



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Lao PDR Country Brief September 2018

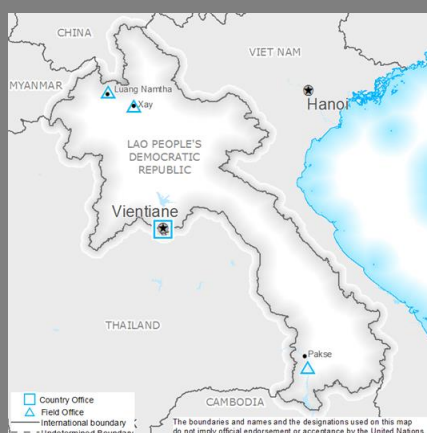


## Operational Context

Lao PDR is a least developed country, ranking 138 out of 188 countries in the 2016 Human Development Index. It has one of the lowest population densities in Asia. 28 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line (USD 1.25/day), with a gross national income per capita of USD 1,740 (World Bank 2015). The country is ranked 64 out of 144 in the Global Gender Gap Index 2017.

While Lao PDR has managed to reduce the proportion of hungry poor to 23 percent, the 2015 Global Hunger Index still rates hunger levels as "serious".

Climate change is a key challenge facing rural livelihoods, and the country is the world's 73rd most vulnerable to climate change due to its low adaptability and its dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources. Changing climate patterns, combined with poor access to both markets and diverse livelihoods, further worsen the situation in remote upland areas, where 25 percent of households are food insecure. WFP has been present in Lao PDR since 1975.



Population: **6.5 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **138 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

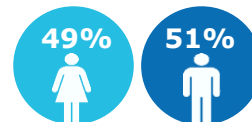
Chronic malnutrition: **35.6% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**526 metric tons** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 0** six months (October-March) net funding requirements

**163,783 people assisted**  
in September 2018



## Operational Updates

- WFP continues to support the government's response to floods throughout the country.
- WFP is supporting the Ministry of Agriculture's Post Disaster Needs Assessment under the Agriculture and Food Security sector in partnership with FAO. In addition to the rapid assessments conducted in Sanamxai District, WFP will join the teams visiting three sample provinces for the next round of assessments.
- Two field missions were undertaken to accompany high level officials to Sanamxai District, Attapeu Province. The US Ambassador to Laos visited schoolchildren living in displaced persons camps. The Australian Ambassador to Laos attended a nutrition assessment and counselling session by the district health office, where nutritional support was provided to those displaced from B. Kohkkong Village.
- WFP has provided warehouse space and expertise on proper storage techniques and inventory management. WFP's assistance facilitated an accurate inventory to be taken, then items were repackaged into sizes convenient for deployment.
- A rapid assessment was done in Khammouane province to provide input for a proposal for Central Emergency Response Fund submission by the United Nations Country Team. This is part of an overall UN proposal to assist more than 200,000 flood affected people across Khammouane and Savanakheth provinces.
- The new WFP Lao PDR Country Director will arrive in early October.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/lao-peoples-democratic-republic](http://www.wfp.org/countries/lao-peoples-democratic-republic)

Photo: WFP/Jake Herrle

## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct - Mar Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
85.02 m	32.01 m	0

## Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Schoolchildren in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.

**Focus area:** Root causes

## Activities:

- Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities
- Accelerate the implementation of the Government's plan of action of the school meals programme
- Support a national process for community and Government hand-over of the schools.

## Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national levels by 2025.

**Focus area:** Root causes

## Activities:

- Provide technical assistance for evidence-based policy dialogue
- Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6 to 23 months
- Develop a social behaviour change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools.

## Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Vulnerable households in climate-sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses.

**Focus area:** Resilience

## Activities:

- Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

## Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 4:** National and local governance institutions are strengthened to improve service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas, by 2025.

**Focus area:** Root causes

## Activities:

- Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance
- Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions
- Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters.

## Monitoring

- Field staff conducted monitoring reports for 106 schools participating in the school lunch programme and 85 villages which have programmes to prevent stunting.
- Enrolment figures for girls in pre-primary and primary education are nearly equal with 49 percent girls and 51 percent boys across the eight provinces where school meal programmes are implemented. The enrolment for disabled students is 45 percent girls and 55 percent boys.
- The distribution of supplementary nutritious food for children under two continued in target villages. The decision to shift distribution points from district centres to villages has increased the coverage and the outreach of the programme.
- Many schools across the country delayed opening day for the new academic year, due to widespread flooding. Of the 2400 metric tonnes of food stocks prepositioned in the villages for school feeding and nutrition programs through December, only 5 metric tonnes were lost or damaged by flooding. Credit goes to the safeguarding efforts of the teachers and the community.

## Challenges

- Prolonged and sustained monsoon rains across the country have made some roads inaccessible, resulting in a delay of food distributions.

## Donors

USA, Australia, Japan, Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme, Government of Lao PDR, Private Donors