

Lao People's Democratic Republic



Estimated population	2019	7,169,456
Women of reproductive age (aged 15-49)	2019	1,923,163
Adolescents (aged 10-19)	2019	1,456,114
Total fertility rate (births per woman)	2015-2020	2.7
Live births	2019	164,760
Pregnancies	2019	273,556
Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 women aged 15-19)	2016	83.4
Maternal mortality ratio (maternal deaths per 100,000 live births)	2017	185
Neonatal mortality rate (deaths within 28 days per 1,000 live births)	2018	23
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 total births)	2019	17
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	2017	64%
Modern contraceptive prevalence rate (% using modern method)	2019	34%
Unmet need for family planning (% of women of reproductive age)	2019	8%
Caesarean section rate (% of live births)	2009-2012	4%
Coverage for 4+ antenatal care visits (% of live births)	2017	62%

Data sources: see "How to use the country profile" document.

This country profile should be read in conjunction with the "How to use the country profile" document which can be found at unfpa.org/sowmy

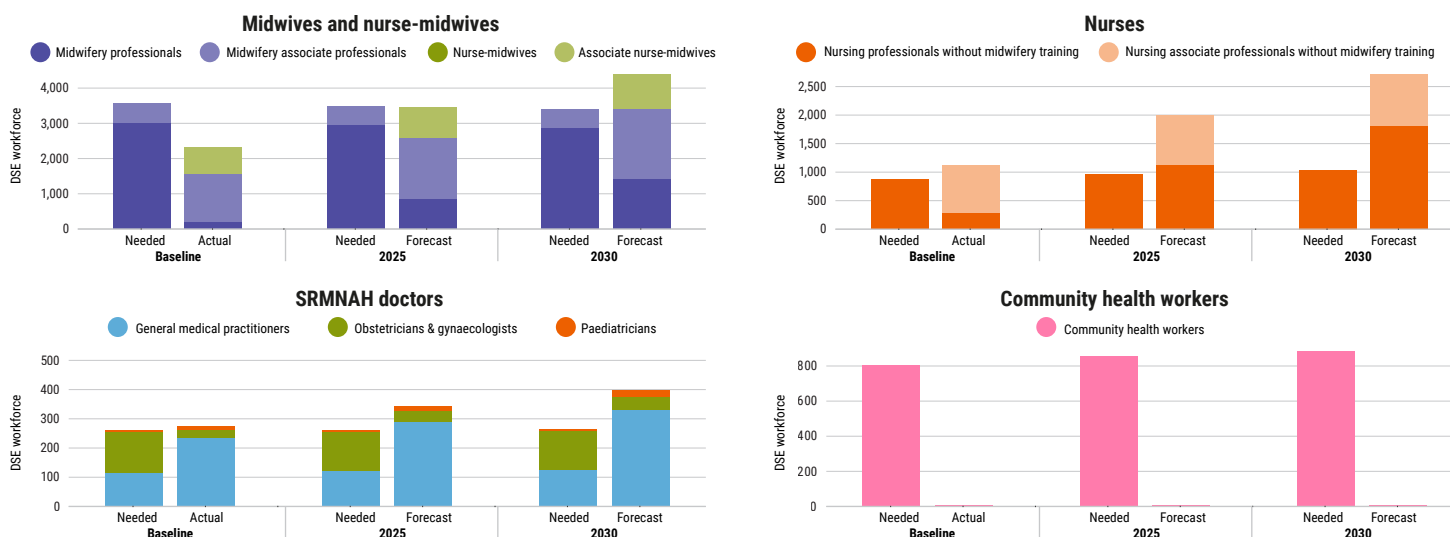
Map is an approximation of actual country borders.

FULL SRMNAH WORKFORCE AVAILABILITY

Occupation group	Year	Headcount (A)	Percentage of time on SRMNAH (B)	Dedicated SRMNAH Equivalent (DSE) (A*B)	Graduates		Density per 10,000 population
					Year	Number	
Midwifery professionals	2019	194	100%	194	2019	188	0.3
Midwifery associate professionals	2019	1,383	100%	1,383	nr	nr	1.9
Midwives not further defined	nr	nr	na	nr	nr	nr	nr
Nursing professionals	2019	669		294	2019	526	0.9
with midwifery training	nr	nr	na	nr	nr	nr	nr
without midwifery training	2019	669	44%	294	2019	526	0.9
Nursing associate professionals	2019	2,895		1,572	2019	30	4
with midwifery training	2019	1,246	60%	748	nr	nr	1.7
without midwifery training	2019	1,649	50%	825	2019	30	2.3
Nurses not further defined	nr	nr	na	nr	nr	nr	nr
Community health workers	2019	75	10%	8	nr	nr	0.1
Paramedical practitioners	2019	781	30%	234	2019	232	1.1
Medical assistants	2019	1,145	30%	344	nr	nr	1.6
General medical practitioners	nr	nr	na	nr	2019	94	nr
Obstetricians & gynaecologists	2019	54	50%	27	2019	7	0.1
Paediatricians	2019	81	15%	12	2019	11	0.1
Total SRMNAH workforce		7,277		4,068			10.2

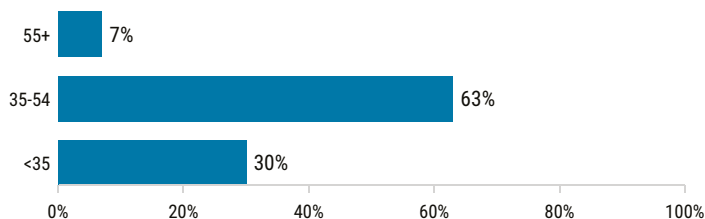
Source: National Health Workforce Accounts (NHWA) data platform, accessed Dec-2020, most recent available year.

PROJECTIONS TO 2030, DEDICATED SRMNAH EQUIVALENT (DSE) WORKFORCE



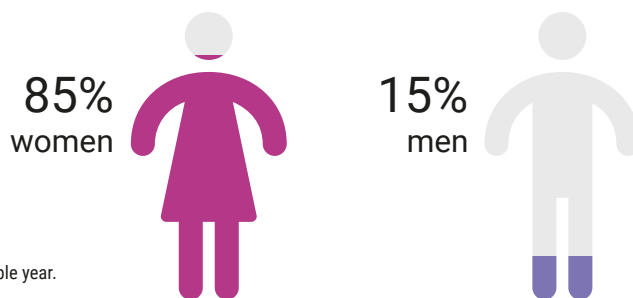
Source: SoWMy analysis, using NHWA data platform, accessed Dec-2020

Age distribution



Source: National Health Workforce Accounts (NHWA) data platform, accessed Dec-2020, most recent available year.

Gender distribution



ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Policy environment

National policy guideline that recommends midwife-led care for pregnancy and/or childbirth and/or postnatal period for mother only, or both mother and newborn? *	Pregnancy	Childbirth	Postnatal
	Mother only	Mother & newborn	Mother & newborn

Number of midwives in leadership roles in national MoH / sub-national MoH / regulatory authorities	National MoH	Sub-national MoH	Regulatory authorities
	0	dk	dk

Education

National policy / guideline on education of midwifery care providers based on ICM competencies? *	Childbirth
	dk

Midwifery education pathway (direct entry / post-nursing / combined)?	Direct entry	Post-nursing	Combined
	yes	no	no

Duration of direct entry / post-nursing / combined education programme (months)	Direct entry	Post-nursing	Combined
	40	na	na

% of midwifery educators who are midwives	Childbirth
	dk

Regulation

National policy sets a competency framework for maternal and/or newborn care? *	Childbirth
	dk

National policy on regulation of midwifery care providers based on ICM competencies? *	Childbirth
	dk

Regulatory body for midwifery practice?	Childbirth
	yes

Is licensing compulsory prior to practise? / Is there periodic relicensing? / Is continuing professional development a requirement for relicensing?	License compulsory	Periodic relicensing	Continuing development requirement
	no	na	na

Association

Is there a professional association specifically for midwives? Is there another professional association open to midwives?	Association specifically for midwives	Other association open to midwives
	yes	no

Source: 2020 ICM survey, except those marked * which are from 2018-2019 WHO SRMNAH policy survey

POTENTIAL TO MEET NEED AND DEMAND, 2019 AND 2030

$$\text{Potential to meet NEED} = \frac{\text{Workforce time available}}{\text{Workforce time needed for universal coverage of essential SRMNAH interventions}}$$

SoWMy 2014^s



19%

SoWMy 2021



62%

2030



96%

$$\text{Potential to meet DEMAND} = \frac{\text{Supply of health workers}}{\text{Health workers system can support}}$$



2030 supply is **moderately below** capacity to employ

^s or most recent regional SoWMy report: East & Southern Africa 2017 or Pacific States 2019

EXPLANATORY NOTES

There are 2 direct-entry midwife education programmes: (1) a 40-month Bachelor's programme and (2) a 36-month Higher Diploma programme. Regulation and licensing systems for midwives are currently under development.

Source: Additional information provided by national stakeholders during data collection and validation.

Key:
na = not applicable
nr = not reported

dk = don't know
MoH = Ministry of Health