

FAMILY PLANNING 2020 COMMITMENT



GOVT. OF LAO PDR

[HTTP://WWW.FAMILYPLANNING2020.ORG/ENTITIES/188](http://www.familyplanning2020.org/entities/188)

The following text summarizes the commitment made by the government of Lao in 2016.

The Lao government is committed to the care of its citizens' health, focusing on the hygiene, prevention, and health promotion as priorities and curative care and provision of health services with quality, equity, and fairness as important issues. Under the Hygiene and Health Promotion Programme pertaining to maternal health, the government's aim is to implement the maternal, neonatal, and child health package and improve the planning, monitoring, and supplying of medical equipment and essential medicines to ensure the maternal and child health services reach the target groups in remote areas, the poor and various ethnic population.

Key indicators include:

- Increase CPR for modern methods from 42 percent to 65 percent by 2020;
- Reduce unmet need for contraception (WRA; modern methods) to 13 percent by 2020 (from 20 percent in 2012); and
- Expand coverage and method mix for family planning services in health facilities with a focus on long-acting methods, such as implants and IUDs.

POLICY & POLITICAL COMMITMENTS

The Ministry of Health will undertake the revision of the Reproductive Health Policy to promote an enabling environment for family planning and to design services to support reproductive rights and to improve the sexual and reproductive health of men, women, and adolescents. The Lao 8th Five Year Plan also focuses on reproductive health and the government envisions the full delivery of family planning services in the private sector, including IUD and implant services in private clinics, through the adoption of supportive policies under the revision of Health Care Law. In addition, the government commits to developing an national information, education, and communication (IEC) and behavior change communication (BCC) strategy on family planning—based on the national communication IEC/BCC for health strategy.

PROGRAM & SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITMENTS

The government of Lao commits to scale up family planning services to health center and village levels to increase the access to reproductive health and information for adolescents, aiming to boost the number of women using family planning services. Key interventions planned include:

- Extending the training of existing community midwife students by a month to become proficient in family planning counselling and procedures (IUDs, implants, emergency contraceptive);
- Establishing separate private, family planning-friendly rooms in selected district hospitals;
- Increasing the coverage of family planning and maternal, neonatal, and child health services at the community level through the scaling up of existing, successful community-based interventions, such as the Community Based Distribution Programme;
- Mapping and focusing on high-burden districts and villages, with total fertility rate greater than 3, unmet need greater than 15 percent or 20 percent, and CPR between 35 percent or 45 percent;
- Conduct formative research to inform the development and adaptation and field-testing of IEC materials in local ethnic languages; and
- Pilot youth-friendly service counselling rooms—separate from the maternal, neonatal, and child health unit—and in selected district hospitals.