



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lao PDR Country Brief October 2019

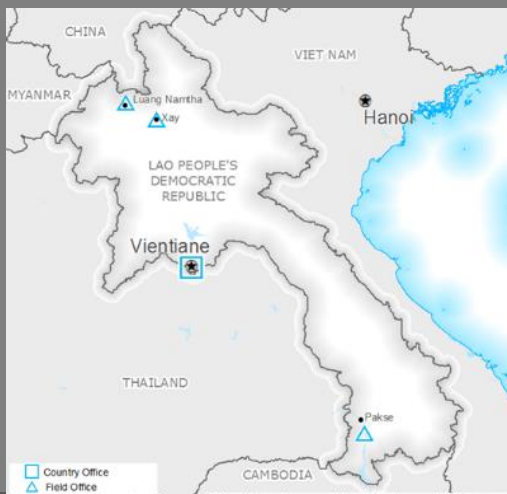


Operational Context

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**

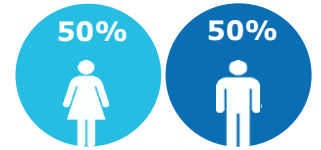
Chronic malnutrition: **35.6% of children between 6-59**

In Numbers

US\$ 1.62 million six-month (Nov 2019 – Apr 2020) net funding requirements

299,591 mt of food distributed

23,630 people assisted



Operational Updates

- As of October 2019, WFP has completed 28 out of 40 community rice banks. The remaining 12 community rice banks will receive rice distributions during the beginning of November 2019. WFP has planned additional post-harvest loss activities to support the sustainability of the rice banks.
- WFP completed its food assistance initiative to flood affected communities in Sanamxai District, Attapeu. Together with the implementing partner, Lao Red Cross, WFP held an after action review meeting on 28 October to discuss the project implementation, results and lessons learned.
- Under the Southern Laos Food & Nutrition Security and Market Linkages Programme partnership, WFP has commenced food assistance-for-assets activities which rehabilitate access roads in seven villages in Dakcheung, Taoy and Samouai Districts. During November 2019, 9.35 km of road will be completed.
- Two mobile storage unit trainings were delivered to government staff in Khammouane and Champasak provinces with the aim of being able to preposition and quickly deploy the units in case of an emergency.
- On 10-11 October, WFP conducted a training of trainers on cash based transfer (CBT) for 45 participants (19 female) from nine districts in Oudomxai, Luang Namtha and Phongsaly provinces. This CBT training included the districts and schools which had absorbed WFP’s school feeding programme in July 2019.
- WFP conducted training on community mobilization and monitoring for the district community facilitators and staff from the Lao Front for National Development, in order that the participants can independently gather data and engage communities on nutrition.

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	NOv 2019 – Apr 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
78.72 m	49.21 m	1.62 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.

- WFP is facilitating intensive training visits for local Government and schools in southern Laos to Nakhon Phanom University in Thailand. This is part of the capacity strengthening plan and handover of these schools in mid-2021. Participants are learning about food safety and processing, basic nutrition and menu composition for school feeding.
- WFP continues to roll out farmer nutrition school modules where women learn about nutrition and food preparation. The beneficiaries should be able to prepare their garden grant applications by November in order to upgrade or set up their home gardens.

Story from the field



“I am happy that we have a rice bank in our community where we can borrow rice whenever we run out,” said Len, a 70 year-old woman from Kaleum District, Sekong province.

Last year, when Len’s upland rice field was affected by the rats, it was totally destroyed. Her rice field is on a mountain slope and is her only source of income. Thanks to WFP, she was able to borrow some rice from the community rice bank which would be enough for her family until their next harvest.

WFP helps communities to establish and manage community rice banks like these in more than 100 communities to safeguard their food security. These communities can access food in these rice banks to lighten their burden and avoid hunger.

Donors

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