

# Nang-Noi Girls' Groups

Project in Namor District  
of Oudomxay Province, Lao PDR



## Project Background

Lao PDR has a high proportion of adolescents and young people aged 10-24 years that is an advantage for the national socio-economic development and realizing the benefits of demographic dividend. However, young people especially adolescent girls face several vulnerabilities such as school drop out, early marriage and adolescent pregnancy. To address these vulnerabilities of adolescent girls and young people, the Government of Lao PDR and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are working together for empowering adolescent girls and young people through the Noi ecosystem approach.

Different interventions under the Noi approach are implemented for creating and strengthening an ecosystem for adolescent girls and boys. The Nang Noi- Girls' Groups programme is one of the key interventions under the Noi approach. It was initiated in Savanakheth Province in 2017 by the UNFPA in collaboration with the Department of Non Formal Education of the Ministry of Education and Sports and later extended to Bokeo and Oudomxay provinces.

The Nang-Noi Girls Groups Project in Namor district of Oudomxay province has been implemented from January 2020 to September 2022 with co-financing from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and UNFPA. This project has been implemented by the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Health.



### Goal

Adolescent girls (10-14 years) in Namor district of Oudomxay province are empowered with knowledge and essential life skills to have access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

### Objectives

- ✓ To improve knowledge on sexual and reproductive health and life skills among adolescent girls (10-14 years) in Namor district
- ✓ To increase availability and utilization of youth friendly sexual and reproductive health information and services for adolescent girls and boys
- ✓ To increase awareness and develop gender sensitive attitudes among boys and community members towards adolescent girls
- ✓ To build capacity of government officials in planning, implementation and monitoring of project on empowerment of adolescent girls





## Key Achievements

- ✓ The project successfully conducted village mapping and established Nang-Noi Girls Groups in all 63 village of Namor district
- ✓ 126 female mentors aged 15-24 years were selected and trained on essential life skills for adolescent girls and facilitation skills for conducting weekly sessions for girls
- ✓ 1,200 adolescent girls aged 10-14 years received essential life skills from trained mentors through participation in 40 weekly sessions and also learnt basic financial literacy skills delivered by the BFL bank
- ✓ Knowledge of adolescent girls on sexual and reproductive health increased by 33% through participation in 40 weekly sessions and other awareness activities of the project
- ✓ 126 male peer educators aged 15-24 years were selected and trained on gender equality, essential life skills, boys engagement and facilitation skills for conducting weekly sessions for boys
- ✓ 1,200 adolescent boys aged 10-14 years received essential life skills and knowledge on gender equality through participation in 12 weekly sessions and boys engagement activities
- ✓ A pool of 52 trainers and teachers was trained and the trained members actively facilitated trainings and project activities
- ✓ 22 healthcare providers were trained on providing youth friendly health services to adolescents and 5,316 adolescents and young people received youth friendly health services
- ✓ Capacities of 55 officials from national, provincial and district level were strengthened on planning, implementation and monitoring of projects on empowerment of adolescent girls
- ✓ Awareness campaigns were organized in 63 villages with active participation of 6,300 people including village chiefs, parents, teachers, mentors, peer educators, boys and girls and raised awareness on prevention of early marriage, school drop out and gender based violence
- ✓ Mentors and village chiefs were also received opportunities for cross-learning visits leaning good practices from each-others, interacting with the provincial leaders and visiting vocational training school
- ✓ Information about Noi-Yakhoo Mobile App and mental health psychosocial support helplines were widely disseminated with the mentors and members of Nang-Noi Girls Groups, adolescent boys and other young people and cross referral linkages were developed between the Nang-Noi Girls Groups and Youth Friendly Health Services

## Project Summary

**Duration:** January 2020- September 2022 (33 Months)

**Geographic Coverage:** Namor district of Oudomxay Province

**Focus area:** Empowering adolescent girls with knowledge and essential life skills

**Implementing partners:** Ministry of Education and Sports and Ministry of Health

**Supported by:** Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Funding:** USD 525,516 (Co-funding by KOICA: USD 400,000 and UNFPA: USD 125,516)



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