



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lao PDR Country Brief August 2021



Operational Context

Lao PDR is a least developed country, ranking 140 out of 189 countries in the 2018 Human Development Index. Around 23 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line (US\$ 1.25/day), with a gross national income per capita of US\$ 2,270 (World Bank 2017). While Lao PDR has managed to reduce the proportion of hungry people to 23 percent, the 2017 Global Hunger Index still rates its hunger levels as “serious”.

Climate change is a key challenge facing rural population, and the country is vulnerable to climate change due to its low adaptability and high 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: **137 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

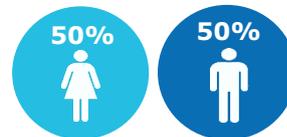
Chronic malnutrition: **33% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

16 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 0.52 million six-month (Sept 2021 - Feb 2022) net funding requirements

30,986 people assisted



Operational Updates

- WFP, in collaboration with World Vision International and the Swiss Red Cross, continued providing food assistance for quarantine centers in eight provinces across the country. In August, 11,906 people (6,064 female) have received 408,143 meals which costed around USD 529,611 in total. Since the number of migrants in these centres have significantly increased, WFP and partners need to review the feeding strategy as well as mobilize more funds.
- WFP and its cooperating partner CRS continued delivering district orientation and village consultations in six provinces where school feeding activities will start up in the framework of the new McGovern-Dole project. These meetings aim to inform the participating authorities and villages of the operational details of the project.
- WFP delivered the last batch of non-food items (construction materials to maintain school feeding-related infrastructures, tools and seeds for school gardens and farmer groups) to 915 supported schools before the school feeding activities in these schools are handed over to the Government of Lao PDR in late September. These materials aim at readying the schools for independent school feeding, after WFP's in-kind contributions end.
- WFP, together with government counterparts, started implementing the French-funded project “Improved food and nutrition security in Northern Lao PDR”. The project aims to promote positive nutrition behaviour and enhance dietary diversity of vulnerable groups. Activities will include the establishment of Farmer Nutrition Schools, the distribution of livestock and garden cash grants and social and behavior change communication strategies. In August 2021, WFP and partners registered eligible beneficiaries and conducted a nutrition survey in 800 households in 64 target villages.
- ‘Enhancement of Food Supply and the Rehabilitation of Agricultural Infrastructure in

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
88.53 m	95.17 m	0.52 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.

Donors

USA, Japan, France, Russia, Korea, Germany, Switzerland, Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme, Private Donors

Operational Updates, continued

Flood- Affected Areas’, a project supported by the Government of Japan, officially started by handing over 1,115 metric tons of rice to WFP and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. This in-kind assistance will allow WFP to help 35,000 people in southern provinces to meet immediate food and nutrition needs as well as to build long-term resilience against disaster risk and climate-related impacts.

- WFP and the local authorities of Phongsaly Province have started implementing the project ‘Disaster Risk Reduction for Enhanced Food Security and Resilience in Disaster Prone Communities in Lao PDR’ by conducting a consultations in 15 target communities, collection of baseline data and registering beneficiaries. Also, WFP and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare jointly provided a training on warehouse management for provincial and district staff to ensure effective management of relief items for emergency response.
- With support from Russia and the Chinese private sector, WFP distributed cash and sunflower oil to 50 communities in 5 districts of Phongsaly Province as incentive for communities for the construction of 45 fishponds and 5 rural roads.

Story from the field



Ping eats lunch with her friends at school. Photo: WFP Laos/Phonnick Huckchaleun

11-year-old Ping, a girl from Nakham village in Luang Prabang's Phonethong district enjoys her daily school lunches very much. "As one of the oldest students, I like to help the teachers to serve food. We each wash our own dishes after using them," she says. "Every morning, before school starts, we all water the school garden and help to pull out the weeds. I would love to continue to secondary school, but that school is far away from my home and I don't have my own bicycle. I am afraid that my parents will not let me continue school because I am the first daughter and have to help with the chores at home."

School lunches benefit girls in particular, since girls are more likely to go to school and stay in school than their peers who eat lunch at home every day.