In Numbers

- 357 mt of food distributed
- US$37,370 (564 million LAK) of cash-based transfers disbursed
- US$86,787 six-months (August 2022 - January 2023) net funding requirements
- 83,427 people assisted in July 2022

Operational Updates

- WFP, in collaboration with World Vision, distributed 191 mt of rice and 20 mt of cooking oil for 17,459 beneficiaries (8,555 women) who are participating in establishing community infrastructure in 32 communities in Savannakhet Province.

- WFP distributed 564 million LAK (approximately US$37,370) to 376 households who participated in community infrastructure building activities in six villages of Phongsaly District.

- On 7 July, WFP had a meeting with ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) to discuss further collaboration to strengthen food security in Lao PDR. WFP and APTERR have been supporting the Government of Lao PDR, in case of emergency rice needs. The APTERR helped communities several times, including in the aftermath of major floods in southern provinces in 2019.

- As part of WFP’s role in convening the SUN Business Network, a training session on the Workforce Nutrition Programme (WNP) was arranged on 12 July 2022, bringing together 37 participants from garment factories. The objective was to 1) create an understanding of the WNP’s key strategic areas – breastfeeding support; nutrition education; healthy food at work; regular health checks and 2) foster collaboration between the National Nutrition Centre and interested garment industry whose employees are mainly women, particularly minority ethnic groups at an increased risk of malnutrition.

- WFP completed capacity training sessions for the Village Education Development Committees (VEDC) in 14 target districts, where WFP handed over school feeding programmes to the Government in 2021. The training aimed to enhance the ownership and responsibilities of VEDC members and their communities, and to strengthen skills for communities to successfully operate school feeding programmes.

- WFP, together with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, provided technical supervision and conducted field monitoring on warehouse management for Luangprabang, Oudomxai and Xayabouly provinces as part of the logistics.

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 US$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.
**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85.93 m</td>
<td>39.49 m</td>
<td>0.09 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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

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

### Story from the field

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Meet Mrs. Sangkeo who lives with her husband and two children in Nhot Ou District, Phongsaly Province. She is an active community member and a participant of the WFP's food assistance for assets project, where she receives cash for her work to establish community infrastructure. Through generous support from the USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, WFP provided cash assistance to 1,200 households across 15 communities affected by recent droughts in Phongsaly region.