



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lao PDR Country Brief April 2022

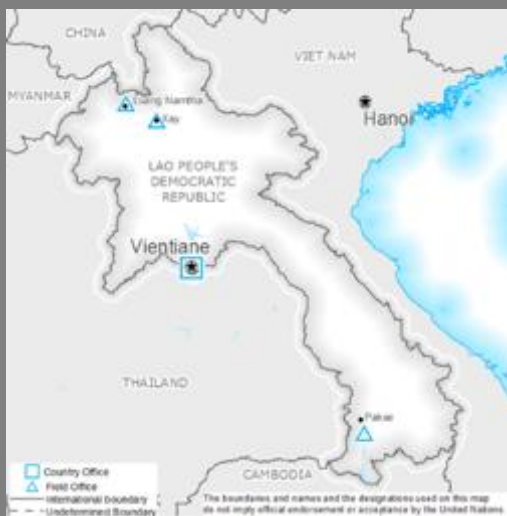


Operational Context

Lao PDR is a least developed country, ranking 137 out of 189 countries in the 2020 Human Development Index. It has one of the lowest population densities in Asia. 23 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line (US\$ 1.25/day), with a GDP per capita of USD 2,534.9 (World Bank 2019). The country is ranked 137 out of 162 countries in the Gender Inequality Index 2020. While the poverty rate in Lao PDR more than halved in the past two decades, the 2020 Global Hunger Index still rates 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**

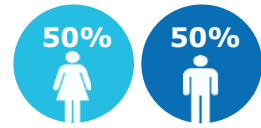
Chronic malnutrition: **33% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

165.81 mt of food distributed

US\$ 820,000 six-month (May - October 2022) net funding requirements

120,820 people assisted
In April 2022



Operational Updates

- Following the Training of Trainers workshops for the Green Box, a set of teaching materials on nutrition, health, agriculture and environment, WFP supported the Ministry of Education and Sports to roll out the training to teachers from 515 schools in Phongsaly, Luangnamtha and Oudomxay Provinces where WFP handed over school feeding programmes to the Government in 2019. Teachers learned how to use the Green Box materials to enrich their teaching.
- WFP, in collaboration with provincial and district officials, hosted agriculture Training of Trainers sessions in three target districts in Houaphanh and Phongsaly Province, as part of the Agriculture for Nutrition project. The objective is for farmers' leaders to transfer knowledge and skills on better agriculture techniques, such as, setting up plots, connecting to water sources, and education on soil quality and health to village farmers in all target villages. Furthermore, WFP continues to support the development of multi-sectorial district nutrition plans, to identify gaps in relation to nutrition, and develop joint solutions.
- As part of a food and nutrition security project funded by the French Government in Phongsaly Province, 1,790 households participated in community-led farmer nutrition schools. Throughout the month of May, these households will receive a cash grant to create a home garden or purchase small livestock to improve household nutrition.
- WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry shared the Climate-Smart Villages Project in Bountai and Samphanh Districts of Phongsaly Province. There is a need for context-specific solutions to climate risks at the local level, particularly by helping farmers to use their experiences to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change and to enhance local capacities by implementing climate-smart agriculture.
- Together with the Ministry of Planning and Investment, WFP management visited several northern provinces for annual provincial review meetings, to review the achievements and challenges of 2021, and discuss plans for 2022, and to launch and raise awareness of WFP's new Country Strategic Plan.

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- WFP is rolling out the Speak Up Learning Journey as part of ongoing efforts to ensure a respectful and inclusive work environment, in which all WFP staff can perform their duties and treat each other with dignity and respect. Through the campaign, employees are encouraged and empowered to speak up if they experience or witness inappropriate conduct in their work.

Story from the field



(WFP Laos/ Ouan Xayavong)

Sengchanh Vonethivong, age 25, is a mother of two little children, aged 1 and 3, living in Doneseua village of Attapueu province. Her village frequently suffers from seasonal floods, exacerbating food insecurity as harvests are bad. She has been struggling to make a living through selling rice and vegetables from her family's field. With the kind support of the French Government, Sengchanh has participated in a livelihood training, which has taught her how to produce animal feed and breed animals herself. She also learned how to live safely amongst unexploded ordnance which still poses risks in her area. This month, she has received the equivalent of USD 35 to help her apply her new knowledge and make a better living for her family.

"I plan to buy chickens and seeds to grow more varied vegetables, such that can withstand floods better and have health benefits for our whole family," says Sengchanh.

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
79.16 m	37.62 m	0.82 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Schoolchildren in vulnerable areas have improved food security, nutrition and learning results through a sustainable national school meals programme by 2026

Focus area: Root causes

- Activities:**
- Provide direct support and technical assistance to the Government to strengthen and complement the national school meals programme and to facilitate a sustainable handover of the programme to the Government

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable people at risk of any form of malnutrition, in particular women and girls of reproductive age, children under 5 and school-age children, have improved nutrition outcomes in line with national targets by 2026

Focus area: Root causes

- Activities:**
- Provide universally accessible nutrition support services for targeted populations and nutrition-related technical assistance, advocacy and evidence-based advice to the Government and other stakeholders, including in the private sector

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable people in disaster-affected or at-risk areas have enhanced food and nutrition security all year round and increased capacity to mitigate and manage risks associated with climate and other shocks by 2026

Focus area: Resilience building

- Activities:**
- Provide assistance and technical support to targeted communities and government entities to build communities' resilience to climate and other shocks through strengthened capacity in disaster and climate risk management and social protection

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 4: Crisis-affected populations in the Lao People's Democratic Republic are able to meet their food, nutrition and other essential needs during and after disasters

Focus area: Crisis response

- Activities:**
- Provide nutrition-sensitive cash-based transfers or food assistance to help meet the essential needs of crisis-affected people

Donors

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