Lao PDR is the 13th fastest growing economy globally and has observed significant poverty reduction in the last decade. Although women’s participation in labour force is higher than men’s, there is significant wage inequality. The general population remains relatively financially excluded, with over half of adults still saving informally and 81% being excluded from access to credit. The financial sector has recently launched digital financial services and with relatively few bank branches, there is significant demand for mobile financial services. Low access to internet is a barrier to digital finance, even though mobile phone subscription is high.

(1) WORLD BANK 2016 (2) WDI 2015 (3) ASIAN DEVELOPING BANK 2015 (4) WORLD BANK 2014 (5) WDI 2016 (6) FINSCOPE 2015 (7) WDI 2015, WORLD BANK (8) FINDEX 2015 (9) FINSCOPE 2014 (10) WORLD BANK 2015