

Country Programme Performance Summary

UNFPA Lao PDR

A. Country Information		
Country name: Lao's People Democratic Republic		
Category per decision 2013/31:	Current programme period:2017-2021	Cycle of assistance: 6

B. Country Programme Outputs Achievement *(please complete for all your CP outputs)*

Output 1 (sexual and reproductive health) Strengthened policy framework and implementation means to ensure universal and equitable access to sexual and reproductive health services			
Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of increased Government expenditures on family planning programme 	USD 40,000 (2017)	15%	575% (in 2019) (baseline*7times)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of institutes and civil society organizations trained to implement the right-based and gender-sensitive adolescent sexual and reproductive health guideline 	0	6	6
Integration of essential Reproductive Health Medicines and equipment specified in the Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Strategy in the mSupply system	3	18	18

Key Achievements

- Government commitment of budget on family planning increased; from 2017 to 2019, Lao PDR increased domestic budgets from USD 40,000 per annum to USD 270,000 as a result of UNFPA advocacy.
- Increased investment in Supply Chain Management (LARC) and mSupply (using mobiles); training programmes developed & implemented in 8 schools (nurse, midwife & primary health care).
- Essential reproductive health commodities are integrated into the mSupply system countrywide at the province and district level.
- With technical and financial support from UNFPA and other development partners, the National Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Children and Adolescent and Youth Policy was revised and approved.
- Innovation and adaptability through new initiatives such as tele-health to reach remote populations.

Output 2 (Sexual and reproductive health) Increased national capacity to deliver comprehensive midwifery services according to international standards			
Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of trained midwifery teachers according to international standards of total midwifery teachers in university education 	9.5%	75%	89% (2019)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of accredited midwives from ethnic groups graduated and deployed as midwives of their ethnic community at large of all ethnic midwives graduated 	estimated less than 7%	25%	36.7% (2020)

Key Achievements

- Integration of International training standards into midwifery training and strengthening south-south collaboration with Thailand.
- Updated curricula on supply chain management for midwives.
- Nine institutions targeted for revised curriculum, improved teaching, improved communication and coordination between midwifery schools.

- UNFPA supported the creation of 2 centers of excellence on midwives training: (16 midwifery teachers were trained through a coaching programme by Khon Kaen University).
- Professional development through Lao Association of Midwives which has resulted in women receiving better advice and care, with the package on IPC and emergency obstetric care available.
- Three out of ten graduated midwives are from ethnic groups trained to intervene in their communities.
- Nine midwives amongst ten are trained with international midwifery standards.
- 1,059 Midwives and Health providers trained on the Comprehensive Family Planning packages to improve the quality of services for a wider range of the family planning information and services.

Output 1 (Adolescents and youth) increased availability of gender-sensitive adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services

Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
Developed evidence-based gender-sensitive costed intervention model for SRH needs of specific groups of adolescents and youth	0	1	1
Evidence based policy and programming platforms for dialogue focusing on adolescent pregnancy, with the participation of young people, stakeholders and policy-makers implemented	0	3	4
Proportion of health facilities with staff trained in ASRH service delivery in target area using the developed training guidelines	0	75%	78%
National comprehensive gender-responsive sexuality education integrated into the curriculum for young people in school and out of school according to international standards	No	Yes	Yes

Key Achievements

- With UNFPA support, the Nang Noi Girls Group Programme was included in national development plans, representing an essential document for gender-responsive interventions covering adolescents and youth, sexual and reproductive health, and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
- The first National Youth and Adolescent Policy was developed and approved with UNFPA support.
- Evidence based policy and programming platforms for youth were established, including the Youth Reference group for the National Youth and Adolescent Policy, Adolescent Research Days, SDG4A and the Adolescent Girls working group.
- Health providers were trained on adolescent and youth-friendly guidelines in 78 percent of health facilities in 3 provinces and 100 per cent in one more province.
- Life skills and comprehensive sexuality education were integrated in primary school curriculum (grade 1-3) nationwide, based on the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education. comprehensive sexuality education was piloted in secondary schools across Bokeo province. It was piloted in technical and vocational educational training in Bokeo and Savannakhet. Integration of comprehensive sexuality education for grades 4 and 5 was initiated. Agreements have been signed with international NGOs for expanding comprehensive sexuality education in secondary education.
- Innovation in the provision of adolescent and youth-friendly services was applied, such as the mobile clinic vans, special rooms installed in health facilities for adolescents, and the Noi Yakhoo mobile app which was launched during the COVID-19 lockdown.
- There was a 25 per cent increase of health providers in three provinces, providing services related to the unmet need of unmarried youth.
- 260 health service providers were trained on right-based and gender responsive approaches to adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

Output 1 (Population Dynamics) Strengthened national capacity for production, analysis and use of quality disaggregated data on sexual and reproductive health, gender and population dynamics for the formulation, implementation and monitoring of evidence-based policies, plans and programmes

Indicators	Baseline	Target	End-line data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disaggregated data available to monitor the 6 indicators of the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan related to Sexual and Reproductive Health 	No	Yes	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Population and Development Policy approved and updated on latest data and research to address issues of inequality and reflect linkage between population dynamics and inclusive sustainable development 	No	Yes	Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of UNFPA-supported national research and studies based on the Population and Housing Census 2015 	0	6	5 (October 2020)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of policy papers on gender based violence and adolescent pregnancy in different ethnic groups based on surveys including gender based prevalence study 	0	3	3 (2020)

Key Achievements

- Laos Social Indicator Survey II 2017 is available with support from UNFPA. UNFPA also contributed to the 9th NSEDP 2021-2025 and sector plans for the Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health, Lao Women's Union, and Lao Youth Union.
- UNFPA supported a number of national research documents and studies: Lao Population Projections 2015-2045, district population projections 2015-2035, adolescent and youth situation analysis report, disability monograph, Lao 2030 study on population dynamics.
- National Population and Development policy 2019-2030 was approved and endorsed by the Prime Minister of Lao PDR. The policy is an important document for sectors and provinces to integrate the policy into their actionable plans.
- With support of UNFPA, two qualitative studies on early marriage and pregnancy among adolescent girls in Borkeo and Savannakhet provinces were completed and presented at national research forums.
- With financial and technical support from UNFPA, the 2nd National Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Women and Girls has been developed.

C. National Progress on Strategic Plan Outcomes ¹	Start value	Year	End value	Year	Comments
Outcome 1: Increased availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services (including family planning, maternal health and HIV) that are gender-responsive and meet human rights standards for quality of care and equity in access					
Percentage in which at least 95% of service delivery points in the country have seven life-saving maternal/reproductive health medicines from the WHO priority list	67%	Stock Availability Survey 2016	90%	2020	DHIS2/mSupply data
Contraceptive prevalence rate (total)	42%	2012	49%	2017	LSIS 2017
Proportion of demand for contraception satisfied (total)	71.4%; 61.3% (modern method)	2012	79%; 71.7% (modern method)	2017	LSIS 2017

¹ The format is aligned to the UNFPA Strategic Plan outcomes, 2014-2017.

Percentage in which at least 60% of service delivery points in the country have no stock-out of contraceptives in the last six months	59%	Stock Availability Survey 2016	93%	2020	DHIS2/mSupply data
Percentage in which at least 80% of live births in the country are attended by skilled health personnel	41.5%	2012	64.4%	2017	LSIS 2017
Number of adapted and implemented protocols for family planning services in the country that meet human rights standards including freedom from discrimination, coercion and violence	1	2012	3	2020	Comprehensive Family Planning guideline (2020 revised)/Youth Friendly Services (2016)/Midwives Curricula (2016)
Percentage of women and men aged 15-49 who had more than one sexual partner in the past 12 months who reported use of a condom during their last intercourse (female/male)	(F)27.2% (M)26.3%	2017	NA		LSIS was last conducted in 2017
Has the country increased the national budget for sexual and reproductive health by at least 5 per cent?	1.8%	2016	31%	2020	Government increased for contraceptive procurement

Summary of National Progress

Lao PDR has made significant progress towards ensuring contraceptive security, with fewer stockouts. The capacity of the health system to provide comprehensive family planning services has improved, and national coverage of family planning services has increased to 43 per cent (2018). Maternal mortality has reduced significantly to 185 in 2018 from 223 in 2014. Deliveries by skilled health personnel have increased. Midwifery education has been strengthened, with 90 percent of midwifery teachers teaching according to international standards. The number of midwives from ethnic minorities has increased. There has been a shift in the transformation of the Reproductive Health Policy into Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Policy. Significant advances have been made in legislation and framework development for health, gender equality and gender-based violence and for adolescent girls. Monitoring in four provinces shows that for 90 per cent of family planning commodities there has been no stock outs at the facilities in Luangnamtha, Bokeo, Bolikhamxay and Savannakhet provinces.

UNFPA's Contributions

- Implementation of the Lao PDR ICPD25 commitments, which focus on maternal health, ending harmful practices and promoting comprehensive sexuality education for youth has been supported by UNFPA and will continue under CP7.
- UNFPA provided technical support to the development of the National Action Plan for Mother and Child 2021-2025, the Noi 2030 Framework and Ecosystem, the Law on Gender, National Action Plan on Gender Equality, the National Action Plan on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and the National Youth and Adolescent Policy.
- Technical support was provided to integrate international standards into midwifery training and support strengthening of midwifery training, including through the creation of two centers of excellence.
- UNFPA supported the inclusion of ethnic groups in midwifery training, with 30 percent of graduated midwives from ethnic groups.
- UNFPA supported training of midwives and health providers on comprehensive family planning to improve the quality of services, and to improve availability of a wider range of family planning information and services.
- UNFPA supported increased investment in Supply Chain Management and mSupply.

- With UNFPA support, essential reproductive health commodities are integrated into the mSupply system countrywide at the province and district level.
- Innovation and adaptability was introduced through new initiatives such as tele-health to reach remote populations.

Outcome 2: Increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes, particularly increased availability of comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health

Percentage of young women and men aged 15-24 who correctly identify ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and who reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission (female/male)	22.7%/29.9 % (female/male)	2012	18.6%/26.5 % (female/male)	2017	LSIS 2017
Does the country have laws and policies that allow adolescents (regardless of marital status) access to sexual and reproductive health services?	yes	2016	yes (2)	2018	Law on health care and RMNCAH Gender Equality Law

Summary of National Progress

The policy framework for adolescent girls was strengthened, especially through the Noi 2030 Framework and Ecosystem to achieve gender equality and empowerment of adolescent girls, which is an advocacy tool to raise awareness, build partnerships and increase investments in adolescent girls that enable them to achieve their full potential. The Noi Framework was incorporated in the voluntary national review report resulting in inclusion of adolescent girls' needs in the policy agenda. The National Action Plan for Gender Equality for 2021-2025, the Gender Equality Law and the National Action Plan on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children 2021-2025 also provide a strong policy and programme environment for adolescent girls. The Noi Framework has been included in all national and local plans including at provincial level and with private sector increased partnerships and investments to run comprehensive sexuality education programmes and extend them in different provinces, particularly through the provinces leadership (for example Bokeo province contributes 30 per cent of the costs for comprehensive sexuality education implementation), bringing on board additional partners including Plan International and ChildFund in the scale-up and expansion of comprehensive sexuality education programming.

UNFPA's Contributions

- UNFPA continued to provide technical support to advocacy for and implementation of the Noi 2030 Framework and Ecosystem.
- The culture of the use of data for planning was supported by UNFPA through various studies such as: Adolescents and Youth Situation Analysis, Adolescent Girls Situation Analysis and Adolescents Research Days.
- UNFPA supported advocacy for adolescents and youth at various events, particularly the celebration of the International Day of the Girl Child, International Women's Day, International Youth Day, 16 Days of Action Against Gender-based Violence.
- Innovative partnerships with the media, international civil society organizations, and the private sector were developed to promote investments on adolescent girls and support building their life skills and comprehensive sexuality education.
- Programmes for positive male engagement to promote girls' rights were implemented.
- UNFPA supported the use of social media, hotlines and in-field interventions through Nang Noi groups to reach adolescent girls.
- UNFPA has supported the integration of comprehensive sexuality education (comprehensive sexuality education) in the school curriculum through age-appropriate learning in primary, secondary, technical/vocational educational training and training institutions.
- UNFPA has also supported the expansion of adolescent and youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.

Outcome 3: Advanced gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized women, adolescents and youth

Does the country have a gender equality national action plan that integrate reproductive rights with specific targets and national public budget allocations?	Yes	2017	Yes	2019	
Proportion of taken actions by the country on all of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) accepted recommendations on reproductive rights from the previous reporting cycle	1st cycle 66% accepted recommendations	2017	3rd cycle 71% accepted recommendations (2)	2020	
Percentage of women aged 15–49 who think that a husband/partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife/partner under certain circumstances	29.5%	2017	NA		LSIS was last conducted in 2017

Summary of National Progress

Strengthened political commitment to address gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is demonstrated through ongoing actions including the development of the implementation plan, based on the NSEDP which treats gender as a cross-cutting issue, the Lao PDR ICPD25 commitments (seven actions). Political commitment is also demonstrated through developments in the policy and programme framework have strengthened efforts towards gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls. This includes the National Action Plan for Gender Equality for 2021-2025 and the Noi framework. A national study on violence against women was undertaken in 2014 and since then measures to prevent and respond to violence against women have been taken, including the criminalization of marital rape and the development of the National Action Plan on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children 2021-2025.

UNFPA's Contributions

- UNFPA supported the development of the National Action Plan to Prevent and Response to Violence Against Women and Girls.
- Strengthening the implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality, National Action Plan on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children, and National Action Plan for the Mother and Child, UNFPA has supported efforts to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and children, and harmful practices such as early marriage, applying the essential services package (ESP) to guide provision of services.
- UNFPA supported efforts to increase the knowledge base of underserved populations through the 2nd Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS II), to facilitate inclusive development and more focused policy planning.
- In collaboration with other partners, UNFPA has provided support to the integration of accepted recommendations from CEDAW and UPR reviews.
- Raising visibility of issues related to gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and prevention and response to gender-based violence through observance of International Women's Day and 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

Outcome 4: Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to sustainable development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, HIV and gender equality

Has the country had at least one census of good quality that was processed, analyzed and disseminated following internationally agreed recommendations (during the last 10 years)?	Yes	2015	NA		Last census was conducted in 2015
Has the country collected, analyzed and disseminated a national household survey that allows for the estimation of key population and reproductive health indicators (in the last 5 years)?	No	2015	Yes	2019	(National and provincial population projection 2015-2045 and District pop projection 2015-2035)
Has the country completed evaluations on strategic interventions around sexual and reproductive health and adolescent and youth?	Yes(family planning)	2015	Yes	2016	UNFPA supplies costed

	situation analysis)				implementation (3)
Proportion of new national development plans that address population dynamics by accounting for population trends and projections in setting development targets	No	2017	Yes	2020	9th NSEDP 2021-2025
<p><u>Summary of National Progress</u></p> <p>The National Population and Development Policy 2019-2030 was revised for better integration of population in the National Socio-Economic Development Plan. The policy calls for investment in the quality of disaggregated data, in support of multi-sectoral planning. The policy supports use of population data and analysis in order to guide investments in human capital to enable Lao PDR to benefit from the demographic dividend. The policy was approved and endorsed by the Prime Minister of Lao PDR, for nationwide implementation. The availability of analysis of population data has improved, including to highlight the linkages between women's and girls' empowerment, sexual and reproductive health and the achievement of Agenda 2030.</p> <p><u>UNFPA's Contributions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lao 2030: Demographic Change for Development study was prepared with UNFPA support highlighting development priorities to better factor population dynamics into development planning. The findings and recommendations of Lao 2030 study have been fully reflected in the newly designed 9th NSEDP and other sector plans, especially in relation to investment in adolescents and youth and realizing the benefits of the demographics dividend. • Projections made with UNFPA support helped inform central government strategies and plans such as 9th NSEDP and the National Population and Development Policy. • An adolescent and youth monograph was disseminated with support from UNFPA. • UNFPA supported analysis, including a cost benefit study on family planning and an adolescent and youth situation analysis. • As a FP2020 partner UNFPA supported Lao PDR efforts to produce evidence to drive progress on family planning goals and make a strong case for more domestic investments in family planning. • UNFPA facilitated annual monitoring of family indicators in the National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP). 					

D. Country Programme Resources						
SP Outcome	Regular Resource (Planned and Final Expenditure)		Others (Planned and Final Expenditure)		Total (Planned and Final Expenditure)	
Outcome 1: Sexual and Reproductive Health	4,800,000	1,970,468	9,500,000	10,297,399	14,300,000	12,267,877
Outcome 2: Adolescents and Youth	4,200,000	1,782,372	1,400,000	1,591,866	5,600,000	3,374,238
Outcome 4: Population Dynamics	3,000,000	1,395,001	100,000	N/A	3,100,000	1,395,001
Programme coordination and assistance	1,000,000	612,581		N/A	1,000,000	612,581
Total	13,000,000	5,760,422	11,000,000	11,889,265	24,000,000	17,649,687

The regular resources amounts planned as part of the CPD is different from the amounts received which explains why less is spent than was planned. The "final expenditure" figures include funds planned to be spent in 2021.