



**Joint Programme on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women for Mainstreaming Gender into the National Development Agenda in Lao PDR**  
**MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT**  
**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<b>TOTAL:</b>	2,673,000
<b>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</b>	
Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>	
Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable <i>please attach</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: <i>dd.mm.yyyy</i>	

<b>Report Submitted By</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Name: Sarah Tae</li><li>○ Title: Gender Project Coordinator</li><li>○ Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP</li><li>○ Email address: sarah.tae@undp.org</li></ul>	

*Note: As this is the first annual report being submitted for the programme, we welcome any feedback for improvement.*

## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
GBV	Gender-based violence
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
LWU	Lao Women's 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
SOP	Standard Operational Procedure
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VAW	Violence against women

## NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Due to delays caused by staff turnover, delays in recruitment, a delay in signing the MOU and transferring the first installment by the donor, progress on the project was stalled. However, with the launch of the project and in particular, UNFPA making use of core funds to make head way on some activities, lost time was compensated for.

Using core funds, UNFPA made head way on working to develop the 5-year National Action Plan (NAP) for Preventing and Eliminating Violence Against Women (2021-2025) and the 5-year National Action Plan for Gender Equality (2021-2025).

The NAP for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women has identified the required actions to prevent and respond to GBV and the NAP for Gender Equality has highlighted actions for promoting and advancing gender equality in every aspect. The NAPs will ensure women and girls' rights are fulfilled and protected by national policies and regulations that are in compliance with international commitments and obligations.

UNDP focused on coordination of relevant stakeholders of the project to ensure the launch of the project and appointment of project board members. Through the launch, the project was endorsed, and annual work plan approved for 2020-2021, thereby ensuring proper implementation of the project. Furthermore, UNDP has focused on developing capacity within and providing assistance to the Lao Women's Union to adhere to the UNDP Lao PDR NIM SOP.

#### **I. Purpose**

The objective of the project is to strengthen the governance mechanism and policy framework to mainstream the prevention and elimination of GBV against women in the national development agenda – Ninth National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDPP) and Legal Sector Master Plan – in Lao PDR. The expected outcome of the programme is strengthened national capacity for the effective, systematic and accountable prevention of and response to VAW in Lao PDR through policy dialogues and providing support to the Lao Government to integrate international instruments, CEDAW recommendations, Beijing+25, ICPD 25 and SDGs into the development of the new phase 5-year National Action Plan on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women (2021–2025) and the 5-year National Action Plan on Gender Equality (2021–2025) and supporting them to effectively implement these national action plans.

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

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

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

##### **Pillar III – Governance**

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

#### **II. Results**

Due to delays in signing the MoU, staff turnover and delays in recruitment, as well as Lao Women's Union (LWU) being heavily engaged with work relating to the Eleventh National Party Congress and line ministry meetings, progress was stagnated, and programme activities planned in the project document could not be

carried out. In Q4, the first monthly meeting with partners LWU and UNFPA was held and preparations for the project launch and board meeting were initiated. On 10 December 2020, the project was launched and representatives from LWU, KOICA, UNFPA, UNDP and other stakeholders, were presented with an overview of the project including the detailed budget for each activity and the composition of the project board members.

As project board members were already present at the launch, the board meeting was held immediately afterwards. Members were presented with the 2020-2021 Annual Work Plan and were able to provide contributions. Notably, Resident Representative of KOICA, Ms. Jeonghee Im requested a revision to the number of total beneficiaries as the number was too low relative to the budget of the project. Deputy Resident Representative of KOICA, Mr. Sangjun Kim emphasized that the joint UNDP and UNFPA project should also closely communicate and coordinate with the bilateral PMC initiative in order to identify areas for synergies. Conclusively, the 2020-2021 Annual Work Plan, including the budget and allocation of funding per activities, was approved unanimously and signed.

UNFPA supported the National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children (NCAWMC), in developing the 5-year NAP for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women for 2021-2025 and the 5-year NAP for Gender Equality for 2021-2025 in line with international standards and instruments including the Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, CEDAW, ICPD 25 and the Beijing Declaration Platform for Action.

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

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

The NAPs on Gender Equality and Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women will significantly contribute to the strengthening of the Lao Government's capacity to effectively and systemically prevent and respond to GBV in Lao PDR. These two national action plans have outlined key actions and investment of each government sector, including capacity building of government staff, to effectively prevent and respond to GBV and promote gender equality in all areas.

Both NAPs have been included in the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP: the NAP for Gender Equality has been submitted to the Lao Government by NCAWMC and the NAP for Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women is in the process of being submitted to the Government for consideration. Once both NAPs are endorsed, they will be integrated into line ministries and provincial sectoral plans.

Much of Q4 was spent finalising administrative requirements of the project. LWU completed the Lao version of the ToRs for the project team: Project Coordinator and Finance Officer; procurement of teleconferencing equipment was handed over to LWU in preparation for the workshops, trainings, seminars, meetings and other events planned for the course of the project and 2021 Q1 advances were prepared.

While the project has not been active for long enough to determine significant challenges and define best practices, the challenge being faced by UNDP at present is that the project team of LWU is not familiar and sufficiently comfortable with the UNDP Lao PDR NIM SOP, which has resulted in even further delays. To compensate for the delays experienced in the initial phase of the project, UNDP and UNFPA will work closely

with LWU and NCAWMC to ensure that programme activities are implemented as planned in each quarter. In the initial phase of the project, UNDP will need to closely assist LWU to build capacity and ensure that processes are well understood and followed going forward. In Q1 of 2021, UNDP will place efforts on carrying out the capacity needs assessment of the GBV response system of Lao PDR, focusing particularly on the justice and policing sectors. The results of the capacity needs assessment will then guide design and formulation of activities throughout the coming year.

Drawing on previous lessons learned, UNFPA will work closely to plan the programme activities in the coming year to address the challenges faced. In Q2, UNFPA will focus on finalizing, endorsing, printing and launching the NAPs on Gender Equality and Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women, developing M&E guidelines for the NAP on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and developing SOPs for GBV health and social sectors' response. In Q3, UNFPA will focus on integrating the National Action Plans on Gender Equality and GBV into provincial sectoral plans, testing and finalizing the SOPs and strengthening the monitoring and reporting mechanism. In Q4, the SOPs will be implementing and UNFPA will support the selected provinces to implement their provincial sectoral plans.

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

	<b><u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</b>	<b>Source of Verification</b>
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Strengthened national capacity for the effective, systematic and accountable prevention of and response to VAW in Lao PDR</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1:</b> 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  <b>Baseline:</b> 6.4%  <b>Planned Target:</b> To be identified based on assessment</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2:</b> 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  <b>Baseline:</b> TBC  <b>Planned Target:</b> To be identified based on assessment</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3:</b> Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex  <b>Baseline:</b> TBC  <b>Planned Target:</b> To be identified based on assessment</p>	Not yet applicable	N/A	Counseling centre record

<p><b>Sub-Output 1: Improved institutional and policy framework aimed at accelerating the elimination of gender-based violence and promoting women's participation</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1: 5-year National Strategic Plan on EAW developed</b>  <b>Baseline: N/A</b>  <b>Planned Target: Yes</b></p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2: 5-year National Strategic Plan on Gender Equality developed</b>  <b>Baseline: N/A</b>  <b>Planned Target: Yes</b></p>	<p>Yes, 5-year National Action Plan on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women developed</p> <p>Yes, 5-year National Action Plan on Gender Equality developed</p>		<p>Project report</p> <p>Project report</p>
<p><b>Sub-Output 2:</b> The implementation guideline and M&amp;E plan of the 5-year National Strategic Plan on EAW (2021-2025) developed</p>	<p>No activities were planned for 2020</p>		
<p><b>Sub-Output 3:</b> A platform for policy dialogue on Gender &amp; VAW to strengthen governance framework and to promote women's participation (e.g., Sub-Sector Working Group established)</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1:</b> Availability of signed annual work plan  <b>Baseline: No</b>  <b>Planned Target: Yes</b></p>	<p>Annual Work Plan for 2020-2021 was discussed and approved during the launch.</p>		