EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>7,275,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual births</td>
<td>164,753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 5</td>
<td>796,887 (11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-five mortality</td>
<td>46/1,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Support and services for early childhood development:

Nurturing care

Parents and caregivers need a facilitating environment of laws, policies, services and community support to assist them in providing their young children with nurturing care.

Facilitating environments

Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid maternity leave (weeks)</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid paternity leave (weeks)</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes (alignment)</td>
<td>✓ National minimum wage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Threats to Early Childhood Development

- Maternal mortality: 185/100,000
- Low birthweight: 17%
- Child poverty: 30%
- Violent discipline: 65%
- Young mothers (births by 18y): 18%
- Preterm births: 11%
- Under-five stunting: 33%
- Inadequate supervision: 12%

Risk by sex and residence

Lifetime cost of growth deficit in early childhood

Health

- Treatment for HIV+ pregnant women: 41%
- Careseeking for child pneumonia: 40%
- Antenatal care (4 or more visits): 47%
- Postnatal visits: 62%

Nutrition

- Early initiation of breastfeeding: 50%
- Exclusive breastfeeding: 44%
- Minimum acceptable diet: 27%

Early learning

- Early stimulation at home: 30%
- Playthings at home: 61%
- Children’s books in the home: 4%

Security and safety

- Birth registration: 73%
- Positive discipline: 35%
- Basic drinking water: 82%
- Basic sanitation: 74%

International conventions

- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption

DETAILED COUNTRY DATA SOURCES AND FOOTNOTES CAN BE FOUND IN THE MASTER DATABASE AT NURTURING-CARE.ORG