



## 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ADOLESCENT RESEARCH DAY

**Theme: ‘Contemporary Situation of Adolescent Health and Development**

**17<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Crowne Plaza Vientiane, Lao PDR**

The Lao Tropical and Public Health Institute (Lao TPHI) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Lao PDR are pleased to announce the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Adolescent Research Day (ARD) to be held in Vientiane on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023, at Crowne Plaza.

Undertaking timely analysis for a comprehensive understanding of adolescent health and development issues is crucial for the concerned decision makers and development partners. Availability of quantitative and qualitative information on the situation of adolescent girls is key to put in place proper programs and adequate intervention with the aim to address the obstacles and barriers that adolescent girls face in accessing and fulfilling their rights.

The 8<sup>th</sup> ARD will have in-person and virtual oral and poster presentations and panel discussions on the recent research evidence from Lao PDR and countries in the South-East Asia Region. The key topics of the 8<sup>th</sup> ARD will be:

- 1) Adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights
- 2) Mental health and psychosocial support
- 3) Nutrition
- 4) Harmful practices
- 5) Climate change

**The overall goal** is to share the recent research evidence on adolescents aged 10-19 years for promoting evidence-based advocacy, policies and comprehensive interventions that are vital to achieving the well-being and comprehensive development of all adolescents.

**The annual ARD was initiated** in 2016 under the ‘Noi Approach’ by the Lao TPHI and UNFPA. It provides a platform for researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and development partners to share recent research evidence and collaborate on generating new evidence.

The Organizing Committee of the 8<sup>th</sup> ARD invites you to submit abstracts for oral and/or poster presentations on original research recently conducted in Lao PDR and/or countries in the South-East Asia in the contemporary situation of adolescent health and development for addressing the key challenges and promoting evidence-based practices.

In Low middle income countries (LMIC) Lao PDR and/or in countries of South-East Asia adolescent girls lack access to sexual and reproductive health and rights including exposure to adolescent pregnancy, ignorance about family planning services and exposure to HIV/AIDS amongst the most common risks threatening the wellbeing and the future of these girls.

A rapid analysis of the data on the impact of COVID-19 in Lao PDR revealed a decline of 15% in new users of contraception and consequent increase in the number of live births in 2021. Increase in post abortion care for complications due to unsafe abortions has also been observed. Violence against women and girls intensified, especially domestic violence and sexual exploitation- counseling requests about these issues increased. Hotline data indicated 3-5 times increase in calls to the Lao Women’s Union hotline/helpline for counseling during the strict lockdowns. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the exposure to risky behaviors, bad mental health and psychosocial issues including stress and anxiety due to lockdowns, closure of schools and movement restriction. School drop-out at secondary level has increased, especially adolescent girls. An analysis of data from Lao PDR

School Census shows that boys were dropping out more than girls both at lower and upper secondary levels between 2016-17 to 2019-20 but the COVID19 has reversed that trend at the upper secondary level as the dropout rate of girls (9.5%) was more than that of boys (9.2%) at upper secondary levels in 2020-21.

Abstracts are welcomed within the **following themes**:

- 1) Adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights
- 2) Mental health and psychosocial support
- 3) Nutrition
- 4) Harmful practices
- 5) Climate change

The 8<sup>th</sup> ARD will provide insights on the challenges faced by adolescents, and will suggest ways forward to address these issues and create a prosperous environment for adolescent girls. Dissemination and discussion on the key challenges and promoting evidence-based practices will help in protecting and promoting adolescent health and development and will also accelerate the implementation of the international conference on population and development programme of action and sustainable development goals.

**Abstract Submission:**

Researchers and practitioners from Laos and other countries in the South-EastAsia region are invited to submit abstracts of up to 500 words in English including title of abstract, background, methods, results, conclusions/recommendations. Please provide the full names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses of all co-authors and indicate who is the corresponding author and who will be the presenter.

**Please submit your abstract via email to: [laotphi.ARD8@gmail.com](mailto:laotphi.ARD8@gmail.com)**

The abstracts selected by the review committee will be considered for either a limited number of oral presentations or for poster presentations. Authors who submit an abstract should do so with the intention to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> ARD either in-person or virtually.

**Important Dates:**

**Date and venue of the 8<sup>th</sup> ARD: 17 October 2023**, Crowne Plaza, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR (With option of virtual participation). The 8<sup>th</sup> ARD meeting will be organized with hybrid modality participation in-person and virtually.

**Abstract submission opens:** 7th September 2023

**Deadline for abstract submission:** 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023 (5.00 PM Lao Time)

All speakers and presenters of selected abstracts will be informed by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

**Guideline for abstract, PowerPoint and poster presentation**

Please include all the following points: Title, Authors & Affiliation, Background, Objectives, Methods, Results, and conclusions/recommendations.

**Abstract (500 words)**

Title:

Authors & Affiliation

Background (100 words)

Methods (100 words)

Results (200 words)

Conclusions/Recommendations (100 words)

Key words (3-5)

**PowerPoint Presentation (10-12 slides): presentation time 15 minutes**

**Poster size:**

A0: 810 mm (wide) X 1189 mm (high).

Researchers will need to submit posters to the committee before or by 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

The cost for printing of posters will be covered by the presenters.

**For more information, please contact:**

Dr. Khampheng Phongluxa, LAO TPHI

Email: [khampheng.phongluxa@gmail.com](mailto:khampheng.phongluxa@gmail.com); Tel: +856-20-55 949 082

Mr. Syvongsay Chanpittikoun, UNFPA

E-Mail: [changpittikoun@unfpa.org](mailto:changpittikoun@unfpa.org); Tel: +856-21-55 628 745

