

Data on Violence Against Women (VAW) in Lao PDR

Presented by: Thirakha Chantharanouvong
Deputy Director General of Department of Social Statistics
Lao Statistics Bureau
www.lsb.gov.la

Outline

- Recent development – policy framework
- Challenges of data collection on VAW
- Data sources

Policy Framework – Recent Development

- Law on Women's Protection and Development
- National Strategy on Women's Advancement (2011-2015)
- National Action Plan on eliminating violence against women and children (2015)
- Law on eliminating violence against women and children (2015)
- National Plan on gender equality (2016-2020)

Challenges of data collection on VAW

- Culture of silence. Domestic violence as private matter.
- Weak capacity in data collection on VAW and no coordinated data collection system or mechanism
- Collection of data on VAW is different than on other routine data that LSB collects.
- No coordinated body in preventing and responding to VAW.
- Limited awareness in reporting the cases or understanding the rights of women.

Data sources

- Administrative data – report base
 - LWU’s shelter and LWU’s network
 - Police
 - Courts/Ministry of Justice
 - Hospitals
 - NGOs
- Limitations and gaps
 - Unreported
 - Capacity and understanding of the data
 - Not disaggregated
 - Uncoordinated data collection system – no sharing of the report
 - Even with good system, administrative data never suited for SDG indicators, because they capture the tip of the iceberg only

Data sources (cont.)

- Surveys
 - SDG indicators on VAW require data from population based surveys
 - Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS) (MICS/DHS) – attitude towards domestic violence (2011-12; 2016-16)
 - National Survey on Women’s Health and Life Experience (2014) – WHO multi-country methodology: provides data for the new SDG indicators
- Limitations and gaps
 - LSIS – disaggregated by sex, age, geographic location, education, wealth quintile, major ethnic group, etc.
 - National Survey on Women’s Health and Life Experience – disaggregated by age, urban/rural, (3) regions, women’s education, partner’s education
 - Budget limitation – ad hoc and limited data can be collected and disaggregated
 - Limited capacity of statisticians in collecting VAW study as well as capacity in data analysis and use for policy, advocacy and programme

Objectives of the National Survey on Women's Health and Life Experience (2014)

- National Action Plan to respond and prevent VAW
- Legislation development on GBV/VAW/DV
- 8th and 9th CEDAW Report 2014
- Advocacy campaign to end VAW.

Methodology and sample

❖ Quantitative component:

- Which surveys a sample size of 3,000 hh in 18 provinces in 300 villages.
- Geography will reflect both Urban and Rural with Road (RWR) and Rural without Road (RWOR).
- Eligible women at age range from 15-64.

Method: Population-based hh survey face to face interviews with women using structured questionnaire.

Sampling: One woman per household.

- ### ❖ Qualitative component:
- 37 In-Depth interviews, 10 Focus Group discussions and 14 Key informant Interviews (in 2 provinces).

A few results from the study:

Lifetime prevalence:

- 15 % of ever-married women experienced physical or sexual violence by their husbands
- 26% reported to have experienced emotional violence by their husbands
- 30% reported to have ever experienced at least one of three types of violence in her lifetime: physical, sexual and emotional

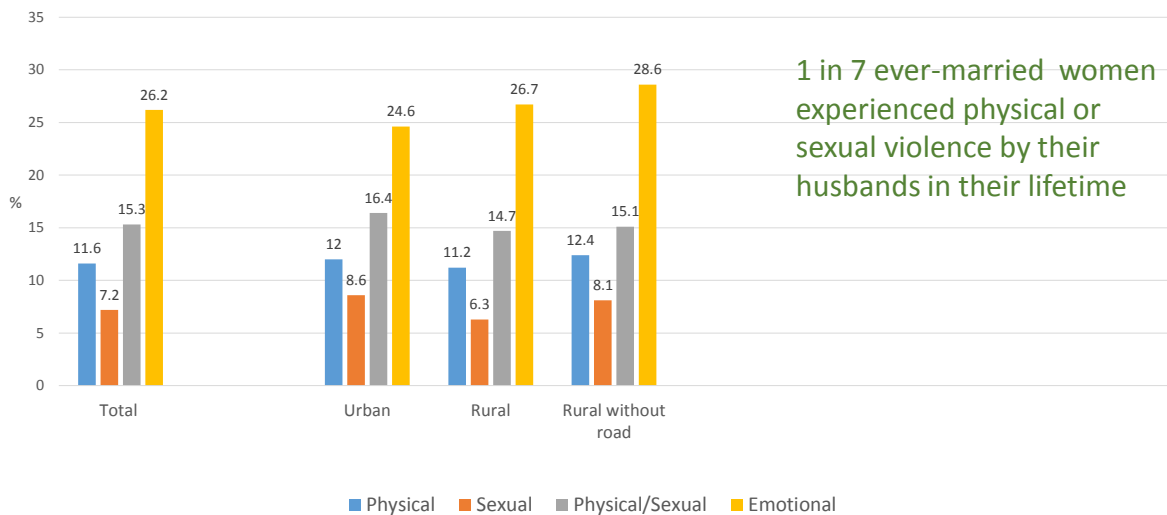
For SDG 5.2.1:

- 6% of ever-married women are currently experiencing physical or sexual violence by their husbands (in last 12 months)
- 11% of ever-married women are currently experiencing emotional violence by their husbands

For SDG 5.2.1.1:

- 5 % of women reported any sexual violence in her lifetime
- 0% of women reported any sexual violence in the last 12 months

Prevalence of lifetime partner violence, among ever-partnered women, by region, Lao PDR, 2014



Recommendations

- Data on VAW is significant for policy, advocacy and programme formulation and monitoring. The current data has raised significant attention to the issue in Lao PDR – it is significant to keep this momentum.
- Need to strengthen capacity on data collection, analysis and use.
- Improve the data system – esp. making sure data is disaggregated by sex, age, geographic areas – high demand for the data at the provincial level which is not yet able to meet.
- Forum for sharing experiences and support through south-south cooperation.

Thank you