



**Joint Programme on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women for Mainstreaming Gender into the National Development Agenda in Lao PDR**  
**MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**  
**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2021**

<p align="center"><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme Title: Joint Programme on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women for Mainstreaming Gender into the National Development Agenda in Lao PDR</li> <li>Programme Number (if applicable):</li> <li>MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>3</sup> 00124568</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p><i>Country/Region</i> Lao PDR</p> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Outcome 2:</b> More people have access to social protection benefits, in particular vulnerable groups and the poor</li> <li><b>Outcome 7:</b> Institutions and policies at national and local level support the delivery of quality services that better respond to people's needs</li> <li><b>Outcome 8:</b> People enjoy improved access to justice and fulfillment of their human rights</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <p>Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNDP</li> <li>UNFPA</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <p>National counterparts (government, private, NGOs &amp; others) and other International Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lao Women's Union (LWU)</li> <li>National Commission on the Advancement of Women and Children (NCAWMC)</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: 2,673,000</p> <p>MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>4</sup>: UNDP: 1,573,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable) UNFPA: 1,100,000</li> </ul> <p>Agency Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>by Agency (if applicable)</li> </ul> <p><b>TOTAL:</b> 2,673,000</p>	<p align="center"><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <p>Overall Duration (months) 48 months</p> <p>Start Date<sup>5</sup> (dd.mm.yyyy) 16.12.2020</p> <p>Original End Date<sup>6</sup> (dd.mm.yyyy) 30.09.2024</p> <p>Current End date<sup>7</sup>(dd.mm.yyyy) 30.09.2024</p>

<sup>1</sup> The term "programme" is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

<sup>2</sup> Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

<sup>3</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as "Project ID" on the project's factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

<sup>4</sup> The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

<sup>5</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

<sup>6</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

<sup>7</sup> If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

**Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.**

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach*

Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

**Report Submitted By**

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## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

16DoA	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CNA	Capacity Needs Assessment
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
ESP	Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IP	Implementing Partner
IWD	International Women's Day
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
LWU	Lao Women's Union
LYU	Lao Youth Union
NAP	National Action Plan
NCAWMC	National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children
NIM	National Implementation Modality
NSEDP	National Socio-Economic Development Plan
OSSC	One-Stop Service Centre
PMC	Project Management Consultant
SOP	Standard Operational Procedure
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VAW	Violence Against Women

## NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

UNFPA supported the finalisation and official endorsement of the second 5-year National Action Plan on Preventing and Eliminating Violence against Women (NAPEVAW) and the fourth National Action Plan on Gender Equality (NAPGE) (collectively, “the NAPs”) by the Lao Government, including technical input provided by UNFPA, and [integrated the NAPs into 18 provincial and 17 sectoral plans](#). UNFPA is developing national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the health and social sectors' response to gender-based violence (GBV), in close consultation with the Government of Laos. These SOPs will provide a comprehensive framework for the two sectors to respond to GBV incidents and are tracking well - first drafts are currently being revised to incorporate multisectoral government feedback. The SOPs are in line with international standards for providing essential health and social services for GBV survivors, in particular the internationally recognised guidance ‘Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence’ (the ESP). Further to this, UNFPA in consultations with the National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers-Children (NCAWMC) is developing TORs to develop a comprehensive M&E Framework regarding the NAPs and reporting requirements to international instruments, including CEDAW, Beijing Platform For Action, ICPD 25 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Beyond programmatic interventions, UNFPA worked in close collaboration with PMC to ensure synergies of work and led over 50-partners for a joint advocacy campaign for 16 Days of Activism Against GBV (16DoA), and KOICA, PMC and UNDP participated.

A capacity needs assessment (CNA) of the justice sector (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Security, Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor, and People's Supreme Court) to implement the NAPEVAW to prevent and respond to gender-based violence was conducted and completed by UNDP in partnership with the Lao Women’s Union (LWU) and NCAWMC. The CNA revealed that the justice sector is seriously underprepared to meet the demands of the NAPEVAW and implement it successfully. The report provided 28 common recommendations for all agencies and additional 7-10 agency-specific recommendations. Key recommendations were to (i) develop a Justice Sector SOP for GBV response in line with the ESP and social and health SOPs (ii) implement a comprehensive capacity development programme for the justice sector to implement the SOP, and (iii) strengthen coordination among the four main justice sector agencies on under the NAPEVAW. These three key recommendations will be implemented with support from UNDP. In parallel, UNDP has also commissioned two research studies to be conducted on barriers to accessing justice and male perceptions on GBV to inform decision-making and policy as the SOP is developed. UNDP supported the LWU in developing, printing and disseminating communications materials for 16DoA.

#### **I. Purpose**

The objective of the project is to strengthen the governance mechanism and policy framework to mainstream the prevention and elimination of GBV in the national development agenda – Ninth National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) and Legal Sector Master Plan – in Lao PDR. The expected outcome of the programme is strengthened national capacity for the effective, systematic and accountable prevention of and response to VAW in Lao PDR through policy dialogues and providing support to the Lao Government to integrate international instruments, CEDAW recommendations, Beijing+25, ICPD 25 and SDGs into the development of the new phase 5-year National Action Plan on Preventing and Combating Violence Against

Women (2021–2025) and the 5-year National Action Plan on Gender Equality (2021–2025) and supporting them to effectively implement these national action plans.

The Project is in line with Pillar I and II of the Lao PDR – United Nations Partnership Framework 2017-2021:

### **Pillar I – Inclusive Growth, Livelihoods and Resilience**

- **Outcome 2:** More people have access to social protection benefits, in particular vulnerable groups and the poor

### **Pillar III – Governance**

- **Outcome 7:** Institutions and policies at national and local level support the delivery of quality services that better respond to people’s needs
- **Outcome 8:** People enjoy improved access to justice and fulfillment of their human rights

## **II. Results**

### **i) Narrative reporting on results:**

#### UNFPA

##### *Narrative report*

UNFPA has supported the finalisation and official endorsement by the Lao Government of the NAPs, including technical input provided by UNFPA. The Action Plans serve as a roadmap for the Government’s actions to promote gender equality and prevent and respond to violence against women over the next five years. They integrate the Lao government's commitments to promote gender equality and eliminate GBV, including obligations under CEDAW, the ICPD25 commitment of the Government of Lao, the Beijing Platform for Action, Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the SDGs.

The NAPEVAW has identified the required actions to prevent and respond to GBV. The actions include changing attitudes and behaviors toward GBV, providing essential quality health, social, and justice services to women and girls who are survivors of violence, and strengthening the coordination, referral mechanisms and reporting of GBV cases.

The NAPGE has highlighted actions for promoting and advancing gender equality in every aspect, including education, health, employment, economic development and empowerment, leadership and decision making, justice, and management. The plans also ensure women’s and girls’ rights are fulfilled and protected by reviewing and translating international commitments and obligations into national policies and regulations.

The NAPs were officially [launched](#) in December 2021, with His Excellency Dr Kikeo Khaikhamphitoun, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairperson of NCAWMC in attendance. The launch was attended by over 100 participants from line ministries, UN agencies, development partners and CSOs.

Around 16 important indicators from these two national action plans have been included into the 9<sup>th</sup> Socio-Economic Development for 2021-2025, including percent of physical, sexual and emotional violence against women reduced; percent of survivors of violence access to legal, counselling, health and social services increased; percentage of girls aged 15-19 who are currently married or in union decreased, percent of

population marriage under 15-19 years old decreased; percent of women's representation in the leadership and management positions increased in each level from central to local levels; and gender inequality index decreased.

During October and November 2021, UNFPA supported the Lao Government to successfully integrate the NAPEVAW and the NAPGE into the plans of [all 18 provinces and 17 line/sector ministries](#), as well as the Prime Minister's Office, Bank of Lao PDR, 8 party organizations (such as LWU, Lao Youth Union (LYU), Lao Trade Union, Party Cabinet Office, National Politics Institute etc.), and 2 judiciary bodies (People's Supreme Court and Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor). The integration was achieved over 8 virtual workshops held over 3 weeks, sensitizing 780 government staff who have a role in drafting and implementing provincial, ministerial and sectoral plans to strengthen systems at the sub-national level to align with national policy frameworks.

With regards to the SOPs, a multi-sectoral consultation workshop was conducted to draft the Social Sector SOP, with 30 participants from social, health and justice sectors attending. The workshop produced a 'draft zero' of the social SOP, currently being reviewed by UNFPA to ensure the social SOP aligns with international standards identified in the ESP, which is the internationally recognised guidance for providing essential services for GBV survivors, as well as national legal and policy frameworks.

A Readiness Assessment (health sector) and Service Accessibility Assessment (social sector) were conducted to identify gaps and areas of improvement to inform the development of the SOPs. The development of social and health SOPs is processing and on track. First drafts of both SOPs have been developed, and feedback from Government is currently being integrated.

### *Results*

**Outcome 1** relates to the strengthened national capacity for the effective, systematic and accountable prevention of and response to VAW in Lao PDR. Through participation in the development and integration of the NAPEVAW and NAPGE into ministerial, sectoral and sub-national plans, the capacity of the Lao Government's line ministries and sectors at the national level and sub-national level has been strengthened to effectively and systemically prevent and respond to GBV in Lao PDR. These two national action plans have outlined key actions and investment of each government sector, including capacity building of government staff, to effectively prevent and respond to GBV and promote gender equality in all areas.

**Output 1** relates to the improved institutional and policy framework aimed at accelerating the elimination of GBV and promoting women's participation. UNFPA has developed, finalised and facilitated the official endorsement by the Lao Government of the second 5-year NAPEVAW and the fourth NAPGE. The NAPEVAW is a policy framework that clearly outlines interventions, targets, and indicators for each sector/ministry to prevent and respond to GBV. The NAPGE is a policy framework that highlights actions for promoting women's participation and advancing gender equality in all spheres, including education, health, employment, economic development and empowerment, leadership and decision making, justice, and management.

**Output 2** relates to the implementation of the NAPs and the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (M&E). To implement and give effect to the NAPs, UNFPA is developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for GBV response for the health and social sector, in line with international standards for

providing essential health and social services for GBV survivors. We are in the process of drafting the SOPs for both the health and social sector, in consultation with the Lao government. The SOPs will provide a clear operating framework for each sector to implement the NAPs.

UNFPA is also in the process of drafting an M&E TORs to develop an M&E framework for the indicators in the NAPs, as well as government reporting to international instruments (eg. SDGs, CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action). The scope of these TORs is being determined in close consultation with NCAWMC, who has roles and responsibilities to report to the international instruments and ensure implementation of the NAPs. UNFPA has provided capacity building to the Social and Health Sector on GBV data collection, including categorisation of types of GBV per the internationally recognised GBVIMS+ system. UNFPA has begun supporting NCAWMC's CEDAW reporting process, with an official launch scheduled in Q1 2022.

### *Partnerships and complementary funding*

The funding provided through this joint programme has been catalytic to secure further funding to UNFPA to roll out the ESP. The ESP is now supported by many different donors, including DFAT, UK, SDC and Japan, with all work building on each other and ensuring complementing interventions. Under this project, UNDP is now also aligning with the ESP to ensure harmonisation across the UN agencies and improve GBV multisectoral responses.

UNFPA has been collaborating closely with PMC, to harmonise interventions and avoid duplications of activities. PMC has also attended multisectoral consultations on the SOPs and provided valuable feedback. UNFPA and PMC will continue to communicate and collaborate on interventions, especially the SOPs, capacity building of LWU and MHPSS interventions.

To improve social services to survivors of GBV and to give effect to the NAPEVAW (Outcome 1), UNFPA organised for representatives from LWU, NCAWMC and UNFPA Lao PDR to [join a virtual tour of the one-stop service center](#) (OSSC) for survivors of GBV in Vietnam during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence (16DoA). The virtual tour is part of the digital approach to exchange information, knowledge, skills, and lessons learned on establishing and operationalizing an OSCC.

The virtual tour was organised to foster synergies, accelerate results and save costs through South-South cooperation. UNFPA Laos and UNFPA Viet Nam have shared donors, including KOICA. The UNFPA offices in Laos and Viet Nam are also both supporting their host Governments to implement the ESP, to provide comprehensive, multi-sectoral assistance and services to survivors. The establishment and operationalization of OSCCs falls within the roll out of the ESP.

The OSSC in Quang Ninh Province of Vietnam - Anh Duong ("Sunshine") House - aims to (i) provide integrated, survivor centered support for GBV survivors (ii) raise awareness and behaviour change, including encouraging help-seeking behaviours; and (iii) strengthen multi-sectoral coordination mechanism in addressing violence against women and girls. The OSSC was also modelled on OSSC's established in Korea.

UNFPA lead the joint advocacy campaign for the 16DoA joint advocacy campaign - working with the government leadership of LWU and NCAWMC - which saw more than 50 partners from government, private sector, development partners and sports, join together to support many activities to raise awareness on GBV. All the combined activities from the participating partners reached more than 6,500,000 people directly with

actions, social media posts, lighting up buildings in orange, radio and village loudspeaker across the country. 7 articles appeared in the news, including a joint op-ed between UNFPA and UNDP representatives. KOICA and PMC collaborated on this, including through video message on modelling positive masculinities to promote gender equality. LWU/KOICA and PMC under P-EVAW, printed a large banner and used the 16 Days Zoom background developed by UNFPA. NCAWMC facilitated important messages to be disseminated from senior government officials, including the prime minister. This strong collaborative effort, with UNFPA as GBV technical lead, was immensely effective, and these strong partnerships will lay the foundation for continuing work in the coming years of the project.

## UNDP

UNDP started activities in 2021 with a two day event to celebrate International Women’s Day (IWD) in March, organized in partnership with the Lao Women’s Union and the EU Delegation to Lao PDR (Activity 2: Organize policy dialogue discussions, workshops, seminars, meeting and other events on Gender and VAW). In line with the theme of IWD, “Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World”, women in leadership positions from government, the development sector, civil society, and the private sector spoke on issues regarding gender equality, women’s empowerment, and COVID-19 impacts. These panel discussions were also livestreamed on social media to ensure women outside of Vientiane Capital and those who could not attend would have access to information. Women entrepreneurs from 18 provinces around the country were also invited to showcase their products at the event venue. With more than 300 participants attending over the two days, the event raised awareness on gender equality and women’s empowerment and contributed to Outcomes 2 (increasing access to social protection benefits) and 8 (people enjoying improved access to justice) of the Lao PDR – United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (2017-2021) (UNPF).

In parallel, UNDP consulted with UNFPA and KOICA to recalibrate focus of UNDP’s component under the project to the justice sector to ensure the project covered the critical elements of the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence by complementing the UNFPA component supporting the health and social sectors. This was with the view to contribute to Outcome 7 of the UNPF: delivery of quality services. UNDP was able to adapt the project focus to strengthen development results, by evaluating the original plan and monitoring project progress to ensure the justice sector was served under the project. This adaptive programming approach has proved to be key in dealing with unexpected challenges that arose in 2021.

UNDP initiated the capacity needs assessment (CNA) of the justice sector to deliver GBV services was to identify the preparedness of the justice sector to implement the NAPEVAW and identify key priority areas to inform the comprehensive development programme for each agency, and the SOP for the justice sector, covering each agency and the sector overall. The team developed the inception report in April 2021 following desk-based research and initial interviews. Unfortunately, Lao PDR experienced the second wave of COVID-19 infections after the Lao New Year in early April 2021 and the country went into lockdown where in-person meetings were strictly prohibited. Consultations with stakeholders were moved completely online. Meetings with international organizations and civil society were conducted without any issues but the expert team faced delays in organizing consultation meetings with government stakeholders, namely the justice sector agencies: Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Ministry of Public Security (MOPS), Office of the Supreme People’s Prosecutor (OSPP), and the People’s Supreme Court (PSC).

To advance progress under the project, UNDP supported the LWU for the recruitment of a project coordinator and finance officer and was able to accelerate the implementation of Activity 1: conducting the capacity needs assessment. All communications between UNDP and government stakeholders had to go through the NCAWMC, and with the project team was able to facilitate communication.

As the country went into strict lockdown, government stakeholders could not go into the office and therefore, in-person meetings could not be organized. Furthermore, government staff of the justice sector did not have the necessary IT equipment to attend online meetings while working from home. As a result, progress on the CNA was delayed as meetings with the most important stakeholders were not possible.

The fact that online meetings would not be possible was not expected. This impacted the project as a whole because the CNA report was the first activity of the UNDP component and had to be completed in order for details of the subsequent activities to be developed.

Given that justice sector staff could not effectively adapt to the “new normal”, UNDP supported the LWU to identify the IT needs of each of the agencies and procured the equipment. In 2022, the justice sector will work very closely with UNDP to develop the Justice Sector SOP for GBV response, thus the IT equipment will ensure that staff do not experience disruptions in their engagement.

The key lesson learned was that flexibility, on the parts of all partners, and following close consultation with all partners, is crucial to adapting, especially during unprecedented times such as COVID-19. UNDP will continue to remain flexible, consultative, and critically analyze activities’ progress to ensure that development results can be achieved.

COVID-19 restrictions were eased in June 2021 and consultation meetings with the justice sector were able to take place. A total of 50 staff from each organization, agency, and ministry were consulted through key informant interviews, surveys, and consultation meetings to assess capacity and needs. In addition, around 12 civil society and international organisations were consulted to support the findings of the CNA from stakeholders.

In September 2021, the draft of the CNA report was completed whereby 28 recommendations were provided at the institutional, leadership, knowledge, and accountability levels, per the UNDP Capacity Assessment Framework. Key recommendations were to (i) develop a Justice Sector SOP for GBV response, (ii) develop capacity of the justice sector agencies to implement relevant components of the NAPEVAW, (iii) ensure accountability through development of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework, (iv) strengthen coordination between and within key justice sector agencies, and (v) facilitate evidence-based decision-making through research.

On top of the recommendations from the CNA, UNDP also responded immediately to the justice sector’s lack of access to IT equipment considering that COVID-19 restrictions were not completely lifted and to facilitate adaptation to the “new normal”. Each agency was provided with a laptop and videoconferencing equipment to ensure that staff would be able to partake in future activities online.

The CNA report was crucial the UNDP component as subsequent activities depended on the outcome of the report itself. Once the draft was completed in September 2021, UNDP was able to take the recommendations and begin implementing activities 2 and 3.

Given the significant lack of data and information available to understand drivers or experiences of EVAW, UNDP developed Requests for Proposals (RFP) for two research studies (Activity 3: Research and surveys on how to strengthen the governance mechanism and policy framework). One research was for a local civil society organization (CSO) to conduct a research study on the barriers women and survivors of violence face when trying to access justice. This was developed based on the fact that less than 2% of women report violence to authorities (according to the NAPEVAW) and anecdotal evidence that women stay silent due to social and cultural stigma. This research aims to address the lack of empirical evidence on the barriers women face and with the view to use the findings of the research to inform the development of the Justice Sector SOP for GBV response to address these barriers. [Gender Development Association \(GDA\) was awarded the low-value grant.](#)

Another RFP was for a non-governmental organization (NGO) to conduct research on men's perceptions on GBV. This was in answer to the NAPEVAW's targets to create social and behavioural change to end violence against women, and the fact that men are the perpetrators of violence against women in the majority of cases. This research will also inform the development of the Justice Sector SOP for GBV response to design male engagement initiatives based on evidence and the grant was awarded to [CARE International](#).

Activity 4 (international knowledge and experience exchange programmes) was postponed to the following year due to COVID-19 restrictions. To be in line with the development of the SOPs, the theme of the international conference is tentatively on SOP development and implementation for GBV prevention and response.

Independent gender experts were recruited to support UNDP and the justice sector to develop the Justice Sector SOP for GBV response, per recommendations from the CNA, based on the targets of the NAPEVAW, and then in close collaboration with the justice sector agencies, to design a capacity development plan to ensure implementation of the SOP. The team will also be responsible for supporting the justice sector to pilot the SOP and make improvements where needed. Another expert team was recruited to support the Media and Advocacy Departments of the Lao Women's Union to design and implement a communications strategy and capacity development plan to encourage social and behavioural change through communication and community outreach.

For 16DoA, UNDP supported the LWU to print and disseminate communication materials and assets aimed at preventing and responding to GBV, the assets were developed by the LWU, with technical support from UNDP, and the campaign was used to increase awareness among key target groups on GBV, including aimed at influencing behavioral change among men and local communities to support EVAW efforts.

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

	<b><u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</b>	<b>Source of Verification</b>
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Strengthened national capacity for the effective, systematic and accountable prevention of and response to VAW in Lao PDR</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15-49 years subject to physical and/or sexual violence by any partner in the last 12 months by type and five-year age group (Linked with 5.2.1)</li> <li>2. Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subject to physical violence, sexual violence and emotional violence who have access to services (health, social services and justice): - by someone else who is not their partner (Linked with 5.2.2)</li> <li>3. Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex (Linked with 5.1.1)</li> </ol> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 6.4% (2014)  <b>Planned Target:</b> To be identified based on the assessment</p>	Not yet applicable	N/A	Protection/counseling centre data

<p><b>Sub-Output 1. Improved institutional and policy framework aimed at accelerating the elimination of gender-based violence against women and promoting women's participation.</b></p>			
<p><b>Indicator 1.1:</b> 5-year National Strategic Plan on EAW developed  <b>Baseline:</b> N/A  <b>Planned Target:</b> Yes</p>	<p><b>Achieved</b> - developed with UNFPA technical support, finalised, endorsed and disseminated</p>		<p>Project Report</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.2:</b> National Action Plan on EAW integrated into sectors' plans at national and subnational levels  <b>Baseline:</b> N/A  <b>Planned Target:</b> Not yet</p>	<p><b>Achieved</b> - with UNFPA support has been integrated into 18 provincial and 17 sectoral plans.</p>		<p>Project Report</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.3:</b> 5-year National Strategic Plan on Gender Equality developed  <b>Baseline:</b> N/A  <b>Planned Target:</b> Not yet</p>	<p><b>Achieved</b> - developed with UNFPA technical support, finalised, endorsed and disseminated</p>		<p>Project Report</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.4:</b> National Action Plan on Gender Equality integrated into sectors' plan at national and subnational levels  <b>Baseline:</b> N/A  <b>Planned Target:</b> Not yet</p>	<p><b>Achieved</b> - with UNFPA support has been integrated into 18 provincial and 17 sectoral plans.</p>		<p>Project Report</p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.5:</b> % consultations with participation of victims/survivors of gender-based violence against women</p>	<p>Not yet applicable</p>		

<p><b>Baseline:</b> N/A <b>Planned Target:</b> Not yet</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.6:</b> Number of international knowledge and experience exchange programmes promoting T/SSC <b>Baseline:</b> N/A <b>Planned Target:</b> Not yet</p> <p><b>Sub-Output 2. The Implementation guideline &amp; M&amp;E Plan of the 5-year National Strategic Plan on EAW (2021–2025) developed</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1:</b> Practical implementation guideline and M&amp;E Plan developed <b>Baseline:</b> N/A <b>Planned Target:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.2:</b> Monitoring and reporting system set up <b>Baseline:</b> N/A <b>Planned Target:</b> 1</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.3:</b> A National Guideline for Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) developed and effectively implemented <b>Baseline:</b> N/A <b>Planned Target:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.4:</b> Annual monitoring and mid-term assessment of the implementation of NAP on EAW conducted <b>Baseline:</b> N/A <b>Planned Target:</b> Yes</p>	<p>Not yet - M&amp;E TORs in process of development</p> <p>Not yet- M&amp;E TORs in process of development</p> <p>Drafts of Social and Health Sector TORs developed, going through consultation process with government</p> <p>N/A</p>		
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<p><b>Indicator 2.5:</b> Annual monitoring and mid-term assessment of the implementation of NAP on GE conducted  <b>Baseline:</b> N/A  <b>Planned Target:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Sub-Output 3:</b> A platform for policy dialogue on Gender &amp; VAW to strengthen governance framework and to promote women's participation</p>	<p>N/A</p>		
<p><b>Indicator 3.1:</b> A platform for policy dialogue on Gender &amp; VAW to strengthen governance mechanism and policy framework and to promote women's participation  <b>Baseline:</b> N/A  <b>Planned Target:</b> Yes</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Due to recalibration of focus of the UNDP component (Sub-Output 3), the CNA was carried out for the justice sector and will result in a Justice Sector Steering Committee to ensure progress against the M&amp;E framework.</p>	<p>Project report – government endorsement</p>
<p><b>Indicator 3.2:</b> Perception change of dialogue partners (govt, academia, civil society, private sector) on utility and quality of multi-stakeholder dialogue on the subject  <b>Baseline:</b> N/A  <b>Planned Target:</b> 70%</p>	<p>Delayed due to COVID-19.</p>	<p>Due to COVID-19 restrictions which caused delays in the carrying out of the CNA, workshops and events on gender and VAW have been postponed.</p>	<p>Project report – Meeting minutes, discussion notes, survey results</p>
<p><b>Indicator 3.3:</b> Number of new researches and surveys inform the policy discussion  <b>Baseline:</b> N/A  <b>Planned Target:</b> 4</p>	<p>Grants for two research studies were awarded.</p>		<p>Research/survey reports</p>
<p><b>Indicator 3.4:</b> Number of international knowledge and experience exchange programmes promoting T/SSC  <b>Baseline:</b> N/A  <b>Planned Target:</b> 3</p>	<p>Postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p>	<p>Per recommendation of the CNA to develop a Justice Sector SOP, the international knowledge and experience exchange will be postponed to align with the timeline of the SOP development and on that theme.</p>	<p>Press release</p>

### iii) A Specific Story (Optional)

#### UNFPA

**Problem / Challenge faced:** Describe the specific problem or challenge faced by the subject of your story (this could be a problem experienced by an individual, community or government).

Certain activities have been delayed due to covid measures and restrictions and reliance on the government to meet proposed timeframes.

The draft SOPs for Social and Health Sector have taken some time to schedule consultation meetings with government.

**Programme Interventions:** How was the problem or challenged addressed through the Programme interventions?

UNFPA, in close consultation with LWU and NCAWMC, reprogramed and adjusted the methods for implementing activity from in-person to online, and conducted close follow up with the government to ensure the project is implemented as planned.

**Result (if applicable):** Describe the observable *change* that occurred so far as a result of the Programme interventions. For example, how did community lives change or how was the government better able to deal with the initial problem?

**Lessons Learned:** What did you (and/or other partners) learn from this situation that has helped inform and/or improve Programme (or other) interventions?

Prepare for unexpected incidents that may prevent the implementation of the project and conduct close coordination and consultation with the Lao Government to ensure the project is effectively implemented as planned.

### III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

N/A

### IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

As mentioned previously, UNDP realigned its component with partner activities to be guided by the Essential Services Package and therefore, focus on the justice sector's efforts to prevent and respond to GBV. In agreement with partners, UNDP conducted the CNA of the justice sector, rather than to put in place a Sub-Sector Working Group, to maximize development results.