



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Lao PDR Country Brief April 2019



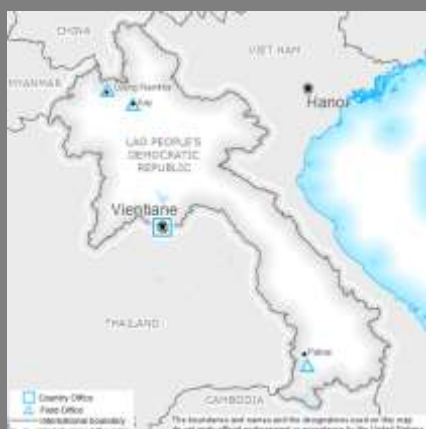
Operational Context

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.



Population: **6.5 million**

Human Development Index:
139 out of 189

Income Level: **Lower middle**

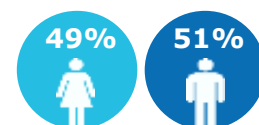
Chronic malnutrition: **35.6% of children between 6-59**

In Numbers

392.779 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0.26 million (May-Oct 2019) net funding requirements

157,848 people assisted



Operational Updates

- WFP's Agriculture for Nutrition project is supporting target villages in their preparation of village development plans, with the aim of improving agricultural productivity and quality of life in the communities. 88 village development plans have been submitted to the district authorities, after which the communities can apply for grants to fund agricultural infrastructure projects.
- Preparations for handing over the first batch of 515 school meals programmes in northern provinces to Government and communities are in full swing. The handover ceremony will happen at Bor primary school, Lar District, Oudomxay Province, in the presence of the Deputy Ministers of Education and Sports and Agriculture and Forestry, as well as WFP's Executive Director and FAO's Director General.
- The next shipment of food from USDA through the McGovern Dole school feeding initiative has arrived in Bangkok and is being trucked to Vientiane. This shipment is comprised of 2200 mt of rice, 660 mt of lentils, and 260 mt of oil. These quantities will cover school meal activities for the period of September 2019 until May 2020.

120 mt of rice has arrived which will support the continued recovery of people affected by the floods of 2018 in the south of the country.

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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)	May – Oct Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
78.7 m	42.9 m	0.256 m

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.



"I didn't understand the connection between food and health. I just did what everybody does here - follow what our grandparents taught us", Chan, from Naphan Village in Xieng Khouang Province says. "But now I have new knowledge, and I understand that changes are needed to protect the future of my family. I am willing to break with tradition."

In WFP-supported Farmer Nutrition Schools, women learn about the six food groups and how to vary their diets to include all of them in their family's daily meals.

"Earlier, when my husband and I went to work in the fields, we would leave our children with my parents and leave some food for them. The health of my first child suffered and she was often sick. I wasn't breastfeeding because I was in the fields all day. Now, with my second child, I know the importance of exclusive breastfeeding until 6 months of age and how to prevent stunting with healthy food. I decided to stay home so I could feed my baby throughout the day and my husband manages the farm alone. I am also eating more and better foods, and I have more milk for the baby," Chan says with satisfaction.

Donors

USA, Australia, Japan, France, Russia, Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Government of Lao PDR, Private Donors