**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND MHPPS**

*Mental Health and Psychosocial Support*

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

![Graph showing percentage of total contraceptives coverage and number of completed abortions](image)

The above graph shows when contraceptive use increases, the number of completed abortions is reduced.

**Labour**

One-fourth of agricultural researchers are women.1 More data on women in STEMD (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) is needed in Lao PDR. Women in STEMD in the region:7

- 52% in Philippines
- 45% in Thailand
- 31% in Malaysia

**Education**

Lao rugby players, coaches, and participants are women.11

- Women 30%
- Men 70%

**Sport**

Data from the Ministry of Education and Sports shows:

- Women make up about 30% of national level players; 12%
- For junior players, 12% are girls or adolescent girls; 10%
- For trainers, 10% are women.

**Finance**

Women-owned businesses have challenges accessing trade finance, with 70% of those surveyed reporting that their applications were totally or partially rejected.11

- **Business Registrations**
  - Women: 38%
  - Men: 37%

**Environment and Climate Change**

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

**Media**

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

**Politics**

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

- Women: 30%
- Men: 70%

**Technology and innovation can be game changers for women and girls’ rights if designed and use responds to their specific needs”**

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**New financial services and products for women**

- **Open Access Microfinance Institutions (MFI)’s “Banking On Women” initiative** provides gender-responsive financial services to Lao women entrepreneurs, including access to a personal bank account, low-interest loans, financial training, and priority rates for co-funding services.

- **Formalising women-led savings groups provides:**
  - Secure savings;
  - Access to short-term microfinancing for small business;
  - Increased adaptation to economic stress and shock;
  - Transformed community attitudes to women’s financial capacity.

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**EDUCATION**

Between 2017-2022, women made up 70% of the enrollment in project-supported Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Skills Development courses were women (9645 women and 3175 men) in 2017.

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**LEADERSHIP FOR ACTION**

**Women can read and write**

- 45% Saravorn and Huaxian
- 35% Chinese-Tibetan
- 22% Poumrath

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

**SPORT**

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