



**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 2022**

<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): 00130773</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>Strategic Priority 3 – Governance and Rule of Law:</b> By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, are better served by public institutions at all levels in a transparent and inclusive manner, able to exercise their rights and obligations and the institutions shall be strengthened and more accountable while the rule of law and international human rights commitments made by Lao PDR are upheld.</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> <table> <tr> <td>Total approved budget as per project document:</td><td align="right">2,673,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>4</sup>:</td><td align="right">UNDP: 1,573,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>    • by Agency (if applicable)</td><td align="right">UNFPA: 1,100,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Agency Contribution</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>    • by Agency (if applicable)</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL:</b></td><td align="right"><b>2,673,000</b></td></tr> </table>	Total approved budget as per project document:	2,673,000	MPTF /JP Contribution <sup>4</sup> :	UNDP: 1,573,000	• by Agency (if applicable)	UNFPA: 1,100,000	Agency Contribution		• by Agency (if applicable)		<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,673,000</b>	<p align="center"><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <table> <tr> <td>Overall Duration (<i>months</i>)</td><td align="right">48 months</td></tr> <tr> <td>Start Date<sup>5</sup> (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>)</td><td align="right">16.12.2020</td></tr> <tr> <td>Original End Date<sup>6</sup> (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>)</td><td align="right">30.09.2024</td></tr> <tr> <td>Current End date<sup>7</sup> (<i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>)</td><td align="right">30.09.2024</td></tr> </table>	Overall Duration ( <i>months</i> )	48 months	Start Date <sup>5</sup> ( <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> )	16.12.2020	Original End Date <sup>6</sup> ( <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> )	30.09.2024	Current End date <sup>7</sup> ( <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> )	30.09.2024
Total approved budget as per project document:	2,673,000																				
MPTF /JP Contribution <sup>4</sup> :	UNDP: 1,573,000																				
• by Agency (if applicable)	UNFPA: 1,100,000																				
Agency Contribution																					
• by Agency (if applicable)																					
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,673,000</b>																				
Overall Duration ( <i>months</i> )	48 months																				
Start Date <sup>5</sup> ( <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> )	16.12.2020																				
Original End Date <sup>6</sup> ( <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> )	30.09.2024																				
Current End date <sup>7</sup> ( <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i> )	30.09.2024																				

<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**

- Name: Yeahyoung Jeon
- Title: Project Specialist
- Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP
- Email address: yeahyoung.jeon@undp.org

## **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**

#### **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 (NSEDPP) 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 the Lao PDR – United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 (UNSDCF) Strategic Priority 3 – Governance and Rule of Law: *By 2026, people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, are better served by public institutions at all levels in a transparent and inclusive manner, able to exercise their rights and obligations and the institutions shall be strengthened and more accountable while the rule of law and international human rights commitments made by Lao PDR are upheld.*

#### **II. Results**

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

#### **UNFPA**

##### **Key Achievements**

- UNFPA led the joint advocacy campaign for 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, **mobilising 77 partners** (including KOICA, PMC and UNDP) from government, development partners, civil society and private sector, and across all combined efforts **reaching an estimated 4 million people, which is over 53% of population.**
- **The 10th periodic CEDAW report of Lao PDR approved by the Lao government** and in the process of submitting to the CEDAW Committee in Geneva.
- **Regional exchange** through ASEAN Sectoral Body's Session of the 25th ACWC Meeting, as well as supporting Lao Women's Union Central to host the 21st ASEAN Committee on Women meeting.
- **Implementation of the National Action Plans** on Ending Violence Against Women and Gender Equality on track through:
  - Finalised and **endorsed Standard Operating Procedures** for Social Sector and Health Sector (the SOPs), and implementation in target provinces has commenced
  - **53 health professionals** from central and target provinces have **strengthened capacity as “Master Trainers” on provision of essential health services using the GBV Health SOP.** In addition, 76 health

professionals were sensitised on the contents of the GBV Health SOP for provision of health services for GBV survivors through attending consultations and endorsement.

- **67 social service providers** from central and target provinces have **strengthened capacity on provision of essential social services using the GBV Social SOP**. In addition 120 social service providers were sensitised on the contents of the GBV Social SOP through attending consultations and endorsement.

## Results under Outputs

### Sub-output 1: Support the development and implementation of the 2nd Five-Year National Plan of Action on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women (2021-2025) (EVAW NPA) and the 4th National Plan of Action on Gender Equality (2021-2025) (Gender Equality NPA)

#### Activity 1.5: Implementation of the NAPs

Following the official government endorsement of the UNFPA-supported second 5-year National Action Plan on Preventing and Eliminating Violence against Women (2021-2026) (EVAW NAP) and the fourth National Action Plan on Gender Equality (GE NAP) (together, the NAPs) in December 2021, UNFPA has focused on implementation of the NAPs in 2022, which included:

- Strengthening capacity of mass media to combat VAWG
- Supporting the 10th National Periodic CEDAW report process
- Vocational training
- Advocacy, events and campaigns.

#### *Strengthening capacity of mass media to combat VAWG*

Under the EVAW NAP, a priority action for prevention of VAWG is to “*Strengthen capacity for mass media on combating violence against women and girls, and elimination of outdated cultural and customary traditions that discriminate against women and obstruct the advancement of women.*”

In June 2022, UNFPA conducted a TOT with media outlets on promoting gender equality, challenging harmful traditional norms and gender roles, and ethical reporting on GBV (see Press Release in Lao newspaper [here](#) and English-speaking newspaper [here](#)).

NCAWMC subsequently conducted this training with the Association of Journalists in Savannakhet in October 2022 in Savannakhet, with 33 journalists responsible for reporting news (18 women, 15 men). As a result of the training, the participants had increased understanding of the role of sub-CAW within the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism to prevent VAWG; international and domestic laws on EVAW, as well as the critical role of media and journalists to change the narrative on gender roles and GBV. Participants were also upskilled and increased their capacity to write ethically on incidents of GBV and ethically use images, and how to highlight VAW as a public issue not a private “family” issue, especially during international days relating to women and GBV.

LWU Media Department also subsequently conducted this training in October 2022, co-chaired by Ms. Sirikit Boupha, Vice President of the LWU and Mr. Kambiz Kabiri, OIC for the representative of UNFPA. A total of

41 journalists attended in person or online (37 women and 4 men), including the Vice President of Provincial Women's Union of 04 provinces, Lao Women's Media Department, the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism and those who are working in the provincial media unit of 4 provinces, including Bokeo, Bolikhamxay, Savannakhet and Champasack, attended as well as academics invited from the MoICT. The results were an increased understanding of the root causes of violence against women, the roles of media workers to protect, prevent and challenge GBV. The journalists had increased capacity in developing a media production plan, evaluation of awareness of communities, identifying appropriate platforms to disseminate EVAW information, and producing radio spots, e-posters, short video clips in the lead up to the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV. Overall, the knowledge and understanding of participants on the training content increased from 50% in the pre-test to 85% in the post-test.



*Journalists in Bolikhamxay developing a media production plan to promote gender equality and challenge harmful gender norms to prevent GBV.*

### ***Support the 10th National Periodic CEDAW report process***

The EVAW and Gender NPAs are designed to give effect to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) through a comprehensive policy framework in Lao PDR.

Throughout 2022, UNFPA supported NCAWMC's 10th periodic CEDAW reporting process and the NCAWMC and its technical committee members from line ministries, including MoJ, MoFA, MoLSW, MoES, MoPS, LWU, Bank of Laos, National Lao Front, MoHA, People's Supreme Court, People's Supreme Prosecution, LSB, MoCIT, MoAF, to draft the 10th National Report on the Implementation of CEDAW.

Numerous consultations with government line ministries were held over the course of 2022 to draft various iterations of the 10th Periodic CEDAW report. The initial meetings and consultations in early 2022 increased participants understanding of the CEDAW recommendations for Laos, and how to report the progress of implementing these recommendations, particularly examining implementation of the EVAW NPA and the GE NAP as it is aligned with the CEDAW recommendations.





*Workshop - first draft of the CEDAW report.*

Further meetings with the CEDAW technical committee in June 2022 continued to improve the content of the draft report. Examples of inputs from line ministries include:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) reviewed the progress on implementation of human rights and SDGs.
- The Ministry of Public Security (MoPS) provided inputs on capacity building of police on VAW and human trafficking.
- The Bank of Laos provided inputs on policy and regulations that facilitate women's access to credits, as well as implementation of a credit handbook to promote production of goods to alleviate poverty.
- The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare reviewed and provided inputs on labor issues, particularly on sending Lao labor to work abroad, capacity building labors' skills, employment and social protection.
- The Protection Center of LWU reviewed and provided inputs on VAW responses, capacity building of ministry of justice, VAW prevention and responses and assistance of VAW victims, awareness raising on VAW prevention, capacity building of staff on human trafficking, services and referrals for survivors of violence and trafficking.

A consultation meeting was also held in October, 2022 in which 62 participants (38 females and 24 males) from development partners and civil society were able to review the draft CEDAW report and provide inputs on progress of the implementation of the CEDAW recommendations by DPs and CSOs, justice sectors' capacity building, GBV coordination and referral for assistance, women's empowerment and human trafficking cases assisted by the National Anti-trafficking mechanism for inclusion in the CEDAW report by NCAWMC.

NCAWMC included the suggested inputs into the CEDAW report and presented it at the monthly government meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at the Office of the Prime Minister to review for their consideration to approve. In principle, the Government agreed with the draft of the 10<sup>th</sup> periodic national report and advised the NCAWMC, together with the relevant departments, to review the content, statistical information and data again before submitting it to the International CEDAW Committee. The Prime Minister recently issued a decree approving the report and the remaining process is to submit the approved report by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for submission to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) through MOFA within Q1 of 2023.

This 10<sup>th</sup> periodic CEDAW report tracks progress of Lao PDR to afford rights to women and girls, address discriminatory stereotypes and gender roles, combat GBV and human trafficking, and promote women's participation in political and public life, education, healthcare, employment, social and economic I, and family life of women and girls from 2019-2022.

### ***Vocational training***

Under the EVAW NAP, a priority action for response to VAWG is “*Facilitate vocational training and return of victims to society, ensuring they can make their own life decisions based on stable economic, social and emotional factors.*”

To give effect to this, LWU conducted vocational training in tailoring and cooking for 15 vulnerable and at risk women and girls from Luang Namtha, Phongsaly, Xiengkhuang, Bokeo, Attapue, Savannakhet, Bolikhamxa, and Oudomxay. A total of 8 women were trained in tailoring, including hand-made and sewing machine tailoring, making sinhs and upper wear, as well as cotton purses and cosmetic bags. A total of 7 women were trained in cooking, learning 17 savoury meals and 23 sweet meals. The trainees also practiced at the Land Mark Riverside Hotel to learn about hospitality, including welcome and servicing guests, and learning to cook Thai and international food that were not included in their training courses.

### ***Advocacy, media and awareness raising***

#### **16 Days of Activism Against GBV**

Under Khan Hom and with UNFPA support, NCAWMC developed a key message video of the Prime Minister of the La’ People's Democratic Republic which was projected at the Patouxay event, as well as video messages from ministers from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao National Front and Central L’o Women's Union on the occasion of the International Day for the End of Violence against Women on November 25, under th“ theme "Unite! Activism to end violence again”t women". This is to raise awareness for the whole society to be aware and understand the risks of violence against women, which has impacts on physical health, mental health, economics, and to inform the society about availability of assistance to victims/survivors of violence provided by the government sectors.





To ensure key messaging was disseminated at provincial, district and village level during the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, LWU Media Department produced radio and TV spots in Bolikhamxay province on the topic: “When I am abused, where can I get counseling” and “Ending early marriage”. The spot was created in Lao and Hmong languages. and broadcasted for 1 month, with an estimated audience of 7,410 people viewed and listened. Further, LWU Media Department produced a TV “spot on "Ending early marriage", broadcasting on provincial television for 1 month, with an estimated audience of about 2,500 people. The Provincial L’o Women's Union Bolikhamxay also posted on their Facebook page had 16 times, with a total of 828 viewers.

### 16 days campaign

UNFPA led the joint advocacy campaign under the 16 Days of Activism Againstobilizing**bilising 77 partners** in 2022 which included KOICA, UNDP, and PMC. The 16 Days campaign for 2022 achieved outstanding results by all participating partners that focused on: *prevention, response* and *coordination* of efforts to end GBV, and resulted in an increase of: number of partners, reach, activities, provinces involved, diversification of language and materials developed compared to previous years. It is estimated that through the combined activities of partners, **4 million people were reached online and offline**.<sup>8</sup> Under the “*response*” pillar, UNFPA promoted several of KOICA supported activities, including: [health SOP](#) and [social SOP](#).

<sup>8</sup> Some people may be counted twice because social media platforms do not distinguish.



*Claiming public spaces for 16DOA*



*UNFPA, LWU and NCAWMC's major in-person advocacy event for 16DOA, with support from partners.*

UNFPA, LWU and NCAWMC finalized a major in-person advocacy 16DOA event in an iconic public space in Lao PDR and lit up Patouxay in symbolic orange, with the support of other partners. The event had high-level government, ambassadors and Heads of UN Agencies mingling with members of the public, engaging in the bodyright campaign and participating in other interactive activities to raise awareness of VAW prevention. This was the first time Patouxay had been lit up orange for 16DOA.



During the 16 Days campaign, UNFPA as technical lead on GBV was a speaker at the UNDP-organised event under Khan Hom, “*GBV and Disability*”, along with experts from South Korea. See UNDP’s social media post [here](#).

UNFPA invited KOICA to give opening remarks at the endorsement and launch of the Health and Social SOPs, and KOICA attended in person and provided opening remarks at both. The PMC team and UNDP team were invited to participate in all government and development partner social and health SOPs consultations, and gave valuable remarks that were integrated by UNFPA. UNFPA also provided technical assistance to UNDP on the Justice SOP regarding both substance and process.

## International Women’s Day

On 9 March 2022, UNFPA and the French Embassy finalized an event at the French Institute to mark the International Women’s Day with the theme: Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow. Women and men from the government, embassies, international organizations, civil society organizations, non-profit organizations, business sectors, media and youth, attended to advocate for women’s rights and gender equality. PMC and UNDP representatives also attended the event. At the event, participants were invited to join UNFPA’s global campaign on bodyright to end online violence by using the symbol ‘b’ which is the global bodyright symbol.



*Attendees at IWD event joining the bodyright campaign*

## International Day of the Girl Child

UNFPA supported and finalized the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Day of the Girl Child and the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday of Nang Noi’s on October 26, 2022 at Muong Thanh Luxury Hotel, which this year was held under the theme: “Now is our time, our rights and our future”. A total of 213 people attended (144 women, 69 men) representing the government, development partners, international organizations, civil society organizations and youth representatives. In the ceremony, the representatives of the Republic of Korea, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare also presented achievements, challenges and ways forwards of implementation of SDGs related to gender equality, early and child marriage, girls’ education and empowerment.

## Activity 1.6: Regional and international exchange

To promote international and regional exchange, UNFPA supported the Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) ASEAN Sectoral Body's Session of the 25<sup>th</sup> ACWC Meeting, as well as supporting Lao Women's Union Central to host the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Committee on Women meeting under the title *“Advancing The Implementation of International and Regional Frameworks on Elimination of Violence Against Women”* on September 20, 2022 in person and virtually at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The meeting was chaired by Mme. Thama Phetvixay, Vice President of LWU and the ASEAN Executive Board. There were delegations from 10 ASEAN member countries participating online. There were also the ASEAN Secretariat, a delegation from the Republic of Korea and representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic participated in the event with 35 people (33 women, 2 men). See the social media post [here](#).

As a result of the meeting, attendees had increased knowledge about the progress of the implementation of the work of the 20<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Committee on Women and achievements of project activities from development partners such as UN Women, ASEAN-ACT, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, USAID and OXFAM. UNFPA presented on its work and progress regarding GBV, SRH, girls' empowerment through Noi framework, as well as the “Bodyright” campaign – the new “copyright” for your body – to combat online violence.

Under the Khan Hom Project, UNFPA and UNDP also held a regional/international conference that is linked to legislative and policy frameworks and the development of SOPs, including inviting UNFPA speakers from neighbouring countries to speaking about the social, health and coordination SOPs development process in Lao PDR.

## Sub-output 2: Support NCAWMC and LWU to develop EVAW NPA and GE NPA M&E Framework

### Activity 2.1: Support NCAWMC to develop EVAW and GE M&E framework

UNFPA is in the process of drafting a M&E TOR to hire an international consultant to work closely with UNFPA Gender Unit and National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children (NCAWMC) and the Lao Women's Union (LWU) to develop EVAW and GE NPAs M&E framework. This M&E frame aims at tracking implementation and indicators of the 2<sup>nd</sup> *National Action Plan on Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women and Violence against Children (2021-2025)* (PEVAW NAP) and the 4<sup>th</sup> *National Plan of Action on Gender Equality (2021-2025)* (Gender Equality NAP) that is in line with the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (especially indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for Action and ICPD25+. It will outline how the guidelines will be established and managed, including protocols and requirements among government and service providers, technical tools, standard templates and checklists that will guide the practitioner as to how to collect data and information.

## Activity 2.2: Improve monitoring and reporting system for gender/GBV data from district to central

The first phase of improving the monitoring and reporting system for GBV data (paper-based iteration) was to integrate internationally finalized minimum data set into the Health and Social SOPs. The agreed upon data collection form, included in both SOPs as annexures, aligns with GBVIMS+ categories of GBV (global gold standard) as well as domestic law categories of violence. Based on UNFPA's SOPs, UNDP has also incorporated the same minimum data set into the Justice SOP. As the data forms are now finalized and finalized d across the sectors, NCAWMC as lead of the national coordination body can annually/biannually collect finalized d data across the sectors for reporting purposes and analyzing trends. In provinces where the SOPs have been rolled out, GBV services provides have been trained on this data collection.

In addition, UNFPA is planning to conduct an exchange visit under Khan Hom to Mongolia (or similar country) to learn from other countries on how to digitalise a paper-based GBVIMS system, owned by the government, to create a comprehensive incident recording and case management finalized d GBV administrative data system.

UNFPA will hire international consultants to develop this system, strategy and software. The TORs have been drafted and will be finalized in Q2.

## Activity 2.3: Support the development and implementation of the Social and Health Standard Operating Procedure ( SOPs) for provision of essential social and health services for GBV survivors

To support the implementation of the EVAW NPA and improve health and social services for survivors of violence, the Social and Health Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for provision of essential Social and Health services for EVAW/GBV survivors was officially endorsed and commenced roll out at the central and selected provinces.

### *Social SOP*

The “*Standard Operating Procedure for the Social Sector: Protection and Support for Women and Girls Subject to Violence in Lao PDR*” was developed under the leadership of LWU with UNFPA support over numerous multisectoral consultations in 2022, and was **finalized and endorsed** on 23 September 2022. The launch and dissemination of the SOP was attended by more than 120 people from government (central and from 17 provinces), as well as development partners and civil society. See Social SOP here: [Eng](#), [Lao](#)







*Launch of the Social SOP*

The social SOP is in alignment with internationally recognised standards, and includes, inter alia: guiding principles for working with survivors, hotlines/helpline operation, safe accommodation, informed consent/confidentiality, accompanied and unaccompanied minors, case management, legal/medical/mental health and psychosocial support, humanitarian and emergency preparedness and response, and referral pathways.

UNFPA conducted a ToT on the GBV Social SOP with 39 social service providers, including from LWU, Education, Labor and Social Welfare from central and Vientiane Capital, Bolikhamxay, Bokeo, Savannakhet, Champasack and Attapue provinces. As a result of the training, the participants have increased knowledge on survivor-centred approach, core GBV principles, protection of marginalised/at-risk groups, case management, coordination and referrals, and documentation. Participants identified new and valuable concepts in the SOPs, including LGBTIQ+ inclusivity, and technology-facilitated GBV (online violence).







The Social SOP was piloted in Bolikamxay in November/December 2022 with 28 participants from district LWU. The training was delivered by the “Master Trainers” who attended the TOT in Vientiane, with an overall increase in participant knowledge and understanding of the SOP of 55.55%, from 45% in pre-test to 70% in post-test.

The capacity building training on VAW and psychological-social support was held in February 2022, with 20 social service providers (17 females, 3 males). The training resulted in the participants having increased knowledge and skills in counseling, legal assistance, coordination, referral, and protection of victims of violence, and at-risk groups.

### ***Health SOP***



The “Standard Operating Procedure for the Health Sector to Respond to Women and Girls Subject to Violence in Lao PDR”, developed under the leadership of MOH and NCAWMC with UNFPA support, was **finalised and endorsed** on 19 August 2022 after numerous consultations during 2022. The launch was attended by 76 participants from health ministries and hospitals, other government ministries that respond to GBV, development partners and civil society. See social media post [here](#), and press release [here](#). The Health SOP can be found here: [Eng](#) | [Lao](#)



Launch of the Health SOP



The health SOP is in alignment with internationally recognised standards and includes, *inter alia*: guiding principles for working with survivors (e.g., survivor-centred, human rights-based approach), identification and screening, clinical care, mental health care, forensic evidence collection, documentation/record keeping (medico-legal), and information-sharing and referral protocol.

UNFPA conducted TOT for 53 health service providers (32 females and 11 males) from MoH, AIDs Center, Mahosot Hospital, Mittaphap hospital, Mother and Child hospital, Sethha hospital, 103 hospital, 05 hospital, the protection center for women and children, provincial hospital of Bolikhamxay, Savaankhet, Champasack,

Attapue and Bokeo provinces. As a result, the participants increased their knowledge on LIVES, screening and identifying VAWG, first-line support, clinical management, MHPSS, and referrals.



In addition, and as a result of feedback, these health professionals also received training on forensic examination of rape cases of GBV survivors as previously they had not received adequate training on this.

The Health and Social SOPs work in complementarity with each other and the other SOPs (justice sector, and coordination and referral pathways), are crucial to ensure that service providers handle VAW cases in a gender-responsive and survivor-centred manner.



## **UNDP**

### **Sub-output 3: Strengthened capacity of the justice sector for GBV response and prevention through the implementation of the NAPEVAW.**

UNDP contributed to the achievement of Sub-output 3 through three areas: (i) the development of the Justice Sector SOP for VAW prevention and response, (ii) establishing an evidence base for improving access to justice, and (iii) advocacy.

#### **Justice Sector SOP for VAW prevention and response:**

In 2021, UNDP finalised the capacity needs assessment (CNA) of the justice sector which assessed the preparedness of the justice sector to implement the NAPEVAW and deliver GBV services to survivors of violence. The CNA identified key priority areas for capacity development for each agency with recommendations. Importantly, the CNA informed the project's next steps: capacity development of the justice agencies for the development of Standard Operating Procedures for the justice sector to respond to and prevent violence against women. Traditionally, these agencies had not coordinated on GBV but over the course of the past year, through regular workshops and meetings, the four agencies better understood each other's roles and responsibilities and the need for coordination and collaboration. With the establishment of an EVAW Focal Team consisting of key justice officials from each agency, for the first time there was collaboration at a technical level to draft the SOP for the justice sector. This was a crucial first step for the SOP drafting process. After six drafting workshops over the course of the past year, the final draft Justice Sector SOP is ready for endorsement by the Vice-Ministers of the justice agencies scheduled in January 2023. Following the endorsement, the SOP will be launched and rolled out in 3 target pilot provinces.



The CNA Report Launching Event 10 March 2022



The Justice SOP drafting workshop 15-20 August 2022.

#### **Evidence bases for improving access to justice:**

One research study was commissioned to the Gender Development Association (GDA) to look into the barriers experienced by survivors of violence to access justice. While there was anecdotal evidence on the social, cultural, and systematic barriers for women to access justice, this study provided empirical evidence. A key finding from this research was that although the law prohibits any fees to be paid by women who have experienced violence, there still exist unofficial fees which deter women from seeking legal remedies. Another research study was commissioned to CARE International on male perceptions on violence against women, especially with regards to whether the legal framework and system acted as a deterring factor. It was found that

men had low levels of legal literacy but when informed of the punishments for violence against women, they responded saying that the punishments were too severe. It can be inferred from this finding that the law has the potential to act as a deterrent if it is better enforced. The results from both studies will inform the Justice Sector SOP to ensure that the experiences of survivors of violence as well as those of the community are reflected in the SOP.



GDA member interviewing women in Oudomxay province to collect data for the Examining Barriers to Justice for Survivors of Violence Against Women Report.



A group discussion in the community for the Male's perception on GBV report's data collection commissioned by CARE International Lao PDR.

### **Advocacy:**

Throughout the year, UNDP engaged with LWU on gender-responsive communication and theories of social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) to create the change needed to encourage reporting of violence and ensure access to justice for survivors of violence. Workshops on both approaches to communication (outreach and informational campaigns) were organized with LWU. On outreach, 15 master trainers (13 F) were selected to undergo training on innovative methods of communication to go beyond awareness raising to create real behaviour change. This work will continue in 2023 whereby these master trainers will be supported by UNDP to conduct cascading trainings throughout the LWU network.

On informational campaigns, a communication strategy was developed for LWU, and based on this strategy, LWU conducted GBV awareness raising during 16DOA campaign with support from UNDP. As a result, the LWU were able to see the impact of a targeted communication campaign to go beyond awareness raising to create real behaviour change. This experience was instrumental in getting commitment from LWU to move away from ad-hoc dissemination of information to planning for communication for results.





16 DOA Planning Workshop 10-11 August 2022



TOT Training Workshop 29 August – 2 September 2022

An international conference on prevention and response to violence against women in ASEAN was organized for South-South and triangular exchange by UNDP in collaboration with UNFPA. This event provided a platform for discussion among stakeholders on various models for VAW prevention and response. Eight countries shared good practices and lesson learned, and of those eight, two good practices were integrated into the Justice Sector SOP.

During the 16DOA, UNDP organized workshops on gender-based violence with organisations for persons with disabilities (OPDs), two police academies, and the People's Supreme Court. As a result, knowledge was raised on gender-based violence, the various forms of violence, negative social norms, impact of violence, as well as the important role of the OPDs, police, judges, and court officials in combatting and preventing violence against women. Awareness on the Khan Hom Project and UNDP's support for the implementation of the Justice SOP were increased.



International Conference on Prevention and Responding to VAW in ASEAN – 23 September 2022



Social Media Workshop for LWU participating in 16 DOA – 21 October 2022



## 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

<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>			
	<b><u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</b>	<b>Source of Verification</b>
<p><b>Indicator 1.1:</b> 5-year National Strategic Plan on EAW developed</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> N/A  <b>Planned Target:</b> Yes</p>	<b>Achieved</b> - developed with UNFPA technical support, finalised, endorsed, disseminated and being implemented.		Project report

<b>Indicator 1.2:</b> National Action Plan on EVAW integrated into sectors' plans at national and subnational levels <b>Baseline:</b> N/A <b>Planned Target:</b> Not yet	<b>Achieved</b> - with UNFPA support has been integrated into 18 provincial and 17 sectoral plans.		Project report
<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	<b>Achieved</b> - developed with UNFPA technical support, finalised, endorsed, disseminated and being implemented.		Project report
<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	<b>Achieved</b> - with UNFPA support has been integrated into 18 provincial and 17 sectoral plans.		Project report

<p><b>Indicator 1.5:</b></p> <p><b>Indicators of below outputs in the EVAW NAP:</b></p> <p><b>Output 1.1: Raise public awareness on GBV prevention</b> Baseline: N/A Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 70% of population are sensitised on GBV prevention and GBV prevention through awareness raising activities and outreach</li> </ul> <p><b>Output 3.4 Strengthening coordination, governance of coordination and referral pathway for GBV survivors as well as GBV monitoring and reporting</b> Baseline: NA Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordination mechanism for GBV established</li> <li>180 coordinators from health, social, and justice sectors in 6 selected provinces training on SOP coordination and referral pathway for GBV</li> </ul> <p><b>Indicators of below outputs in the GE NPA:</b></p> <p><b>Output 2.4: Women's economic empowerment</b> Baseline: NA Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 100 females from selected provinces trained in food and clothing businesses.</li> </ul> <p><b>Output: 2.7: Increase number of women in management and leadership position in each level from central to village levels</b> Baseline: N/A Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women's leadership training manual developed</li> <li>At least 200 government officials, LWU and relevant ministries staff at central, provincial and district levels as well as females in the selected provinces trained on women's leadership.</li> </ul>	<p>As of December 2022, over 53% (4,009,9100 population out of 7,500,000 population) of population are sensitized on GBV prevention through awareness raising campaign during 16 days of Activism Against GBV, lead by UNFPA and mobilising 77 partners</p> <p>Coordination mechanism for GBV established, decree to revise NCAWMC's mandate with MOHA for consideration.</p> <p>As of December 2022, 15 females trained in food and clothing businesses (cooking and tailoring vocational training).</p>		
---	---	--	--

<b>Output 3.2: Implementing obligations under regional and international treaties, CEDAW, ICPD, SDGs and Beijing Platform for Actions.</b> Baseline: NA Target: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 10th periodic CEDAW report of Lao PDR approved by the Lao government and submitted to the CEDAW Committee in Geneva</li> </ul>	The 10th periodic CEDAW report of Lao PDR approved by the Lao government and in the process of submitting to the CEDAW Committee in Geneva.		
<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	<b>Two (2)</b> - Supported LWU to host the regional exchange through ASEAN Sectoral Body's Session of the 25th ACWC Meeting, and participated and organised speakers for the regional meeting to share SOPs for GBV response development process.  International exchange in process of planning.		Project report

<b>Sub-Output 2. The Implementation guideline &amp; M&amp;E Plan of the 5-year National Strategic Plan on EVAW (2021–2025) developed</b>			
	<b><u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</b>	<b>Source of Verification</b>
<b>Indicator 2.1:</b> Practical implementation guideline and M&E Plan developed <b>Baseline:</b> N/A <b>Planned Target:</b> Yes	Not yet - M&E TORs in process of development and negotiation with NCAWMC		Project report
<b>Indicator 2.2:</b> Monitoring and reporting system set up <b>Baseline:</b> N/A <b>Planned Target:</b> 1	Not yet- M&E TORs in process of development.		Project report

<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>NPA Output 2.1: Provision of essential health services for survivors of violence</b>  Baseline: N/A  Target:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of health professionals trained on provision of health services</li> <li>• Number of survivors received essential health services</li> </ul> </p> <p><b>NPA Output 2.3: Provision of social services for survivors of violence</b>  Baseline: N/A  Target:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of social service providers trained on provision of health services</li> <li>• Number of survivors received essential social services</li> </ul> </p>	<p>Achieved:</p> <p>Health and Social SOPs <b>finalised and endorsed</b>, implementation and roll out commenced</p> <p>53 health professions from central and target provinces trained on provision of health services. In addition 76 health professionals were sensitised on using health SOP for provision of health services for GBV survivors.</p> <p>67 social service providers from central and target provinces trained on provision of social services. In addition 120 social service providers were sensitised on using social SOP for provision of social service for GBV survivors.</p>		Project report
<p><b>Indicator 2.4:</b> Annual monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of national Action plans on Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children conducted  <b>Baseline:</b> N/A  <b>Planned Target:</b> Yes</p>	<p>Planning has commenced in Q3-4 in 2023</p>		

Sub-Output 3: Strengthened capacity of the justice sector for GBV response and prevention through implementation of the NAPEVAW			
	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification

<p><b>Indicator 3.1:</b> Development of a capacity needs assessment report</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b> 1</p>	<p><b>Achieved</b> – 1 CNA report was endorsed, launched, and published</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Project report</li> <li>● <a href="#">Link to CNA report</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 3.2:</b></p> <p>(i) Increase in understanding on gender equality and VAW by justice sector trainees</p> <p>(ii) Number of multistakeholder consultation workshops</p> <p>(iii) SOP approved</p> <p>(iv) Score of assessment reports conducted by UNDP and justice sector task force on SOP implementation in 3 pilot provinces</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b></p> <p>(i) 56% (pre-test result)</p> <p>(ii) 0</p> <p>(iii) 0</p> <p>(iv) 0</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b></p> <p>(i) 30%</p> <p>(ii) 3</p> <p>(iii) 1</p> <p>(iv) Criteria for scoring TBC</p>	<p>(i) There was a <b>23%</b> increase in understanding on gender equality and VAW by justice sector trainees from 56% to 89%.</p> <p>(ii) <b>5</b> multistakeholder consultation workshops on the SOP were conducted.</p>	<p>(i) Although 7 percentage points less than the 30% target, the training yielded other results such as a consensus among the four justice agencies on the need for coordination, commitment by the four agencies for the elimination of VAW, and the establishment of the core team for drafting the SOP.</p> <p>(iii) SOP is scheduled to be endorsed in Q1 2023.</p> <p>(iv) SOP implementation is scheduled for 2023 and 2024.</p>	<p>(i) Activity report</p> <p>(ii) Project report</p>



<p><b>Indicator 3.3:</b></p> <p>(i) Number of women participating in research on barriers</p> <p>(ii) Number of men sharing perceptions on GBV</p> <p>(iii) Number of survivors engaged on research on the meaning of justice</p> <p>(iv) Number of men engaged in research on the experiences of abusers</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b></p> <p>(i) 0</p> <p>(ii) 0</p> <p>(iii) 0</p> <p>(iv) 0</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b></p> <p>(i) 150</p> <p>(ii) 150</p> <p>(iii) 10</p> <p>(iv) 10</p>	<p>(i) <b>259</b> women participated in the research</p> <p>(ii) <b>236</b> men participated in the research</p>	<p>(iii) The research on the meaning of justice will be conducted in 2023.</p> <p>(iv) The research on the experience of abusers will be conducted in 2023/4.</p>	<p>(i) Research report</p> <p>(ii) Research report</p>
<p><b>Indicator 3.4:</b></p> <p>(i) Number of discussions through a platform for policy dialogue on gender &amp; VAW</p> <p>(ii) Number of participants disaggregated by gender</p> <p>(iii) Number of international best practices shared</p> <p>(iv) Number of international best practices integrated into the justice response</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b></p> <p>(i) 0</p> <p>(ii) 0</p> <p>(iii) 0</p> <p>(iv) 0</p> <p><b>Planned Target:</b></p> <p>(i) 1/year</p> <p>(ii) 150</p> <p>(iii) 3</p> <p>(iv) 3</p>	<p>(i) <b>1</b> international conference was organized on VAW Prevention and Response in ASEAN</p> <p>(ii) <b>181</b> people participated in the international conference</p> <p>(iii) <b>8</b> international best practices were shared</p> <p>(iv) <b>2</b> best practices were integrated into the justice response.</p>	<p>(iv) Although just 2 best practices were integrated at this point, during the piloting of the SOP and through an exchange with ROK planned in 2023, there will be further opportunities to improve the SOP in the project lifetime.</p>	<p>(i) Activity report</p> <p>(ii) Activity report</p> <p>(iii) Activity report</p> <p>(iv) Project report</p>

<b>Indicator 3.5:</b> (i) Outreach strategy delivered (ii) Number of people engaged through new community outreach practice (iii) Percentage of change in people's understanding of GBV <b>(i) Baseline:</b> (i) 0 (ii) 0 (iii) TBD (2022), TBD (2023) <b>Planned Target:</b> (i) 1 (ii) 50 (iii) 20% (2023), 20% (2024)	(i) 1 communication strategy was delivered (ii) 43 people (36 F) were engaged through new outreach practice	(iii) Baseline understanding of people on GBV will be determined in Q1 2023.	(i) Communication strategy (ii) Quarterly report (iii) N/A
---	--	--	--

### 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).

Prior to the SOP, the categories of violence for GBV data collection have been unclear, not standardised, and do not align with international standards, meaning tracking data or trends has been very challenging.

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

UNFPA worked very closely with all relevant GBV service providers across the sectors to develop a standardised and harmonised data collection form and minimum data set that aligns international standards (GBVIMS+/Primero) with Lao law. The data collection forms for each sector is unique to the sector (eg. social sector includes case management, health sector includes forensic examination), however all categories of violence are harmonised and comparative. All sectors will report to NCAWMC, the lead of GBV coordination mechanism, and trends will be analysed for programming and budgeting in the future.

**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?

So far, the essential services providers that attended the TOT in Vientiane, as well as the roll out in Bolikamxay, have been trained on this new data collection form. As the concepts are new and comprehension took time, UNFPA adjusted the time allocated for training on the data collection form, and also incorporated several case studies for the participants to practice data collection that was not initially included. Once practiced, participants reported understanding categorisations of GBV/VAW far clearer than they ever had previously, and were prepared to begin collecting data for reporting.

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

The importance of negotiating with the government to ensure data collection meets both international standards, as well as allowing them to meet domestic reporting obligations under their existing legal framework. If these consultations are not highly collaborative, the service providers will not use the data collection form. We also learned that data collection is not a well-entrenched practice in Laos generally, and requires significant time and practice for participants to understand.

#### UNDP

**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).

The UNDP activity on community outreach on COVID-19 conducted in 2022 revealed the reluctance of members of the community to discuss sensitive topics such as gender-based violence, especially with

government officials. When asked about gender-based violence in their communities, most members would reply saying that it does not exist in their community or that it only occurs in extreme cases. This self-censorship is due to various social, cultural, and traditional factors, but also encouraged by the top-down communication methods employed by the LWU on information dissemination on gender-based violence.

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

UNDP's programming focusing on improving the justice response to gender-based violence and preventing violence from occurring in the first place would be rendered useless if discussion on gender-based violence remains at a superficial level. Therefore, in parallel with improving the justice response, UNDP took lessons learned from the abovementioned project and added capacity development activities related to communication for social and behaviour change with the LWU to facilitate two-way communication as well as allow the creation of a safe space to discuss the topic of gender-based violence.

**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?

As a result of the interventions, the LWU were introduced to innovative methods of communication. For example, using the Storytelling method, community members were more at ease and willing to discuss the topic of gender-based violence as they were not directly asked about personal experiences. Having perceived firsthand the difference in the level of engagement of community members, the LWU were eager to roll-out these methods nationwide and further capacity development on outreach techniques.

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

There was a tendency of the LWU officials to be conservative when it comes to communications. With consistent support being provided over the past year to LWU on communication for social and behaviour change, the openness of LWU officials to try new ways of working has visibly increased. Support in this area should continue in the following year to ensure that the momentum is maintained.

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

The mid-term evaluation for the project will take place in Q2 2023.

### IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

UNDP realigned its component with partner activities to be guided by the Essential Services Package and focus on the justice sector's efforts to prevent and respond to GBV. UNFPA and UNDP made revisions to the Project Document which were approved by the Project Board on 1 December 2023. The revised Project Document can be found in the Annex.