



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Lao PDR Country Brief October 2018

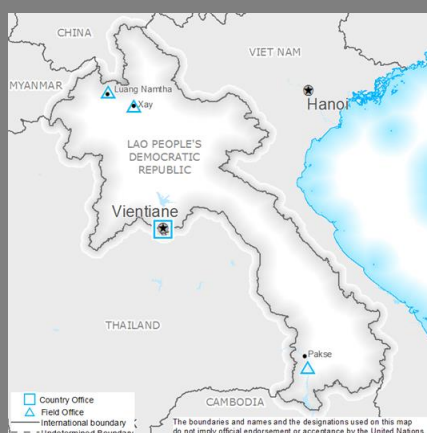


Operational Context

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**

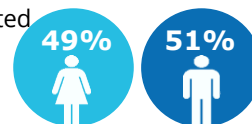
In Numbers

385 metric tons of food assistance distributed

WFP's operations in Lao PDR are fully funded until April 2019 thanks to the generous support of WFP's donors

155,387 people assisted

US\$ 25,000 in cash distributed



Operational Updates

- WFP continues to support the Government's response to widespread floods throughout the country.
- The Humanitarian Country Team received US\$ 3.5 million from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support the six hardest-hit districts in Khammouane province. WFP will manage a US\$1.7 million CERF allocation and preparations are being made to start a cash distribution program to cover food assistance needs for a 6-month period.
- WFP has made available five additional mobile storage units to support the Government's emergency response capabilities. Some units will be deployed immediately for storage of donated relief items; the remainder will be held in reserve for future emergencies.
- WFP will provide logistics support (handling, storage, and transport) of 1000mts of rice donated to the Government from the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve. The shipment of rice is expected in November.
- The European Union Delegation to Lao PDR and WFP co-hosted the SUN Business Network sundowner event at the Europe House for representatives from private sector businesses, the Government and NGOs. The development partners met for an informal exchange of ideas on partnering to improve nutrition in Laos.

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Photo: WFP/Jake Herrle

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Nov - Apr Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
85.02 m	41.5 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 92 schools participating in the school lunch programme and found that 58 percent prepared lunch more than 3 times a week.
- WFP distributed cash transfers to 236 schools across the four districts of Nalae, Beng, Sing, and Nga. The cooking of school lunch at those schools has improved: 89% cooked school lunch every day, and 11% cooked school lunch less than three times a week.
- School meals refresher training was provided to teachers and members of the Lao Women's Union representing 515 schools. The training included cooking demonstrations, nutrition awareness, hygiene and hand-washing promotion.

Donors

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