



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Lao PDR Country Brief November 2018

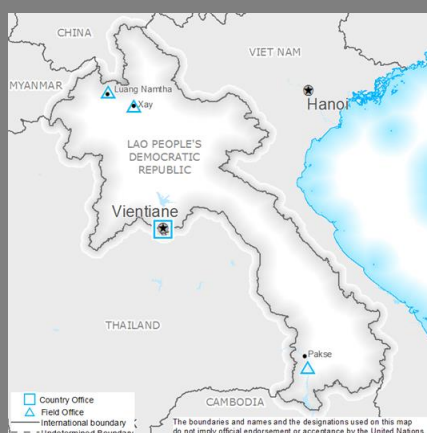


## Operational Context

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.



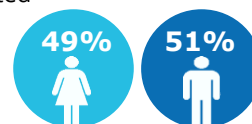
## In Numbers

**986 metric tons** of food assistance distributed

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

**300,764** people assisted

**US\$ 61,700** 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 has begun a cash distribution program to cover food assistance needs for a six-month period.
- The first round of cash distribution was completed on November 30, reaching 2,395 recipients / 719 households in Nongbok District. The unconditional cash transfers will continue in December in the districts of Hinboon and Nhammalath to reach a total of 32,000 recipients / 6,300 households.
- Shipments of rice donated by the Republic of Korea on behalf of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve arrived at the WFP warehouse in Vientiane. WFP is providing logistical support to the Government of Lao PDR for the shipment of 1000 metric tons of rice to affected villagers in Attapeu Province.
- Three metric tons of supplemental nutritious foods have been provided to pregnant and lactating women and children under five in 13 flood affected villages. The activity will grow to include 19 total villages.
- Two weaving centres were built in Nalae District, Luangnamtha Province, as part of a Food for Assets program to support income generating activities for women.

## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Dec - May Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>78.7 m</b>	<b>41.1 m</b>	<b>0</b>

## 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 118 schools participating in the school lunch program and found that 69 percent prepared lunch more than three times a week, an increase from 58 percent in October.
- In the Northern provinces of Phongsaly, Luangnamtha, Oudomxay and Luangprabang monitors found that 81 percent of communities contributed to school lunch with both in kind (eggs, fish, meat and vegetables) and cash donations.

## Donors

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