



# Laos



## Introduction to LAOS

THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, a landlocked nation in Southeast Asia between Vietnam and Thailand, is a nation of subsistence farmers, village life, and untouched forests. The former home of the Lao kingdom, Laos is now one of the world's last remaining one-party communist governments, though control over commerce has been slightly loosened in recent years.

## The LAO people

<b>Total population:</b>	6,834,942
<b>Children under 15:</b>	2,786,606
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	56.68 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$2,100
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	86.32%
<b>Average years of education:</b>	9 years
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	68.7%
<b>Internet users:</b>	130,000
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	1.822 million
<b>Major/official language(s):</b>	Lao, French, English, others
<b>Risk issues impacting children:</b>	

- Childhood diarrhea is the second highest cause of child mortality in the country.
- Trafficking, sexual exploitation, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, dangers from unexploded ordnance (UXO) and disability are all problems for Laotian children.

## More about LAOS

<b>Capital city:</b>	Vientiane
<b>Type of government:</b>	Communist State
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	236,800
<b>General terrain:</b>	Mostly rugged mountains; some plains and plateaus
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Mining, timber, electricity, agriculture
<b>National motto:</b>	"Peace, Independence, Democracy, Unity and Prosperity"
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Wattaye International Luang Prabang International Pakse International

## Reaching LAOS

Currently classified as World A: Unreached

### Major religions:

- Buddhist - 67%
- Christian - 1.5%
- Other - 31.5%

### Christian groups:

- Protestant - 44.3%
- Roman Catholic - 35.7%
- Independent - 20%

<b>Unreached People Groups:</b>	134 (86.6% of pop)
<b>Average annual Christian growth:</b>	0.028
<b>Average annual baptisms:</b>	5,314
<b>Foreign missionaries:</b>	85
<b>Per million:</b>	15.01
<b>National Christian workers/pastors:</b>	540
<b>Per million:</b>	95.34
<b>Number of churches/congregations:</b>	1,080

## Children's ministry in LAOS

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Laos. The following information regards general children's ministry in Southeast Asia, and may not all be applicable to this nation.

- Overview:**
- In some Southeast Asian nations, religious activity is viewed with suspicion or banned altogether.
  - Children's leaders in Southeast Asia are passionate about reaching children.
  - People need training, tools, and empowerment to do effective ministry in this region. Tools need to be portable, as travel is difficult in many areas. Little training is currently available for children's leaders, especially in rural areas.
  - Urban areas tend to be better-resourced and quality training may be available.
  - Most children's workers are women.
  - Parents tend to put the responsibility for a child's spiritual development on the church.

## Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in  
**1,080** congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**2,786,606** children for Christ