

# LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

## 1. DEMOGRAPHICS, GENDER AND POVERTY

In 2005, the Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic had a population of 5.6 million, a population growth rate of 2.0%, a sparse population density (23.70 persons/km<sup>2</sup>) with large inter-provincial variations, and an average household size of 5.9. The topography breaks into lowland areas along the Mekong River that depend predominantly on paddy rice, and highland areas that depend on upland rice and the gathering of non-timber forest products for their livelihoods. The population is young (44.10% < 15 years). The nation is largely rural (80%), with the beginnings of a rural-to-urban shift.

The most recent census identified 47 distinct ethnic groups. The ethnic Lao comprise 52.5% of the total and predominate in the lowlands, while ethnic minorities predominate in the highlands, although mixing is common. The highlands have more poverty, worse health indicators and fewer services available for multiple reasons, including remoteness, lower education levels, land which is less agriculturally productive and increasing land pressure. Ethnic diversity presents linguistic problems in health care delivery and education. Women have lower literacy rates and girls have lower school completion rates. These gaps are accentuated in the rural and highland areas, where poverty is highest. There is some evidence of decreased treatment-seeking behaviour by women when ill. Female life expectancy is slightly higher than that of males.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic ranks 133<sup>rd</sup> out of 177 nations on the Human Development Index (2003). The poverty rate fell from 39% in 1997 to 33.5% in 2002. Poverty is higher in remote and highland areas and poverty inversely correlates with road or river access. Seventy-one per cent of the population lives on less than US\$ 2.00 a day and 23% live on less than US\$ 1.00 a day. Inequalities remain important, with the shares of the national economy of the lowest and the highest quintile being 7.6% and 45.0% respectively.

Table 1. Core population and health data (2005)					
Population	[Total]	5 609 997	Life expectancy at birth (years)	[Both]	59.00 (2000)
	[0-14 years]	44.10% (2000 est)		[Male]	57.00 (2000)
	[65+ years]	3.80% (2000 est)		[Female]	61.00 (2000)
Crude birth rate (per 1000 population)		34.00 (2000 est)	Total fertility rate		4.90 (2000)
Crude death rate (per 1000 population)		6.30 (2000 est)	% of population served with safe water	[Total]	63.80 (2004)
				[Urban]	75.00 (2004)
				[Rural]	60.00 (2004)
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)		82.20 (2000)	% of population with adequate sanitary facilities	[Total]	44.30 (2004)
				[Urban]	70.00 (2004)
				[Rural]	35.70 (2004)
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births)		530.00 (2000)			

est- Estimate

## **2. POLITICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SITUATION**

### **2.1 Political situation**

The Lao People's Democratic Republic was founded in 1975. The organs of government are the President, the Prime Minister and the National Assembly. The Government operates under the guidance of the Lao Peoples' Revolutionary Party (LPRP) through five-yearly Party Congresses, the Politburo and the Central Committee. The VIIIth Party Congress will be held in early 2006. A National Assembly election will be held in April 2006 with competition among a group of LPRP-approved candidates. Strengthening the rule of law has been emphasized recently, including several health sector laws in respect of public health, curative services, food safety, and drugs and medical devices.

### **2.2 Economic situation**

The World Bank estimated per capita gross domestic product (GDP) was US\$ 390 in 2004, with a 6.3% economic growth rate. Agriculture makes up 48.5% of GDP, industry (mainly hydropower, mining and textiles) 25.5%, and services 26%. Revenue collection remains low at 13.2% of 2004 GDP, causing constraints on public expenditure. External debt is high at 103.4% of GDP. Health expenditure made up 4.4% of total government spending in 2004, with a plan for 5.7% in 2005. Donor spending is planned to make up 73.1% of total public sector health spending in 2005. The bulk of Lao revenue in the public health budget (75.3%) goes to salaries.

## **3. HEALTH SITUATION**

### **3.1 Health trends**

Health indicators from the routine health information system are not robust or universal. Therefore, many of the most reliable indicators are from national surveys, most of which were conducted in 2000 and reported in 2001. A national census and a National Reproductive Health Survey were conducted in 2005 but final results were not available in early 2006. A Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) will be conducted in early 2006. These three exercises will update many indicators. There is a general perception that there will be further improvements in many indicators.

Maternal mortality fell from 656 to 530 deaths per 100 000 live births from 1995 to 2000, infant mortality from 104 to 82 deaths per 1000 live births, and under-five mortality from 170 to 106 deaths per 1000 live births. The National Health Survey showed children had a two-week fever incidence rate of 2.9%, an ARI incidence rate of 3%, and a diarrhoea incidence rate of 6.2%. The same survey revealed that 21% of deliveries were attended by a trained birth attendant, 12% were in a health facility, and 32% of 12-23-month year-olds had completed their immunizations. The rate of modern contraceptive use is 28.9% (2000). Safe water is accessible to 63.8% of the population and improved sanitation access to 44.25% (2004).

Malaria is considered the leading cause of morbidity and mortality, with 70% of the population at risk. Programme data showed 76.8% of those at risk using preventive measures in 2004, an increase from 55% in 2003. Malaria drug resistance is increasing and Artemisinin-based combination treatment is being introduced.

Tuberculosis prevalence was estimated at 71 sputum-positive cases/100 000 in 2005. There were 2801 sputum-positive cases reported in 2005, an increase from 2230 in 2004. The DOTs programme reaches 100% of districts. The estimated sputum-positive case detection rate was 70.3% in 2005 and the treatment success rate was 85.8% in 2004.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a low HIV prevalence country, with an estimated adult seroprevalence of 0.08% and 1636 HIV-positive individuals detected since 1993. Preliminary results from a second round of second generation surveillance have shown the HIV-positive

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seroprevalence in female sex workers increasing from 0.9% in 2001 to 2% in 2005. Chlamydia and gonorrhoea are common in sex workers, with an estimated combined infection rate of 37.6%. A total of 375 patients are currently receiving antiretroviral treatment at a single treatment site.

Outbreaks of dengue occurred again in 2005, with 5446 cases reported. Dengue appears to be moving peripherally, with cases recorded in smaller population centres.

The most recent data show an intestinal helminth prevalence rate of 62% among schoolchildren. A project to scale up school deworming nationally will begin in 2005. There is evidence to show that schistosomiasis is re-emerging in southern parts of the country since control programmes have ended.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic has had no case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and no human case of avian influenza. There was an outbreak of avian influenza in poultry in 2004, but none in 2005.

Road accidents are of increasing concern as roads improve and vehicle numbers increase. Mental health issues, particularly drug abuse, are also a growing concern. Other mental health issues include management of seizure disorders and psychoses.

Nutrition is a neglected area, with 40% of children stunted and 48.2% of children and 31.3% of females with haemoglobin levels below 11 g/dl. Universal salt iodization misses at least 7% of children, and vitamin A supplementation is far from universal. The rate of exclusive breastfeeding at three months of age is only 28.1%.

The rate of obesity, defined as a body mass index of 30 or greater, is only 1.2% nationally, although it is two to three times higher in urban areas. Reliable rates for hypertension and diabetes are not known, although anecdotal reports from urban areas suggest an increase.

### **3.2 Health systems**

The state health system is predominant, although a private alternative is growing. There are no private hospitals, but over 2000 private pharmacies and 484 private clinics, mainly in urban areas. The state system is underutilized, especially in the peripheral areas. An effort to increase access through village volunteers and village revolving drug funds has reached 5226 villages.

There are about 18 000 public sector health workers, 70% in the Ministry of Health and 30% under the Ministries of Public Security and Defence. Low salaries and low levels of basic training inhibit health system efficiency.

Estimated per capita health expenditure is US\$ 12.00, about 60% from households, 30% from donors and 10% from the Government. Hospitals are highly dependent on user fees for recurrent expenditure. There are nascent health insurances systems for the formal and non-formal sectors and a civil service scheme is being reformed. Equity funds are under discussion and limited piloting has occurred.

## **4. NATIONAL HEALTH PLAN AND PRIORITIES**

The health priorities of the Lao People's Democratic Republic are articulated in three documents. The *Health Strategy to the Year 2020* was promulgated by the VIIth Party Congress in 2001 and has four basic concepts: full health care service coverage and health care service equity; development of early integrated health care services; demand-based health care services; and self-reliant health services.

This then leads to six health development policies, which are:

- strengthening the ability of providers;
- community-based health promotion and disease prevention;
- hospital improvement and expansion at all levels, including remote areas;
- promotion of traditional medicine, integration of modern and traditional care, the rational use of quality and safe food and drugs, and national pharmaceutical product promotion;
- operational health research; and
- effective health administration and management, self-sufficient financial systems, and health insurance.

The Ministry of Health with JICA support in 2001/02 conducted the *Lao Health Master Planning Study*. This study identified seven 'precedent programmes' to be implemented and 31 'very high priority' programmes in the fields of planning and management, human resources development, health financing, health education, infectious disease control, primary health care, maternal and child health, nutrition, hospital services, medical laboratory technology, and essential drugs. The need for sectorwide coordination is emphasized.

A third major policy document is the *The National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy* (NGPES). The NGPES focuses on poverty and the poorest districts; 72 poor, 47 poorest, and 10 for initial activities have been identified. The health priorities in the NGPES are:

- information, education and communication for health;
- expansion of the service network for the health promotion of people in rural areas;
- improving and upgrading the capacity of health workers from village to post-graduate level with an emphasis on ethnic minorities, gender balance, and incentives for retaining health workers in areas where there are shortages;
- maternal and child health (MCH) promotion;
- immunization;
- water supply and environmental health;
- communicable disease control;
- control of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;
- village revolving drug fund development;
- food and drug safety;
- promotion of traditional medicine integrated with modern medical treatment; and
- strengthened sustainability, including financing, management, quality assurance and legal framework.

To a large extent all of these documents will be superseded by the *Sixth National SocioEconomic Development Plan (2006-10)* (NSED), which will be considered and promulgated by the VIIIth Party Congress and the National Assembly in the first half of 2006. The NGPES has been fully integrated into the draft 6<sup>th</sup> NSED and serves as its core. The draft has been presented to and discussed widely with both internal and external partners, a first in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. There is a large funding gap for implementation of the draft 6<sup>th</sup> NSED in all sectors, including health. As part of the policy framework with the Bretton-Woods institutions, the Government has also pledged to increase health spending.

The health sector is extremely project- and donor-dependent, which has often led to competing and overlapping donor demands. The Minister of Health has called for more integrated approaches, particularly for MCH and immunization, decentralized service delivery methods, improved methods of health care financing, a unified and simplified health information system, and an emphasis on quality improvement in the next five years, rather than quantity improvement, which was emphasized over the past five years.

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A new Constitutional article (2004) obligates the Government to improve and extend the health network; to improve disease prevention; to create conditions so all people receive health care, especially mothers, children and the poor; and to legalize private investment in health services.

## **5. MAJOR INFORMATION SOURCES**

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*Lao People's Democratic Republic Economic Monitor.* World Bank, October 2005.

Grant Performance Report for Global Fund. CMPE, Ministry of Health, October 2004.

Report on the Roundtable Process. National Round Table Process Steering Committee, November 2004.

### 6. ADDRESSES

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

*Office Address* : Simuang Road, Vientiane,  
Lao People's Democratic Republic

*Postal Address* :

*Official Email Address* : [pomdohp@laotel.com](mailto:pomdohp@laotel.com) (for Department of Prevention and Hygiene)

*Telephone* : 856 (0)21 217607

*Fax* : 856 (0)21 214003

*Office Hours* :

*Website* :

#### WHO REPRESENTATIVE IN LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

*Office Address* : That Luang Rd., Ban Phonxay,  
Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic

*Postal Address* : P.O. Box 343,  
Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic

*Official Email Address* : [who.laos@lao.wpro.who.int](mailto:who.laos@lao.wpro.who.int)

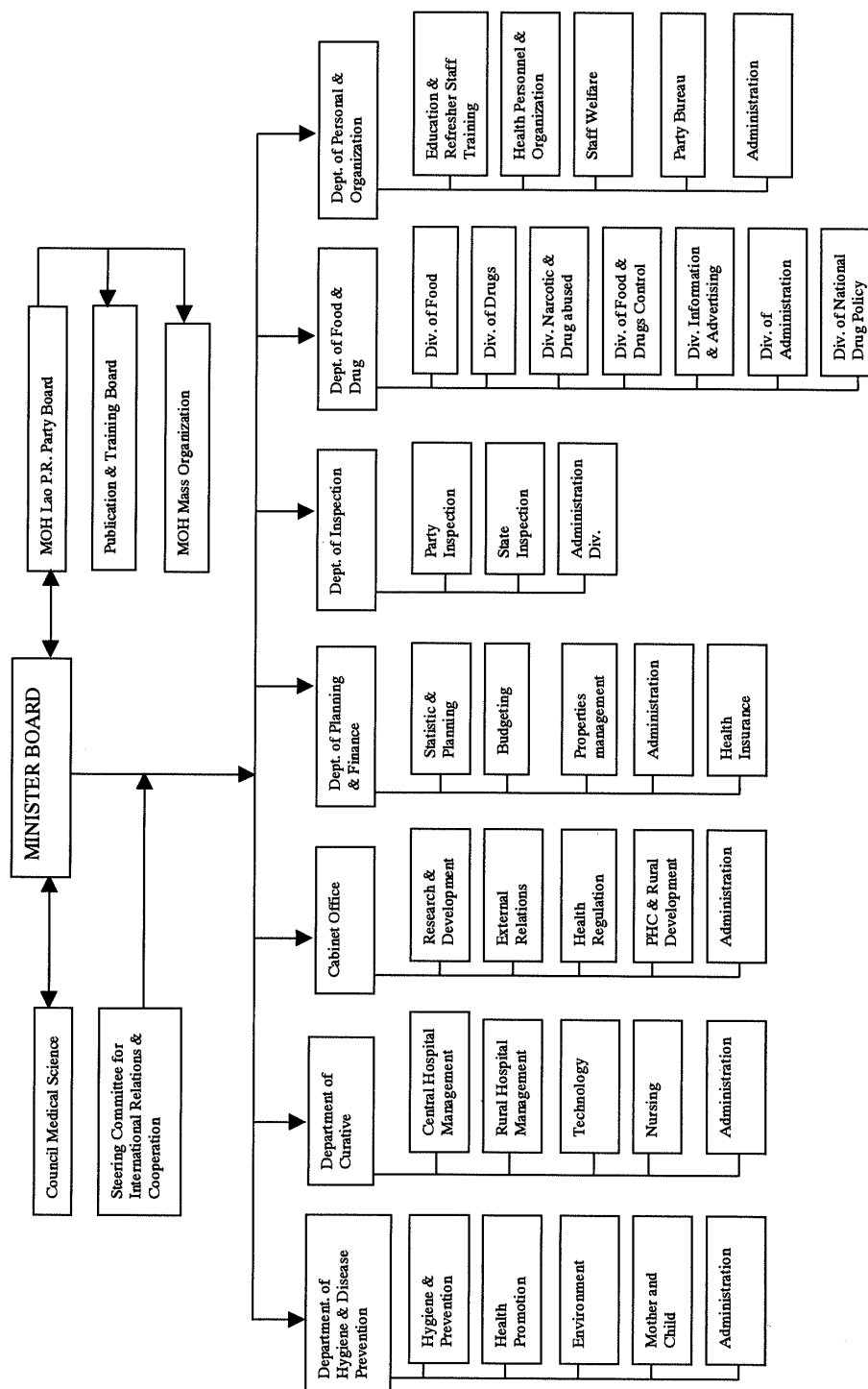
*Telephone* : 856 (0)21 413431, 414264

*Fax* : 856 (0)21 413432

*Office Hours* : 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

*Website* :

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

LAO PEOPLE'S  
DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC

WESTERN PACIFIC REGION HEALTH DATABANK, 2006 Revision

INDICATORS		DATA			Year	Source
		Total	Male	Female		
1	Area (1 000 km <sup>2</sup> )	236.80			2005	21
2	Estimated population ('000s)	5609.90	2796.40	2813.60	2005	21
3	Annual population growth rate (%)	2.00	...	...	2005	21
4	Percentage of population					
	- 0–14 years	44.10	45.60	42.90	2000r	1
	- 65+ years	3.80	3.70	3.90	2000r	1
5	Urban population (%)	20.70	...	...	2000r	1
6	Crude birth rate (per 1 000 population)	34.00	...	...	2000 est	2
7	Crude death rate (per 1 000 population)	6.30	...	...	2000 est	2
8	Rate of natural increase of population (% per annum)	2.77 <sup>a</sup>	...	...	2000	2
9	Life expectancy (years)					
	- at birth	59.00	57.00	61.00	2000	2
	- Health-adjusted life expectancy (HALE) at age 60	...	9.60	10.10	2002	13
10	Adult literacy rate (%)	74.00	85.00	64.00	2003	16
11	Neonatal mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	36.20	...	...	2000	2
12	Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	82.20	...	...	2000	2
13	Under-five mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	106.90 <sup>h</sup>	...	...	2000	2
14	Total fertility rate (women aged 15–49 years)			4.90	2000	2
15	Maternal mortality ratio (per 100 000 live births)			530.00	2000	2
16	Percentage of newborn infants weighing at least 2500 g at birth	82.00	...	...	1998	8
17	Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age	40.00	...	...	2000	5
18	Percentage of pregnant women with anaemia			...		
19	Immunization coverage for infants (%)					
	- BCG	60.00	...	...	2004	19
	- DTP3	45.00	...	...	2004	19
	- OPV3	46.00	...	...	2004	19
	- Measles	36.00	...	...	2004	19
	- Hepatitis B III	45.00	...	...	2004	19
20	MCH coverage (pregnancies, deliveries, infant care)					
	- Percentage of pregnant women cared for by skilled health personnel			23.00	2000	2
	- Percentage of pregnant women immunized with tetanus toxoid (TT2)			37.00	2003	19
	- Percentage of deliveries at home by skilled health personnel (as % of total deliveries)			9.00	2004	17
	- Percentage of deliveries in health facilities (as % of total deliveries)			12.00	2000	2
21	Percentage of women in the reproductive age group using modern contraceptive methods			28.90 <sup>h</sup>	2000	2
22	Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate	...	...	0.50	2000	2
23	HIV prevalence among 15–24 year-old pregnant women			...		
24	Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS <sup>ab</sup>	...	...	...		



## COUNTRY HEALTH INFORMATION PROFILE

INDICATORS		DATA			Year	Source			
		Total	Urban	Rural					
25	Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source	63.80	75.00	60.00	2004	14			
26	Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation	44.30	70.00	35.70	2004	14			
27	Proportion of the population using solid fuels for cooking or heating (%)	96.00	...	...	2000	3			
28	Proportion of households with access to secure tenure	...	...	...					
29	Proportion of vehicles using unleaded gasoline (%)	...	...	...					
30	Health care waste generation (metric tons per year)	...	...	...					
31	Human development index	0.54	...	...	2003	11			
32	Per capita GDP at current market prices (US\$)	390.00 <sup>h</sup>	...	...	2004	22			
33	Rate of growth of per capita GDP (%)	6.40 <sup>h</sup>	...	...	2004	22			
34	Health expenditure								
	Total health expenditure								
	- amount (in million US\$)	63.25 <sup>k</sup>			2004	10			
	- total health expenditure on health as % of GDP	2.72 <sup>l</sup>			2004	15,23,24			
	- per capita total expenditure on health (in US\$)	11.50			2004 est	10			
	Government expenditure on health								
	- amount (in million US\$)	17.00			2003-2004	15,24			
	- general government expenditure on health as % of total expenditure on health	26.90			2003-2004	15,24,10			
	- general government expenditure on health as % of total general government expenditure	4.40			2003-2004	15,24			
	External source of government health expenditure								
	- external resources for health as % of general government expenditure on health	58.20			2003-2004	15,24			
	Private health expenditure								
	- private expenditure on health as % of total expenditure on health	55.60			2002	9			
	Exchange rate in US\$ of local currency is: 1 US\$ =	10 585.5 kips			2004	24			
35	Health insurance coverage as % of total population	<2.00			2005	10			
INDICATORS		DATA						Year	Source
36		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female		
		Number			Rate per 10 000 population				
	Health workforce <sup>c, n</sup>								
	- physicians	1283	...	...	2.26	...	...	2005	25
	- dentists	83	...	...	0.15	...	...	2005	25
	- pharmacists	276	...	...	0.49	...	...	2005	25
	- nurses	5291 <sup>m</sup>	...	...	9.32	...	...	2005	25
	- midwives	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- other nursing/ auxiliary staff	8183 <sup>o</sup>	...	...	14.59	...	...	2005	25
	- other paramedical staff(e.g. medical assistants, laboratory technicians, X-ray technicians)	1722	...	...	3.07	...	...	2005	25
	- other health personnel (health inspectors, assistant sanitarians, traditional workers, etc.)	429	...	...	0.76	...	...	2005	25
37	Yearly new graduates – physicians	53	...	...				2005	25
38	Yearly new graduates – nurses	30 <sup>g</sup>	...	...				2005	25

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

INDICATORS		DATA						Year	Source
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female		
39	<b>Five leading causes of morbidity</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>			<b>Rate per 100 000 population <sup>b</sup></b>				
	1. Malaria	104 434	...	...	4083.17	...	...	2000	5
	2. Pneumonia	18 096	...	...	728.00	...	...	2000	5
	3. Gastritis	17 132	...	...	690.00	...	...	2000	5
	4. Influenza	12 987	...	...	523.00	...	...	2000	5
	5. Diarrhoea	12 334	...	...	496.49	...	...	2000	5
40	<b>Five leading causes of mortality</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>			<b>Rate per 100 000 population <sup>b</sup></b>				
	1. Malaria	996	...	...	40.09	...	...	2000	5
	2. Pneumonia	83	...	...	3.34	...	...	2000	5
	3. Diarrhoea	34	...	...	1.36	...	...	2000	5
	4. Heart failure	34	...	...	1.36	...	...	2000	5
	5. Injury	33	...	...	1.32	...	...	2000	5
41	<b>Selected diseases under the WHO-EPI</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>			<b>Number of deaths</b>				
	- Diphtheria	9	...	...	2	...	...	2005	18
	- Pertussis (whooping cough)	120	...	...	4	...	...	2005	18
	- Tetanus	21	...	...	1	...	...	2005	18
	- Neonatal tetanus	14	...	...	3	...	...	2005	18
	- Poliomyelitis	1 <sup>e</sup>	...	...	...	...	...	2004	19
	- Hib Meningitis	264	...	...	4	...	...	2005	18
	- Measles	1491	...	...	...	...	...	2004	19
	- Mumps	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Rubella	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Congenital rubella syndrome	...	...	...	...	...	...		
42	<b>Selected communicable diseases</b>	<b>Number of cases <sup>aa</sup></b>			<b>Number of deaths</b>				
	Hepatitis viral	632	...	...	0	0	0	2002	6
	- Type A	10	...	...	0	0	0	2002	6
	- Type B	61	...	...	0	0	0	2002	6
	- Type C	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Type E	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Unspecified	495	...	...	0	0	0	2005	18
	Cholera	1272	...	...	1	...	...	2002	6
	Typhoid fever	1573	...	...	1	...	...	2005	18
	Encephalitis	16	...	...	0	0	0	2005	18
	Plague	0	0	0	0	0	0	2005	18
	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	Leprosy	156	...	...	...	...	...	2003	6
	Malaria	16 183	...	...	105	...	...	2004	6
	Dengue/DHF	3075 <sup>h</sup>	...	...	10 <sup>h</sup>	...	...	2004	6
43	<b>Malaria</b>	<b>Prevalence rates</b>			<b>Death rates</b>				
	- Rates associated with malaria (per 100 000 population)	280.00	...	...	1.81	...	...	2004	6
	- Proportion of population in malaria-risk areas using effective malaria prevention measures <sup>f</sup>						76.80	2004	20
	- Proportion of population in malaria-risk areas using effective malaria treatment measures <sup>p</sup>						...		

# COUNTRY HEALTH INFORMATION PROFILE

INDICATORS		DATA						Year	Source
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female		
44	<b>Tuberculosis</b>	Number of cases			Number of deaths				
	- All types	3173	...	...	...	...	...	2004	6
	- New pulmonary tuberculosis (smear-positive)	2241	...	...	...	...	...	2004	6
		Prevalence rates			Death rates				
	- Rates associated with tuberculosis (per 100 000 population)	318.00	...	...	25.00	...	...	2004	6
		Detection rates			Success rates				
	- Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment, short-course (DOTS)	55.00	...	...	79.00 (2003)	...	...	2004	6
		Number of cases			Number of deaths				
45	<b>Acute respiratory infections</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...		
46	<b>Diarrhoeal diseases</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...		
47	<b>Cancers</b>								
	All cancers (malignant neoplasms only)	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Trachea, bronchus, and lung	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Colon and rectum	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Lip, oral cavity and pharynx	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Cervix			...			...		
	- Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...		
48	<b>Circulatory</b>								
	All circulatory system diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Ischaemic heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Acute myocardial infarction	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Cerebrovascular diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Hypertension	...	...	...	...	...	...		
49	<b>Maternal causes</b>								
	- Haemorrhage			...			...		
	- Abortion			...			...		
	- Eclampsia			...			...		
	- Sepsis			...			...		
	- Obstructed labour			...			...		
50	<b>Diabetes mellitus</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...		
51	<b>Mental disorders</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...		
52	<b>Injuries</b>								
	- All types	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Motor and other vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Homicide and violence	...	...	...	...	...	...		
	- Occupational injuries	...	...	...	...	...	...		
53	Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis				...				

INDICATORS		DATA		Year	Source
54	<b>Health infrastructure</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number of beds</b>		
	Public health facilities				
	- General hospitals	21 <sup>c</sup>	2555	2005	25
	- Specialized hospitals	3 <sup>d</sup>	160	2005	21
	- District/first level referral hospitals	127	2366	2005	21
	- Primary health care centres	746	1658	2005	21
	Private hospitals	0	0	2005	21
<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p>Red text Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators</p> <p>... Data not available</p> <p>est Estimate</p> <p>r Revised reference year</p> <p>aa Figure refers to number of new reported cases.</p> <p>ab Proxy indicator for MDG indicator 20: Ratio of school attendance of orphans and school attendance of non-orphans age 10-14 years.</p> <p>a Computed by Health Information and Evidence for Policy Unit of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific.</p> <p>b Calculated by Statistical Division of Ministry of Health.</p> <p>c Refers to all hospitals, ministries and health facilities at central, regional, provincial, and district level.</p> <p>d Refers to specialized hospitals at central level.</p> <p>e Vaccine-derived polio-virus.</p> <p>f Proportion of population in malaria risk areas protected by impregnated bed nets reflect the status of the distribution of impregnated bed nets in malaria risk areas. It is assumed, that 70% of the Lao population is living in malaria risk areas.</p> <p>g Includes only nurses trained at university, due to a reformulation of the curricula there has not been any graduation of staff at nursing schools since 2 years. The number of graduates in 2006 is estimated to rise up to 600.</p> <p>h Revised data</p> <p>i Proportion of households</p> <p>k Est. on an average 11.5 US\$ expenditure per capita and a total 2004 population of 5,499,997 inhabitants (calculated on data of National Census 2005)</p> <p>l Est. Based on a GDP of Kip 24,621.2 , and an annual average exchange rate of 10,585.5 Kip per US\$</p> <p>m Including medical assistants</p> <p>n Includes medical staff of Ministries of Health, Public Security and Defence; Does not segregate between administrative (+/- 10%) and curative staff; Does not include non medical staff associated to the health system (maintenance, management, accounting, etc).</p> <p>o Corresponds to the technical auxiliary nurses (low level trained staff)</p> <p>p Treatment is measured by the proportion of children ages 0–59 months who were ill with the fever in the two weeks before the survey and who received appropriate antimalarial drugs.</p> <p><b>Sources:</b></p> <p>1 Statistical Yearbook 2005. National Statistical Centre, July 2005</p> <p>2 Lao Reproductive Health Survey 2000. National Statistical Centre</p> <p>3 Millennium Development Goals Progress Report. Lao People's Democratic Republic, January 2004</p> <p>4 National Statistics Centre, 2002</p> <p>5 National Health Survey. National Statistical Centre and NIOPH, January 2001</p> <p>6 WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, data received from technical units</p> <p>7 Association of South-East Asia Nations – <a href="http://www.aseansec.org">www.aseansec.org</a></p> <p>8 United Nations Country Indicators – Lao People's Democratic Republic. Last amendment, 14 February 2000</p> <p>9 Lao Health Master Planning Study. Ministry of Health, November 2002</p> <p>10 Information furnished by WHO Representative in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, February 2006</p> <p>11 Human development report 2005. New York, United Nations Development Programme, 2005 – <a href="http://www.undp.org">www.undp.org</a></p> <p>12 Urban and Rural Areas 2003. Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, United Nations, 2004</p> <p>13 The World health report 2004. Changing history. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004.</p> <p>14 Report 2004. Water and Sanitation Centre of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.</p> <p>15 Official gazette. State Budget Revenue-Expenditure Implementation of FY 2003-2004. Ministry of Justice, January 2006</p> <p>16 Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey 2002/03. National Statistical Centre, March 2004.</p> <p>17 Report 2004. Mother and Child Centre of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.</p> <p>18 Weekly epidemiological surveillance report, National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology, January 2006</p>					

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19	<i>Report 2004</i> . Expanded programme on immunization project of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, WHO/UNICEF joint reporting, April 2005
20	National Center for Malariaology, Parasitology and Entomology
21	<i>Population and Housing Census Year 2005</i> , Preliminary Report, National Statistics Centre, Lao PDR, September 2005
22	<i>Lao PDR Economic Monitor</i> , World bank, October 2005
23	<i>Annual Report 2004</i> , Bank of Lao PDR, October 2005
24	<i>Comparative table of exchange rates</i> , Statistic Institute of Quebec 2006 – <a href="http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/">http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/</a>
25	National Ministry of Health, Department of Personal and Organization