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

What’s up in Laos?

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

For People - through Progress - with Partners

Bi-monthly Newsletter: November - December 2023

High-level Lao PDR delegation attends 7th Asian and Pacific Population Conference

The government of Lao PDR reiterated its commitment to achieving the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA) with 14 recommendations adopted at the first National Conference on Population and Development in Laos and presented at the 7th Asian and Pacific Population Conference.
At the 7th APPC, Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Phonevanh Outhavong delivered a national statement on progress towards implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, the PoA of ICPD. Deputy Minister Outhavong, on behalf of the Lao delegation, recognized the importance of the PoA of ICPD, including its key achievements of integrating the Declaration and Programme of Action into the National Policy on Population and Development and the National Socio-Economic Development Plan.

Health Minister: “Impressive progress” on health challenges, but much work remains
Minister of Health Dr Bounfeng Phoummalaysith concluded a five-day visit to provincial and district hospitals to assess the progress and challenges in Bokoe Province, alongside Luxembourg Chargé d’Affaires and representatives from UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO.

We took the joint programme on SRH, nutrition and immunization services to new heights investing in quality care and human resources and supply chain management.

**Courtesy visit**

The visit highlighted the importance of strengthening partnerships to improve access to SRH services and ensure that no one is left behind in receiving the care they need. Additionally, UNFPA congratulated the Ministry of Health for its good assessment result on supply chain management and last mile assurance, recognizing the government's efforts to improve the quality of care and services for the people of Lao PDR.
Over 50 partners from the government, development partners, donors, civil society and the private sector joined UNFPA Laos to celebrate the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. During the 16DOA, the Government reiterated its commitment to end GBV through a strategic statement from the Prime Minister, the launch of the CEDAW report, the opening of two protection shelters and more activities.

Click HERE to link to 16DOA summary in Laos.
Quality of care and services

National University of Laos and UNFPA Launch the Country’s First Preliminary Findings on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence

The National University of Laos, UNFPA and the Faculty of Education, National University of Laos, released the country’s first available qualitative findings on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV), or online violence against women and girls, with a collective aim to shed light on this pressing issue.

Health Standard Operating Procedure Rolled Out in Bolikhamxay Province
Health SOP rolled out in Bolikhamsay province, attended by 36 health service providers from the Provincial hospital, district hospital, and provincial health department. This training aimed to strengthen the capacities of health providers, raise their confidence, and ensure they assist gender-based violence survivors, using international standards, providing quality care and all the needed support and referrals.

**BEmOC Training in Xieng khouang** by the Lao Association of Midwives

The College of Health Science hosted a BEmOC (Basic Emergency Obstetric Care) training organized by the Lao Association of Midwives and the Ministry of Health with UNFPA support which which benefited midwives, medical doctors, and nurses from different districts in Xieng Khouang to improve their capacities in responding to critical health situations during and after deliveries.

**Youth Empowerment**

**Celebration of World AIDS Day**
A World Aids Day Seminar was organized at the National University of Laos, Vientiane - Hanoi Vocational School, Vientiane High School, and Xaysettha High School reaching 292 young people to raise their awareness on how to protect and advocate for their Sexual and Reproductive Health including protection from HIV/AIDS, mental health and prevention from violence.

Youth Innovation Challenge 2023

UNFPA's Youth Innovation Challenge 2023, co-hosted with the National University of Laos and Lao Youth Union, brought together young innovators to present their innovative, impactful implementable ideas and technical solutions for addressing some of the key challenges faced by adolescents and young people in Lao PDR. The Hackathon was organized to identify and promote the role and voices of youth in shaping solutions for their ecosystem. The activity is in line with the implementation of the Lao Youth and Adolescent Development Strategy 2021-2030 and the Noi ecosystem.
4th Brief: The 5th Population and Housing Census 2025

The 5th Population and Housing Census (PHC) of Lao PDR is scheduled for March 2025. The PHC is amongst the government’s largest and most complex operations, requiring significant preparation. As such, the Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) and the Ministry of Planning and Investment, in close collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and key development partners, have been preparing for the upcoming census since 2021.

Humanitarian response - Flood and Landslide in Lao PDR

With UNFPA support and thanks to the generous financial contribution from the people of Japan, Lao Women’s Union ran various activities for the humanitarian response to the flood-affected populations, especially women and girls. In Savannakhet, 150 Dignity Kits were distributed to respond to the unique needs of women and girls, in villages most affected by the floods.

Mrs Khek, aged 26 from Phondy village, Hinboun district, Khammouan province was one of the five women who benefited from the clean delivery kits distributed to midwives in Laokha Health Centre. This was her second child, and she was happy that she delivered safely with the help of skilled staff and clean equipment despite
the floods that affected the health facilities. Transportation of the clean delivery kits was supported by DFAT from Brisbane to Vientiane in August 2023.

Khammoune Lao Women's Union ran outreach on Gender-Based Violence, providing mobile counseling and offering mobile Women Friendly Space and recreational activities for women and their children in flood-affected communities.

How is it going?

The Government of Japan supports UNFPA, LWU to protect survivors of violence in Bolikhamxay and Champasak
The construction of the protection shelters initiated early this year has come to an end.

Lao Women's Union, UNFPA, and UN-Habitat, with generous contributions from the Government of Japan, officially opened two new "Counseling and Protection Centers for Women and Children" in Bolikhamsay and Champasak Province. These are the country's 5th and 6th protection centers for survivors of violence to seek accommodation and shelter, counseling, psychosocial support, legal advice, and vocational training. Staff can also refer survivors to additional health and justice services available in the province and nationwide.

Read more

**Strengthening and expanding Partnerships**

**Media for Change: Strengthening Capacities for Ethical Reporting on Sexual and Reproductive Health in Laos!**

To strengthen the capacity of media outlets from government and private media on ethical reporting and communication for behavior change, UNFPA and the Center for Health Statistics and Information (CHSI) organized two workshops and a media trip to observe ethical reporting on SRH and to start a dialogue on communication approaches for behavior change and how can media outlets play a role in changing social norms and attitudes.
Mobile Outreach on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Vientiane Women and Youth Center for Health and Development, supported by UNFPA visited various schools and factories on the occasion of the World AIDS Day Celebration to meet with the students and discuss reproductive health, menstruation, and how to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections.
Sout-South Cooperation: UNFPA Laos and UNFPA Thailand

Exchange visit for Thailand experts, service providers and UNFPA staff working on the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response to the Provincial Counseling and Protection Center for Women and Children and Bokeo Hospital in Lao PDR to testimony the leadership and engagement of Lao Women’s Union in providing protection and assistance to survivors of GBV.

Inclusivity and Empowerment

UNFPA took a significant step towards championing inclusivity and empowerment. A memorandum of understanding was officially signed with the network of persons with disabilities (OPDs).
A forward-looking view of Lao PDR and UNFPA cooperation in 2024

All partners from line ministries, mass organizations, development partners, and civil society gathered to think together how to capitalize on the gains to replicate, scale up, and sustain the progress, ensuring full inclusion of women and girls, youth, people with disabilities, ethnic groups and other vulnerable populations applying the principle of leaving no one behind.
UNFPA Laos is grateful to the following donors for their assistance as we work towards delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person’s potential is fulfilled:
Contact and follow us:

Facebook  Twitter  YouTube  World Wide Web  Email

laos.office@unfpa.org

Copyright © 2023 UNFPA Lao PDR, All rights reserved.
Our mailing address is:

Lane Xang Avenue
P.O Box: 345, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe

--
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Lao Communications and Partnership Group" group.
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to lao-communications-and-partnership-group+unsubscribe@unfpa.org.
To view this discussion on the web visit https://groups.google.com/a/unfpa.org/d/msgid/lao-communications-and-partnership-group/3a7347f698a6c9cc63f7a74d1.8aca3f2666.20231229101440.63a73eef1e.91998886%40mail89.atl31.mcdv.net.
For more options, visit https://groups.google.com/a/unfpa.org/d/optout.