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

Quarterly Newsletter: January - March 2024

Lao PDR Launches The National Commitment To Advance Family Planning Rights, Choices, And Services

The Government of Lao PDR with UNFPA support launched its commitment to Family Planning 2030 (FP2030), a global partnership working to ensure that all people have access to the reproductive health care they need to build a better future. In Lao PDR, for every dollar invested in family planning, benefits to families and societies are estimated to be around 33.6 USD.
UNFPA Participates To The Annual Roundtable Implementation Meeting (RTIM)

RTIM brings governments and development partners, United Nations, civil society organizations and the private sector together to discuss the Mid-Term Review of the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan, its Financing Strategy and the pathways to LDC graduation. Addressing Violence Against Women together with prioritizing the 2025 Census were among the key priorities of the RTIM.

A preparation meeting prior to the RTIM was organized by UNFPA and the Ministry of Planning and Investment to advocate with donors on investments for The forthcoming 2025 Census as a principal source of data and evidence for policy-making to advance national programs and policies.
UNFPA and the Ministry of Health took His Excellency Mr. Xavier Bettel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to observe the progress of the family planning programs at Keo-Oudom Hospital in Vientiane Province, at the occasion of his official visit to Lao PDR. H.E had the opportunity to meet health providers and couples enrolled in the new innovative SRH program entitled couples counseling which aims at preparing couples for married life by providing all necessary advice and services on sexual and reproductive health.
Joining hands with the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, UNFPA actively engaged in an insightful workshop with the Lao Association for Parliamentarians on Population and Development, charting the way together for steadfast implementation of ICPD PoA.

Health

The National Health Congress calls for investments for ICPD

UNFPA participated in the national health congress to reiterate support to the national ICPD commitments. The Deputy Prime Minister of Lao PDR stressed the need for enhanced public healthcare services including maternity care for better outcomes. He recognized that enhancing medical equipment and nursing standards are key steps.

- UNFPA organized a training on Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for health providers to understand the importance of addressing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) in a humanitarian setting and improve the coordination and integration of SRH in disaster management and humanitarian work.

- UNFPA supported the Ministry of Health to host Track20 training to create stronger strategies, one data point at a time, and accelerating the journey towards the family planning goals of 2030.

Gender
Celebration of International Women's Day

Health SOP rolled out in Bolikhamxay 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.

Lao PDR Showcases Achievements in Advancing Women and Girls' Rights at the CSW68

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) in New York.

The Governments of Laos and Viet Nam, with support from UNFPA, highlighted their successful leadership in combating violence against women and girls through a virtual side event where they introduced the innovative “no wrong door” approach, designed to ensure survivors of violence receive the help they need without facing barriers.

This initiative is part of the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence and includes the adoption of Standard Operating Procedures that outline vital services for affected women and girls.

Youth

The Law on Lao Young Pioneer
Getting in motion the implementation of the Law on Lao Young Pioneer—a step towards empowering the Lao youth. The law prioritizes inclusivity, particularly targeting orphans, vulnerable individuals, marginalized groups, and youth with disabilities, aiming to empower them to actively participate in policy-making and drive societal change. Learn more about the Law.

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Data

**Lao Social Indicator Survey III (LSIS III) 2023 - Key Indicators Report | UNICEF Lao People’s Democratic Republic**

Key Indicators Report of the 3rd round of the Lao Social Indicators Survey (LSIS III) is now live providing in-depth insight & knowledge on the status of children, women & girls on nearly 100 indicators focusing on critical human development aspects: reproductive, maternal and child health, education and protection.

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In the news

(Images can be clicked to read more)
A love story with rights and choices in Laos

Laos government and UNFPA have been working together to promote rights and choices in family planning. The government has made significant progress in providing access to family planning services, and UNFPA has been working with local organizations to ensure that women have access to information and services.

政府与联合国人口基金一直在合作推广权利和选择的生育规划。政府已经取得了显著的进展提供了计划生育服务，联合国人口基金与当地组织合作，确保妇女能够获得信息和服务。
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: