

Country profile

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Summary of MPOWER measures in Lao People's Democratic Republic

M	P	O	W		E	R	
MONITORING	SMOKE-FREE POLICIES	CESSATION PROGRAMMES	HEALTH WARNINGS	MASS MEDIA	ADVERTISING BANS	TAXATION	CIGARETTES LESS AFFORDABLE SINCE 2008
	5				8	18.8%	NO

Compliance is scored 0—10 where 10 is the highest level of compliance. Compliance is measured only for P and E. The methods used to compile this profile are described in the technical notes of the *WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2019*.

MPOWER score colour key

Complete policy	Moderate policy	Minimal policy	No policy or weak policy	Not categorized/ No data
-----------------	-----------------	----------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Affordability category

YES cigarettes became less affordable	NO cigarettes did not become less affordable	↔ no trend change in affordability of cigarettes
--	---	---

The colours are explained in more detail in the MPOWER legend on the last page of this document. In all tables “...” means data are not available and “–” means data are not required.

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Date of signature	Date of ratification (or legal equivalent)
29 June 2004	6 September 2006

Population	Income group
6 961 210	Middle-income

National tobacco control programme as at 31 December 2018

Specific national government objectives in tobacco control	Yes
National agency or technical unit for tobacco control	Yes
Number of full-time equivalent staff	2
Government's expenditures on tobacco control, latest available year (2018), in currency reported by country	LAK 60 000 000

WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2019

Country Profile: Lao People's Democratic Republic

Monitor tobacco use and prevention policies

Survey of adults

Recent	Yes
Representative	Yes
Periodic	Yes

Survey of youth

Recent	Yes
Representative	Yes
Periodic	Yes

Tobacco use prevalence from the latest survey completed by 31 December 2018

	Tobacco use		Tobacco smoking		Cigarette smoking		Smokeless tobacco use		E-cigarette use	
	Current	Daily	Current	Daily	Current	Daily	Current	Daily	Current	Daily
Survey: National Adult Tobacco Survey, 2015; National, ages 15+										
Male	51.1	...	50.8	46.9	48.6	...	0.5	0.3
Female	15.0	...	7.1	6.6	4.9	...	8.6	7.6
Both sexes	32.1	...	27.9	25.7	25.6	...	4.3	4.1
Survey: Global Youth Tobacco Survey, 2016; National, ages 13-15										
Male	16.4	...	12.9	...	10.7	...	4.8	...	5.0	...
Female	5.9	...	3.3	...	2.1	...	2.8	...	3.7	...
Both sexes	11.1	...	8.1	...	6.4	...	3.8	...	4.3	...

WHO age-standardized estimated prevalence of smoking among those aged 15 years or more: Year 2017

These rates are modelled using all national survey data published since 1990 to estimate the underlying prevalence trends by sex, then applying age-standardization to allow comparison with other countries. They do not necessarily resemble country data from 2017. See the report for further details.

Prevalence (%)	Any tobacco use (smoked and smokeless)		Any tobacco smoking		Cigarette smoking	
	Current	Daily	Current	Daily	Current	Daily
Male	61.1	49.6	49.3	42.6	40.8	36.7
Female	16.3	13.0	6.7	5.7	5.2	3.7
Both sexes	38.7	31.3	28.0	24.2	23.0	20.2

WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2019

Country Profile: Lao People's Democratic Republic

 **Protect** people from tobacco smoke

 **Offer** help to quit tobacco use

	2018	Compliance
Complete* smoke-free laws exist in the following places:		
Health-care facilities	Yes	8
Educational facilities except universities	Yes	6
Universities	Yes	5
Government facilities	Yes	6
Indoor offices and workplaces	Yes	9
Restaurants	Yes	6
Cafés, pubs and bars	Yes	0
Public transport	Yes	6
All other public places	Yes	
Compliance score		5
Law requires fines for smoking	No	
Fines levied on the establishment	—	
Fines levied on the smoker	—	
Funds dedicated for enforcement	Yes	
Complaint system that requires an investigation after a complaint	No	

* "Complete" means that smoking is not permitted, with no exemptions allowed. Ventilation and any form of designated smoking rooms and/or areas do not protect from the harms of second-hand tobacco smoke, and the only laws that provide protection are those that result in the complete absence of smoking in all public places.

Subnational laws on smoke-free environments

All subnational jurisdictions are covered by national legislation at the highest level of achievement.

Treatment of tobacco dependence as at 31 December 2018

Is there a toll-free telephone quit line/help line with a live person available to discuss cessation with callers in Lao People's Democratic Republic?	No
Is this product legally sold in the country?	No
Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT, e.g., patch, gum, lozenge, spray or inhaler)	Where and how can this product be legally purchased in your country? —
	Does the national/federal health insurance or the national health service cover the cost of this product? —
	Is any NRT on the country's essential drugs list? No
	Is this product legally sold in your country? No
Bupropion (e.g., Zyban, Wellbutrin)	Where and how can this product be legally purchased in your country? —
	Does the national/federal health insurance or the national health service cover the cost of this product? —
	Is this product legally sold in your country? No
Varenicline	Where and how can this product be legally purchased in your country? —
	Does the national/federal health insurance or the national health service cover the cost of this product? —
	Health clinics or other primary care facilities No
	Hospitals No
Is smoking cessation support available in the following places in your country?	Office of a health professional No
	In the community No
	Other No
	Health clinics or other primary care facilities —
	Hospitals —
Does the national/federal health insurance or the national health service cover the cost of this support?	Office of a health professional —
	In the community —
	Other —

WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2019

Country Profile: Lao People's Democratic Republic



Health warnings on tobacco packages

	2018			2018		
	Cigarettes	Other smoked tobacco	Smokeless tobacco	Cigarettes	Other smoked tobacco	Smokeless tobacco
Does the law mandate that health warnings appear on tobacco packages?	Yes	Yes ¹	Yes ¹	Yes	Yes	Yes
What percentage of the principal display areas of the package is legally mandated to be covered by health warnings? FRONT AND REAR COMBINED	75	— ²	— ²			
What percentage of the principal display areas of the FRONT of the package is legally mandated to be covered by health warnings?	75	— ²	— ²	Yes	No ²	No ²
What percentage of the principal display areas of the REAR of the package is legally mandated to be covered by health warnings?	75	— ²	— ²	No	No	No
Does the law mandate that the warning be placed at the top of the principle display areas of the package?	Yes	No ²	No ²			
Does the law mandate font style, font size and colour for package warnings?	Yes	No ²	No ²	No	No	No
Are the health warnings rotating on packages?	Yes	No ²	No ²			
Are the health warnings on packages written in the principal language(s) of the country?	Yes	No ²	No ²	No	No	No
Does the law require that health warnings on packages are not obscured in any way, including by required markings such as tax stamps?	No	No ²	No ²	Yes	No ²	No ²
Do the health warnings on packages include a photograph or graphic?	Yes	No ²	No ²			
Do health warnings appear on each package and any outside packaging and labelling used in the retail sale?	Yes	No ²	No ²	No	—	—
Does the law on health warnings apply to products whether manufactured domestically, imported, AND for duty-free sale?	Yes	No ²	No ²	No	No	No
Does the law state that warnings on packages do not remove or diminish the liability of the tobacco industry?	No	No ²	No ²	No	No	No
Do health warnings on packages describe the harmful effects of tobacco use on health?	Yes	No ²	No ²			
Does the law mandate specific health warnings on packages?	Yes	No ²	No ²	No	No	No
How many specific health warnings are approved by the law?	6	— ²	— ²			

^A Size not specified.

¹Health warnings are required on all tobacco products, however so far the regulations only address cigarettes.

²Regulations are pending.

WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2019

Country Profile: Lao People's Democratic Republic



Anti-tobacco mass media campaigns between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2018

Was there a national campaign aired during the period?	...
Was the campaign aired on television and/or radio?	...
Before the campaign, was any research about the target audience conducted or used to develop the campaign messages/materials?	...
Were the campaign materials tested with the target audience before the campaign was run?	...
Did you obtain air time (radio, television) and/or placement (billboards, print advertising, etc) by purchasing or securing them using either your organisation/institution's internal resources or an external media planner or agency?	...
Did you, or your media planner/agency, use a monitor to confirm that the campaign materials were used as planned/scheduled on television, radio, print, billboards, internet, etc?	...
Did you work with journalists to gain publicity or coverage in the news for the campaign?	...
Was an evaluation done to assess the impact of the campaign?	...
Was this campaign part of a comprehensive government tobacco control program?	...

WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2019

Country Profile: Lao People's Democratic Republic

Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship

	2018	Compliance
Bans on direct tobacco advertising		
National TV and radio	Yes	9
International TV and radio	Yes ¹	
Local magazines and newspapers	Yes	10
International magazines and newspapers	Yes ²	
Billboards and outdoor advertising	Yes	10
Advertising at point of sale	No	—
Advertising on internet	Yes	
Other direct bans	No	
Compliance score of direct bans		9
Law requires fines for violations of direct advertising bans	No	
Bans on tobacco promotion and sponsorship		
Free distribution	No	—
Promotional discounts	No	—
Non-tobacco products identified with tobacco brand names	Yes	4
Brand name of non-tobacco products used for tobacco product	No	—
Appearance of tobacco brands in TV and/or films (product placement)	No	—
Appearance of tobacco products in TV and/or films	No	—
Prescribed anti-tobacco advertisements required to be presented before, during or after the broadcasting or showing of any visual entertainment media product that depicts tobacco products, use or images	No	
Complete ban on sponsorship	Yes	8
Ban on sponsorship contributions (financial or other support)	Yes	
Ban on publicizing sponsorship or other support	Yes	
Ban on Corporate Social Responsibility activities (CSR)	Yes	
Tobacco companies/the tobacco industry publicizing their CSR activities	Yes	
Entities other than tobacco companies/the tobacco industry publicizing the CSR activities of the tobacco companies	Yes	
Tobacco companies funding or making contributions (including in-kind contributions) to smoking prevention media campaigns, including those directed at youth	Yes	
Law explicitly bans tobacco products display at point of sale	No	
Other indirect bans	No	
Compliance score of indirect bans		6
Law requires fines for violations of indirect advertising bans	No	
Law completely bans tobacco vending machines	Yes	
Law bans internet sales of tobacco products	No	

¹The law does not explicitly address cross-border advertising. However, given that advertising is banned on all TV and radio, it is interpreted that both domestic and international levels are covered by the ban.

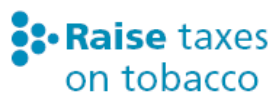
²The law does not explicitly address cross-border advertising. However, given that advertising is banned on all magazines and newspapers, it is interpreted that both domestic and international levels are covered by the ban.

Subnational laws on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship

Subnational laws exist. Please refer to the report.

WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2019

Country Profile: Lao People's Democratic Republic



Tobacco taxation policy and prices as at 31 July 2018

Price of lowest cost brand and premium brand of cigarettes

	Price of lowest cost brand of cigarettes	Price of premium brand cigarettes
Tax inclusive retail sales price (TIRSP) for a pack of 20 cigarettes, country-reported value, 2018	LAK 3 000.00	LAK 15 000.00

Taxes on the most sold brand of cigarettes

	WHO's estimate for 2018
Price of most sold brand of cigarettes (standardized to a pack of 20)	
In currency reported by country	LAK 7 000.00
In international dollars (purchasing power parity adjusted)	2.49
In US dollars at official exchange rates	0.81
Taxes on this brand (% of retail price) †	
Total taxes	18.8%
Specific excise	7.1%
Ad valorem excise	2.6%
Value added tax (VAT) or sales tax	9.1%
Import duty	0.0%
Other taxes	0.0%

† Individual categories of tax may not add to total due to rounding.

WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2019

Country Profile: Lao People's Democratic Republic

Taxes on the most sold brand of specific tobacco products other than cigarettes

Price of most sold brand of...	Other smoked tobacco product (standardized to one piece for cigars and cigarillos and 20 grams for the other products)	Smokeless tobacco product (standardized to 20 grams)	Heated tobacco product (per 20 sticks)
In currency reported by country
In international dollars (purchasing power parity adjusted)
In US dollars at official exchange rates
Taxes on the most sold brand (% of retail price) *			
Total taxes
Specific excise
Ad valorem excise
Value added tax (VAT) or sales tax
Import duty
Other taxes

* Individual categories of tax may not add to total due to rounding.

Affordability

% of GDP per capita required to purchase 100 packs of the most sold brand of cigarettes (the higher the %, the less affordable)	3.13%
Cigarettes are less affordable in 2018 compared to 2016	No
Cigarettes have become less affordable between 2008 and 2018 (trend average)	No

Use of earmarked tobacco taxes for health

No earmarking of tobacco taxes for health reported.

WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2019

Country Profile: Lao People's Democratic Republic

Supplementary tax information

	Most recent data reported
Type of excise applied	Mixed excise
Uniform excise tax applied Yes (uniform), No (tiered/varying rates)	No
Greater reliance on specific tax in mixed excise regime	Yes
Minimum specific tax applied in ad valorem or mixed excise regime	No
Retail price used as base of ad valorem component in ad valorem or mixed excise regime (or retail price exclusive of VAT)	No
Specific tax component automatically adjusted for inflation (or other)	No
A minimum price policy is implemented	Yes
Price dispersion: share of cheapest brand price in premium brand price (the higher the % the smaller the gap)	20.00%
Tax stamps, fiscal mark, banderole or other type of marking applied on cigarettes	Yes
Tax stamps, fiscal mark, banderole or other type of marking applied on other tobacco products	No
Sales of duty (or excise) free cigarettes banned	No

Annual tax revenues from tobacco products at the national/federal level

	Most recent data reported
Is tax revenue data for all tobacco products or cigarettes only?	Cigarettes only
Year	2017
Currency	LAK
Total Excise (specific and ad valorem)	103 806 645 734.00
Value added tax (VAT) and other sales taxes	42 033 898 319.00
Import duties and all other taxes (excluding corporate taxes on tobacco companies)	...
Total	...

WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic, 2019

Country Profile: Lao People's Democratic Republic

Legend: Summary of MPOWER measures (see page 1)

MONITORING: PREVALENCE DATA

	No known data or no recent data or data that are not both recent and representative
	Recent and representative data for either adults or youth
	Recent and representative data for both adults and youth
	Recent, representative and periodic data for both adults and youth

SMOKE-FREE POLICIES: POLICIES ON SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS

	Data not reported/not categorized
	Complete absence of ban, or up to two public places completely smoke-free
	Three to five public places completely smoke-free
	Six to seven public places completely smoke-free
	All public places completely smoke-free (or at least 90% of the population covered by complete subnational legislation)

CESSATION PROGRAMMES: TREATMENT OF TOBACCO DEPENDENCE

	Data not reported
	None
	NRT and/or some cessation services (neither cost-covered)
	NRT and/or some cessation services (at least one of which is cost-covered)
	National quit line, and both NRT and some cessation services cost-covered

HEALTH WARNINGS: HEALTH WARNINGS ON CIGARETTE PACKAGES

	Data not reported
	No warnings or small warnings
	Medium size warnings missing some or many appropriate characteristics OR large warnings missing many characteristics
	Medium size warnings with all appropriate characteristics OR large warnings missing some appropriate characteristics
	Large warnings with all appropriate characteristics

MASS MEDIA: ANTI-TOBACCO CAMPAIGNS

	Data not reported
	No national campaign conducted between July 2016 and June 2018 with duration of at least three weeks
	National campaign conducted with one to four appropriate characteristics
	National campaign conducted with five to six appropriate characteristics, or with seven characteristics excluding airing on television and/or radio
	National campaign conducted with at least seven appropriate characteristics including airing on television and/or radio

ADVERTISING BANS: BANS ON ADVERTISING, PROMOTION AND SPONSORSHIP

	Data not reported
	Complete absence of ban, or ban that does not cover national television, radio and print media
	Ban on national television, radio and print media only
	Ban on national TV, radio and print media as well as on some but not all other forms of direct and/or indirect advertising
	Ban on all forms of direct and indirect advertising (or at least 90% of the population covered by complete subnational legislation)

TAXATION: SHARE OF TOTAL TAXES IN THE RETAIL PRICE OF THE MOST SOLD BRAND OF CIGARETTES

	Data not reported
	<25% of retail price is tax
	≥25% and <50% of retail price is tax
	≥50% and <75% of retail price is tax
	≥75% of retail price is tax

AFFORDABILITY

YES	Cigarettes less affordable – per capita GDP needed to buy 2000 cigarettes of the most sold brand increased on average between 2008 and 2018.
NO	Cigarettes more affordable – per capita GDP needed to buy 2000 cigarettes of the most sold brand declined on average between 2008 and 2018.
↔	No trend change in affordability of cigarettes since 2008.