



Joint Programme on Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women for Mainstreaming Gender into the National Development Agenda in Lao PDR
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2023

<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Joint Programme on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women for Mainstreaming Gender into the National Development Agenda in Lao PDR Programme Number (if applicable): 00130773 MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 00124568 	<p style="text-align: center;">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p><i>Country/Region</i> Lao PDR</p> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 																				
<p style="text-align: center;">Participating Organization(s)</p> <p>Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP UNFPA 	<p style="text-align: center;">Implementing Partners</p> <p>National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lao Women’s Union (LWU) National Commission on the Advancement of Women and Children (NCAWMC) 																				
<p style="text-align: center;">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <table> <tr> <td>Total approved budget as per project document:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,673,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MPTF /JP Contribution⁴:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">UNDP: 1,573,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td> • by Agency (if applicable)</td> <td style="text-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>TOTAL:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,673,000</td> </tr> </table>	Total approved budget as per project document:	2,673,000	MPTF /JP Contribution ⁴ :	UNDP: 1,573,000	• by Agency (if applicable)	UNFPA: 1,100,000	Agency Contribution		• by Agency (if applicable)		TOTAL:	2,673,000	<p style="text-align: center;">Programme Duration</p> <table> <tr> <td>Overall Duration (months)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">48 months</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Start Date⁵</td> <td style="text-align: right;">16.12.2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Original End Date⁶ (dd.mm.yyyy)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30.09.2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current End date⁷(dd.mm.yyyy)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30.09.2024</td> </tr> </table>	Overall Duration (months)	48 months	Start Date ⁵	16.12.2020	Original End Date ⁶ (dd.mm.yyyy)	30.09.2024	Current End date ⁷ (dd.mm.yyyy)	30.09.2024
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¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

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

³ 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](#)

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

⁵ 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](#)

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

⁷ 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: 17th May-31st July 2023

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 Organization
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 (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 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: Summary

- **5,506,297 million people reached** through in-person events, e-posters, social media, TV programs, newspaper articles and radio spots.
- **The 10th periodic CEDAW report of Lao PDR** was submitted to the CEDAW Committee in Geneva on 2 March 2023, and officially launched in November under the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV 2023 (16 DOA).
- UNFPA, KOICA and UNDP under Khan Hom Project held the **Opening Ceremony of the 16DoA, lighting up Patouxay** and featuring a [video message from the Prime Minister](#) with 10 measures outlining how to prevent violence. UNFPA led the joint advocacy campaign for 16 DOA 2023, **mobilising 55 partners** (including KOICA, PMC, and UNDP) from government, development partners, civil society and private sector.
- **Two international exchange study visits** were organized to Mongolia and South Korea, strengthening the capacities of 16 delegates from LWU, Ministry of Health and UNFPA. The Government of Laos learned valuable lessons and good practices on the functioning of One-Stop Service Centres that are operated or supported by the Government of Mongolia and Korea.
- Supporting the Government of Laos to **implement the National Action Plans** on Ending Violence

Against Women and Gender Equality through strengthening mass media to combat VAWG, gender-transformative approaches with men and boys, and advocacy.

- Significant **gender transformation** in communities resulting from **roll out of the Male Engagement Manual to Advance Gender Equality, Prevent GBV and Promote SRH** in 6 communities in Bolikamxay and Attapeu, with knowledge, awareness and attitudes towards gender equality, GBV, early marriage and SRH on average increasing from 47% to 85.5%.
- Strengthened institutional capacity to respond to violence by **equipping 561 government staff to better respond to violence cases** through the roll out of the **Standard Operating Procedures** (Health, Social and Coordination) in central and target provinces.
- **559 survivors of violence or at risk received essential social services** by provincial counseling and protection centers and/or psychosocial support via phone of the provincial counseling and protection centers

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 National Plans of Action

To support the Government of Laos to implement national policy frameworks, in particular the EVAW NPA and the Gender Equality NPA, priority actions of the NPAs were identified by the Government of Laos and UNFPA to prioritize support, as follows:

- a) Working with men and boys to transform social norms.
- b) Women's 3 Goods handbook to sensitize community on GBV prevention and SRH promotion.
- c) Supporting the 10th National Periodic CEDAW launch.
- d) Vocational training for GBV survivors
- e) Conduct outreach to raise awareness on GBV, gender equality and sexual reproductive health
- f) Advocacy, events, and campaigns.

a) Working with men and boys to transform social norms

A priority action under the EVAW NAP is to work with men and boys to change community attitudes towards gender equality, gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health. To implement this priority action, in 2020 UNFPA developed a Male Engagement Manual and mobilized male village elders to become change agents in their communities and roll out the Manual.



Male village elder rolls out the Male Engagement Manual in his community after receiving training from LWU.

Under Khan Hom, TOT training on this Manual was conducted in Bolikamxay Province in Bolikhamxay Province in Q1 2023 (26 participants), Attapeu Province in Q2 2023 (26 participants), and in Champasak Province in Q4 2023 (25 participants), targeting 3 villages from each province. These “Master Trainers” are made up of male Village Chiefs, and male village elders, as well as District LWU to support roll-out in villages. The results for each province demonstrate a **significant increase in understanding of gender dynamics, GBV, SRH, and early marriage**, increasing from:

- 20% before training to 65% after training in Bolikamxay
- 52% before training to 85% after training in Attapeu
- 53% before training to 67% after training in Champasak



Men in the community work together to unpack what the expectations of masculinity are in their village.

In each province, the trainers confirmed they would be able to apply the lessons from the training in their community. In Bolikamxay and Attapeu, the male change agents then rolled out the Manual in their respective villages (Ban Anusonxay, Ban Phoxi and Ban Thongnoi in Bolikamxay, Samakhy Village Thahein Village and

Seyai Village in Attapeu), with a total of 221 community members attending the training in Bolimaxay (156 men and 65 women) and 240 in Attapeu (120 men, 120 women). The objective was to transform gender norms in each community, so women are treated equally in the family and within community structures, improve access and uptake of GBV and SRH services, ensure protection of rights and reduced violence against women and children, and promote peace, unity and order within the family unit and society more broadly. The pre/post-test reveal **significant gender-transformative results** in the 6 communities, with knowledge, awareness and attitudes towards gender equality, GBV and SRH **increasing from 35% to 90%** in Bolikamxay and increasing from 59% to 81% in Attapeu.



Men in a target village complete a post-test to evaluate their change in knowledge, attitudes and perceptions on gender roles.

b) Implementing Women's 3 Goods handbook to sensitize communities on GBV prevention and SRH promotion

In 2020, UNFPA integrated content on GBV, early marriage, school dropout, gender equality, family planning and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) into the *Women's 3 Goods Handbook* of LWU, and supported them to implement in target provinces, in support of implementation of the National Action Plan on EAW. This intervention boasts a significant reach to remote communities, especially diverse ethnic communities living in hard-to-reach locations.

Under the Khan Hom project this year, LWU Central conducted Training of Trainers with 70 women from Provincial LWU, Provincial Health Department, District LWY, District Health Officer and District Agriculture Office from Xiengkuang Province in Q2 and Salavan in Q2. The Government officials increased their knowledge of the consequences of early marriage, gender, GBV, family planning and SHR, among others.

After the training, Government Officials traveled to 56 villages in 7 districts in Xiengkuang and 64 villages in



Akha women and men attend a 'Women's 3 Goods' sensitization session in their village to learn about sex, gender, early marriage, family planning, school dropout, etc.

8 districts in Salavan to disseminate the knowledge gained. Across the 2 provinces, 6,687 community members (4162 women, 2525 men) were sensitized on the consequences of early marriage, gender, GBV, family planning and SHR.



c) Supporting the 10th National Periodic CEDAW launch

Under Khan Hom Project, the 10th Periodic Report of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was submitted to the CEDAW Committee in Geneva on 2 March 2023, and officially launched in Lao PDR on 27 November 2023 under the auspices of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV. High-level representatives from relevant line ministries and Development Partners attended, with

a total of 52 participants (35 women and 17 men) celebrating this significant milestone.



"The implementation of the CEDAW Convention has been included in the implementation of the National Socio-Economic Development Plan in accordance with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to lead the nation away from being an underdeveloped country which encourages women to have access to information, access to laws, and recognition of their rights, empower and capacity development, basic vocational training to generate income, improve the standard of living and wellbeing of family life."

- Mr. Thongphane Savanhphet, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vice Chairman of the NCAWMC

Under the EVAW NAP, NCAWMC is required to coordinate with all relevant sectors to conduct monitoring, evaluation, reporting and implementation of the CEDAW. The 10th CEDAW Report recognizes the positive impacts and progress the Government's law reforms and policies have made on advancing women's rights, including mainstreaming CEDAW principles in many policy frameworks such as the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan and the RMNCAH Strategy, as well as enshrining CEDAW in targeted laws and policy such as the National Plan of Action on Gender Equality. It also tracks progress of Lao PDR to afford rights to women and girls in all their diversity, address discriminatory stereotypes and gender roles, combat gender-based violence and human trafficking, and promote women's participation in political and public life as well as equal access to education, healthcare, employment, social and economic benefits, and family life of women and girls.



Mr Thongphane Savanhphet, Dr Bakhtiyor Kadyrov and other officials gather at the CEDAW meeting in Vientiane.

Govt makes progress on support for women's rights: report

Times Reporters

The government published the 10th Periodic Report as part of compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on November 27.

The compilation of the report was led by the National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children, with technical support from UNFPA and financial support from the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

and family life.

Speaking at the launch, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Vice Chairman of the National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children, Mr Thongphane Savanhphet, said "The government has paid attention and importance to the protection and promotion of human rights by becoming a party to seven international conventions related to human rights."

"Implementation of the CEDAW Convention has been included in government's National Socio-Economic Development

Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children and the government to prepare the 10th periodic CEDAW report. CEDAW, ICPD and many of the Sustainable Development Goals, in their essence, are aimed at promoting the duty and responsibility of countries to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It is through this reporting process that we can chart a course towards comprehensive and lasting change," he said.

The List of Issues has recently been published by

The Launch was featured on the Vientiane Times, see featured image and [full report](#), as well as [KPL press release](#).

d) Vocational training for GBV survivors

A Priority Action under the ERAW NAP is to "*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.*" Vocational training plays a crucial role in the rehabilitation and holistic recovery of survivors of violence. It encourages economic resilience, rebuilds self-esteem and self-efficacy, and can be a sustainable solution to break the cycle of violence.

Khan Hom Project grounds the vocational training in the Lao cultural context, ensuring it is relevant and applicable to the specific needs of the survivors in particular communities. This increases the effectiveness of the training by ensuring that the skills taught are practical and useful within the local context, leading to greater success in securing employment or starting businesses.

Vocational training on how to grow angel mushrooms for 20 survivors of violence was conducted from 25-31 November 2023 in Bokeo province, where survivors learned how to grow and cultivate angel mushrooms that are easily cultivated in the terrain of Bokeo.



Angel mushrooms cultivated as part of the vocational training with survivors of violence in Bokeo.

In Attapeu province, after the opening of a new protection shelter, vocational training centered around learning to make Mak Bueng and silver trees for 5 days in October and 10 days in November 2023 for 12 survivors. LWU observed that survivors were interested in both types of vocational training and paid close attention to learn these skills and actively increase their knowledge, so that they can make them professionally in the future to generate income whilst maintaining the traditions of Laos.



In Savannakhet province, 7 female survivors (4 from Kaisomphon district and 3 from Pong District) received tailoring training in December 2023, learning fundamental knowledge and skills on how to use sewing machines to sew clothes, to design, measure, and cut. The practical component involved practicing cutting, how to iron the glue, joining the head pieces, joining the head, body and bottom parts of the Lao skirts.



e) Conduct outreach to raise awareness on GBV, gender equality and sexual reproductive health

The adaptivity of Khan Hom Project to respond to flash floods in August 2023 demonstrates the agility of this Project to respond to evolving needs of flood-affected communities resulting from humanitarian crises. Planned outreach to Bolikamxay province was modified to focus on flood-affected villages, in conjunction with the distribution of Dignity Kits for women and girls of reproductive age procured through Emergency Fund mobilization, demonstrating the agility of this Project to respond to the unique needs of women and girls during an emergency context. Outreach, Dignity Kit distribution and mobile counseling was provided to 503 community members (373 women) in 10 villages in October 2023 (Kham Kerd District (Kuan Chan Village, Phon Tan Village, Pong Patao Village, Pha Kha Village, Na Pha Wan Village) and Viengthong District (Na Vang Kai Village, Na Xuang Myra Village) , Tha Phae Village, Nam Kang Village, Nadi Village). Community members learned and understood about the increased risks of violence, exploitation and human trafficking during humanitarian crises, sensitizing women and girls to their rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights and legal protections, as well as support services available including the newly established protection shelter. Men and boys in the communities were also sensitized to laws on GBV and early marriage, and the consequences of violence and legal repercussions.



Outreach to villages affected by floods in Bolikamxay, along with IEC material on support services available for GBV response in Bolikamxay and distribution of dignity kits

f) Advocacy, events, and campaigns

Organized International Women's Day event

For International Women's Day, UNFPA with the generous support of KOICA supported LWU to host the Third Family Health Walk ceremony, to promote women's access to safe public places. It was held on the morning of March 8, 2023 at That Luang in Vientiane, with opening remarks from H.E Dr. Inlavanh Keobounphan, President of LWU, Mariam A.Khan, Representative of UNFPA, and more than 400 participants made up of ministers, vice ministers, vice presidents of organizations at the central level, ambassadors, international organizations, NGOs, the Women's Union of ministries and community members.



In addition, the Family Healthy Walk also aimed to promote women and girls to access safe public places. There were many sports activities, including Lao traditional sports. The event also exhibited the work and products of public and private sectors, and development partners to promote women's rights and prevent violence against women and girls.

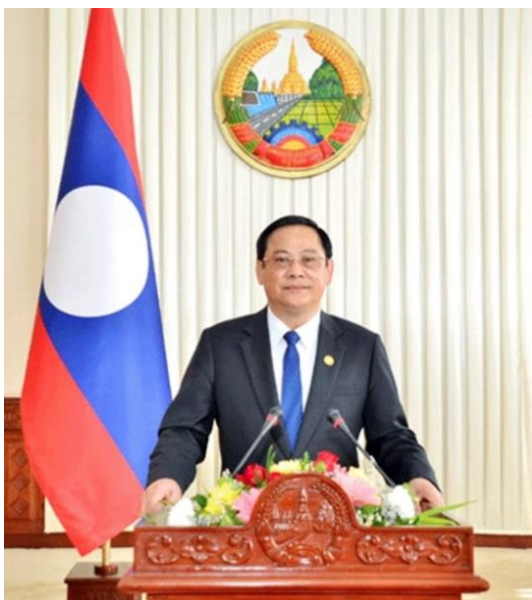


See press release [here](#).

Organized 16 Days of Activism Against GBV



The annual 16 Days of Activism Against GBV campaign was kicked off by UNFPA, KOICA, UNRCO, UNDP, the Lao Women’s Union, senior government officials, donors, and development partners. The Event was attended by H.E. Aly Vongnorbountham, the President of the Lao Women’s Union, Ms. Myungjin KIM, Country Director of KOICA Office in Lao PDR, Dr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, the UN Resident Coordinator, Dr. Bakhtiyor Kadirov, Resident Representative of UNFPA, Mr. Jakob Schemel, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP, and distinguished guests from line Ministries and International Organizations as to strongly express a joint commitment participating in this campaign and sent a clear message that violence against women is not tolerated. During the event, to join the *Orange the World* campaign, Patuxay, and UN House were colored in orange as a signifying to raise awareness of GBV and widely invite the public to engage in the 16 DOA campaign. The 16-day campaign was set in motion and reinforced by a strategic statement from the Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Sonexay Siphandone, as reflected in the government media outlets.



“The time has come for us to invest more in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls.”

- H.E. Mr. Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Lao PDR

You can read a summary wrap up report and media releases of the 16 Days of Activism here:

[Wrap Up 16 Days of Activism Campaign in Lao PDR 2023 | UNFPA Laos](#)

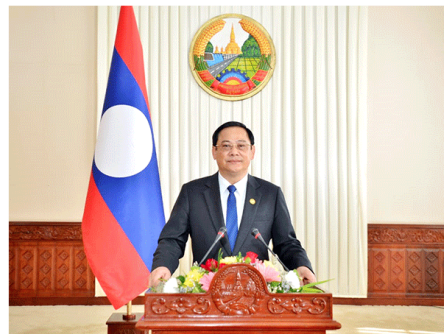
At the launch, the President of Lao Women’s Union, Mme. Aly Vongnorbountham called upon all government sectors, development partners, and stakeholders to jointly invest in the prevention and response to violence against women and girls. Dr. Bakhtiyor Kadyrov, UNFPA Representative said “Each one of us, in our own capacities, has the power to effect change. Government sectors, donors and development partners, civil society constituents, and the private sector have unique and specific roles to invest in ending violence against women and girls.”

See the Press Release [here](#).



PM voices support for ending violence against women

Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone has delivered a speech to mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25, which this year takes the theme "Unite! Invest to Prevent and Respond to Violence against Women and Girls". People in Laos and many other countries mark this day, when governments reaffirm their commitment to preventing and responding to violence against women and girls. Around the world, women are experiencing increasing violence, in various environments.



Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone.

The physical and mental abuse of women has both economic and social consequences, for individuals, families and communities, as well as hindering the achievement of sustainable development goals. The PM Sonexay said eradication of violence can be successful only through the prevention of the use of violence, especially the coordination of many parties, the commitment of leadership in promoting such work, the implementation of laws and policies that promote gender equality, investing in women’s organisations, allocating resources to prevent and respond to discrimination in many forms that women are facing every day; empowering women and girls in all areas of society, ensuring services to help survivors of violence; create a safe environment for women and girls, reduce poverty by starting with women’s economic empowerment or the family economy. All over the world, women have experienced increasing violence in various environments, including in the workplace and remotely via the internet. The use of violence against women also has extensive socio-economic consequences for individuals, families, communities and society, as well as hindering the achievement of sustainable development goals.



During the 16 DOA the Media Department of LWU created IEC materials to post on their social media channel (such as E-Posters) from central, provincial and district level to raise awareness on violence against women. The IEC materials were posted on LWU’s Facebook (Voice + Facebook) 20 times, shared 55 times, clicked 564 times, reached 7,924 people and aired on the radio which was broadcasted on 9:30-10:00 every Tuesday and Thursday 6 times, expected to have a total audience of 867,480 people (15% of the total population). Patuxay monument, and many buildings around the city lit up in orange, such as UN House and EU Building. KOICA’s support for this important advocacy campaign supported a high-level event with Laos’ major national monument symbolizing ending Violence Against Women and girls, supported the dissemination of the Prime Minister’s message as well as messages at community level, resulting in community mobilization domestically as well as the ASEAN, regional and international communities recognizing that the Lao PDR, especially the senior leadership, has given importance and attention to the prevention and combating of violence against women and girls.



Example of a LWU E-Poster disseminated widely during 16 Days of Activism under Khan Hom Project.

To celebrate the end of the 16 DOA, on 1st December 2023, UNDP, UNFPA and the Germany Embassy to Lao PDR hosted the closing ceremony of the 16 DOA in 2023, to highlight the great success and achievement on the active contribution in the activism campaign of all sectors including the key government organizations, NGOs, INGOs, Embassies and UN sister agencies. A number of Dignitaries and representatives from development partners and government sectors joined the ceremony to recommit ending GBV in Lao PDR and to boost the momentum to further strengthen joint efforts.



16 DOA Closing Ceremony on 11 December 2023, German Embassy Vientiane

Activity 1.6 Organize an international exchange

Mongolia

A study tour to Mongolia was organized from 19-23 June 2023, with 7 participants from LWU and Sub-CAW of the Ministry of Health. The visit strengthened the capacity of responsible government actors on GBV and standards for the provision of quality social welfare and health services, that is survivor centered. The Delegation was led by Mme. Inlavanh Keobounphanh, the former president of LWU, and valuable lessons were exchanged with Mongolian government ministries during a 5-day mission funded under the "Khan Hom" KOICA project, including the police, Ministry of Social Protection, District hospitals and Mongolia's National Committee on Gender Equality. The Lao Delegation learned valuable lessons on establishing and operationalizing One-Stop Service Centers (OSSC) for survivors of violence, and sensitizing key government stakeholders to digitalized GBV administrative data systems—yet to be established in Lao PDR.



Site visits to observe OSSCs in different settings, including under police and social sectors, as well as in hospitals in capital city Ulaanbaatar and provincial city Darkhan, provided critical lessons to the Lao Government on safety, security, innovative vocational training initiatives and ensuring survivor-centered response services. OSSCs aim to provide integrated comprehensive support for GBV, conduct awareness-raising activities to prevent violence through behavior change, and strengthen multisectoral coordination so that there is no "wrong door" for a survivor to knock on. The establishment of OSSCs aligns with the Lao 2nd National Plan of Action on Preventing and Elimination of Violence Against Women (2021-2025) (NPAVAW).

The outcome of the study visit was several agreed upon action points to implement in Laos, including: development of paper-based and digital databases for GBV case management to begin with LWU and then expand to other GBV response sectors; as far as possible apply the OSSC model for GBV through investing human resources into the OSSCs to ensure operationalization; improving the rooms of all OSSCs protection shelter for more homely/inviting feeling; establishment of OSSC at the Mohosot hospital and staffing one

permanent staff, with other doctors on call from different department/units (or hospitals if necessary) (consider outpatient caller codes for different injuries, red=SV, green = DV, blue = child abuse), specialized psychologist or psychiatrist, social worker, other specialized doctors (eg. operating physician, women’s physician, STD physician).

After the study tour, UNFPA and partners secured the following press release: [Lao officials visit Mongolia to exchange Good Practices on Gender-Based Violence Survivor Protection Mechanisms](#). A similar press release was also published in Mongolia.

Republic of Korea

A joint study tour with UNFPA and UNDP was held from 22-27 Oct 2023 in South Korea, with 23 delegates from LWU, NCAWMC, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Security, Office of People’s Supreme Court, Office of People’s Prosecution, and representatives from UNFPA and UNDP. For UNFPA, The study visit contributed to the improvement of social and health sector response to GBV and strengthening GBV coordination. The team visited Women’s organizations and One-Stop Service Center, and Vocational Training Center that provide protection and essential health, social and legal services and support for survivors of violence, One-Stop Service Center, Women’s hotline center, and two vocational Training Centers and National Forensic Center.



At the OSSC (Sunflower), the Delegation was sensitized to the integrated service model approach, including psychological support team to provide psychological assessment, individual and group psychological support, parent, education, sexual violence prevention; medical support team to provide immediate health care support and treatment 24 hours, conducting forensic evidence collection, medical treatment and education of medication, etc.; and investigation and legal support team to conduct consultation with police, collecting evidence, request of DNA identification on emergency kit, counselling on investigation; the state also appointed lawyer or pro bono for legal services and female police are based in the center as well to provide legal advice for survivors.

The government representatives of UNFPA gained insightful knowledge from this study tour and set out a plan to improve the operation and management of OSSC/OSSU at Mahosot hospital and LWU Provincial Counseling and Protection Center for Women and Children; improve hotline counselling services and vocational training for GBV survivors as well as strengthening GBV coordination and referral pathway in their respective hospital and provinces. The Lao delegates also want to advocate both government and development partner to establish

a forensic center/room for collecting and analyzing forensic samples of GBV survivors as the forensic evidence is important for legal processes.

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

Activity 2.1: Support NCAWMC to develop EAW and GE M&E framework.

UNFPA hired an international expert 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 the EAW and GE NPAs M&E framework. This M&E framework is designed to track implementation and indicators of the 2nd *National Action Plan on Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women and Violence against Children* (2021-2025) (PEAW NAP) and the 4th *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. You can see the now expired advertisement [here](#).

The international expert consultant has drafted the M&E framework, submitted to UNFPA and NCAWMC to provide feedback. Two consultation meetings were held to discuss with the concerned government line ministries. The first consultation meeting was from 13-14 November 2023, at the Landmark Hotel, Vientiane, including 42 participants (33 women, 9 men) from relevant line ministries such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Information, Communication and Tourism etc. NCAWMC is still compiling inputs and data from the line ministries, however it is noted that some line ministries still do not fully understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to the monitoring and evaluation of the two National Action Plans.

The 2nd consultation meeting was held from 26-27 December 2023, at the Don Chan Pralet Hotel, Vientiane, with a total of 40 participants (29 women, 11 men). The draft M&E Framework as a result has been updated with more complete and usable information, those who participated provided statistics and summary reports on the implementation of the national action plans. The M&E Framework will be completed in 2024.

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

Building on the lessons learned from the Mongolia and South Korea study visits, UNFPA has drafted a ToR to hire two international expert consultants. One consultant is to develop the GBV administrative paper-based data collection system based on the existing SOPs (see Activity 2.3 below), and another to develop digitized GBV administrative data dashboard.

One consultant will build upon existing tools in the Social and Health SOPs and for hotline data collection to develop a comprehensive paper-based system to collect incident data, manage individual cases and services (case management) for survivors, as well as aggregate incident monitoring, whilst also facilitating internal compilation within LWU.

The second consultant (or team member) will first conduct an assessment to explore capacities for developing, maintaining and using an IMS online platform including the technical capacity, IT infrastructure, maintenance, training, data linkage etc. They will then develop the digitalized software system to collect incident data, manage individual cases and services (case management) for survivors, as well as aggregate incident monitoring. In addition, the consultants will develop a training material manual and build capacity of the national counterparts on the GBV Administrative paper-based and software Data System, in collaboration with relevant national counterparts, LWU, NCAWMC and Sub-CAW of the Ministry of Health.

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 harmonized and standardized across the sectors, NCAWMC as lead of the national coordination body can annually/biannually collect standardized data across the sectors for reporting purposes and analyzing trends. In provinces where the SOPs have been rolled out, GBV services providers have been trained on this data

ເອກະສານສັດຕິດທີ 2

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ແບບຟອມການຮັບ ແລະ ປະເມີນ

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De-identified example of Page 1 of the Intake and Assessment form used by Lao Women’s Union, included in the Social SOP

collection as an important foundation.

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.

Training on Standard Operating Procedures

Training on the Standard Operating Procedures for Coordination, Governance of Coordination and Referral Pathways for Women and Girls Subject to Violence in Lao PDR was conducted on 5th-7th May 2023 and 27th-29th June 2023 in Savannakhet Province for the district GBV coordination committees of Thaphangthong, Xonnabouly, Xayphouthong Xaybouly, Atsaphone districts, with a total of 36 participants (21 women and 15 men), and in Nong, Vilabouly, Phin, Phalanxay and Atsaphanthong districts from 27th-29th June, 2023, with a total of 35 participants (12 women and 23 men).

The participants knowledge and understanding of foundational principles of GBV, coordination mechanisms and how to refer survivors, referral pathways, service delivery and data collection/reporting using new data collection forms increased significantly from 45% before the training to 88% after the training (training in May) and from 48% compared to 90% after the training (training in June). After the trainings participants from across the different line ministries agreed on the approach to assist victims/survivors of violence and ensure victims are assisted.

Further, a total of 343 health professionals from central and target provinces trained on provision of health services through roll out of the Health SOP, and 147 social service providers from central and target provinces trained on provision of social services through roll out of the Social SOP.

Provision of essential services for survivors

The Khan Hom Project supported the Government of Laos to provide essential services to GBV survivors in Attapeu province after the operationalization of the new protection shelter (OSSC model) from September to December 2023, to ensure that service delivery complies with the international standards captured in the Social SOP. LWU staff at the Attapeu Provincial Counseling and Protection of Women and Children provided safe shelter, mental health counseling, legal counseling, vocational training, social and family reintegration support to 85 survivors of violence (74 females, 11 males).



A survivor and her baby after attending a case management meeting with provincial LWU and Ministry of Public Security.

The Project also supported LWU staff based in the new Attapeu shelter and a newly established hotline to provide psychosocial support and counseling via hotline and Whatsapp 1,498 times to 470 people (268 women, 202 men). Most of the clients contacted Attapeu shelter through the newly established hotline to seek counseling on domestic partner violence, child abuse, sex and pregnancy, emotional violence, health and decision-making in the family.

After establishment and operationalization of the Bolikhamxay Provincial Counseling and Protection of Women and Children in December 2023, LWU under Khan Hom Project has provided essential services to 4 survivors. They were immediately provided with temporary shelter and some necessary supplies. LWU coordinated with other sectors, facilitating the Provincial court to work closely with provincial police to prosecute the perpetrator and assist the survivor to claim compensation. The Bolikhamxay Women's Union also provided assistance to 1 survivor of sexual violence by taking them to have a contraceptive injection.

Case study: No wrong door for 3 adolescent girl survivors in Bolikhamxay

Friends Noy, Chantalone and Miew*, all adolescent girls, met for dinner at a local restaurant in Bolikhamxay. They were approached by three Chinese men, and were asked if they wanted money. The girls agreed they did, and accompanied the men to their car. Instead, they were taken to the men's guesthouse and were raped.

The three girls reported the sexual assaults to the local police, who with their consent referred them to the recently established Bolikhamxay Lao Women's Union Centre for Counselling and Protection. The protection shelter is a One-Stop Service Centre, and so they were immediately provided with safe accommodation, essential items (new clothing, food) and Psychological First Aid in line with the *Standard Operating Procedures for the Social Sector: Protection and Support for Women and Girls Subject to Violence in Lao PDR*, supported by KOICA.

LWU swiftly coordinated with the provincial hospital, and the Ministry of Health provided emergency contraception, STI testing, PrEP and clinical treatment for injuries, in line with the *Standard Operating Procedures for the Health Sector to Respond to Violence Against Women and Girls*, supported by KOICA. Due to the prompt and effective coordination between the 3 sectors, the doctor was able to collect forensic evidence for any future criminal justice processes.

* *Survivor names have been changed to maintain confidentiality.*

UNDP

Key Achievements

UNDP through the "Project on Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women for Mainstreaming Gender into the National Development Agenda in Lao PDR" ensured that gender sensitive procedures within the Justice Sector are in place. UNDP has supported the development and launch of the first ever Justice and Policing Sector SOP for Gender Based Violence response. Secondly, the Project improved the institutional and policy framework: a methodology framework to review the legislation with a gender lens is in place within Lao PDR. UNDP supported also CSOs to produce the first ever Parallel Report on CEDAW implementation. A legal reform is ongoing through supporting amendments of the Law on Lao Women's Union and the Law on Development and Protection for Women. A Manual and practical tool on communications and community outreach aiming at behavioral change on GBV are in place and the capacity of 30 Master Trainers have been strengthened to cascade skills and knowledge at the community level.

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 main areas: (i) the development of the Justice Sector SOP for VAW prevention and response, (ii) Organize an International Conference combined with an exchange program with the Republic of Korea, and other neighboring countries, and policy dialogues to strengthen the institutional capacity of the LWU to effectively address the Gender and VAW issue, and (iii) advocacy.

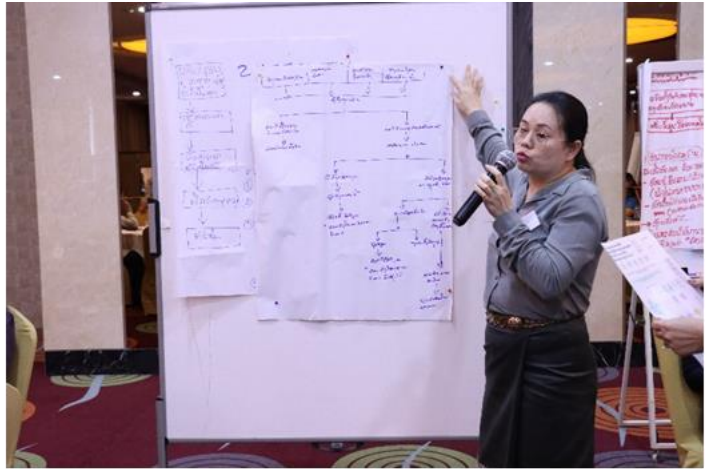
Activity 3.2 Support the development of the Justice and Policing Sector SOP for GBV response and prevention and develop capacity of the Justice and Policing Sector to implement the SOP

Within the year of reporting, UNDP established gender-sensitive procedures and coordination mechanisms within the Justice Sector to respond, protect and empower women, girls and survivors of GBV through the development and endorsement of the first ever Justice and Policing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

The SOP establishes clear processes and standards to respond to cases of violence against women and aim to deliver quality services with a victim-centered approach to women and girls. The justice sector plays a pivotal role in ensuring that survivors of gender-based violence receive effective justice, through holding perpetrators to account, providing fair reparations, and, most importantly, listening to victim/survivors. Improving the justice system, including having a clear and coherent mechanism in place, sends a resolute message that violence will not be tolerated in society.

The evidence-driven process which led to the launch of the abovementioned SOP began in 2021. UNDP also finalized the Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) of the Justice Sector which evaluated the preparedness of the related agencies to implement the NAPEVAW and deliver GBV services to survivors of violence. The CNA identified key priority areas for capacity development for each agency along with main recommendations. Importantly, the CNA also informed the project's next steps with a solid evidence-driven document laying out the need to develop *ad hoc* Standard Operating Procedures. Within the Lao context, a major gap was observed related to the lack of coordination among justice agencies on GBV. UNDP therefore supported the first ever establishment of the EVAW Focal Team consisting of key justice officials from each agency and provided technical support to the Agencies to develop the first SOP. After six drafting workshops over the course of 2022, the final draft Justice Sector SOPs were endorsed on 18th January 2023 by a High-Level Committee chaired by the Vice Standing Chairperson of NCAWMC and the Vice Minister of Justice. It also included thirty-nine Vice-Ministers and Leaders from LWU, NCAWMC, MOJ (Ministry of Justice), MOPS (Ministry of Public Security), PSC (People's Supreme Court) and OSPP (Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor).

Following the formal endorsement of the SOP, a two-day simulation workshop was conducted between the 28th and 29th March 2023 to discuss the applicability of the tools. The workshop saw the participation of thirty-nine high ranking officials, including thirty female officials, from four key Justice agencies (MoJ, MOPS, PSC and OSSP). This enhanced their capacity to understand the SOPs through simulating the delivery of justice services by referring to case studies. The workshop aimed also to refine the technicalities of the SOP which have been finalized by EVAW Focal Team by obtaining the final approval of all Justice Institutions during the second quarter of 2023.



Justice SOP Simulation Workshop, 28-29 March 2023

The SOP Launch

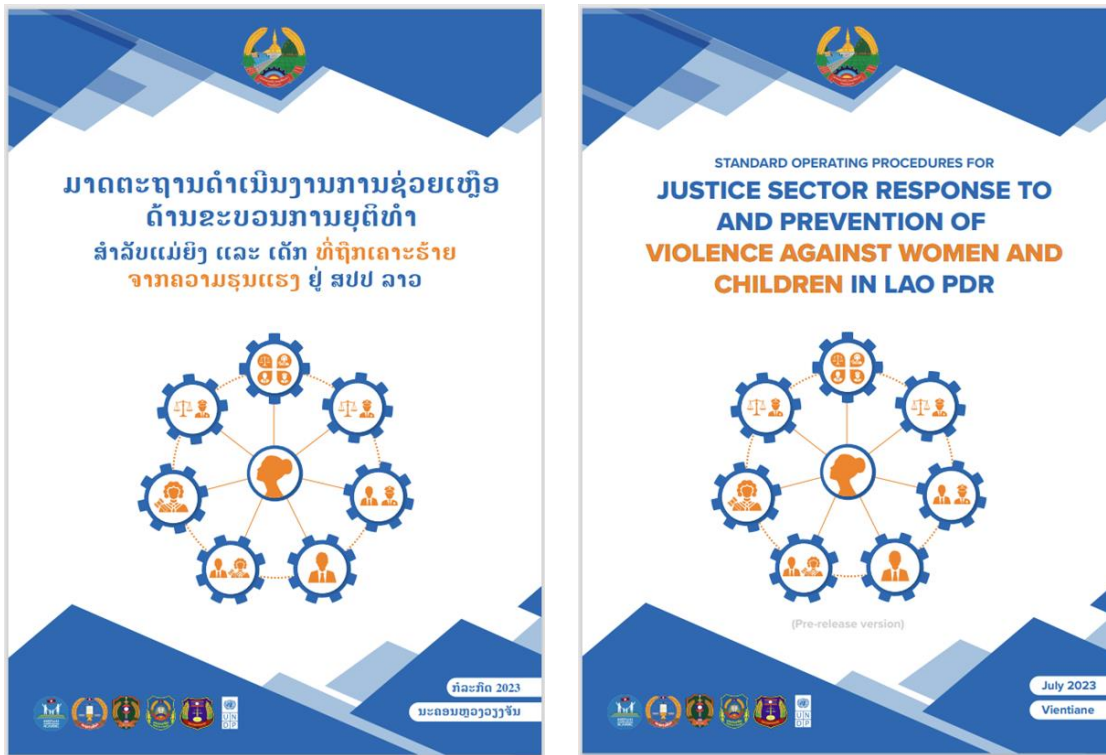


Justice SOP Launch Event on 4th August 2023

On 04 August 2023, UNDP in close collaboration NCAWMC and four key agencies of the justice sector: the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Ministry of Public Security (MOPS), the Office of the Supreme People’s Prosecutor (OSPP), and the People’s Supreme Court (PSC) and Lao Women’s Union (LWU) launched the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Justice Sector’s Response and Prevention of Violence against Women and Children in Lao PDR. The event was held in Vientiane Capital with 104 participants (with seventy-eight female participants) from the Justice Sector, Health Sector, Social Sector, UN agencies, NGOs/INGOs, Lao CSOs, KOICA, Khan Hom Project management team, LWU, NCAWMC and online participants, including key agencies of justice sector and service providers at the provincial level. The launch was chaired by H.E Mme. Inlavanh Keobounphan, President of Lao Women’s Union and Vice Standing Chairperson of NCAWMC and co-chaired by H.E. Bounkhouang Thavisack, Vice President of the People’s Supreme Court along with members of NCAWMC.

The SOP will be essential for justice service providers, investigation officers and court proceedings, including the justice authorities, police officers, prosecutors, and judges in the target provinces as well as provinces throughout the countries. It will serve as a blueprint guideline for training. Moreover, the SOP represents a key tool and a comprehensive guide that outlines a coordinated approach to preventing and responding to violence

against women (VAW). It will also ensure that victims/survivors are able to access a range of legal services tailored to their needs and receive effective justice. To ensure sustainability of the project beyond its lifespan and to enhance ownership, the SOP will be rolled out at the National level and within two target provinces early in 2024 through a “Training of Trainers (TOT)” approach.



Standard Operating Procedures for Justice Sector Response to and Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children in Lao PDR, Lao and English Version. Officially Endorsed on 4th August 2023

Capacity Development Plan

In 2022, UNDP developed the Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) of the Justice sector to implement the Second National Action Plan on Preventing and Eliminating Violence against Women 2021-2025. The overall objective of the CNA was to identify the gaps in capacity of justice service providers. The diagnostic was paired with recommendations which used the Essential Services Package (ESP), focusing on the Justice and Policing Essential Services and Essential Actions for Coordination and Governance of Coordination, and other relevant international standards and guidance as suggested standards of good practice. These recommendations formed the basis for the agencies’ Capacity Development Plans, their VAW Action Plans, and the abovementioned SOP for the Justice and Policing Sector. During the year under review, the Capacity Development Plan (CDP) has been finalized by UNDP. The CDP encompasses four capacity development frameworks namely: 1) leadership, 2) Institutional arrangement, 3) knowledge, attitude, and behavior change, and 4) accountability. The document provides key capacity building areas that cut across all four justice sectors institutions as well as sector-specific focuses. With actionable framework, actions, and clear-cut indicators, the CDP has been shared with key stakeholders including LWU, NCAWMC, and the four justice sectors. The aim is to support these institutions to take up this SOP not only within the current project but in terms of sustainability beyond its life span.

Activity 3.4 Organize an international conference combined with an exchange programme with ROK and other neighboring countries, and policy dialogues to strengthen the institutional capacity of the LWU to effectively address the Gender and VAW issue.

With UNDP technical support, Lao PDR has improved the institutional and policy framework aimed at accelerating the elimination of gender-based violence and promoting women’s participation through policy dialogues and the amendment of key laws related to women and girls.

With UNDP’s support, a methodological framework to review the legal framework is now in place within Lao PDR. The framework aims to support the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to further strengthen the policy framework on gender equality and ending violence against women.

Furthermore, a legal reform process was supported throughout the year to promote the implementation of NAPEVAW and NAPGE. This involved proposing amendments to specific provisions of the Law on Lao Women’s Union and the Law on Development and Protection for Women.



Consultation workshop on the Amendment of 2 Laws at the central level with 4 sectors, Landmark Hotel, June 2023

UNDP actively promoted the strengthening of the institutional capacity of the LWU, as part of legislative reform to enhance women’s empowerment. LWU submitted amendment proposals for the Law on Lao Women’s Union and the Law on Development and Protection for Women laws, which was included in the National Assembly’s Legislative Creation and Amendment Plan (Plan no. 3/NA, dated March 26, 2021). UNDP’s activities include the organization of four consultative workshops, which engaged **363 professionals** from various sectors, including Justice, Science and Social, Public Security, and Economic sectors. These workshops aimed to discuss and propose amendments to specific provisions of the abovementioned laws, by ensuring that they reflect the current context of Laos and align with international standards. Consultations with the executives of the LWU nationwide and CSOs were also carried out in 2023 with a total of six consultation workshops.

The amended laws are expected to be presented for consideration during the ordinary session of the National Assembly in 2024.

Localization of CEDAW and the launch of the first Parallel Report by CSOs

To strengthen the policy framework on Gender Equality and EAW, UNDP supported the capacity building of Institutions to review national laws in light of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This was achieved through two dedicated workshops which saw the participation of **82** high ranking officials (**59 female**) from government agencies relevant to the thematic topics of the CEDAW. These workshops provided a comprehensive understanding of CEDAW, its thematic topics, reporting procedures, as well as the practical tools for reviewing the national laws to officials from NCAWMC and Sub-CAWMC. While the first workshop focused on enhancing the relevant ministries' understanding of CEDAW, the second workshop aimed to delve deeper into assessing the national legislation in the domain of access to justice and gender equality. These agencies were also engaged in drafting of the 10th periodic CEDAW report of Lao PDR supported by UNFPA through the current project. Additionally, the information and insights obtained through these key activities has informed the basis of a legal review report. The report identifies and analyses the gaps and recommendations, which in turn will inform the development of a methodology outline for National stakeholders to align national laws with CEDAW. The publication of the report is scheduled for the first quarter of 2024.

Within the unique context of Laos PDR, UNDP has also supported nine CSOs to produce the first ever Parallel Report on CEDAW implementation in the framework of the Concluding Observation to the 8th-9th National Periodic Report.

The process of delivering the first ever parallel Report started on 3-4 November 2022 with a workshop which aimed to discuss the structure and prioritize thematic areas to be reported under the CSO or parallel report. To support the decision-making process, in February 2023, UNDP organized two workshops to build the capacity of CSOs. This involved inviting technical experts (from CRPD and OHCHR) to share the lessons learned from the submission of shadow reports from other countries, as well as reflecting on the reporting structure and submission processes. In particular, stakeholders agreed to report under nine topics which focus on three major areas 1) fact/information or data 2) programming 3) recommendations.

Throughout the reporting period under review, UNDP supported a number of in-depth discussions with nine-contributing CSOs on key content/concerns of the CEDAW Concluding Observations and built the capacity of key stakeholders to construct the report.

On the 5th -6th June 2023 and 24th July 2023, UNDP supported CSOs and key stakeholders to review the report's information and data, discuss further developments, prepare recommendations, thus finalize its content.

With UNDP's technical support, the capacity of CSOs was strengthened on the CEDAW treaty-based mechanism. UNDP enhanced their capabilities to collect, analyze and verify information and data, thus consolidate data sources. It also improved their skills to technically write recommendations on a CEDAW based-chapter that they were responsible for and to negotiate with government counterparts in relation to CEDAW recommendations, especially with the Ministry of Home Affairs, NCAWMC and Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Department of Treaties and Laws.

[CSOs, submitted the parallel report on 11 September 2023.](#)



Series of CSOs CEDAW Parallel Report Workshops in 2023

Upon the submission of the CSO Parallel report to OHCHR in Geneva on 21st December 2023, UNDP facilitated the setting up of a briefing platform composed by different stakeholders such as CSOs, NGOs, INGOs and government departments, including the Department of Treaties and Laws at MOFA and NCAWMC to discuss and address the parallel report findings. The meeting highlighted the considerable achievement of the first ever parallel report developed by Lao CSOs that was submitted to the CEDAW Committee. This marked the first step to strengthen the role of CSOs’ work related to gender quality and elimination of VAW in Lao PDR. The meeting also highlighted that further support is needed to strengthen the role of civil society in addressing the challenges of localizing CEDAW implementation. Subsequent actions were deliberated upon with CSOs, with their eager and voluntary participation in facilitating the periodic reporting procedure. This involvement encompasses preparations for the 89th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) dialogue scheduled to convene in Geneva in October 2024.

Organization of exchange program with Republic of Korea

A Study Tour to the Republic of Korea was undertaken to create opportunities for knowledge exchange and to ensure collaboration and synergies across programme implementation, and to enhance coordination between the Government line ministries.

In the period spanning from May to July 2023, UNDP initiated a mid-term evaluation of a project aimed at assessing its efficacy and guiding future actions. The resultant mid-term evaluation report, submitted to UNDP on July 31, 2023, highlighted commendable outcomes and recommended measures for further improvement. Specifically, it recommended to fast-track the organization of a collaborative study visit to the Republic of Korea, designed to bolster effectiveness and facilitate knowledge exchange regarding best practices in Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response among key stakeholders involved in the project. To follow up on this recommendation, UNFPA and UNDP jointly conducted a study visit to Republic of Korea to ensure collaboration and create synergies across programme implementation and enhance coordination between the Government line ministries. The study visit included twenty-one participants from LWU, NCAWMC, MOJ, MOPS, OSPP, PSC and MOH with the aim to interact with eleven Korean institutions.

The purpose of the study tour, in detail, was to expose health, justice and social sector institutions to effective

institutional responses to GBV cases in ROK. The objective was to improve knowledge of good practices and support the project staff to implement these practices contextualizing them to Lao and reflect on lessons learnt upon return within the current project and into future proposals.

The key learning objectives were to exchange information, knowledge, skills, and lessons learned specifically on:

- Establishing and operationalizing a One-Stop Service Centre (OSSC) and sensitizing key government stakeholders to the OSSC model for GBV response.
- Enhancing state responsibility of preventing and responding to GBV, by visiting the Women's Human Rights Institute of Korea, under the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family
- Strengthening national hotline services (#1362 LWU hotline and #1527 GBV Health Assistance Hotline) through a visit to the “Women Emergency Call #1366”, which provides emergency counseling, aids and liaison with related authorities for the victims of domestic violence, sexual violence or sex trafficking.
- Strengthening women’s economic empowerment initiatives for GBV survivors
- Sensitizing the Government of Laos on best practices and innovative approaches employed by the Justice sector in Korea for VAW prevention and response.
- Learn about the coordination mechanisms and collaborative efforts in Korea's justice sector to comprehensively address VAW.

For UNDP, the study accelerated results in strengthening coordination among justice, social and health services to support GBV survivors, improve justice services and foster synergies between Laos and South Korea, an important development partner in the country and the region.

After the Study tour, on 16th November 2023, UNDP conducted a post-study tour workshop with justice sector officials, LWU and NCAWMC to adjust the planned activities for the project and discuss key lessons learned. The outcome of the workshop paved the way to elaborate on synergies across programme implementation and enhance coordination among key stakeholders. A key focus was to integrate the lessons in the ToT training on Justice and Policing SOP scheduled in the first quarter of 2024, by enhancing the participations of key justice agencies and Lao Bar Association to ensure a comprehensive implementation of the main tools.

In particular, the study tour and post-study tour workshop found that there is a need to strengthen capacity building, training, and coordination between all sectors especially on victim-centered approach. More awareness-raising activities will be needed for services providers from the justice sectors at all levels and for local communities in relation to the services available and their rights to access them. Increasing the pace of rolling out the Justice SOP will be also key in early 2024, to ensure the justice sector is trained and have the skills to be able to deliver justice services. The workshop also highlighted the need to include new areas of intervention, especially on forensic sample collection, analysis, and coordination. The police will have a key function in this as the frontline responders. In general, gender mainstreaming has to be enhanced in justice sector response and the involvement of lawyers should be reinforced to guarantee specialized legal aid. These findings were used as a basis for adjusted programming especially for the roll out of the SOP through TOT and cascade trainings planned in the first quarter of 2024 to focus on providing a more tailored approach for each Justice Institution and to include the Lao Bar Association.



Figure 1 Study Tour to the Republic of Korea on 23 - 27 October 2023

Activity 3.5 Develop strategy and practical guidance/tools for LWU on communications and community outreach based on models of communications for development (C4D) and social and behavioral change and communications (SBCC) to raise awareness on GBV and access to justice.

Advocacy:



Communications for Social and Behavioral Change Refresher and Planning Workshop for 2023 at Muong Thanh Hotel, 30 March 2023

A strategy and practical guidance/tools for LWU on communications and community outreach were developed. They are based on models of communication for development (C4D) and social and behavioral change and communications (SBCC) to raise awareness on GBV and access to justice.

Throughout the year, UNDP engaged with the LWU on gender-responsive communication and theories of social and behavior change communication (SBCC) 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. The activities implementation was started with a refresher and planning workshop, held on the 30th March 2023, which included the participation of thirteen LWU communications

officials (twelve females). The workshop aimed to assess and reflect on the results of the 2022 communications strategy and develop the 2023 activity plan. As a result, clear goals and expectations were set and concretely indicated the commitment of LWU to apply innovative approaches to eliminate VAW.

On community outreach, fifteen master trainers (out of them, thirteen were female) were selected and trained in 2022 on innovative methods of communication with the key aim to go beyond awareness raising but to lead to real behavior change. In 2023, the mentioned master trainers were supported by UNDP to conduct cascade trainings throughout the LWU network. A complex, multi-layered, two-week workshop was carried out which included four events:

- A 4-day TOT workshop for the LWU Master Trainers’ team, to upgrade their skills as trainers for outreach communication, led by UNDP trainers (Vang Vieng, October 24-27, 2023)
- A 3-day training in outreach communication for Savannakhet Province and District Women’s Union (WU) members, led by the LWU Master Trainers team, with support from UNDP trainers.
- A full day village outreach communication session to field test the outreach communication techniques, led by the newly-trained Province and District WU members from Savannakhet, with support from the LWU Master Trainers and oversight by UNDP trainers (Savannakhet, October 31st -November 2nd, 2023).
- A 1-day evaluation of the outreach communication approach at all levels (curriculum, support materials, training, and target skills) by all participants, led by LWU Master Trainer and the Khan Hom trainers (Savannakhet, November 3rd, 2023).



Subnational TOT at Savannakhet Province 31 October-3 November 2023

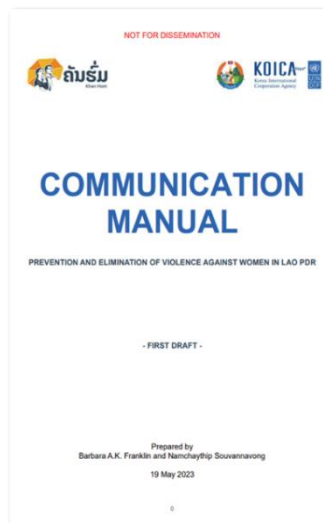
As a major impact of the above-mentioned programme, the LWU National Team of Master Trainers in Outreach Communication were fully equipped with outreach communication techniques and training skills to cascade the knowledge at the provincial and district levels. Moreover, the team was able to transfer the *knowhow* on outreach communication through a nation-wide cascade training with the aim of shifting from the traditional one-way communication to more effective approaches in creating changes of social and behavior on GBV, especially at the ground level.

Likewise, Province and District Outreach Teams were set up and provided with the opportunity to practice their skills by conducting outreach communication activities with the communities in the villages.

To enhance ownership and sustainability beyond the lifespan of the project, UNDP finalized a Training Manual which incorporated the given feedback and reflections throughout the activities conducted from both the LWU National Master Trainers and the Provincial/District Teams. The manual was developed to better enhance communications techniques for the local context, and it will be a crucial instrument for the communication outreach to be used by the LWU to cascade and transfer the knowledge the other Province and District Outreach Teams and ensure the achievement of the advocacy output according of the 2nd NAPEVAW (2021-2025).



Consultation on the first draft of the communications for social and behavioral change manual workshop, at UN house, 30 May 2023.



The First Draft of the Communications manual for social and behavioral change on Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women in Lao PDR

In relation to information campaigns, which aimed to progressively implement and conclude the project's activities, UNDP supported the development of the first communications manual for social and behavioral change on GBV. The consultation meeting for its first draft was held on 30th May 2023 with twelve LWU communications officers (eleven females) participating in the workshop. The manual was designed to be a clear and user-friendly guideline with effective principles that are contextualized and realistic within the Lao context. Subsequently, the manual was piloted through the implementation of two workshops on communications capacity building for LWU Officers.

Moreover, to wider the pool of trained officers and expand the *knowhow* of different Provinces, three capacity-building workshops were delivered in June, August, and September 2023 respectively involving 15 master trainers from the cross departments of LWU. The aim of the workshops was to enhance content creation skills. This encompasses community engagement capabilities and supported them to have practical opportunities to apply acquired theoretical knowledge by conducting pre-test communication materials such as social media posts and posters-creation in two villages (Suan Luang and Long Or) reaching more than 30 villagers (out of it 18 female). The manual is planned to be finalized (edited) and handed over to LWU early in 2024.



The First training session on the Informational Campaign, Luang Prabang 19-22 June 2023

16 Days of Activism

Within the framework of the information campaign capacity building trainings, on 28th September 2023, UNDP supported the LWU to prepare and plan the 16 Day of Activism (16DOA) campaign. In 2023, the LWU communications officials were progressively able to publish the communications products including social media posts and feature articles through their platforms and promoting them via LWU across country network channels.



16 DOA Planning Workshop 2023, 24th November 2023

4th Project Steering Committee Meeting

A half-day meeting between the committee of the 4th Joint Project on Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women for Mainstreaming Gender into the National Development Agenda in the Lao PDR was held on 27th November 2023 at UN House, gathering a total of twenty-two attendees from Lao Women's Union, NCAWMC, The Counseling and Protection for Women and Child (CPCWC), UNDP, UNFPA, KOICA and PMC. The meeting served crucial purposes to update progress on activity implementation, share good practices and lessons learned among the project board committee on a quarterly basis, as well as to present the 2024 annual work plan and the budget association for approval.



The 4th Khan Hom Project Steering Committee Meeting, 27 November 2023

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<p>Outcome 1: Strengthened national capacity for the effective, systematic and accountable prevention of and response to VAW in Lao PDR</p> <p>Indicator:</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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)</p> <p>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)</p> <p>Baseline: 6.4% (2014) Planned Target: To be identified based on the assessment</p>	Not yet applicable	N/A	Protection/counseling centre data

Sub-Output 1. Improved institutional and policy framework aimed at accelerating the elimination of gender-based violence against women and promoting women's participation.

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

<p>Indicator 1.2: National Action Plan on EVAW integrated into sectors' plans at national and subnational levels Baseline: N/A Planned Target: Not yet</p>	<p>Achieved - with UNFPA support has been integrated into 18 provincial and 17 sectoral plans.</p>		<p>Project report</p>
<p>Indicator 1.3: 5-year National Strategic Plan on Gender Equality developed Baseline: N/A Planned Target: Not yet</p>	<p>Achieved - developed with UNFPA technical support, finalized, endorsed, disseminated and being implemented.</p>		<p>Project report</p>
<p>Indicator 1.4: National Action Plan on Gender Equality integrated into sectors' plan at national and subnational levels Baseline: N/A Planned Target: Not yet</p>	<p>Achieved - with UNFPA support has been integrated into 18 provincial and 17 sectoral plans.</p>		<p>Project report</p>

<p>Indicator 1.5:</p> <p>Indicators of below outputs in the EVAW NAP:</p> <p>Output 1.1: Raise public awareness on GBV prevention Baseline: N/A Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 70% of population are sensitized on GBV prevention and GBV prevention through awareness raising activities and outreach <p>Output 3.4 Strengthening coordination, governance of coordination and referral pathway for GBV survivors as well as GBV monitoring and reporting Baseline: NA Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination mechanism for GBV established 180 coordinators from health, social, and justice sectors in 6 selected provinces training on SOP coordination and referral pathway for GBV <p>Indicators of below outputs in the GE NPA:</p> <p>Output 2.4: Women's economic empowerment Baseline: NA Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 100 females from selected provinces trained in food and clothing businesses. 	<p>Achieved: 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 mobilizing 77 partners. As of December 2023, 74% of population (5506297 population out of 7.400.000 population) are sensitized on GBV prevention through outreach activities, media reach, 16 DOA and IEC materials.</p> <p>Achieved: Coordination mechanism for GBV was established in 6 selected provinces, decree to revise NCAWMC's mandate with MOHA for consideration. 408 coordinators from health, social, and justice sectors in 6 Bokeo, Vientiane Capital, Bolikhamxay, Savannakhet, Champasak and Attapue provinces training on SOP coordination and referral pathway for GBV.</p> <p>On track:: As of December, 2023, there are 57 females survivors trained in tailoring, cooking,</p>		
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<p>Output: 2.7: Increase number of women in management and leadership position in each level from central to village levels Baseline: N/A Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's leadership training manual developed • 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. <p>\</p> <p>Output 3.2: Implementing obligations under regional and international treaties, CEDAW, ICPD, SDGs and Beijing Platform for Actions. Baseline: NA Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 10th periodic CEDAW report of Lao PDR approved by the Lao government and submitted to the CEDAW Committee in Geneva 	<p>mushroom growing and Mak Bueng (traditional Buddhist offering)</p> <p>LWU is in the process of drafting Women's Leadership Training Manual. Once it is endorsed, it will be used to train relevant ministries staff at central, provincial and district levels as well as females in the selected provinces trained on women's leadership</p> <p>Achieved: The 10th periodic CEDAW report of Lao PDR approved by the Lao government and submitted to the CEDAW Committee in Geneva in March 2023.</p>		
<p>Indicator 1.6: Number of international knowledge and experience exchange programmes promoting T/SSC Baseline: N/A Planned Target: Not yet</p>	<p>Achieved: Two (2) - 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.</p> <p>Two International exchanges were conducted to Mongolia and South Korea .</p>		<p>Project report</p>

Sub-Output 2. The Implementation guideline & M&E Plan of the 5-year National Strategic Plan on EVAW (2021–2025) developed			
	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Indicator 2.1: Practical implementation guideline and M&E Plan developed Baseline: N/A Planned Target: Yes	On track: M&E framework already drafted and expected to be finalized in Q2 2024		Project report
Indicator 2.2: Monitoring and reporting system set up Baseline: N/A Planned Target: 1	On track: GBV administrative data collection, and management TORs drafted to hire an international consultant to develop GBV paper-based admin and digitized data dashboard for LWU and health.		Project report

<p>Indicator 2.3: A National Guideline for Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) developed and effectively implemented Baseline: N/A Planned Target: Yes</p> <p>NPA Output 2.1: Provision of essential health services for survivors of violence Baseline: N/A Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of health professionals trained on provision of health services • Number of survivors received essential health services <p>NPA Output 2.3: Provision of social services for survivors of violence Baseline: N/A Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of social service providers trained on provision of health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of survivors received essential social services 	<p>Achieved: Health and Social SOPs finalised and endorsed, implementation and roll out ongoing.</p> <p>As of December 2023, 343 health professionals 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>As of December 2023, 147 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> <p>As of December 2023, 1,666 survivors received essential social services by provincial counseling and protection centers and/or psychosocial support via hotline and whatsapp chat of the provincial counseling and protection centers</p>		Project report
<p>Indicator 2.4: Annual monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of national Action plans on Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children conducted Baseline: N/A Planned Target: Yes</p>	<p>On track: ToR for hiring a national and an international consultant to conduct mid-term review of the PNA EAW was drafted. These consultants are expected to be onboard in Q2 of 2024.</p>		Project report

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>Indicator 3.1: Development of a capacity needs assessment report</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Planned Target: 1</p>	<p>Achieved – 1 CNA report was endorsed, launched, and published</p> <p>A Capacity Development Plan was also developed and endorsed by key Justice Partners</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Project report ● Link to CNA report
<p>Indicator 3.2:</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>Baseline:</p> <p>(i) 56% (pre-test result)</p> <p>(ii) 0</p> <p>(iii) 0</p> <p>(iv) 0</p> <p>Planned Target:</p> <p>(i) 30%</p> <p>(ii) 3</p> <p>(iii) 1</p> <p>(iv) Criteria for scoring TBC</p>	<p>(i) Achieved. There was a 23% increase in understanding on gender equality and VAW by justice sector trainees from 56% to 89%.</p> <p>(ii) Achieved. 5 multistakeholder consultation workshops on the SOP were conducted.</p> <p>(iii) SOP approved</p> <p>(iv) SOP ToT is planned in the first quarter of 2024</p>	<p>(iii) SOP ToT trainings scheduled for 2024, Quarter I</p>	<p>(i) Activity report</p> <p>(ii) Project report</p> <p>(iii) SOP published</p> <p>https://www.undp.org/laopdr/publications/standard-operating-procedures-justice-sector-responese-and-prevention-violence-against-women-and-children</p>

<p>Indicator 3.3: (i) Number of women participating in research on barriers (ii) Number of men sharing perceptions on GBV (iii) Number of survivors engaged on research on the meaning of justice (iv) Number of men engaged in research on the experiences of abusers Baseline: (i) 0 (ii) 0 (iii) 0 (iv) 0 Planned Target: (i) 150 (ii) 150 (iii) 10 (iv) 10</p>	<p>Achieved, above targets. (i) 259 women participated in the research (ii) 236 men participated in the research</p>		<p>(i) Research report (ii) Research report</p>
<p>Indicator 3.4: (i) Number of discussions through a platform for policy dialogue on gender & VAW (ii) Number of participants disaggregated by gender (iii) Number of international best practices shared (iv) Number of international best practices integrated into the justice response Baseline: (i) 0 (ii) 0 (iii) 0 (iv) 0 Planned Target: (i) 1/year (ii) 150 (iii) 3 (iv) 3</p>	<p>Achieved, Above targets (i) 1 international conference was organized on VAW Prevention and Response in ASEAN (ii) 181 people participated in the international conference (iii) 8 international best practices were shared (iv) 3 best practices were integrated into the justice response. (v) 1 exchange study tour in ROK achieved in 2023 (vi) 6 policy dialogue concluded</p>	<p>Achieved. Above targets: policy dialogues are planned also for 2024 in order to achieve the amendments of two key laws on GE</p>	<p>(i) Activity report (ii) Activity report (iii) Activity report (iv) Project report</p>

<p>Indicator 3.5:</p> <p>(i) Outreach strategy delivered. (ii) Number of people engaged through new community outreach practice. (iii) Percentage of change in people's understanding of GBV.</p> <p>(i) Baseline:</p> <p>(i) 0 (ii) 0 (iii) TBD (2022), TBD (2023), TBD(2024)</p> <p>Planned Target:</p> <p>(i) 1 (ii) 50 (iii) 20% (2023), 20% (2024)</p>	<p>Achieved.</p> <p>(i) 1 communication strategy was delivered. (ii) 50 people (36 F) were engaged through new outreach practices. (iii) 1 communications manual was developed and rolled out in the pilot training in 2024. 20% change in people's understanding of GBV (iv) 13 Master Trainers (11 F) were trained in Upgraded TOT and 12 Subnational Trainers (12 F) were trained through the pilot training at the subnational cascading.</p>		<p>(i) Communicati on strategy (ii) Quarterly report (iii) Pre-post Training surveys (iv) Communicati ons Manual. (v) Training Report on Upgraded and Subnational TOT.</p>
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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).

- Economic challenges, including high inflation rates and currency depreciation impacted expenditures on essential services to survivors of violence.
- Traditional gender norms are pervasive and ingrained in the culture, making behavioral and attitudinal change challenging.
- The financial situation also proved challenging, with delays in cash transfer due to various reasons impacting the implementation, and IPs financial constraints due to limited funding and competing priorities. IPs also have limited financial and human resources and require frequent and repeated capacity building by UNFPA.

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

- Conduct outreach activities, IEC materials and rolling out the male engagement in target provinces to sensitize males, community members and public population on GBV prevention and mitigation.
- To facilitate faster cash transfer, UNFPA advised IPs to open a BCEL bank account to UNFPA to transfer money directly to LWU. UNFPA will continue providing technical financial support to IPs through organizing financial coaching and refresher training to ensure they are well capacitated and be able to perform financial implementation and management well.

Result (if applicable):

- The evidence shows there is a **significant transformation of cultural norms that has** taken place over the past years in Lao PDR. Due to concerted public awareness campaigns, strong government leadership and significant investment in prevention of VAW over the past years, particularly from UNFPA, Lao Women's Union (LWU) and government counterparts as well as development partners, tolerance towards domestic violence has significantly decreased. In 2023, 12.5% of women and 10.6% of men believed a husband is justified in beating his wife in various circumstances (e.g. burning the food) (LSISIII 2023), compared to 29.5% of women and 16.2% of men in 2017 (LSISII, 2017).
- To rectify the financial bottlenecks regarding cash transfers to IPs, UNFPA proposed to LWU to open their own BCEL bank account to receive funds from UNFPA as a solution (previously only one centralized bank account under the National Treasury). After LWU opened the direct bank account, transfer of funds was more streamlined leading to faster implementation of activities. Funds now reach the sub-IPs faster and can implement activities faster.
- After financial management and program implementation training, IPs and sub-IPs were effectively able to plan, record expenditures, provide timely narrative and financial report.

Lessons Learned:

- Increase sensitization of public and communities on GBV prevention as well as the available services for GBV survivors has increased people's awareness of GBV and give survivors' choices to select and access to available services they need in a timely manner.
- Expanding GBV prevention, mitigation and response services across the country to leave no one behind turned out to be another lesson learned, given the common consensus with government and development partners on the need for the expansion/scale up.

- Local ownership and buy-in from national and sub-national authorities were critical to ensure sustainability of the interventions, in particular providing financial and human resources to the establishment and operationalization of new protection shelters and One Stop Service Centers/Units.
- Building on the concept of collaborative advantage, especially strong collaboration between sister UN agencies (UNDP, UNHabitat) and the intersection of technical guidance was instrumental in ensuring the success of this year's AWP. UNFPA should continue to leverage the strong collaboration and comparative advantage of UNFPA and other sister agencies, including continuing to make use of coordination mechanisms lead by UNFPA, or otherwise participating in.

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 comprehension of gender dynamics and Violence Against Women (VAW) within the Justice Sector remains in need of considerable enhancement. It is imperative to intensify capacity-building efforts targeting frontline service providers and stakeholders operating within the justice domain. Moreover, there exists a critical imperative to adequately equip the overall Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response framework. Furthermore, discernible is the necessity for heightened dedication from key stakeholders to nominate and diligently monitor their designated trainees, thereby fostering continuity and sustainability in capacity-building endeavors.

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

UNDP has devised several mitigation strategies, notably conducting focus group discussions with key justice stakeholders to augment their comprehension of gender dynamics and GBV. Additionally, a Capacity Development Plan has been formulated and is presently being executed, alongside a Training of Trainers (ToT) session on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) slated for the first quarter of 2024. This ToT encompasses a dedicated module addressing gender and GBV to enrich understanding and rectify normative misconceptions swiftly.

Concurrently, while enhancing the justice response, UNDP has integrated lessons gleaned from the aforementioned project to introduce capacity-building initiatives pertaining to communication for social and behavioral change in collaboration with the LWU. This initiative aims to facilitate bidirectional communication and foster a conducive environment for discussing gender-based violence.

Moreover, in a bid to ensure sustainability and uniformity, UNDP, in partnership with LWU, has appointed activity-based lead focal points. These individuals are tasked with overseeing nominated trainees and assuming leadership roles in planned activities, thereby ensuring continuity and effectiveness in interventions.

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, an evidence-driven Capacity Development Plan is being implemented within the Justice Sector and a tailored ToT related to the implementation of the Justice and Policing SOP is planned for 2024. The expected result is a greater knowledge of gender and an effective implementation of the SOP.

Regarding outreach efforts, the LWU implemented novel communication methodologies. Notably, the utilization of the Storytelling approach facilitated a more comfortable and receptive environment among community members for discussing the issue of gender-based violence, as it circumvented direct inquiries into personal experiences. Having observed the palpable increase in community engagement firsthand, the LWU expressed eagerness to extend the adoption of these methodologies nationwide, alongside enhancing capacity development in 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?

UNDP recalibrated its strategy concerning the Justice Sector in response to identified challenges in understanding gender dynamics, gender equality principles, international legal obligations, and prevailing normative attitudes that tolerate Violence Against Women (VAW). Furthermore, the Justice Sector underwent specialized capacity-building initiatives geared towards the effective implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and customized interventions.

Regarding communication endeavors, ongoing support extended to the LWU in the realm of communication for social and behavioral change has yielded tangible results over the preceding year. Observable is the heightened receptivity of LWU officials towards exploring novel approaches to their work. Sustained assistance in this realm is imperative in the forthcoming year to uphold the gained momentum and ensure continued progress

III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

The mid-term evaluation for the project has taken place from 17th May 2023 to 31st July 2023 the report is appended to this report as Annex II

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 revised the Project Document which were approved by the Project Board on 1 December 2022. The revised Project Document can be found in Annex I