



Standard Operating Procedure Training at Luang Prabang International Airport, Luang Prabang Province.

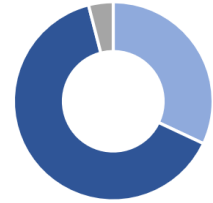
## KEY FACTS

**Population: 7.3 million**

Urban Population: 35.7%

Population Density: 32 people/ km<sup>2</sup>

Age Structure:



■ Age 0-14 ■ Age 15-64 ■ Age 65+

✈ International Airports: 4

➔ Points of Entry (PoEs): 107

*\* all border checkpoints remain closed*

### Migration Status

No. of Foreigners in country: 48,275

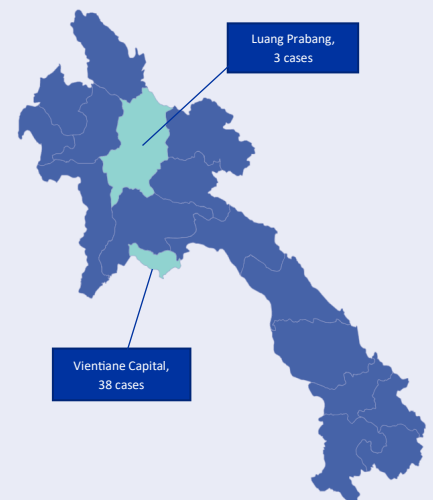
No. of Laotians abroad: 483,021

### COVID-19 Situation in Lao PDR:

41 confirmed, 40 recovered, 0 death.

Quarantine & Isolation Facilities: 31

People in Quarantine facilities: 2,246



## SITUATION OVERVIEW

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused more than 90 million confirmed cases, and over 1.9 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 confirmed two new cases imported via charter flight on 17 December 2020. Authorities have imposed a lockdown on Tonpheung district, Bokeo and Boten Special Economic Zone, Luang Namtha for 14 days after two Chinese nationals who later tested positive irregularly entered Bokeo on 24 November and travelled to Luang Namtha on 27 November, before crossing into China on 2 December. The country has had no new local infections since 12 April 2020. 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 are allowed to return via various PoEs.

According to the Prime Minister's Notice No.1414/PMO issued on 23 December, the Lao Government will stop issuing entry visas for people travelling from countries with community outbreak. Charter flights between countries with community outbreak are also suspended until 23 January, with humanitarian flights being the exception.

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce imposed a temporary ban on the import of seafood from Thailand on 23 December following a large virus outbreak at the Central Shrimp Market in Samut Sakhon District, Thailand.

## A STORY OF A MIGRANT FROM IVORY COAST

A man from Côte d'Ivoire has been away from his home town for 12 years. He arrived in Lao People's Democratic Republic in November for employment; however, he was left stranded in the country due to the strengthened COVID-19 lockdown policies. "During the years away from my home town, I experienced frequent discrimination and hatred. An injury on my left leg also made my life very challenging, as it is harder for me to play football and earn an income, like before," he said.

IOM offered essential assistance by providing daily allowance, accommodation, psychological treatment and assisted his return to Côte d'Ivoire.



COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP



Radio professional broadcasting Safe Migration Radio program using IOM's Safe Migration Booklet, Khammouan Provincial Radio Station, Khammouan Province

- Ongoing monitoring and sharing on the situation of migrant workers returning from neighbouring countries.
- Shared COVID-19 and safe migration related Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials with radio broadcasters under UNDP's programme Enhancing People's Participation through Community Radio (EPPCR) for wider dissemination of key messages in 36 districts and nine provinces alongside Lao-Thai border.

RISK COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Closing workshop of 'Enhancing COVID-19 Preparedness to Migrants and Mobility Affected Communities in Lao People's Democratic Republic', Vientiane Capital

- Continued the [bus campaign](#) on safe migration and COVID-19 prevention. The number of passengers reached is estimated at 2,461 people per day across ten routes, including internal routes in Vientiane Capital and five routes connected to the provinces.
- Provided direct assistance packs, IEC materials and safe migration training to 16 female Laotian returnees identified as victims of trafficking.
- IOM and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare marked the [closing](#) of the project 'Enhancing COVID-19 Preparedness to Migrants and Mobility Affected Communities in Lao People's Democratic Republic'.



Handover of direct assistance packs at Lao Women's Union, Vientiane Capital

POINTS OF ENTRY (PoEs)



IOM handing over personal protective equipment to frontline officials at Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge III, Khammouane Province

- Handed over essential personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge III in Khammouane and Luang Prabang International Airport to better protect travellers, migrants and frontline border officials.
- In cooperation with UNODC, WHO, and government counterparts, IOM provided Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Training to 99 (21 women) PoE frontline officials from Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge III in Khammouane and Luang Prabang International Airport to strengthen border management response under the COVID-19 pandemic.
- IOM, together with the Ministry of Public Security, [completed the SOP Training](#) at all ten frequently used PoEs across the country.

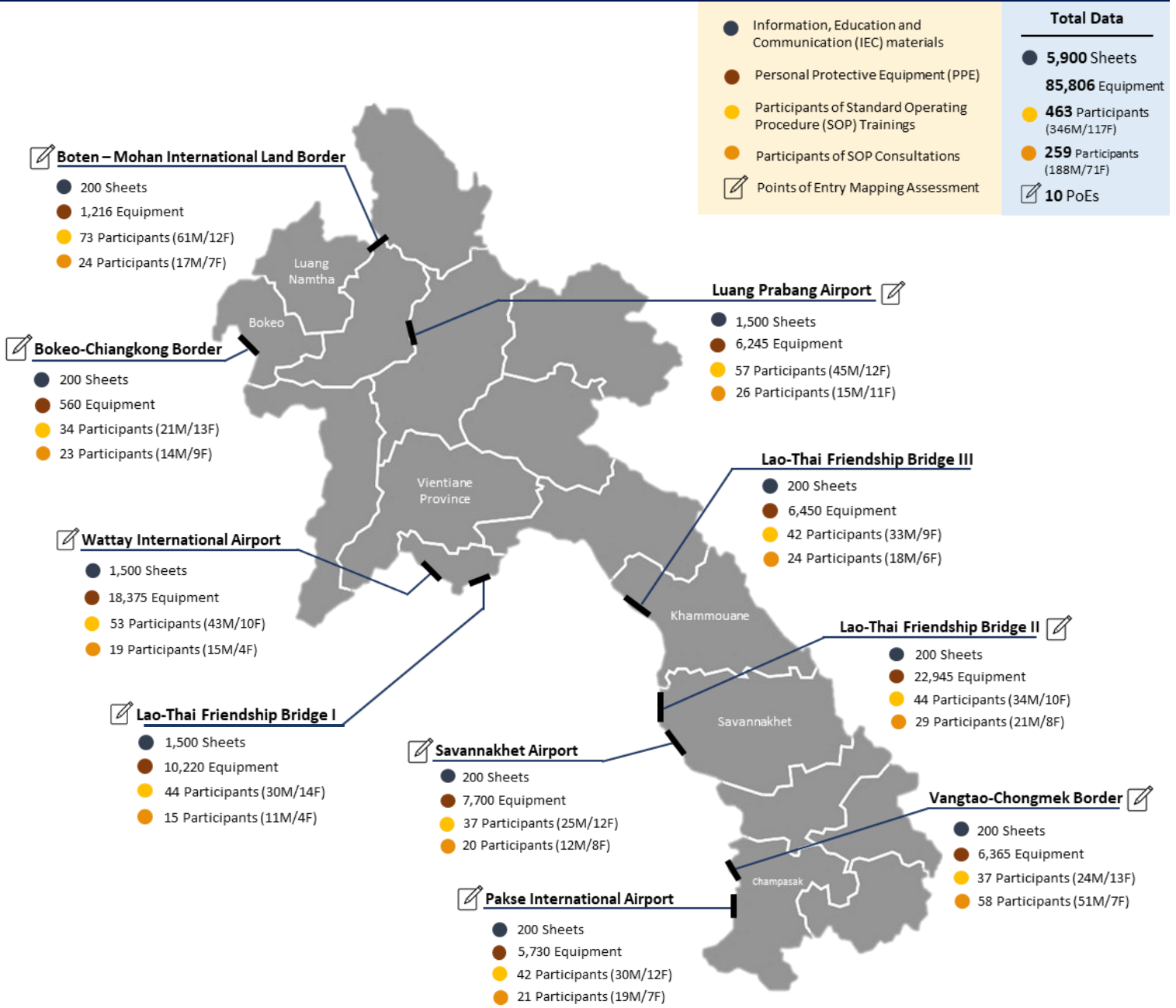
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



International Migrants Day Celebration at the National University of Laos, Vientiane Capital

- Supported the International Migrants Day Celebration led by International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, promoting the importance of safe, dignified and effective migration amid COVID-19.
- IOM launched a five-day social media campaign in commemoration of International Migrants Day, reaching 3,386 people through informal posts and videos on COVID-19 and its impact on migrants.
- Engaged in the Youth for SDGs Laos Conference, raising awareness on IOM's COVID-19 response activities in Lao People's Democratic Republic among the young demographic.

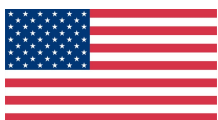
# BORDER MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROVIDED FROM AUGUST—DECEMBER, 2020



List of IEC Materials
<b>IOM Infosheet for Migrants in Lao PDR</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 4-MUST Precautions</li> <li>✓ COVID-19 Symptoms</li> <li>✓ Returning to Lao PDR</li> <li>✓ Hotline Information</li> <li>✓ Quarantine Instructions</li> <li>✓ Guideline on Wearing Mask</li> </ul>
<b>IOM / IOM JOB CENTER INFOSHEET</b>

Components of PPE			
Handheld Thermometer 	Face Shield 	Goggles 	Manual Disinfection Sprayer 
Hand Sanitizer 	Surgical Gloves 	Surgical/N95 Masks 	Electric Disinfection Sprayer 

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



Australian Government



From the People of Japan



UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund  
#RecoverBetterTogether



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

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