



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Lao PDR Country Brief June 2022

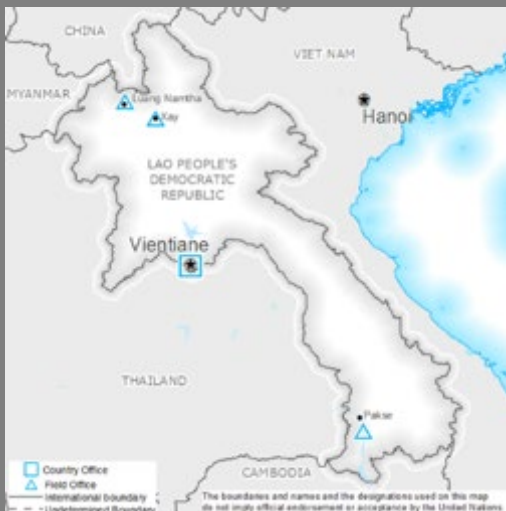


Photo: Lessons learned meeting for the quarantine centre food assistance programme

## 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**

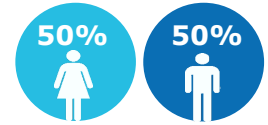
Chronic malnutrition: **33% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**211.812 mt** of food distributed

**US\$ 1.28 million** six-month (July - December 2022) net funding requirements

**114,129 people assisted**  
In June 2022



## Operational Updates

- On 17 June, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, facilitated a lessons learned meeting and closing ceremony for the quarantine centre food assistance programme. In total, 49 participants attended the meeting, including representatives from the Swiss Red Cross, Lao Red Cross, World Vision International, central and provincial level partners, and donors. The meeting highlighted the achievements of the programme, while enabling field operation teams to report on best practices and challenges throughout the two-year intervention.
- On 10 June, WFP conducted an orientation meeting for the Food Fortification Technical Working Group (FFTWG), bringing together 38 participants from the Government of Laos and development partners. The meeting facilitated the FFTWG to discuss their roles and responsibilities to promote rice fortification in Lao PDR. The FFTWG is committed to developing and endorsing a rice fortification standard, under WFP’s facilitation.
- From 20-21 June, WFP participated in the Government’s senior staff meeting to review and improve the draft Prime Minister Decree on school feeding. WFP has supported the Ministry of Education and Sport to prepare this decree since 2020 with the objective of integrating the cash transfers for the National School Meals Programme into the government’s regular budget lines. The decree is expected to be signed by the Prime Minister in early August 2022.
- WFP distributed more than US\$ 360,000 in garden and livestock grants, to over 5,100 participants in 316 villages across 12 districts in four northern provinces – Oudomxay, Phongsaly, Xiengkhouang, and Houaphanh. Each participant received US\$ 70 after completing Farmer Nutrition School sessions and will use cash grants to grow home gardens and small livestock.
- With the consistent partnership of the National Centre for Environmental Health and Water Supply of the Ministry of Health, WFP supports improved water access in 109 primary schools in the Salavan, Sekong, and Attapeu Provinces, where WFP handed over school feeding programmes to the Government in 2021. Access to reliable water is vital to sustain school feeding programmes and to carry out good hygiene practices in the schools.
- WFP conducted training sessions for the Village Education Development Committees of communities in Salavan, Sekong and Attapeu Provinces,

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## Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>85.93 m</b>	<b>38.99 m</b>	<b>1.28 m</b>

### 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

where WFP handed over school feeding programmes to the Government in 2021. The training aimed to clarify their responsibilities and to strengthen skills so that the communities can successfully operate school meal programmes.

- WFP distributed a total of US\$ 92,923 to 824 households (4,944 beneficiaries) for participating in food-assistance for asset activities in Nhot Ou District, Phongsaly Province. Each household received a cash-based transfer value of US\$ 113.
- WFP, in partnership with World Vision International, distributed a total of 108.5 mt of rice and 6.5 mt of oil to 1,475 households for participating in food-assistance for asset activities in 10 villages in Xonbuly District, Savannakhet Province. Their participation in these projects supported construction which enhances community resilience and provides immediate food assistance to households during the current lean season.
- WFP trained 149 representatives from 34 village disaster preparedness and control committees (VDPPCs) in community-based disaster risk management from 13-24 June in Kaleum District, Sekong Province and Sanamxay District, Attapeu Province to improve their awareness of disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities.

## Story from the field



(© WFP Laos/ Hyejin Lee)

Meet Mrs. Lin, a 65-year-old green tea farmer in Nampoung Village, Phongsaly Province. The past two years with COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions were very challenging for her and her family. She lost her newly born grandson due to a food shortage. Meanwhile, her green tea business, which was the main income source for the family, was shut down since tea traders from China and from within Lao PDR couldn't travel to her village to buy tea.

Despite this difficult time, Mrs. Lin completed all the WFP-supported Farmer Nutrition School sessions, and she has learned about nutrition, its link to health and how to grow her own healthy food. She is looking forward to practicing what she has learned, buying some small animals and growing her garden with the grant.

## Donors

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