



A GUIDE TO THE

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS OF LAOS

Medical professionals in Laos often work for many years (usually as volunteers) to earn the opportunity for a government job, which provides a meager salary but permanent job security, status in society, and open doors for other opportunities. Many doctors in the government system also run their own private clinic, which can provide a substantial income. Most medical professionals prefer to work in the capital city, where resources are readily available and patients can more easily pay for services.



Medical professionals in Laos are located in all 18 provinces but most densely in the capital city. Population: Approximately 5,000 staff plus families = Approximately 20,000 people.



The government health system consists of the Ministry of Health, 5 national/central hospitals, 17 provincial hospitals, hospitals in most districts, and village health clinics in rural places.



Medical professionals in Laos mirror the religious beliefs and practices of the general population. They are animistic with significant influence from Buddhism and modernity.



Among the peoples of Laos, approximately 1.5% are Christians. In the entire medical system, less than 30 followers of Christ are known (as of mid-2017).



Medical professionals in Laos practice a mixture of Western medicine and traditional medicine that they learned as apprentices from those with more experience. The best doctors in Laos have been trained in other countries. Like most people who live in Laos, they prefer to do activities in a group, to gain information by listening and observation, and to find pragmatic solutions to their problems. They are peace-loving, conflict-avoiding, friendly people who always have a smile to share.



MEKONG MINORITIES

<http://omf.org/asia/mekong-minorities>