

LAO PDR GENDER LANDSCAPE

This briefing showcases the gender landscape in Lao PDR on key indicators helpful for monitoring gender equality and designing effective policy interventions. Gender equality fosters productivity gains and minimizes losses in wealth, reduces poverty, boosts shared prosperity, and supports green, resilient, and inclusive development.

Click the links below to explore the [World Bank Gender Data Portal](#).

Compared to:	Base Year	Region
>10% Higher Value	↗	
Equal/No Change	→	
>10% Lower Value	↘	
No Data	---	

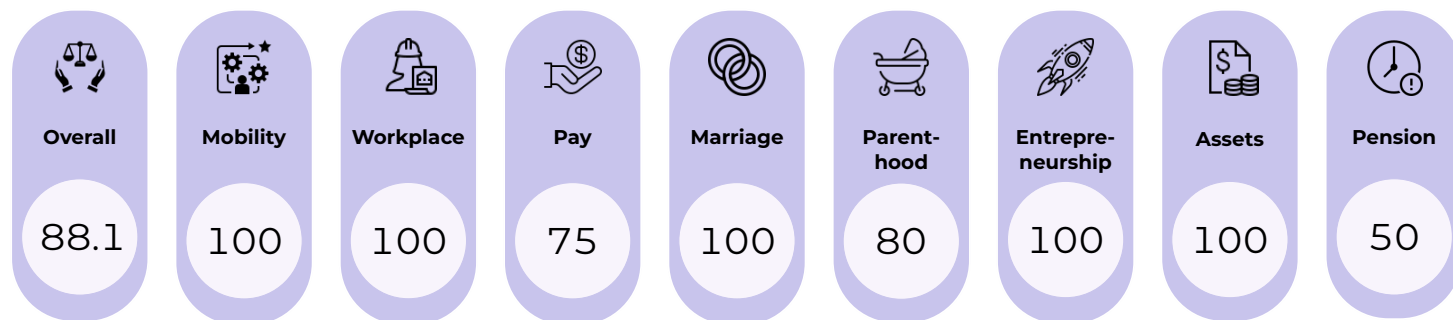
		Country Performance					Peer Comparison		
		Baseline					Latest		
		Value	Year				Value	Year	EAP
HUMAN ENDOWMENTS									
Learning-Adjusted Years of School	Female	NA	NA	---	6.30	2020	NA	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	6.20	2020	NA	NA	NA
Lower secondary completion rate (% of relevant age group)	Female	37.7	2010	↗	61.0	2020	93.1	76.9	77.3
	Male	46.7	2010	↗	63.0	2020	90.3	74.3	76.7
Female share of graduates from STEM programmes, tertiary (%)		16.6	2009	↗	29.0	2018	NA	NA	NA
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		3.14	2010	↘	2.58	2020	1.81	2.67	2.39
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)		69.4	2010	→	64.0	2020	20.6	41.4	41.0
Unmet need for contraception (% of married women ages 15-49)		27.3	2005	↘	14.3	2017	4.68	14.6	NA
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)		20.0	2003	↗	62.6	2017	NA	NA	NA
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births)		292	2010	↘	185	2017	69.0	253	211
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	24.6	2010	→	22.7	2019	12.5	19.1	14.8
	Male	32.3	2010	→	30.9	2019	21.2	25.3	21.7
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY									
Labor force participation rate (% age 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	76.7	2010	→	74.8	2021	59.0	33.6	46.3
	Male	79.8	2010	→	78.1	2021	74.8	72.0	71.7
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	10.9	2010	↗	18.5	2019	54.8	33.5	54.6
	Male	20.5	2010	↗	31.8	2019	57.8	38.0	53.0
Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%)		NA	NA	---	23.4	2017	NA	NA	NA
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	73.6	2010	↘	63.5	2019	22.1	41.9	25.3
	Male	69.3	2010	↘	59.4	2019	26.9	36.0	27.6
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	5.89	2010	↗	44.9	2017	NA	40.4	NA
	Male	4.34	2010	↗	39.1	2017	NA	14.5	NA
Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work (% of 24 hour day)	Female	10.4	2008	↗	13.6	2017	NA	NA	NA
	Male	1.67	2008	↗	10.1	2017	NA	NA	NA
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		67.0	2010	↘	56.8	2020	45.4	55.9	54.6
Financial institution account (% age 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	31.9	2017	NA	51.7	63.7
	Male	NA	NA	---	26.1	2017	NA	60.6	70.6
Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% age 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	6.41	2017	NA	6.81	5.26
	Male	NA	NA	---	8.99	2017	NA	9.00	7.57
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		39.3	2009	→	36.5	2018	47.4	33.9	33.1
VOICE AND AGENCY									
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		NA	NA	---	43.1	2018	32.8	20.0	17.8
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		25.2	2010	↘	22.0	2021	21.4	21.5	26.1
Women who were first married by age 18 (% of women ages 20-24)		NA	NA	---	32.7	2017	NA	NA	NA
Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of ever-partnered women ages 15-49)		NA	NA	---	6.40	2014	NA	NA	NA
Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife (any of five reasons, %)		NA	NA	---	58.2	2012	NA	NA	NA

Note: Data retrieved from World Bank Gender Data Portal. The East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region includes 38 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Lao PDR is a Lower middle income (LMC) country, which includes 55 countries with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita from \$1,046 to \$4,095 (calculated using the World Bank Atlas method). Data definitions can be found on the [Gender Data Portal](#). Country Baseline provides a reference value between 1990 and 2010. Latest Value shows the latest available comparison from 2011 onwards. Baseline comparisons are represented by an arrow icon that points to increases or decreases greater than 10 percent relative to the base year. Comparison to the regional average shows how Lao PDR performs relative to its peers in the region, income group, and the world. Darker and lighter shades represent values 10 percent or below or above its peers in the region, respectively.



Women, Business and the Law in Lao PDR

Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2022 presents an index covering 190 economies, structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. **Lao PDR scores 88.1 out of 100**, while the regional average across East Asia and Pacific is 80.4.

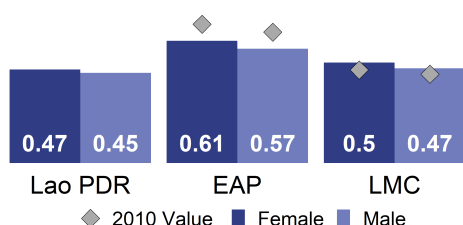


A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Lao PDR

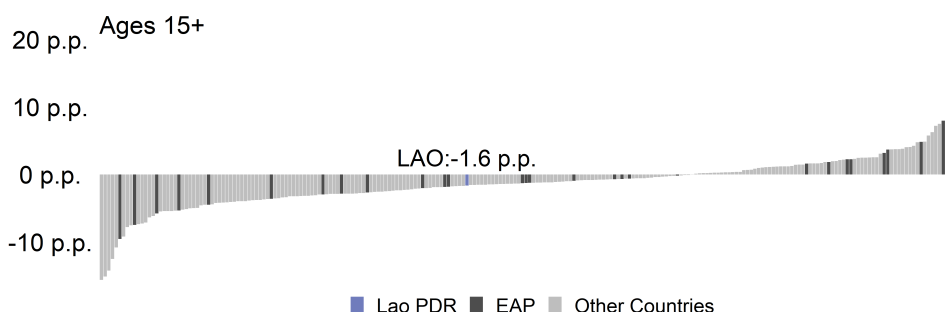
Despite some progress, gender gaps persist, gender-based violence and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls remain sticky, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic empowerment, including improving their voice and agency.

Human Capital Index Score (0-1)

Baseline compared to 2020



Change in Female Labor Force Participation 2010-2020 (p.p.)



Unpacking the Numbers in Lao PDR

46 percent

A girl born today will be 46 percent as productive as if she enjoyed full education, health, and employment (2020)

1 in 3

32.7 percent of women ages 20 to 24 were first married by age 18 (2017)

6.4 percent

6.4 percent of women were subjected to physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months (2014)

4 times

Men hold 4 times as many seats in the national parliament as women (2021)

0.8 times

A man is 0.8 times as likely to have used the internet to pay bills or to buy something online in the past year (2017)

LEARN MORE

- **The World Bank in Gender:** This portal features the latest research, news, and events around gender equality in international development.
- **Women, Business and the Law:** This portal includes reports, data, and news on the laws and regulations that affect women's economic opportunity.
- **World Bank Group Gender Strategy (FY16-FY23):** This 2015 report outlines the World Bank Group's strategy to promote gender equality.
- **World Bank Gender Data Portal:** This open data page shares the latest statistics and research to improve understanding and inform policy choices.
- **IFC Work in Gender:** This page provides an overview of the work by IFC to promote gender equality in its global partnerships.
- **EAP Gender Innovation Lab:** This page features policy research by the GILs, identifies priority gender gaps and tests innovative solutions in the EAP region.

