

UNFPA LAO PDR ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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List of acronyms

Abbreviation	Meaning
ANC	Antenatal Care
AYFS	Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Services
BPI	Business Process Improvement
CAPI	Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing
CEFM	Child, Early, and Forced Marriages
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CPD57	Commission on Population and Development 57
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
E2A	Evidence to Action
FP2030	Family Planning 2030
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GIS	Geographic Information System
HPC	Health Professional Council
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
LSB	Lao Statistics Bureau
LSIS III	Lao Social Indicator Survey III
LYU	Lao Youth Union

List of acronyms

Abbreviation	Meaning
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MPDSR	Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response
NAPM	National Action Plan for Midwifery
NCAWMC	National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers, and Children
NTA	National Transfer Accounts
NUoL	National University of Laos
PES	Post-enumeration Survey
PHC	Population and Housing Census
POA	Programme of Action
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
TFGBV	Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence
TOT	Training of Trainers
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VNR	Voluntary National Review

Message from Dr. Bakhtiyor Kadyrov UNFPA Representative to Lao PDR



Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

As we reflect on 2024, we are reminded of the incredible progress and unwavering resilience demonstrated by the people of Lao PDR. This year has been a testament to our collective commitment to advancing the health, rights, and well-being of every individual in this country, particularly women and young people.

Through our partnerships, we have worked tirelessly to strengthen health systems, enhance access to sexual and reproductive health services, and empower youth with the tools they need to thrive. From remote villages to bustling towns, the impact of our programs has reached the heart of communities, fostering hope and opportunity.

A key focus in 2024 has been our preparations for the 5th Population and Housing Census. This pivotal exercise, set to take place next year, will serve as the foundation for evidence-based policymaking, enabling us to identify and address the needs of the most vulnerable populations. By working closely with the Government of Lao PDR and other stakeholders, we aim to ensure that this census is comprehensive, inclusive, and transformative in shaping the country's development trajectory.

In addition, significant strides have been made in strengthening midwifery services, recognizing the critical role midwives play in reducing maternal mortality and improving the health and dignity of women and their families. By enhancing the skills of midwives, expanding their reach to underserved areas, and providing them with the resources they need, we are reinforcing the backbone of reproductive health care in Lao PDR.

The year also saw substantial progress in preventing and responding to gender-based violence. Through community-driven initiatives, capacity-building efforts, and strengthened multi-sectoral coordination, we are breaking the silence around GBV and providing survivors with the care and support they need. These efforts reflect our unwavering dedication to creating a safe and equitable society for all.

We are also proud to have strengthened joint programming and advocacy with sister UN agencies, fostering stronger synergies to address complex challenges and deliver greater impact.

By combining expertise and resources, these collaborative efforts are helping us tackle systemic issues such as adolescent health, gender inequality, and data for development more effectively.

Additionally, we have intensified our work in addressing child marriage, a harmful practice that undermines the rights and potential of girls. Through advocacy, community engagement, and support for policies that protect young girls, we are fostering an environment where every girl can grow up free from violence, empowered to pursue education, and equipped to make choices about her own future. We also fostered our efforts in data generation and capacity building to produce evidence to inform policies and plans.

This progress would not have been possible without the strong ownership and collaboration with the Government of Lao PDR, development partners, civil society, private sector, media and, most importantly, the communities we serve. Together, we have shown that sustainable development is achieved through inclusivity, innovation, and a shared vision for a better future.

As we look ahead, our mission remains clear: to continue advocating for the rights of women and girls, to promote gender equality, and to invest in the potential of youth as agents of change and to build capacities for quality data and evidence. Let us carry forward the momentum of this year and redouble our efforts to build a brighter, more equitable future for all.



COVERAGE MAP

| DEC 2024 |





















• Nationwide Programs:

- Policy Advice ★
- Family Planning
- Data & Evidence ★★
- Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Primary School
- Strengthening Midwifery
- Psychosocial support via hotline
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

★ Demographic Dividend Roadmap, National Adolescents and Youth Strategy Action Plan, Noi and LAR Framework, Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child Health Strategy, The National Plan of Action on Preventing and Eliminating Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children, The National Plan of Action on Gender Equality, The Midwifery Strategy.

★★ 5th Population and Housing Census, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system improvement, National Transfer Account, Generational Economy, Lao Social Indicator Survey, surveys, research, and studies.



• Piloting Sites:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Nang Noi Girls Groups |  BEmOC training |
|  Youth Friendly Services |  Midwifery Schools |
|  Vocational skills training |  Midwifery Center of Excellence |
|  Women Friendly Spaces |  GBV Shelters Services |
|  Engaging men & boys |  Telehealth |
|  Women' 3 Goods |  SRH Peer educators |
|  CSE - Non Formal Education |  CSE - Out of School |
|  CSE TVET |  CSE Teacher Training |
|  CSE in universities (NUOL) |  CSE Secondary School |

• Upscaling through partners:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
|  SFE |  SNV |  Plan International |
|  ChildFund |  ChildFund |  ChildFund |

Psychosocial support via hotline:

SRH inquiries, call VYC : #1361 
#137 

GBV concerns, call LWU : #1362
Youth mental health, call LYU : #1554





KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

Played a convening role for the preparations to ensure tangible **national participation in 57th session of the Commission on Population and Development, and the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 89th CEDAW session**, high-level dialogues, including the Summit of the Future, the United Nations General Assembly.

Launched Lao PDR's Family Planning 2030 (FP2030) commitment reinforcing national efforts to expand adolescent and youth-responsive health systems, ensure contraceptive availability, and increase in domestic family planning funding.

Lao PDR has integrated the priorities of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD PoA) priorities into its **Voluntary National Review (VNR) and Universal Periodic Review Report (UPR)**, ensuring a people-centered approach to sustainable development.

Supported the integration of ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) priorities into Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship.

Enhanced Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Services (AYFS) across eight provinces, expanding both health facility-based and mobile outreach services.

Strengthened maternal and newborn health by improving the **Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR)** system, with perinatal deaths reported and reviewed for the first time in 2024.

Enhanced emergency preparedness by training health staff across 17 provinces on Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) to integrate SRH into disaster response.

Launched the Demographic Dividend Roadmap.

During its 2024 ASEAN chairmanship, Lao PDR incorporated ICPD PoA priorities into **the 3rd ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit, ASEAN Youth Dialogue, and ASEAN Leaders' Interface.**

Expanded GBV services through the **rollout of Social and Health Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** in seven provinces.

Strengthened the **CRVS system** through training core stakeholders in Business Process Improvement (BPI) and supporting data integration for birth and death registration.

Strengthened partnerships with the **Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations.**

Supported the development of action plan for the **Lao Youth and Adolescents Development Strategy (2030)** to empower young people.

Completed Pilot Census

in preparation of the 5th Population and Housing Census (5PHC) in 2025.

South-South Cooperation initiative and visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia on HIV prevention and response.

Supported the first-ever national consultation on **ending child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM).**

Launched key indicators of the **Lao Social Indicator Survey III** and the findings of the **"Pathways to Adolescents Pregnancy".**

Established a multisectoral network for the **construction of National Transfer Accounts (NTA)**, enabling evidence-based policymaking on intergenerational economic flows.

Increased government contribution to the 5th Population and Housing Census (PHC), **reaching 51% of the total PHC budget.**

IMPACT IN NUMBERS



129,426

women

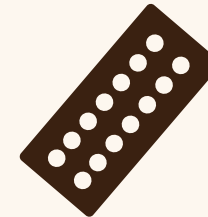
accessed antenatal care
(ANC) services



56,019

new users

of family planning recorded



359,092

family planning

commodities distributed



491,672

adolescents and
youth

accessed Adolescents Youth
Friendly Services



1,500

GBV survivors

received essential health and social
services through expanded referral
networks



187
teachers

trained on the CSE
package



4,000
women

reached through outreach
in flood affected areas



125
articles

published in both local and
international media on the
ICPD PoA



860
service providers
(all sectors)

were trained on GBV, HIV, and
other key protection issues



9 million
reach times

with information on SRH, GBV and youth
through IEC online and in person

ADVOCACY AND POLICY DIALOGUE

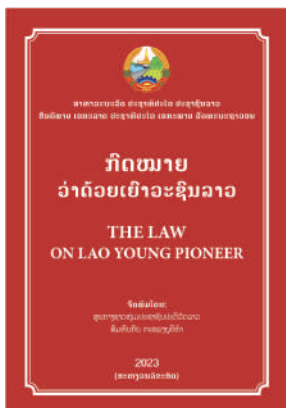
Lao PDR strengthened national engagement on sustainable development and population dynamics through a series of high-level dialogues and strategic planning initiatives, with UNFPA support.

- ▶ The Government of Lao PDR launched its commitment to FP2030, a global partnership working to ensure that all people have access to the reproductive health care they need to build a better future.



Under FP2030, Lao PDR committed to:

- Improving access to adolescent and youth-responsive health systems for contraceptive use.
- Ensuring the availability of quality and safe Youth Friendly Services and family planning information and services to decrease the unmet need for family planning among adolescents and young people aged 15 to 24 years old to 12% by 2030.
- Increasing the availability of contraceptives and reproductive health commodities from 53% to 100% while ensuring no stock out.
- Increasing the family planning fund to support the availability of commodities at the lower level.



- ▶ Lao PDR advanced youth empowerment and inclusivity through the implementation of the Law on Lao Young Pioneer. This legal framework prioritizes marginalized youth, including orphans, vulnerable individuals, and youth with disabilities, ensuring their active participation in policy-making and social transformation. By strengthening youth engagement mechanisms, the initiative fosters inclusive leadership and decision-making, setting a model for meaningful youth participation in national development.

- ▶ Ahead of the Summit of the Future and the UN General Assembly, UNFPA and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office convened a stakeholder advocacy dialogue with the Lao delegation. This platform enabled national leaders to discuss progress, development priorities, and the alignment of SDGs with the ICPD PoA, reinforcing Lao PDR's commitment to global agendas.

- ▶ Parliamentary engagement on population and development was enhanced through an advocacy and orientation meeting, co-hosted by UNFPA and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development. The event, held with the Lao Association for Parliamentarians on Population and Development and the Cultural and Social Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, focused on strengthening the implementation of the ICPD PoA and advancing ICPD30 discussions.

- ▶ With UNFPA support, two National Assembly members, including the Chairperson of the Cultural and Social Affairs successfully participated in the 8th International Parliamentarians' Conference on ICPD, strengthening Lao PDR's representation in global policy dialogue. Additionally, UNFPA secured the participation of a young Lao representative at the ICPD30 Global Youth Dialogue, ensuring youth perspectives are integrated into the ICPD30 agenda.



- ▶ National policy planning for harnessing the demographic dividend was advanced through a Prioritization Workshop on the Demographic Dividend Roadmap for Lao PDR, organized by the Ministry of Planning and Investment and UNFPA. By engaging line ministries, civil society, and experts, the workshop identified four strategic investment areas to maximize benefits from Lao PDR's young generation:
 - Skills development and education;
 - Comprehensive health services, including SRH;
 - Decent job and employment;
 - Comprehensive social protection and social welfare system.
- ▶ UNFPA coordinated the UN Country Team's (UNCT) collective submission to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee, ensuring a comprehensive and evidence-based approach to addressing gender equality challenges in the country.



- ▶ With UNFPA's assistance, Lao PDR successfully submitted its National Beijing+30 Review to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). This review highlighted progress, lessons learned, and challenges while outlining priority actions to achieve gender equality. Findings from the review were also reflected in Lao PDR's national statement at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+30 Review, positioning the country as an active participant in the regional gender agenda. Laos reaffirmed its pledge to uphold the Beijing Declaration and integrate gender equality into its 2026-2030 National Action Plan, further solidifying its role as a regional leader in gender equality efforts.
- ▶ The Lao Women's Union and the National Commission for the Advancement of Women, and Mother and Child renewed commitments to advancing gender equality and protecting the rights of women and girls in Lao PDR at the 68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women of the UN Economic and Social Council (CSW68). They presented good practices supported by UNFPA for the prevention and response to GBV jointly with Vietnam and Cambodia, which were acknowledged by partners at the global level.
- ▶ Lao PDR strengthened its accountability to international gender commitments by presenting its 10th CEDAW Periodic Report at the 89th CEDAW session. Government representatives demonstrated progress in advancing women's rights through legal reforms, economic empowerment initiatives, and educational programs aimed at improving gender parity. This engagement reinforced national efforts to uphold gender equality and align with global commitments.
- ▶ UNFPA supported the Lao Youth Union (LYU) to develop a draft action plan for the implementation of the Lao Youth and Adolescents Development Strategy (2030). The plan focuses on empowering young people through strategic actions in education, skills development, sexual and reproductive health, and civic engagement.



- ▶ To strengthen national development efforts, UNFPA provided strategic inputs to integrate ICPD priorities into Lao PDR's VNR. This alignment emphasized sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, youth empowerment, and the use of population data to drive sustainable development. By championing ICPD principles in the VNR, UNFPA helps to reinforce Lao PDR's commitment to achieving the SDGs through a people-centered approach.
- ▶ UNFPA contributed to Lao PDR's UPR by providing evidence-based inputs focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, and addressing gender-based violence. These contributions highlighted progress, challenges, and recommendations, ensuring national policies align with international human rights standards and supporting Lao PDR's fulfillment of its UPR commitments.

- ▶ A high-level Lao PDR delegation, led by the Minister of Health participated in the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD57). The Minister delivered Lao PDR's national statement, which aligned with key recommendations from the National Conference on Population and Development and the ICPD PoA. The delegation also co-hosted a side event with Cambodia, Viet Nam, UNFPA, and DFAT/Australia, under the theme "Advancing the ICPD PoA"—highlighting its contributions to sustainable development in the Mekong. Discussions covered national mechanisms, family planning, maternal mortality reduction, and comprehensive sexuality education, including good practices on the International Confederation of Midwives midwifery accreditation.



- ▶ In partnership with the LYU, the ASEAN Youth Dialogue convened 33 youth leaders from ASEAN member states and Timor-Leste. This collaboration resulted in the integration of UNFPA's mandate into the collective Youth Statement, which was subsequently presented to ASEAN leaders during the ASEAN Leaders Interface.



- ▶ UNFPA's contributions were further recognized through participation in a Fireside Chat on preventing violence against women and a high-level discussion on the Care Economy, reinforcing its impact in South-South Cooperation and regional policy dialogue.



© UNFPA Lao PDR | the 3rd ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit

- ▶ Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam strengthened regional collaboration on GBV response through a joint side event, "No Wrong Door: Sharing Good Practices on GBV Response", at the 3rd ASEAN Women Leaders' Summit, with UNFPA support. The session highlighted the intersection of GBV and the Care Economy, showcasing effective models from the three countries and engaging high-level delegates, including ASEAN member states, donors, and UN agencies.
- ▶ Secretary-General António Guterres reaffirmed the ASEAN-UN partnership and the commitment to leaving no one behind during his visit to Lao PDR for the 14th ASEAN-UN Summit. The visit strengthened regional collaboration on sustainable development, peace, and human rights, reinforcing shared priorities between ASEAN and the UN.

- ▶ Lao PDR amplified advocacy for gender equality, youth empowerment, and sexual and reproductive health through UNFPA-led national campaigns in collaboration with the government and partners. These efforts engaged diverse stakeholders across key global observances, including International Women's Day, International Day of the Midwife, International Youth Day, World Population Day, World Contraception Day, International Day of the Girl Child, World AIDS Day, and the 16 Days of Activism. These campaigns mobilized awareness, strengthened policy dialogue, and reinforced commitments to advancing UNFPA's mandate in Lao PDR.

// The ASEAN-UN partnership has never been stronger as we make progress on the joint Plan of Action. And I am here to bolster that partnership even further.

Secretary-General António Guterres



© UNFPA Lao PDR | Secretary-General António Guterres visit to Lao PDR for the 14th ASEAN-UN Summit





“

I am passionate about sewing and fashion, but without sign language, communication is hard. Walking the 16DOA fashion show with UNFPA made me feel truly seen and heard without needing words to express my talent.

Ms. Siliphan Luangphon,
Lao Disabled Womens Development
Center



“

These SOPs are more than just guidelines—they are a lifeline for survivors and the staff who support them.

Dr. Sengchanh Sivilay
Mother and Child hospital



“

Male engagement training helps men in Phailath Village understand gender-based violence, and it also helps women become aware of their rights for a healthy relationship.

Mr. Somlith Duangchampa,
Deputy Head of Phailath Village



“

H.E. Mr. Xavier Bettel engaged with health providers and couples enrolled in the program, reinforcing international support for inclusive and rights-based family planning services.

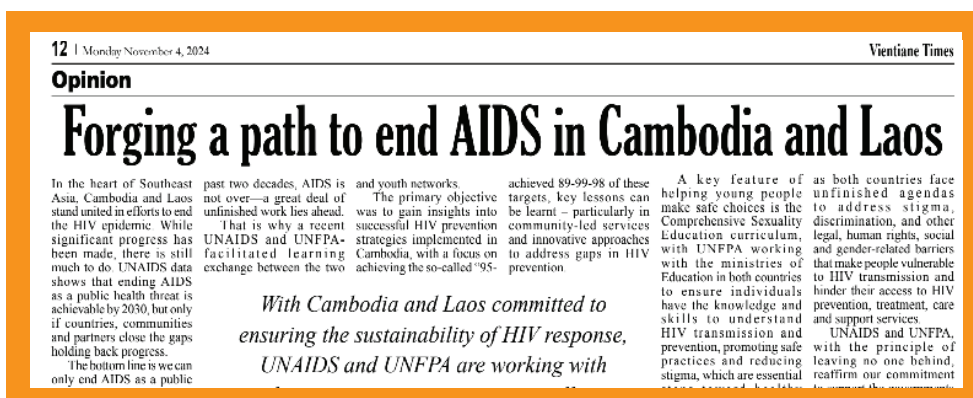
COORDINATION, PARTNERSHIP, SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Through UNFPA's strategic advocacy and resource mobilization efforts, the government's contribution to the 5th Population and Housing Census (PHC) increased significantly to reach 51%. This achievement reflects UNFPA's ability to align national priorities with international development goals, effectively engaging key stakeholders to secure essential funding.

- ▶ UNFPA and the Ministry of Health showcased progress in family planning initiatives by facilitating a visit for H.E. Mr. Xavier Bettel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, to Keo-Oudom Hospital in Vientiane Province during his official trip to Lao PDR. The visit highlighted the impact of innovative SRH programs, including couples counseling, which equips couples with essential SRH knowledge and services to prepare for married life.
- ▶ UNFPA successfully convened an advocacy event with government and development partners to mobilize support for the Census ahead of the Round Table Implementation Meeting—an annual high-level platform where senior government leaders outline national priorities. Co-chaired by the Minister of Planning and UNFPA, the meeting effectively highlighted the Census funding gap and reinforced the urgent need for increased financial commitments.

- ▶ A high-level delegation from Lao PDR, including representatives from Ministries, civil and society organizations participated in a South-South HIV Programme Learning Visit to Cambodia. This visit was jointly organized by UNFPA in Lao PDR, UNFPA in Cambodia, and UNAIDS. The exchange provided valuable insights into Cambodia's comprehensive HIV prevention strategies, highlighting community-led services and innovative approaches to addressing gaps—particularly in achieving the first 95 target of the 95-95-95 goals. As a key outcome, the Lao Government developed an action plan to enhance coordination with Cambodia in strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation efforts.
- ▶ The Gender Working Group, composed of stakeholders from all sectors, working on gender and co-chaired by UNFPA, the European Union and the Asian Development Bank was revamped to enhance coordination and action on gender equality and prevention and response to GBV.
- ▶ UNFPA, in partnership with UN-Habitat, contributed to the Third Lao National Urban Forum to advance youth health, leadership, and SDG progress. A panel discussion at the NUoL highlighted Lao PDR's demographic transition and the urgent need for investments in youth, ensuring their access to healthcare, economic opportunities, and social support systems.
- ▶ Partnerships with CSOs and the private sector to support the 5th PHC was enhanced. Over 30 national and international CSOs participated in the first CSO meeting to discuss their role in the country's first digital census. This was followed by a private sector meeting, where 80 businesses endorsed the inclusive and cooperative approach, reinforcing the commitment to ensuring everyone is counted. The network of persons with disabilities actively contributed to the different phases of the census preparation, ensuring that accessibility and inclusivity are integrated throughout all the census processes.

- ▶ UNFPA renewed its groundbreaking tripartite partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sports and Crowne Plaza Vientiane, and Holiday Inn & Suites Vientiane to enhance youth empowerment. This initiative is equipping young people with essential skills and creating new employment opportunities in the hospitality sector, fostering their economic independence and professional growth.

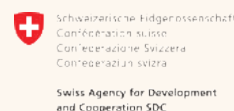


- ▶ UNFPA strengthened its partnership with the Mekong Vocational Center, a private-sector institution providing vocational training for vulnerable girls from ethnic communities. Through this collaboration, UNFPA integrated access to essential sexual and reproductive health information, including family planning, menstrual health, and violence prevention, ensuring these young women are equipped with knowledge and resources need to make informed life choices.



- ▶ A partnership with the World Continuing Education Alliance was established to enhance the integration of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training with the Health Professional Council (HPC) database. This collaboration ensures that CPD training outcomes are directly linked to the HPC database, facilitating seamless access to health providers' records for license renewal. As part of this initiative, a comprehensive HPC digital database or Human Resource Information System, is being developed. This system will assign a unique identifier to each health professional and service provider. Additionally, the system will strengthen accountability, streamline licensing processes, and support the continuous professional development of health personnel in Lao PDR.
- ▶ UNFPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute to enhance joint programming on data and research. This collaboration aims to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics, improve maternal health outcomes, and advance adolescent well-being through evidence-based policies and programs.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION IN 2024 US\$ 2.420.961



The 5th Population
and Housing Census

The 5th Population
and Housing Census

Child Early Forced
Marriage

Sexual and
reproductive health



“

Contraception is a crucial tool for addressing unplanned pregnancies and relationship issues.

Mr. Sinnalath Padith,
LGBTQIA+ youth leader and family
planning advocate



“

We are also lucky that we can safely plan for the future and master the correct information about contraception and our well-being.

Ms. Viengsamai and Mr. Nouker,
A couple who received family planning
and contraceptive services as part of a
couples counseling initiative.



“

I can't wait to graduate and become a practicing midwife. I am passionate about deliveries, and I love babies a lot.

Ms. Aspy Kamsing,
Midwifery student,
Xiang Khouang Health Sciences College.





KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

- ▶ UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health in conducting Family Planning Landscape Analysis to inform strategic program enhancements and strengthen family planning services. In parallel, efforts are underway to expand commodity procurement, which includes exploring partnerships with the private sector to improve access to essential supplies and extend the reach of family planning services.
- ▶ A Male Engagement Guide for health service providers was developed to strengthen male involvement in SRH. This guide is designed to promote gender equality and shared responsibility in health outcomes, and it will be officially endorsed and piloted in 2025.
- ▶ A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework was developed to track progress in implementing the National Action Plans on Ending Violence Against Women and Gender Equality. This framework ensures accountability and fosters continuous improvement in achieving gender equality.
- ▶ NUOL presented key findings on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV) in Lao PDR at the ASEAN Regional Symposium held in Bangkok, Thailand. This platform facilitated dialogue among civil society organizations, service providers, digital rights activists, and academics, resulting in actionable recommendations for addressing TFGBV across ASEAN countries.

- ▶ The Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS) III key indicators were launched, delivering insightful data on health, education, and SDG 5.6.1 on women decision making for their health is integrated to LSISIII for the first time. The LSIS will inform the national efforts to help accelerate progress toward the SDGs.

Lao Social Indicator Survey III



- ▶ In collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA supported the launch of the Regional Study on “Understanding Pathways to Adolescent Pregnancy in Southeast Asia: Findings from Lao PDR”, providing critical insights into the factors driving adolescent pregnancy. The findings serve as an evidence base for policies and programming addressing reproductive health challenges and advancing gender equality.
- ▶ UNFPA and UNESCAP jointly developed a policy brief on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), outlining key interventions to enhance birth and death registration. The brief highlights the gender dimensions of the CRVS system, providing actionable recommendations to ensure more inclusive, equitable, and efficient registration processes.





CAPACITY BUILDING

- ▶ Lao Women's Union staff and other national partners received training on the GBV Administrative Data System. The training was a crucial step toward digitalizing records to generate evidence on trends, access, and service quality, ultimately leading to stronger GBV policies and programs.
- ▶ UNFPA reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the CRVS system in Lao PDR. Key achievements included facilitating the joint UNESCAP-UNFPA program, training 24 core CRVS stakeholders in BPI, and equipping them with essential skills through the Evidence to Action (E2A) workshop. UNFPA also supported the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) in reviewing the 2025 regional questionnaire, focusing on birth and death registration, and assisted in mapping registration processes. Despite facing some implementation delays, UNFPA's capacity-building initiatives advanced CRVS modernization, improving data quality and coverage.
- ▶ A multisectoral network has been established to support the construction of NTA in Lao PDR. This collaborative framework enables evidence-based policymaking, helping to analyze economic flows across generations and inform sustainable investments in social protection, education, and health. By bringing together key government agencies, research institutions, and development partners, the NTA process strengthens data-driven decision-making to harness the demographic dividend and ensure equitable resource distribution for national development.



© UNFPA Lao PDR | Provision of SRH service in Khammuan province after the floods

- ▶ The MPDSR system has seen significant improvements, ensuring more accurate recording and analysis of maternal deaths. In a key milestone, perinatal deaths were reported and reviewed for the first time in 2024, marking a critical step toward expanding accountability for maternal and newborn health. Additionally, maternal deaths were systematically reviewed by provincial committees, reinforcing the commitment to accountability and continuous improvement in maternal health outcomes.
- The maternal death review process identified postpartum hemorrhage, sepsis, and eclampsia as the leading causes of maternal deaths. In response, the Ministry of Health, with technical support from UNFPA, has swiftly implemented new measures to address these preventable causes, ensuring that evidence-driven interventions are executed practice without delay.

- As part of these follow-up actions, the Ministry of Health and the Lao Red Cross launched targeted initiatives to enhance blood safety and improve the quality of maternal healthcare. A technical workshop on blood transfusion management for obstetric hemorrhage engaged 80 health providers including 19 females from provincial hospitals and blood banks across 17 provinces, strengthening capacity on critical interventions for maternal survival.
- Additionally, onsite training on blood safety services at Phonthong Hospital brought together 64 participants including 26 females (blood transfusion specialists, laboratory professionals, and donor recruitment officers). These efforts enhance the health system's ability to respond effectively to postpartum hemorrhage and other maternal emergencies, further reducing preventable maternal deaths across Lao PDR.



© UNFPA Lao PDR | Couple counselling at Keo-Oudom Clinic, Vientiane Province.

ຫ້ອງຮຽນແຜນຄອບຄົວ
FAMILY PLANNING

26

ປາດ້ານເຊື່ອບໍ່ສາມາດແກ້ໄຂບັນຫາ
ສຸຂະພາບຂອງທ່ານໄດ້ ຖ້າທ່ານໃຊ້ໂດຍບໍ່
ໄດ້ຮັບຄໍາແນະນໍາຈາກແພດ



- To further institutionalize and strengthen the MPDSR system, the MPDSR Guideline was finalized by the Ministry of Health. Its formal endorsement and nationwide dissemination, scheduled for early 2025, will equip health providers with standardized protocols to systematically review and respond to maternal deaths, reinforcing maternal and newborn health systems across the country.



- ▶ With UNFPA support, midwifery stakeholders in Lao PDR led an inclusive process to develop the National Action Plan for Midwifery (NAPM) 2025-2030. This five-year strategy strengthens midwifery care, maternal and child health services, and universal access to family planning and SRH services. The plan sets a clear path to reducing maternal and neonatal mortality rates and ensuring that quality midwifery services are accessible to all, particularly in underserved areas.
- ▶ 91 midwifery students, including 21 from ethnic communities in Oudomxay, Savannakhet, Champasak, and Salavan provinces, received scholarships from UNFPA to successfully complete their midwifery training. Upon graduation, these midwives will return to their villages to deliver essential MCH services, contributing to health system strengthening at the community level and addressing gaps in access to quality care.

- ▶ A Track20 training was conducted to strengthen data collection, analysis, and utilization for tracking and also support on estimation and forecast for national commodity procurement. This initiative enhances data-driven decision-making, enabling more accurate monitoring of family planning indicators and supporting evidence-based policy adjustments.
- ▶ The AYFS training was expanded to Khammouane Province, reaching 49 health providers from the Provincial Health Office, Provincial Hospital, and nine district hospitals. This expansion is part of broader efforts to scale up the programme nationwide, which now covers eight provinces across the country (Bokeo, Oudomxay, Luangphabang, Vientiane Capital, Bolikhamxay, Khammouane, Savannakhet, and Champasack).
- ▶ Social and Health SOPs were rolled out in seven provinces (Bokeo, Bolikhamxay, Savannakhet, Champasack, Attapeu, Vientiane, and Luang Namtha) equip providers with knowledge to provide essential health and social support to GBV survivors. Over 1,500 services were delivered to survivors, enhancing access to care. Additionally, GBV coordination mechanisms were established in six provinces (Bokeo, Bolikhamxay, Savannakhet, Champasack, Attapeu and Vientiane) to strengthen referral pathways and improve the coordination of GBV response services.



- ▶ In partnership with the National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers, and Children (NCAWMC), the first-ever national consultation on the elimination of CEFM was held to prioritize CEFM within sectoral plans, frameworks, and strategies. This consultation strengthened joint program interventions addressing CEFM issues across Lao PDR, ensuring a more coordinated and strategic approach to tackling these harmful practices.
- ▶ To enhance public awareness and ethical reporting, UNFPA organized a media workshop and field trip focused on reporting on gender-based violence. Journalists were equipped with the skills to report on GBV sensitively and responsibly, ensuring survivor dignity and confidentiality. The field trip offered an in-depth view of local response mechanisms, emphasizing the importance of accessible support systems and showcasing ongoing efforts to combat GBV and protect survivors.
- ▶ A capacity-building training session for the Lao Youth Union Media unit and Lao National Radio (FM 103.7 MHz) engaged 30 journalists in ethical reporting on GBV and online violence. The participatory training fostered active discussions on GBV, lessons learned from recent media coverage, and advocacy strategies for addressing critical issues such as child marriage.
- ▶ A total of 187 teachers, including 92 females, from 9 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, the National University of Laos, and secondary schools in Champasack, Savannakhet, and Vientiane Capital were trained on delivering comprehensive sexuality education. Trained teachers have enhanced the skills and knowledge of 3,463 TVET students including 1,535 females, equipping them to respond to gender-based violence, harmful practices such as child marriage, and access sexual and reproductive health information and youth-friendly services.





- ▶ Representatives from the Lao Statistics Bureau, the National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers, and Children, and the Lao Women's Union, participated in the KNOwVAWdata intensive training in Fiji. This program, supported by Australia DFAT, aimed to enhance participants' capacity to safely and accurately collect data, as part of the preparation for the 2nd National Violence Against Women Prevalence Survey.
- ▶ National emergency preparedness was enhanced through training 188 health staff across 17 provinces on the MISP to ensure SRH services are prioritized during emergencies. Three regional trainings were conducted in Oudomxay, Vientiane, and Champasak, followed by a Training of Trainers (TOT) program for 71 participants to scale up expertise. To institutionalize these efforts, a comprehensive MISP Training Manual was developed to guide the MOH in integrating SRH into national disaster preparedness and response strategies, ensuring systematic inclusion of life-saving SRH services in emergencies.
- ▶ The Roadmap for CSE for Out-of-School Adolescents and Youth (2025-2030) was developed jointly by Ministry of Education and Sports and UNFPA. This milestone ensures a structured, nationwide approach to delivering age-appropriate, evidence-based CSE to marginalized and out-of-school youth, equipping them with essential knowledge on sexual and reproductive health, rights, and life skills to make informed decisions and protect their well-being.
- ▶ To ensure equitable access to SRH services, UNFPA, Humanity and Inclusion, and MOH organized an orientation on disability inclusion in SRH services. This initiative equipped health officials and midwives nationwide with the necessary knowledge and skills to provide inclusive, rights-based, and preventive care for persons with disabilities. Building on this effort, the collaboration will develop joint tools and integrate disability inclusion guidelines into training programs, ensuring that SRH services are accessible, responsive, and fully inclusive for all individuals, regardless of ability.



Beyond the Numbers: Laying the Foundation for the 2025 Population and Housing Census in Lao PDR

- ▶ The 5th Population and Housing Census (PHC) of Lao PDR, scheduled for October 2025, is more than a statistical exercise—it is a mirror reflecting the nation's socio-economic landscape. Behind every statistic lies a person, a story, and a dream. This census aims to generate vital data to shape policies that reflect the realities of the population and ensure that no one is left behind.
- ▶ For women, the census will highlight both opportunities and barriers in education, healthcare, and livelihoods, supporting the development of policies that promote equity and empowerment. For youth, it will capture their aspirations and challenges, laying the foundation for meaningful investments in their potential. For persons with disabilities, the census will identify accessibility gaps, paving the way for more inclusive services and support system.
- ▶ In preparation for this critical undertaking, Lao PDR has been steadily building momentum. Since 2021, LSB, in collaboration with relevant ministries and development partners, has been leading efforts to ensure the success of the 2025 census. A major milestone was the successful completion of the pilot census across four provinces—Bokeo, Houaphanh, Sekong, and Vientiane Capital—from May 27 to June 16, 2024. Nearly 15,000 dwellings were enumerated, followed by a pilot Post-Enumeration Survey (PES). This exercise identified potential challenges, refined methodologies, and tested key tools—such as the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) applications—and comprehensive training programs. It also helped strengthen census procedures and familiarize communities with the census process.
- ▶ This milestone received technical and financial support from UNFPA, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- ▶ A key priority in 2024 was to ensure that inclusion and equity were integrated into every phase of census preparation. Strategic efforts focused on gender and disability inclusion, as well as effective communication and public engagement, which significantly enhanced LSB's technical readiness. One standout achievement was the development of a genderizing strategy to embed gender perspectives throughout the census process. With UNFPA's technical support, LSB organized a Genderizing the Census workshop, during which questionnaires and manuals were reviewed through a gender lens, and a gender-sensitive checklist was developed. This initiative ensures that the 2025 PHC will be both gender-inclusive and gender-sensitive, setting a new benchmark for data collection in Lao PDR.
- ▶ The 2025 PHC will also mark the country's first fully digital census, using handheld devices and GIS-based maps. Nearly 13,000 field staff are expected to collect data across 18 provinces over a four- to five-week period. This transition to digital technologies promises more timely, accurate, and transparent data—an essential foundation for effective policymaking.
- ▶ UNFPA continues to provide long-term and short-term technical support in key areas, including quality assurance, IT and data transmission systems, GIS mapping, communications and advocacy, and overall census operations. These contributions have further strengthened LSB's capacity to lead a successful, inclusive, and impactful census.
- ▶ As we move closer to the 2025 Population and Housing Census, it is important to remember: this is not just about counting people—it is about understanding their needs, honoring their stories, and shaping a future that includes everyone. Together, we are building the evidence base for policies that promote dignity, equity, and opportunity for all.



SERVICE DELIVERY

- Access to AYFS was strengthened in health facilities, and through mobile outreach by the Vientiane Women and Youth Center, as well as the hotline services.



from six provinces accessed AYFS,
including **112,911** females



reached via outreach mobile sexual
reproductive healthcare services



accessed routine services, including
104,035 females



were recorded through the VWYC hotline,
of whom **14,911** were females



and youth including **1,983** females received
support through the LYU counseling hotline
(1554), reinforcing their access to critical
information and services

▶ Family Planning



359,092

Family Planning supplies

including pills, injections, Implanon, and combi-packs for safe abortion care, were procured and distributed through six shipments to service delivery points. These efforts contributed to enhancing access to essential reproductive health services across target regions. As a result, **56,019** new users of family planning were recorded in 2024.

▶ women accessed antenatal care



129,426

women received ANC services

ensuring timely monitoring of pregnancies, early detection of complications, and improved maternal and newborn health outcomes.

In Lao PDR, for every dollar invested in family planning, benefits to families and societies are estimated to be around

33.60 USD.

Investment case, UNFPA

▶ Men and boys engagement on GBV prevention



was organised by involving men, boys, village authorities, and elders in the community to promote positive social and behavioral changes.

These sessions explored power dynamics between men and women, GBV, gender equality, and sexual and reproductive health. Conducted initially in 12 districts across Bokeo, Savannakhet, Bolikhamxay, Champasack, Attapeu, and Vientiane Capital, these activities expanded in 2024 to three provinces—Champasack, Attapeu, and Bokeo—reaching a total of 2,926 community members.

▶ Community engagement on GBV prevention



using the Women's 3 Goods Manual reached all 18 provinces, addressing issues such as early marriage, GBV,

gender equality, family planning, and sexual and reproductive health. Developed to support the Lao Government's "Three Builds" Policy, the manual aims to protect the rights of women and children across all social statuses and ethnicities. 3,200 community members in Houaphan, Khammuane, Luang Namtha, Vientiane, Xayaboury, and Vientiane Capital were sensitized in 2024.

▶ A Counseling Unit



was piloted at the National University of Laos to provide comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support services,

reaching 52 young people including 39 female in Vientiane Capital within just two months. This initiative demonstrates the growing recognition of mental health as a critical aspect of youth development.

▶ Out-of-school gender transformative CSE



250 out-of-school young people including 121 females were sensitized to gender-transformative CSE content,

increasing their knowledge on sexual and reproductive health, the prevention of HIV/AIDS and STIs, and responses to GBV. This effort underscores the importance of reaching vulnerable youth populations who are often excluded from traditional education settings.

► During the severe flooding



which affected several northern provinces, including Bokeo, Luang Namtha, Xayaburi, Luang Prabang, Houaphanh, and Vientiane Capital, UNFPA collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Lao Women's Union to deliver critical support including:



Donation of
766
dignity kits to women and girls,
supported by UNFPA and
the Government of Australia



Outreach activities successfully
reached
4,000
women and girls



Establishing **two**
Women Friendly
Spaces in two
affected villages



© UNFPA Lao PDR | Distribution of dignity kits to women and girls in Luang Namtha Province after the floods



© UNFPA Lao PDR | Dignity Kit package

UNITE!
Stop VAWG

ຮ່ວມກັນຢຸດ
ຄວາມຮັບຮອງ
ຕໍ່ແມ່ຍິງແລະເດັກຍິງ

UNITE!
Stop VAWG

MEDIA AND MULTIMEDIA COVERAGE



CAMPAIGNS

10 Key campaigns

10 key campaigns advancing gender equality, health, and youth empowerment, including International Womens Day, Midwife Day, Mother's Day, National Health Days, World Population Day, International Youth Day, World Contraception Day, the 8th Noi Framework Anniversary, and 16 Days Of Activism against gender-based violence.

14 Opinion-editorials

from UNFPA Laos were published by local medias



15 Publications

were published on UNFPA Laos website including guidebook, reports, newsletters, Declarations and Statements





© UNFPA Lao PDR | 16DOA Stop GBV Inclusive Fashion Show



REACH



2,047,919
reach times

♀ 59.60%
♂ 40.40%



100,000
Engagement



303,000
Video views



32,033
Number of
followers



580
posts



55,000
reach times

on X - Twitter



300
posts



11,120,000
reach times

of 125 articles in different
national and international
media



500,000
Engagement

NATURE REPUBLIC

NATURE REPUBLIC




THANKS TO OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS





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