

Road Safety Initiatives in Lao PDR

By

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Lao PDR at a Glance



National Data 2006

Total population (million) :	5.74
Population growth(%) :	2.26
Land Area (sq.Km) :	236,800
Road Network Total Length (Km) :	37,323
Registered Vehicles :	568,290
(32% increase from 2005 to 2006)	
Fatality Rate per 10,000 veh :	8.7
Fatality Rate per 100,000 pers :	8.6

Source: National Statistic Centre of Lao PDR, 2006



Definition and Data System

Definition:

- Fatalities: - Only deaths reported by police are included.
- Deaths within 30 days N/A.
- Serious: Injuries requiring
 - Physio treatment (complicated fractures)
 - resulting in mental and functional disability
 - death.
- Slight: Superficial injuries not requiring hospital stay.



Definition and Data System

Data System:

- **Police Data:**
 - Manual form based on APRAD Database
 - Data stored in MS Excel
 - Basic annual reporting focusing on number of RTA, injuries, fatalities, and vehicle damage by provinces.
 - Underreporting due to insufficient resources (e.g. no computer available in some provinces etc.)
- **Hospital Data:**
 - HIB Hospital Survey: Victim survey conducted in April every year in Friendship Hospital (main trauma hospital)
 - MOH Injury Surveillance System to be set up with WHO support, but no data available yet.
Currently included: 3 Vientiane hospitals and 3 provincial hospitals.



Safety Target and Management

- **Target :** Reduce the fatality per 10,000 vehicles to:

Year 2010	8 persons
Year 2015	5 persons
Year 2020	2 persons
- **National Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan**
 - Based on ADB AP model
 - Approved and in place
 - Facilitation support at institutional level needed.
- **Key strategies and programs**
 - Education (Public Awareness & school curriculum – HIB)
 - Enforcement (support to Traffic Police – SIDA) – in progress
 - Environment (RS Audit Team SIDA) – in progress
 - Co-ordination – in progress
 - Research & Evaluation – in planning



Safety Target and Management

- **Institution Set-up and arrangements**
 - National Road Safety Committee (NRSC) incl. Secretariat
 - Road Safety Management Committee (RSMC) – in progress
 - Provincial Road Safety Committee (PRSC) – in progress
 - Road Safety Partnership with other ministries, NGOs and the private sector (e.g. insurance)

- **Institution Set-up and arrangements**
 - Department of Transport : Vehicle control, Traffic management, driver license, driving schools and regulation, RS campaign.
 - Traffic Police : Enforcement, investigation and crash reporting.
 - Department of Education : Road Safety Education in schools.



Road Safety Facts (1996-2006)

Year	Registered Vehicles	Road Length (Km)	Number of RTA	Fatality Index			
				Death	Per 10,000 Vehicles	Per 100,000 Population	Per Billion VKT
1996	156,302	N/A	3,330	328	20.9	7.1	N/A
1997	170,627	19,635	3,407	357	20.9	7.8	N/A
1998	182,069	N/A	3,617	332	18.2	7.2	N/A
1999	187,041	N/A	3,159	362	19.3	7.9	N/A
2000	200,756	N/A	4,335	358	17.8	7.8	N/A
2001	220,491	32,301	4,681	372	16.8	8.1	N/A
2002	252,508	N/A	4,634	387	15.3	8.4	N/A
2003	254,444	N/A	5,177	426	16.7	9.3	N/A
2004	366,139	N/A	4,256	418	11.4	9.1	N/A
2005	430,406	N/A	4,619	414	9.6	7.4	N/A
2006	568,290	37,323	4,260	492	8.6	8.5	N/A



Key Issues and Challenges

- Key Issues :**
- Improve driving skills
 - Helmet wearing for motorcyclists
 - Night time visibility
 - Drunk-driving
 - Speeding
 - Traffic Management, signing and marking of roads
 - Public transport
 - Restraint wearing

Main target group : Young motorcyclists

- Challenges :**
- Traffic Police not well enough trained
 - Not enough equipment for enforcement
 - Traffic law needs to be adapted (e.g. helmet law, drunk-driving law).
 - Financial constraints



Strategic Programs and Projects

Strategic Projects	% Intervention Coverage				Potential Reduction %	No. of Deaths Involved/yr	Expected No. of Fatality Reduction			
	2007	2008	2009	2010			2007	2008	2009	2010
Helmets	25	50	70	90	50	200	25	50	70	90
RS PA/Ed.*	25	50	80	90	30	150	25	30	50	50
Driver training					under study					
Seatbelts					planned					
RS Audit					under study					
Black spots					under study					
Other						142				
Total deaths 2006						492	50	80	120	140
Targeted Safety Index (deaths/10,000 vehicles)							0.88	1.41	2.11	2.46

Please note:

The above figures are estimations based on RTA fatalities 2006.

The data available doesn't provide details on the accident cause.

* Includes public awareness on drunk-driving, speeding etc.



Enforcement of Helmet Law in Vientiane

- 84% RTA Victims were motorcyclists (HIB April 2006)
- 34% Helmet wearing of drivers (HIB Sept. 2006)
- Reduce head injuries
- Traffic Police started enforcement in January 2007
- Helmet wearing rate:

February 2007	74% of drivers
	31% of passengers
May 2007	68% of drivers
	33% of passengers
- Lessons learned:
Enforcement needs to be consistent, strict and unexpected.

Previous action:

- 100% motorcycle mirrors after strict enforcement in late 2004.



Enforcement of Helmet Law in Vientiane

