



Lao People's Democratic Republic

The History of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Lao PDR



In 1990, the National Assembly enacted the Family Registration Law (FRL), which was amended in 2009 to require registration of vital events. Registration is done in the family book, which is paper-based and administered by the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) and is mainly used for security purposes. In 2011, Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) was established and the government has improved and transferred registration of vital events formerly under the responsibility of local administration to be under the responsibility of Home Affairs sector both national and sub-national level. Department of Citizen Management (DCM) of the Ministry of Home Affairs is mandated with registering vital events in the country.

Lao PDR joined other countries in the region in adopting the Ministerial Declaration to 'Get Everyone in the Picture' in Asia and the Pacific, endorsing the Regional Action Framework on CRVS, and proclaiming 2015–2024 as the Asia and the Pacific CRVS Decade. MOHA DCM worked closely with seven other line ministries to develop the Lao PDR 2016–2025 Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) strategy and amended the Family Registration Law (2009), which was approved in the ordinary session of the National Assembly, VIII Legislature, on June 14, 2018, and promulgated by the President of Lao PDR on July 31, 2018 (National Assembly 2018).

Civil registration is the universal, continuous, permanent, and compulsory recording of vital events¹ occurring in a country's population according to the legal requirements of the country. Vital statistics constitute the collection of statistics on vital events pertaining to the population, including relevant characteristics of the events themselves and also of the persons concerned and are obtained from the civil registration system. Other sources of vital statistics are population surveys and censuses.

Key Data - Civil Registration Accessibility and Vital Statistics Outputs, 2018



Birth Registration

Number of births registered with Home Affairs sector²:
Total: 70,732, F: 35,234 M: 35,498

Completeness³ :

Total: 43.2%,
F: 44.1% M: 42.3%

Fees Charged:

Early registration
(0 – 18years) - No fee

Late registration (Over 18 years)

–district cost (25,000kip~2.4usd)



Marriage and Divorce Registration

Number of Marriages registered: 20,708
Number of divorce cases: 4,422

Fees charged:

Around 100,000kip ~15usd
(not standard across the provinces)



Death Registration

Number of deaths registered with Home Affairs sector⁴ : Total: 19,238,
F: 8,174 M: 11,064

Completeness⁵:

Total: 37.3% F: 34.1% M: 40.0%

Fees Charged:

Deaths should be reported within 24 hours,
village cost 10,000kip (~1.2usd) and district cost 20,000kip ~2.4usd)

¹ Vital events include live birth, death, fetal death, marriage, divorce, annulment of marriage, judicial separation of marriage, adoption, legitimation, and recognition

² <http://www.moha.gov.la/all-books/>

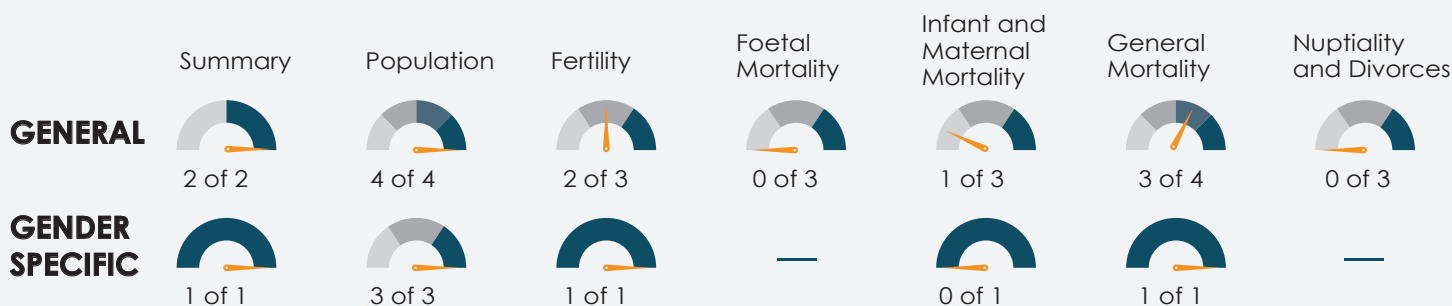
³ Based on Lao Statistics Bureau, Lao Population Projections 2015–2045.

⁴ <http://www.moha.gov.la/all-books/>

⁵ Based on Lao Statistics Bureau, Lao Mortality Projections 2015–2045.

Vital Statistics Production Capacity

In line with the UN Principles & Recommendations on Vital Systems, the National Statistics System is currently able to produce these vital statistics tabulations:



Source: United Nations Demographic Yearbook, 2018

Notes:

- Summary:** The two recommended summary table of the population disaggregated by sex and general vital statistics (births and deaths) from the census are available.
- Population:** Four recommended population tables include; - Estimates of mid-year population, Total and urban population disaggregated by sex, Population disaggregated by age, sex and urban/rural residence and Population of capital cities and cities of 100 000 or more inhabitants disaggregated by sex. Data is available for all the four tables.
- Fertility:** 3 tables are recommended, of this data is available for two tables; - Live births and crude birth rates by urban/rural residence and live births by age of mother disaggregated by sex of child, general and age specific fertility rates. Data on the **age of the father** for live births **not available**.
- Foetal Mortality: No reported data on foetal mortality,** the 3 recommended table include; - Late foetal deaths and late foetal death ratios disaggregated by urban/rural residence, legally induced abortions and Legally induced abortions by age and number of previous live births of women.
- Infant and Maternal Mortality:** 3 tables are recommended, of this the only **data is available for** Infant deaths and infant mortality rates disaggregated by urban/rural residence. The other recommended tables for which **data is not available** are; - Infant deaths and infant mortality rates disaggregated by age and sex, and Maternal deaths and maternal mortality ratios.
- General Mortality: 4 recommended, of this data is available for 3 tables;** - Deaths and crude death rates disaggregated by urban/rural residence, Deaths by age and sex, age-specific death rates disaggregated by sex and Life expectancy at specified ages for each sex. Data on the Probability of dying in the five-year interval following specified age (5qx) for sex is not available.
- Nuptiality and Divorces: No reported data, the 3 tables recommended include;** - Marriages and crude marriage rates disaggregated by urban/rural residence, **Marriages** by age of groom and by age of bride and Divorces and crude divorce rates disaggregated by urban/rural residence.

The ConVERGE initiative in Lao PDR

UNFPA and the IDRC Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems, working in close collaboration with other key partners, are supporting the Department of Citizen Management (Ministry of Home Affairs) to increase vital events registration, completeness and align the CRVS system with the best international practices and standards. The initiative in Lao PDR builds on UNFPA's reach and track record in population data and women's empowerment, as well as the specialized technical expertise at IDRC Center for Excellence for CRVS Systems. The ConVERGE Initiative is designed to sustainably support the CRVS system and advance gender equality as key enabler to achieving the SDGs and a more inclusive society.

Through the ConVERGE Initiative, UNFPA has assessed Lao PDR's capacity to produce, use and disseminate vital statistics, as per the UN Principles and Recommendation on Vital Statistics System (Rev.3, 2014). These efforts have identified key opportunities to harness civil registration data and vital statistics to enhance monitoring of Lao's commitments to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and ICPD Program of Action. Specific opportunities have been identified to support more timely and localized monitoring of teenage pregnancy, early marriage, and preventable maternal deaths.

Through the ConVERGE initiative, UNFPA is strengthening the technical capacity of the Lao Statistics Bureau in the production of quality disaggregated vital statistics data, and the dissemination of vital statistics via interactive dashboards and user-friendly reporting. The initiative is also supporting social norms field research to understand the social and behavioral determinants associated with the under-registration of births, marriages and deaths. These efforts are aligned with the UN Country Team's system-wide support to civil registration and vital statistics in Lao PDR.



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
for CRVS Systems