mother and Child Health (NCMCH) to support the Ministry of Health in enhancing its Family Planning Tracker system. By integrating family planning data into the DHIS2 platform, this initiative will improve real-time data collection, streamline service delivery, and empower healthcare providers with timely information. The strengthened system will help ensure that women, girls, mothers, and children across Lao PDR have better access to quality sexual and reproductive health services, contributing to healthier futures for all.





# UNFPA in the News

(Images can be clicked to read more)



## Publications

(Images can be clicked to read more)





**Life Saving Impact through High Quality Education**



**Lao Social Indicator Survey III (LSIS III), 2023**



**UNFPA Coverage Mapping in Lao PDR 2025**

## Human interest stories

(Images can be clicked to read more)



**Discover the Stories of 17 Inspiring Women Wearing Tui's Hat to Claim the Right to Work and Thrive**



**Breaking the Cycle of Gender-Based Violence in Lao PDR**



**Heroes in Pink: Celebrating the Legacy and Future of Midwifery in Lao PDR**

## Watch Our Recent Videos

(Images can be clicked to watch)

**Reflecting on the incredible moments of UNFPA Lao PDR country office in 2024**



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