



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lao PDR Country Brief May 2019

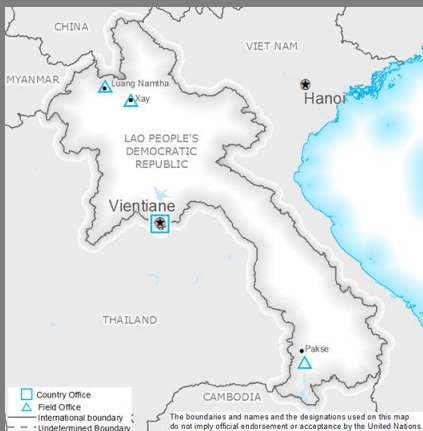


Operational Context

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**

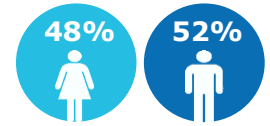
Chronic malnutrition: **35.6% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

374.0 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0.64 million (June-Nov 2019) net funding requirements

159,348 people assisted



Programmatic and Operational Updates

- WFP Laos handed over its school feeding programme to the Government in 515 schools, a major milestone for the country office. It was marked by a ceremony at Ban Bor, Xay district, Oudomxay Province on 15 May, in the presence of the WFP Executive Director and the FAO Director General.
- WFP held a fruit tree planting event at the Vientiane Special School on 21 May. A total of 30 trees were planted, in the presence of the Minister of Education and Sports, to mark the planting of a total of 2,400 fruit trees in 9 districts of 3 southern provinces.
- WFP completed the printing of 2,214 copies of the school agriculture guidelines. These guidelines will be distributed to all schools running the school feeding programme.
- WFP has received delivery of 3,220mt of food, donated from the United States through the McGovern Dole USDA project, at its warehouse in Vientiane. The 2,200mt of rice, 660mt of lentils, and 360mt of oil will be used to meet the requirements for the school feeding programme from September 2019 until May 2020.
- Additionally, consignments of 205mt of rice and 425mt of canned fish, donated by the Japanese Government, have arrived in Vientiane. The canned fish will be provided to school meals beneficiaries and the rice will be used in resilience building activities.
- Both deliveries were received in handover ceremonies with the respective ambassadors, garnering donor visibility.

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	June – Nov Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
78.7 m	43.2 m	0.64 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.



With pride shining in her eyes, Ms. Sengkham Keomany, School Director of Ban Bor Primary School in Xay District, Oudomxay Province remembers when she shook Mr. David Beasley's hand. WFP's Executive Director was leading a ceremony to mark the handover of 515 school feeding programmes from WFP to the Government and communities, which was held at Ms. Sengkham's school on 15 May 2019.

"I have been with Ban Bor school since 2008," she said. "Currently, we have 238 students in our school. The children have been receiving mid-morning snacks with WFP's support since 2004. Since 2017, they receive a warm lunch every day. Especially for our 122 girls, this is of great impact. Their parents notice how motivated the children have become in going to school, so there is much more willingness to keep them in school longer. Our students have also become more resistant to health problems."

"It is great to see how well the rotating system of mothers who cook the lunches works. Every day, a group of nine women cook lunch for our students. Families are really leading this initiative, because they see the benefits. Now that WFP will be phasing out its food supplies, children will bring rice from home and the Government will invest US\$0.80 per day and child so that protein sources like meat, fish or eggs find their way onto the children's plates. Our students love to take care of their very own school garden, and its healthy vegetables supplement their daily meals."

Donors

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