



IOM staff discussing with the COVID-19 taskforce at 27KM Quarantine Centre, Vientiane Capital.

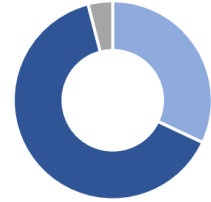
KEY FACTS

Population: 7.3 million

Urban Population: 35.7%


Population Density: 32 people/ km²

Age Structure:



■ Age 0-14 ■ Age 15-64 ■ Age 65+

 International Airports: 5

 Points of Entry (PoEs): 29

**all border checkpoints remain closed*

Migration Status

No. of Foreigners in country: 48,275

No. of Laotians abroad: 198,841

No. of Lao migrants who returned from Thailand: 284,180

Source: The official statistics of the Immigration Bureau of Thailand

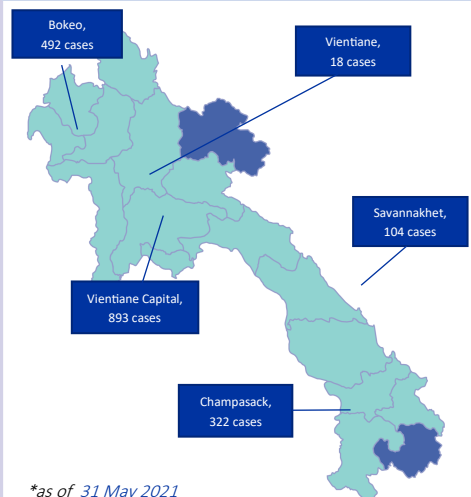
COVID-19 Situation in Lao PDR:

1,979 confirmed, 1,827 recovered, 3 deaths

Quarantine & Isolation Facilities: 51

People in Quarantine facilities: 3,915

TOP 5 PROVINCES WITH HIGHEST CASELOAD



**as of 31 May 2021*

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused more than 175 million confirmed cases and over 3.7 million deaths around the globe since 16 January 2020. The outbreak has caused unprecedented impacts on human mobility, leaving migrants and mobile populations among the most vulnerable.

Lao People's Democratic Republic has been faced with a second wave of COVID-19 outbreak in April 2021. The increase in cases started in mid-April where communities carried out celebration and cultural activities for Lao Pi Mai and Thai Songkran. Irregular crossings near the Lao-Thai borders led to the import of undetected cases, which sparked off community transmission across provinces. The number of cases in country has risen from less than 100 to nearly 2000 in two months. According to PMO 15/ PM on the Prevention and Control of COVID-19, a [nation-wide lockdown](#) is in place from 21 April until 19 June. Citizens living in red zone villages are prohibited to leave their homes except for essential purposes and tasks authorized by the government.

International, local and traditional Points of Entry (PoEs) nation-wide remain closed, except for designated PoEs that are approved to open for logistics purposes. Lao migrant workers and nationals are allowed to return via international PoEs and there will be no penalty for returnees with irregular status if they return through official PoEs.

Since 27 January, the country's COVID-19 vaccines has been rolled out to priority groups and the general population. As of 10 June, over 698,000 people have received the first dose of vaccine against COVID-19, while over 355,000 people have been fully vaccinated with two doses.

COMING HOME DURING COVID-19: The Story of Noi, a Returning Migrant

It is a sunny day on the Nakai Plateau in central Lao People's Democratic Republic, or Lao PDR. Noi has just returned from the market, where she bought a new shirt for her 3-year-old son, Seng. Seng has grown much taller in the two years since Noi left for Thailand in search of better wages.

When Seng was just 7 months old, 22-year-old Noi had the paperwork done to start working at a banana plantation in Buri Ram province across the border. [Read more here.](#)



IOM staffs passing information materials to migrants in community Quarantine Centre, Saravan province.

COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN MAY, 2021

COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP



Representatives from LWU receiving PPE support from IOM.

- Ongoing coordination and sharing on the situation of migrant workers to assist their return from Malaysia.
- Handed over personal protective equipment (PPE) consisting of 35 bottles of hand sanitizer, 70 bottles of alcohol disinfectant, 60 boxes of surgical hand gloves, 55 boxes of surgical masks, and 11 thermometers to Lao Women's Union for the COVID-19 prevention of victims of trafficking, victims of domestic violence and other at-risk groups.

POINTS OF ENTRY (PoEs)



IOM staffs observing facilities upgrade, Wattay Airport.

- Continued to develop the [Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\)](#) for frontline officials at PoEs with DOI. The SOP will provide guidance on COVID-19 case management and prevention of disease transmission at PoEs.
- Developed the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on safe migration, latest border measures, and COVID-19 information guide that will be shared with immigration officials and migrant workers.

RISK COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



IOM arriving at 27KM Quarantine Centre, Vientiane Capital.

- Provided 2,000 Non-food Items (NFI) kits and cleaning supplies to support returned migrants and Quarantine Centre management in Vientiane Capital and Savannakhet province.
- Handed over personal protective equipment (PPE) consisting of 1,000 boxes of surgical masks, 50 boxes of surgical hand gloves, and 840 bottles of hand sanitizers with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for migrants and officials at the Champasak Quarantine Centre.
- Promoted messaging on social media to curb stigma and discrimination against migrants and migrant workers during the pandemic.
- Disseminated 1,000 pcs of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on vaccine information and COVID-19 awareness for migrants at Quarantine Centre in Vientiane Capital and Savannakhet province.

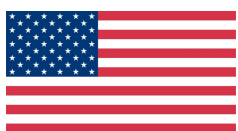
SURVEILLANCE



IOM staff conducting interviews with a returned migrant, Vientiane Capital.

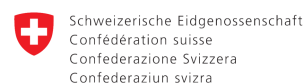
- Continued to monitor mobility flows and the COVID-19 situation across the Lao People's Democratic Republic using the [Global Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\) Data Collection system](#). The tool sets to monitor international travel restrictions, enhance the understanding of human mobility amid COVID-19 and support evidence-based interventions.

IOM'S COVID-19 RESPONSE IS SUPPORTED BY...



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