



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Lao PDR Country Brief February 2019



## Operational Context

Lao PDR is a least developed country, ranking 139 out of 189 countries in the 2017 Human Development Index. It has one of the lowest population densities in Asia. 23 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line (USD 1.25/day), with a gross national income per capita of USD 2,270 (World Bank 2017). 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 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

**656.492 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 0.21 m** six months (Mar-Aug 2019) net funding requirements

**195,926** people assisted

**US\$ 876,092** in cash distributed



## Operational Updates

- WFP continues to support the Government's response to widespread floods throughout the country.
- WFP completed the second round of cash distributions to flood-affected households in Khammouane Province with funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). A total of US\$ 1.2 million has been distributed to date to 32,816 beneficiaries in 132 villages across three districts. In addition to cash, beneficiaries received nutrition education materials.
- In partnership with the Lao Red Cross, WFP completed food distributions to seven target villages in Sanamxai district of Attapeu Province. A total of 135 mt of rice was distributed to 5,398 beneficiaries.
- Ten schools in the disaster-affected Sanamxai district of Attapeu Province received cooking training.
- Chaired by the Vice Minister of Education and Sports and with a participation of 139 people, WFP organized a Handover Review Workshop of the School Meals Programme with seven provinces in the capital Vientiane.
- 150 target villages in 12 districts received cooking and construction materials for the Farmer Nutrition Schools learning activities.
- An IFAD supervision mission was conducted for the Agriculture for Nutrition project to ensure efficient implementation.
- Annual Review Meetings were held with line ministries on central and provincial level regarding lessons learned from 2018 and strategic planning for 2019.

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

## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Mar – Aug Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>78.7 m</b>	<b>48 m</b>	<b>0.21</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.

## Logistics

WFP is completing the dispatch of 1000 mt of rice donated to the Government of Laos from the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR). WFP has performed all logistics support for this operation. This has included customs clearance, handling, warehousing, and transport. The rice will be distributed to people displaced by flooding within country last year. This is the third donation from APTERR which WFP has been asked to perform logistics services for on behalf of the Government.

## Story from the field

## Meet Chansouk—a role model for healthy eating in Laos

Chansouk is a member of the Oman ethnic group in Phongsaly Province. In her community, men have a voice, she says, while women are voiceless and don't take the lead on decision making.

In 2017, Chansouk was among the first to volunteer to become a Village Facilitator for the World Food Programme's Farmer Nutrition Schools programme that supports pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children under two years to eat more nutritious diets. Less than two years later she is one of the most effective and confident facilitators.

Today, she has her own garden where she is planting plenty of vegetables. She also raises animals such as chickens and pigs to meet her protein needs. In addition, she has invented many different kinds of food processing and preservation techniques which she has shared with her community.



## Donors

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