



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Lao PDR Country Brief January 2019

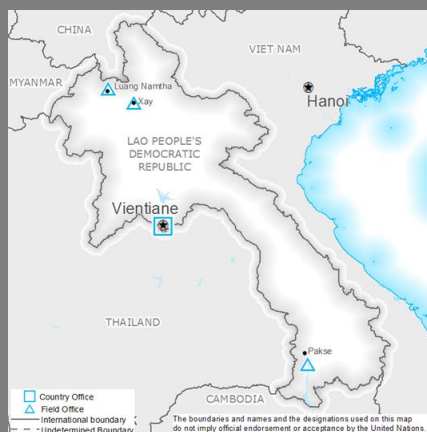


Operational Context

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.



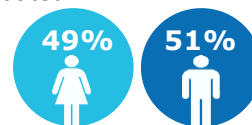
In Numbers

360.973 mt of food assistance distributed

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

155,788 people assisted

US\$ 18,357.80 in cash distributed



Operational Updates

- WFP continues to support the Government’s response to widespread floods throughout the country.
- Through a contribution from the Government of Australia and in partnership with the Lao Red Cross, WFP distributed 125 tonnes of rice to 7,100 beneficiaries in seven villages in Sanamxay District, Attapue Province. Further food distributions to the flood affected communities are planned for March 2019. A total of 249 tonnes of rice will be distributed to cover the rice needs of the beneficiaries for three months.
- During January, final preparations were made for the second round cash distributions to flood affected communities in Khammuane Province. Cash distributions to the 31,871 beneficiaries are planned during 4-16 February.
- The first “Green Box Development” Workshop with line ministries and development partners took place in Vientiane on 24 January. The aim of the green box is to develop learning material about nutrition, school agriculture and climate change.
- Members of the National Assembly and Ministry of Education and Sports visited school feeding activities in Nalae, Luang Namtha province as part of the handover process from WFP to the Government.
- The revised Farmer for Nutrition Schools learning modules have been rolled out and target women received garden grants for agriculture activities to promote dietary diversity.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/lao-peoples-democratic-republic

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Feb - Jul Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
78.7 m	42.6 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

Beyond monitoring undertaken by WFP field staff, WFP has partnered with the Lao Front for National Development (LFND) for technical assistance with community mobilization, monitoring and reporting on WFP support.

Upon request from the Government of Lao PDR, WFP organized a mission from the UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Malaysia to prepare a project proposal for the setup of an "HRD-like" warehouse system within country. Additional WFP staff from the Global Logistics Cluster Support Cell in Rome joined the mission to start preparations for emergency logistics training and capacity building for the Government, donors, NGOs, and UN colleagues. These activities are a result of floods in mid-2018. The floods enabled the Government to identify response capacity and WFP is committed to assisting in the field of logistics.

Donors

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

Story from the field

WFP extends its support to the flood-affected villages by rolling out the school lunch programme in ten villages in Sanamxay district, Attapeu province.

All the in-kind support has been delivered to the communities and recently, the community is building school facilities such as kitchen, storage, dining room and school gardening. The first lunch expected to start in February.

