

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims for equitable and inclusive development that leaves no one behind

See how this 15-year plan is helping transform the futures of 10-year-old girls who have traditionally been left behind.

A large, stylized illustration of a young girl with dark hair and a gentle expression occupies the right half of the cover. She is wearing a colorful, patterned garment. The background is white with scattered geometric shapes in orange, yellow, and grey. A large, colorful mosaic of squares in various shades of orange, yellow, and purple is positioned at the bottom, partially overlapping the title.

Noi

THE ADOLESCENT GIRL IN LAO PDR

Nov 2020

Who is Noi?

- Noi represents the 700,230 adolescent girls in Lao PDR. She was introduced on the International Day of the Girl Child in 2016 to be followed over the next 15 years along with the SDGs. She embodies the Leave No One Behind spirit of the SDGs.
- Since 2016 Noi and the IDGC are celebrated annually by a lead ministry and stakeholders.
- Advocacy for Noi opens dialogue to raise awareness about adolescent issues, especially school dropouts, early marriage and early pregnancy in Lao PDR.
- New partnerships in Lao PDR can increase investments in adolescent girls through multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder actions.



The Noi Vision 2030

By 2030, Noi will have gone through all her important life-cycle stages and will be a young adult woman of 25 who has reached her full potential.

By 2030, Noi will have the necessary life-skills to live a healthy, responsible, fulfilling life and be empowered to:

- choose when and with whom to marry
- choose whether, when and how many children she wants
- have a healthy family
- be educated and able to find decent employment
- contribute to the development of herself, her community, her nation and the world.



Current Situation of Adolescent Girls in Lao PDR

- In Lao PDR there are **700,230** adolescent girls aged 10-19 years*
- There is an estimated **29%** of girls 10-19 amongst the most vulnerable group
- More than **1 in 20** girls have never attended school
- More than **1 in 5** girls have dropped out of school
- Nearly **1 in 5** girls aged 15-19 are married
- More than **1 in 10** girls aged 15-19 have begun childbearing



ICPD 25 Nairobi Summit Commitments of the Government of Lao PDR

On the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Government of Lao PDR made the following seven commitments at the Nairobi Summit in November 2019:

- 1. Use of Population Data in the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan and use the Lao 2030 study on population dynamics to ensure responsiveness to the emerging needs of the population.**
- 2. By 2030, End maternal mortality.**
- 3. End unmet need for family planning among adolescent girls by 2030.**
- 4. By 2030, End GBV and harmful practices, focusing on child marriage.**
- 5. By 2030, comprehensive sexuality education fully integrated in school curriculums nationwide.**
- 6. Finalize and implement National Population Policy, National Youth and Adolescent Policy and Youth Law with appropriate legal and innovative policy provisions.**
- 7. Increase investments for adolescents and youth, especially young women through “Noi framework” and “Noi ecosystem” and adjusting investments in order to reap the potential benefits of demographic dividend.**



ICPD25
International Conference on
Population and Development

How can you support Noi?

Noi is an adolescent girl who is capable of rapidly absorbing wisdom and knowledge from those around her, she is poised to one day become an inspiring leader, a productive worker, an innovator, a caring parent or whatever she desires.

Concerted efforts and increased investments are needed to create a conducive environment in which Noi can thrive and that will have a positive influence on the outcomes of the SDG agenda in Lao PDR.

The economic and social investments in adolescent health and wellbeing are among the best investments that the global community can make to achieve the SDGs.

- An extra year of schooling for girls reduces fertility rates by 5 to 10 per cent.
- An increase of 1% in the share of girls and women who have completed secondary school can increase per capita income growth by 0.3 percent. (Source: The World Bank)
- Spending \$1 on contraceptives including for adolescents in Lao PDR can reduce the cost of pregnancy-related care by \$7 and give indirect social returns as high as \$120 for every dollar invested. (Source: UNFPA)

Sample Intervention Costs

\$300 to teach me life skills in 1 year

\$362 to build capacity of 01 teacher who can reach me and 115 other Adolescents in 01 year

\$3000 to train 01 midwife who can support 1,003 women of reproductive age per year

\$1265 for 2 mobile outreach sessions of half day to vulnerable communities

\$500 to build capacities of a health service provider who can support 3100 adolescents per year



The Noi 2030 Framework

Achieving Gender Equality & Empowerment of Adolescent Girls

Noi represents all 700,230 adolescent girls aged 10-19 in Lao PDR.** The unfinished MDG agenda has proven that adolescent girls have been left behind. The SDGs aim to reach those left furthest behind.

Noi was created as an advocacy tool to raise awareness, build partnerships and increase investments in adolescent girls that enable them to achieve their full potential. Noi was launched on the International Day of the Girl Child in 2016.

SDG 2

The high adolescent birth rate is a root cause of the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition, with a **42.6% prevalence rate of anaemia in girls aged 15-19**,* increasing the risk of stunting in children

SDG 3

Gender inequality is intrinsically linked to the **Adolescent Birth Rate** which remains one of the highest in the region at **83 per 1,000** and increases the risk of maternal mortality

SDG 4

41.8% of girls aged 15-17 are currently out of school,* keeping them behind in developing their social and economic potential

SDG 5

Gender inequality impedes Noi's development. This is particularly emphasized in the most recent data on child marriage, revealing that **23.5% of girls aged 15-19** are

Noi's progress is closely monitored through 5 indicators aligned with the global SDG framework until 2030 when she turns 25, using the available disaggregated data on adolescents generated by the Lao Social Indicator Survey every 5 years.

A holistic approach to addressing Noi's obstacles accelerates the progress towards the SDGs, inducing a virtuous circle with a poverty reduction outcome, benefitting Noi, her community and the nation.



A package of solutions

Creating an Ecosystem for Noi

Impact: Lao PDR realises a Demographic Dividend and achieves SDGs by comprehensive investments in youth

"Noi" delays her first pregnancy, can fulfill her full potential and contributes to a sustainable future. She is healthy, educated, empowered and eventually employed. Reduced maternal mortality ratio and adolescent pregnancy in Lao PDR.



Problem: Noi drops out of school, gets pregnant before the age of 18 and is exposed to increased risk of adverse reproductive outcomes and limited opportunities. Higher levels of adolescent birth rate and maternal mortality rate, especially among marginalized groups in remote areas.

Update: 01 November 2020

Innovation and financing for development

Noi Friendly Business Criteria

Aim: To encourage private sector businesses for investing in employee wellbeing for higher productivity and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

A set of 14 criteria linked with SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 developed jointly by UNFPA, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and partners and formally launched on 14th October 2020 on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child 2020.

To be implemented by private sector businesses through a supportive mechanism, and annual review facilitated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.



Coverage of UNFPA Programs



Government Partners:

Ministry of Planning and Investment
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Education and Sports
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
Lao Youth Union and Lao Women's Union

Strategic Partners:

Australian Government-Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Luxembourg Aid and Development, KOICA, KOFIH, Good Neighbors, Plan International, Child Fund, CRI, Banque Franco Lao, Sinouk Coffee, Crowne Plaza, Burapha Agro-Forestry

District Border
Province Border
Country Border

Contact Us: lao.unfpa.org

YouTube UNFPA Lao PDR

f UNFPA Laos

Twitter UNFPA Lao PDR



Update: 01 October 2020

Partners Supporting Noi

