



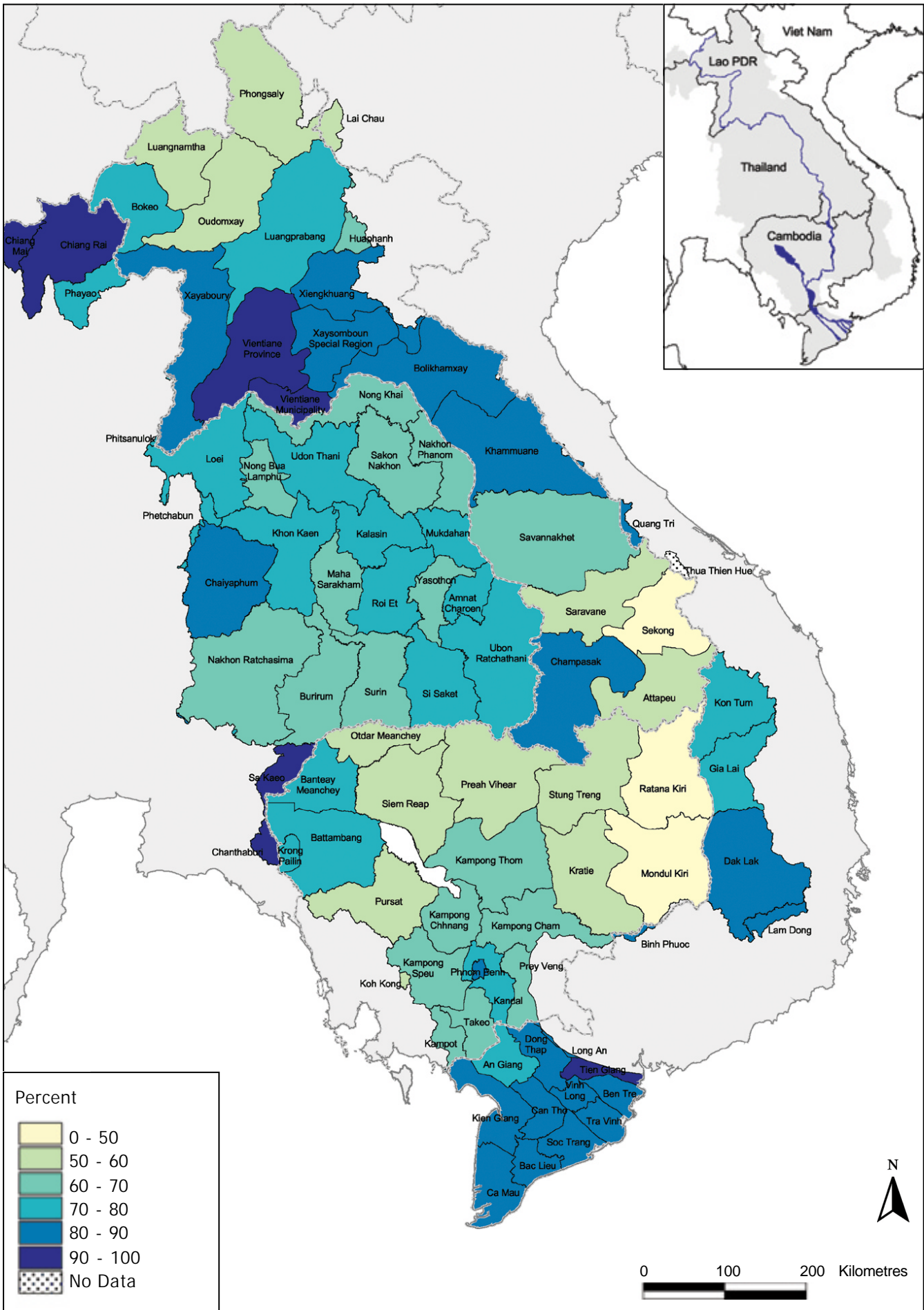
Education

Education Maps

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Map 39: Primary Net Enrolment Ratio

Children of primary school age in primary school as a percentage of entire age group



Children of primary school age in primary school as a percentage of entire age group

The primary net enrolment ratio is the proportion of children of primary school age who are enrolled in primary school. It is an important indicator of a number of factors that influence the opportunities for young children to begin their studies.

In Viet Nam, government policies have promoted increased enrolment of young children in primary school. Throughout most of the Mekong Delta and the Central Highlands (as elsewhere in the country), over 80 percent of primary age children are enrolled in school. Overall, the data suggest that Viet Nam will shortly achieve universal primary education, particularly in urban areas.

Thailand has also achieved high primary net enrolment rates, as evidenced by the rates in the North region and the small portions of the East region situated in the LMB. However, in the poorer Northeast region, the lower, more variable rates suggest poorer access to primary schools and economic constraints on sending children to school.

Lao PDR has some high rates of primary net enrolment. The highest rates occur in the major urban centre (Vientiane Municipality) and the nearby, relatively prosperous rice-growing Vientiane Plain (Vientiane Province). In the provinces of the Central region of Lao PDR, where net enrolment rates are over 80 percent, there is wide variation in access to primary education between districts. However, provincial-level data suggest a clear trend towards increased overall enrolment of young children in school.

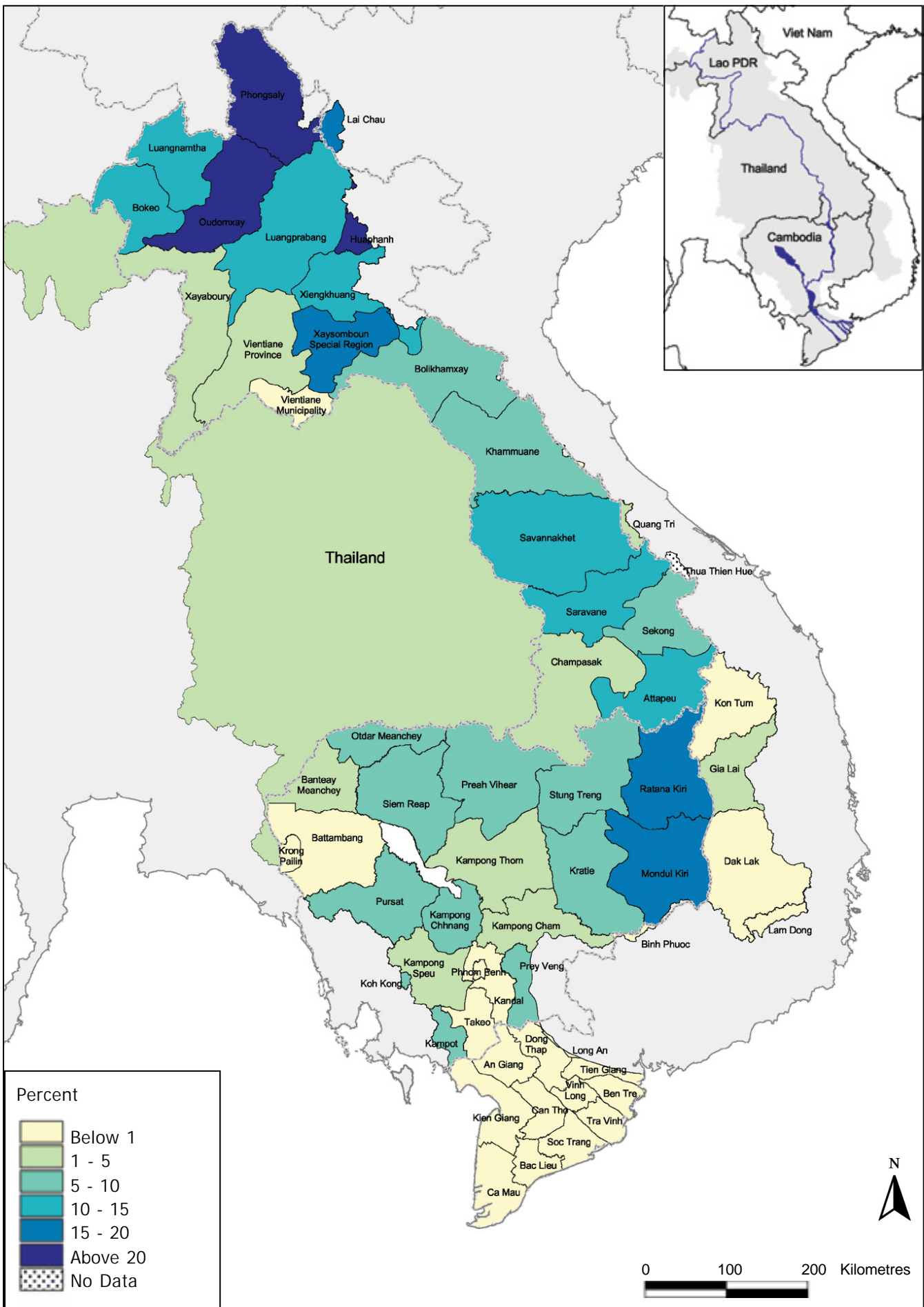
Within the LMB, Cambodia has the lowest overall primary net enrolment rate and the highest variation across the country. This is a lingering result of the dismantling of the education system under the Khmer Rouge. The highest rate (over 80 percent) occurs in Phnom Penh, the major urban centre, with decreasing rates in the surrounding provinces. High rates (over 70 percent) also occur in the relatively prosperous rice-growing areas in the northwest. However, throughout the mountainous areas of the country, lack of access to schools and poverty limit children's opportunities to study. In ethnic minority areas in the northeast net enrolment drops below 50 percent.

Country	Indicator Definition	Source	Table
Cambodia	Children aged 6-12 years enrolled in primary school as a percentage of all children aged 6-12 years (2000)*	Health Survey 2000	Table 2.6
Lao PDR	Children aged 6-10 years enrolled in primary school as a percentage of all children aged 6-10 years (1997/98)	Ministry of Education 1997-98	
Thailand	Net primary school enrolment ratio (1998). Data from source is in ranges: 62-70, 71-80, 81-90, 91-100.	UNICEF 2001	
Viet Nam	Net primary enrolment rate (1999)	MRC calculation based on Population Census 1999	Table 4.10x

* The data source amalgamates the provinces of: Battambang and Krong Pailin; Kampot, Kep and Sihanoukville; Preah Vihear, Stung Treng and Kratie; Mondul Kiri and Ratana Kiri; and Siem Reap and Otdar Meanchey.

Map 40: Gender Enrolment Gap

Degree to which primary enrolment ratios are lower for females than males



Note: Province names and boundaries are not shown where national or regional data are used

Degree to which primary enrolment ratios are lower for females than males

The gender gap indicates the discrepancies between opportunities for young girls and boys to attend primary school, as measured by the differences between female and male primary enrolment rates. The gender gap is lowest in those countries, provinces and urban regions that have the highest overall primary net enrolment ratios. That is, where high percentages of children of primary school age are enrolled in school, this includes nearly equal proportions of boys and girls. Notable within the LMB are the Mekong Delta, the Central Highlands and the urban centres of Phnom Penh and Vientiane, as well as several Cambodian provinces.

As the overall primary net enrolment ratio declines, the gender gap increases. The data from Lao PDR show clearly that in most areas of the country, particularly in the remote, ethnic minority areas of the north, young girls do not have equal opportunities to study. This reflects cultural traditions that give higher priority to educating boys, the chores given to girls to help their mothers at home, and concerns about girls' safety if they have to travel long distances to schools. The notable exceptions are the urban centre of Vientiane and the surrounding Vientiane Plain, where young girls are generally as likely as boys to be enrolled in school.

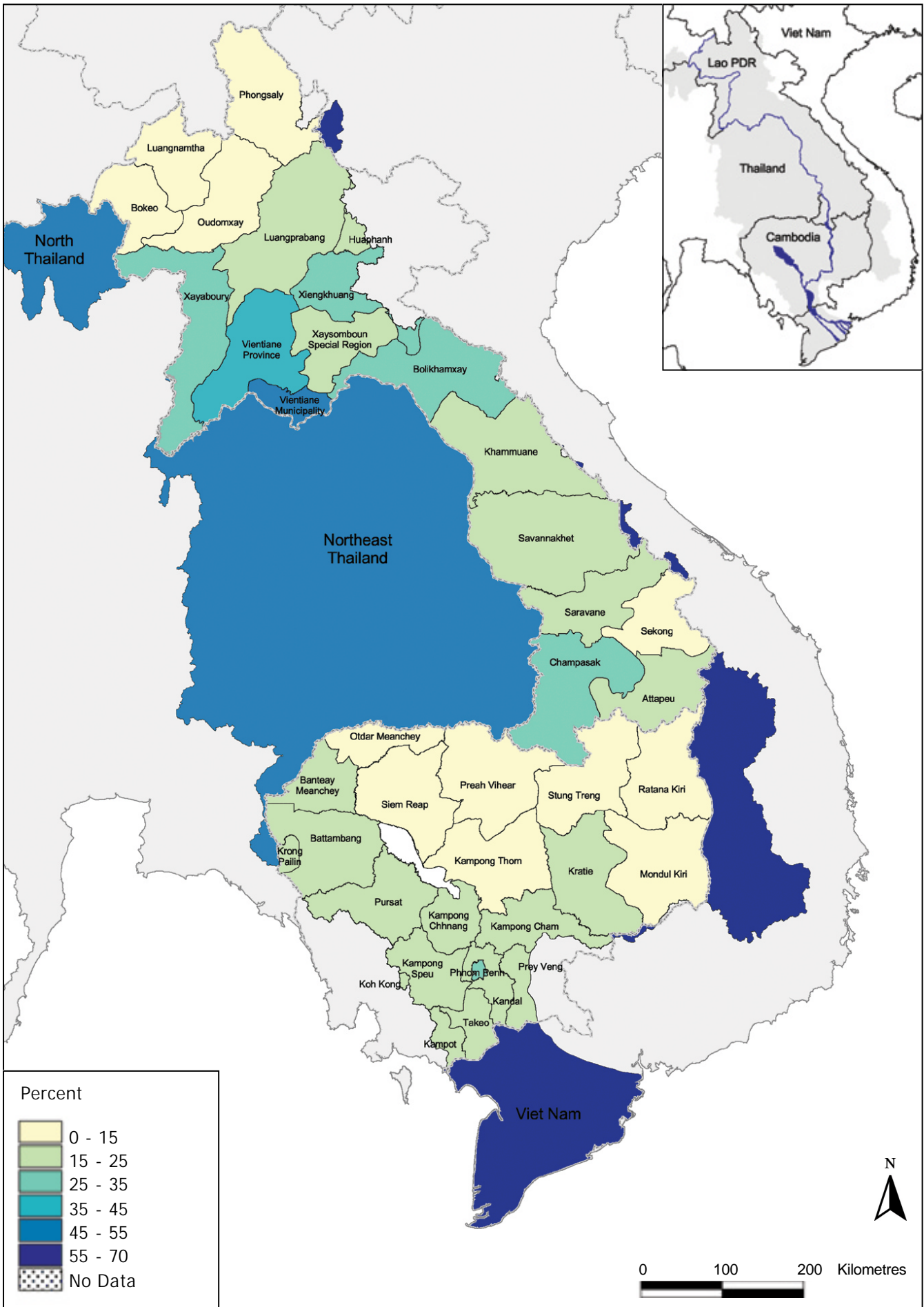
In Cambodia, also, provinces with low overall net enrolment rates have larger gender gaps. The gap is largest in the northeast provinces of Ratana Kiri and Mondul Kiri, where ethnic minority groups predominate.

Country	Indicator Definition	Source	Table
Cambodia	Difference between male and female primary enrolment as a percentage of male primary enrolment (2000)*	Health Survey 2000	Table 2.6
Lao PDR	Difference between male and female primary enrolment as a percentage of male primary enrolment (1997/1998)	Ministry of Education 1997-98	
Thailand	Difference between male and female primary enrolment as a percentage of male primary enrolment	UNESCO 2002	
Viet Nam	Difference between male and female primary enrolment as a percentage of male primary enrolment	MRC calculation based on Population Census 1999	Table 4.10x

* The data source amalgamates the provinces of: Battambang and Krong Paillin; Kampot, Kep and Sihanoukville; Preah Vihear, Stung Treng and Kratie; Mondul Kiri and Ratana Kiri; and Siem Reap and Otdar Meanchey.

Map 41: Primary Attainment

Proportion of population who have completed primary school



Note: Province names and boundaries are not shown where national or regional data are used

Proportion of population who have completed primary school

Increasing rates of primary net enrolment in the LMB (see Map 39) have not yet translated into similar proportions of children who successfully complete the primary level and move on to higher levels. Also, there is a marked difference between the portions of Thailand and Vietnam in the LMB and the countries of Cambodia and Lao PDR.

Thailand and Viet Nam have the highest levels of primary school attainment. However, only about half of the population of North and Northeast Thailand, and around 65 percent in Viet Nam, have completed this level of basic education. Across Thailand as a whole, the primary attainment rate is 57 percent. Despite government programs to promote primary education in these countries, there are still large numbers of children who do not finish, often leaving school early to work.

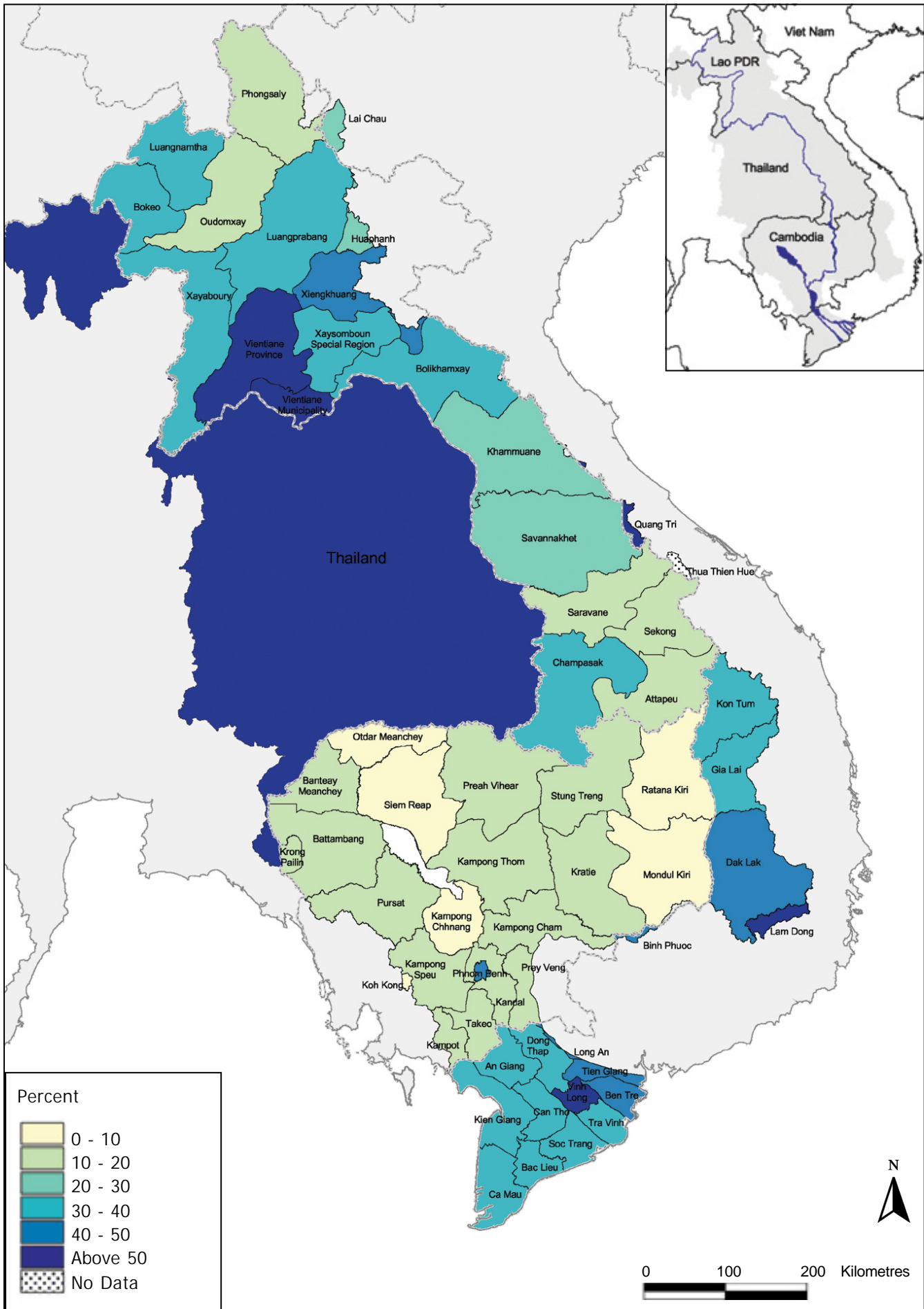
In Cambodia and Lao PDR, the situation is more serious. Primary attainment levels are very low (often below 25 percent), particularly in areas with low enrolment rates. Where the net enrolment rates are highest - the urban centre of Vientiane and the surrounding Vientiane Plain - approximately 40 to 50 percent of the population has completed their primary education. However, in many remote upland and ethnic minority areas of both countries, the proportion of children who complete primary school is negligible.

The low attainment rates and the wide discrepancies will have serious consequences for the future social and economic development of the LMB. The proportion of young children is very high and very shortly they will start to enter the labour force. Those who have not completed primary school will have greater difficulties finding work and will be more likely to receive low incomes.

Country	Indicator Definition	Source	Table
Cambodia	Percentage of population aged 15 and over that have completed primary school (1998)	Population Census 1998	PopMap
Lao PDR	Percentage of population 6 years old and above whose highest level of educational attainment is primary or above (1995)	Population Census 1995	Table 4.5
Thailand	Percentage of regional population 15 years and over whose highest level of education attainment is primary or above (2002)	Labour Survey 2002	Table 3
Viet Nam	Percentage of the population 15 years and over that have attained a primary diploma or above (1997/98)	Viet Nam Living Standards Survey 1997/98	Table 2.52

Map 42: Secondary Net Enrolment Ratio

Secondary school aged children in secondary school as a percentage of entire age group



Note: Province names and boundaries are not shown where national or regional data are used

Secondary school aged children in secondary school as a percentage of entire age group

Throughout the LMB, the proportions of young people of secondary school age who are enrolled in secondary school are lower than primary net enrolment rates (see Map 39). Many young people leave school to join the labour force. Their income is an important contribution to household finances. Also, many young people cannot attend secondary school because their families cannot afford associated costs such as fees and books.

Thailand has the highest overall proportion of secondary school aged children in secondary school, at over 50 percent. In general, household incomes are highest in this part of the LMB, which may reduce the pressures on young people to work rather than continue their education.

In Viet Nam, secondary school enrolment rates are significantly lower than for primary school. While government programs have targeted universal primary education, there remain economic and other constraints that result in fewer young people continuing to the secondary level. The highest rates occur in delta provinces that are near the urban centre of Ho Chi Minh City (outside the LMB) and in parts of the Central Highlands. In the latter instance, the recent influx of migrants from lowland areas may have included larger proportions of households who want and are able to send their children to secondary school.

In Lao PDR, the rates of secondary net enrolment are lower, but tend to mirror the rates of primary net enrolment. They also include some of the highest rates in the LMB, in the urban area of Vientiane and the surrounding Vientiane Plain.

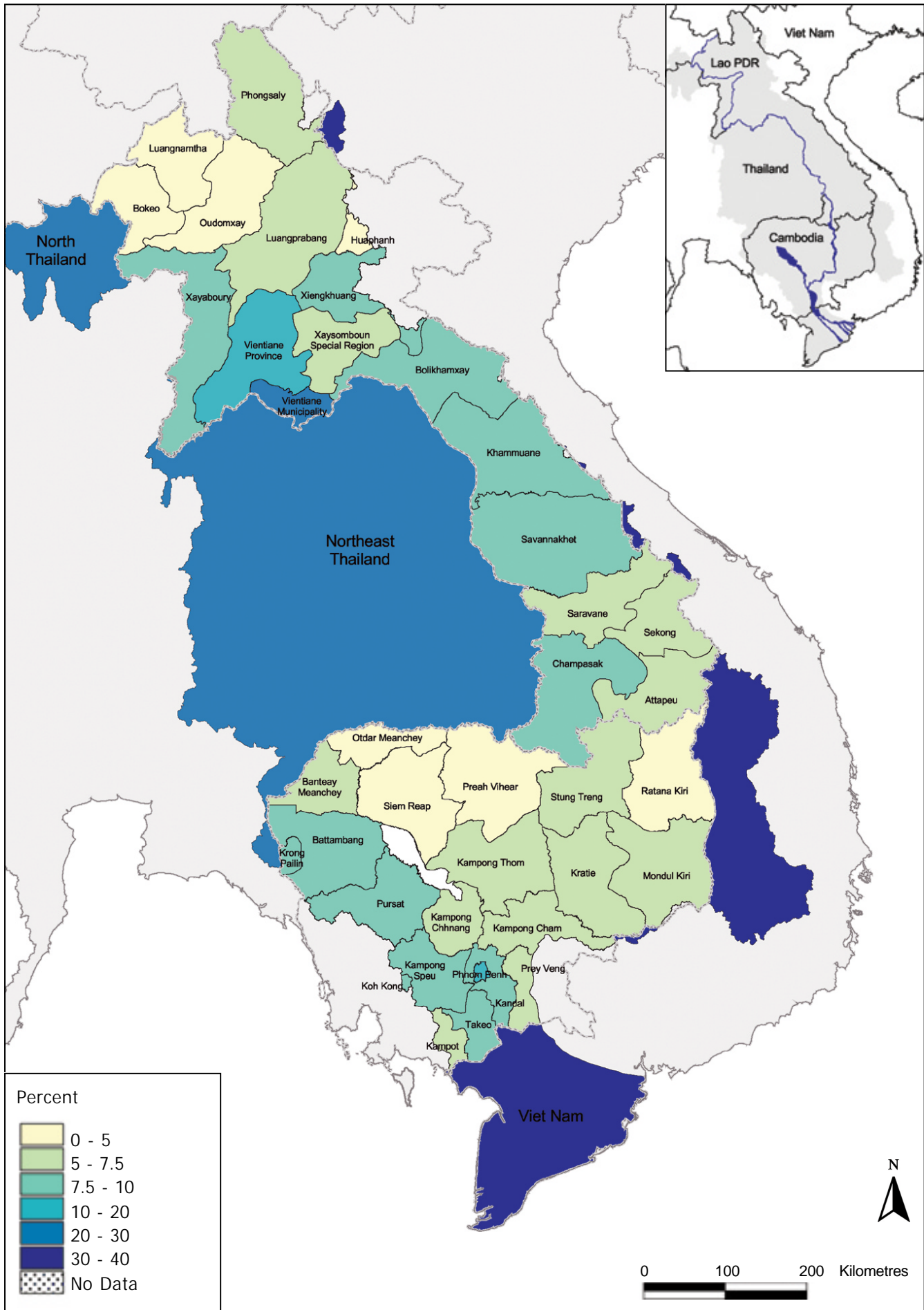
In Cambodia, the situation is very different. Outside of Phnom Penh, fewer than 20 percent of people of secondary school age are enrolled in school. Most young people are working by this age, and the network of secondary schools is very sparse throughout much of the country. The average distance from a village to the nearest lower secondary school is estimated at 27 km, too far for daily travel (MOP-Cambodia 1999).

Country	Indicator Definition	Source	Table
Cambodia	Children aged 13-18 years enrolled in secondary school as a percentage of all children aged 13-18 years (2000)*	Health Survey 2000	Table 2.6
Lao PDR	Unweighted average of net enrolment ratios for lower secondary school and upper secondary school (1999/2000)	Human Development Report 2001	
Thailand	Secondary net enrolment ratio (1999/2000)	UNESCO 2002	
Viet Nam	Net secondary enrolment rate (1999)	MRC calculation based on Population Census 1999	Table 4.10x

* The data source amalgamates the provinces of: Battambang and Krong Pailin; Kampot, Kep and Sihanoukville; Preah Vihear, Stung Treng and Kratie; Mondul Kiri and Ratana Kiri; and Siem Reap and Otdar Meanchey.

Map 43: Lower Secondary Attainment

Proportion of population who have completed lower secondary school



Note: Province names and boundaries are not shown where national or regional data are used

Map 43: Lower Secondary Attainment

Proportion of population who have completed lower secondary school

The proportions of people in the LMB who complete lower secondary school are low. The highest levels are in Viet Nam (based on national level data) and these are still below 40 percent. As with primary attainment rates (see Map 41), relatively higher educational attainment in Thailand and Viet Nam contrasts sharply with rates in Cambodia and Lao PDR.

The attainment rate for Northeast Thailand is 28.4 percent, and for the whole of Viet Nam is 39.7 percent. If province-level data were available for Viet Nam, it would probably show lower rates for the predominantly rural LMB provinces. In these two countries, the majority of the population enters the workforce and does not complete lower secondary school. This is reflected, in Viet Nam, in upper secondary enrolment rates that are less than 20 percent (UNDP-Viet Nam 2001).

The lower secondary attainment levels are variable across Cambodia and Lao PDR. However, outside the urban areas of Phnom Penh and Vientiane, the rates do not generally exceed 10 percent. The ethnic minority areas in northern and northeastern Cambodia and northern Lao PDR have the lowest rates.

As young adults enter the work force in large numbers in the coming years, many will lack the education and knowledge to meet the increasing demand for skilled, technical and professional workers in the evolving economies of the LMB countries. This will have serious consequences for social and economic development within the region.

Country	Indicator Definition	Source	Table
Cambodia	Percentage of population aged 18 and over that have completed lower secondary school (1998)	Population Census 1998	PopMap
Lao PDR	Percentage of population 6 years old and above whose highest level of education attainment is lower secondary or above (1995)	Population Census 1995	Table 4.5
Thailand	Percentage of regional population 15 years and over whose highest level of education attainment is lower secondary or above (2002)	Labour Survey 2002	Table 3
Viet Nam	Percentage of the population 15 years and over that have attained a lower secondary diploma or above (1997/98)	Viet Nam Living Standards Survey 1997/98	Table 2.52

Proportion of adult males able to read and write

The proportions of men over the age 15 years who can read vary widely across the LMB. In the Korat Plateau and the North region of Thailand, nearly all adult men are literate. In the Mekong Delta and the Central Highlands of Viet Nam, literate men account for more than 80 percent of the adult male population.

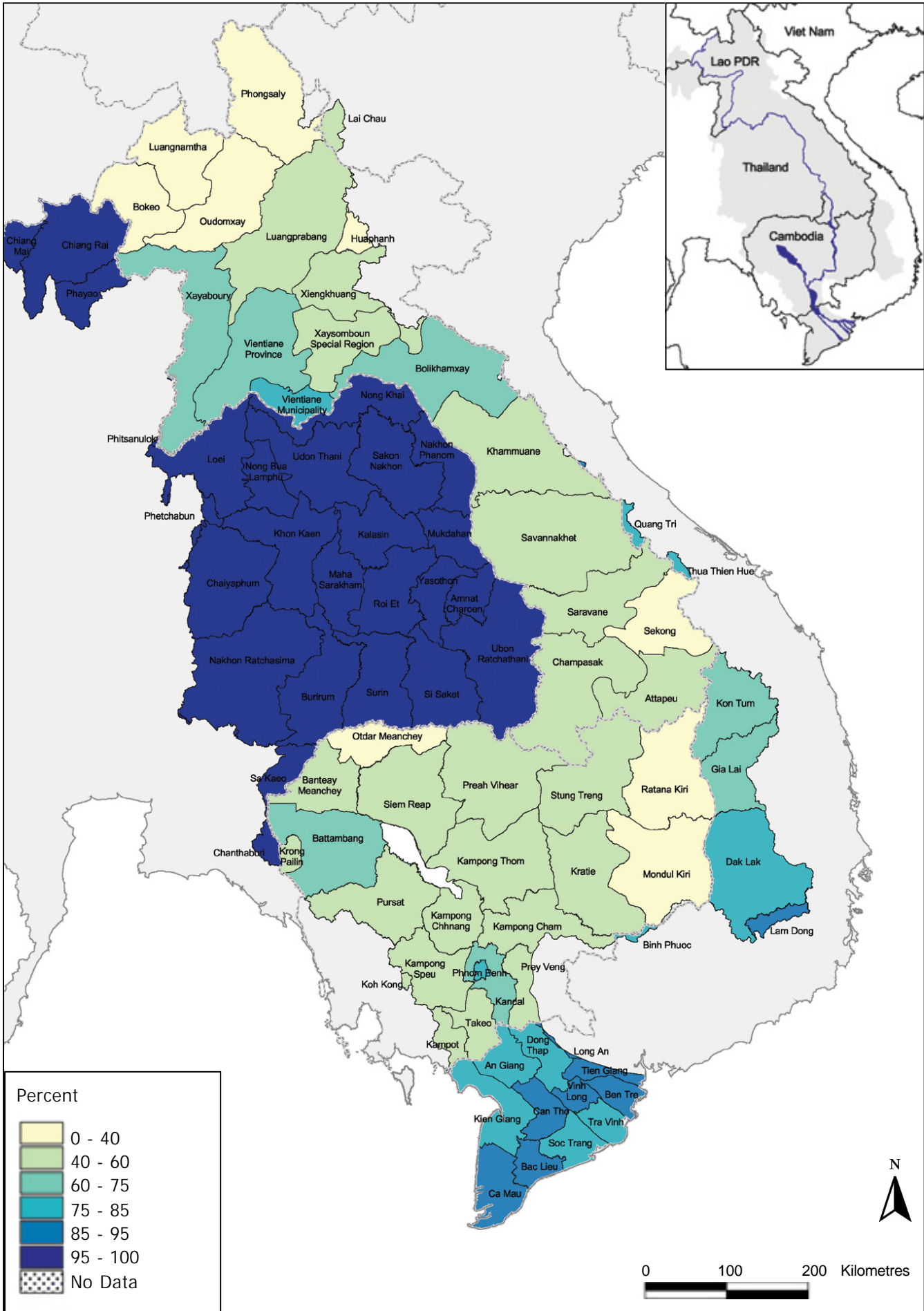
In Cambodia and Lao PDR, however, it is only in the urban areas of Phnom Penh and Vientiane Municipality that male literacy exceeds 90 percent of the adult male population. Elsewhere in these countries, male literacy ranges from less than 60 percent to approximately 80 percent. The low rate for Cambodia may reflect the large numbers of adults who missed out on their basic education during the Khmer Rouge and civil war periods.

Remote upland provinces that have large ethnic minority populations have the lowest levels of male literacy. These include Phongsaly and Luangnamtha in northern Lao PDR, and Ratana Kiri and Mondul Kiri in Cambodia.

Country	Indicator Definition	Source	Table
Cambodia	Percentage of males aged 15 and over that are literate (1998)	Population Census 1998	PopMap
Lao PDR	The percentage of the male population 15 years and above who can read and write a simple statement (1998)	Expenditure and Consumption Survey 1997/98	Table 20
Thailand	Percentage of male population who are literate (1995). Figures for illiterates include all males 14 years or older who did not complete Grade 4.	National Education Committee 1995	
Viet Nam	Percentage of males 15 years and over that are literate (1999)	Population Census 1999	Table 4.1

Map 45: Female Literacy Rate

Proportion of adult females able to read and write



Map 45: Female Literacy Rate

Proportion of adult females able to read and write

The proportions of literate women over the age of 15 years vary widely across the LMB. In comparison with male literacy rates, fewer women are literate and the range of female literacy rates is wider (see Map 44). Where overall literacy rates are low, in northern Lao PDR for example, the differences between male and female rates tend to be higher than elsewhere.

In the Korat Plateau and the North region of Thailand, nearly all adult women are literate. In the Mekong Delta, literate women account for more than 80 percent of the adult female population. That is, in these regions, men and women have similar literacy rates.

In the province of Dak Lak, more than 80 percent of women are literate, compared with lower rates in other provinces in the Central Highlands. This may be due, in part, to a higher proportion of recent in-migrants from lowland areas, where female literacy rates tend to be higher.

The highest levels of female literacy in Cambodia and Lao PDR occur in the urban areas of Phnom Penh (over 70 percent) and Vientiane Municipality (over 80 percent). The levels of literacy among urban women are approximately 10 percentage points lower than among urban men.

In much of Cambodia and Lao PDR, however, literacy among adult women is below 60 percent. The rates of literacy among ethnic minority women in remote rural areas are extremely low. Among some ethnic minority groups in northern Lao PDR, for example, women have literacy rates as low as 10 to 30 percent (RTI 2001).

Country	Indicator Definition	Source	Table
Cambodia	Percentage of females aged 15 and over that are literate (1998)	Population Census 1998	PopMap
Lao PDR	The percentage of the female population 15 years and above who can read and write a simple statement (1998)	Expenditure and Consumption Survey 1997/98	Table 20
Thailand	Percentage of female population who are literate (1995). Figures for illiterates include all females 14 years or older who did not complete Grade 4.	National Education Committee 1995	
Viet Nam	Percentage of females 15 years and over that are literate (1999)	Population Census 1999	Table 4.1