

# The Lao People's Democratic Republic

## Illustrative Human Capital Indicators

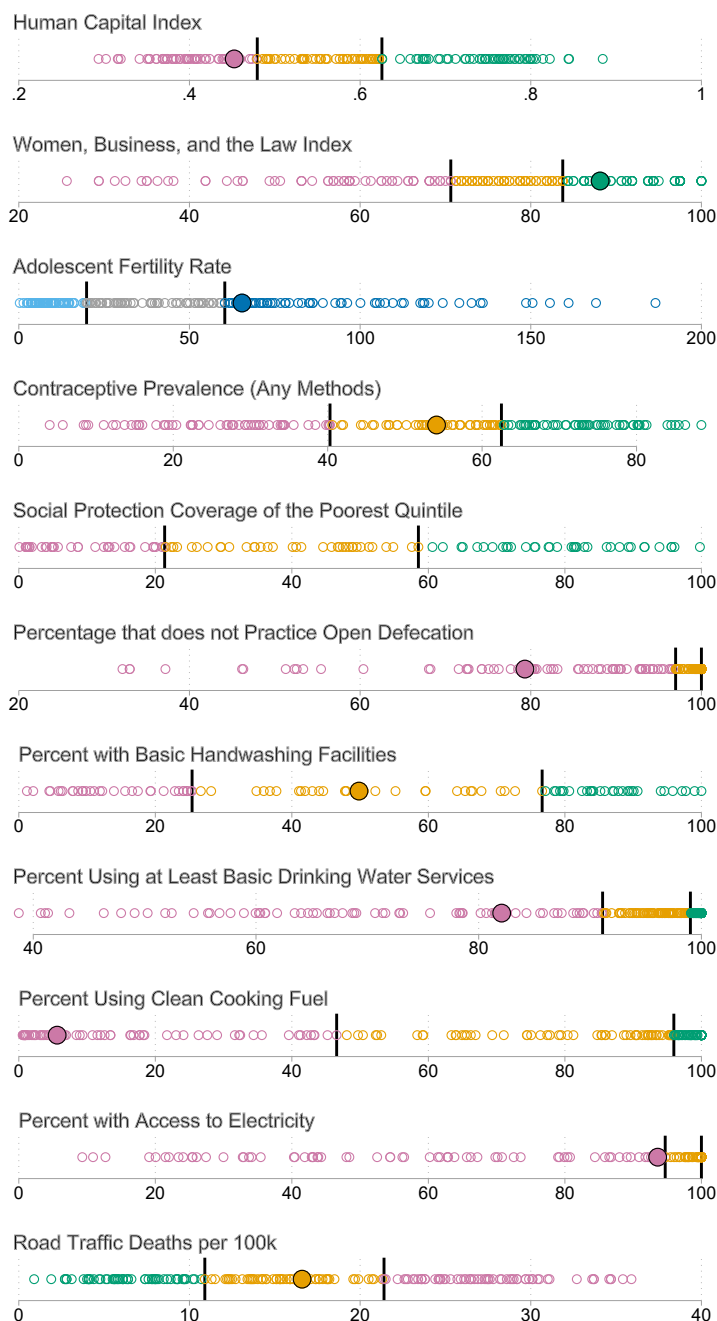
This country profile presents a snapshot of illustrative indicators to guide discussions during the Annual Meetings while the set of more strategic indicators are under development. It is intended to be a conversation starter on where a country is on various aspects of human capital development and, as such, it includes indicators from various sectors. It is to be noted that not all the indicators included here are relevant for each country. Information contained here should be complemented with other more context-specific indicators.

In the Lao PDR the productivity as a future worker of a child born today is **45 percent** as much as it could be. The country ranks **111 out of 157** in the global HCI. For more information on human capital outcomes and the HCI, please see the country two-pager on [www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital](http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital).

### ILLUSTRATIVE OUTCOME AND OUTPUT INDICATORS

- **Women, Business and the Law Index.** This index measures gender equality in the law (how the economic decisions women make are affected by the law), with a larger value showing higher gender equality. In the Lao PDR, the value is **88** out of 100. This is higher than both the average for its region (72) and the average for its income group (69).
- **Adolescent Fertility Rate.** In the Lao PDR, there are **65 births** per 1,000 women ages 15-19. This is higher than both the average for its region (27) and the average for its income group (56).
- **Contraceptive Prevalence.** In the Lao PDR, **54 percent** of women ages 15-49 uses some form of contraceptive method. This is higher than both the average for its region (51) and the average for its income group (49).
- **Social Protection Coverage.** In the Lao PDR, data on the percentage of the population that is covered by social safety nets do not exist. The average for the country's region is 46 percent and for its income group is 46 percent.
- **Open Defecation.** In the Lao PDR, **21 percent** of the population practices open defecation. This is higher than both the average for its region (7) and the average for its income group (12).
- **Hygiene.** In the Lao PDR, **50 percent** of the population has basic hygiene services (soap and water). This is lower than both the average for its region (63) and the average for its income group (53).
- **Source of Drinking Water.** In the Lao PDR, **82 percent** of the population has at least basic source of drinking water. This is lower than both the average for its region (92) and the average for its income group (83).
- **Cooking Fuel.** In the Lao PDR, **6 percent** of the population primarily uses clean cooking fuels. This is lower than both the average for its region (52) and the average for its income group (47).
- **Access to Electricity.** In the Lao PDR, **94 percent** of the population has access to electricity. This is higher than both the average for its region (92) and the average for its income group (82).
- **Road Traffic Deaths.** In the Lao PDR, for every 100,000 people **17 people** die due to road traffic injury. This is higher than the average for its region (13) but lower than the average for its income group (19).

## 1. Key Indicators on Human Capital

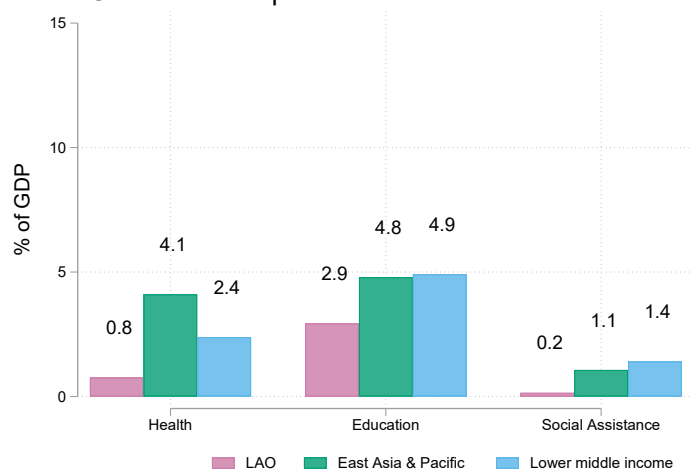


- Large circle=Lao PDR ; small circles=other countries.  
 - Vertical lines separate terciles of the distribution.  
 - Colors indicate the terciles of the distribution across countries.

## DOMESTIC RESOURCE USE AND MOBILIZATION

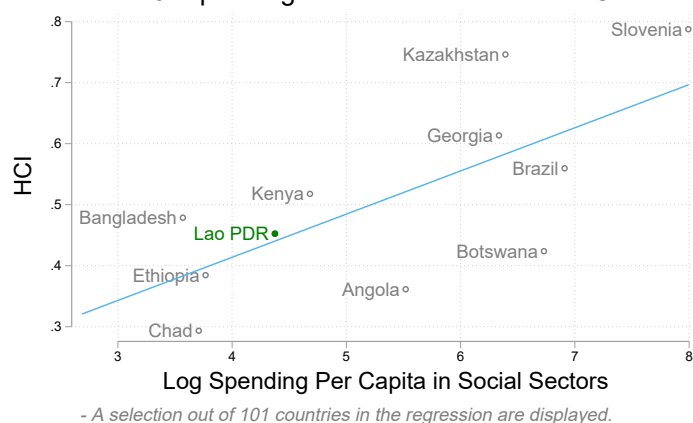
- **Health Spending.** The Lao PDR spends **.8 percent** of its GDP on health. This is lower than both the regional average (4.1) and the average for its income group (2.4).
- **Education Spending.** The Lao PDR spends **2.9 percent** of its GDP on education. This is lower than both the regional average (4.8) and the average for its income group (4.9).
- **Social Assistance Spending.** The Lao PDR spends **.2 percent** of its GDP on social assistance. This is lower than both the regional average (1.1) and the average for its income group (1.4).

## 2. Government Expenditure on the Social Sectors



- **Efficiency of Spending.** The HCI in the Lao PDR is **higher** than what would be predicted for its level of per capita government spending on the social sectors.

## 3. Spending on Social Sectors and HCI



- **Domestic Resource Mobilization.** In the Lao PDR, data on domestic resource mobilization do not exist. The average for the country's region is 17.4 percent and for its income group is 15.5 percent.

## 4. Domestic Resource Mobilization



## OTHER RELEVANT INDICATORS

- **Human Capital Project.** The Lao PDR has not yet signed up to be a member of the Human Capital Project.
- **Building Human Capital.** The Country Policy and Institutional Assessment rating for building human resources in the Lao PDR is **4** (1 is low and 6 is high). This is higher than both the regional average (3.3) and the average for its income group (3.6). This indicator assesses the national policies and public and private sector service delivery that affect access to and quality of health and education services.
- **Identification.** In the Lao PDR, **17.5 percent** of the population is not registered. This is higher than the average for its region (13.4) but lower than the average for its income group (20.3).

This country profile is based on most recent data available under the Human Capital Project, the World Development Indicators, Atlas of Social Protection - Indicators of Resilience and Equity (ASPIRE) and Identification for Development (ID4D).

For more information on data sources, please contact the Human Capital Project team: [humancapital@worldbank.org](mailto:humancapital@worldbank.org).