

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, minimizes losses in wealth, reduces poverty, boosts shared prosperity, and supports green, resilient, and inclusive development.

Click the measures 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 | | Latest | | |
| | | Value | Year | | Value | Year | EAP | LMC | World |
| HUMAN ENDOWMENTS | | | | | | | | | |
| Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling | Female | NA | NA | --- | 6.30 | 2020 | NA | NA | NA |
| | Male | NA | NA | --- | 6.20 | 2020 | NA | NA | NA |
| Lower secondary completion rate (% of relevant group) | Female | 37.7 | 2010 | ↗ | 61.0 | 2020 | 93.1 | NA | 77.3 |
| | Male | 46.7 | 2010 | ↗ | 63.0 | 2020 | 90.3 | NA | 76.7 |
| Female share of graduates from STEM programs, tertiary (%) | | 16.6 | 2009 | ↗ | 29.0 | 2018 | NA | NA | NA |
| Fertility rate, total (births per woman) | | 3.14 | 2010 | ↘ | 2.58 | 2020 | 1.81 | NA | 2.39 |
| Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19) | | 69.4 | 2010 | → | 64.0 | 2020 | 20.6 | NA | 41.0 |
| Maternal mortality ratio (modeled estimate per 100,000 live births) | | 292 | 2010 | ↘ | 185 | 2017 | 69.0 | NA | 211 |
| Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women) | | NA | NA | --- | 62.2 | 2017 | NA | NA | NA |
| Unmet need for contraception (% of married women 15-49) | | 27.3 | 2005 | ↘ | 14.3 | 2017 | 4.68 | NA | NA |
| Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%) | Female | 24.6 | 2010 | → | 22.7 | 2019 | 12.5 | NA | 14.8 |
| | Male | 32.3 | 2010 | → | 30.9 | 2019 | 21.2 | NA | 21.7 |
| ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY | | | | | | | | | |
| Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate) | Female | 76.7 | 2010 | → | 74.8 | 2021 | 59.0 | NA | 46.3 |
| | Male | 79.8 | 2010 | → | 78.1 | 2021 | 74.8 | NA | 71.7 |
| Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate) | Female | 10.9 | 2010 | ↗ | 18.5 | 2019 | 54.8 | NA | 54.6 |
| | Male | 20.5 | 2010 | ↗ | 31.8 | 2019 | 57.8 | NA | 53.0 |
| Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate) | Female | 73.6 | 2010 | ↘ | 63.5 | 2019 | 22.1 | NA | 25.3 |
| | Male | 69.3 | 2010 | ↘ | 59.4 | 2019 | 26.9 | NA | 27.6 |
| Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population) | Female | 5.89 | 2010 | ↗ | 44.9 | 2017 | NA | NA | NA |
| | Male | 4.34 | 2010 | ↗ | 39.1 | 2017 | NA | NA | 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 | NA | 54.6 |
| Financial institution account (% 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 (% 15+) | Female | NA | NA | --- | 6.41 | 2017 | NA | 6.81 | 5.26 |
| | Male | NA | NA | --- | 8.99 | 2017 | NA | 9.00 | 7.57 |
| Female share of employment in senior and middle management (%) | | NA | NA | --- | 23.4 | 2017 | NA | NA | NA |
| Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms) | | 39.3 | 2009 | → | 36.5 | 2018 | 47.4 | NA | 33.1 |
| VOICE AND AGENCY | | | | | | | | | |
| Firms with female top manager (% of firms) | | NA | NA | --- | 43.1 | 2018 | 32.8 | NA | 17.8 |
| Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%) | | 25.2 | 2010 | ↘ | 22.0 | 2021 | 21.4 | NA | 26.1 |
| Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 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 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: 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 and definitions can be found on the [Gender Data Portal](#).

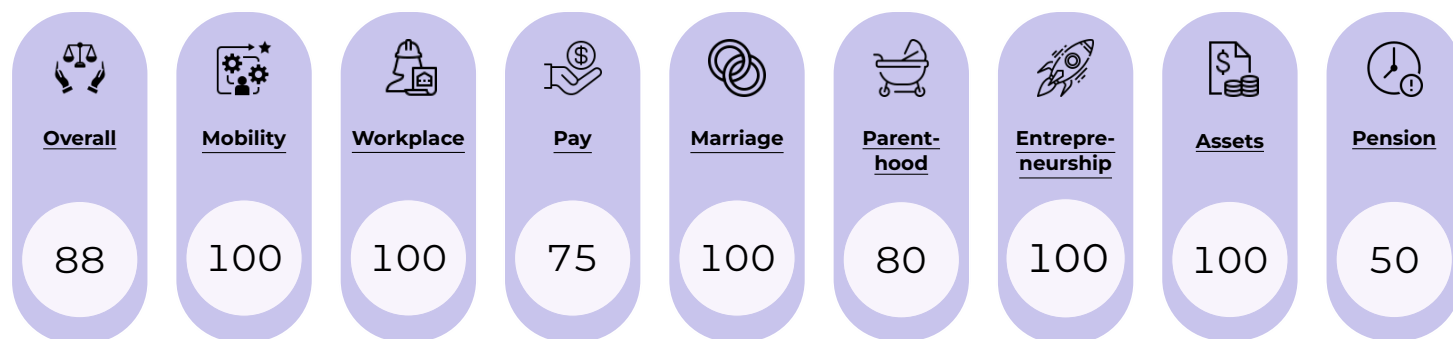
Country Baseline provides a reference from 1990 to 2010. Latest Value shows the latest available comparison from 2011 onwards. The arrow icon represents country increases or decreases over 10 percent relative to the base year. Peer comparisons show how Lao PDR performs relative to the region, income group, and the world. Lighter and darker shades represent values 10 percent above and below regional peer values, respectively.



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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 out of 100**, while the regional average across East Asia and Pacific is 80.

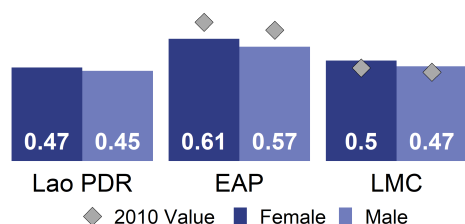


A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Lao PDR

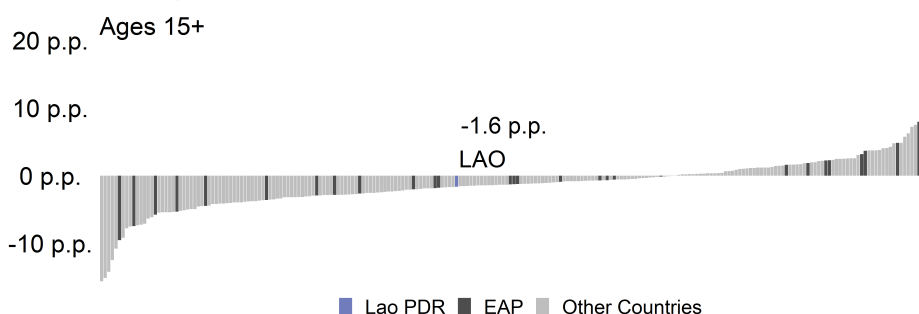
Despite some progress, gender gaps, gender-based violence, and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls persist, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to women's economic empowerment,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

33 in 100

33 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)**

3.5 times

Men hold 3.5 times as many seats in the national parliament as women **(2021)**

0.79 times

A man is 0.79 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 tool shares the latest statistics and research to improve understanding and inform policy choices.

EAP Gender Innovation Lab: This page features policy research by the GIL, evaluating innovative solutions to close priority gender gaps in the region.

