

Lao People's Democratic Republic



<http://www.who.int/countries/en/>

WHO region	Western Pacific
World Bank income group	Lower-middle-income
Child health	
Infants exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life (%) (2011-2012)	40
Diphtheria tetanus toxoid and pertussis (DTP3) immunization coverage among 1-year-olds (%) (2015)	89
Demographic and socioeconomic statistics	
Life expectancy at birth (years) (2015)	65.7 (Both sexes) 67.2 (Female) 64.1 (Male)
Population (in thousands) total (2015)	6802
% Population under 15 (2015)	34.8
% Population over 60 (2015)	6
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.25 a day (PPP) (% of population) (2008)	33.9
Literacy rate among adults aged >= 15 years (%) ()	
Gender Inequality Index rank (2014)	...
Human Development Index rank (2014)	141
Health systems	
Total expenditure on health as a percentage of gross domestic product (2014)	1.87
Private expenditure on health as a percentage of total expenditure on health (2014)	49.47
General government expenditure on health as a percentage of total government expenditure (2014)	3.44
Physicians density (per 1000 population) (2012)	0.182
Nursing and midwifery personnel density (per 1000 population) (2012)	0.876
Mortality and global health estimates	
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1000 live births) (2015)	30.1 [20.7-42.7]
Under-five mortality rate (probability of dying by age 5 per 1000 live births) (2015)	66.7 [48.8-89.7]
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births) (2015)	197 [136 - 307]
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%) (2011-2012)	40.1
Public health and environment	
Population using improved drinking water sources (%) (2015)	75.7 (Total) 69.4 (Rural) 85.6 (Urban)

Sources of data:
Global Health Observatory May 2017
<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.cco>

HEALTH SITUATION

The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a landlocked, ethnically diverse, mountainous and low population density country. As one of the fastest-growing economies in the WHO Western Pacific Region, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has seen rapid economic development in recent years. Public spending on health in the Lao People's Democratic Republic remains low, and health service provision continues to rely on out-of-pocket spending and external financing. The Lao People's Democratic Republic continues to face regular outbreaks of communicable diseases. Increased cross-border exchanges and climate change are expected to put further pressure on the health system's capacity to prevent, monitor and control outbreaks.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets will require a focus on off-track Millennium Development Goals as well as emerging challenges posed by rapid economic development. SDG targets and goals are reflected in national policies.

HEALTH POLICIES AND SYSTEM

The country's *Vision 2030* sees the Lao People's Democratic Republic as a middle- to high-income country with balanced economic and social development, political stability, and social order and social safety nets in place. The objectives of the *Eighth National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016–2020)* are continued poverty reduction, graduation from least developed country (LDC) status, effective management and use of natural resources, and strong regional and international integration. The Eighth Health Sector Development Plan seeks to address cultural, financial and geographical barriers encountered by vulnerable groups in accessing health services under the objective of reaching a more equitable health system. The *Lao Health Sector Reform 2013–2025* continues to build on the foundation of primary health care and aims to achieve UHC by 2025.

COOPERATION FOR HEALTH

The main donors in health are the World Bank; the Asian Development Bank; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; Japan; Luxembourg; the Republic of Korea; and the United States of America. Several vertical programmes continue to rely heavily on external funding. The Global Fund remains the largest and generally the only funding source for HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria programmes in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Similarly, Gavi support has been crucial for vaccine procurement, but the transition to procurement by the Government is expected by 2021. The Lao People's Democratic Republic is likely to reach graduation criteria from LDC status by 2020. This will lead to a decrease in official development assistance over the long term. This may affect the social sectors in particular, such as health and education, as they benefit significantly from external support. The *Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (2016–2025)* provides a framework for integrated responses involving various departments, ministries and partners.

WHO COUNTRY COOPERATION STRATEGIC AGENDA (2016–2020)	
Strategic Priorities	Main Focus Areas for WHO Cooperation
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: resilient health systems towards universal health coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve integrated people-centred service delivery through Phase II of the Health Sector Reform Process (2016–2020) To strengthen the development and use of health information for effective management and statistical reporting to senior decision-makers and provincial and district health managers
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: effective delivery of essential public health programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote implementation of the <i>National Strategy and Action Plan for Integrated Services on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health 2016–2025</i> To facilitate implementation of the comprehensive 2016–2020 plan for immunization To facilitate implementation of the <i>National Strategic Plan for Malaria Control and Elimination 2016–2020</i> To facilitate implementation of the <i>National Tuberculosis Action Plan 2015–2019</i>, To facilitate implementation of the <i>National Environment and Health Strategic Plan 2016–2020</i> To address social determinants of health and the increasing burden of NCDs in the Lao People's Democratic Republic
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: enhanced health security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To advance implementation of the <i>National Work Plan for Emerging Infectious Diseases and Public Health Emergencies 2016–2020</i> To contribute to achieving the strategic objectives of the <i>Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance</i> by 2021
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: effective policy dialogue and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on its convening role, WHO will collaborate with the Ministry of Health to promote collaborative and inclusive partnerships and harmonize donor support Based on its functions of supporting knowledge generation and sharing, WHO will support multisectoral approaches to address the social determinants of health and for the Ministry of Health to lead multisectoral approaches
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: active partner in the Greater Mekong Subregion and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To address identified regional cross-border health challenges, WHO will promote health security and information sharing in the Greater Mekong Subregion and advocate improved access to care for mobile and migrant populations. To support regional and global health diplomacy, WHO will support the country's preparation to address health issues in the Subregion and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and support documenting and sharing best practices to benefit the Region and beyond.

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