



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lao PDR Country Brief January 2020

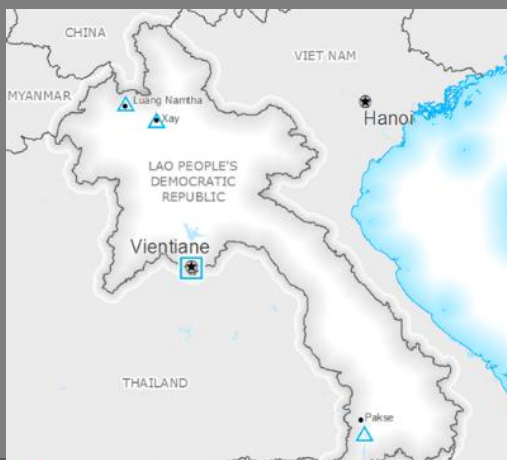


Operational Context

Lao PDR is a least developed country, ranking 140 out of 189 countries in the 2018 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 2017 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 [inconsistent]**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **33% of children between 6-59**

In Numbers

US\$ 1.55 million six-month (Feb – Jul 2020) net funding requirements

327.63 mt of food distributed

147,373 people assisted



Operational Updates

- WFP, supported by various stakeholders including the National Nutrition Center, identified a range of nutrient-dense food crops that are suitable for children under 5 years, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women. These crops will help gain “quick wins” in diets, as they will supply important nutrients to groups which are vulnerable to health issues related to malnutrition.
- WFP signed a partnership agreement with the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction to provide technical assistance on climate-smart and community-driven school feeding. Through the partnership, WFP will establish five climate-smart villages. These villages will serve as learning sites for testing and scaling climate-smart and resilient practices, while also supporting community-driven school feeding. Currently, WFP is testing a weather pattern board in the villages to raise awareness on changes in climate and potential agriculture impacts.
- In partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP delivered a training on how to access local climate and agro-meteorological data to 20 primary school teachers from five schools in Laongarm District, Saravan Province. This data will help trainees to ensure that their communities adapt their agricultural practices to any changing climate demands.
- WFP signed a partnership with Room to Read to deliver books to 16 target schools in Phouvong District of Attapeu province. This initiative fosters reading habits, increases the capacity of teachers to implement reading promotion activities, and increases students’ attendance after lunch.
- The Deputy Minister of Education and Sports led a high-level joint monitoring visit with WFP to the northern provinces, in order to strengthen WFP’s handover of the school feeding programme. A main aim of the visit was to ensure that the programme becomes a significant part of the Government’s social safety net and strategy to reach zero hunger.

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Feb-Jul 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
78.72 m	54.73 m	1.55 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.



Photo: Flood victims receive funding to start their livelihood activity. © World Food Programme/ Vilakhone Sipaseuth

Ms. Nun, a 27-year-old farmer from Haiphavieng Village, Nhommalath District, lost all her crops in the floods which affected Khammouane and Attapue Provinces over the past two years.

WFP continues its support to these flood-affected villages, by providing flood victims with an opportunity to apply for small-scale agriculture grants after finishing their modules.

Thanks to this support, Ms. Nun just received her first grant after attending the Farmer Nutrition School. "I am very happy to receive the grant and am excited to start my own garden and feed my own animals again," she said. "All my crops were washed away during the floods of the past two years, so this help from WFP is essential for me to get back on my feet."

Donors

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