# Adolescent Girls’ Situation Analysis in Three Districts of Bokeo Province in Lao PDR – 2018

## Characteristics of Bokeo Province
- **Total Population:** 179,243
- **Population Density:** 29 persons per km²
- **Percent of rural population:** 67.1%
- **Number of adolescents (10-19 years):** 38,770 (Girls: 19,211, Boys: 19,559)
- **Land area:** 6,196 square kilometres
- **Poverty Head Count Rate:** 25.5%
- **Percent of adolescent population:** 21.6%

## Objectives
To identify the main areas requiring concerted efforts and greater investment for adolescent girls and boys.

## Interviewees
- **Total:** 837 adolescent girls and boys aged 10-19
- **Girls:** 454
- **Boys:** 383

## Districts
- Pha Oudoum
- Meung
- Paktha

## No education
- **3.7%**
  - **Girls:** 4.9%
  - **Boys:** 2.4%

## Out of school
- **18%**
  - **Girls:** 22.3%
  - **Boys:** 13.1%
  - **2.1%** already used alcoholic beverages
  - **42.1%**
  - **48.3%**

## Early marriage
- **3.7%**
  - **Girls:** 8.4%
  - **Boys:** 13.8%

## Adolescent Birth Rate
- **55 births/1000 girls 15-19 years**
  - **Girls:** 49.1%
  - **Boys:** 53.0%

## Knowledge of condom prevents HIV and STIs
- **50.9%**
  - **Girls:** 42%
  - **Boys:** 80%

## Contraceptives use
- **34.5%**
  - **Girls:** 29%
  - **Boys:** 40%
**Recommendations**

- Make concentrated efforts for increasing enrolment, retention and quality of education in schools.
- Provide comprehensive sexuality education in schools and technical and vocational education and training institutions.
- Make adolescent and youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services available for adolescents by training healthcare providers, strengthening health facilities and promoting referrals through schools and mass organizations.
- Ensure availability of safe spaces for adolescents such as Nang-Noi Girls Groups to provide them platform for participatory learning, leisure and recreation.
- Implement comprehensive programmes and mass campaigns to raise awareness on adolescents’ sexual and reproductive health, for prevention of early marriage and adolescent pregnancy co-opting mass organizations into this work.
- Ensure availability of contraceptives for adolescents and remove barriers towards accessing them.
- Empower adolescent girls with life skills such as decision making, leadership, communication and negotiation skills.
- Develop better understanding of what constitutes gender based violence and promote gender sensitive attitudes, behaviors and power dynamics among adolescent girls, boys and their communities.