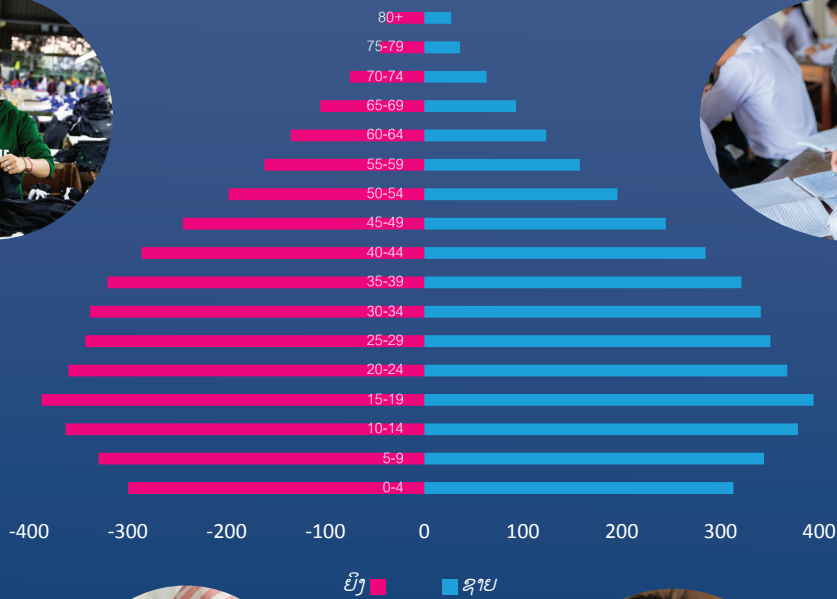




Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

NATIONAL POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY (2019-2030)



Ministry of Planning and Investment



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Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

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ສາທາລະນະລັດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ປະຊາຊົນລາວ
ສັນຕິພາບ ເອກະລາດ ປະຊາທິປະໄຕ ເອກະພາບ ວັດທະນະຖາວອນ

ສຳນັກງານນາຍົກລັດຖະມົນຕີ

ເລກທີ 227/ນຍ

ນະຄອນຫຼວງວຽງຈັນ, ວັນທີ 24.04.2020.

ດຳລັດ

ຂອງນາຍົກລັດຖະມົນຕີ

ວ່າດ້ວຍການຮັບຮອງ ແລະ ປະກາດໃຊ້ ນະໂຍບາຍແຫ່ງຊາດ

ດ້ານປະຊາກອນ ແລະ ການພັດທະນາ ຂອງ ສປປ ລາວ 2019-2030

- ອີງຕາມ ກົດໝາຍວ່າດ້ວຍລັດຖະບານແຫ່ງຊາດ ສປປ ລາວ ເລກທີ 04/ສພຊ, ລົງວັນທີ 08 ພະຈິກ 2016;
- ອີງຕາມ ຫ້າງສີສະເໜີ ຂອງກະຊວງແຜນການ ແລະ ການລົງທຶນ ສະບັບເລກທີ 0571/ກຜທ.ກຜ5, ລົງວັນທີ 07 ເມສາ 2020.

ນາຍົກລັດຖະມົນຕີ ອອກດຳລັດ:

- ມາດຕາ 1 ຮັບຮອງ ແລະ ປະກາດໃຊ້ນະໂຍບາຍແຫ່ງຊາດດ້ານປະຊາກອນ ແລະ ການພັດທະນາ ຂອງ ສປປ ລາວ 2019-2030 (ສະບັບປັບປຸງ).
- ມາດຕາ 2 ມອບໃຫ້ກະຊວງແຜນການ ແລະ ການລົງທຶນ ປະສານສົມທົບກັບພາກສ່ວນທີ່ ກ່ຽວຂ້ອງຜັນຂະຫຍາຍ ແລະ ຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດນະໂຍບາຍແຫ່ງຊາດດັ່ງກ່າວໃຫ້ປະກົດຜົນເປັນຈິງ ແລະ ລາຍງານໃຫ້ລັດຖະບານ ຊາບເປັນແຕ່ລະໄລຍະ.
- ມາດຕາ 3 ບັນດາກະຊວງ, ອົງການລັດທຽບເທົ່າ, ອົງການຈັດຕັ້ງມະຫາຊົນ, ແຂວງ, ນະຄອນຫຼວງ ແລະ ພາກສ່ວນ ທີ່ກ່ຽວຂ້ອງ ຈົ່ງຮັບຮູ້, ໃຫ້ການຮ່ວມມື ແລະ ພ້ອມກັນຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ ດຳລັດສະບັບນີ້ ໃຫ້ໄດ້ຮັບຜົນ ເປັນຢ່າງດີ.
- ມາດຕາ 4 ດຳລັດສະບັບນີ້ ມີຜົນສັກສິດນັບແຕ່ວັນລົງລາຍເຊັນເປັນຕົ້ນໄປ

ນາຍົກລັດຖະມົນຕີ ແຫ່ງ ສປປ ລາວ



ທອງລຸນ ສີສຸລິດ

Foreword

This policy is partly a response to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo, Egypt, which stressed the need to integrate population into all forms of development planning to promote poverty reduction and sustainable development to ensure livelihood improvement of people and justice. The Report of the Lao Revolution People Party Committee for the congress meeting period VI in 1996 state that: the implement of the population policy is to ensure that the population growth is in line with economic growth, also improve education and health of people and create vocations professional personnel to meet the need of the development, address the social issues along with economic growth.

The National Population and Development Policy (NPDP) 2019-2030 is a major revision of the 1999 and 2006 population policies. The NPDP 2019-2030 highlights the improvement of people livelihood, poverty reduction, reducing the wide disparities between provinces and districts in such dimensions as birth and death rates (including maternal mortality) so as to accelerate the demographic. Ensure women and children access to education and social justice, Enhanced socio-economic opportunities and life-chances for disadvantaged and vulnerable young people, benefits of rural-urban migration and international migration maximized and negative effects minimized, address the challenges of ageing and to support an older population, prevention of HIV/AIDS outbreak, sustainable environment development.

For the policies to be effective and be implemented, it requires local authority, police, soldier and students and everybody to make contribution to implement, monitor and evaluate the policy. Integrate policy into sectoral plan, local authority and personal plan. Although the National Population and Development Policy has been significantly improved compared to the 1999 and 2006 policies, all three policies have continued to address the core issues of the Lao PDR. Similar to the previous policy, The National Population and Development Policy (NPDP) 2019-2030 is the participation and contribution of many different sectors; although some of the goals and objectives are specific to the overall policy, it reflects the sectoral programs that cover the diversity and trends of the population

A strong implementation strategy is essential given that the weak point of previous policies was in the area of implementation and monitoring. As a multi-sector policy, the NPDP 2019-30 is primarily implemented by specific ministries using existing arrangements and does not require the establishment of new implementation institutions other than a “Population Policy Coordinating Committee” (PPCC). Where activities have been identified that are not presently part of any sector plan, responsible ministries will be expected to incorporate these into their annual or multi-year work plans and budget for them accordingly.

Ministry of Planning and Investment would like to express its appreciation to the Technical Working Group and local authorities for their collaboration, information. Special appreciation is given to the work and commitment of the Department of Planning as a Secretariat for guiding the process of drafting The NPDP 2019-30.

On behalf of Ministry of Planning and Investment, I would like to express its appreciation to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) which supported the NRES drafting process the NPDP 2019-30 with funding and technical supports

Vice Prime Minister
Minister of Planning and Investment

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEC	ASEAN Economic Community
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ANC	Ante Natal Care
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
DOP	Department of Planning
CBD	Community Based Distributor
CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
EENC	Early Essential Newborn Care
EmOC	Emergency Obstetric Care
FP	Family Planning
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GNI	Gross National Income
HC	Health Centre
HDI	Human Development Index
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
NIER	National Institute for Economic Research
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPL	International Poverty Line
IUD	Intrauterine Device
ILO	International Labour Organization
LARC	Long-Acting and Reversible Contraception
LSIS	Lao Social Indicators Survey
LFTU	Lao Federation of Trade Unions
LSB	Lao Statistics Bureau
LDC	Least Developed Country
LWU	Lao Women's Union
LYU	Lao Youth's Union
LNCCI	Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MCPR	Modern contraceptive prevalence rate
MoPS	Ministry of Public Security
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MoH	Ministry of Health
MLSW	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
MSM	Men who have Sex with Men
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NCAWMC	National Commission for the Advancement of Women and Mother s-Children
NPL	National Poverty Line
NQF	National Qualifications Framework

NTC	National Training Council
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
NSEDP	National Socio-Economic Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PES	Public Employment Services
PNC	Post-Natal Care
POA	Plan of Action
PPCC	Population Policy Coordinating Committee
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
RH	Reproductive Health
SCC	Safe Childbirth Checklist
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and social Affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
VHW	Village Health Worker
VMU	Village Mediation Units
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization

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Executive Summary

Introduction

The National Population and Development Policy (NPDP) 2019-2030 is a major revision of the 1999 and 2006 population policies. The NPDP 2019-30 highlights a number of features that remains challenges and unobtainable in the implementation of the 1999 and 2006 policies, including:

- In the 2019-2030 policy, there will be a more detailed situation analysis based on an analysis of recent census and survey data as well as on population projections at both national and provincial levels in the period of 2015-2045;
- A greater focus on core population and development issues with less emphasis on peripheral matters that have now been addressed in other policies;
- The acquisition of outcomes is from an incorporation of sector plans including multi-sectoral participation.
- A detailed “implementation matrix” that not only reveals the logical linkages between goals, objectives and activities, but also identifies the agencies that are responsible for undertaking the actions that will contribute to achieving the goals as well as providing a framework for monitoring and evaluation.

The NPDP 2019-2030 also updates a number of concepts from the 1999 and 2006 policies to match current population and development approaches. These include the concept of a “balanced” population, which has been proven difficult to operationalize, and the idea that population growth should be made to correspond with economic growth. Currently, economic growth is occurring at a much faster rate than population growth so there is no need for a specific population growth target at the national level in order to increase the growth of per capita income.

Although the 2019-2030 NPDP is much revised relative to the 1999 and 2006 policies, there are also many continuities between all three policies in core population areas. Like previous policies, the NPDP 2019-2030 is a multi-sector policy which builds upon the relevant sector plans and strategies. Although some goals and objectives are unique to the population policy, most are a reflection of existing sector plans but placed in the context of population trends and dynamics.

The current population situation

The population growth rate at the national level has declined to about 1.5 percent per year over the 2005-2015 inter-censal period compared with 2.1 percent over the previous period. The decline in growth has been the result of an on-going decline in both fertility and mortality a process known as the “demographic transition”. These trends are likely to continue with the population growth rate projected to decline to about 1.1 percent annually by the 2035-2040 period. Given the momentum of population growth caused by an increasing population of women in the child-bearing ages, continued population growth will take place through to 2045 according to projections. The annual increase in population will trend downwards from about 112 thousand per year at present to 70 thousand per year by 2040-2045. It can be expected

that another 2.7-3.0 million people will be added to the population between 2015 and 2045 and that the national population will reach between 9 and 10 million in 2045. However, much depends upon the rate of emigration. Current projections do not include an assumption about emigration, which brings an element of uncertainty to forecasts of future population growth.

Population dynamics and trends in Lao PDR vary substantially between the provinces in almost all dimensions. The demographic transition (declining fertility and mortality) has proceeded at different speeds across the provinces and some provinces are more affected by internal and international migration than others. In terms of the under-5 mortality rate, for example, Phongsaly's rate (150 per 1,000 live births) is five times as high as Vientiane Capital's (30 per 1,000). Fertility also varies widely. In Vientiane Capital, women on average have lifetime fertility of 2.2 children whereas in Sekong province the average woman has 4.5 children. The provinces that are most advanced in the demographic transition are Vientiane Capital, Champasack and Savannakhet. The least advanced provinces include Phongsaly, Huaphan and Sekong. These variations mean that some provinces have higher rates of natural increase than others, although in some cases internal and international migration offset these rates.

While fertility has declined substantially in recent decades, adolescent birth rates have remained the highest in Southeast Asia after Thailand. There is also wide variation between provinces and regions. In rural areas without road access, the adolescent birth rate was 121 per 1,000 compared with 44 per 1,000 in urban areas—a very large difference.

As the demographic transition has proceeded, the age structure has shifted correspondingly so that Lao PDR's age distribution has changed and will continue to change in the future. The percentage of the population in the “dependent” age groups (0-14 and 65 and over) declined by 21 percent between 1995 and 2015 while the population aged 15-64 (the labour force ages) increased by a similar proportion. This means that the “dependency ratio” is declining, a feature that potentially brings significant economic benefits. An increasing labour force as a proportion of the total population can be said to generate a “demographic bonus” for the economy because there are more workers to support fewer dependents. This generates savings for investment and potentially higher government revenues to fund services. But the demographic bonus is not automatic; it is crucially dependent on whether the increasing labour force, particularly the young, is adequately educated and trained to enter into employment and whether there are suitable jobs available for the new entrants to take up.

The geographical distribution of Lao PDR's population has changed quite slowly, even though some provinces have increased their share of population over the past two decades while others have lost share. The main reason for this is differential migration. Vientiane Capital has increased its share of the national population because it has had the largest in-flow of population. Between the 1995 and 2015 censuses, the urban population of Lao PDR increased from 17 percent of the total (780,000) to 33 percent (2.1 million). The urban proportion of the population grew at an average rate of 1.9 percent between 2005 and 2015, which is higher than the national growth rate but lower than the urban growth rate from 1995 to 2005 when it averaged 4.6 percent per year. The pace of urban growth has therefore slowed

down, but the urban share is nevertheless expected to grow. Vientiane Capital is projected to increase from 844,000 in 2015 to 1.4 million in 2045—an increase of two-thirds. Lao PDR is projected to become 50 percent urban by 2030 according to UN projections.

In summary, the key features of the population of Lao PDR that this policy addresses and the challenges they pose, are as follows:

- Reducing the wide disparities between provinces and districts in such dimensions as birth and death rates (including maternal mortality) so as to accelerate the demographic transition. This implies a wide range of interventions, particularly in MCH and Reproductive Health and Rights with a concentration in less advantaged provinces and districts.
- Adapting to expected population growth by incorporating population data into development plans, including sector plans such as health and education, provincial plans, as well as developing urbanization plans and strategies that incorporate population data. Improvements in the supply and quality of population data for planning purposes are also required
- Addressing the specific needs of social groups such as adolescents and youth and advancing gender equality. Reducing the high level of adolescent fertility requires focused strategies targeting youth, including strategies to eliminate early marriage and childbearing and to expand young people’s knowledge of reproductive health, including family planning. Gender equality is a cross-cutting factor that contributes to a number of other goals but is also an important social goal in its own right.
- Age structure shifts such as the growing proportion of the population in the labour force ages present an opportunity as well as a challenge. Achieving the “demographic dividend” that follows from a declining dependency ratio implies a major push in general and technical education to ensure that youth entering the labour force are employable and productive. Ageing will soon accelerate in Lao PDR and strategies need to be developed to prevent impoverishment in old age.

Vision and Goals

Vision

By 2030, population in Lao benefited from equitable and inclusive distribution of socio-economic development

This vision reflects SDG 10, which aims to “Reduce inequality within and among nations” as well as the 8th NSEDP concern that significant disparities between and within regions and among social groups remain in Lao PDR and that these need to be reduced.

To address the above population issues and challenges and to achieve the above vision, the NPDP 2019-2030 comprises nine goals, each of which is linked to two or more “objectives”

which define the key means by which the goal is to be achieved. The Goals and objectives of the NPDP 2019-2030 were selected by the multi-sector Technical Working Group (TWG) based on the population situational analysis. To achieve the objectives and consequently the goals sector plan outcomes that could be expected to contribute to the objectives were identified and incorporated into the population policy. Where no sector plan outcomes could be identified, unique outcomes were formulated by the TWG and agencies identified to achieve them. Each of these structural elements of the policy were arranged in an implementation matrix (logical framework) showing the links from goals to specific activities (see Part IV). Indicators and targets are specified only at the goal level. Indicators and targets for objectives and outcomes are specified in sector plans or developed for use in annual or multi-year implementation plans.

Goals:

1. *Improve reproductive health among disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and across regions;*
2. *Accelerated reduction in neo-natal, infant and under-5 mortality, particularly among vulnerable groups and in disadvantaged areas;*
3. *Opportunities of the demographic bonus to maximize socio-economic benefits for equitable distribution across social groups and regions enhanced*
4. *Enhanced socio-economic opportunities and life-chances for disadvantaged and vulnerable young people, including adolescent girls and unemployed youth*
5. *Benefits of rural-urban migration and international migration maximized and negative effects minimized*
6. *Lao PDR is well-prepared to address the challenges of ageing and to support an older population*
7. *Improved availability and quality of population data that meet international standards*
8. *Increased integration of population data into national, sub-national and sector development plans and strategies*
9. *Gender equality achieved for women and men in social, economic and political dimensions and violence against women eliminated.*

The objectives, outcomes and activities that are expected to achieve these goals are laid out in the Implementation Matrix of the Policy, which also shows the goal indicators and targets.

Implementation strategy

A strong implementation strategy is essential given that the weak point of previous policies was in the area of implementation and monitoring. As a multi-sector policy, the NPDP 2019-30 is primarily implemented by specific ministries using existing arrangements and does not require the establishment of new implementation institutions other than a “Population Policy

Coordinating Committee” (PPCC). Where activities have been identified that are not presently part of any sector plan, responsible ministries will be expected to incorporate these into their annual or multi-year work plans and budget for them accordingly. In the case of budget short-falls, ministries would liaise with the Department of Planning, Ministry of Planning and Investment to address any financial needs arising from their NDPD 2019-2030 responsibilities.

The general responsibilities of various levels of government and partners are as follows:

- The **Department of Planning, Ministry of Planning and Investment** coordinates the implementation of the policy and provides the Secretariat of the Population Policy Coordinating Committee;
- **Line ministries** are the main implementing agencies of the policy and achieving the outputs identified in the multi-year work plan (usually 2-years).
- **Provinces and districts** are collaborating partners in the implementation and are expected to support line ministries according to normal practice; Provinces may also develop specific action plans to implement the population policy supported by the Department of Planning.
- Public agencies such as **National University of Laos and NIER** carry out activities as per the multi-year work plan and may report to the PPCC and be represented on the PPCC;
- **NGOs and other development partners** generally collaborate with line ministries who would report to the PPCC on their behalf in the context of their ministry reports;

Coordination, reporting, monitoring and evaluation

Coordination, reporting, monitoring and evaluation would be the responsibility of the PPCC supported by the Secretariat which would be based in the Department of Planning. The PPCC would meet annually to review the past year’s activities and to agree on activities for the forthcoming year. The PPCC would produce an annual report on implementation. The PPCC would also make recommendations to line ministries as to how their new sector plans and strategies might address the goals of the NPDP 2019-30 given that most sector plans that are currently in effect expire in 2020 or 2025.

A mid-term review of the policy would be carried out in in 2023 and a final review in 2029.

PART I: BACKGROUND

1. Introduction to population policies

1.1 What is a population policy and what is its purpose?

A population policy consists of an assessment of the population issues facing a country and a statement of the way in which the government intends to address these issues in collaboration with its national and international partners. A dimension of the population becomes an issue to be addressed by policy if it has consequences for the quality of life or the level of living in the country. Examples include the population growth rate, the age structure of the population and the geographical distribution of the population. In developing countries, these dimensions of population may have an impact on the pace of economic growth and development or the quality of life and therefore call for a policy response of some kind.

Approaches to population policy have evolved over recent decades with the result that integrated, “multi-sector” policies have become the preferred modality in most countries. This is partly a response to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which stressed the need to integrate population into all forms of development planning to promote poverty reduction and sustainable development. Lao PDR’s previous population policies formulated in 1999 and 2006 adopted the integrated population and development format and the present 2019-30 policy will continue with this approach.

The main feature of a multi-sector population policy is that the key strategies to achieve the goals and objectives of the policy drawn initially from existing sector plans—such as education, health, environment and social welfare. The reason for this is twofold: on the one hand, population policy goals may overlap with those of sector plans and strategies may already been developed to achieve those goals. These strategies can therefore be incorporated into the population policy. On the other hand, the population policy should make full use of the analysis contained in sector plans rather than starting completely afresh. However, some sector plans and strategies may become modified or revised when incorporated into a population policy. This can occur for several reasons: new data or research findings may have become available since the sector plan was developed, or new approaches to address the population-related issues addressed in the sector plan have become formulated, calling for revised approaches. Thus, the incorporation of elements of sector plans in the population policy should be seen as a creative process rather than a mechanical one.

Population policy consists of multi purposes. This is particularly related to executive summary mentioned the factors and trends of the Lao population. The policy will also provide a scenario of the governments’ progress in the implementation on solving problems concerned with population to get improved and to help access to basic information for the encouragement of the incorporation among internal and external development partners regarding a fundraising support. This is to ensure each agencies’ work plans linked to the implementation of population

policy. Apart from that, the policy will be suggested in budget allocation to which it should put emphasis on the core prioritizing areas that needs to be focused in order to achieve goals.

1.2 Past population policies in Lao PDR

1.2.1 The 1999 population policy.

Subsequent to the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo, the Lao PDR Government approved the National Population and Development Policy in 1999. Drawing upon the results of the 1995 census, a number of population issues were identified that required a policy response, including:

- High infant and child mortality rates resulting in low life expectancy of 51 years
- Maternal mortality rate (MMR) remained high with an estimated MMR of 656 per 100,000 live births
- The total fertility rate (TFR) was 5.6 children per woman
- Overall population growth was 2.5 percent per year
- Net primary school enrollment rate was 76 percent while the literacy rate was 72.5 percent
- Urban congestion and rural depopulation were also highlighted as population issues.

The strategic thrust of the 1999 policy was a comprehensive one. Although no specific target for fertility was aimed at, it was noted that the ideal number of children per women was between 2 and 4, implying a significant reduction in the current fertility level. The primary concern was the effects of high fertility on the health of mothers and children. Thus, the policy emphasized the need to implement the National Birth Spacing Policy of 1995 in order to maintain a gap of at least 2-3 years between births. It was hoped that this could be achieved by increasing the number of “birth spacing service centers, mobile clinics and village health volunteers” in order to provide contraceptive use and increase the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) from 3 percent in 1994 to 60-65 percent by 2020. At the same time, the policy aimed to make a broader choice of existing contraception methods available, to increase the number of health personnel and to encourage the participation of the private sector and local communities.

On the issue of population distribution, the 1999 population policy reflected a concern that rural-urban migration was contributing to “urban congestion and rural depopulation”. The policy aimed to promote a more “balanced distribution of population between rural and urban areas”. The main strategy to achieve this was a stronger effort to improve educational and employment opportunities in rural areas through rural development programmes, including the establishment of “Priority Rural Integrated Areas” (PRDA) as specified in the 1996-2000 Socioeconomic Development Plan.

In general, the 1999 population policy embraced the broad principles of the ICPD Programme of Action (POA). While it was acknowledged that fertility rate remained high and should be reduced, it was stressed that it was for people themselves to decide the size of their family according to their own social and economic conditions. The measures proposed to lower

fertility were indirect, working through improved socio-economic conditions and service delivery. Similarly, although concerns were expressed about the impact of rural-urban migration, the freedom of movement within the country would be guaranteed.

In the 1999 policy, there were some qualitative targets set of education and health sectors which aimed to achieve by 2000, 2010 and 2020. Those of targets are available in annex I.

1.2.2 The 2006 National Population and Development Policy

The 2006 population policy included a review of the implementation and outcomes of the 1999 policy and action plan. It was noted that the TFR had declined to 4.9 in 2000 and to 4.5 in 2005. While these were positive achievements, the pace of decline was slower than anticipated in the 1999 policy. Similarly, the MMR had declined more slowly than had been hoped for. Under 5 and infant mortality had declined as expected but it was noted that the targets for 2010 were too ambitious and would be difficult to achieve. Adult literacy for women improved but did not reach the target. The net enrollment rate for girls reached the target at the national level but some provinces fell below the national target. The review noted that the expansion of information and research on the socio-economic conditions of ethnic groups and the integration of population was less than expected. In terms of reproductive health and gender equality at the provincial level remained unsatisfactory.

There are some factors having a slower progress than an expectation in the population and development policy. These included: strong traditional beliefs and customs in remote areas that perpetuated harmful practices; inadequate coverage of health services; a low level of parents' understanding to the importance of education and awareness of gender equality; irregular activity in the literacy campaign and lack of focus on needs of various workers; shortage of technical staff to conduct population and development studies; inadequate dissemination of the policy; shortfalls in the budget allocation to meet the needs of the policy.

The population issues that identified in the 2006 policy included all of those previously identified in the 1999 policy but with some revisions in focus as well as some significant additions. Among the latter were: (1) international migration and human trafficking; (2) the care of elderly and disadvantaged people; (3) HIV/AIDS; (4) the impact of population on the environment. Objectives were formulated to address these additional areas as well as the ongoing issues incorporated from the 1999 policy. Therefore, the policy consists of a total of nine objectives.

The strategies formulated to address these objectives were also derived primarily from the 1999 policy but with some significant additions. For example, safe motherhood and child nutrition were added to the factors likely to improve maternal health and reduce infant and child mortality. New emphasis was placed on pre-natal, delivery and post-natal care. Immunization and breast feeding were to be promoted. With respect to family size and reproductive health, the 2006 policy specifically highlighted the need to incorporate sex education into formal and non-formal education and to promote the concept of reproductive

rights. The provision of RH information to adolescents had emphasized together with encouraging delayed marriage and eradicating “forced marriage”. In gender aspect, there was renewed focus on advocating for gender equality and promoting male responsibility. Additional stress was also placed on the need to ensure that girls’ rights from ethnic minorities had an equal opportunity to basic education as boys do.

Regarding the new objectives introduced in 2006, a wide range of measures were proposed. In the area of ageing, the measures were primarily aimed at encouraging families, NGOs and international agencies to improve the quality of life for elderly persons by taking greater responsibility for them. Improving the opportunity for the elderly to remain in employment by reducing discrimination in the labour market and educating the youth on the value of the elderly’s work experience. With regard to disabled people, the policy aimed to improve their education and training opportunities as well as being employed employment or creating income generating programme. Moreover, the need to enhance data collection and research on the disadvantaged was highlighted.

The approach to HIV/AIDS stressed the need to provide information and services on the prevention of HIV/AIDS as well as sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), to promote safe sexual activities and to provide care and support for people infected with HIV and AIDS. In regard to environment, the main goal was to incorporate population into programmes concerned with natural resources and sustainable development.

In similar to the 1999 policy, the 2006 National Population and Development Policy determined a number of quantitative targets to be achieved by 2010, 2015 and 2020. The comparison between target goals and the actual achievement in 2015 showed the five of eight quantitative targets were not achieved (IMR, U5MR, MMR, adult literacy and Net secondary enrollment rate for girls) while the three (TFR, Net primary enrollment rate for girls and under 1 percent HIV prevalence) were achieved. Although most of the targets were not achieved, there tended to have a positive progress. The gap between the targeted level and the actual achievement (2015) was obviously illustrated in under 1 infant and under-five child mortality (-27 and -56 percent, respectively). The MMR dropped at 11 percent of the 2015 target while female literacy decreased 8 percent. The HIV/AIDS target was to maintain the adult prevalence rate below 1 percent and this has been achieved.

An assessment of the objectives of the policy found that quantitative targets set in the objectives were difficult and unlikely to certainly identify how less or more outcomes achieved were. Additionally, In the case of the elderly, however although the National Policy for the Elderly was established in 2005, an evaluation of implementing progress for the elderly was constrained by the lack of statistics supported or qualitative research provided.

In the absence of a full review of the implementation of the 2006 National Population and Development Policy, it is difficult to specify the reasons why specific targets were or were not achieved. It has been suggested, however, that organizational factors may have played an important role. For example, there were changes in the coordinating body during the period of

the policy. The result appears to be that the detailed Action Plan for the period 2006-10 was not developed as expected so that it could not be implemented. For some of the measuring implementation on the policy, there were no budget cost estimation so that it had faced difficulty in monitoring budget allocation and expenditure. Apart from that, the policy envisioned the establishment of a “Commission on Population and Development”, which was established and ceased to operate by 2009. To the extent that the 2006 National Population Policy was not fully implemented because the governing body might be the main causal factors. For this reason, the 2019-2030 policy includes a stronger implementation strategy, including clear arrangements, monitoring framework and regular inspection.

1.3 The process of formulating the 2019-2030 National Population and Development Policy

The revision of the 2006 National Population and Development Policy and the formulation of the 2019-2030 National Population and Development Policy was initiated by the Department of Planning (DOP) of the Ministry of Planning and Investment in early 2017. The situation of socio-economic development and the population structure in Lao PDR has obviously changed so that it has led to various exploded issues which have not inclusively mentioned in the 2006 policy. Furthermore, the policy will also align with new international development scheme, particularly sustainable development goals 2030 and an implementation of international conference on the post 2014 population and development.

The Minister of Ministry of Planning and Investment agreed with the improvement of the 2006 policy and invited the 11 sectors to support a process of improving policy. The minister issued appointment agreements at three levels, including steering committee director, technical working group and secretariat team. After finish locating position body, each level assigned and responsible for was together conducting research on drafting policy from which the United Nations for Population Fund (UNFPA) worked closely with Department of Planning, the focal point of cooperation with line ministries. In regard with re-formulating the policy, UNFPA not only provide budget support, but also technical assistance through national and international consultants.

Regarding the policy adapted, not only financial support, but UNFPA also enlarge technical supports from domestic and international consultants.

The TWG met on several occasions to review progress and contribute to the revision from sectoral and provincial levels and development partners several times. In some of these meetings representatives of selected provinces were invited in order to obtain a provincial-level perspective. During the first of these meetings, the TWG decided that the multi-sector approach to population policy should be adopted, as was the case in the previous two policies, but with a stronger emphasis on incorporating key elements of sector plans into the revised policy. To reflect this emphasis, it was necessary to refer to a range of sector development plans, which were often based on different frameworks and approaches to policy. This is the reason why a detailed implementation matrix has been included in the 2019-30 National Population and

Development Policy. To complete this matrix, the DOP Secretariat and the Technical Advisers (international and national consultants) consulted directly with the main line ministries and agencies and other development partners.

The Technical Working Group also provided information to Technical Adviser to include a more detailed situational analysis in order to select issues related to population into the revised NPDP so that this will help address and enhance the implementation of the policy more comprehensively.

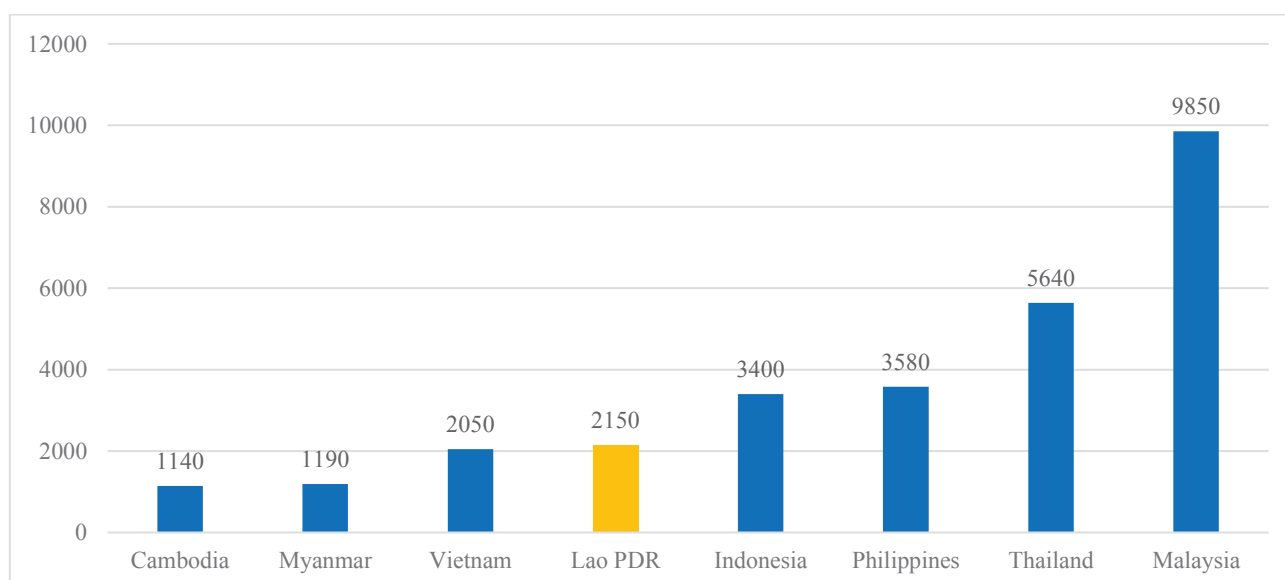
2. Economic and social context

Population change is not deprived from itself, but it is heavily influenced by the socio-economic development and trends, along with government policies. The main stages of the demographic transition are normally associated with levels of per capita income and standards of social development—particularly health and education. Economic growth have an impact on demographic transition through mortality and fertility if the effect of its growth has an equitable distribution.

2.1 Trends in economic growth and development

Lao PDR is a lower middle-income country with a Gross National Income per capita (Atlas method) of USD 2,150 in 2016.¹ This places Lao PDR well above Cambodia and Myanmar and similar to Viet Nam; but Lao PDR’s per capita income remains significantly lower than Thailand’s (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Gross National Income per capita in Southeast Asian countries, 2016



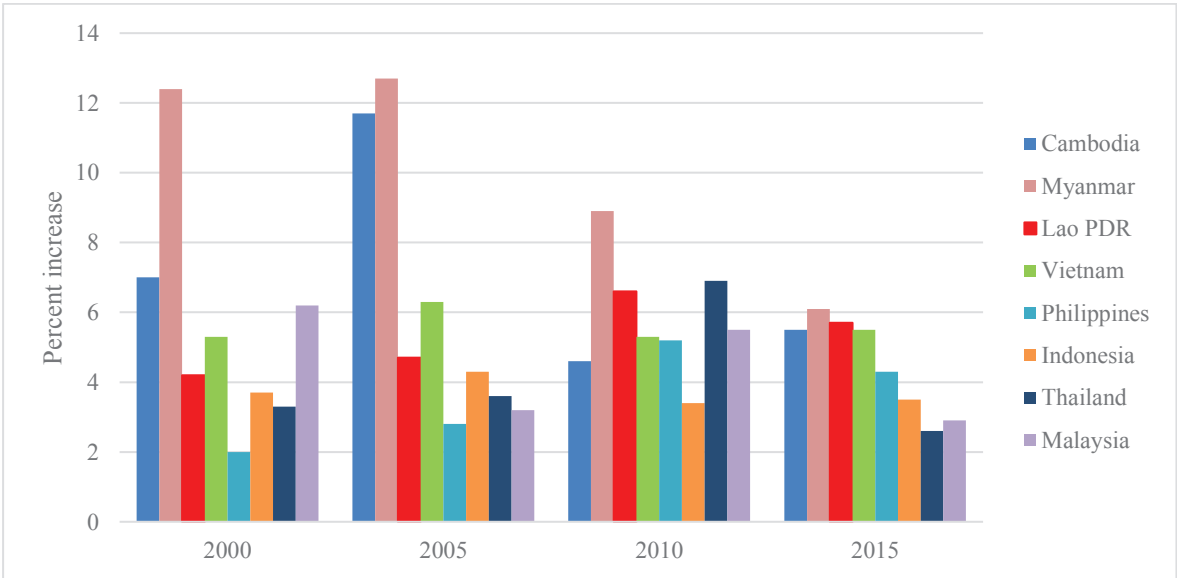
Source: ADB Key Indicators, 2017 (Table 2.3)

¹World Bank Development Indicators. Accessed at wdi.worldbank.org/table/WV.1 on 13/11/2017.

The Lao PDR economy has grown rapidly since the early 1990s, with an average of total GDP growth at 7.7 percent annually of the first five years and 8.0 percent during the later five-year period of the 1990s (ADB, 2017). This was relatively good compared to other countries in the Southeastern Asian region. However, per capita GDP has increased at a somewhat slower pace as a result of a higher population growth rate than other countries in the region (Figure 2). Per capita GDP growth since 2000 has been sufficient to ensure that the demographic transition proceeds at a reasonable pace.

One indicator of this is the declining proportion of the population living in poverty. The percentage of the population below the National Poverty Line has declined from 39 percent in 1997 to 23.2 percent in 2012. Similarly, the proportion of the population living below the International Poverty Line (\$US1.90 per capita per day) has declined from 41 percent in 1997 to 22.7 percent in 2012. Despite these achievements, some provinces have high poverty rates well above the national average. These include Sekong (42.7 percent), Bokeo (44.4 percent) and Huaphan (39.2 percent).² It is also notable that rural poverty (29 percent) is much higher than urban (10 percent). Lao PDR is also exceptional in the Southeast Asia region in terms of the proportion of the employed population living below the International Poverty line. As Figure 3 shows, this proportion was 46 percent in Lao PDR compared with 20.3 percent in Cambodia and 10.5 percent in Indonesia.

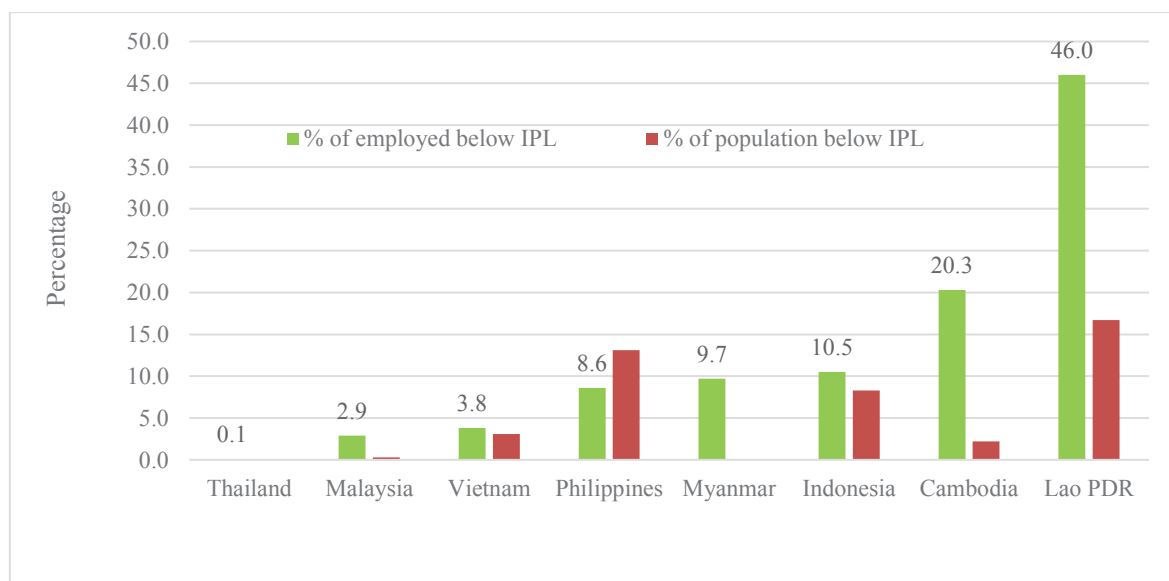
Figure 2: Percent increase in real GDP per capita in Southeast Asian countries, 2000-2015



Source: ADB Key Indicators 2017

²Ministry of Planning and Investment (2016).

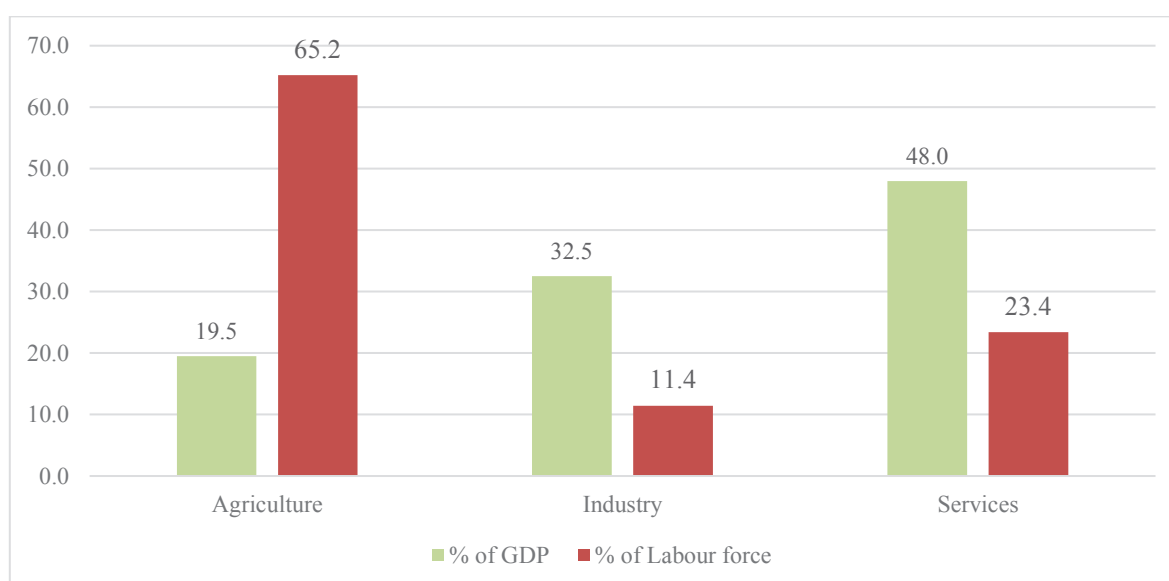
Figure 3: Percentage of the total population and the employed population below the IPL, 2016, in selected Southeast Asian countries



Source: ADB Key Indicators (2017a) (Table 2.1)

A possible explanation for the very high rate of the poor workers in Lao PDR is the proportion of the labour force in low productivity agriculture. From Figure 4 it can be seen that in 2015 the agriculture sector produced 19.5 percent of GDP while 65.2 percent of the labour force was in agriculture. Industry accounted for 32.5 percent of GDP and 11.4 percent of the labour force. Services was the largest sector, accounting for 48 percent of GDP and 23.4 percent of the labour force. The value added per worker in agriculture is much lower than other sectors.

Figure 4: Proportion of GDP and labour force by main economic sectors, 2015



Source: ADB (2017a).

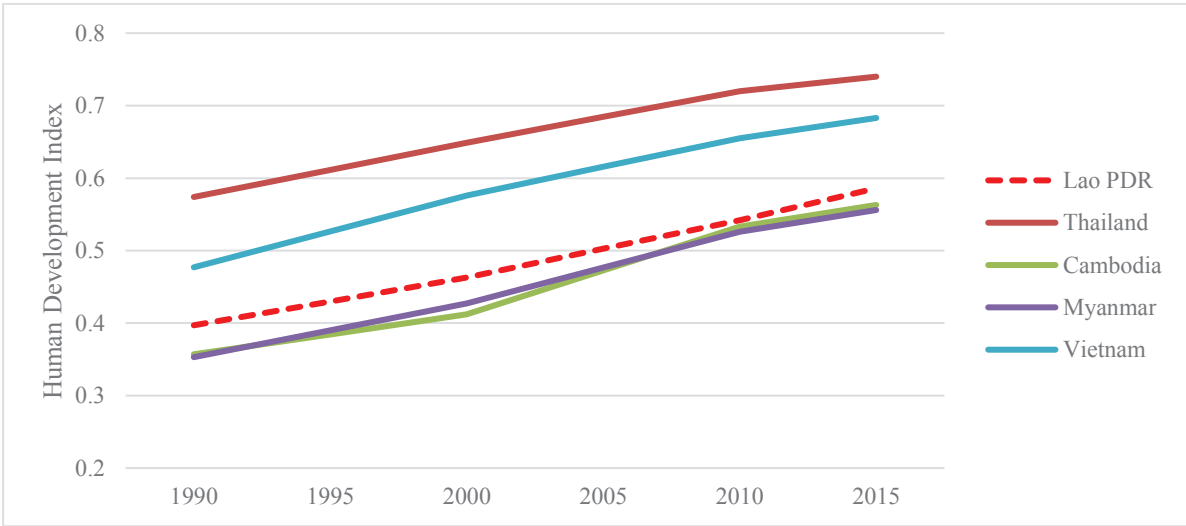
The primary challenge facing the Lao PDR economy is how to bring about a structural transformation from an economy dominated by low productivity agriculture and the export of resources to a more diverse one focused on the production of more highly processed, high-value products added that bring higher income to workers. This transformation requires the modernization of the agriculture sector as well as the further development of the services sector, particularly through tourism.

2.2 Social development

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a useful summary of the level of human development combining education, life expectancy and income rather than monetary income alone. Lao PDR’s HDI has improved steadily since 1990 (Figure 5) and its international ranking has moved up by 5 places between 2010 and 2015 (UNDP 2016). Lao PDR’s current HDI places it in the “Medium Human Development” category, which also includes Cambodia and Myanmar. Given the present rate of improvement in the HDI, Lao PDR could reach the status of a “high Human Development” country in 2026.

Currently holding back human development in Lao PDR is the relatively low level of educational indicators, especially among female children and women. At the national level, 9.2 percent of males and 17.6 percent of females over six years have received no education at all. In some provinces, such as Phongsaly, Luangnamtha, Oudomxay and Bokeo, over 30 percent of females have no education. To achieve “High Human Development” status, the mean years of education would need to increase to at least 8.1 from 5.2 years in 2016—assuming the other components of the HDI improve proportionately. At the provincial level, low educational achievement among women is closely associated with the Under-5 Mortality rate as well as with the TFR. Illiteracy has a similar effect. In Luangnamtha and Phongsaly provinces, only 55 percent and 54 percent of women, respectively, are literate.

Figure 5: Human Development Index, 1990-2015, Southeast Asian countries



Source: Human Development Report, UNDP (2016).

Among those who have attended school, the primary and secondary completion rates remain low. Only 73 percent complete primary and 35 percent of the relevant age groups complete lower secondary. Comparative figures for Vietnam are 96 percent and 81 percent.³ In upper secondary, only 29 percent of males and 25 percent of females complete this level of education, compared to 40 percent for both sexes in the Southeast Asian region.

Gender inequality in all dimensions tends to be a constraint on development. The Gender Development Index (GDI) and Gender Inequality Index (GII) are two indicators of generalized gender inequality. Lao PDR's GDI was 0.924 in 2015, indicating that the HDI for women is lower than for men, indicating that gender inequality has a negative effect on overall development.⁴ In cross-country comparisons, the deviation from gender parity places Lao PDR in the second-to-lowest of five groups with medium to low equality. It is not in the worst group but it is still far from the high and very high human development countries. Lao PDR's gender imbalance is also evident in the GII, which was 0.468 in 2015. Among the main Southeast Asian countries, Lao PDR was the second-most unequal after Cambodia. By contrast, gender inequality was significantly less in Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia and extremely low in Singapore. Although the share of National Assembly members who are women is reasonably high at 27.5 percent, the proportion of women in leadership and management-level positions is low at around 5 percent and in rural areas only 1.7 percent of village chiefs were female in 2015 (Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, 2018).

2.3 Implications of socio-economic development for population

The rate of economic growth over the past two decades in Lao PDR has been rapid and this has been accompanied by major improvements in human development and social welfare. However, the distribution of the benefits of growth across regions and social groups has been uneven and unequal. There are a number of features of present socio-economic trends that have implications for population dynamics and population change.

2.3.1 The structure of the economy

Economic growth in Lao PDR has mainly been achieved through resource-based strategies supported by Foreign Direct Investment and as a result there has been limited employment growth outside the agricultural sector, which still supports the majority of the labour force (ADB, 2017a). Agricultural productivity remains low and this accounts for the high rate of poverty among the employed population. In order to spread the benefits of economic growth more widely, the economy of Lao PDR needs to undergo structural change with a larger proportion of the labour force engaged in manufacturing and services, where value-added per worker is higher. Such a structural transformation would contribute to achieving the demographic transition and ultimately the demographic dividend. Structural change in this direction is a goal of the 8th Five-year Socioeconomic Plan (2016-2020) but will

³UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2018).

⁴A score of 1 would indicate the absence of gender inequality in human development.

take longer to achieve. In the meantime, the demographic transition will be constrained in those provinces and regions where a very high proportion of the population remains in agriculture—particularly in subsistence production. Furthermore, out-migration from the less-developed provinces is likely to continue or accelerate and some of this migration will be to foreign destinations.

2.3.2 Poverty and social services

Until better employment opportunities make it possible for workers to obtain social services by paying for them directly, it will be necessary for the Government to improve the provision of services through Government programmes, including poverty reduction and reproductive health strategies. Clearly national and international NGOs can also play an important role, either directly or indirectly.

2.3.3 Education

Low levels of educational achievement, particularly among women, are closely linked to mortality and fertility trends and consequently the demographic transition. High rates of illiteracy among elderly people, especially women, have implications for communicating social messages, such as those related to behaviour change interventions. To advance the demographic transition requires that more girls and young women complete secondary school. Increasing the age at marriage can contribute to achieving this.

2.3.4 Gender

Gender inequality poses threat to development. This reflects on the little number of women participating in decision making, lower literacy, educational achievement, limited access to economic opportunities and domestic violence. Besides that, regarding early marriage, women are likely to be restricted to their rights and to promote their own reproductive health.

3. Population profile of Lao PDR

3.1 Key population dimensions

There are three primary dimensions of population that are relevant to policy: (1) the population growth rate; (2) the age structure of the population; (3) the geographical distribution of the population. It follows that the factors that determine these dimensions of a population are also population policy issues. In demographic terms, these dimensions of a population can only be changed through changes in fertility, mortality and migration. Changing patterns of fertility, mortality and migration are referred to as “population dynamics”. To understand how the present population has come to have its particular dimensions, it is necessary to study the population dynamics of the past. Similarly, to have some idea of the future population, it is necessary to make assumptions about how future population dynamics might evolve. Finally, population dynamics are not autonomous but are determined by social, economic, biological and environmental factors. The challenge of policy is to identify the role of these factors and to design measures to change them in a desired direction.

3.2 Current population

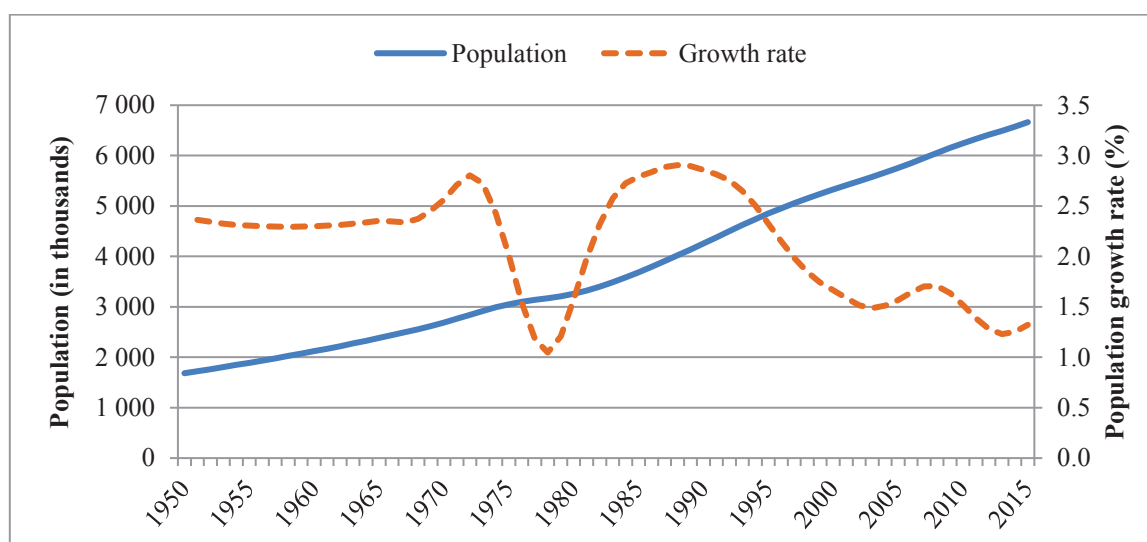
The most recent Census of Population and Housing in Lao PDR, undertaken in March 2015, recorded a population of 6,492,228 persons (or 6.5 million in round figures).⁵ When adjusted to take account of under-enumeration in some age groups, and to shift the date to mid-year, the population in 2015 was 6.7 million.⁶ If the average 2005-2015 inter censal population growth rate (estimated at 1.45 percent annually) were to continue, then the population in mid-2018 would be approximately 7.0 million.

3.3 Population growth and the demographic transition

Lao PDR has experienced continuous population growth for the past six decades (see Figure 6) even though the growth rate has fluctuated over time due to historical factors. The growth rate reached to the peak of 2.9 percent per year in the late 1980s and has since declined to about 1.3-1.5 percent annual growth in 2015.⁷ In absolute numbers, annual population growth has declined from a peak of 122,290 in 1992 to about 87,600 in 2015.

“Demographic transition” of Laos had been following up since last three decades. The elements of demographic transition were consisted of the movement of birth and death rates from high to low levels. Before the transition period, both birth and death rate experienced relatively high which resulted in low population growth rate. During the end of transition period, it can be seen that both birth and death rates declined significantly, while simultaneously population growth rate also experienced low. Those of high growth rate of population occurred during the mid-term of the transition period when death rates had been declining, however, birth rate remained stable, but slightly dropped.

Figure 6: Long-term population growth in Lao PDR 1950-2015



Source: United Nations DESA Population Division (2017).

⁵ Lao Statistics Bureau (2015)

⁶ Lao Statistics Bureau (2018) Draft Report on Population Projections.

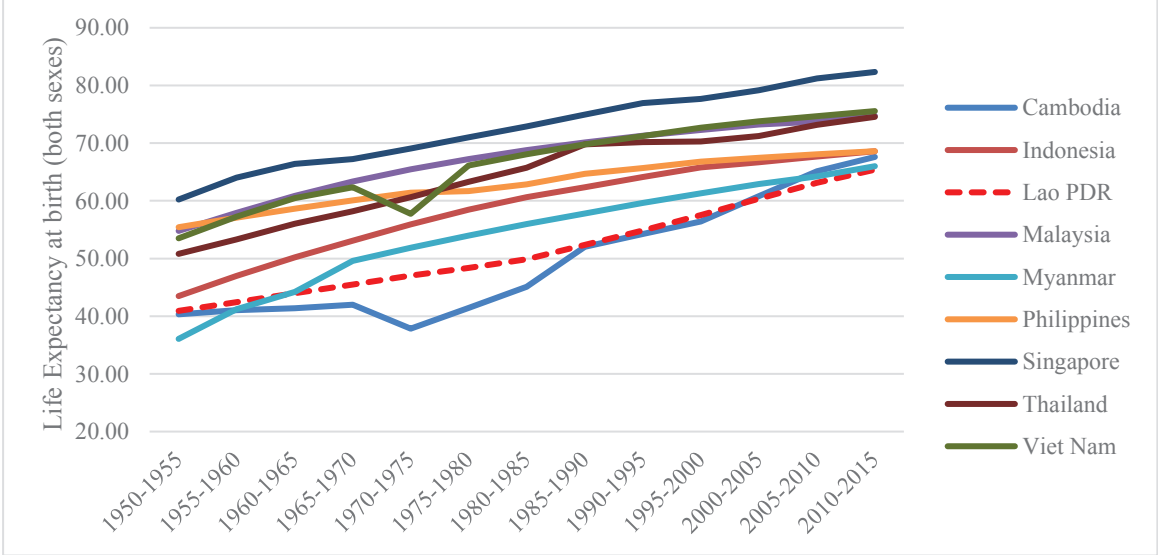
⁷The United Nations Population Division (UNDESA, 2017) estimates the growth rate in 2015 at 1.3 percent, which assumes that there has been a decline in the annual rate of growth within the inter-censal period 2005-15.

3.3.1 The mortality transition in Lao PDR

The demographic transition begins when the death rate starts to fall from a high level because of improved health conditions. One overall indicator of mortality is life expectancy at birth, which increases as death rates decline among various age groups, usually beginning with infant and child death rates. From Figure 7 it will be seen that life expectancy in Lao PDR was very low in the 1950s—just over 40 years for both sexes. After Cambodia, Lao PDR had the second-lowest life expectancy in Southeast Asia in the 1950s, just above Myanmar. Lao PDR has achieved steady improvements in life expectancy over recent decades and has significantly narrowed the gap to other South-East Asian countries. Despite steady progress, however, Lao PDR’s life expectancy is still the lowest in the region and almost 9 years less than in Thailand. Lao PDR’s pace of mortality improvement has been impressive but the challenge for the country has arisen from the fact that mortality levels were particularly high at the outset of the mortality transition, especially when compared to Thailand and Viet Nam.

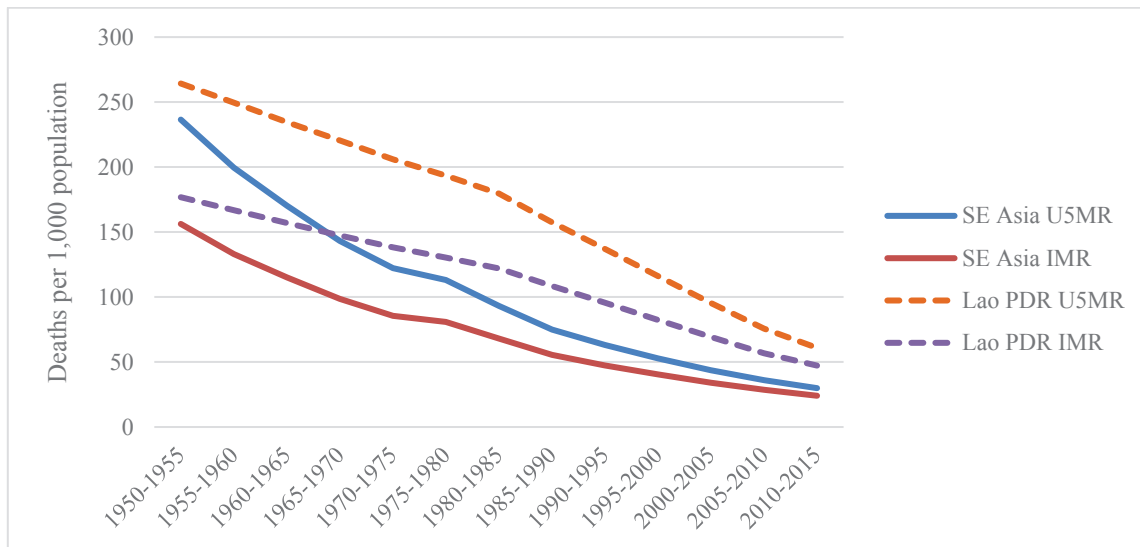
The infant and under 5 mortality rates are especially important indicators of mortality as well as the level of development in a country and have a major impact on life expectancy. Figure 8 compares the Infant Mortality Rate and Under-5 Mortality Rate trends in Lao PDR and the South-East Asian region as a whole. As with other mortality indicators, the gap between Lao PDR and other SE Asian countries has narrowed significantly in recent decades, but there is still a way to go before Lao PDR reaches the regional average in these indicators.

Figure 7: Life expectancy at birth in South-East Asia 1950-2015



Source: United Nations DESA Population Division (2017).

Figure 8: Infant and Under 5 Mortality Rates in Lao PDR and SE Asia 1950-2015

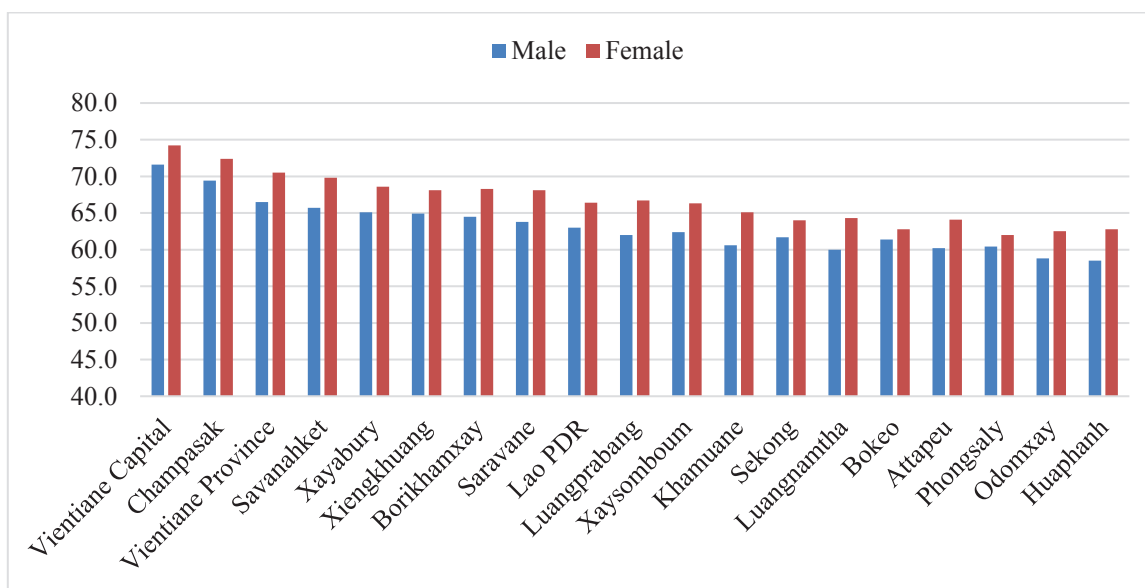


Source: United Nations DESA Population Division (2017)

3.3.2 Other mortality issues

National mortality indicators mask considerable variation across the provinces and regions. Life expectancy at birth for females ranges from a high of 74.2 years in Vientiane Capital to a low of 62.0 years in Huaphanh Province—a gap of 12.2 years (Figure 9). Among males, the range is from 71.6 years in Vientiane Capital to 58.5 years in Huaphanh—a gap of 13.1 years. Such wide variations suggest very different levels of living and access to health services in these provinces.

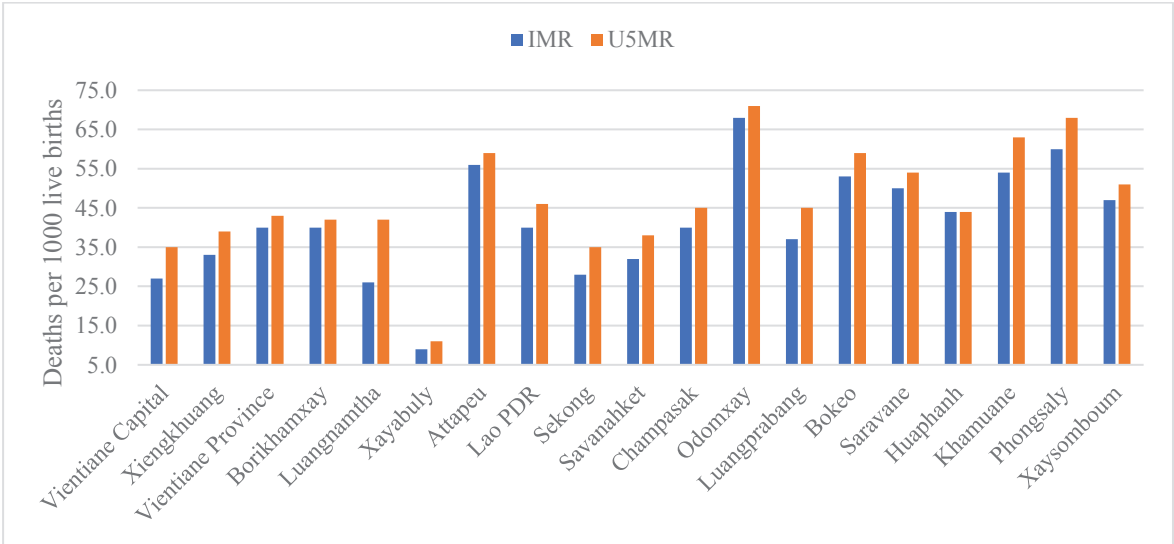
Figure 9: Life Expectancy at Birth by province for males and Females, 2015



Source: LSB (2017b).

A wide variation is also apparent when comparing infant and under-five mortality rates between provinces. Although data are not available for 2015, the Lao Social Indicators survey conducted in 2011-12 provided provincial level estimates for the period just before the survey. The IMR ranged from 27 per 1,000 live births in Vientiane Capital to 131 in Khamuane province (Figure 10). Similarly, the under-five Mortality rate ranged from 32 per 1,000 live births in the Capital to 151 in Phongsaly province—almost five times higher. These data indicate that there are wide disparities between the provinces in terms of the factors that contribute to infant and child health.

Figure 10: Infant and child mortality by province, the 2017 Social indicators survey



Source: Ministry of Health and Lao Statistics Bureau (2017)

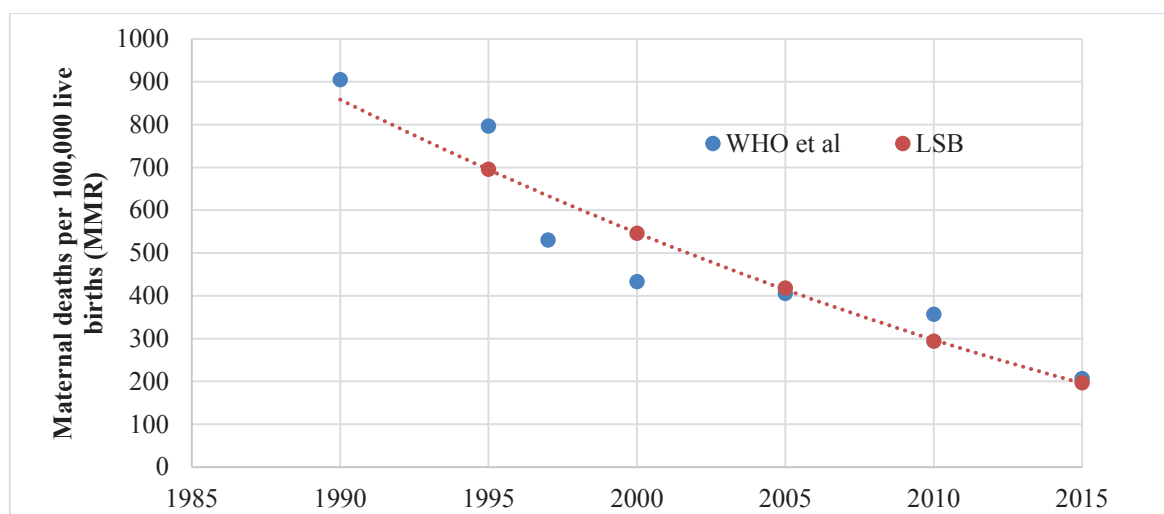
Maternal mortality is also an extremely important policy issue. Lao PDR’s Maternal Mortality Ratio has declined by 78 percent between 1990 and 2015, thereby achieving the MDG Goal of reducing the MMR by 75 percent over this period.⁸ Figure 11 shows MMR estimates from two sources: those made by the WHO in collaboration with several development agencies⁹ and those derived from various surveys and censuses conducted by the LSB¹⁰. Despite minor variations in some years, the overall trend is consistent and shows significant progress in reducing maternal deaths in the country.

⁸The Millennium Development Goal on maternal mortality was derived from the ICPD Plan of Action of 1994, which recommended that countries should strive to achieve “a reduction in maternal mortality by one half of 1990 levels by the year 2000 and a further one half by 2015” (UNFPA 2004, p.69).

⁹(WHO, et al. 2017)

¹⁰See MOH and LSB (2012) and LSB (2015).

Figure 11: Trend in the Maternal Mortality Ratio, 1990-2015 in Lao PDR

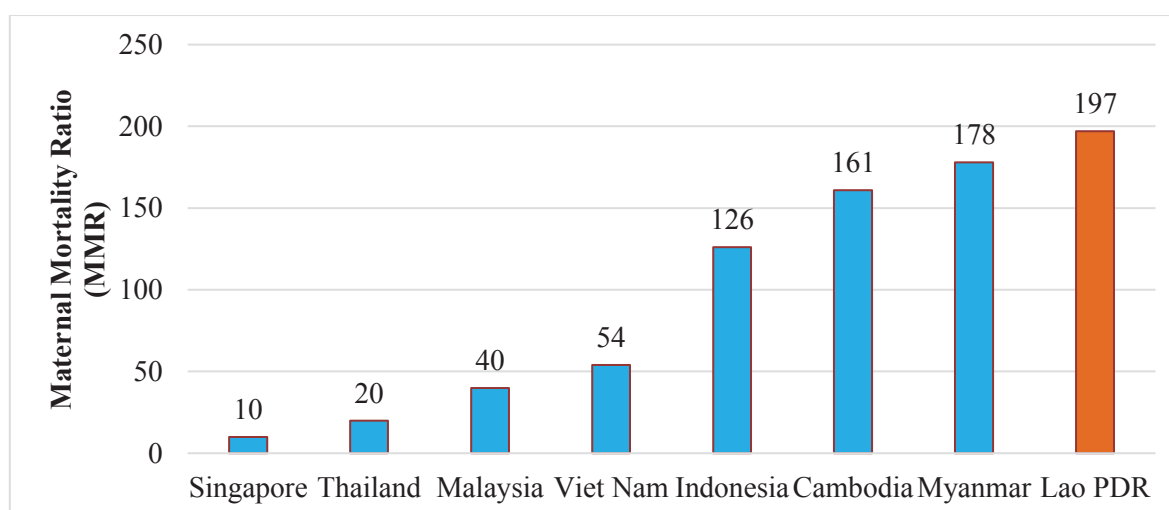


Source: WHO (2015); Ministry of Health and LSB (2012).

Despite this progress, Lao PDR's MMR remains high by comparison with other South-East Asian countries. This is evident from Figure 12, which shows that Thailand's MMR is presently about one-tenth of Lao PDR's and Malaysia's is about one fifth of Lao PDR's level. Of the countries shown in Figure 12 only Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Viet Nam had achieved the ICPD POA target of reducing the MMR to below 60 by 2015. For high mortality countries like Lao PDR, Cambodia and Myanmar, the target was an MMR of 125 by 2015 but none of these countries were able to achieve that despite making good progress.

While the MMR is a crucial indicator for monitoring reproductive health, the absolute number of maternal deaths is an equally important indicator. The number of maternal deaths estimated from data collected in the 2015 Population and Housing Census was 376, and 65 of these (17 percent of the total) were in the 15-19 age group.

Figure 12: Maternal Mortality Ratios in South East Asian Region, 2015

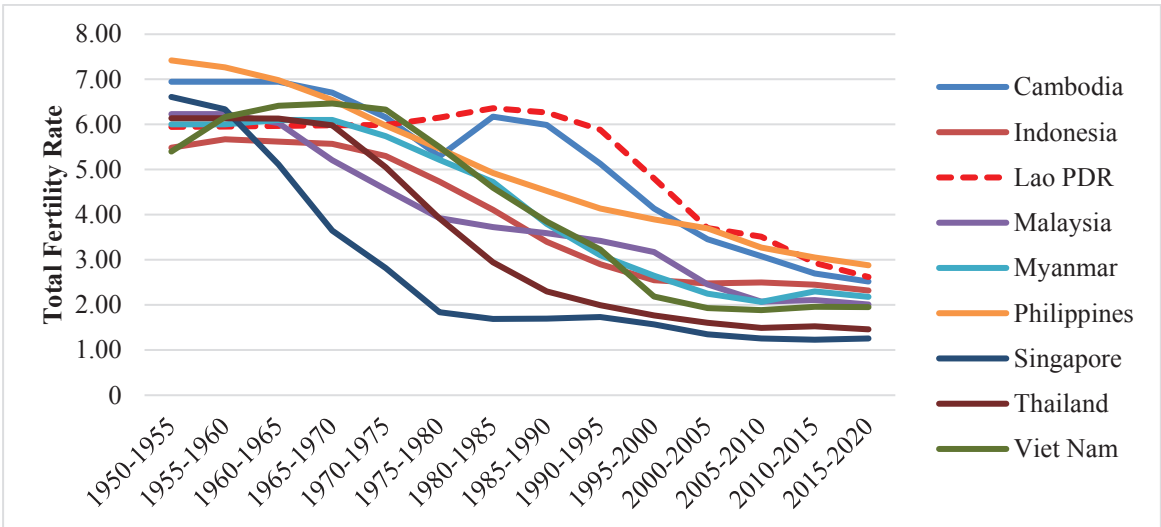


Source: WHO et al. (2015)

3.3.3 The fertility transitions

The best overall indicator of the fertility transition is the Total Fertility Rate (TFR), which is the average number of children a woman would have if she experienced the present age-specific birth rates rate during her lifetime. Long-term trends in the TFR in all South-East Asian countries are shown in Figure 13, from which it can be seen that Lao PDR has had a distinctively different pattern than other countries in the region (although Lao PDR trends since the 1980s have been similar to Cambodia’s). The fertility transition in Lao PDR commenced in the late 1980s, about 20 years after Thailand’s and Viet Nam’s TFR started to decline rapidly. But fertility decline in Lao PDR has also been quite rapid in the past decades and, unlike most other countries in South-East Asia, it has yet to level-off. The UN estimates shown in Figure 13 show that Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Myanmar are either below or near the “replacement” level, whereas Lao PDR and the Philippines remain above replacement level.

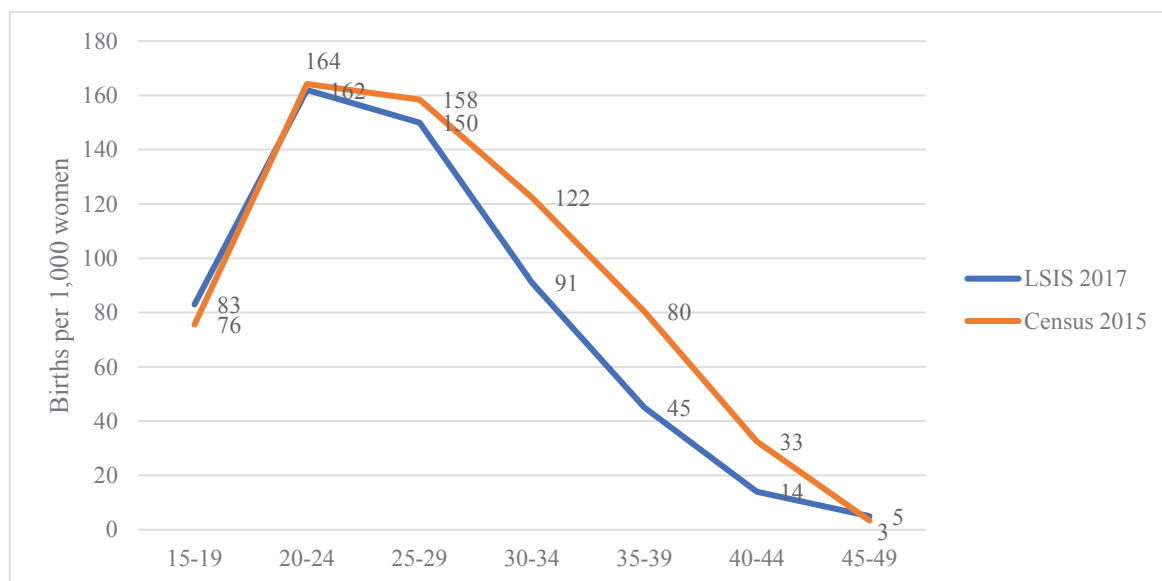
Figure 13: TFR trends in South-East Asia 1950-2015



Source: UN DESA, Population Division (2017)

The age distribution of fertility is an important policy issue, particularly when fertility is concentrated in young ages. Figure 14 shows the age-specific birth rates for Lao PDR based on the two most recent sources of fertility estimates. The census-based estimates show lower fertility in the 15-24 age group than the LSIS estimates, but in both data-sets peak fertility occurs in the 20-24 age group, which is relatively young.

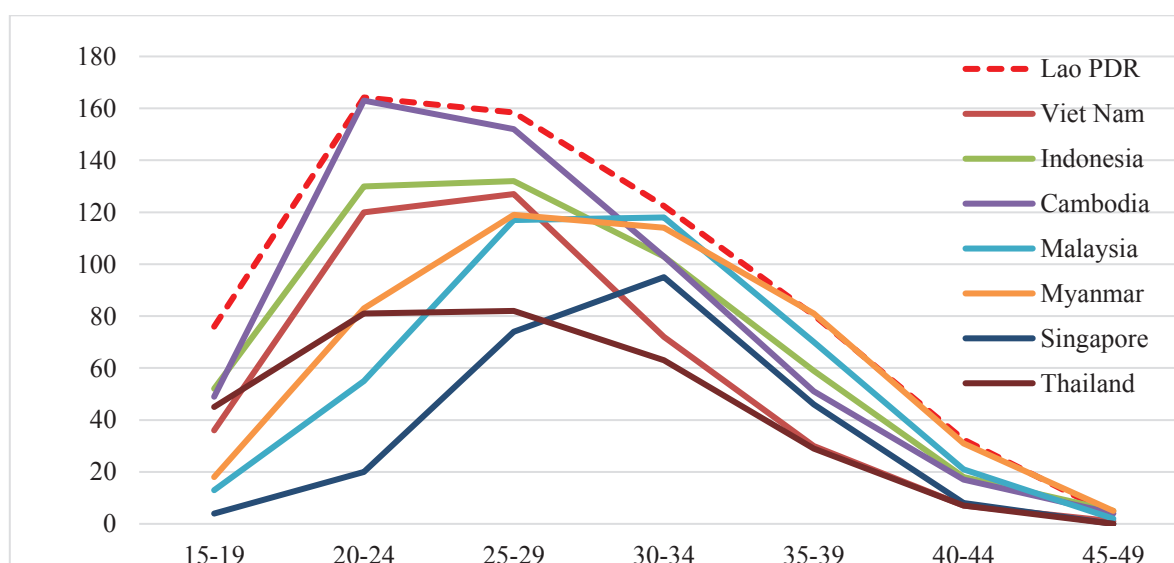
Figure 14: Age-specific fertility rates for Lao PDR, 2015 and 2017



Source: Ministry of Health and LSB (2017);

Adolescent fertility in Lao PDR is high compared with other South-East Asian countries. This is apparent in Figure 15 where it will be seen that Lao PDR’s fertility pattern by age most closely matches that of Cambodia. In most other countries shown in the graph, fertility rates peak in the age group 25-29, five years later than in Lao PDR. In the case of Singapore, the peak is even later—at age group 30-34. Lao PDR’s adolescent fertility rate (15-19) is the highest in the region by a considerable margin.¹¹

Figure 15: Age-specific Fertility Rates in South-East Asian Countries, 2010-2015



Source: Lao Statistics Bureau (2017a); United Nations DESA, Population division (2017).

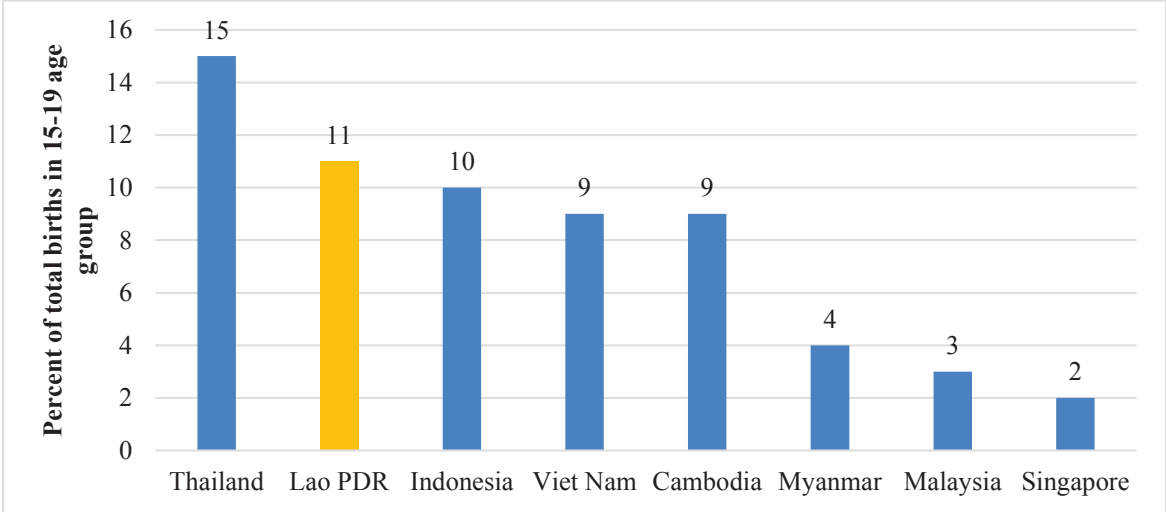
¹¹The UN Population Division (UN DESA 2017) gives Lao PDR’s adolescent fertility rate at 66 per 1,000 compared to the 2015 PHC estimate of 76 and the LSIS estimate of 94. Whichever figure is used, Lao PDR still has the highest rate in the region.

Another measure of young childbearing is the proportion of births occurring to mothers aged 15-19. The data for the South-East Asia region are presented in Figure 16. In Thailand, 15 percent of births are to women aged 15-19. Lao PDR is second-highest with 11 percent. At the other extreme is Singapore, where only two percent of births are to young mothers. It is likely that the variations in the proportion of births occurring among young women can be explained by the marriage rate, although this does not explain the situation in Thailand. The median age of marriage in Lao PDR for women aged 25-49 was 19.2 years (LSB, 2011-12 LSIS), compared with 22.8 years in Viet Nam and 27.6 years in Singapore.

3.3.4 Fertility variations

Fertility rates vary significantly by socio-economic groups as well as geographical areas, indicating that the fertility transition is not uniform across the country and society. For example, the total fertility rate (TFR) in 2015 was 2.6 in urban areas, 3.5 in rural areas with road access and 4.2 in rural areas without roads (Lao Statistics Bureau 2017a). The adolescent fertility rate also varies widely between these geographical areas. In rural areas without roads, the adolescent fertility rate was 121 per 1,000 compared with 89 per 1,000 in rural areas with roads and 44 per 1,000 in urban areas. Fertility also varies widely by the educational status of women. Women who have attained a tertiary level of education have a TFR of 2.2 compared with 2.5 for those with a secondary or vocational education, 3.2 with primary only and 4.2 among those with no education. The adolescent fertility rate among those mothers with no education (155 per 1,000) is six times the rate for mothers who have attained tertiary education (26 per 1,000).

Figure 16: Proportion of total Births to mothers aged 15-19, South-East Asian Countries



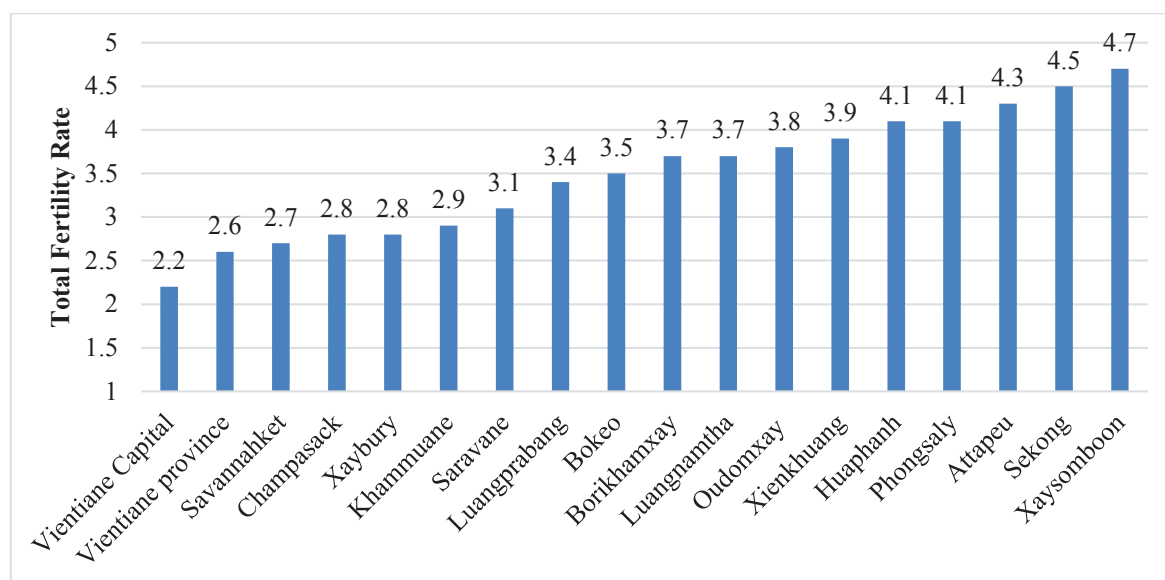
Source: United Nations DESA, Population Division (2017).

The Total Fertility rate also varies quite widely by province (Figure 17). In Vientiane Capital the TFR was near to replacement in 2015. At the opposite extreme, the provinces of Huaphanh, Phongsaly, Sekong, Attapeu and Xaysomboon, all had TFRs above 4.0. Seven

provinces had TFRs between 3.4 and 3.9 while a further five had TFRs between 2.6 and 2.9. It is not possible to explain these variations by the level of urbanization, or the proportion of the population in rural areas without roads, but these factors have some influence. One of the strongest links at the provincial level, however, is between the TFR and the Under-five mortality rate, indicating that fertility decline is closely related to declining mortality.¹²

In Lao PDR the CPR and the unmet need for family planning are not closely related to the TFR at the provincial level. More closely linked to TFR is the proportion of women who have attended or completed the upper secondary level of education. The proportion of women completing lower secondary or higher education has little effect on fertility variations. The proportion of women having attended, even if not completing, upper secondary schooling is one of the major determinants of fertility variations by provinces. It is possible that this factor operates by delaying marriage and increasing the age of first birth.

Figure 17: Total Fertility Rate (TFR) by province 2015



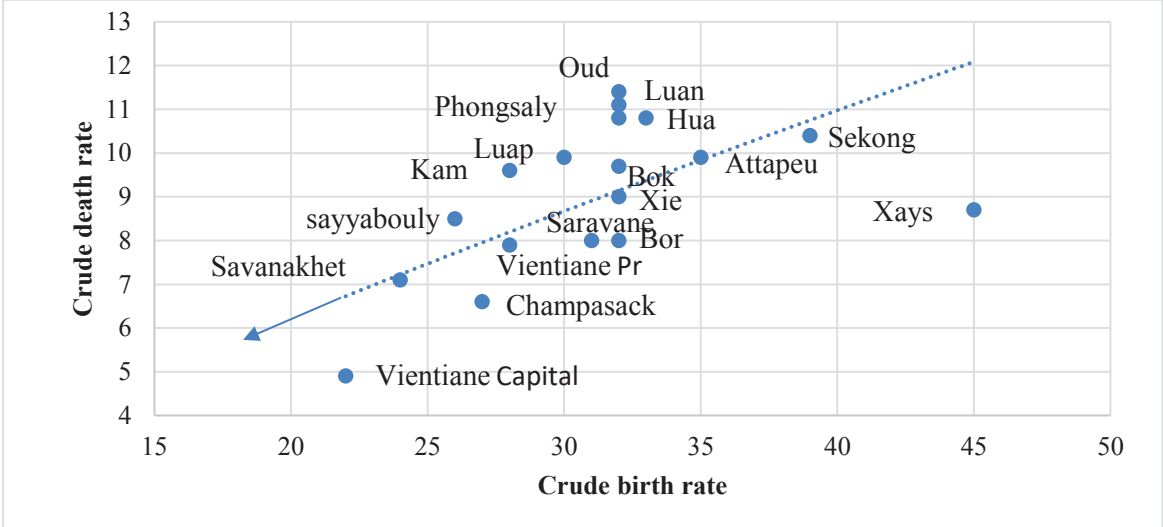
Source: Lao Statistics Bureau (2017b).

It is evident from the data in Figure 18 that some provinces are much more advanced in the demographic transition than others. The key feature of the transition is that both the Birth Rate and the Death rate are trending downwards—either together or with some delay. The status of a province in the transition is indicated by whether its combination of birth rate and death rate place it at the bottom left of the graph or the top right. Progress in the transition is indicated by the dotted line. Provinces toward the top right have the furthest to go to complete the transition, while provinces toward the bottom left have the least distance to go. It is clear that Vientiane Capital is the most advanced, followed by Champasack, Savannakhet and Vientiane Province. The provinces that are the least advanced in the transition include

¹²The correlation between the TFR and Under-five mortality rate using Pearson's r is 0.6774, which is moderately strong and the relationship is statistically significant at the $p=0.01$ level.

Oudomxay, Luangnamtha, Phongsaly, Huaphan and Sekong. (Xaysomboon is a special case having a very high birth rate relative to its death rate).

Figure 18: Least and most advanced provinces in the demographic transition, 2015

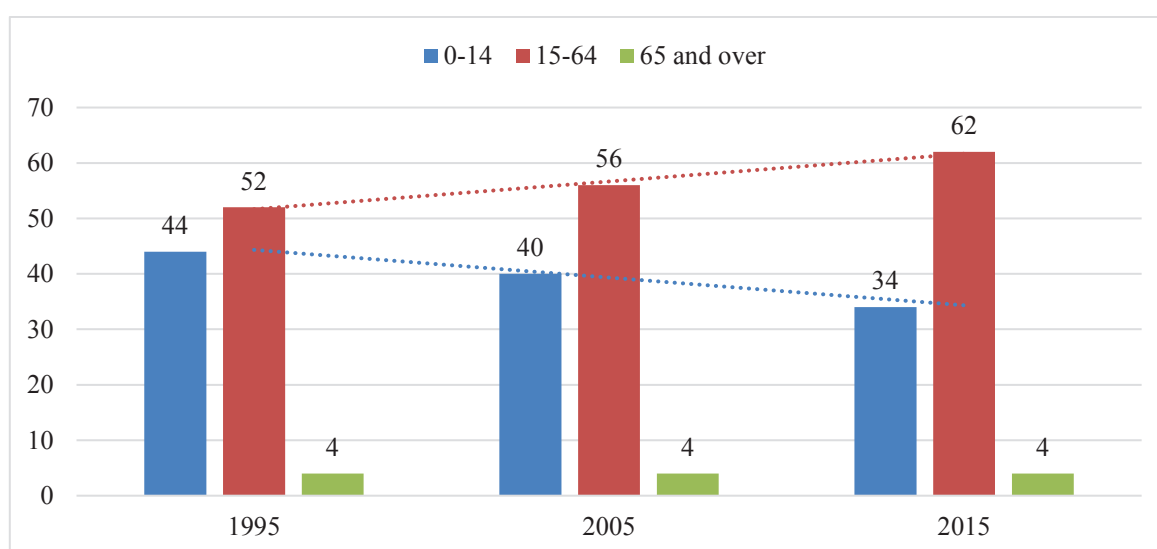


Source: Calculated from Lao Statistics Bureau (2017a).

3.4 Age distribution

The age composition of Lao PDR’s population has been changing in recent decades as the demographic transition proceeds. Declining fertility since the 1980s has steadily reduced the proportion of the population in the under 15 age group, while the reduction in mortality has ensured that greater numbers are surviving into the working ages groups. The trends since 1995 are apparent in Figure 19, where the trend lines show the increasing proportion of the population in the working-age range of 15-64 and a decreasing proportion in the population aged under 15 years. The elderly population aged 65 and over has remained stable in the past twenty years because improvements in survival have yet to affect older age groups. This is reflected in still relatively low life expectancy from age 65.

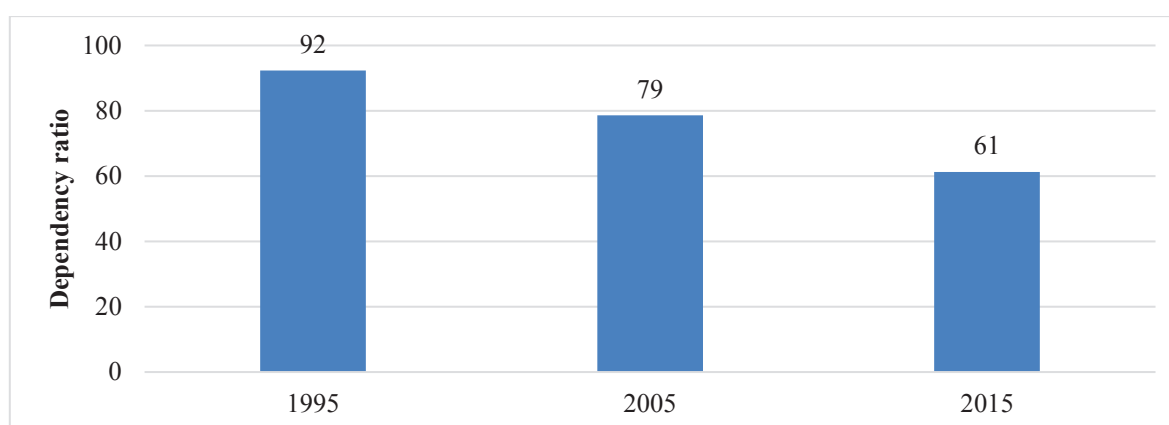
Figure 19: Percentage of population in major age groups, 1995-2015



Source: LSB 2005 and Lao Statistics Bureau (2017a).

As a result of these age structure shifts, the “dependency ratio” (the number of working age persons relative to the non-working ages) has been declining since 1995 (Figure 20) and can be expected to decline further in the future.

Figure 20: Trend in dependency ratio, 1995-2015



Source: National Statistics Centre (2005); Lao Statistics Bureau (2017a).

A more comprehensive picture of the changing age distribution can be gained from the age pyramids twenty years apart (1995 and 2015), which are shown in Figures 21 and 22, respectively. The 1995 pyramid reflects high fertility during the previous 15 years when the TFR averaged about 6 children per woman. By 2015 the effects of falling fertility and mortality since the 1990s are evident in the narrowing of the base and a definite filling out in the middle age groups (above age 24). The 2015 pyramid is beginning to assume the more “barrel-shaped” pyramid that is typical of countries passing through the demographic transition.

The age-structure trends in Lao PDR are favorable for socio-economic development given the possibility of achieving a “demographic dividend” from the rising proportion of the population in the working-age range. Providing that the increasing numbers of young workers receive appropriate education and training and employment opportunities increase then the overall economy will receive a boost, including GDP growth, higher government revenues and improved living standards.

Figure 21: Population distribution by age and sex, 1995 census*

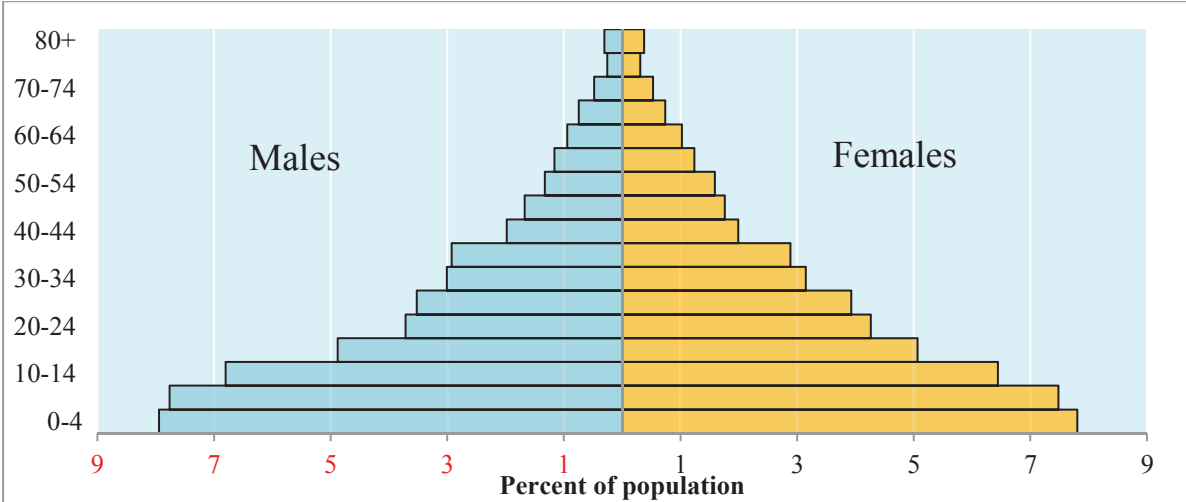
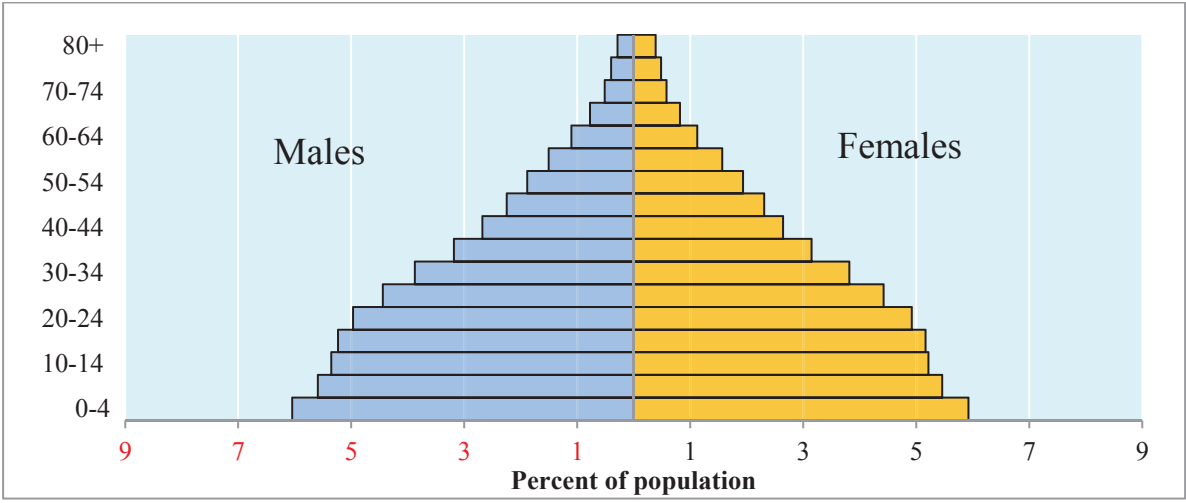


Figure 22: Population distribution by age and sex, 2015 census*



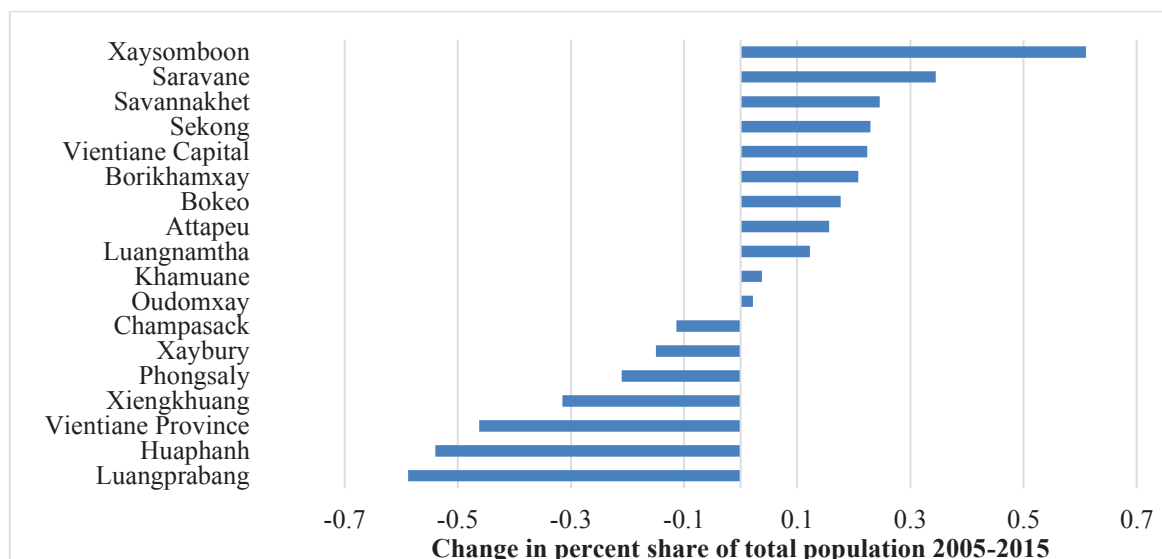
Source: 1995 and 2015 Census Reports. *Adjusted for under-enumeration.

3.5 Population distribution

The geographical distribution of population in Lao PDR has been relatively stable over recent decades, but some shift in population is evident. Between 2005 and 2015, seven provinces experienced a reduced share in the total population while eleven provinces (including Vientiane Capital) experienced gains (Figure 23). As might be expected, provinces gaining

population share generally had higher rates of population growth than provinces that were losing share, a reflection of the role of internal migration in changing the population distribution between provinces.

Figure 23: Changes in the proportion of the population by province, 2005-2015



Source: National Statistics Centre (2005); Lao Statistics Bureau (2017a).

Another dimension of population distribution is the proportion of the population that is living in areas that lack road access. In 2005, 21.3 percent of the population was living in a rural area without roads but by 2015 this proportion had dropped to 7.9 percent. It is not known how much of the decline was due to the building of more roads or from people migrating to places with roads. In any case, improved road access will facilitate the delivery of social services as well as stimulate rural development.

3.6 Internal migration and urbanization

Internal migration is primarily measured by the decennial census and can be captured in several different ways. Persons living in a place other than the one in which they were born are “lifetime migrants” to their current place of usual residence. Persons whose usual residence at the time of the census is different from their place of residence five years ago or at the time of the previous census are current migrants. Persons who moved from their usual place of residence after the previous census but returned prior to the current census will not be measured as migrants using census definitions. A “return migrant” is someone whose previous place of residence (five or ten years previously) was not their place of birth but whose current place of usual residence is their place of birth or their place of previous residence.

The 2015 census reported that 82.2 percent of the total population were enumerated in the same district that they were born in. This implies that the population of Lao PDR is not highly mobile within the country. In specific provinces, the proportion of the population still living in the same district in which they were born is higher than the average, including

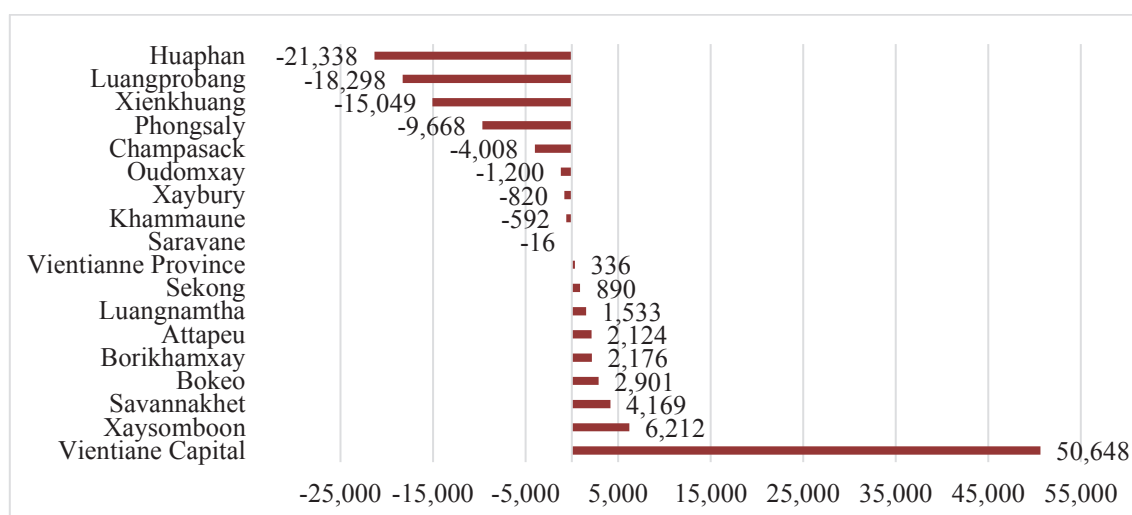
Savannakhet (91.2 percent) and Huaphan (90.6 percent)—indicating a low level of mobility in these provinces. Vientiane Capital has the smallest proportion of its population living in the district in which they were born (61 percent)—indicating that 39 percent of Vientiane Capital’s population were born elsewhere. Other than Xaysomboun, which is a newly-created administrative entity, no other province comes close to Vientiane Capital’s proportion of “lifetime” migrants. The proportion of Vientiane Capital’s population that is foreign born (1.3 percent) is higher than nationally (0.7 percent) but Bokeo Province had a higher proportion (2.6 percent) and Attapeu was the same. In Lao PDR as a whole, only 0.7 percent of the population (45,446 people) was reported as born in another country. Less than half of one percent of the populations of Khamaunne, Vientiane Province, Champasack, Saravene, Oudomxay and Luangprabang were born in another country. These figures indicate a low-level of international lifetime immigration.

Among females, the percentage living in the district of their birth is generally higher than among males, indicating that they are less mobile than their male counterparts. The only exception is Huaphan, where the two sexes are almost balanced. The foreign-born are more likely to be male than female. While migrants in most countries are generally in the young working ages (25-34), in Lao PDR older persons aged 55-59 are more likely to have moved from their district of birth, and this is the same for males and females. Among the foreign-born, females are likely to be in the age group 30-34 and males 40-44.

When migration is measured by differences between place of residence at the time of the census and place of residence 10 years earlier, the variations between provinces are similar to those apparent from the place of birth figures. The proportion of Vientiane’s population that was living in a different district in 2015 than they had been in 2005 was highest at 14.4 percent (15.7 percent for males) and generally half or less than half this rate in other provinces. With 10 percent of its residents living in another district in 2005, only Vientiane Province came close to Vientiane Capital on this measure of mobility. Again, males are more mobile than females when measured by previous place of residence.

Data on net inter-provincial movement between 2005 and 2015 (Figure 24) confirm that Vientiane Capital is overwhelmingly the primary destination for internal migrants in Lao PDR. Conversely, net interprovincial out-migration is concentrated in five provinces: Huaphan, Luangprabang, Xienkuang, Phongsaly and Champasack.

Figure 24: Net inter-provincial migration 2005-15

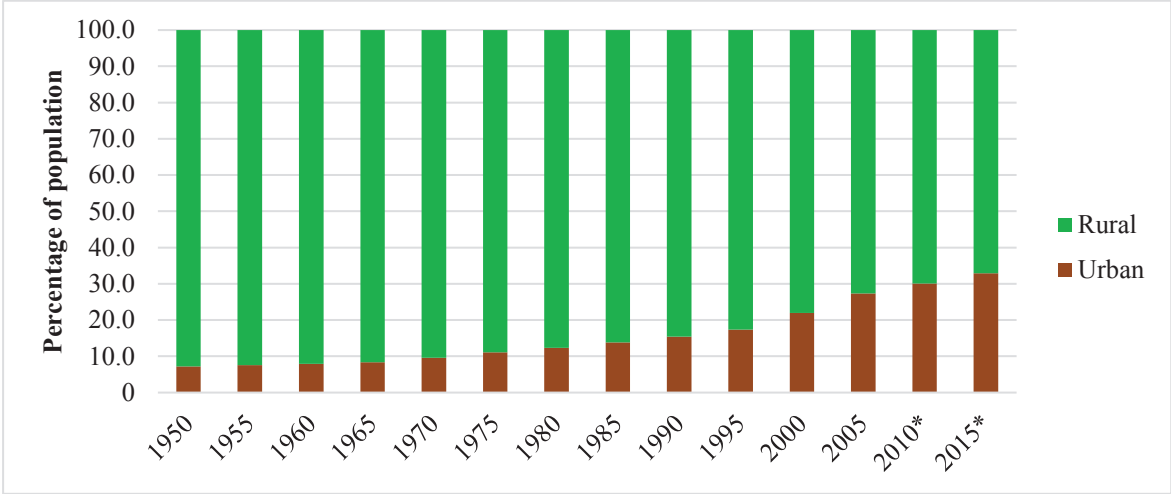


Source: Lao Statistics Bureau (2017a).

Considered overall, it is clear that internal migration in Lao PDR is primarily related to urbanization. Although some internal migration may reflect greater economic opportunities in some provinces than others, the scale of this movement is relatively small compared to movement into Vientiane Capital. Measured according to the percentage of the 2015 population aged 10 years and over, Vientiane (+7.3 percent) has the highest net in-migration rate by far (excluding Xaysomboon). But several provinces have high net out-migration rates, including Huaphan (-9.6 percent), Xienkhuang (-8.0 percent) and Phongsaly (-7.1 percent).

Lao PDR has been undergoing a relatively slow pace of urbanization over many decades—not unlike other South-East Asian countries. It took four decades—from 1950 to 1990—for the urban proportion to double from 7.2 percent to 15.4 percent (Figure 25) but the next doubling to 33.1 percent took only 20 years. Thus the pace of urbanization has accelerated after 1990. The peak decade for urbanization (the rate at which the country was becoming more urban and less rural) was from 1995-2005. From 2005 onwards, the pace of urbanization has slowed down.

Figure 25: Rural-urban population distribution, 1950-2015, Lao PDR



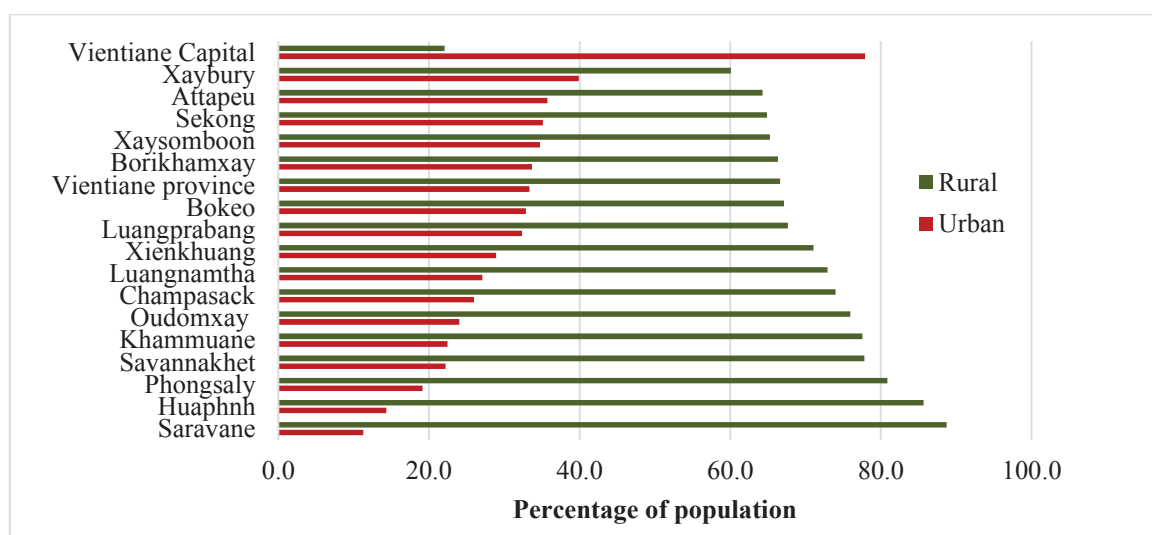
*Data for these years from 2015 census (Lao Statistics Bureau (2017a)). Previous years from United Nations DESA, Population Division (2015).

United Nations Projections (United Nations DESA, 2014) suggest that Lao PDR will become 50 percent urban by 2030, about ten years after the Southeast Asia region as a whole. But the recent slow-down in the pace of urbanization may push this date further out to 2035. As of 2015 Lao PDR still has a predominantly rural population, with 67.1 percent in rural areas and 7.9 percent of the population still living in rural areas without roads.

Although Vientiane Capital Province is more urbanized than any other province (78 percent), it only contains 30 percent of the total urban population. Savannakhet province has 10.1 percent of the total urban population. As shown in Figure 26, Saravane is the least urbanized province (11.3 percent) followed by Huaphan (14.3 percent).

Even allowing for the fact that Vientiane Capital is only 78 percent urban, it is clear that Vientiane is Lao PDR’s “primate” city. Vientiane Capital’s urban population is seven times that of the next largest urban district (Kaysone/Phomvihane). This extreme level of primacy has important economic consequences that justify detailed investigation.

Figure 26: Rural-urban distribution by province, 2015



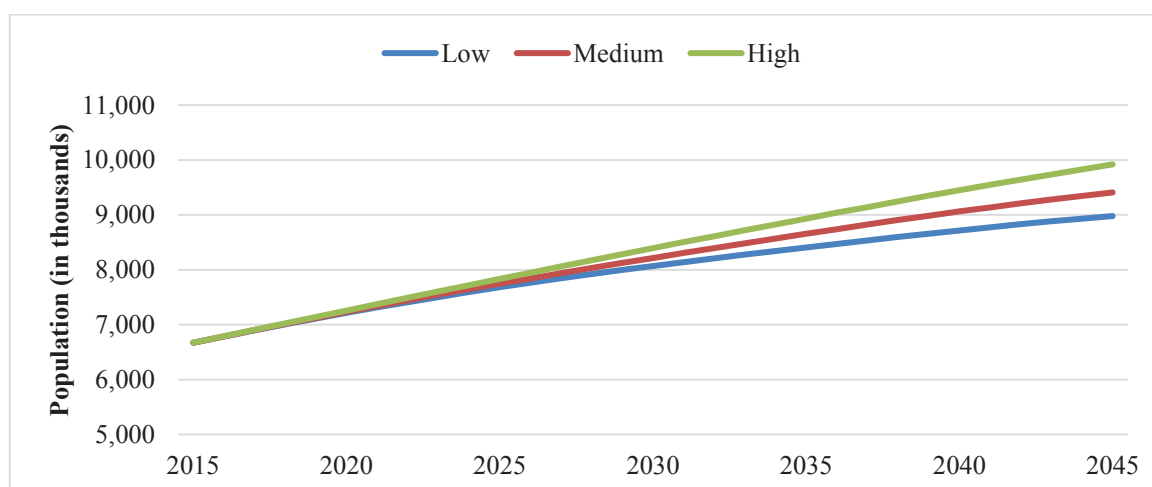
Source: Lao Statistics Bureau (2017a).

3.7 Future population prospects: projections to 2045

3.7.1 National projections

The Lao Statistics Bureau has conducted population projections up to 2045 for the national population and all provinces individually based on the 2015 census population adjusted for age errors and under-enumeration. Three projection scenarios were developed using different assumptions regarding the speed of fertility decline. In the “Low” variant, the TFR would reach “replacement” level (2.1) in 2025 and in the “medium” variant replacement would be reached in 2030. In the “high” fertility variant, replacement fertility would be reached in 2045. All three projection scenarios assumed the same rate of improvement in mortality conditions with life expectancy reaching 76 years for females and 72 years for males by 2045. In all three projections, international migration was also assumed to be zero. The results of the projections are shown in Figure 27.

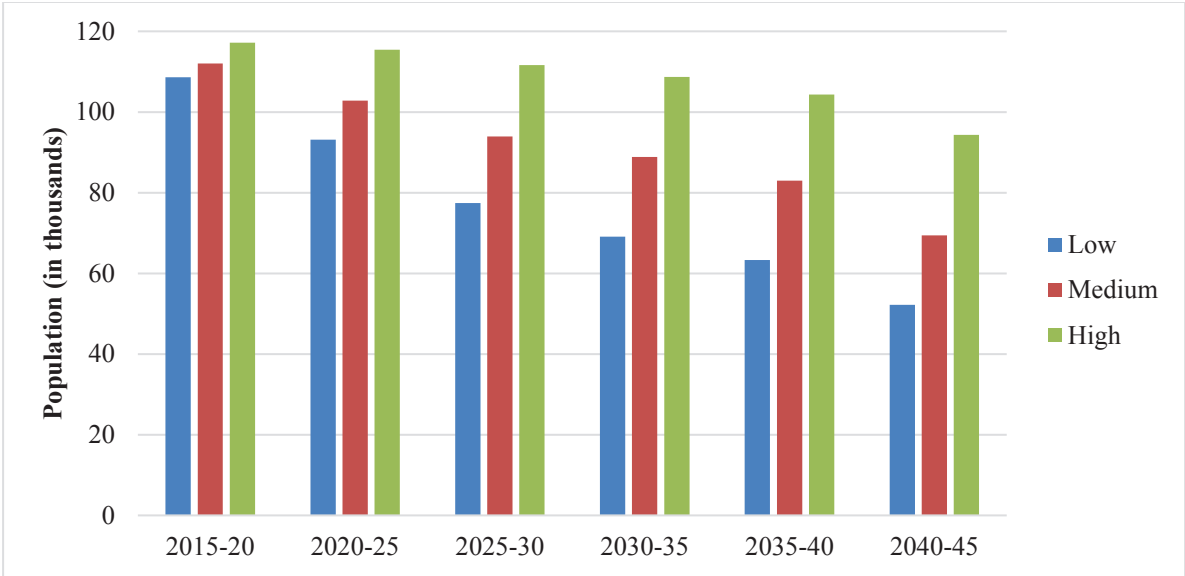
Figure 27: Population projections, 2015-2045, under three fertility assumptions



Source: Lao Statistics Bureau (2017b)

According to these scenarios, the population of Lao PDR would fall between 9 million and just under 10 million by 2045—depending on which of the three projections comes to pass. Accordingly, between 2015 and 2045, the population would increase by 2.3 million under the “low” scenario, 2.7 million under the “medium” scenario and by 3.2 million under the high scenario. In terms of annual growth, the increase would average over the 30 years 77,000 per year under the “low” scenario, 92,000 under the “medium” scenario, and 108,000 under the “high” scenario. Figure 28 shows average annual increments in 5-year periods according to the three projection scenarios. In the “high” scenario, the annual increment in population would decline slowly from 117,000 in the 2015-2020 period to 94,000 in the 2040-2045 period. Under the “low” scenario, the annual population increment would decline from 109,000 in the 2015-2020 period to 52,000 in the 2040-2045 period. None of the projection scenarios envision a stabilization of low population growth up to 2045.

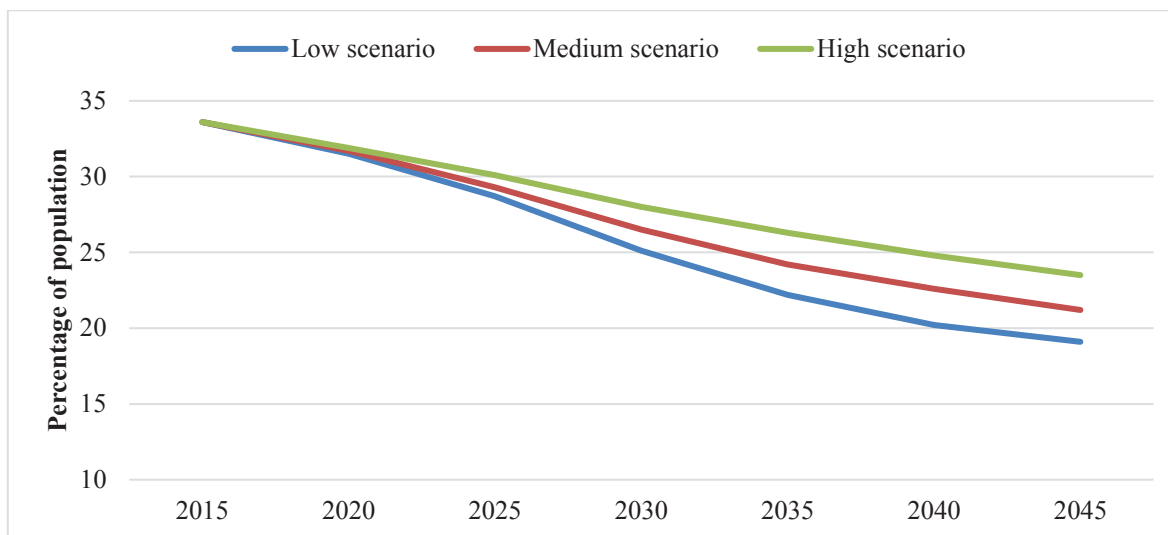
Figure 28: Annual population increase under three projection scenarios, 2015-2045



Source: Lao Statistics Bureau (2017b).

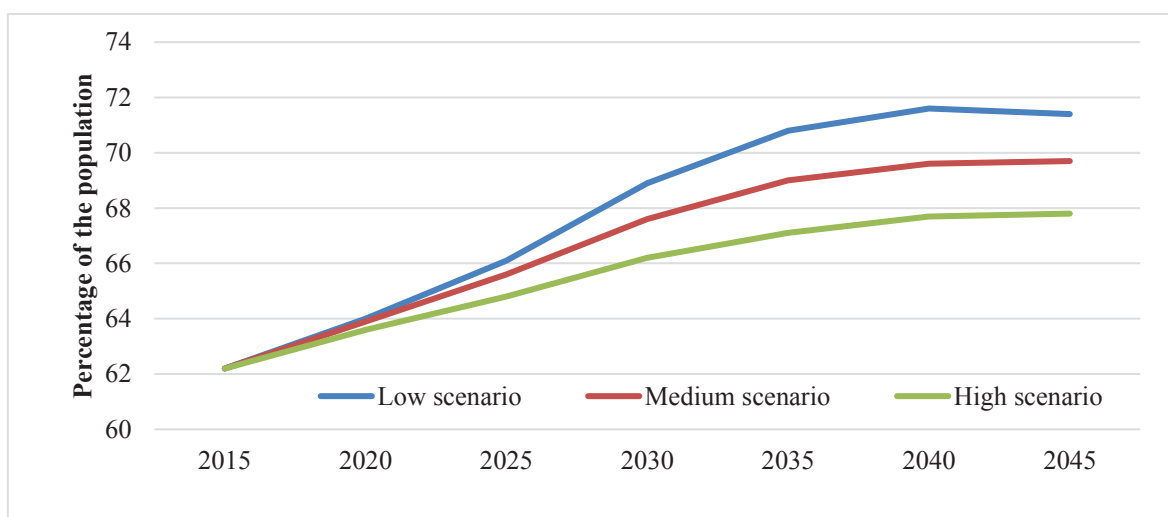
Along with population increase, changes in the population age structure can be expected in the future. The trends are the same in all projection scenarios; the differences have to do with the pace of change. The population aged 0-14 would decrease proportionately in each scenario but much more quickly in the “low” scenario (Figure 29). The proportion of the population aged 15-64 would increase in all scenarios but more quickly and to a greater extent under the “low” scenario. The proportion of the population aged 65 and over would also increase in all three scenarios but more so in the “low” scenario than in the others. It is important to note that the 65 and over age group would begin to increase rapidly as a proportion of the total from 2020 onwards and this would occur under all three scenarios.

Figure 29: Population aged 0-14 as percent of total, 2015-2045



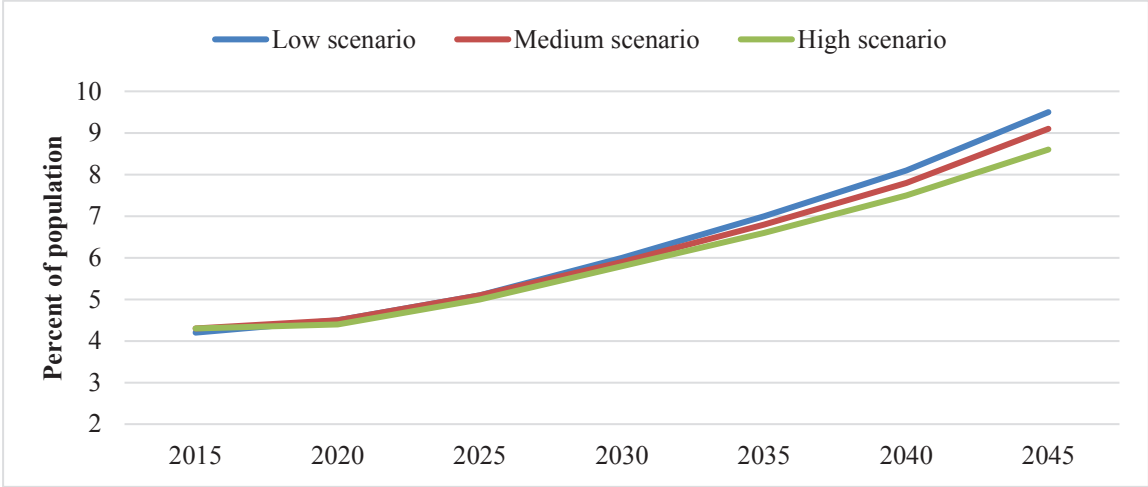
Source: Lao Statistics Bureau (2017b).

Figure 30: Population aged 15-64 as percent of total, 2015-2045



Source: Lao Statistics Bureau (2017b).

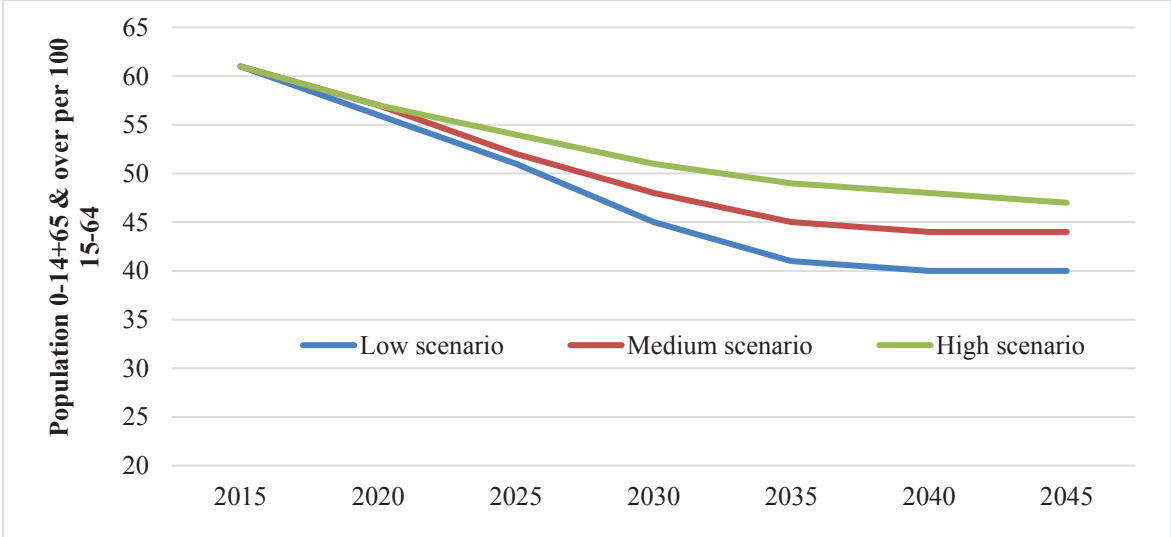
Figure 31: Population aged 65 and over as percentage of total, 2015-2045



Source: Lao Statistics Bureau (2017b).

These age structure changes can be summarized in the “dependency ratio”, as shown in Figure 32. Because the proportion of the population aged 0-14 would decline under all scenarios, the dependency ratio would decrease steadily but would begin to level off with the increase in the population aged 65 and over. In the “low” and “medium” scenarios the dependency ratio levels off in 2040, whereas in the “high” scenario the dependency ratio continues to decline up to 2045.

Figure 32: Dependency ratio, 2015-2045, under three projection scenarios



Source: Lao Statistics Bureau (2017b).

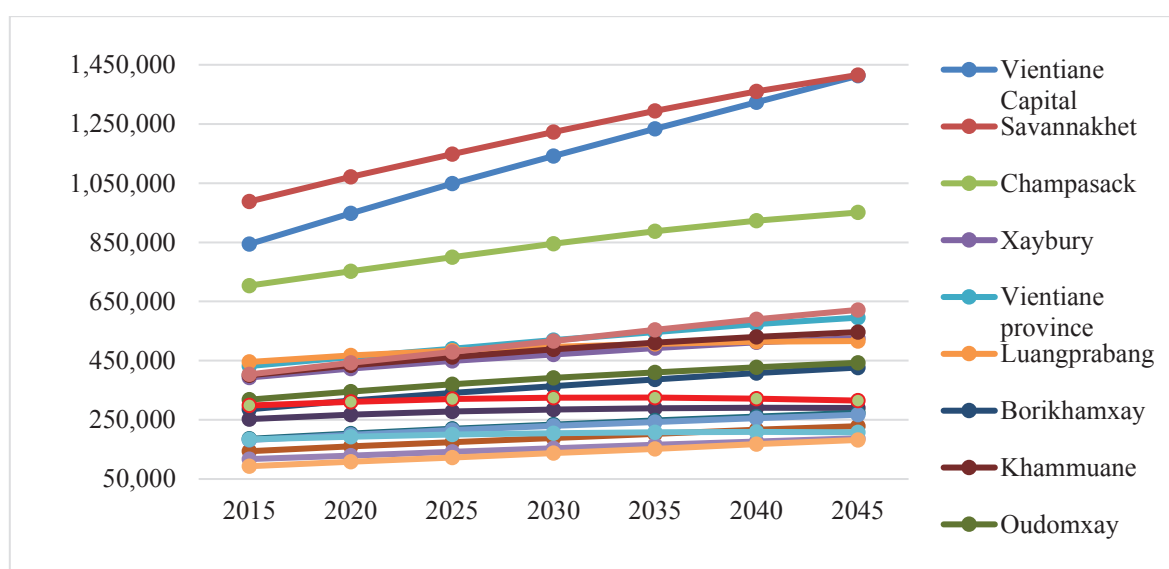
All three projection scenarios provide an opportunity for Lao PDR to obtain a “demographic bonus” from age structure change over the next three decades. However, the benefits arising from the bonus (sometimes described as the demographic “dividend”) is

considerably greater under the “low” projection scenario and these benefits would arrive sooner than under the other scenarios. The “window of opportunity” created by the demographic bonus will be open for another 25 years (to 2040) after which it will begin to close again. The policy implication of this is that investment in education and training requires a “big push” to ensure that the growing labour force is equipped to take up the employment opportunities provided by a growing economy.

3.7.2 Provincial projections

The “medium” scenario provincial projections show a widening gap between provinces that can be expected to grow quickly and those that will grow more slowly with little change in their relative position or possibly a decline. Figure 33 shows that Vientiane Capital and Savannakhet province would increase more rapidly than other provinces, each reaching about 1.4 million by 2045. Champasack province would reach 950,000 while a cluster of six provinces will have a population by 2045 between 400,000 and 650,000. According to the projections, the distribution of population by province will not change markedly in the future. This is because the projections assume that the trends between 2005 and 2015 will continue up to 2045. Provinces gaining population share (Savannakhet, Vientiane Capital and Champasack) will continue gaining and those losing share (such as Huaphanh, Luangprabang, and Xienkhuang, amongst others) will continue to lose population share. While Vientiane Capital will have the largest increase in population between 2015 and 2045 (569,000) its share of the total population is projected to only increase from 13 to 15 percent. Therefore, the projections assume either that urbanization will proceed at a relatively slow pace, or that urban growth will occur evenly across all provinces in proportion to their current urban share. It is also important to note that like the national projections, the provincial projections assume that net international migration is zero.

Figure 33: Provincial projections, 2015-2045 (“Medium” variant)



Source: Lao Statistics Bureau (2017b).

3.8 Summary: Implications of population situation for development

3.8.1 The demographic transition

Lao PDR's demographic transition is well advanced but still has some distance to run. A number of provinces are lagging behind due to their relatively higher death rates, which are contributing to slower fertility decline.¹³ At the national level, "replacement" fertility will probably be achieved within the next 10-20 years, but sooner than that in urban areas. However, some of the less-developed provinces will not achieve replacement fertility for another three decades according to projections. The policy challenges associated with the demographic transition mainly concern those provinces that are lagging behind the others. These are the provinces that have relatively high Under-five mortality rates, resulting in higher overall mortality, while also having above-average fertility. Policy therefore needs to simultaneously address mortality and fertility reduction through coordinated reproductive health and mother and child health initiatives with an emphasis on those provinces and districts that have made the least progress.

3.8.2 Population growth

Population growth at the national level is likely to trend downwards from about 1.5 percent annual increase at present to possibly 1.1 percent within 20 years. An increase in net emigration could reduce this rate further. The national population growth rate is therefore not a crucial policy issue at the present time. However, significant population growth will occur over the next two decades with the annual increase possibly averaging 120,000 up to 2030. This growth will need to be absorbed into the economy and society through the provision of infrastructure—including housing and employment. It is possible that much of this growth will occur in urban areas and some rural areas will experience low or possibly negative growth. According to the "medium" projections, all provinces will experience population growth for the foreseeable future but some more than others. Some of this growth will result from demographic "momentum"; that is, the number of births will remain stable, or possibly increase, even if the average births per woman is declining. This occurs simply because there are more women of reproductive age in the population. The "medium" projection scenario shows increasing numbers of women aged 15-49 through to 2045 and beyond in all provinces. At the national level the number of women of reproductive age would increase by 760,000 between 2015 and 2045, even under the "low" scenario. This anticipated increase will place increasing demands on the provision of reproductive health services

3.8.3 Reproductive health

In those provinces and districts where overall fertility remains above average, a high adolescent birth rate is an important contributing factor. At the national level Lao PDR has the highest adolescent birth rate in the ASEAN region as well as a high proportion of births occurring among women aged 15-19. But these rates are much higher in the less-developed provinces and districts. Reducing adolescent births as a proportion of all births requires policies

¹³Higher fertility may also be conducive to higher mortality under some circumstances.

to retain girls in school, to reduce early marriage and to provide reproductive health services appropriate to youth.

Although the relationship between the unmet need for family planning and the TFR is not very strong statistically, it is important that unmet need be reduced in order to assist women and couples to achieve their personal family-size goals. The highest rates of unmet need are among 15-19 year-olds and women aged 40-44. In other words, those about to begin childbearing and those seeking to stop childbearing have the greatest unmet need for family planning. Reproductive health policy needs to address the different needs of these two groups.

3.8.4 Population age structure

The age structure has been changing in a favourable direction as Lao PDR moves through the demographic transition. The next two decades will provide a “window of opportunity” for development on account of the “demographic dividend” that arises from a declining dependency ratio caused by a growing labour force relative to young and old dependents. However, to realize the demographic dividend requires that new labour force entrants have the education and training to engage in increasingly productive occupations. The related challenge is to ensure that the rate of job creation matches the increase in the number of young workers. In the absence of sufficient jobs, either the rate of emigration will increase or there will be growing numbers of “educated unemployed”.

3.8.5 Population distribution and urbanization

Recent trends show that only three provinces are likely to increase their share of the national population over the next two decades, including Vientiane Capital. Other provinces will maintain their current share or lose population share somewhat. Vientiane Capital will experience the largest increase in population but its share of the total will not change markedly according to projections. Vientiane Capital will continue to be the primary urban centre for the foreseeable future. It is important to conduct further assessment of the likely urbanization trends in the next few years. The issue for planners is whether urbanization will proceed at the same pace in all provinces, thus maintaining each province’s level of urbanization, or whether a faster pace of urbanization should be encouraged and/or facilitated in some provinces. The current pace of urbanization is quite slow and this could delay Lao PDR’s transition from LDC status to a middle-income country.

Suggest to Key policy issues to be address by NPPD 2019-2030

- 1 Wide disparities between provinces and districts in key mortality and fertility indicators
- 2 Early marriage and childbearing, particularly among vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
- 3 Achieving the potential demographic dividend provided by a growing labour force and youth population
- 4 Providing social protection to growing numbers and proportion of elderly people
- 5 Addressing migration and urbanization to development plans and strategies

- 6 Improving the supply and quality of population data
- 7 Integrating population trends and dynamics into all national, sub-national and sector plans
- 8 Empowerment of women in all areas relating to reproductive health and rights.

Part II: National Population Development Policy 2019-2030

1. Policy vision and guiding principles

1.1 Vision statement

***By 2030, population in Lao PDR benefited from equitable and inclusive distribution of socio-economic development.*¹⁴**

1.2 Guiding principles

This policy is consistent with both national and international principles. The key national principles derived from the Amended Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (2003) include:

- Lao citizens are equal before the law irrespective of their gender, social status, education, beliefs and ethnic group;
- Citizens of both genders enjoy equal rights in the political, economic, cultural and social fields and in family affairs;
- Lao citizens have the right to receive education and upgrade themselves;
- Working people have the right to rest, to receive medical treatment in times of illness, [and] to receive assistance in the event of incapacity or disability, in old age and in other cases as provided by the laws;
- Lao citizens have the freedom of settlement and movement as provided by the laws;
- The State protects the legitimate rights and interests of Lao citizens residing abroad;
- All ethnic groups have the right to protect, preserve and promote the fine customs and cultures of their own tribes and of the nation.
- The State implements every measure to gradually develop and upgrade the socio-economic levels of all ethnic groups;
- All organizations and citizens must protect the environment and natural resources: land surfaces, underground [resources] forests, animals, water sources and the atmosphere;
- The State attaches great importance to the development of the economy in conjunction with cultural and social development by giving priority to human resource development;
- The State attends to promoting knowledge and invention in scientific and technological research and application.... ;
- The State and society attend to building disease prevention systems and providing health care to all people.... To ensure that all people have access to health care, especially women and children, poor people and people in remote areas, to ensure the people's good health;

¹⁴This vision is a reflection of SDG 10, which aims to "Reduce inequality within and among nations".

- The State and society attend to developing skilled labour, upgrading labour discipline, promoting vocational skills and occupations....;
- The State, society and families attend to implementing development policies and supporting the progress of women and to protecting the legitimate rights and benefits of women and children;

The ICPD Programme of Action (POA) agreed to at the International Conference on Population and Development, including subsequent revisions and extensions, is the primary international basis for the policy. Key principles of the POA include:

- The right to development is a universal and inalienable right and is an integral part of fundamental human rights and the human person is the central subject of development.
- Advancing gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women, and the elimination of all kinds of violence against women and ensuring women’s ability to control their own fertility are cornerstones of population and development-related programmes.
- Population-related goals and policies are an integral part of cultural, economic and social development, the principal aim of which is to improve the quality of life of all people.
- All couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so.
- The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. Marriage must be entered into with the free consent of the intending spouses, and husband and wife should be equal partners.
- Everyone has the right to education, which shall be directed to the full development of human resources, and human dignity and potential, with particular attention to women and the girl child.
- In considering the population and development needs of indigenous people, States should recognize and support their identity, culture and interests, and enable them to participate fully in the economic, political and social life of the country.

2 Policy goals and objectives

The following policy goals have been selected to address the key issues identified in Part I of the policy. A brief description of the objectives that will be pursued in order to achieve these goals is included. In most cases these objectives will be achieved by means of the “outcomes” of the relevant sector plans. In this sense, the outcomes of sector plans can be understood as the “strategies” to be employed to achieve the objectives of the NDPD (2019-30). Where no appropriate strategy has been identified in either the current Five-year National Socio-Economic Planer any sector plan or strategy, interventions have been formulated that are unique to the NPDP. Responsibility for achieving the implementation of these interventions has been assigned to appropriate ministries. A more detailed framework showing the causal relationship between goals, objectives and outcomes or strategic interventions is found in the Implementation Matrix in Part IV.

Improve reproductive health among disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and across regions



2.1 Goal 1: Improve reproductive health among disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and across regions¹⁵

Reproductive health is a broad and multi-dimensional concept, which includes reproductive rights. A central component of reproductive health is family planning. Under Goal 1, core dimensions of reproductive health will be improved, with a specific focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in line with the VIIIth Five-year Socio-economic Development Plan as well as the Health Plan

Goal 1: Indicators, baselines and targets:

Indicator	Baseline/year	Target/year
Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)	197 (2015)	<70 (2030)
Adolescent birth rate	76 per 1,000(2015)	31 per 1,000 (2030)
Unmet need for family planning	19.9% (2011-12)	8% (2030)
Percent of FP needs met by modern methods:	61.2% (2011-12)	80% (2030)
Contraceptive prevalence rate (modern methods)	42.1% (2011-12)	73% (2030)
Unmet need for family planning: 15-19 age group	21.8% (2011-12)	12% (2030)

Objectives

2.1.1 Accelerated reduction in maternal mortality and morbidity particularly among disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and across regions.¹⁶

A selected range of outcomes drawn from the *National Strategy and Action Plan for Integrated Services on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, 2016-25* and the Lao PDR National Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan 2017-2020 will be supported to achieve this objective. These outcomes include improved access to Quality Basic and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric care, increase in the proportion of births attended by a skilled birth attendant and deliveries occurring in a health facility.

2.1.2 Reduced adolescent childbearing.

Addressing teenage or adolescent childbearing requires different strategies from those applied to the control of childbearing in older ages. The challenges arise from the immaturity of the young persons involved, including the lack of knowledge of reproduction, the young age at which marriage takes place, and the moral as well as practical issues that arise in providing education on reproductive matters to unmarried girls and boys. To address these challenges, the dissemination of information and services (including counselling) needs to take a form that is specifically designed for youth and young people. For young people still in school,

¹⁵SDG 3 includes the target (3.7) of achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including family planning. SDG 5, target 5.6, also reinforces this in the context of the ICPD POA and the Beijing Platform of Action.

¹⁶This objective is consistent with SDG 3, target 3.1 on maternal mortality reduction and is a performance indicator for outcome 2 of the 8th NSEDP. Also refer to the targets for Outcome 2, Output 4.

comprehensive sexuality education programmes are the best means of improving their knowledge and awareness of the risks associated with adolescent pregnancy and also where they can obtain further assistance. For those out of school and in the labour force, information can be provided in the work-place, linked to health facilities providing counselling and supplies of contraceptives. To be successful, these programmes require the support of community leaders. The *National Strategy and Action Plan for Integrated Services on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, 2016-25* includes several outcomes that have been designed to achieve this objective.

Accelerated reduction in neo-natal, infant and under-5 mortality, particularly among vulnerable groups and in disadvantaged areas



2.2 Goal 2: Accelerated reduction in neo-natal, infant and under-5 mortality, particularly among vulnerable groups and in disadvantaged areas¹⁷

Reducing infant and child mortality is an important element in a range of initiatives designed to advance the demographic transition. As already noted in Part I, there is a close relationship between the Under 5 Mortality Rate and the Total Fertility Rate. While this relationship may arise from common factors such as inadequate health services and low level of education among mothers, it is a well-established proposition that fertility decline depends on improved child survival. Interventions aimed at improving child survival have the indirect effect of reduced total fertility and together these effects will accelerate the demographic transition, especially in those areas where it has been lagging. To increase the pace of infant and child mortality decline, it is necessary to identify the key proximate determinants of under-five mortality and formulate ways of reducing them, either directly or indirectly. In the case of neo-natal and infant mortality, there are three main factors: prematurity, asphyxia and infections. In addition, there are a number of socio-demographic factors that contribute indirectly to infant and child mortality. These include the age of the mother, with women under 18 and over 40 being most at risk, inadequate spacing between pregnancies, and engaging in physically stressful work during late pregnancy. The absence of adequate childcare in the postnatal period is another factor contributing to infant deaths, thus greater access to Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC) is essential. These direct and indirect factors form the basis for the three objectives formulated to accelerate the decline in neo-natal, infant and under-five mortality.

Goal 2: Indicators, baselines and targets:

Indicator	Baseline/year	Target/year
Neonatal Mortality Rate	33 (2011-12)	9 (2030)
Infant Mortality Rate	40 (2017)	<12 (2030)
Under5 Mortality Rate	46 (2017)	<25 (2030)

❖ Objectives

2.2.1 Reducing the proximate determinants of neo-natal, infant and child mortality.

The most important factor in neo-natal mortality is premature birth or labour. The *National Strategy and Action Plan for Integrated Services on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, 2016-25* includes a number of outcomes that would reduce the likelihood of prematurity, even though many of the causal factors are unknown.

¹⁷This goal and its objectives links to SDG 3, target 3.2, which aims to reduce neonatal and under-five mortality. Also links to outcome 2 of the 8th NSEDP.

2.2.2 Reduction in socio-economic factors associated with the proximate determinants of neo-natal and infant mortality.

Contributing to the proximate determinants of neo-natal, infant and under-5 mortality are a number of sociodemographic risk factors. These include the age of mothers (under 18 or over 40), early marriage and first pregnancy, insufficient spacing between births which are in turn related to a high unmet need for family planning. Engaging in stressful or heavy work during the third trimester of pregnancy can also contribute to pre-term births. Measures will be taken to decrease these social factors, including actions to reduce the unmet need for family planning through improved access to Long Acting and Reversible contraceptive methods.

2.2.3 Improved infant and young child feeding practices and general care.

Improved care of new-born and infants would decrease mortality risks. Strategies to achieve this include the promotion of exclusive breast feeding, higher rates of immunization and increased availability of Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC).¹⁸

¹⁸Goal 2 of the SDGs refers to the improvement of infant nutrition as an element of ending hunger.

Opportunities of the demographic bonus to maximize socio-economic benefits for equitable distribution across social groups and regions enhanced



2.3 Goal 3: Opportunities of the demographic bonus to maximize socio-economic benefits for equitable distribution across social groups and regions enhanced¹⁹

The proportion of the population in the labour force ages (approximately 15-64) is rising and will continue to do so over the life of this policy. At the same time, the proportion of dependents (those aged under 15 and 65 or over) will continue to decline until the proportion of elderly begin to increase in another few years. These trends will bring economic benefits providing that the growing number of young workers is educated and trained for employment and new, higher productivity jobs are available for them to take up. The preparation of the increasing number of new workers for employment is of crucial importance. An important strategy to achieve this is to ensure that all those who leave the school system to take up work or advance to higher levels of education have the foundation skills of literacy and numeracy while also increasing transition rates to lower and upper secondary schooling. Also important is increasing the transition rate from grade 9 and 12 to TVET.

Goal 3: Indicators, baselines and targets

Indicator	Baseline/year	Target/year
Adult literacy rate (15 years and over)	84.7% (2015)	95% (2030)
Youth literacy rate (15-24 years)	92.5% (2015)	98% (2030)
School attendance of 17-25-year old	22% (2015)	45% (2030)
Enrolment in TVET	34,500	51,000 (2020), 81,000 (2030)

❖ Objectives

2.3.1 *New labour force entrants appropriately educated, trained and skilled to take up higher productivity employment opportunities.*

A number of strategies selected from the *Education and Sports Sector Development Plan (2016-20)* have been incorporated in this policy to achieve this objective. These include actions to ensure that all students are equipped with foundation knowledge and skills. This includes increasing literacy and numeracy rates among youth. Increasing the transition rate from lower secondary to higher secondary and beyond is also crucial to improve the quality of the labour force in the longer run. Secondary completion rates and transition to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes also need to improve and the quality of TVET raised through higher levels of teacher competency.

¹⁹This goal reflects SDG 4 and several of its targets relating to education and training for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. Also links to 8th NSEDP Outcome 2, output 3 on universal access to quality education.

2.3.2 Technical/vocational education and training programmes are better matched to the requirements of the labour market.

Existing TVET programmes are not well-matched to the needs of the labour market as a result of which the skills being taught are not necessarily the appropriate ones. Better alignment of the demand and supply of skilled will be achieved through a National Human Resources Plan and a National Qualifications Framework, which will also be aligned with the ESEAN Regional Qualifications Framework. Improved Public Employment Services (PES) and Labour Market Information (LMI) will also contribute to this objective.

2.3.3 Mature workers have improved opportunity to upgrade their school qualifications through non-formal education.

Improving the quality of the existing labour force is also crucial to take advantage of higher productivity jobs and increase incomes. The Ministry of Education and Sports will develop a “lifelong learning framework” that will allow mature workers to improve their literacy skills which will in turn open the way to vocational training.

Enhanced socio-economic opportunities and life-chances for disadvantaged and vulnerable young people, including adolescent girls and unemployed youth.



2.4 Goal 4: Enhanced socio-economic opportunities and life-chances for disadvantaged and vulnerable young people, including adolescent girls and unemployed youth.²⁰

The population of Lao PDR is relatively young with 41 percent of the population under 20 years at the time of the 2015 census, while 28 percent was aged 10-24 (“young people”). The number of young people is projected to increase from 2.0 million in 2015 to 2.3 million by 2030. The rationale of Goal 4 is to ensure that young people are provided with opportunities to develop their capacities and skills and to contribute to the development of the country. At the same time, it is recognized that some young people are more disadvantaged than others and that specific groups, such as adolescent girls, are in need of special attention to minimize their vulnerability to risks—including early marriage and unwanted pregnancy. To address these and related issues, a comprehensive national youth policy and a youth law will be developed, along with a number of initiatives aimed at increasing the participation of youth in society.

Goal 4: Indicators, baselines and targets

Indicator	Baseline/year	Target/year
Share of youth aged 15-24 not in employment, education or training (NEET)	5.1% (2015)	2.6% (2030)
Proportion of all births occurring to below 20 year-olds	15% (2011-12)	7% (2030)
Percent of women aged 15-24 who had sex under the age of 15	6% (2011-12)	1% (2030)
Percentage of women aged 15-19 who have commenced childbearing	17.8%	5% (2030)
Proportion of females 15-19 married or in a union	24.7%	10% (2030)
STI incidence rate (Chlamydia) among high-risk youth (sex workers and MSM)	23.8% (2017) (sex workers) 10.9% (MSM)	15% (2030) 8% (2030)

❖ **Objectives**

2.4.1 National youth policy finalized, approved and disseminated.

The aim of a National Youth Policy is to provide a coherent framework within which the Government and its partners intend to address the challenges facing youth and young people at this stage of the development of the country. Because of the importance of young people as a demographic group, the National Population and Development Policy includes activities to support the production of the National Youth Policy through the gathering of data and

²⁰This goal and objectives links to SDG 8, targets 8.5, 8.6 and 8b. Also see section 6.7.3.4 of the 8th NSEDP.

information on youth and the socio-economic environment in which they are presently situated as well as in the future.

2.4.2 Law on Lao youth developed, approved and disseminated.

To support the implementation of the National Youth Policy, a Youth Law will be developed. Actions will be undertaken to obtain relevant background information, conduct consultations, and prepare a draft law.

2.4.3 Increased awareness among youth and young people of the laws and regulations that affect them and their civic responsibilities.

Young people often lack awareness of important laws and regulations and for that reason may find themselves in conflict with various authorities. Using modern social media and other forms of communication, this objective aims to keep youth informed about changes in both the legal and social environment, including the growing risks of drug abuse, human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

2.4.4 Strengthened capacity of young people to actively participate in socioeconomic development and political affairs and to ensure solidarity among youth from different ethnic groups.

An implementation of the International Conference on population and development (ICPD) strongly emphasizes the importance of youth's participation in society. It is recommended that "the youth should be ambitiously involved in planning, implementing, and evaluation of development activities which have an direct impact on their life course" In Lao PDR, youth participation in social and political activities has been relatively low. This objective is intended to raise the level of participation among youth in order to promote social solidarity between youth of different ethnicities as well as between young people and the rest of society.

2.4.5 Improved capacity of Lao Youth Union and other organizations to design and implement youth programmes.

As the The Lao Youth Union is the primary agency designing programmes for youth, it is important to enhance its organizational capacity to make it as efficient and effective as possible. This objective will be pursued through better coordination between the different units of the LYU at national and local levels as well as between the LYU and sectoral ministries and NGOs (both national and international).

2.4.6 Reduce high-risk behavior among youth in relation to STIs, drug use and unwanted pregnancy.

Youth and young people today face specific health and lifestyle risks arising from their lack of awareness of the links between their behaviour and exposure to these risks to health and well-being. More needs to be done to raise awareness among youth of the risks of unprotected sex and the abuse of drugs, including alcohol and methamphetamine. This will be achieved by expanding and improving counselling services, including telephone "hotlines" and providing more positions for extension workers.

2.4.7 Reduced illiteracy among young people through greater retention in schools and other programmes.

Many young people in Lao PDR leave school without being fully literate or numerate and this impairs their ability to obtain decent jobs. Programmes will be developed to both retain children longer in school and increase literacy among those who have dropped out of school prematurely.

2.4.8 Adolescents and youth in remote and rural communities have improved employment and business skills to generate income for their families.

Developing the entrepreneurial skills of young people is one means of assisting them to create income-generating small businesses to provide a livelihood for themselves and an income for their families. Training will be provided through the LYU and other agencies to enhance both the business, management and technical skills needed to start up a small enterprise in a rural area.

2.4.9 Technical and vocational education and training and employment opportunities are more accessible across the country.

The LYU provides opportunities outside formal educational institutions for young people to receive technical and vocational training. The LYU will take steps to make their training more accessible to young people across the country.

2.4.10 Reduction in early (<18 years) marriage rate among adolescent girls and young people.

Despite marriage laws that prohibit marriage under the age of 18 years, early marriage occurs at an unacceptable rate in Lao PDR, often with detrimental effects on young women. Early marriage leads to curtailed schooling and early pregnancy, the latter of which increases the risks of prematurity and neo-natal deaths. A strategy will be developed to reduce early marriage rates and to enforce marriage laws.

Benefits of rural-urban migration and international migration maximized and the negative effects minimized.



2.5 Goal 5: Benefits of rural-urban migration and international migration maximized and the negative effects minimized.²¹

Lao PDR is already well on the way toward becoming a “migration-oriented” society, with at least 600,000 Lao migrants working in various countries around the world—about 300,000 of whom are in Thailand. Remittances from Lao workers abroad contribute about 2.0 percent to total GDP and constitute an important source of income in many communities. Lao migrants abroad also gain occupational skills that potentially can be put to good use on their return to Laos. Aside from international movement, internal population movement is also occurring at an increasing rate, including rural-urban migration which is the driving factor behind urbanization. Given that international migration from Lao PDR and internal migration within the country is likely to increase in the future, it is important that the role of population movement in the development of communities and the country as a whole is better understood and wherever possible migration is managed to produce benefits and to diminish any negative effects.

There is an urgent need to establish a capacity building for institutions to address issues of internal and international migration and urbanization in Lao PDR. Goal 11 of the SDGs is to achieve sustainable cities and communities. As emphasized in the World Migration Report of 2015²² and the New Urban Agenda of 2017 agreed to at the Habitat III Conference²³, urbanization and rural-urban migration can and should be managed to ensure that their benefits for development are maximized. Appropriate institutions need to be developed where they do not currently exist. Under the present policy, it is proposed to establish a multi-sector task force to ensure that migration and urbanization is given the attention that it deserves and that these issues are addressed in development plans and strategies.

Goal 5: Indicators, baselines and targets

Indicator	Baseline/year	Target/year
National strategy in place to address migration and development linkages	No strategy (2018)	Strategy in place (2030)
National Urbanization policy formulated	No policy (2018)	Policy in place (2025)

❖ Objectives

2.5.1 *Improved knowledge and understanding of the impact of all forms of migration on sensing and Lao PDR receiving areas.*

A strategy will be developed to increase understanding of both the causes and consequences of various forms of migration, including urbanization.

²¹This goal links to SDG 10, target 10.7 which refers to the need to “Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well managed migration policies”. SDG 11 and its targets (particularly 11.1, 11.3, 11.6, and 11a) is relevant to the objectives of this goal that refer to urbanization and urban planning. Also links to Outcome 1, Output 5 of the 8th NSEDP. There is also a link to Outcome 2, Output 1 relating to urban development and migration issues.

²²IOM (2015)

²³United Nations (2017)

2.5.2 Strategy to formulate a National urbanization policy established.

While urbanization is an inevitable consequence of economic development as well as one of the drivers of development, it is desirable to formulate a policy that is concerned with the direction and form that urbanization is taking. Much urban growth in Lao PDR is concentrated in the Vientiane Capital province resulting in a high degree of urban “primacy”. Perhaps a more dispersed form of urbanization with a system of secondary cities is desirable and could be encouraged through an urbanization policy. The policy related to urbanization will be formulated and planned after the urbanized trend analysis from the 2020 population survey has completed.

2.5.3 Impact of rural-urban migration and urbanization on urban infrastructure needs understood and incorporated into urban plans.

During the interim period while a broader urbanization policy is under developed, it is important to address the issue of urban infrastructure requirements so that urban authorities can build these requirements into their plans and strategies, including budget allocation.

2.5.4 Strategy to increase the benefits of migration for sending communities developed and incorporated into the National Socio-economic Development Plan and Provincial plans.

Most migrants and their families who remain behind believe that migration brings benefits and advantages to them and their communities but it is important to ensure that these benefits are enhanced. Reducing the costs of remitting funds to Lao PDR is one measure that would enhance benefits by putting more money in the hands of migrant families. Other issues concern the use of remittances. The first priority is to improve the knowledge base by conducting surveys on the impact of remittances as well as on the contributions of return migrants to the development of villages and districts.

2.5.5 All forms of human trafficking, particularly those involving women and girls greatly reduced.²⁴

One of the negative consequences of migration is the possibility that migrants will be exploited and recruited into occupations and/or places that do not reflect their intentions, expectations or hopes. The population policy will support initiatives taken in various sectors to reduce trafficking, particularly of women and girls.

2.5.6 Increased support provided to victims of human trafficking to address trauma and reintegration into society.

Trafficking can be expected to produce personal trauma and require rehabilitation and reintegration into society. Measures will be taken to establish safe havens and counselling services as well as other support to the victims of trafficking.

²⁴Consistent with 8th NSEDP Outcome 2, Output 7.

Lao PDR is well-prepared to address the challenges of ageing and to support an older population.



2.6 Goal 6: Lao PDR is well-prepared to address the challenges of ageing and to support an older population.²⁵

The country associated with ageing society refers to those of existing ageing population range from the age of above 60 which covers 10 percent of the total population. The ageing population of Laos above 60 was constituted at 5.7 percent of total population in 2005, and 6.5 percent in 2015 and it is expected to increase at 9.02 percent and 10 percent of the total population in 2030 and 2033 respectively. Regarding the projection, this means that Laos will become a country with ageing population in 2033.

Well-preparation in response to ensuring and supporting ageing population should first start earlier. Based on lesson learnt from many countries worldwide, if planning is well-organized and comprehensive in advance to deal with ageing population in the future, this will help address issues profoundly with high ageing society. In contrast to this, if no plans are formed in advance, the issues with ageing population will accelerate chronic problems. This is particularly concerned with social security for the old-age poor and vulnerable people. Social welfare system is another aspect to provide for old-age population as well as budget allocation for this issue. The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) specifies numbers of framework that can enhance the readiness dealing with ageing population to which Laos has modified MIPAA into appropriate strategic policy and action plan based on an actual context of Laos aiming to assure and tackle issues with ageing population confronted in the near future.

Goal 6: Indicators, baselines and targets

Indicator	Baseline/year	Target/year
Review of MIPAA available	None (2019)	1 review Available (2020)
Healthy ageing strategy completed	None (2019)	Strategy completed (2023)
Universal social pension in effect	None (2019)	In effect (2025)
Best practices identified for addressing ageing	None (2019)	Best practices identified (2021)

❖ **Objectives**

2.6.1 *Implementation of MIPAA reviewed.*

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing was approved at the Second World Assembly on Ageing held in 2002. It provides a comprehensive master plan for addressing ageing in any country in which the proportion of elderly is increasing or likely to increase in the future. As one of the countries to support the MIPAA, Lao PDR has had one and a half decades to implement those aspects of MIPAA that are appropriate to its circumstances, but little is known about how much of the action plan has actually been implemented. As part of preparations for an older population, the implementation of MIPAA will be reviewed and

²⁵This goal and its associated objectives links to SDG Goal 1, target 1.3, which refers to the establishment of appropriate social protection systems to end poverty and to Goal 3, target 3.4 referring to premature mortality from NCDs.

recommendations made on whether extra measures are called for to ensure the implementation of the plan in Lao PDR.

2.6.2 Plans and strategies to encourage healthy ageing developed.

Developing national policy, strategic formulation and national action plan are the implementation that direct impacts on responding to ageing population. The revision of the policy will consider a determination of the key concepts specified in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2002 into the modified context of population policy in Laos. Those key concepts in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) are included as follow:

1. Ageing population and development

The context of ageing population and development are included as follow:

- The participation of ageing population and development in the society
- Ageing population in an employment.
- Rural development, relocation and urban city expansion.
- Education and training
- Making connection between children, youth and elderly
- Poverty reduction
- Income security, social protection or welfare and poverty security
- An emergency of the elderly

2. Ensure a healthy and well-being life for the elderly.

The context of ensuring health and well-being consists of:

- Health support and having a well-being life time.
- Having access to overall equitably health service
- The elderly with HIV/AIDs
- Aged care training and health personnel.
- Mental care for the elderly
- Disabled elderly people

3. Support convenient and appropriate environment for the elderly.

Support convenient and appropriate environment for the elderly includes:

- Habitats and living conditions.
- Incentives for staff who works for aged care service.
- Help support lonely, vulnerable elderly people who are ignored, violated against old-aged group
- Support the elderly's reputation appearance.

2.6.3 The feasibility of wealth fund to support a universal stipend.

“The second incentive for population” refers to the development outcomes which emerged from budget collection to support the elderly. Many developed countries and some developing countries have established wealth fund to provide or supplement the revenue needed to pay a universal, non-contributory pension. Tax revenue from wealth fund will help

reduce burden of government budget responsible for the governmental retirements. Wealth fund not only help balance those governments relying on income based from natural resources , but also the wealth fund might possibly be capital for investing in development. Thus, this is aimed to appoint particular agreements in order to conduct feasibility study for Laos.

2.6.4 Best practices for preparing for an ageing population identified.

Several Southeast Asian countries have experience in addressing ageing, including neighboring Thailand. Lao PDR can learn from the experiences of these countries given that ageing is occurring later in Laos than elsewhere in Southeast Asia. Comparative research and possibly a study tour will be conducted to bring public servants from relevant ministries as well as national NGOs up to date on the lessons learned elsewhere in the region. Participation in regional and international conferences and workshops on ageing will be facilitated.

Improved availability and quality of population data that meet international standards



2.7 Goal 7: Improved availability and quality of population data that meet international standards

Good quality population data are an essential prerequisite to population management and policy formulation. The quality of population data is measured in terms of accuracy and reliability, which imply the reduction of error to acceptable levels. In population censuses, one type of error is selective under-enumeration of certain age groups or hard to reach areas (under-coverage). Reducing such errors remove the need to adjust census data by statistical estimation methods, thus increasing confidence in the accuracy of the figures. Survey data are primarily affected by sampling error that limits the ability to measure key indicators at lower geographical levels. The availability of data is an important determinant of its use for planning and administration. In the internet age, improved availability implies access by electronic means alongside traditional paper products. Internet based tools allow users to customize data to meet their specific needs, such as non-standard geographical areas or ethnic groupings. Efforts need to be made to fully analyze census and survey data through various mechanisms, including the publication of monographs on population dynamics—mortality, fertility and migration.

Goal 7: Indicators, baselines and targets

Indicator	Baseline/year	Target/year
Number of census monographs produced	7 (2019-20)	10 (2028-29)
Index of age accuracy	No data	To be Calculated (2025)
Estimated coverage error in census	No data	Baseline (2025)
Availability of online tools	2 (2018)	4 (2020)

❖ Objectives

2.7.1 *Improve population data base system more comprehensive, competence and faster*

There are two sources as follow:

- Data based from the surveys
 - The census and habitat survey held every 10 year;
 - The mid-term record of population every 5 year;
 - The Lao social indicator survey every 5 year;
 - The labor force survey every 5 year;
 - Household and consumption survey every 5 year.
- Data based from reports
 - An annual resident registration;
 - An annual provincial statistics

2.7.2 *Increase population data analysis*

The result of the census and habitat survey in 2015 and 2025, the mid-term record of population in 2020, the Lao social indicator in 2017, 2022 and 2027, the labor force survey in

2017, 2022 and 2027, the household and consumption survey in 2018, 2023 and 2028 and other surveys will be a crucial data base for analysis and research on a wide range of topics related to population. This is also important to identify actual issues and approach to solutions, especially comprehensive planning policy on population across the country. Apart from that, it also strengthens population and development policy 2019-2030 and other policy linked to population.

2.7.3 Quality of census and survey data improved through the reduction of age errors and improved census coverage.

Methods through regular record will be developed to reduce age errors in census and habitat data, agency survey and improve population coverage during the survey. These will be beginning with the 2025 census.

2.7.4 Improved user access to census and survey data through digital and online tools.

The dissemination of census and survey data in Lao PDR already goes beyond making published reports downloadable on the web. Data base tools such as Lao Info and Lao Decide Info are available for users. The next stage involves the use of data retrieval software that allows users to produce customized tables, graphics and maps suited to their analytical purposes. An example of such software is REDATAM, a programme developed by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) with UNFPA support. REDATAM is installed in most Latin American countries as well as a number of countries in Asia (Cambodia, Bangladesh). Steps will be taken to have this software demonstrated and if found suitable will be installed at the Lao Bureau of Statistics.

2.7.5 Improved supply and quality of internationally comparable labour force and labour market data.

There is a need for improved data on the labour force and the labour market. Indicators such as unemployment, underemployment and NEET (not in education, employment or training) need to be developed to reach international standards.

2.7.6 Increased availability of research findings on population and development linkages.

Limited research has been conducted in Lao PDR on the linkages between population dynamics and socio-economic development. Under this heading a research strategy will be developed to encourage such research and build capacity at the Lao National University and research institutions.

2.7.7 Improved supply of data on border crossings and estimates of international migration.

Information on international migration is scarce in Lao PDR. Current estimates of the stock of Lao emigrants abroad are mainly based on census or survey data in receiving countries. Data from the Lao census on household members presently abroad understate the number of migrants. Migration flows across Lao's borders are not currently measured leading to speculation as to the scale of migration. Efforts need to be made to measure the cross-border flow of people, even if not all movement can be captured. Demographic methods of estimating net international migration also need to be explored.

*2.7.8 Increased proportion of births and deaths are registered through a reliable Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system.*²⁶

The registration of births and deaths in Lao PDR is incomplete. In the long run a reliable system of vital statistics registration is essential. However, progress will take time. Under this objective the implementation of the CRVS strategy will be reviewed to determine how the strategy could be accelerated.

Citizenship registration and statistics are essential because this will be counted as evidence in law in order to contribute to be a grounding guide for producing competent and comprehensive citizenship statistics. This will be also beneficial to the determination of birth rate, death rate, life expectancy, and relocation into policy making, and this will provide a better social's needs. The Lao government has formulated the 2030 vision to ensure that the entire Lao citizens will be able to use the service of registration and citizenship statistics nationally and effectively. The project related to this vision will be implemented through the modernized data base program under the strategy of citizenship registration and statistics in the period of 10 years (2016-2025).

2.7.9 Progress on establishing the Health Information System accelerated.

Lao PDR is in the process of establishing a Health Information System (HIS) that will, eventually, remove the need to estimate births and deaths indirectly from census and survey data. Furthermore, once fully established, the HIS will provide a range of data on population-related topics, such as family planning, ante-natal checks and early essential newborn and child care (EENC). While good progress has been achieved it is important to establish this system as soon as possible and make it reliable. Steps will be taken to expand the scope of the HIS in terms of the number of indicators it can produce as well as the number of sites that are reporting (including the private sector). Training will be intensified among the range of staff involved, including provincial and district statisticians.

²⁶See SDG 16, target 16.9, which aims “By 2030 provide legal identity for all, including birth registration”.

Increased integration of population data into national, sub-national
and sector development plans and strategies



2.8 Goal 8: Increased integration of population data into national, sub-national and sector development plans and strategies

Population dynamics affect many dimensions of development and are therefore relevant to a wide range of sector plans as well as national development plans and strategies. Population is therefore a cross-cutting issue that planners at all levels should take into account. From a practical point of view, it is difficult for a national population policy to address all the sector-specific or region-specific population issues that arise in the context of development planning. In many developing countries there are wide variations in demographic conditions across regions, so policy approaches need to be tailored to those circumstances. Similarly, population dynamics have a varying impact on different sectors, so each require a specialized focus that cannot be addressed in a national-level policy. It is important that efforts continue to be made to integrate population dynamics into both sector plans and sub-national plans.

The first step is to gather more information about the use of population data in sector and sub-national plans and strategies. A review of sector plans and the NSEDP 2016-20 will be undertaken to assess their use of population data and suggest remedial action. The second step is to up-scale training in the use of population data for sub-national planners. As a component of training, guidelines and/or manuals on the integrated population-development planning will be prepared in both English and Lao languages. These guidelines will be prepared specifically for provincial and district planners as well as sector planners with a special focus on the use of census and survey data.

Goal 8: Indicators, baselines and targets

Indicator	Baseline/year	Target/year
Number of sector plans incorporating population data	0 (2018)	5 (2030)
Number of personnel trained in population-development integration	0 (2018)	100 (2030)
Materials on integration produced	0 (2018)	25 (2030)

❖ Objectives

2.8.1 The use of population data in sector plans and national development plans reviewed and assessed.

This review of selected national, sub-national and sector plans would be carried out either by a national or international consultant or a small joint team. The review would look at examples of plans and also seek the views of planners at various levels on what is required to maximize the use of population data.

2.8.2 Increased capacity of sector planners to use population data for planning, including the use of population projections.

A training programme will be developed and implemented in selected provinces and districts and in key ministries and agencies. As part of this training a manual and guidelines will be developed and tested for use at sub-national levels. A course on population and development would be developed at the Lao National University, and opportunities for South-South cooperation would be pursued.

2.8.3 Increased awareness of the relevance of population data to all forms of planning among officials.

Through policy briefs and other materials, awareness of population-development interrelationships will be raised among public officials, such as National Assembly members, Provincial Governors and Ministers. Included in these activities will be efforts to raise awareness of the National Population and Development Policy itself, through the production and distribution of pamphlets and brochures and media publicity.

Gender equality achieved for women and men in social, economic and political dimensions and violence against women eliminated



2.9 Goal 9: Gender equality achieved for women and men in social, economic and political dimensions and violence against women eliminated²⁷

Gender issues are cross-cutting with relevance to almost all development strategies and plans. However, gender has special relevance in the area of population dynamics, not only in the obvious domains of fertility and family planning but also in child and elderly care, labour force participation, education and the provision of general health care. Achieving gender equality is therefore an important goal of the National Population and Development Policy, along with other initiatives undertaken within Government, the Lao Women’s Union and Civil Society. The primary means of addressing gender inequality is to support the Lao Women’s Union in the development of a Gender Equality Law. Improved implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat and Prevent Violence against Women will also be a focus. Another dimension of inequality is the limited role that women play in decision-making positions. Initiatives will be undertaken to increase women’s participation in decision-making across all levels. The creation of safe working and schooling environments for women and girls free from sexual harassment is another important objective.

Goal 9: Indicators, baselines and targets

Indicator	Baseline/year	Target/year
Gender Inequality Index (GII)	0.468 (2015)	0.350 (2030)
Gender Development Index (GDI)	0.924 (2015)	0.995 (2030)
Women age of 15-49 who experienced violence from their partners in last 12 months	4% (2015)	2% (2030)
Women age of 15-49 experienced violence and sexual abuse from their partners in last 12 months	6.4% (2014)	4% (2030)
Women age of 15-49 experienced sexual abuse from their non-partners in last 12 months	1% (2014)	0.5% (2030)
Women age of 15-49 experienced violence and sexual abuse with non-partners in their life time.	9.7% (2014)	6% (2030)

❖ Objectives

2.9.1 Gender Equality Law completed and approved by the National Assembly.

Activities will be supported to develop a Gender Inequality Law and to ensure its approval in the National Assembly. Technical assistance will be sought for a review of related laws in other countries and to undertake consultations with stakeholders.

There should be supporting activities in relation to the process of legitimation on gender equality in order to be secured by the National assembly by the end of 2019 and to draft a decree of law for dissemination. To implement this, technical assistance will conduct a law review related to those countries in region and sub-region. There will also arrange a meeting

²⁷This goal and its objectives reflect and promote SDG 5 and all its targets. This goal also reflects section 6.7 of the 8th NSEDP, which addresses cross-cutting outputs and particularly section 6.7.3.2 on gender inequality.

with development partners, together with disseminating laws after an official announcement approved.

2.9.2 Improved implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat and Prevent Violence against Women and Children.

A review will be undertaken of the implementation of the Action Plan to assess whether or not implementation can be improved or accelerated.

2.9.3 Proportion of decision-making positions occupied by women is increased.

Women's representation in decision-making is low, whether at the level of the National Assembly or at the district level or in commercial enterprises. Leadership training will be provided to women to assist them qualify for decision-making positions and the principle of women's involvement in political processes will be promoted through the production and distribution of educational and advocacy materials.

2.9.4 Women and girls have a safe working and school environment free from sexual harassment.

Women have a right to study and work in an environment free from sexual harassment, but this right is not always respected. More needs to be known about the scale of harassment in working and educational environments, so studies will be commissioned to determine the scale of the problem. Guidelines will be drawn up for institutions on the correct procedures for addressing this issue and these will assist victims to know their rights.

2.9.5 More women own and run a business.

While many women run successful businesses opportunities for women are more limited than for men. To help equalize opportunities for entrepreneurship, a training programme for women will be developed and implemented.

Part III: institutional arrangements for implementation, monitoring and Evaluation

1. Implementation strategy

The implementation of the National Population and Development Policy is a collaborative enterprise requiring the participation and commitment of all levels of government as well as NGOs, Civil Society, the private sector and the people themselves. Aside from the coordination mechanism, no new institutions will be created to implement this policy. So far as possible existing ministries and agencies will implement and monitor the activities for which they have been assigned responsibility in the Implementation matrix (see below). The general responsibilities of various levels and agencies of government are as follows:

1.1 Department of Planning, Ministry of Planning and Investment

DOP of MPI is responsible for the coordination of policy implementation, including providing the Secretariat for the Population Policy Coordinating Committee. The Department of Planning will organize the annual meeting of the Policy Coordinating Committee and will compile a report on the meeting.

1.2 The Lao Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Planning and Investment

LSB will be responsible for data collection and the formulation of data base system by incorporating with line agencies in order to provide data for monitoring and evaluation of the policy implementation

1.3 Ministries, including Lao Women's Union, NCAWMC and Lao Youth Union

National ministries are the main implementing agencies of the policy and are responsible for carrying out the activities and achieving the outputs identified in the multi-year work plan based on the implementation matrix. Each ministry or implementing agency will be represented in the Policy Coordination Committee and will report to the Committee in its annual monitoring meeting on the activities they have implemented during the previous year. Although not in itself a ministry, The Lao Statistics Bureau is an important implementing agency and therefore would be represented on the Policy Coordination Committee and report to the Committee on statistical matters.

Ministries that are not directly responsible for carrying out the activities in the multi-year work plan but have an interest in those activities or play a collaborating role with the main implementing ministry may also be members of the Policy Coordination Committee and report to the Committee in their own right or jointly with the main implementing ministry.

1.4 Provincial and district governments

Provinces and districts are collaborating partners in the implementation of the policy and are expected to support line ministries in the implementation of activities according to normal practice. Selected provinces (one for each region) will be represented on the Policy Coordination Committee to provide a province-level perspective on implementation issues, especially constraints at local levels.

1.5 Other public-sector agencies

Agencies as the Lao National University and the National Institute for Economic Research are assigned activities under one or more goals as specified in the implementation matrix. These agencies can report to the Coordinating Committee in their own right as co-opted members or may be represented by the Department of Planning, as agreed between them.

1.6 Non-Governmental Organizations, International agencies and the private sector

International and national NGOs, are generally collaborating agencies working with line ministries or under the rubric of a sector strategy or plan. As such, the relevant ministry would report on activities specifically assigned to CSOs (NPAs and INGOs). Similarly, the programmes of International Agencies are normally related to or in support of sectoral plans or related ministries. International organizations may provide funding or technical assistance in support of specific activities or outputs at the sector level. International agencies may also make financial contributions to support the implementation of activities that they are not themselves implementing. In general, international agencies and NGOs are not represented on the Coordinating Committee, but relevant ministries that are represented would report on any NGO or international agency matters that arise.

2. Coordination

A Population Policy Coordination Committee (PPCC) will be established to oversee and direct the implementation of the National Population and Development Policy 2019-2030. The PPCC will be chaired by the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Membership of the Committee will be made up of the Directors-General of the relevant Ministries and agencies (including LWU and LYU), as described above, along with selected representatives of at least four provinces. The Director-General of the Department of Planning will be an ex-officio member of the PPCC. The PPCC will be supported by a Secretariat established within the Department of Planning of the Ministry of Planning and Investment.

The PPCC would normally meet annually for two main purposes: (1) to receive reports from implementing ministries and agencies on activities carried out and progress achieved during the preceding year; (2) to approve or endorse the work plan for the forthcoming year. The first work plan for the years 2019-2020 is already contained in the implementation matrix (see below). Subsequent work plans would need to be compiled and presented to a PPCC meeting for endorsement. The work plans for future years beyond 2019 could be annual or bi-annual according to the preference of the PPCC. Changes to work plans may be required where sector plans and strategies are revised over time, given that the NPDP 2019-2030 extends beyond the time frame of most current sector plans.

The PPCC may request or commission any additional reports it may wish, such as by population experts, on the population situation of the country or any other matters related to the population policy. The PPCC may also revise the implementation strategy by adding,

deleting or modifying activities or by revising the objectives of the policy, including indicators and targets. It is not expected that the PPCC would add or subtract any policy goals, unless proposed by the Mid-term Review. Where new data become available requiring adjustments to the baselines or the targets, the PPCC would normally approve any changes required. The PPCC would also be able to take advice on alternative sources of statistical data and make decisions on which sources should be employed in the monitoring of the policy. In general, ministries would take the lead in their respective areas of expertise, under advice from the LSB.

3. Reporting, monitoring and evaluation

Reporting to the PPCC on the implementation of the activities and progress towards the outcomes and objectives of the NPDP 2019-2030 would be the responsibility of the implementing agencies, which are generally line ministries. The LWU, NCAWMC, LYU, National University and the LSB would report on their own behalf as would ministries. The reporting format would be designed and prepared by the Secretariat which would also receive the reports of members in advance of meetings. Reporting would be done at the annual meeting of the PPCC unless otherwise decided by the Chair, who may schedule more than one meeting per year, but generally not more than two.

An overall monitoring report would be prepared by the PPCC Secretariat, which would compile the reports of all members. The overall monitoring report would include an assessment of progress and an evaluation of any impediments to implementation that have arisen.

A Mid-term Review of the NPDP 2019-2030 would be carried out in 2023 and a final review in 2029. The strategy for carrying out the reviews would be developed by the Secretariat of the PPCC and approved at the annual meeting of the PPCC.

PART IV: IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

National Population and Development Policy Implementation Matrix

Vision Statement: By 2030, population in Lao PDR benefited from equitable and inclusive distribution of socio-economic development²⁸

NPPD Policy goal	NPPD Objectives ²⁹	Sector plan outcomes	Key Activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing Agencies	
<p>Goal 1. Improved reproductive health among disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and across regions</p> <p>Goal Indicators:</p> <p>Maternal Mortality Ratio;³⁰</p> <p>Adolescent birth rate;³¹</p> <p>Unmet need for family planning;</p> <p>Percent of family planning need met by modern methods;³²</p> <p>Baselines and targets:</p> <p>MMR:</p> <p>Baseline: 197 (2015)</p> <p>Target: <70 (2030)</p>	<p>1.1 Accelerated reduction in maternal mortality and morbidity, particularly among disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and across regions.</p>	Increased CPR for modern methods (mCPR) (1.1) ³³	Develop IEC/BCC strategy on Family Planning	√	√		Ministry of Health (MOH)	
		Reduced unmet need for family planning (1.1)	Conduct IUD training at provincial and district and HC type A (community hospital)					
		Increased availability of other reproductive health services (1.3)	Injectable training for CBD					
		Increase in the proportion of pregnant women receiving at least 4 quality ANC checks (2.1)	Ongoing LARC training for midwives and the private sector					
		Increase in the proportion of births delivered with a skilled birth attendant. (2.1)	Take steps to integrate Family Planning into every outreach service					
		Increased proportion of deliveries occurring in a health facility (2.1)	Take action to promote screening for cervical and breast cancer			√		√
		Increased proportion of mothers receiving PNC within 2 days of giving birth (2.1)	Action to encourage women to register their pregnancy			√		√
			Training of VHV and VHC on methods to motivate women to attend ANC			√		√
			Develop IEC information in minority languages			√		√
			Conduct regular technical supervision including on VHWs			√		√
	Refresh training on birth preparedness plans			√	√			
	Training on RMNCH counselling			√	√			

²⁸The vision statement is a reflection of the 8th NSEDP concern that significant disparities between and within regions and among social groups remain in Lao PDR and that these need to be reduced (Section 3.5.2)

²⁹All objectives to include reduction in disparities and inequalities even if not explicitly stated.

³⁰SDG indicator 3.1.1

³¹SDG indicator 3.7.2

³²SDG indicator 3.7.1

³³ Targeted goals for modern family planning (66% of those before 2020 and 70% before 2025)

NPPD Policy goal	NPPD Objectives ²⁹	Sector plan outcomes	Key Activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing Agencies
<u>Adolescent birth rate:</u> Baseline: 76 (2015). Target: 31 (2030)			Review Midwifery Implementation Plan 2016-2020 Exchange lessons learned through model district through cooperation between Laos and Thailand				
<u>Unmet need for family planning:</u> Baseline: 19.9% (2011-12) Target: 8% (2030)		Quality Basic and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric (EOC), including safe abortion care, more accessible and available (3.1)	Conduct EmOC monitoring and supervision Assessment/evaluation of EmOC improvement plan Conduct Training of trainers for central and provincial level Preservice and in-service training on EmOC Ongoing upgrade of EmOC facilities	√	√		
<u>Percent of FP needs met by modern methods:</u> Baseline: 61.2% (2011-12) Target: 80% (2030)		More women of reproductive age have improved consumption of safe, nutritious food. (7.3)	Conduct micronutrient training for health workers, community volunteers and committees Report on the implementation of maternal nutrition guidelines Develop integrated nutrition curriculum for health providers and conduct training based on curriculum	√	√		MOH
<u>Modern CPR (mCPR)</u> Baseline: 42.1% (2011-12) Target: 73% (2030)		Improved capacity of health centres to forecast, procure and distribute contraceptive supplies to reduce stock outs	Training on supply chain management in periphery Scale-up best practices of integrated model of procurement Check to ensure that facilities are using essential equipment and drug lists	√	√		
<u>Unmet need among 15-24 age group:</u> Baseline: 21.8% (2011-12) Target: 12% (2030)		Sufficient funding is available for contraceptive supplies to support the increased use of LARC.	Circulate the NIER/UNFPA Policy Brief on cost/benefit analysis of family planning	√	√		
		Maternity leave introduced/expanded in formal, informal and rural village sectors to reduce work stress during pregnancy	Conduct research to assess feasibility of incorporating an income protection arrangement for rural and informal	√	√		Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives ²⁹	Sector plan outcomes	Key Activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing Agencies
		<p>Income protection/substitution available to cover lost income during maternity leave</p> <p>Increased availability of reproductive health information and services that are responsive to the needs of young people (1.2)</p> <p>SRH and FP policies address the needs of adolescents and young people, especially the poor and marginalized (1.2.1)</p> <p>Coordinate with Education sector on Comprehensive Reproductive Health/ Sexuality Education (CSE) (1.2.2)</p> <p>Increased capacity of ASRH and FP service providers to provide youth friendly services and referral (1.2.6)</p> <p>Increased awareness and knowledge among community leaders of RH, FP and ASRH availability of services. (1.2.11)</p>	<p>sector women as part of Health Insurance package and Social Protection Strategy</p> <p>Conduct Reproductive Health awareness raising activity for young people</p> <p>Disseminate curriculum on RH and Sexuality Education to primary and secondary schools</p> <p>IEC/BCC materials for young people disseminated to provide information and knowledge of how to access health services (1.2.12)</p> <p>Youth friendly services expanded to all provinces (1.2.8)</p> <p>Information and services (including referral to health facilities) provided to young people working in factories (1.2.9).</p> <p>Provide counselling on STIs to secondary schools</p> <p>Conduct family planning days in areas of low CPR</p> <p>Coordination meeting between MOES and MOH</p> <p>Establish provincial training team in SRH in youth outreach activities</p> <p>Conduct supportive supervision of ASRH youth friendly services</p> <p>Develop IEC materials for community leaders</p> <p>Conduct family planning days in areas with low FP coverage</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>		<p>MOH</p> <p>MOH & LYU</p> <p>MOH/MOES</p> <p>MOH/MOES</p>

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
<p>Goal 2. Accelerated reduction in neonatal, infant and under-5 mortality, particularly among vulnerable groups and in disadvantaged areas</p> <p>Indicators (National):</p> <p>Neonatal Mortality Rate³⁴</p> <p>Infant Mortality Rate</p> <p>Under-5 Mortality Rate,³⁵</p> <p>Baseline and Targets:</p> <p><u>Neonatal MR</u></p> <p>Baseline: 33 (2011-12)</p> <p>Target: 9 (2030)</p> <p><u>Infant Mortality Rate</u> (below 1 years old)</p> <p>Baseline: 40 (2017)</p> <p>Target: 12 (2030)</p> <p><u>Under 5 Mortality Rate</u></p> <p>Baseline: 46 (2017)</p>	<p>2.1 Main risk factors (proximate determinants) related to neonatal, infant and child mortality reduced, including: Preterm births Asphyxia Sepsis Other infections (diarrhoea, pneumonia, meningitis, measles, etc.)</p>	<p>Increased availability of qualified and skilled personnel providing health services relevant to pre-pregnancy, antenatal care, birth attendance, immediate postpartum and postnatal care and family planning and services. (All health centers to have one midwife) (Objective 3,8 and 11)³⁶</p> <p>Increased proportion of pregnant women receiving at least 4 ANC check-ups in an equipped facility by skilled personnel (Objective 2)</p> <p>Increased proportion of births occurring in facilities able to implement the WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist (including necessary medication and referral to a C-section and EmOC facility) and with personnel trained in the use of the SCC within a systems approach</p> <p>Improved nutrition among pregnant women and reduction in harmful behaviour (smoking, drug use) (Objective 7)</p>	<p>Review the Midwifery Implementation Plan 2016-20 and strengthen as necessary</p> <p>Refresh training on birth and emergency preparedness plans</p> <p>Disseminate Mother and Child Handbook to emphasize continuum of care</p> <p>Incorporate the WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist into health personnel training at all levels</p> <p>Disseminate the Checklist to all health facilities</p> <p>Conduct micronutrient training for health workers, community volunteers and committees</p> <p>Report on the implementation of maternal nutrition guidelines</p> <p>Develop integrated nutrition curriculum for health providers and conduct training based on curriculum</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>			<p>MPI/MOH,</p> <p>MOH/MOE</p> <p>MOH</p>

³⁴SDG indicator 3.2.2

³⁵SDG indicator 3.2.1

³⁶ According to the RMCH's objectives

NPD Policy goal	NPD Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
Target: <25 (2030)	2.2 Reduction in socio-demographic factors associated with the proximate determinants of neonatal and infant mortality	Improved care of pregnant women and newborns resulting from better knowledge and awareness through community level health promotion (On the part of mothers, partners, extended family, community leaders, etc.)	Prepare improved community health promotion strategies and implement	√	√		MOH, LWU
		Increased proportion of women and families covered by health insurance and social protection schemes, especially in rural village sector, including expansion of free delivery and treatment of children under 5 years (Objective 9)	Implement relevant sections of the National Social Protection Strategy	√	√		MOH and MOLSW
		Elimination of all pregnancies under 18 years of age and over 40 years of age, unwanted pregnancy and illegal abortion	Monitor the implementation of activities under objective 1.2	√	√		MOH/LYU/LNU, LWU
		Reduced early marriage rate (New)	Conduct research on the factors determining early marriage	√	√		
		Minimum birth spacing (birth to next pregnancy) of 24 months	Review the implementation of current age at marriage law	√	√		
		Decrease in the unmet need for family planning, especially among women <20 years of age and >35 years (Objective 1)	Develop strategy to strengthen implementation of marriage law	√	√		
	Increase in the percentage of family planning demand met by modern methods of contraception (Objective 1)	Incorporate information on birth spacing in all IEC materials on family planning and RH	Monitor and support the implementation of the Costed Implementation Plan for Family Planning (2017/2020) particularly in regard to LARC supplies and services	√	√		

NPD Policy goal	NPD Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
	Elimination of stressful and/or heavy work during third trimester (New)		Assess feasibility of incorporating an income protection arrangement for rural and informal sector women as part of Health Insurance package and Social Protection Strategy (activities in Objective 1.1)	√	√		
NPD Policy goal	NPD Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key Activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
	2.3 Improved infant and young child feeding practices and general care	Increase in the proportion of infants exclusively breastfed for 6 months (Objective 7) Increased immunization rate for 1 year-olds (Objective 6)	Implement Early and Exclusive Breastfeeding Communication Plan Integrate breastfeeding and growth monitoring into MNCH activities Implement the comprehensive effective vaccine management improvement plan Conduct survey on vaccination coverage rate Conduct special vaccination campaigns in low coverage/high risk areas Take action to ensure the availability of vaccines and supplies	√	√		MOH
	All new-borns receive quality EENC (Objective 4)		Check that EENC has been incorporated into all health plans, strategies and budgets Revise Midwifery Act to allow midwives to conduct resuscitation and injectable antibiotics Revise EENC regulations to meet international standards Scaleup EENC implementation workshops in district hospitals Develop and implement a BCC strategy on community-based EENC practices	√	√		

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
<p>Goal 3 Opportunities of the demographic bonus to maximize socioeconomic benefits for equitable distribution across social groups (especially the disadvantaged) and regions enhanced</p> <p>Indicators: Literacy rates of adults (15 and over) and youth 15-24;</p> <p>School attendance rate of 1725 year-olds;</p> <p>TVET enrolment rates;</p> <p>General and youth unemployment rate and share of youth NEET.</p> <p>Baseline and Targets: <u>Adult literacy rate (15 years and over):</u> Baseline: 84.7% (2015) Target: 95% (2030) <u>Youth literacy rate (15-24 years):</u></p>	<p>3.1 New labour force entrants appropriately educated, trained and skilled to take up higher productivity employment opportunities</p>	<p>All learners are equipped with the foundation knowledge (literacy and numeracy) and skills... to either join the labour force or continue to post-basic education (Objective 1, Outcome 2, Outcome 5) (pp.9, 12, 16)</p> <p>Adult (15 and over) and youth (1525) literacy rates increased (Objective 3 and Outcome 6) (pp. 10, 17)</p> <p>Increased lower secondary enrolment and completion rates and higher transition rate to upper secondary level (Objective 2) (p.10)</p> <p>Increased transition rate from Secondary (Grade 9 and Grade 12) to Technical and Vocational Training (objective 2) (p.10)</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Revise primary curriculum structure and content</p> <p>Conduct research on national and international best practice on school remediation</p> <p>Develop strategies on literacy and numeracy skills improvement</p> <p>Develop a pedagogy and curriculum for teaching Lao as a second language</p> <p>Actions to identify critical shortfalls in skills development and learning outcomes</p> <p>Develop an accurate sampling instrument to test adult literacy</p> <p>Develop curriculum and learning materials that address the different needs of target groups</p> <p>Training of staff responsible for improving adult literacy</p> <p>✓</p> <p>Construct additional schools to meet expected demand and upgrade existing schools, including the addition of dormitories</p> <p>Increase the number of scholarships available to poor and disadvantaged students</p> <p>✓</p> <p>Develop action plan to establish at least one technical centre and vocational school per province</p>	<p>✓</p>			<p>Ministry of Education and Sport in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare</p>

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
<p>Baseline: 92.5% (2015) Target: 98% (2030)</p> <p><u>School attendance of 17-25 yearolds:</u> Baseline: 22% (2015) Target: 45% (2030)</p> <p><u>Enrolment in TVET:</u> Baseline: 34,500 (2016) Target: 51,000 (2020) 81,000 (2030)</p> <p><u>General unemployment rate*:</u> Baseline: 1.4% (2015) Target: 1.4% (2030)</p> <p><u>Youth age 15-24 unemployment rate:</u> Baseline: 13% (2016) Target: 1.3% (2030)</p> <p><u>Share of youth 15-24 not in employment, education or training (NEET)</u> Baseline: 5.1% (2016) Target: 2.6% (2030)</p>		<p>Improved access to vocational education and training through upgrading and expansion (Strategy 1, 7.3.1, p. 62)</p> <p>Quality of TVET programmes raised through higher level of teacher competency (strategy 4, 7.3.4, p.63)</p>	<p>Develop and implement project to improve career counselling in schools</p> <p>Develop an advocacy strategy that would encourage more students who have completed general education to enrol in vocational training</p> <p>Upgrade some technical and vocational schools to become colleges</p> <p>Establish additional vocational education training centres</p> <p>Mobilize community and business support for vocational training</p> <p>Integrate technical and vocational subjects into the general school curriculum</p> <p>Conduct feasibility study for establishing TVET school in Xaysomboun province</p> <p>Establish railway technical college cooperation Laos - China</p> <p>Expanding a new campus of Lao German Technical College</p> <p>Conduct need assessment on building and improving workshop, lab, class rooms and dormitory for some technical colleges including providing equipment and material for teaching and learning</p> <p>Conduct short technical and methodology training for TVET teachers</p>	√			

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
	<p>3.2 Technical/vocational education programmes are better matched to the requirements of the labour market</p>	<p>Improved quality and relevance of TVET to meet labour force requirements and aligned with 8th NSEDP (Outcome 7) (p.18).</p> <p>Priority training needs identified through a <i>National Human Resources Development Plan</i> aligned to labour market requirements (Outcome 7) (p.18)</p> <p>Improved human resources planning and information management through the increased availability of relevant data from labour market surveys, student tracer studies, etc. (Outcome 7). (p.18)</p>	<p>Develop and print short coursetraining manual for TVET teacher under the multiple teacher training curricular</p> <p>Monitor TVET teacher of state and private TVET schools across the country.</p> <p>Monitor and evaluate pre-service and in-service training</p> <p>Establish strategic partnerships to improve teaching skills</p> <p>Conduct studies/surveys to determine the needs of employers</p> <p>Tracer study on graduates of TVET institutions</p> <p>Organise lesson session on the implementation of curricular level 3 at TVET</p> <p>Conduct training on curricular writing module in line with National TVET curricular standard</p> <p>Conduct a study of training needs in TVET</p> <p>Conduct training on TVET data base system and management</p> <p>Advocate for additional and more relevant labour force surveys</p> <p>Lesson learn on TVET information and statistic management</p> <p>Tracer study on graduates of TVET institutions</p>	√			Ministry of Education and Sports

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
		<p>Post-basic educational curriculum... aligned with a <i>National Qualifications Framework</i> (NQF) and the NQF is aligned with Regional Qualifications Framework (Outcome 7). (p.18)</p>	<p>Develop TVET curriculum and Bachelor degree for 4 new subjects</p> <p>Develop curriculum and materials for teaching and learning for TVET management</p> <p>Develop a comprehensive training model together with the private sector and professional groups</p> <p>Develop standard and curriculum level 1 - 5</p> <p>Develop Law on higher education</p> <p>Develop learning – teaching manual for higher education to meet national curricular by improving content of curriculum, reducing theoretical ratio and increasing practicing and upgrading teachers in 14 modules</p> <p>Provide and improve facilities in priority sectors (e-library, Internet resources, laboratories and workshops for agriculture, science, technology, engineering, Mathematics and STEM).</p> <p>Build Centers of Excellence for priority sectors at HEIs.</p> <p>Improve the development of higher education science research and management strategy</p> <p>Improve regulation on e-learning</p>	√			

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
		<p>Improved matching of available technical/vocational skills with labour market demand through better Public Employment Services (PES) and Labour market information (Outcome 1.2)</p> <p>Strengthened capacity of the National Training Council (NTC) and MoLSW to develop national policy and systems. And to develop a National Qualifications Framework (outcome 1.3).</p> <p>A lifelong learning framework is developed which includes approaches to improving adult literacy (Outcome 6, p.17)</p>	<p>National strategy and action plan for the development of PES and LMI developed and adopted</p> <p>MOU prepared and agreed between MoLSW, the LNCCI and the LFTU</p> <p>Pilot survey on skill needs of employers</p> <p>Two initiatives to strengthen NTC and MoLSW technical capacity</p> <p>New technical/vocational skills competency standards promulgated</p> <p>Additional technical/vocational skills area developed for certification and accreditation</p> <p>Assessment and certification of trainers in additional technical/vocation skills areas</p> <p>Develop a functional testing method to assess adult literacy</p> <p>Develop legislation to support the upgrading of non-formal education programmes</p> <p>Establish additional non-formal education centres</p> <p>Develop policies and mechanisms to support non-formal education centres</p>	√			Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.
3.3 Mature workers have improved opportunity to upgrade their school qualifications through non-formal education to enhance labour force quality				√			MOES, LYU

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
			Develop a non-formal education and life-long learning action plan Training of managers and administrators responsible for non-formal education				

*The census measurement of unemployment does not meet international standards. The unemployment Baseline and Target rates will need updating once improved data are available.

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
Goal 4. Enhanced socioeconomic opportunities and improved life-chances for disadvantaged and vulnerable young people including adolescent girls and unemployed youth.” Indicators: Share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) Underemployment among rural youth	4.1 National Youth Policy finalized, approved and disseminated	Information gathering and data collection and all consultations with relevant sectors completed All necessary input received from national and international experts	Field data collection in selected provinces Relevant legislation, strategies and policies reviewed Consultations with stakeholders, including youth and young people Steering committee meetings conducted to review findings and consolidate comments	√			LYU (and relevant Ministries)
	4.2 Law on Lao Youth developed, approved and disseminated		Prepare concept note and timeframe for draft law on youth Collect relevant background information and obtain comments from central and local levels Write draft law Conduct consultation meetings with stakeholders to review the draft law Revise law after stakeholder review	√			LYU

NPPD Policy goal	NPPD Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
<p>Percentage of women aged 15-19 who have commenced childbearing</p> <p>Proportion females aged 15-19 married or in a union</p> <p>HIV Aids incidence rate among high-risk youth</p> <p>Drug offences among young people (incidence and rates)</p>	<p>4.3 Increased awareness among youth and young people of the laws and regulations that affect them and their civic responsibilities</p>	<p>Electronic and other media available on political knowledge to educate adolescent and youth to become good citizens</p> <p>Adolescents and youth are kept up to date on revisions to laws and regulations and receive accurate information on current issues and the risks of the social environment</p>	<p>Working group established to prepare electronic and other media</p> <p>Develop a social media strategy and apps oriented to youth</p> <p>Youth competition for national protection and development implemented</p> <p>Communications strategy developed to ensure that young people are well informed</p>	√			LYU
<p>Percent of women aged 15-24 who had sex under the age of 15</p> <p>Baseline and Targets:</p> <p><u>Share of youth 15-24 not in employment, education or training (NEET)</u></p> <p>Baseline: 5.1% (2015)</p> <p>Target: 2.6% (2030)</p>	<p>4.4 Strengthened capacity of young people nationwide to actively participate in socioeconomic development</p>	<p>Improved leadership at various levels, including the public and private sector and Civil Society Organizations</p> <p>Mechanisms developed to promote the participation of youth in development</p> <p>A Lao PDR Youth Federation is established</p>	<p>Leadership training programme developed in collaboration with Civil Society and representatives of youth</p> <p>Establish a management team to prepare a nationwide meeting</p> <p>Organize gatherings with clubs and volunteer groups and organize seminars and activities related to the implementation of the Youth Federation</p>	√			LYU
<p><u>Proportion of total birth rate occurring to below 20 yearolds</u></p> <p>Baseline: 15% (2011-12)</p> <p>Target: 7% (2030)</p>	<p>4.5 Improved capacity of Lao Youth Union and other organizations to design and implement youth programmes</p>	<p>Improved coordination between national and local units of the Lao Youth Union of Lao and between all levels</p> <p>Capacity of Village Mediation Units and local authorities to youth issues improved</p>	<p>Review options for strengthening coordination and implement the preferred ones</p> <p>Training of LYU members on youth law and youth policy</p>	√			LYU MOES MOH Save the Children

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
<p>Percent of women aged 15-24 who had sex under the age of 15: Baseline: 6% (2011-12) Target: 1% (2030)</p> <p>Percentage of women aged 15-19 who have commenced childbearing: Baseline: 17.8% (2011-12) Target: 5% (2030)</p> <p>Proportion of females 15-19 married or in a union Baseline: 24.7% (2011-12) Target: 10% (2030)</p> <p>STI incidence rate (Chlamydia) among high-risk youth (sex workers and MSM) Baseline: 23.8% (2017) for sex workers; 10.9% for MSM Target: 15% (2020) for sex workers; 8% for MSM</p>	<p>4.6 Reduced high risk behavior among youth in relation to STIs, drug use, unwanted pregnancy, etc.</p>	<p>Capacity of extension workers and counselling units enhanced</p> <p>Increased capacity of extension workers to reach out-of-school girls (Child support organisation in Luangprabang)</p> <p>Improved capacity of staff to protect the rights and benefits of young people and combat social issues facing juvenile and youth</p> <p>Improved networks and coordination and cooperation with sector ministries and other agencies</p> <p>Strengthened cooperation and coordination with international organizations, INGOS and NPAs and other countries</p>	<p>Training of LYU focal coordination team at the ministry, Organizational, Provincial and Capital levels</p> <p>Training for youth engaged in advocacy</p> <p>Organize a science seminar on social issues faced by youth and adolescents</p> <p>Organize meetings to exchange lessons-learned in coordination efforts</p> <p>Organize exchange activities for arts and sports</p> <p>Organize scientific seminars on the prevention of STIs and drug abuse</p> <p>Conduct training for responsible committees and set up hotline telephone numbers to provide counselling</p> <p>Establish a Counselling and Support Committee</p> <p>Organize contests and other activities on scientific knowledge, agriculture, handicrafts, cultural performance and sports</p> <p>Arrange for exchange of experience among young people with special talents</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>			<p>LYU/LWU</p> <p>MOH</p>

NPPD Policy goal	NPPD Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
<p>Drug offences among young people (incidence and rates)³⁷</p> <p>Baseline:</p> <p>Target:</p>	<p>4.7 Reduce illiteracy among young people through greater retention in school and other programmes</p> <p>4.8 Adolescents and youth in remote and rural communities have improved employment and business skills to generate incomes for their family.</p> <p>4.9 Technical and vocational education and training opportunities are more accessible across the country</p>	<p>LYU Peer to peer education programmes (23 months) in place to hold young students in school (not under 30 project)</p> <p>Girls empowered through peer and mentor approach in the villages (SVK)</p> <p>Development training plan for capacity building of national and local staff on vocational training and marketing skills</p> <p>Vocational training centres of LYU improved and expanded</p> <p>Support available for business start-ups by youth and young people.</p> <p>Improved technical capacity of Provincial LYU branches to provide vocational training to young people</p> <p>Technical and vocational training centres are expanded and their quality improved (comprehensive, sustainable and market-based).</p> <p>Job search and employment services incorporated into technical and vocational training</p>	<p>Organize and conduct adolescent camps and youth celebrations</p> <p>Expand peer-to-peer education programmes to areas where they are not currently available</p> <p>MOES and UNFPA collaborate to develop most effective approaches</p> <p>Conduct skills competition among youth</p> <p>Develop plan to expand technical and vocational training</p> <p>Develop strategy to support start-up businesses by young people</p> <p>Develop training-of-trainers strategy</p> <p>Secure funding for the expansion of technical and vocational training</p> <p>Develop jobsearch module for inclusion in training</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>			<p>LYU</p> <p>MOES</p> <p>UNFPA</p> <p>LYU, MOES</p> <p>LYU, MOES</p>

³⁷To be determined

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
	4.10 Reduction in early marriage rate (<18) among adolescent girls and young people	Strategy to reduce early marriage in adolescent girls developed and implemented	Conduct research on the factors contributing to early marriage and identify potential interventions to reduce early marriage rate	√			LYU, LNU, IER, LWU

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
Goal 5. Benefits of rural-urban, internal and international migration maximized and negative effects minimized Indicators: National strategy in place to address migration and development linkages National Urbanization policy formulated Number of trafficking incidents detected Poverty rates in areas of heavy out-migration	5.1 Improved knowledge and understanding of the impact of all forms of migration on sending and Lao PDR receiving areas	Research and analysis strategy developed to increase knowledge and understanding of the determinants and consequences of internal and international migration and urbanization	Commission expertise to develop a migration and development research strategy	√			DOP (ILO and IOM support)
	5.2 Strategy to formulate a National Urbanization and Development policy established	Cross-sector task force on internal and international migration and urbanization established	Advocate for a cross-sector task force to address policy aspects of migration, urbanization and development	√			DOP (IOM, ILO and UN Habitat to support)
	5.3 Impact of rural-urban migration and urban infrastructure needs understood and incorporated into urban plans	Reports available and disseminated to key stakeholders, including municipal authorities, provinces and districts	Census data on household formation and demand for services analysed Analysis conducted on provincial population projections Advocate for increase in migration topics in Labour Force Survey	√			

NPD Policy goal	NPD Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
<p>Baseline and targets:</p> <p>National strategy in place to address migration and development linkages</p> <p>Baseline: no strategy (2018)</p> <p>Target: Strategy in place (2030)</p> <p><u>National Urbanization policy formulated</u></p> <p>Baseline: No policy (2018)</p> <p>Target: Policy in place (2025)</p>	<p>5.4 Strategy to increase the benefits of migration for sending communities and developed communities incorporated in the National Socio-economic Development Plan and Provincial plans</p> <p>5.5 All forms of human trafficking, particularly those involving women and girls greatly reduced</p> <p>5.6 Increased support provided to victims of human trafficking to address trauma and reintegration into society</p>	<p>Improved understanding of ways that communities experiencing outmigration can increase benefits and reduce the costs arising from migration</p> <p>Improved detection and prevention of trafficking cases, particularly women and girls. Improved tracking and prosecution of traffickers.</p> <p>Safe haven for victims of trafficking established in the capital and counselling offices in provinces</p> <p>Psycho-social support to victims of trafficking provided</p>	<p>Survey(s) on the impact of migrant remittances and rural-urban linkages conducted in migrant sending communities</p> <p>Study of the impact of return migrants to sending communities, including the transfer of skills</p> <p>Review safe migration policy</p> <p>Training of frontline officials, prosecutors, police and judges</p> <p>Training on Anti-human trafficking law provided to ministries</p> <p>Capacity building through training on caseload data collection and reporting mechanisms</p> <p>Develop a code of conduct for recruitment agencies</p> <p>Facilities for safe haven located</p> <p>Develop a referral system, especially programmes to reintegrate victims of human trafficking</p> <p>Psychological training provided to social workers on dealing with the trauma experienced by victims of trafficking</p>	<p>√</p> <p>√</p> <p>√</p>			<p>MPI/MOLSW/IOM</p> <p>MOPS MOFA (IOM, ILO and UNODC to support)</p> <p>LWU (IOM to support)</p>

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
<p>Goal 6: Lao PDR is well-prepared to address the challenges of ageing and supporting an older population</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of MIPAA available Healthy Age Strategy completed Universal Social pension in effect Best practices for addressing ageing identified <p>Baseline and Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Review of MIPAA available</u> Baseline: 0 (2019) Target: 1 (2020) <u>Complete formulating National strategic plan for ageing population in conjunction with being approved and launched by the government</u> Baseline: 0 (2019) 	6.1 Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Laos reviewed	Review is completed and the results and recommendations are disseminated to all stakeholders	TOR for review is prepared and review team selected		√	√	MOHA/MOLSW
	6.2 Improving National strategic plan policy on ageing population	Healthy ageing strategy formulated	<p>Review of the main health issues facing the elderly population of Lao PDR and the options for addressing them, including access to health insurance and social pension</p> <p>Review the WHO Global Strategy on Ageing and Health, 2016-2020</p> <p>Review healthy ageing strategies in comparable Southeast Asian countries for model approaches</p>	√		MOH/MOHA/MOLSW (WHO HelpAgeInternationalto support)	
	6.3 feasibility studies on establishing Wealth fund to ensure stipends for all	Draft review completed and circulated to stakeholders for comments Final review completed and disseminated	TOR for review team formulated and team selected	√		MOLSW/NIER/DOP (WB and ADB may assist)	
	6.4 conduct comparative research on ageing population to gain lesson learned from the best practice in preparation.	Review of ageing policies in comparable middle-income countries conducted, including study tours and participation in regional and international ageing conferences	TOR for review of best practices developed and review team appointed	√		MOHA, MOLSW (with support of HelpAge International)	

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
<p>Target: launch (2023)</p> <p><u>Universal Social pension in effect</u></p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Target: launch (2025)</p> <p><u>Best practices for addressing ageing identified</u></p> <p>Baseline: 0 (2019)</p> <p>Target: 1 (2020)</p>							

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
<p>Goal 7: Improved availability and quality of population data that meet international standards</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>Number of census monographs produced</p> <p>Index of age accuracy</p> <p>Estimated coverage error in Census</p> <p>Availability of online tools</p> <p>Number of research studies</p> <p>Baseline and Targets:</p> <p><u>Number of census monographs produced</u> Baseline: 4 (2018-19)</p>	<p>7.1 Improve population data base system more comprehensive, competence and faster</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure CENSUS, LSIS, LECS and other surveys get implemented regularly and continuously. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare for implementing mid-term population registered in 2020 - Prepare for implementing the 2025 CENSUS - Prepare for implementing the 2022 and 2027 LSIS 	√	√	√	LSB
		<p>Establish data base system for population registration to produce citizen statistics and implement data collection at local levels regularly and continuously.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish integrating data system on registered population - Implementing data collection from statistics administrative report at local levels. 				LSB/MOHA
	<p>7.2 increase research analysis on population</p>	<p>Data information of CENSUS has been analysed particularly those topics relating to migration from rural to urban cities, disabilities, gender, job opportunities and other topics to be disseminated</p>	<p>Select research topics on population projection analysis based on the 2017 LSIS survey and other sources.</p>	√			LSB/UNFPA

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
Target: 6 (2028-29) <u>Index of age accuracy</u> Baseline: ? (2015) Target: ? (2025)	7.3 Quality of census and survey data improved through the reduction of age errors and improved census coverage.	Data information from the 2017 LSIS survey is analysed in conjunction with formulating policies related to reduction of age errors of citizen registration.	Set up research topics and establish strategy to ensure policy analysis which fits to development and also provide the comfortability to researchers to have access to the information in the LSIS. Developing tools to contribute to data collection in order to reduce the false of age reports in CENSUS Improve approach and principals to reduce the falling gap on citizen registration Implement the quality assessment survey of the 2025 CENSUS	√	√	√	LSB
<u>Estimated coverage error in Census³⁸</u> Baseline: (2015) Target: (2025)	7.4 Improved user access to census and survey data through digital and online tools.	Lao Design Info can be used Improve software tools to help support users to be able to increase in data analysis	Prepare and plan for actual demonstration of the use of Redatam in order to improve data base in Lao Design and Lao Info	√	√	√	LSB/UNFPA
<u>Availability of online tools</u> Baseline: 2 (2018) Target: 4 (2020)	7.5 Improved supply and quality of internationally comparable labour force and labour market data	Labour force survey will be conducted often and be able to provide appropriate data related to the need of labour demand and supply	Making an annual labour market Prepare and implement an annual labour market survey.	√	√	√	LSB/MOLSW
<u>Number of research studies</u> Baseline: 0 (2018) Target: 4 (2021) 8 (2025)							

³⁸To be determined

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
	7.6 Increased availability of research findings on population and development linkages	Improve and build capacity in teaching method on Population topic at the University of Laos and other research institutions. Current data sources reviewed and evaluated	Formulate strategies on the survey capacity building for survey institutions. Liaise with relevant ministries to determine prospects for compiling bordercrossing and other migration data (Also see goal 5)	√	√	√	NUOL
	7.7 Improved supply of data on border crossings and estimates of international migration	Review and assess current data sources	Collaborate with concerned ministries to conduct data collection on crossed borders and migrations. Review the implementation of the CRVS strategy	√	√	√	MOHA/MOFA
	7.8 Increased proportion of births and deaths are registered through a reliable Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system	Implement strategies on civil registration and statistics, and ensure getting supports from relating sectors.	Review strategy on the implementation of civil registration and statistics, and also analyse those of household statistics.	√	√	√	MOH/LSB/LWU and MOHA
	7.9 Progress of health information system	Improve the accuracy, completion and coverage of the health information system	Expand DHIS2 to health centres: training and IT supply and activities to enhance DHIS2 administration at local and provincial levels and this is also for integrating additional information into DHIS2 for officers in health centres.	√	√	√	MOH/LSB and others

NPPD Policy goal	NPPD Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
<p>Goal 8: Increased integration of population data into national, subnational and sector development plans and strategies</p> <p>Indicators: Number of sector plans adequately incorporating population data; Number of personnel trained in population development integration; Materials produced;</p> <p>Baseline and Targets: Number of sector plans adequately incorporating population data; Baseline: 0 (2018) Target: 5 (2030)</p> <p>Number of personnel trained in population development integration; Baseline: 0 (2018) Target: 100 (2030)</p> <p>Materials produced;</p>	<p>8.1 The use of population data in sector plans and national development plans reviewed and assessed (constraints identified)</p> <p>8.2 Increased capacity of sector planners to use population data for planning, including the use of population projections</p>	<p>Review of sector plans and strategies completed and results disseminated</p> <p>8th NSEDP Mid-term review conducted and report disseminated</p> <p>Planning personnel in selected provinces and districts receive training in integrated population-development planning</p> <p>Refresher training conducted for sector planners who have previously attended training sessions</p> <p>Population and development interrelations integrated into University course curriculum</p> <p>Exchange programme to foster South-South collaboration</p>	<p>TOR for review/assessment of sector plans and national plans prepared and personnel identified</p> <p>Training and capacity building strategy developed, including the preparation of a customized manual of integration methods</p> <p>National guidelines and manuals prepared on integrated population-development planning at national, provincial and local (district) levels</p>	√			DOP/UNFPA
<p>8.3 Increased awareness of the relevance of population data to all forms of planning among officials and the general public</p>	<p>Strategy implemented, including the production and distribution of policy briefs, brochures, posters, etc. on population and development issues</p>	<p>Prepare a strategy for raising awareness of population-development interrelations and the use of population data among officials and the general public</p>	<p>Prepare a strategy for raising awareness of population-development interrelations and the use of population data among officials and the general public</p>	√			DOP/UNFPA

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
Baseline: 0 (2018) Target: 25 (2030).							
NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
Goal 9: Gender equality achieved for women and men in social, economic and political dimensions and violence against women eliminated	9.1 Gender equality law completed and approved by the National Assembly	Strategy for developing gender equality law is implemented, including the use of appropriate technical assistance and draft law prepared	Review the gender equality laws of other countries Continued consultation with relevant stakeholders Obtain technical assistance to support the development of the gender equality law	√	√	√	LWU/NCAWMC
Indicators: Gender Inequality Index (GII) Gender Development Index (GDI) Ratio of women to men in key decision-making positions; Percent of women with physical and/or sexual violence by partner in past 12 months. ³⁹	9.2 Improved implementation of the National action plan to combat and prevent violence against women and children (2014-2020) and gender equality strategy and action plan	Implementation of the National action plan on combat and prevention of VAWC is reviewed, assessed and revised as necessary Implementation of national strategy for gender equality and national action plan are reviewed, assessed and revised as necessary	Prepare TOR and methodology for the review of the implementation of the National action plan for combat and prevention of VAWC Conduct the review	√	√	√	LWU/NCAWMC
	9.3 Proportion of women in decision making positions at all levels is increased	Percentage increase in women's seats in National Assembly Increase in number and proportion of women in decision-making positions at central level	Conduct leadership training, and capacity-building for potential women leaders at all decision-making levels	√	√	√	LWU/NCAWMC

³⁹SDG indicator 5.2.1

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
<p>Percent of women with physical and/or sexual violence by non-partner in past 12 months.⁴⁰</p> <p>Percent of women experiencing childhood sexual violence.</p> <p>Baseline and Targets:</p> <p><u>GII</u> Baseline: 0.468 (2015) Target: 0.350 (2030)</p> <p><u>GDI</u> Baseline: 0.924 (2015) Target: 0.995 (2030)</p> <p><u>Women age(15-49) being physical violated by partners for last 12 months:</u> Baseline: 4% (2015) Target: 2% (2030)</p> <p><u>Women age(15-49) being physical and sexual</u></p>	<p>9.4 Women and girls have safe working and schooling environment free from sexual harassment.</p>	<p>Increased proportion of women have position as decision makers at provincial and capital level</p> <p>Increased proportion of decision makers at district level are women</p> <p>Proportion of village-level decision makers that are women increased</p> <p>Half of all public servants are women</p> <p>Increased number of Women involved in the LWU's three good campaigns and implementation plan</p> <p>Sectors and local institutions have an action plan for promoting women's engagement in leadership positions</p> <p>Increased number of women among newly-recruited government officials and party members.</p> <p>Improved understanding of the extent of sexual harassment in educational institutions.</p>	<p>Develop educational material to promote the concept of women's leadership among present community leaders and sectors</p> <p>Prepare a model action plan for institutions to follow</p> <p>Conduct a study of women's experiences of harassment in educational institutions and the workplace.</p>	√			LWU/ NCAWMC/MOLSW/M OES

⁴⁰SDG indicator 5.2.2

NPDP Policy goal	NPDP Objectives	Sector plan outcomes	Key activities	2019-2020	2021-2025	2026-2030	Implementing agencies
<p><u>violated by partners for last 12 months:</u> Baseline: 6.4% (2015) Target: 43% (2030)</p> <p><u>Women age(15-49) being sexual violated by non-partners for last 12 months:</u> Baseline: 1% (2014) Target: 0.5% (2030)</p> <p><u>Women age(15-49) being sexual and physical violated by non-partners</u> Baseline: 9.7% (2014) Target: 6% (2030)</p>	<p>9.5 More women own and run a business</p>	<p>Guidelines prepared for institutions on procedures and measures to address and reduce sexual harassment</p> <p>Enhanced knowledge and skill among women of how to apply knowledge in production and to operate their own business in an age of integration</p>	<p>Draft guidelines for institutions and victims of sexual harassment</p> <p>Develop a business training programme to enhance female entrepreneurship</p>	√			LWU

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Supported by: United Nations Population Fund

