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# Project Completion Report

Reporting period : 25 March 2022 - 16 December 2023

# JAPAN SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET



From  
the People of Japan

## Safer Cities:

Interventions against the recent community  
outbreak of COVID-19 in Lao PDR:  
Focusing on Quarantine, Isolation, protection shelter,  
Health Centres and communities at risk



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# Project Summary

## Objective

Safeguard the health, safety and well-being of people in QFs or isolation facilities, as well as communities at risk in Lao PDR through the provision of WASH facilities, physical improvements to QF and isolation facility structures, gender-responsive support and health services, and women-friendly spaces.

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## Time Frame

12 months from the receipt of funds (21 March 2022 received funds)

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## Planned Start Date

17 March 2022 (Subject to receipt of funds)

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## Actual Start Date

21 March 2022 (receipt of funds) - Activities start date 25 March 2022

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## End Date

Original activities end date 16 March 2023

Extension end date: 16 December 2023

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## Budget

USD 833,333 (UNFPA transferred 369,564 to UN-Habitat through UN to UN Transfer Agreement)

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## Implementing Agency

UNFPA

- Central and provincial Lao Women's Union (LWU)
  - The Ministry of Health
- 

## Partner Agency

UN-Habitat

- Provincial NPSEs (Nam Papa State-owned Enterprises)
  - Provincial Department of Public Works and Transport (DPWT)
- 

## Target Provinces

Sayabouly, Savannakhet, Bolikhamxay, Champasak, Sekong, Saravane, Khammouane, Attapeu, Bokeo, Luang Prabang, and Vientiane.

## Project Overview

### GOAL

The overall goal of this project is to safeguard the health, safety and well-being of people in QFs/isolation facilities/community centres, as well as communities at risk in Lao PDR, thereby improving the response to Covid-19 and the containment of the virus.

### OBJECTIVE

The goal will be achieved by the provision of adequate and sustainable WASH facilities/hard infrastructure, physical improvements to QFs and isolation facilities, gender-responsive support and health services, and women-friendly spaces. Therefore, this programme will target Quarantine Facilities, isolation facilities and communities at risk to rapidly address WASH and gender issues in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Capacity-building, training and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) will be carried out to ensure that people managing the facilities are able to do so in a safe, hygienic and gender-responsive manner. Special consideration will be given to the disproportionate impacts of Covid-19 on women, girls and other marginalised groups, causing increased rates of SGBV and limiting their access to essential services.

### Project Scope (Target areas and beneficiaries)

The project targets QFs, Isolation Facilities, protection shelters, health facilities, and communities at risk as identified in cooperation with the Government. These are in Savannakhet, Champassak, Sekong, Saravane, Khammouane, Bolikhamxay, Attapeu, Bokeo, Luang Prabang and Vientiane.



## Progress on indicators

	Target Number of Direct Beneficiaries	Progress on targets
<p><b>Component 1</b></p>	<p>350 women &amp; girls in the first year</p> <p>500 women &amp; girls per year (after the first year)</p> <p>50 service providers</p>	<p><b>6,566 women and girls</b> (through case management, outreach and counseling (hotline and mobile))</p> <p>More than <b>100 service providers</b> of the new protection shelters (through complementary funding)</p>
<p><b>Component 2</b></p>	<p>430 people per quarantine/isolation cycle</p> <p>30 utility staff</p> <p>2,600 people (approx.) when the public buildings continue with their usual mandated activities</p>	<p><b>1,175 people</b> per facility</p> <p><b>34 utility staff</b></p> <p><b>10,580 people</b> (including approx. 5,300 women and girls) when the public buildings continue with their usual mandated activities</p>



## Component 1 (UNFPA)

### Protection shelters for survivors of GBV

“The protection and social services component will be improving protection shelters for survivors of violence. At least 3 new protection shelters, and 2 already in place, will be improved and operationalized, and these shelters will provide safe and protection to accommodate at least 500 women and girl survivors of violence and vulnerable women and girls during the first two years.

The protection shelters will provide essential social services, including psychosocial support, health assistance, legal counselling, vocational training, and reintegration preparation and support for survivors of violence and vulnerable women and girls of the target provinces.”

#### Summary of achievements under Component 1

##### ✓ **Three (3) protection shelters**

completed and officially opened in Attapeu, Boliamxay and Champasak, and have been operationalized to provide services for survivors of violence

✓ Lifesaving essential services and case management provided to

##### ✓ **314 survivors**

of GBV in Attapeu, Bolikhamxay and Champasak by Provincial and District Women’s Union, including at the newly established shelters

##### ✓ **1,498 people**

were provided **mental health and psychosocial support** through Attapeu LWU’s newly established hotline

##### ✓ **7,626**

community members reached through **outreach, including to to respond to floods**

Further information about the achievements under Component 1 are explained in detail below as follows:

- Establishing the Protection Shelters
- Operationalising the shelters through:
  - a) capacity building
  - b) outreach activities and
  - c) provision of essential services to survivors of violence.

# Establishing the Protection Shelters

The OSSCs/Protection Shelters in the 3 target provinces are now completed, officially opened and are operationalised to receive survivors. The design of the OSSCs meet international standards, as far as possible, including principles of Universal Design for accessibility. They have a survivor-centric design, prioritizing safety and security of the survivors, including through fencing, security huts, CCTV and secure lock systems. The process is outlined below.

After conducting an extensive review of global good practice for the establishment and operationalisation of One Stop Service Centres (OSSC) and safe shelters, UNFPA then conducted sensitisation sessions with provincial Lao Women’s Union and Provincial Public Works from Bolikamsay, Champasak and Attapeu on the intersection between construction/renovation of OSSCs and GBV Foundational Principles and survivor-centred approach. The Government was provided with Standard Operating Procedures for establishing and operationalising an OSSC in Laos, developed by UNFPA to ground international standards in the Lao context.

UN-Habitat supported shelter designs, in consultation with UNFPA to ensure it met GBV standards, including giving feedback on changes to ensure accessibility/privacy, and provided technical oversight of the construction/renovation of the three shelters together with UNFPA's civil engineer.



*Protection shelter/One Stop Service Centre established in Attapeu*

UNFPA worked closely with UN-Habitat for technical quality assurance on the architectural design and construction, given UN-Habitat’s expertise and existing partnerships in this area. UNFPA and UN-Habitat held a number of bilateral meetings to ensure quality assurance of shelter designs and proposed construction plans, including supporting UN-Habitat technical staff to visit the shelter site in Champasak and Bolikhamxay.

Buy-in site visits with senior provincial Government officials were also conducted in Bolikhamxay and Champasak, to ensure ownership of the shelters by the Government, as well as contribution of land or existing buildings, where appropriate.

Each of the shelters were furnished with supplies, equipment and furnishings to ensure the **dignity, safety** and **security** of the survivors and staff, for example, CCTV cameras have been installed (see photo right), alarm systems, recreational activities, gardening equipment etc. in addition to basic necessities.



The opening ceremonies for the three new protection shelters all commenced with opening remarks, a ribbon cutting, ceremonial drum, and then a site tour. In all target provinces, UNFPA shared with provincial LWU the Standard Operating Procedures for shelter operationalisation (SOP), and prior to the official opening sensitised LWU staff to standards for shelter operationalisation. The LWU staff in all 3 provinces had already received training on the Standard Operating Procedure for the *Social Sector: Protection and Support for Women and Girls Subject to Violence in Lao PDR* to ensure they were ready to receive survivors the moment the doors opened.

The shelters in Bolikhamxay and Champasak were officially opened under the auspices of the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** in December 2023, thereby garnering strong media attention.



## ATTAPEU PROVINCE

The **Opening Ceremony of the Centre for Counseling and Protection of Women and Children in Attapeu** was held on 4th May 2023. The ceremony was opened by H.E. Dr Inlavanh Keobounphanh, President of the Lao Women’s Union and Mr Leth Xayaphone the Attapeu Provincial Governor, Ms Mariam A. Khan, Representative, UNFPA Lao PDR, the Provincial Leadership, Lao Women’s Union, Different Departments and District Lao Women’s Union.



On this important occasion H.E. Dr Inlavanh Keobounphanh received the completed construction project from the construction company to officially hand over to the Provincial Lao Women’s Union.



See [press release here](#)



## BOLIKHAMXAY PROVINCE

The official **opening ceremony** of the **Counselling and Protection Center in Bolikhamxay** was held on the morning of Monday 11th December and attended by LWU President, UNFPA Representative, representatives from UN Habitat (on behalf of UNH as well as the Japanese Embassy), as well as the Governor of Bolikhamxay and President of Bolikhamxay, Women’s Union.



“



*These centres will provide services based on the Standard Operating Procedures for the social and health sectors, and coordination and referral pathways for gender-based violence. I trust that the great leadership at the provincial level will ensure that survivors of violence receive essential social and health services, and they can effectively refer survivors to each other based on survivors’ needs.”*

- **President of the Lao Women’s Union**  
**Mrs Aly Vongnobhountham**

### **Committment from local government**

The Governor of Bolikhamxay demonstrated the ownership and commitment to protecting the rights of women and girls, especially those who experience violence, by allocating the plot of land initially, committing police personnel to be at the shelter 24/7, and at the opening ceremony also committed to contribute the installation of air-conditioning, fences and plants to enhance the protection center.



*A bedroom for survivors in Bolikamxay Counseling and Protection Shelter*

 See press release [here](#)



*Counseling room in Bolikamxay Counseling and Protection Shelter*



## CHAMPASAK PROVINCE

The **official opening ceremony** of the **Counselling and Protection Center in Champasak** was held on the morning of Wednesday 13th December and was attended by LWU President, UNFPA Representative, Japanese Ambassador, representatives from UN Habitat, as well as the Governor of Champasak and President of Champasak Women’s Union.



“

*The completion of the Counselling and Protection Centre for Women and Children marks a milestone in the project’s success, but our efforts will and must continue. As long as violence against women and girls remains a universal challenge, we need to address it.”*

- Ambassador of Japan to Lao PDR,  
H.E. Kenichi Kobayashi

### Commitment from local government

The Governor of Champasak demonstrated strong ownership and commitment to protecting the rights of women and girls, especially those who experience violence, by allocating the plot of land initially, committing police and health personnel (nurses) to be at the shelter 24/7 and on call, improving the surrounds such as paving the driveway and contributing plants.



*A bedroom for survivors with the option of a partition in the Champasak shelter*



See press release [here](#)



*Counseling room in Champasak Counselling and Protection Center for Women and Children*

## Commitment from Partners

There was a commitment from all partners to continue to build upon the success of the Safer Cities Project, with a **shared goal of establishing a protection shelter in every province in Lao PDR.**

LWU Central and LWU Provincial speakers strongly highlighted the importance of coordination and a functioning referral pathway using the UNFPA-supported SOPs, noting police will be stationed 24/7 in the shelter and nurses on call, as well as ensuring strong referral pathways with nearby hospital and legal services.



## Media highlights

The opening of the shelters in Champasak and Bolikhamxay elicited strong media interest, particularly as they were opening under the umbrella of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, a global and national campaign. The opening shelters were featured on the **first page of the Vientiane Times**, as well as in Laotian Times, KPL and provincial newspapers, and on national and provincial television and radio.



Government of Japan supports UNFPA, LWU to protect survivors of violence in Borikhamxay, Champassak



Japanese Ambassador to Laos, Mr. Kazuo Kobayashi (second right), cuts a ribbon to open the Counseling and Protection Centres for Women and Children.

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### Government of Japan supports UNFPA, LWU to protect survivors of violence in Borikhamxay, Champassak



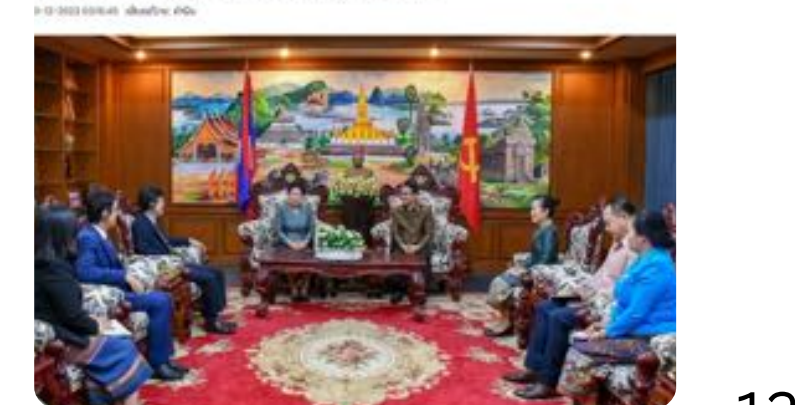
Japanese Ambassador to Laos, Mr. Kazuo Kobayashi (second right), cuts a ribbon to open the Counseling and Protection Centres for Women and Children.

The study conducted in three women in Laos had experienced physical, sexual and emotional violence in the hands of their partners. The national survey also showed that only 10 to 300 women shared their experience of violence with others, and only 1 to 300 women sought assistance and services.

The President of the Lao Women's Union, Ma Aty Virangkhavongkham, said "From this moment onwards, these centres will provide services based on the Standard Operating Procedures for the social and health sectors, and coordination and cultural pathways for gender-based violence. I trust that the great leadership at the provincial level will ensure that survivors of violence receive essential social and health services, and they can effectively refer survivors to each other and the justice sector based on survivors' needs."

These additional shelters for survivors of violence falls under the National Plan of Action on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Children (2021-2034), and is pursuant to the Lao government's KCPD commitment to end gender-based violence by 2030. It is a milestone achievement for the Lao government's KCPD commitment to end gender-based violence by 2030. It is a milestone achievement for the Lao government's KCPD commitment to end gender-based violence by 2030. It is a milestone achievement for the Lao government's KCPD commitment to end gender-based violence by 2030.

### 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence



## Operationalising the shelters

through a) capacity building, b) outreach activities and c) provision of essential services to survivors of violence

To ensure sustainability of the shelter infrastructure, UNFPA conducted **capacity building with more than 100 Lao Women's Union staff** on the provision of social services to survivors of violence, and have already supported the provision of **essential lifesaving services to 314 survivors of GBV**, as well as **mental health and psychosocial support to 1,498 people** (899 women and 599 men).

In addition to this, the provincial LWU staff also conducted **outreach with 7,626 community members** to sensitise them to gender and GBV and the new protection shelters, including in response to the increased risk of GBV after a natural disaster (floods).

### a) Capacity building

To ensure operationalization of the shelters, capacity building was conducted with LWU staff to strengthen their capacities to provide essential services to GBV survivors, including counseling services on psycho-social, law, health, safe shelter, vocational training to victims/survivors, access to necessary services, including information, knowledge on prevention measures and on how to deal with violence, coordination with other sectors.

Capacity building on the GBV Standard Operating Procedures for the Social Sector, supported by UNFPA, was conducted with more than 100 LWU frontline service providers in Champasak, Attapeu and Bolikhamxay provinces with financial support from complementary projects from other funding sources to strengthen the capacity of LWU to effectively respond to cases of violence.



**LWU Champasak staff are now well equipped to implement the Standard Operating Procedures for Social Sector Response to Women and Girls Subject to Violence in the newly established shelter**

## b) Outreach activities

The Provincial LWU staff of each target province also conducted outreach in remote communities, reaching a total of **7,356 community members** (5,133 females and 2,223 males). The outreach sensitised women and girls to their rights and legal protections, as well as support services available including the newly established protection shelters. Men and boys in the communities were also sensitised to laws on GBV and early marriage, and the consequences of violence and legal repercussions.

To **respond to the floods** in August 2023, this outreach in Bolikamxay and Champasak was also conducted in flood-affected villages, in conjunction with the distribution of Dignity Kits for women and girls of reproductive age, demonstrating the agility of this Project to respond to evolving needs of communities resulting from humanitarian crises.



*Outreach activities and Dignity Kits distribution in flood affected villages in Champasak*





### c) Essential lifesaving services to survivors

Attapeu is the only shelter officially receiving survivors during the project reporting dates, and provided **direct lifesaving services to 314 survivors of GBV**, including safe shelter, mental health and psychosocial support, essential items (clothing, food), legal assistance, referrals to other sectors (eg. police, education).

In addition to this, they provided **counseling services** through their newly established hotline to a total of **1,498 people** (899 women and 599 men).

*LWU staff complete an Intake and Assessment Form for a survivor of violence to stay at the shelter and receive multisectoral services*



## Component 2 (UN-HABITAT)

### Improved WASH/ Quarantine/ Isolation facilities for the community

This initiative focused on safeguarding the health, safety and well-being of people in quarantine facilities (QFs) and isolation facilities, as well as communities at risk in Lao PDR, thereby also improving the response to COVID-19 and the containment of the virus. With the change in domestic and international environments including the end of the pandemic, most quarantine facilities have returned to their original function, thus continuing to benefit many people. The rehabilitated WASH facilities through this project will thus contribute to maintaining healthy communities.

The scope of the component includes of the provision of WASH facilities, physical improvements to QF and isolation facility structures, gender-responsive support and health services, and women-friendly spaces.

### Summary of achievements under Component 2

- 
**Rehabilitated 9 WASH facilities**  
 in 6 Health Centres, 1 Hospital, 1 Vaccine Warehouse, 1 Community Centre  
 in 4 provinces of **Saravane, Savannaket, Sayaboury, and Oudomxay.**
- 
**10,575 people**  
 in the targeted areas benefitted from the WASH facilities.



*The Rehabilitated WASH Facilities*

# Visibility

## Launch ceremony:

Video: Youtube | [UNFPA and the Govt of Japan signed on Safer Cities: Interventions against COVID-19 in Lao PDR](#)

## Press articles:

1. **Vientiane Mai** | [ຍີ່ປຸ່ນສະໜອງທຶນເຂົ້າໃນໂຄງການ ເມືອງທີ່ປອດໄພກວ່າການແຊກແຊງ ເພື່ອຕ້ານການແຜ່ລະບາດຂອງ COVID-19 ຢູ່ລາວ](#)
2. **Vientiane Times** | [Japan, UNFPA launch project to support vulnerable women and girls](#)
3. **Lao News Agency (KPL)** | [Japan, UNFPA partner with LWU, MOPWT and UN-Habitat to launch “Safer Cities Initiative”](#)
4. **UNFPA Lao PDR** | [Government of Japan and UNFPA partner with LWU, MOPWT and UN-Habitat to launch a Safer Cities Initiative](#)

## Opening protection shelters:

### Attapeu Province

1. **Laotian Times** | [New Protection Shelter for Domestic Violence Victims Opens in Attapeu](#)
2. **UNFPA Lao PDR** | [LWU, UNFPA and the Government of Japan, Supports Attapeu Province To Keep Survivors Of Gender-Based Violence Safe at New Protection Center for Women and Children](#)
3. **Media Laos** | [ແຂວງອັດຕະປື ເປີດການນຳໃຊ້ສູນໃຫ້ຄຳປຶກສາ,ປົກປ້ອງແມ່ຍິງ ແລະ ເດັກນ້ອຍ](#)
4. **Lao News Agency (KPL)** | [LWU, UNFPA, Japan support Attapeu to keep survivors of gender-based violence safe](#)

### Bolikhambxay Province

1. **VTE9** | [ສະຫະພັນແມ່ຍິງແຂວງບໍລິຄຳໄຊ ມອບ-ຮັບ ແລະ ເປີດການນຳໃຊ້ສູນໃຫ້ຄຳປຶກສາປົກປ້ອງແມ່ຍິງ ແລະ ເດັກນ້ອຍ](#)
2. **Bolikhambxay News** | [ເປີດການນຳໃຊ້ສູນໃຫ້ຄຳປຶກສາ ແລະ ປົກປ້ອງແມ່ຍິງ-ເດັກນ້ອຍຂອງສະຫະພັນແມ່ຍິງແຂວງບໍລິຄຳໄຊ](#)
3. **Bolikhambxay Women’s Union** | [ສະຫະພັນແມ່ຍິງແຂວງ ບໍລິຄຳໄຊ ໄດ້ຈັດພິທີ ມອບ-ຮັບ ແລະ ເປີດການນຳໃຊ້ສູນໃຫ້ຄຳປຶກສາ, ປົກປ້ອງແມ່ຍິງ ແລະ ເດັກນ້ອຍ ຂຶ້ນຢ່າງເປັນທາງການ](#)

### Champasak Province

1. **Radio Free Asia** | [ເປີດສູນໃຫ້ຄຳປຶກສາ, ປົກປ້ອງເດັກນ້ອຍ ທີ່ແຂວງຈຳປາສັກ](#)
2. **UNFPA Lao PDR** | [The Government of Japan supports UNFPA, LWU to protect survivors of violence in Bolikhambxay and Champasak](#)
3. **UN-HABITAT Asia-Pacific** | [Empowering Survivors: Inauguration of Protection Shelters for Victims of Gender-Based Violence in Lao PDR](#)

From the People of Japan

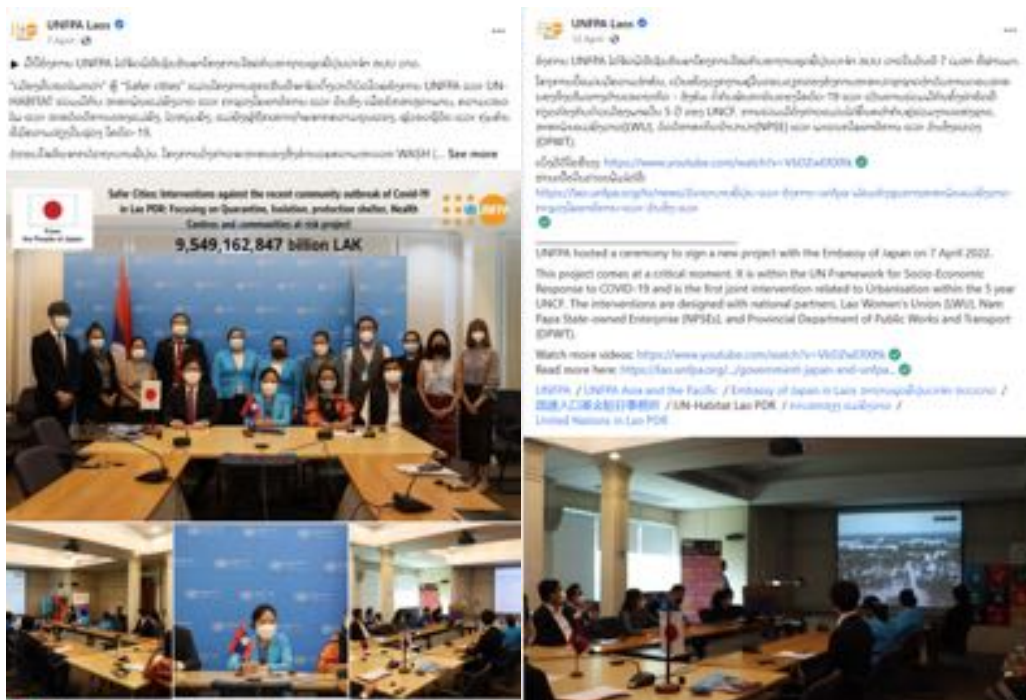
# Visibility

Other press articles referring to the support of Japan

1. UNFPA Lao PDR | [Establishing Standard Operations Procedures so that there is no “wrong door” for a survivor of violence to seek help](#)
2. UNFPA Lao PDR | [ການສ້າງມາດຕະຖານການປະຕິບັດງານ \(SOP\) ເພື່ອບໍ່ໃຫ້ຜູ້ລອດຊີວິດຈາກຄວາມຮຸນແຮງເຂົ້າ “ຜິດປະຕູ” ເມື່ອເວລາຂໍການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອ](#)

Social Media (Facebook and Twitter)

## Project Launch



## Promoting Japan’s support to end GBV in all its forms and engaging communities and men



From  
the People of Japan

**E**nvironments made safe

*"The Government of Japan immediately provided support as part of the COVID-19 response, to make cities and facilities safe for women and girls, including gender-responsive quarantine facilities, protection shelters and health centres, through the "Safer Cities" Joint Programme with UNFPA and UN-Habitat."*

**UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls**

**H.E. Mr. Kenichi Kobayashi,  
Ambassador of Japan to the Lao PDR**

**UNFPA Laos**  
19 May

Thank you From the People of #LaoPDR Unfpa Laos UNFPA UNFPA Asia and the Pacific 国連人口基金駐日事務所 to the Embassy of Japan in Laos ສາທາລະນະລັດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ລາວ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan For supporting the rights and dignity of vulnerable women

**From  
the People of Japan**

**UNFPA**

**Thank you Japan  
for supporting the people of Lao PDR**

This year we will establish 03 new protection shelters and strengthen the 02 existing ones so that women and girls victims of violence and survivors receive the care and support they need.



From  
the People of Japan

## Opening Ceremony for Shelters



**UNFPA Lao PDR**  
@UNFPALaoPDR Follow

The Government of Japan Supports Attapeu Province To Keep Survivors Of Gender-Based Violence Safe at New Protection Center for Women and Children!  
@UNFPA\_Japan @EikoNarita @MofaJapan\_jp @MofaJapan\_en @WAW\_Japan @COA\_mofa\_japan @SDGs\_MOFA\_JAPAN @JapanMissionUN

10:10 AM · May 8, 2023

1 Like · Reply · Copy link

Read 1 reply

**UNFPA Lao PDR**  
@UNFPALaoPDR Follow

Replying to @UNFPALaoPDR

As part of a national system strengthening, LWU, with Japanese Gov't support, opened in Attapeu a new Protection Shelter for Women and Children as a part of a broader UNFPA investment to support LWU to coordinate improved social and health services for #GBV response nationwide.

10:10 AM · May 8, 2023

1 Like · Reply · Copy link

Read 2 replies

**UNFPA Lao PDR**  
@UNFPALaoPDR Follow

Replying to @UNFPALaoPDR

The protection centers are part of the Essential Services Package (ESP) - a global good practice for a coordinated response by all sectors to provide survivor-centered services, which is being implemented by the Government of Laos with the support of UNFPA.

10:10 AM · May 8, 2023

See the latest COVID-19 information on X

Read 1 reply





# Sustainability of the Project

## Local ownership

To ensure sustainability of the GBV protection shelters, buy-in from Central and Provincial Government was critical to strengthen ownership. UNFPA conducted meetings with Government counterparts from the beginning of the project, with Provincial Government contributing to the project complementarily by allocating plots of land and agreeing to level streets.

Further, the Provincial Governors have demonstrated ownership and commitment to ensuring the Safer Cities Project is sustainable, by allocating human resources from other sectors (police, health) either 24/7 or on call, as well as equipment (eg. AC), and indoor and outdoor furniture or items (eg. fencing, plants).

For UN-Habitat facilities, community engagement ensures the sustainability of the project by involving local communities in decision-making processes and implementation.

## Capacity building and knowledge transfer

The project was implemented in partnership with local public authorities and resources were included for local capacity building for maintenance and future development of the implemented infrastructure. The project also focused on facilitating knowledge transfer to local authorities and communities for the continued operation and maintenance of infrastructure.

For example, all LWU personnel that staff the new protection shelters have been trained to provide essential services and case management to survivors of violence, in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures for Social Sector for GBV Response, which align with international standards in case management of GBV.

## Climate resilience

Climate resilience in infrastructure design was incorporated to ensure that facilities can withstand environmental changes and potential future challenges.

# Cooperation and Collaboration

UNFPA and UN-Habitat have been well synergised for the delivery of this project. Both agencies are experienced in supporting the government in service delivery to vulnerable populations across the social, housing and health sector. UN-Habitat has requested the technical assistance of UNFPA's gender and GBV experts to ensure gender is adequately mainstreamed and integrated into their programmatic activities, and UNFPA has requested the technical assistance of UN-Habitat for architectural design and construction quality assurance.

A UN-Habitat representative also joined the opening ceremonies of the shelters in Bolikamxay and Champasak, as a liaison officer between Japan, UN-Habitat and UNFPA, in her capacity as Project Coordinator from UN-Habitat as well as representative of the People of Japan.

## Lessons learned

### Timely and Comprehensive Assessments

- Lesson: Rapid assessments proved crucial for gathering essential information.
- Implication: Future projects should prioritize thorough initial assessments to identify needs, challenges, and opportunities for effective planning.

### Effective Stakeholder Coordination

- Lesson: The importance of buy-in and ownership by the Government is paramount, particularly at the provincial level. Coordination with provincial authorities, public health offices, and other stakeholders was essential for project success.
- Implication: Continued collaboration with local authorities and stakeholders should be emphasized in future projects to ensure a streamlined implementation process. When considering expansion of this Project or a 2nd Phase, budget should support "scoping missions" to the target provinces, to ensure Government co-contribution to the shelters, facilities and activities.

### Adaptability to Local Contexts

- Lesson: Adapting to the unique needs of different provinces was necessary for success.
- Implication: Future initiatives should be flexible and considerate of the local context, tailoring interventions based on specific requirements.

### **Transparent Communication**

- Lesson: Regular communication with key stakeholders facilitated smooth project implementation.
- Implication: Maintaining transparent and frequent communication channels with all involved parties is crucial for addressing concerns, sharing progress, and receiving valuable feedback.

### **Efficient Project Implementation and Monitoring**

- Lesson: Monitoring project progress helped identify and address issues promptly, and manage bottlenecks.
- Implication: Ongoing monitoring mechanisms should be integrated into future projects to track progress, mitigate risks, and ensure timely completion.
- Action point: To avoid delayed implementation of activities due to lengthy financial process between LWU and national treasury, support LWU to establish its own BCEL account so that UNFPA can transfer directly to LWU for activity implementation.

### **Strong collaboration between Sister UN Agencies**

- Lessons: Strong collaboration between UNFPA and UN-Habitat and the intersection of technical guidance on construction of any new protection shelters (gender-responsive and survivor-centric from UNFPA, architectural design from UN-Habitat) was instrumental in ensuring the success of this Project.
- Implication: Any expansion of Second Phase of this Project should continue to leverage the strong collaboration and comparative advantage of UNFPA and UN-Habitat.