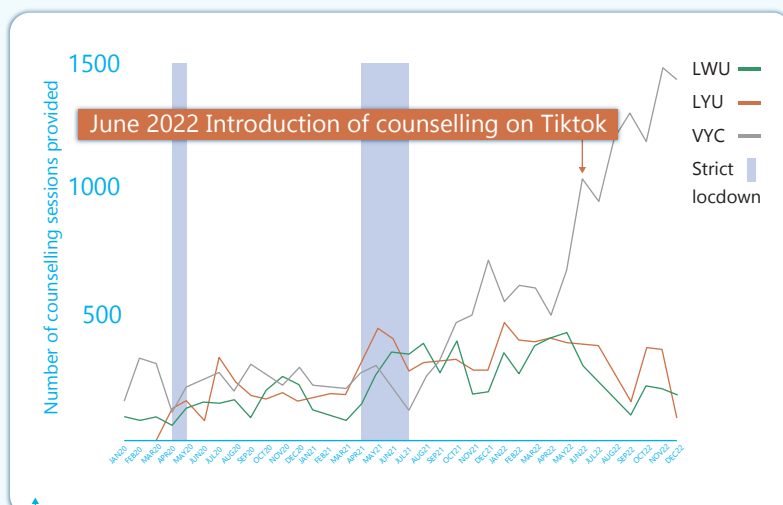




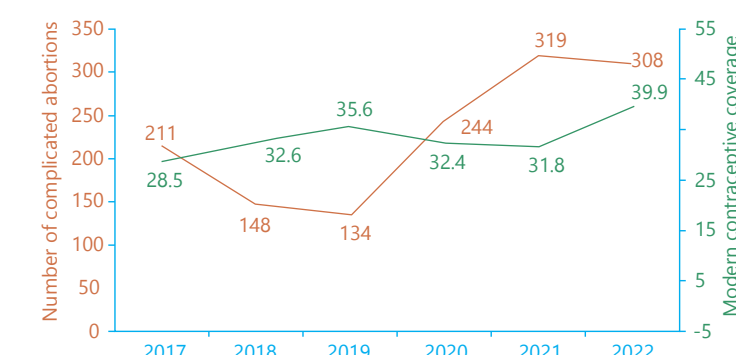
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND MHPSS*

*Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

The number of calls to national hotlines for **counselling and psychosocial support** increased during strict lockdowns, especially calls from women. The number of people seeking counselling has **steadily increased** since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Power cuts **impact accessibility** of the hotlines. There was a sharp rise in the number of people reached when popular **social media was used**.¹



Percentages of modern contraceptive coverage and number of complicated abortions



NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS



1362 Violence and/or trafficking

1554 Stress, mental health and relationship counselling for youth

1361 Women

Sexual and reproductive health

137 Men

Noi Yakhoo app

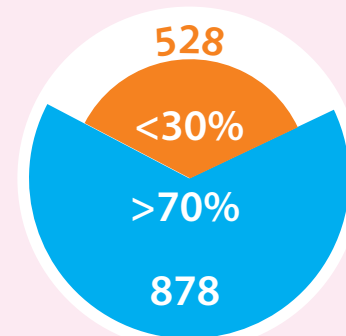
For more information on sexual and reproductive health



MEDIA

Data from the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism shows that **fewer than 30% of registered journalists are women**.

Women
Men



NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS

Initiatives to educate media on gender equality:

- Capacity building with government media outlets on ethical reporting of gender and Gender-Based Violence (GBV).²
- Gender equality training for the E-Learning and Information and Media Centre teams of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES).³



POLITICS

Recent data shows that more than **30%** of Provincial Assembly members are women.⁴



“Technology and innovation can be game changers for women and girls' rights if design and use responds to their specific needs”

lao.unfpa.org

UNFPA Lao PDR

UNFPA Laos

UNFPA Lao PDR

— Mariam A. Khan, UNFPA Representative



LABOUR

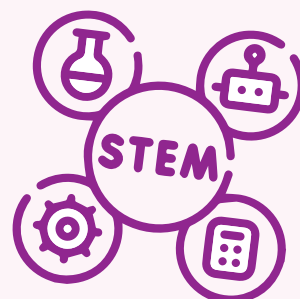
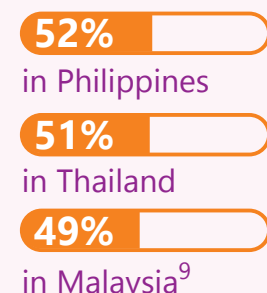
5.4% Women-led enterprises reported the use of **information and telecommunication technology** in business.⁶

8.2% Men-led

Annually Lao PDR has over **84,000** new entrants to the job market, half of these are young women.⁸

One-fourth of agricultural researchers are women.⁵ More data on women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) in Lao PDR is needed.

Women in STEM in the region:⁷



NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW) and UNFPA's Noi Friendly Business Criteria aims to:

- Empower adolescent girls and young women;
- Ensure access to health information and services; and
- Increase school retention;
- Prevent workplace violence, trafficking and child labour.



SPORT

Data from the Ministry of Education and Sports shows:

30%

Women make up about 30% of national-level players;

12%

For junior players, 12% are girls or adolescent girls; and

10%

For trainers, 10% are women.

NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS

The Lao Rugby Federation integrated rugby and life skills, such as leadership, gender equality, and health. Today, more than 50% of Lao rugby players, coaches, and participants are women.



Source

¹Data provided by Lao Women's Union, Lao Youth Union and Vientiane Youth Clinic. ²Supported by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), rolled out to provincial media authorities by Lao Women's Union (LWU) Media Department and the National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children (NACOM). ³The Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), *Gender Analysis for Measuring Economic Governance for Business Development in Lao PDR*, 2022. ⁴The Asia Foundation (2021). *Accelerating Women's Advancement in STEM: Emerging Lessons on Network*. ⁵Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) (2018). *Lao Social Indicator Survey II 2017 MICS/DHS*. ⁶Data provided by Lao PDR, Ministry of Education and Sports. ⁷Skills for Tourism Project LAO/029, co-financed by the Governments of Lao PDR, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Switzerland. ⁸See: <https://www.care-international.org/what-we-do/womens-economic-justice/village-savings-and-loans-associations>. ⁹<https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2023-laos>

This compilation is a sampling of data from a variety of sources and by no means an exhaustive list of nationally representative data.



ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Women make up about 50% of the agricultural workforce in Lao PDR.¹⁰ They are more **vulnerable to climatic shocks and stressors** since they have less diversified livelihoods than men.

Women
50 %

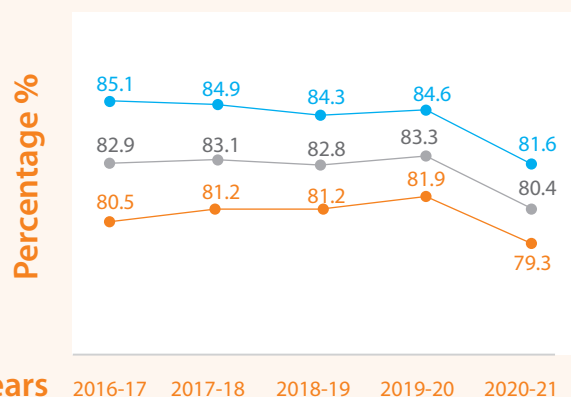
NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS

Initiatives include:

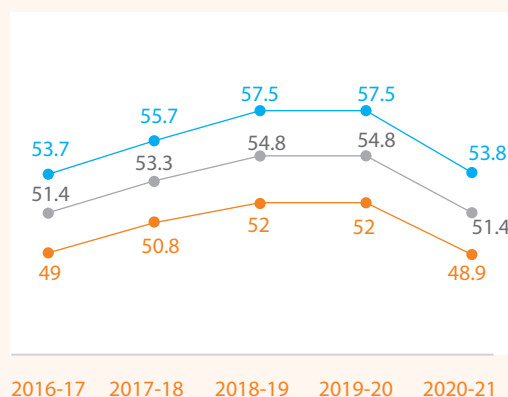
- Awareness-raising campaigns such as "Me, My Body, My Future, My Planet";
- Policy work with duty bearers on issues such as "Human Rights and the Environmental Rule of Law";
- Civil society organisations working on gender and climate change; and
- Building capacity of organisations from land, forestry and natural resources sectors.

Women Men Total

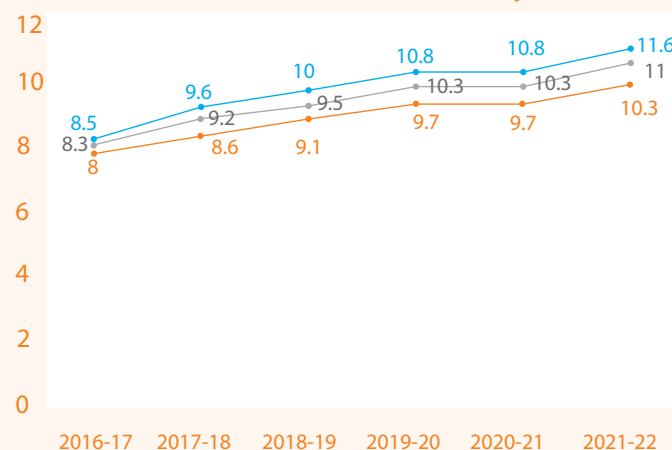
Gross Enrolment Ratio- Lower Secondary



Gross Enrolment Ratio- Upper Secondary



Dropout- Lower Secondary



EDUCATION

63%

A majority of Lao women (63%) aged 15-49 years can **read and write**. However, this varies greatly depending on location, education, ethnicity and wealth.¹¹



Women can read and write¹¹

45%

Saravan and Huaphan

35%

Chinese-Tibetan ethnic women

22%

Poorest wealth index quintile

Over 100,000 girls and boys access **Khang Panya Lao** online¹²

Girls
Boys

52,907
52,821

Between 2017-2022, women made up 70% of the enrolment in project-supported Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Skills Development courses were women (8640 women and 3713 men) in 2017-2022¹³

Women
Men

3,173
8,640

Key observations:

The gross enrolment ratio in both lower and upper secondary schools reduced sharply in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20. The gross enrolment ratio of girls reached its lowest at both lower and upper secondary schools in 2020-21.¹²

NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS

- To improve enrolment rates and reduce school dropouts due to pregnancy and early marriage, the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are rolling out Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) curriculum for students in teacher training, primary, secondary, non-formal education, TVET and university.
- The Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) and partners developed online teaching and learning platforms and broadcast through Khang Panya Lao, satellite TV, and national TV.

Do women have equal access to public life in Lao PDR?

FINANCE

People in Lao PDR who have a bank account.¹⁴

Women
Men

38%
37%

Women-owned businesses had challenges accessing trade finance, with 70% of those surveyed reporting that their applications were totally or partially rejected.¹⁵

Business Registrations

Women-led

27.6

Men-led

34

NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS

- BFL's "Banking On Women" initiative provides gender-responsive financial services to Lao women entrepreneurs, including access to a personal banker, free finance trainings, and preferred rates on financing solutions.
- Marginalised women in communities have greater control over their resources through "Village Savings Loan Association" and "Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship".¹⁶
- Formalising women-led savings groups provides:
 - Secure savings;
 - Access to short term microfinancing for small business;
 - Increased adaptation to economic stress and shock; and
 - Transformed community attitudes to women's financial capacity.



TECHNOLOGY AND ONLINE SPACES

UNFPA held discussions in 2022-2023 which revealed technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) in Lao PDR included:

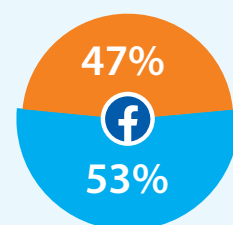
- Social media based recruitment for sex work and trafficking;
- Image-based abuse; and
- Cyberstalking.

Women, young people, and diverse populations are targeted mainly by male perpetrators.

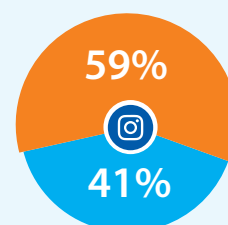
Social media use in Laos:¹⁷

Women Men

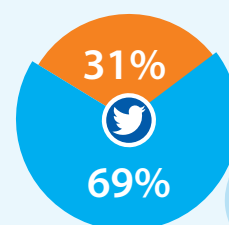
Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



NATIONAL INTERVENTIONS

- National Hotlines (LWU #1362, LYU #1554)
- Noi Yakhoo App
- Reporting cyber crime to the Ministry of Technology and Communications.

and Children (NCAWMC). ³Supported by the Australian Government. ⁴Lao PDR, National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children (2021), *The Fourth-Five Year Gender Equality National Plan of Action (2021-2025)*. ⁵<https://www.asti.cgiar.org/laos?country=LAO> Strategies and Approaches. ⁶United Nations Population Fund (2021), *Harnessing the Demographic Dividend in Lao PDR*. ⁷<https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/10-facts-about-girls-and-women-stem-asia> ⁸The 3rd Lao census of agriculture 2019/2020, Volume II, LAC III 2019/2020. ¹⁴World Bank (2021), <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/globalindex/Data>. ¹⁵Asian Development Bank, *Trade Finance Gaps, Growth, and Jobs Survey*, No 192, ADB Briefs, October 2021, p 4. ¹⁶Village Savings and Loans Associations, supported by CARE International.