

Adolescent and Youth Situation Analysis

Lao People's Democratic Republic

"Investing in young people is investing in the future"

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2014

Published by:

Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, LYU, Lao PDR
Phonthan Road
Vientiane capital, Lao PDR
P.O.Box 736
www.saonoulao.org.la

First Printing in 2014

Supported by:

United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, Lao PDR
Email: laos.office@unfpa.org
Website: <http://lao.unfpa.org/>
<http://facebook.com/unfpalaos>

Photo Credits:

Front and back cover – MickaPerier/UNFPA, Lao PDR

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Acronyms / Abbreviations

ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ASEAN	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASRH	Adolescent sexual and reproductive health
AUD	Australian dollars
AUSAID	Australian Government Overseas Aid Program
AYSA	Adolescent and Youth Situation Analysis
BI	Burnet Institute
BCC	Behaviour change communication
CAD	Canadian dollars
CCO	Career counselling office
CCU	Consistent Condom Use
CHAS	Centre for HIV/AIDS/STIs
CRC	The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DIC	Drop-in centre
DPPE	Department of Pre-school and Primary Education
DREC	Disaster Risk Reduction for Children (project)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EU	European Union
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender-based violence
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GSHS	Global Student Health Survey
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
IBBS	Integrated Behavioural and Biological Surveillance
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICPD PoA	International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action Plan
IEC	Information, Education, Communication
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KAP	Knowledge, attitudes and practices
KII	Key Informant Interviews
Lao-ITECC	International Trade Exhibition and Convention Centre in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LaoPHA	Lao Positive Health Association
LCDC	Lao National Commission for Drugs Control and Supervision
LDC	Least Developed Country Status
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
LPRYU	Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union
LSIS	Lao Social Indicator Survey
LWU	Lao Women's Union
LYU	Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoH	Ministry of Health

MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MoICT	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLSW	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
MoPWT	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MoPS	Ministry of Public Security
MSM	Men who have sex with men
MtF	Male to Female (transgender)
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NERI	National Economic Research Institute
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NIOPH	National Institute of Public Health
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NPA	Non-profit association
NTO	National Technical Organisation
NYP	Network of Young People
NZMFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
PCCA	Provincial Committee for the Control of AIDS
PPG	Peer protection groups
PPR	Programme and policy review
PSI	Population Services International
RIES	Research Institute for Education and Sport
ROR	Rural off-Road
SC	AYSA Steering Committee
SCF	Save the Children Fund
SEAMO	Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation
SRH	Sexual and reproductive health
SRHR	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
SSEAYP	Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme
STEPS	Supporting Talent Entrepreneurial Potential
STI	Sexually transmitted infections
TraC	Tracking Results Continuously (report)
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
TWG	AYSA Technical Working Group
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIAP	United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States dollars
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WHO	World Health Organisation
WIFS	Weekly Iron Folate Supplementation
WRA	Women of Reproductive Age
YEAL	Young Entrepreneurs Association of Laos
YPN	AYSA Young People's Network

Foreword

With nearly 60% of the population below the age of 25 years and more than 30% of the population between 10 and 24 years, young people constitute a large proportion of the Lao People's Democratic Republic's (Lao PDR) population. Clearly, addressing the needs of young people means addressing the needs of Lao PDR as a country, which brings with it both enormous opportunities and challenges now and for the future of this country.

Lao PDR has made significant progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015 and aims to achieve the national goal of graduating from least developed country (LDC) status by 2020. Young people have a significant role to play in achieving this goal.

This is the first time that the Adolescent and Youth Situation Analysis (AYSA) has been conducted in Lao PDR. It gathers available data on adolescent and young people and provides an up-to-date review of existing policies and legislation to enhance current and future programmes for young people. It should be seen as the first step to assist the Government, international organisations and youth themselves to develop and improve wide-ranging and inclusive programmes and policies which can effectively address the specific needs of young people in the areas of health, education, employment, protection and participation; including the Education, Health, Labour and Social Welfare, sectoral 5-year plans, the National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSED) and the National Youth Development Strategy of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union (LPRYU/LYU).

The findings and recommendations from this report are expected to guide further interventions and draw specific attention to the importance of an increased investment in young people with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of young people and with it the social, economic and cultural development of the whole country.



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Acknowledgements

The AYSA was undertaken by the Lao Youth Union (LYU) in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW). The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) was the primary agency giving financial and technical assistance to support the analysis. In addition, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) provided technical inputs to the implementation of the analysis.

We would like to extend our grateful thanks to all organisations and individuals who have contributed to making this analysis a success. We would specifically like to express our sincere thanks to the AYSA Steering Committee (SC) for their leadership and guidance, the Technical Group for enormous efforts and time in conducting the analysis, and the Secretariat Group for organising and dealing with day-to-day work.

We acknowledge the great contribution from the local authorities including the LYU provincial, district and village authorities for facilitating the analysis and in providing your inputs. This analysis would not have succeeded without the cooperation of teachers, parents and especially young people. We thank all participants for their generous contribution.

Special thanks are extended to the principle technical consultant and institute, Dr. Bruce Dick and the Burnet Institute (BI) for providing technical support.

We also thank other United Nations (UN) partners and civil organisations for their inputs during the consultation workshops.

Lastly, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to UNFPA for their technical and financial support that made this analysis possible.

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