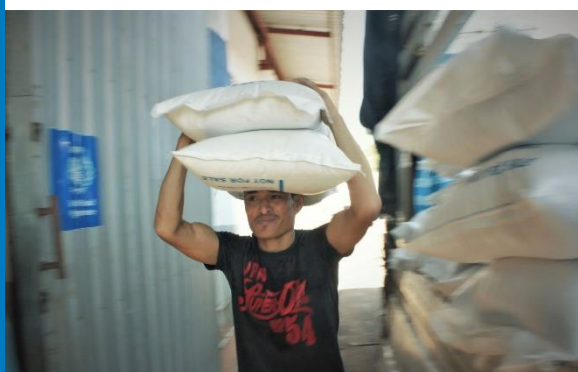




World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Lao PDR Country Brief December 2018

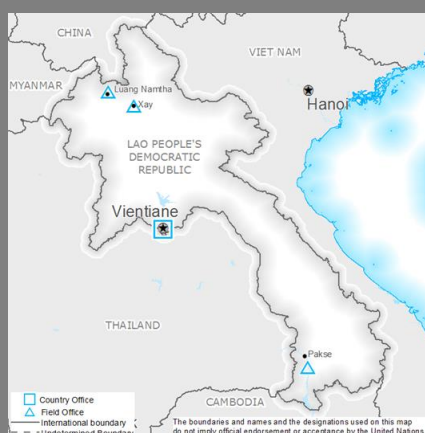


## Operational Context

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.



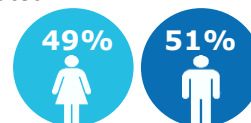
## In Numbers

**497 mt** of food assistance distributed

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

**184,000** people assisted

**US\$ 313,700** in cash distributed



## Operational Updates

- WFP continues to support the Government’s response to widespread floods throughout the country. Floods in July/August 2018 damaged basic infrastructure, schools, hospitals and homes. Six villages were totally displaced and seven more villages were affected but not displaced.
- WFP is managing US\$1.7 million from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support food assistance needs to cover a six-month period in the six hardest-hit districts in Khammouane province .
- To date, unconditional cash transfers of US\$ 275,000 have been distributed in three districts to a total of 30,600 recipients in 6,000 households targeted to be the most vulnerable.
- WFP is providing logistical support to the Government of Lao PDR for the shipment, storage and handling of 1000 mt of rice donated by the Republic of Korea on behalf of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve. This month 420 mt were dispatched to flood-affected villages in Attapeu Province.
- WFP signed an agreement with the Lao Red Cross for their help with distribution of 249 mt of rice and 7 mt of oil donated by the Australian Government. The food will go to flood-affected communities in Sanamxay District to address their immediate food security needs. Sanamxay experienced heavy damage during the floods due to a dam breach which displaced six villages and seriously affected 7 others.

## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jan - June Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>78.7 m</b>	<b>48 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

- WFP has partnered with the Lao Front for National Development (LFND) for technical assistance with community mobilization, monitoring and reporting on WFP supported programmes such as school meal feedings, health centres and nutritional interventions in seven provinces.
- LFND conducted community mobilization exercises in 181 villages. Topics included the value of education, the value of school lunch, and the importance of community ownership for the continuation of school lunch programmes.

## Donors

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

## Stories from the field



Ms. Bounthan is a recipient of CERF cash which she used to buy food to feed her young family in Khammouane District. A consistent and nutritious diet is of vital importance for the health of lactating mothers, infants and children under five, especially in Laos, where stunting remains a challenge.