



# FACTS

## PHOTOGRAPHS

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH  
A Project of the USAID Mission to Laos



An instructor at the midwifery school in Vientiane helps two students assemble a pelvic model. Eighteen midwifery instructors staff the four midwifery schools in Laos in Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Thakkek and Pakse.

USAID's Maternal and Child Health Family Planning Program began in 1969 with a project to provide health care for mothers and children in an environment in which the infant mortality rate is an estimated 47 percent of the number of births. Under the Maternal and Child Health Project, personnel are trained in maternal and child care, medical facilities constructed, and medical equipment and supplies provided.

With the Presidential Decree of January 5, 1973, establishing the Commission for the Promotion of Family Well-Being, the Council of Ministers has approved a policy to promote family planning in Laos, including an instruction to the Ministry of Health for its implementation.

[April 1972]



Prenatal clinic at Maternal and Child Health Center. These centers provide prenatal examinations and instructions in infant care for women in urban and rural Laos.



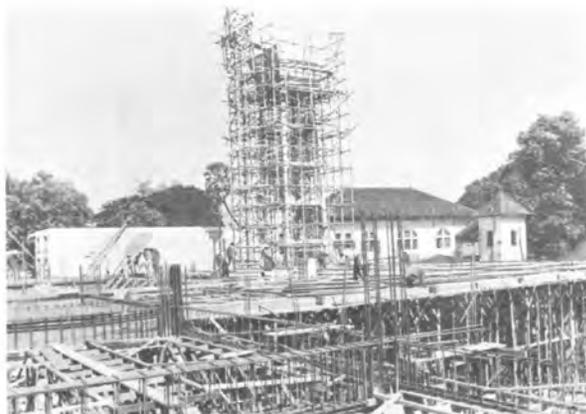
Mother, child and midwifery school graduate at the Main Health Center, Sikhay, Vientiane. WHO provides the services of a doctor and two nurses in training at the Center, UNICEF, medical equipment and supplies, and USAID funds for renovating the facilities.



Family planning services at a Maternal and Child Health Center. Midwife describes contraceptive devices and their use.

There are 216 graduates of the four midwifery schools in Laos; 73 students are now enrolled. These graduates staff 11 provincial, 7 district and 13 village maternal and child health centers. Sixty-five of the 202 rural midwives have received short-term inservice training under a program carried out by the Lao Family Welfare Association, a private organization sponsored by the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The Family Welfare Association operates eight clinics and a rural mobile unit which serves the refugee villages on the Vientiane Plain.

USAID is financing the construction of the National Maternal and Child Health Center, Mahoset Hospital, Vientiane. The Center will provide obstetric, gynecological and pediatric care and the facilities for training personnel in maternal and child health.



Six doctors, 11 midwives and 19 nurses have received from two to six weeks training in family planning in Thailand and in the Philippines. This short term training abroad will continue until staff and facilities are available within Laos. The National Maternal and Child Health Center, which is being constructed under the Maternal and Child Health Project will provide training for these personnel.

Since 1969, the International Planned Parenthood Federation has provided family planning services for those families in Laos who have requested the service. Family planning services are now available at hospitals and clinics in Vientiane and in the hospital at Ban Xon, which provides medical care for the refugees. Operation Brotherhood public health teams now include these services in their work in the villages.





ABOVE:  
Nutrition class at Mahoset hospital and one in a village home.

CENTER:  
A mother and newly born baby leave the Center.

BELOW:  
A baby is born at home. A new mother receives feeding instructions. An instructor watches a student prepare a bath.

