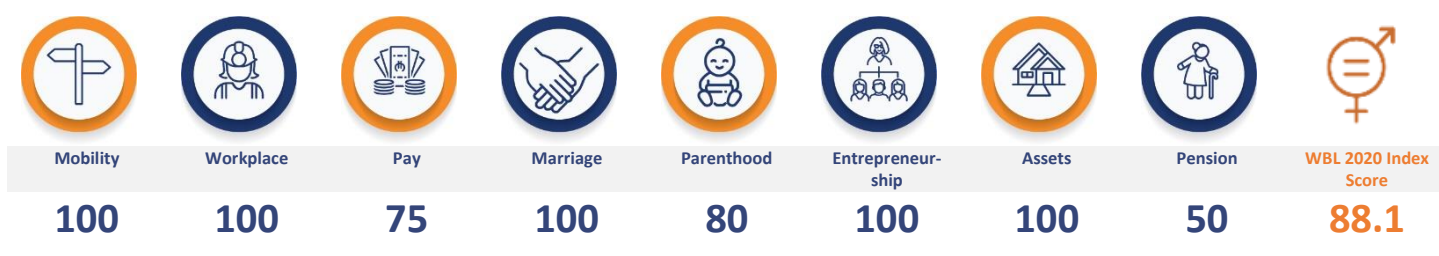


# Lao PDR

*Women, Business and the Law 2020* presents an index covering 190 economies and structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across the eight indicators. Overall scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score. Data refer to the laws and regulations that are applicable to the main business city (Vientiane). Different rules may apply in other jurisdictions so local legislation should be reviewed. Based on this approach, **Lao PDR scores 88.1 out of 100**. The overall score for Lao PDR is higher than the regional average observed across East Asia & Pacific (71.3).

## Lao PDR - Scores for Women, Business and the Law 2020



### Relative Strengths

When it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's decisions to work, constraints related to marriage, constraints on women's starting and running a business, and gender differences in property and inheritance, Lao PDR gets a perfect score.

### Areas for Improvement

However, when it comes to laws affecting women's pay, laws affecting women's work after having children, and laws affecting the size of a women's pension, Lao PDR could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women.

For example, one of the lowest scores for Lao PDR is on the indicator related to laws affecting the size of a women's pension (the WBL2020 Pension Indicator). To improve on the Pension Indicator, Lao PDR may wish to consider equalizing the ages at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits, and accounting for periods of absence from work due to childcare in pension benefits.

### Recent Reforms (2018-2019)

No reforms impacting the WBL2020 indicators have been observed during the past two years.

	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Mobility	Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	Yes	Family Law of 1990, Art. 14
	Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	Family Law of 1990, Arts. 13-14
	Can a woman apply for a passport in the same way as a man?	Yes	Passport application form; Information for Lao Passport
	Can a woman travel outside the country in the same way as a man?	Yes	Family Law of 1990, Arts. 13-14
Workplace	Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	Yes	Family Law of 1990, Arts. 13-14; Law on Development and Protection of Women of 2004, Art. 15
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	Yes	Labor Law, Arts. 3 and 141
	Is there legislation on sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	Labor Law, Art. 83(4)
	Are there criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	<i>Criminal</i> : No applicable provisions could be located <i>Civil</i> : Labor Law, Arts. 83(4) and 90
Pay	Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
	Can women work the same night hours as men?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can women work in jobs dangerous in the same way as men?	Yes	Jobs deemed hazardous: No restrictions could be located Jobs deemed arduous: No restrictions could be located Jobs deemed morally inappropriate: No restrictions could be located
	Are women able to work in the same industries as men?	Yes	Mining: No restrictions could be located Construction: No restrictions could be located Factories: No restrictions could be located Agriculture: No restrictions could be located Energy: No restrictions could be located Water: No restrictions could be located Transportation: No restrictions could be located Other: No restrictions could be located
Marriage	Is there no legal provision that requires a married woman to obey her husband?	Yes	Family Law of 1990, Art.13; Law on Development and Protection of Women of 2004, Art. 15
	Can a woman be head of household in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Is there legislation specifically addressing domestic violence?	Yes	Law on the Development and Protection of Women, Ch. 2; Decree on the Implementation of the Law on Development and Protection of Women, Part V
	Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Parenthood	Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	Yes	Labor Law, Art. 98
	Does the government pay 100% of maternity leave benefits?	Yes	Labor Law, Art. 98
	Is there paid paternity leave?	Yes	Labor Law, Art. 58(4)
	Is there paid parental leave?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Entrepreneurship	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	Labor Law, Art. 100
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	Yes	Penal Code of 2005, Art. 177
	Can a woman sign a contract in the same way as a man?	Yes	Family Law of 1990, Arts. 13-14; Law on Development and Protection of Women of 2004, Art.15
	Can a woman register a business in the same way as a man?	Yes	Family Law of 1990, Arts. 13-14; Law on Development and Protection of Women of 2004, Art. 15
Assets	Can a woman open a bank account in the same way as man?	Yes	Family Law of 1990, Arts. 13-14; Law on Development and Protection of Women of 2004, Art. 15
	Do men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property?	Yes	Family Law of 1990, Art. 26
	Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?	Yes	Law on Heritage and Basis of Inheritance, Arts. 6 and 19
	Do female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Law on Heritage and Basis of Inheritance, Arts. 6, 16 and 17
	Does the law grant spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage?	Yes	Family Law of 1990, Arts. 26-28
Pension	Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	Yes	Family Code of 1990, Arts. 26-28
	Are the ages at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits equal?	No	Women: Law on Social Security, Art. 32 Men: Law on Social Security, Art. 32
	Are the ages at which men and women can retire with partial pension benefits equal?	Yes	Women: No applicable provisions could be located Men: No applicable provisions could be located
	Are the mandatory retirement ages for men and women equal?	Yes	Women: No applicable provisions could be located Men: No applicable provisions could be located
	Are periods of absence due to child care accounted for in pension benefits?	No	No applicable provisions could be located