

# Lao People's Democratic Republic



This country profile should be read in conjunction with the "How to use the country profile" document which can be found at <u>unfpa.org/sowmy</u>

Map is an approximation of actual country borders.

Estimated population	2019	7,169,456
Women of reproductive age (aged 15-49)	2019	1,923,163
Adolescents (aged 10-19)	2019	1,456,114
Total fertility rate (births per woman)	2015-2020	2.7
Live births	2019	164,760
Pregnancies	2019	273,556
Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15-19)	2016	83.4
Maternal mortality ratio (maternal deaths per 100,000 live births)	2017	185
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths within 28 days per 1,000 live births)	2018	23
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 total births)	2019	17
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	2017	64%
Modern contraceptive prevalence rate (% using modern method)	2019	34%
Unmet need for family planning (% of women of reproductive age)	2019	8%
Caesarean section rate (% of live births)	2009-2012	4%
Coverage for 4+ antenatal care visits (% of live births)	2017	62%

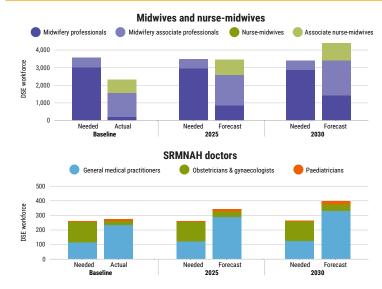
Data sources: see "How to use the country profile" document.

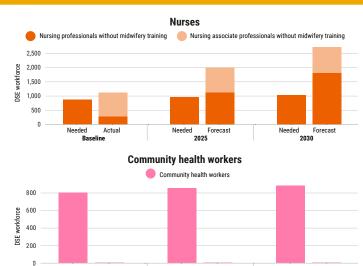
### FULL SRMNAH WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY

Occupation group	Year	Headcount (A)	Percentage of time on SRMNAH (B)	Dedicated SRMNAH Equivalent (DSE) (A*B)	<b>Grad</b> Year	<b>luates</b> Number	Density per 10,000 population
Midwifery professionals	2019	194	100%	194	2019	188	0.3
Midwifery associate professionals	2019	1,383	100%	1,383	nr	nr	1.9
Midwives not further defined	nr	nr	na	nr	nr	nr	nr
Nursing professionals	2019	669		294	2019	526	0.9
with midwifery training	nr	nr	na	nr	nr	nr	nr
without midwifery training	2019	669	44%	294	2019	526	0.9
Nursing associate professionals	2019	2,895		1,572	2019	30	4
with midwifery training	2019	1,246	60%	748	nr	nr	1.7
without midwifery training	2019	1,649	50%	825	2019	30	2.3
Nurses not further defined	nr	nr	na	nr	nr	nr	nr
Community health workers	2019	75	10%	8	nr	nr	0.1
Paramedical practitioners	2019	781	30%	234	2019	232	1.1
Medical assistants	2019	1,145	30%	344	nr	nr	1.6
General medical practitioners	nr	nr	na	nr	2019	94	nr
Obstetricians & gynaecologists	2019	54	50%	27	2019	7	0.1
Paediatricians	2019	81	15%	12	2019	11	0.1
Total SRMNAH workforce		7,277		4,068			10.2

Source: National Health Workforce Accounts (NHWA) data platform, accessed Dec-2020, most recent available year.

### PROJECTIONS TO 2030, DEDICATED SRMNAH EQUIVALENT (DSE) WORKFORCE





Needed Forecast 2025 Needed Forecast 2030

Needed Actual Baseline

Source: SoWMy analysis, using NHWA data platform, accessed Dec-2020

## Lao People's Democratic Republic

WIDER MIDWIFERY WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHY - Midwives and nurse-midwives (professionals and associates)

#### Gender distribution Age distribution 7% 55+ 85% 63% 35-54 women 30% <35 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Source: National Health Workforce Accounts (NHWA) data platform, accessed Dec-2020, most recent available year.

### **ENABLING ENVIRONMENT**

### **Policy environment**

r oncy environment					
National policy guideline that recommends midwife-led care for	Pregnancy	Childbirth	Postnatal		
pregnancy and/or childbirth and/or postnatal period for mother only, or both mother and newborn? *	Mother only	Mother & newborn	Mother 8 newborn		
Number of midwives in leadership roles in national MoH / sub-national	National MoH	Sub-national MoH	Regulatory authorities		
MoH / regulatory authorities	0 dk dk				
Education					
National policy / guideline on education of midwifery care providers based on ICM competencies? *		dk			
Midwifery education pathway (direct entry / post-nursing /	Direct entry	Post-nursing	Combined		
combined)?	yes	no	no		
Duration of direct entry / post-	Direct entry	Post-nursing	Combined		
nursing / combined education programme (months)	40	na	na		
% of midwifery educators who are midwives		dk			
Regulation					
National policy sets a competency framework for maternal and/or newborn care? *		dk			
National policy on regulation of midwifery care providers based on ICM competencies? *		dk			
Regulatory body for midwifery practice?		yes			
Is licensing compulsory prior to practise? / Is there periodic relicensing? / Is continuing	License compulsory	Periodic relicensing	Continuing development requirement		
professional development a requirement for relicensing?	no	na	na		
Association					
Is there a professional association	A i - A				

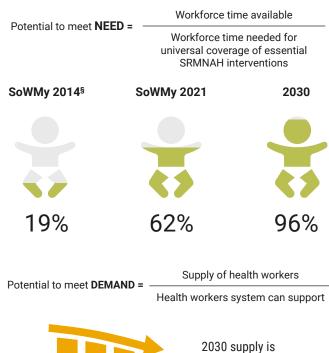
#### Is there a professional association Association specifically Other association open to midwives specifically for midwives? Is there for midwives another professional association yes no open to midwives?

Source: 2020 ICM survey, except those marked \* which are from 2018-2019 WHO SRMNCAH policy survey

POTENTIAL TO MEET NEED AND DEMAND, 2019 AND 2030

15%

men





§ or most recent regional SoWMy report: East & Southern Africa 2017 or Pacific States 2019

### **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

There are 2 direct-entry midwife education programmes: (1) a 40-month Bachelor's programme and (2) a 36-month Higher Diploma programme Regulation and licensing systems for midwives are currently under development.

Source: Additional information provided by national stakeholders during data collection and validation.

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