


Empowering Our Youth

GOOD PRACTICES

Social Media Content Creators - TikTok

The initiative under UNFPA and Reckitt Strategic Partnership to promote to end the unmet need for family planning among young people of all groups, healthy unintended pregnancy, and social reintegration of teen mothers.

Through strong and meaningful engagement of youths and strategic local partners, the project applies three strategies to end the unmet need for family planning and repeat unintended teen pregnancy including 1) accelerating access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including Family Planning (FP) among the youth of all groups especially those from vulnerability; 2) promoting condom use among high-risk youth groups to STIs and HIVs; and 3) supporting teen mothers with sufficient nutrition during pregnancy and reintegrate to society, jobs, and education.



Under the project, youth are fully engaged to ensure their potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA: Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

Idea and Objective

The origin of the idea is traced back to recognizing that TikTok is now one of the main means of communication, as prevalent as ever—among the youth. TikTok serves as a primary platform for the youth in which UNFPA Thailand sees this opportunity to make TikTok an ideal place to further promote and engage younger generations in the conversations under the umbrella of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights.



Participant
filming a TikTok

Our goal is also to empower the youth for family planning built upon Thailand's Prevention and Solution to the Adolescent Pregnancy Problems Act – AP Act (2016). Beyond the promotion of SRHR, creating TikTok under the topic also is a platform for celebrating creativity both in content creation and video production.

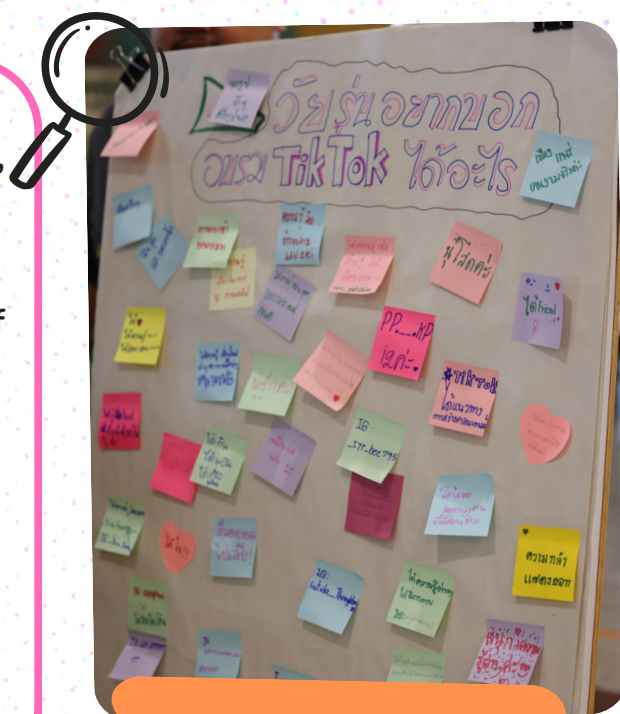
To enhance engagement and contribute to accelerating access to SRHR, family planning, nutrition, and the social reintegration of teen mothers, UNFPA, Implementing Partners, and teachers provided support by hosting and organizing TikTok boot camps. The boot camps focused on both tips and tricks in video production and basic SRHR knowledge to ultimately empower the participants. Each local implementing partner contributes their own twist to the initiative as they specialize in different topics under the common theme of SRHR.

How are the youth engaged?



Youths from 2 provinces, Chiang Mai and Phare were selected along with their teachers from the youth leaders in various schools from the provinces. Youth leaders who joined our TikTok boot camps are under the care of our Implementing Partners: Khon Wai Sai, Palang Jo (Teen power group), Raks Thai Foundation, Health Promotion Center Region 1 (Chiang Mai), and Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT, Chiang Mai).

3 boot camps were organised to equip youths with SRHR and FP and social media knowledge, as well as social media production techniques and skills. The focus was narrowed down to 3 main aspects—STIs, condom use and other contraceptive methods, and the brief concept of “My Body, My Rights”. Guest speakers were invited to educate youth participants during TikTok boot camps. To complete the boot camps, youth participants had to produce at least one TikTok. As a celebration of productivity and creativity from making TikToks, a TikTok promoting SRHR knowledge was later created. Some of the youth participants from the boot camps submitted their TikToks for it.



Feedback from youth participants

To amp up the fun for our content creators, we brought in a dynamic team with media expertise from Dhurakij Pundit University. These media experts were on board with their technical support on the production aspect. They teamed up with our Implementing Partners and their youth networks, unleashing a wave of creativity. Together, they crafted essential messages, crafted fun but informative social media clips, and monitored the whole TikTok-making process—from the behind-the-scenes video-making to the online premiere, to make sure key messages are communicated about family planning all under the UNFPA Thailand's mandate. 🚀🌟

Teachers also played a vital role in not only attending the boot camps but also networking with each other, sharing insights, and facilitating in helping our youth participants produce TikToks—some were even in the TikTok submitted themselves. This highlights strong collaborative efforts involving the adults in youth participation.

Results and Impact

The TikTok contest held on the 29th of November acted as an extension of results from the boot camps. Over 200 youths from both Chiang Mai and Phrae joined the event with over 150 Video Clips ready for the Tik-Tok platform submitted in teams and individuals to the contest. 36 Video Clips were voted by project partners for the finalists, which the judges, UNFPA, and our Implementing Partners were overwhelmingly proud of. These 36 videos were uploaded to the TikTok platform.

The final judges were carefully selected from individuals with expertise in SRHR and video production; the judges are composed of a good combination of representatives from youth, Reckitt, the Department of Child under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and the Department of Health under Ministry of Public Health, academia, and UNFPA. The winners of 6 categories including Best of Content, Best of Creativity, Best of Story, Best of Production, vote at both team and individual levels, and Best of the Best were awarded.

Within a week after uploading to the Tik-Tok Platform, these 36 clips reached 500,000 views, 70,000 likes and more than 500 shares!

Lesson learned

A notable achievement of this initiative is that TikTok content that was created and inspired by our participants sparked many meaningful online conversations on the topic under SRHR with many aspects like my body my right, condom use, and STIs. Bringing the positive impact of empowering and educating the rural demographic is an important lesson learned which such media exposure can inspire many groups of people of all ages to cultivate similar key messages online. Those youth who did not produce the content also expressed their appreciation of their friends through comments, shares, and likes. Despite the short time constraint, this marks a significant milestone in promoting SRHR through youth participation led by UNFPA Thailand.



Empowering Our Youth

GOOD PRACTICES

Empowering Our Youth Journey Pass

The initiative under UNFPA and Reckitt Strategic Partnership to promote to end the unmet need for family planning among young people of all groups, healthy unintended pregnancy, and social reintegration of teen mothers.

Through strong and meaningful engagement of youths and strategic local partners, the project applies three strategies to end the unmet need for family planning and repeat unintended teen pregnancy including 1) accelerating access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including Family Planning (FP) among the youth of all groups especially those from vulnerability; 2) promoting condom use among high-risk youth groups to STIs and HIVs; and 3) supporting teen mothers with sufficient nutrition during pregnancy and reintegrate to society, jobs, and education.



Participant playing a mini-game

Under the project, youth are fully engaged to ensure their potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA: Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



The United Nations Population Fund
กองทุนประชากรแห่งสหประชาชาติ




Idea and Objective

The Journey pass was created to engage young people at the exhibition during the Tik-Tok contest, it was designed to educate and remind youths about the SRHR and FP, Safe Sex, and support the reintegration of teen mothers with interactive and utmost youth-friendly approach activities.

Collaborating with our local implementing partners (Khon Wai Sai, Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT), and Raks Thai Foundation), educational booths were set up outside the TikTok contest venue. The goal was to involve and captivate youth participants with mini-games related to SRHR whilst interacting with our partners to foster meaningful discussions on the 'what', 'why', and 'how' of the subject. Each booth, aligned with our partners' primary missions, provided basic yet useful information as a reminder to the participants on what they have built content upon.

- Khon Wai Sai focused on the nutritional needs of mothers and children, as well as contraceptive methods.
- Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT) initiated efforts to educate participants further about their rights and choices under the Prevention and Solution of the Adolescent Pregnancy Problem (AP Act) (2016).
- Raks Thai Foundation, similarly, distributed informational leaflets on contraceptives and rights and choices under the AP Act.
- Our main sponsor, Reckitt, showcased the Durex booth featuring the distribution of condoms and their innovative initiative to recycle defective condoms into flip-flops which were also distributed to the participants.
- UNFPA talkboard with 2 questions for the youth: "What would you want to say to yourself in 5 years?" and "How hard is it to be a teenager? Why?"



How are the youth engaged?



The Journey Pass was handed out to the participants during the TikTok contest on November 29th. It included sections for collecting stamps from five different booths including UNFPA Thailand. The primary objective was to promote the continual learning of Sexual and Reproductive Rights and Health (SRHR). 👍



Result and impact

Apart from funds, around 200 youths were provided opportunities to retrain and refresh their SRHR and FP knowledge as well as skills through the Journey Pass. Not only did the Journey Pass help with the encouragement of learning, but it also served its purpose of prioritizing education within the contest itself, recognizing that not all participants would be able to receive prizes and awards. Everyone went home with something, yay!

In the end – after collecting all the stamps, participants all got a chance to draw prizes at our gift booth to encourage learning. This strongly reflects the essence of our work to encourage the never-ending learning of our mandate under Outcome 1 in ending the unmet need for family planning.



Lesson learned

Incorporating Journey Pass as part of SRHR awareness spreading offers benefits and vital lessons in increased engagement, rewarded learning, community building, and measurable impact accompanying the TikTok boot camps and the contest. Close collaboration with UNFPA local partners in the design and development of the exercise amplified the success of the youth Journey Pass further. This provides a memorable and comprehensive experience whilst promoting creativity and feedback generation.



Junior Administrative Assistant encouraging youth to participate in our booth

Empowering Our Youth

GOOD PRACTICES

The “talk board”

The initiative under UNFPA and Reckitt Strategic Partnership to promote to end the unmet need for family planning among young people of all groups, healthy unintended pregnancy, and social reintegration of teen mothers.

Through strong and meaningful engagement of youths and strategic local partners, the project applies three strategies to end the unmet need for family planning and repeat unintended teen pregnancy including 1) accelerating access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including Family Planning (FP) among the youth of all groups especially those from vulnerability; 2) promoting condom use among high-risk youth groups to STIs and HIVs; and 3) supporting teen mothers with sufficient nutrition during pregnancy and reintegrate to society, jobs, and education.

Under the project, youth are fully engaged to ensure their potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA: Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.



The United Nations Population Fund
กองทุนประชากรแห่งสหประชาชาติ



Idea and objective

The Talk Board acted as an additional platform for the youth participants to voice their opinions, even if it is very little detail that adults might not fully grasp. Despite aiming for youth participants' engagement, there are also answers from teachers who accompanied their students. The Youth Engagement and Junior Assistant encouraged the participants to write their thoughts under 2 short questions on sticky notes, emphasizing that there were no right or wrong answers and that this was the easiest way and a safe space for the youth participants to express their concerns freely. 😊

How are the youth engaged?

Youth are engaged by utilizing the Talk Board as a platform to ensure that various aspects of their lives are acknowledged and not overlooked. Through a brief exercise, participants are encouraged to provide concise responses on small sticky notes, allowing for direct and unfiltered expressions. This approach fosters a comfortable environment where youth can prioritize their needs without the pressure associated with traditional homework assignments, providing more space for creative expression. The exercise enables youth to self-regulate, reflect on their interests, and actively seek opportunities for further learning. This aligns with the overarching goal of ensuring that youth are fully engaged to realize their full potential.



One of the talk board's vibrant answers!






Result and Impact




Participants, once assured they could express anything, eagerly answered two carefully selected questions related to the TikTok boot camps and contest. One question allowed for tailored responses from the adults involved. It appears that youth participants themselves started their own conversations on what to write during the event, sharing, expressing, laughing, and asking relevant but fun questions between each other. The questions displayed on the Talk Board were:




What would you want to say to yourself in 5 years?

Responses from youth focused on self-support and encouragement in various aspects of life, indicating a pursuit of self-development for future stability. Participants expressed positive visions of being happy, successful, and following their dreams, with some having clear goals such as travelling and finding true love.



How hard is it to be a teenager? Why?



Youth shared concerns about love, education, finance, jobs, bodily changes, and mental health. Notably, observations included discussions about hormonal fluctuations leading to new feelings of sexual desire. While some expressed contentment with their living situation, others struggled with challenges like heartbreaks, financial struggles, academic stress, and the need to balance work and study. Communication difficulties with parents were also highlighted.



Lesson learned

The answers were mostly anticipated since the creation process of the questions, especially uncertainties and distraught feelings, which cannot be forgotten as an essential part of one's adolescent development. The answers might only reflect teens' short-term goals, which gives us hope for room for improvement. All in all, this is a good observation of the essence of the youth. These answers reflect self-love and determination, despite some answers showing uncertainty about their well-being in the future, they emphasize the need for our support in alignment with our mandate to empower youth and women.



Youth participants thinking hard on what to express 🙌

Empowering Our Youth

GOOD PRACTICES

Phrae – Instructional Material

The initiative under UNFPA and Reckitt Strategic Partnership to promote to end the unmet need for family planning among young people of all groups, healthy unintended pregnancy, and social reintegration of teen mothers.

Through strong and meaningful engagement of youths and strategic local partners, the project applies three strategies to end the unmet need for family planning and repeat unintended teen pregnancy including 1) accelerating access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including Family Planning (FP) among the youth of all groups especially those from vulnerability; 2) promoting condom use among high-risk youth groups to STIs and HIVs; and 3) supporting teen mothers with sufficient nutrition during pregnancy and reintegrate to society, jobs, and education.

Under the project, youth are fully engaged to ensure their potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA: Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

A truly youth-led activity by Palang Jo's youth!



The United Nations Population Fund
กองทุนประชากรแห่งสหประชาชาติ





Idea and objective


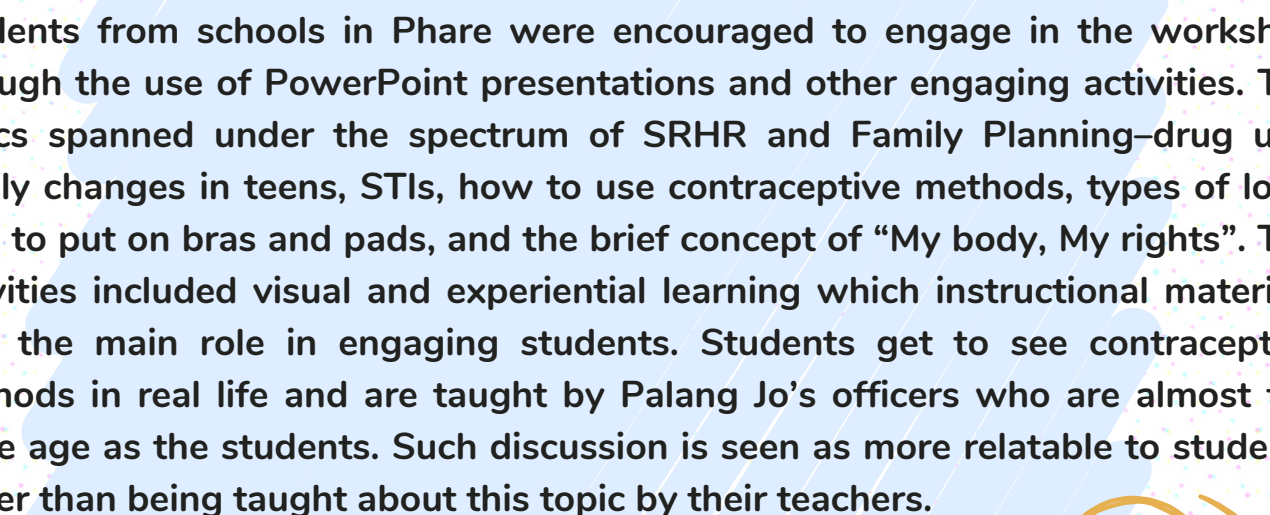
Workshops serve as a foundation tool for UNFPA Thailand and local Implementing Partners in expanding access to SRHR and Family Planning information and services in both Chiang Mai and Phrae. The innovative initiative of utilizing TikTok content cannot be successful without the groundwork laid by these workshops. A crucial focus is placed on visual and experiential learning, especially due to the challenge of the scarcity of teaching materials and donated contraceptives like condoms.

The local Implementing Partner, Palang Jo, plays an important role in addressing challenges in rural areas, particularly supporting youth who have been pushed out of the education system due to limited access to SRHR knowledge and services, often resulting in unintended teenage pregnancies and drug use. Palang Jo's primary mission involves facilitating social reintegration for these youth and providing a consultation space to improve their access to SRHR knowledge and services.

Many of their contributions involve the use of instructional material during the workshops they have been hosting in numerous schools in Phrae province. This is to enhance the basic understanding of informed rights and choices under SRHR and the Prevention and Solution to the Adolescent Pregnancy Problem Act (AP Act, 2016).

How are the youth engaged?

Students from schools in Phare were encouraged to engage in the workshop through the use of PowerPoint presentations and other engaging activities. The topics spanned under the spectrum of SRHR and Family Planning—drug use, bodily changes in teens, STIs, how to use contraceptive methods, types of love, how to put on bras and pads, and the brief concept of “My body, My rights”. The activities included visual and experiential learning which instructional materials play the main role in engaging students. Students get to see contraceptive methods in real life and are taught by Palang Jo's officers who are almost the same age as the students. Such discussion is seen as more relatable to students rather than being taught about this topic by their teachers.



Result and Impact

Students were happily engaging with the workshop. The use of real images stories and experiences intrigued them. They immediately made conversations, especially among youth leaders who had been trained about the topic, though there were certain things that they might have not known before. They further expressed their contentment in being involved with this kind of activity.

From observation, not only do students get to be divided into groups with engaging activities like being taught how to use condoms and putting a condom on the models together. The workshops facilitated by the use of instructional materials further inspire newer faces who are interested in becoming youth leaders themselves to provide SRHR knowledge and peer consultation.

Lesson learned

The use of instructional materials in workshops and other forms of learning is crucial to engaging young people—from PowerPoint presentations to contraceptive display boards. Such materials have been proven effective in fostering deeper understanding and students' interest in topics under the SRHR and Family Planning umbrella. The use of visual and experiential learning approaches makes learning more relatable and engaging given that the topics are seen as taboo when discussed. The active involvement of Palang Jo officers leading the workshop, who are closer in age to the students, makes it even more engaging and inspires newcomers to become youth leaders. The key takeaways are the importance of interactive and visually engaging techniques for fostering SRHR information results in even more youth engagement and interest.



Participants are divided into smaller groups to learn how to put on a condom

Empowering Our Youth

GOOD PRACTICES

Phrae – Thai Youth Camp

The initiative under UNFPA and Reckitt Strategic Partnership to promote to end the unmet need for family planning among young people of all groups, healthy unintended pregnancy, and social reintegration of teen mothers.

Through strong and meaningful engagement of youths and strategic local partners, the project applies three strategies to end the unmet need for family planning and repeat unintended teen pregnancy including 1) accelerating access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including Family Planning (FP) among the youth of all groups especially those from vulnerability; 2) promoting condom use among high-risk youth groups to STIs and HIVs; and 3) supporting teen mothers with sufficient nutrition during pregnancy and reintegrate to society, jobs, and education.



Under the project, youth are fully engaged to ensure their potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA: Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

A youth-led workshop done by Palang Jo as part of the Thai youth camp



The United Nations Population Fund
กองทุนประชากรแห่งสหประชาชาติ



Idea and objective

The idea behind the Thai Youth Camp is rooted in the belief that education extends beyond textbooks and traditional classroom settings. The camp is another platform that is practical and interactive for the students to experience, hosted annually by Muang Phrae School in Phrae province of Thailand. Cooking competitions, crafting, and energizers promote physical health and well-being, creativity, and fostering a sense of community between 10, 11, and 12 Graders—the activities arrangement differs each year. Its goal is to foster social change by empowering youth through an active 2-day learning experience. Accompanying with points and rewards from the scores of each activity, this motivates the youth to reach their full potential.

How are the youth engaged?

With the goal of encouraging the youth to a dynamic learning experience, a SRHR workshop hosted by our local Implementing Partner, Palang Jo, took place as part of their first day after the opening remarks were given by the School Director. Throughout this workshop, the teachers ensure a smooth learning process for the students, providing essential guidance. A monk trainee teacher also observed the SRHR and Family Planning workshop in the hope of incorporating correct SRHR and Family Planning knowledge into future lessons from a different perspective further ensuring the youth to prosper to their full potential.

กิจกรรม	คะแนน		
	ม.4	ม.5	ม.6
1. เข้าแถว	-5	-5	
2. ลงทะเบียนเข้า	-5	-5	
3. ลงทะเบียนป่วย			
4. เข้าแถว			
5. จัดอาสา			
6. Master Chef			
7. ทอดคอกพิมาศ			
8. ทำตุง			
9. มณีใต้เท้า			
สรุปคะแนน			


Thai Youth Camp
scoreboard



How are the youth engaged? (cont.)

Teachers added an element of excitement to the 2-day event by adopting the reward system based on the group's performance in each activity. This has incredibly transformed the camp into a more enjoyable experience for the students. To amplify the creativity, worksheets were distributed for the 2-day journey of fun and productive learning experiences. This was to empower the youth to conceptualize their newly acquired knowledge. The worksheet also served as a measure of their understanding and performance, for a rewarding educational journey at the Thai Youth Camp. Scoring at least 80 scores out of 100 is considered as passing for this camp.

Youth participants were instantly making conversations on the topics that they learnt and took turns to lead the team throughout many activities, it was super exciting to witness that in action! 🎉



Result and Impact

The Thai Youth Camp has yielded fruitful results, including the birthing of new youth leaders as some of the current ones are graduating, ensuring access to SRHR and Family Planning knowledge and services—as part of UNFPA Thailand's primary goal. The leadership spirits shown during the activities encouraged participants to take on leadership roles and become advocates.

These activities have provided a platform for the new youth leaders to step up to offer consultation and create safe spaces for other students during their existing club activities. This aligns with the camp's main goal to empower the students to engage in many meaningful activities to drive society forward, including recognizing their SRHR and Family Planning.



Lesson learned

The Thai Youth Camp highlights the importance of experiential and holistic learning approaches to create well-rounded youths who can further empower themselves and others. The camp successfully engages and expands the knowledge of participating students by incorporating workshops, point systems, and practical application of such knowledge through worksheets which further strengthen the impact.

The new faces of youth leaders that this 2-day activity will create highlight the camp's success in promoting leadership, advocacy, and a sense of community. The key takeaway is that hands-on educational experiences that are not in the traditional classroom setting are crucial to the youth's personal development which UNFPA Thailand always strives to do.



Empowering Our Youth

GOOD PRACTICES

Gin Wo Festival

The initiative under UNFPA and Reckitt Strategic Partnership to promote to end the unmet need for family planning among young people of all groups, healthy unintended pregnancy, and social reintegration of teen mothers.

Through strong and meaningful engagement of youths and strategic local partners, the project applies three strategies to end the unmet need for family planning and repeat unintended teen pregnancy including 1) accelerating access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including Family Planning (FP) among the youth of all groups especially those from vulnerability; 2) promoting condom use among high-risk youth groups to STIs and HIVs; and 3) supporting teen mothers with sufficient nutrition during pregnancy and reintegrate to society, jobs, and education.

Under the project, youth are fully engaged to ensure their potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA: Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



Idea and objective

The vibrant energy of the Gin Wo Festival, a yearly celebration of the Lahu people, shines through every New Year. It's a time for the communities to come together, dancing, exchanging traditional food (Khao Pook), and mingling.



Khao Pook (traditional food of Gin Wo Festival)

Historically, Gin Wo lasted for only 4 days, a long-awaited reunion after the men of the community returned to the village. They often traveled far away from their community to go to war, exchange goods, or hunt animals. They use this opportunity to assemble all the people together after the men come back home. Over time, this has changed to an extravagant 9-day-long festivity. The festival serves as a hub for the Lahu people, especially the youths, to come together—both youths in the community and youths from other communities. They gathered and even had their own separate party from the adults, they all danced and sang to trendy songs. Amidst everything, love blooms between the youths from connecting through this occasion. The overall joy was infectious during the festivity as seen from teen couples taking pictures together during the festival.



Idea and Objective (cont.)



With joy, sometimes, often comes with risks, from dancing and connecting romantically leading to unprotected sexual intercourse among the youth that might contribute to unintended consequences like pregnancy and the contraction of STIs.


Raks Thai Foundation, our local Implementing Partner, works with many demographics, including those of ethnic. Their goal, under Empowering Our Youth, is to empower women and girls through many initiatives. Raks Thai Foundation sees this as an opportunity to connect with the youth of this Lahu community through engaging a youth leader who resides there, as part of their strategic plan.



How are the youth engaged?

The youth of Lahu plays a big role in participating in the Gin Wo Festival each year. They gather to sing, show their moves, drink, connect romantically, and have a blast in general. They might also engage in sexual activity from connecting with each other romantically without the awareness of unintended consequences. They are the future of this tight-knit community. So, this is why important questions about Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Family Planning are happening to ensure they are equipped with informed choices and are not at risk of unintended pregnancy and the contraction of STIs. Raks Thai Foundation, led by their youth officers, empowers the youth by providing informed choices on contraceptive methods like condoms and nutritional value that their newborn babies need.

In collaboration with the village headman and being equipped with SRHR information from Raks Thai Foundation, the youth leader cultivated safe spaces for open communication about ensuring access to SRHR: facilitating workshops, focus groups, educational booths with interactive activities, and even accompanying women and girls when buying contraceptive methods in the city. The youth are being awarded small prizes for participating in those activities. Through these initiatives, generations of youth leaders are created to further inspire the empowerment of other youth.



Result and Impact

The adults and the youth of this Lahu community welcomed us with open hearts during the water blessing and even during our educational booth signifying the conservation of tradition and progress in accelerating the access to SRHR and FP information and services.

This marks a milestone in the promises of the Lahu youth to be able to make informed decisions on SRHR and FP and ultimately for them to reach their full potential in their body, relationships, and future.

Lesson learned

After speaking with youth representatives in the community, there is still inequality in lacking contraceptive methods for women and girls. Only certain groups of people within the community have the means to acquire them or they are too scared to buy them over the counter alone. This is where we take notes to address this problem accurately and impose a solution to make birth control free just like condoms.

Whilst modern perspectives about SRHR and services hold a very important value, imposing it without taking hundreds of years of tradition into consideration can lead to tensions. Raks Thai Foundation, though, has been carefully approaching cultural beliefs with understanding and proactive measures that are essential to be upscaled and replicated.



Water blessing ceremony

Empowering Our Youth

GOOD PRACTICES

Raks Thai Foundation: Engaging the Youth

The initiative under UNFPA and Reckitt Strategic Partnership to promote to end the unmet need for family planning among young people of all groups, healthy unintended pregnancy, and social reintegration of teen mothers.

Through strong and meaningful engagement of youths and strategic local partners, the project applies three strategies to end the unmet need for family planning and repeat unintended teen pregnancy including 1) accelerating access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including Family Planning (FP) among the youth of all groups especially those from vulnerability; 2) promoting condom use among high-risk youth groups to STIs and HIVs; and 3) supporting teen mothers with sufficient nutrition during pregnancy and reintegrate to society, jobs, and education.



Under the project, youth are fully engaged to ensure their potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA: Delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.





Idea and objective



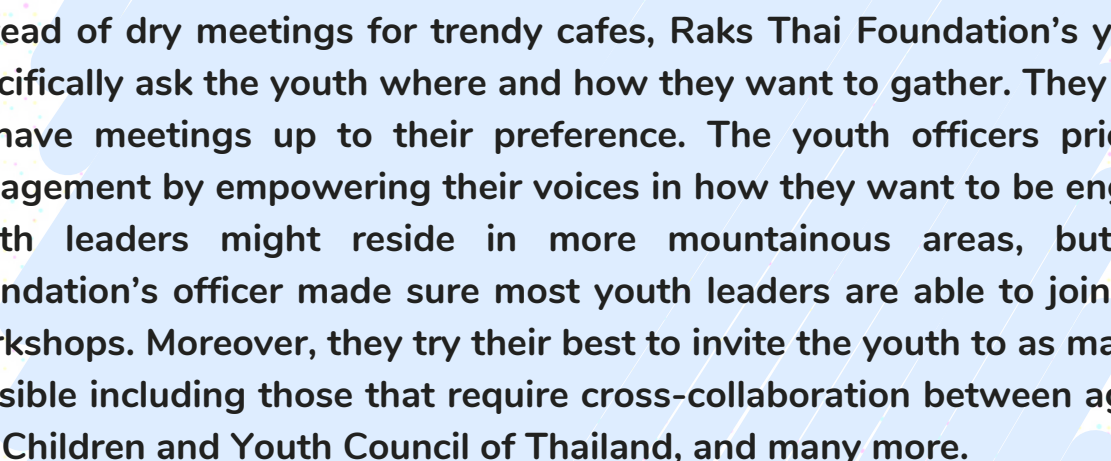
Raks Thai Foundation is a valuable project partner and a leading agency to accelerate access to SRHR and Family Planning among vulnerable youths including those who are of ethnic origin. Their work spans all demographics from HIV patients to elementary schoolers and diverse ethnic communities like Lahu by incorporating culturally sensitive approaches and interactive programs.

The officers in charge of Chiang Mai are also the locals themselves. They are rather familiar with the language and other cultural aspects, making them a very important key actor for us in connecting with local people and addressing problems that we can possibly work together under Empowering Our Youth project.



Recognizing the power of youth engagement, they encourage their youth officers to engage with those youths through a number of means for the ultimate goal of amplifying access to SRHR and FP information for their targeted demographic.



How are the youth engaged?



Instead of dry meetings for trendy cafes, Raks Thai Foundation's youth officers specifically ask the youth where and how they want to gather. They invited them to have meetings up to their preference. The youth officers prioritize youth engagement by empowering their voices in how they want to be engaged. Some youth leaders might reside in more mountainous areas, but Raks Thai Foundation's officer made sure most youth leaders are able to join meetings or workshops. Moreover, they try their best to invite the youth to as many events as possible including those that require cross-collaboration between agencies, with the Children and Youth Council of Thailand, and many more.





Neto, the youth leader who connected with us through Raks Thai Foundation's help

How are the youth engaged? (cont.)

Youth leaders are not selected from their academic performance and often are selected from the youth who have leadership skills and the ability to coordinate activities hosted by Raks Thai Foundation. They also have to be up to date with new information and services through consistently joining workshops. A lot of times, youth leaders have their own online spaces where other youth can come to ask questions and voice concerns through the youth leaders themselves. Generations of youth leaders have been working with Raks Thai. Often, they are those who are open to learning new things and meeting new people, and adults within their community encourage them to join the initiative.

Result and Impact

Increased access to SRHR and FP information for vulnerable youth is evident since the youth are now able to access basic yet necessary information from Raks Thai Foundation's local initiatives, especially bridging the gap between understanding both adults and youth of the communities with cultural aspects in consideration. Active youth engagement is also ensured as generations of youth have been actively involved, even if they're not leaders themselves, fostering higher participation in important discussions about SRHR and FP. This further inspires more generations of youth with informed choices marking a milestone in the sustainability of this initiative.

Lesson learned

Raks Thai Foundation's successful initiative teaches us an important lesson that in order to reach vulnerable youths about SRHR and FP information requires main aspects such as (1) empowering the youth up to their preference with supervision to ensure productivity, (2) using culturally sensitive and interactive approaches in their meeting spots and many engaging programs including those done within local communities, and (3) building on existing networks from local youth leaders who are capable to advocate for the youths to recognize that their full potential that can be reached through youth empowering other youth.

