In Numbers

- 66,578 mt of food distributed
- US$ 43,064 of cash distributed
- US$ 0.96 million six-month (October 2022 – March 2023) net funding requirements
- 38,890 people assisted

Operational Updates

- From 7 to 11 September, WFP hosted a mission from the WFP Parliamentary League of Japan, a group of parliamentarians lobbying on behalf of WFP with the Government of Japan. During the mission, the delegation participated in a handover ceremony of canned fish donated by the Government of Japan. The delegation also undertook field visits to the southern part of Lao PDR to observe WFP school meal project sites, and to understand how schools can become a hub of community development with the help of school meals and the related infrastructure.

- As part of a food and nutrition security project funded by the Government of France, WFP distributed over US$ 200,000 in garden and livestock grants to over 1,800 participants in two districts of Phongsaly Province. Each participant, including pregnant and lactating women and caregivers with children under 5, received US$ 120 to build their family home gardens and raise small livestock after attending WFP-supported farmer nutrition schools. This aims to improve and diversify crops and household nutrition.

- WFP is rolling out a community mobilization training to help communities sustain nutrition activities on their own under the Agriculture for Nutrition project. To ensure continuity of the nutrition activities, the training focuses on creating a work plan before and after the project and identifying the focal points to implement and monitor the activities in their communities.

- WFP, in partnership with the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) and the Government, conducted an acceptability trial of fortified rice in targeted primary schools in Vientiane capital, Luang Prabang and Champasak provinces. Over 180 children, teachers and caregivers were invited to taste both fortified and non-fortified rice. Overall, a positive response was achieved, with many enjoying the taste of fortified rice.

 Operational Context

Lao PDR is a least developed country, ranking 140 out of 191 countries in the 2021/2022 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.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85.93 m</td>
<td>41.39 m</td>
<td>0.96 m</td>
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**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

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and WFP jointly delivered a warehouse management training to staff from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Home Affairs and partnering organizations including Care International, Plan International, Save the Children, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO). The training aims to share knowledge and skills on better management of warehouse capacity, stocks and safety.

As part of a project funded by USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, WFP provided training on community infrastructure building for vulnerable communities affected by natural disasters in Phongsaly Province. The training includes the management of community-based rice banks, construction and maintenance of fishpond and local crop plantations.

**Story from the field**

Amphay, 37, is a teacher and farmer from Hat Aine Village, Lah District, Oudomxay Province. She is a participant in a WFP-supported farmer nutrition school under the Agriculture for Nutrition project, where she learnt about the importance of diversifying diets and skills to grow nutritious crops and raise fish. Despite the difficulties that she faced as a result of climate-change related shocks and the COVID-19 lockdowns, she stays positive and resilient.

"Although Laos is hit by many disasters every year, this year seems to be worse than usual. One day of rainfall alone can damage crops and disrupt livelihoods. We are also affected by the flood from recent storms. Our pigs and chickens were lost, and the corn field and fishpond were destroyed.

With the support from WFP, I learned about the ways to grow my nutritious crops. This has greatly supported my family, especially during the pandemic because we rarely need to go out to buy food. The pandemic may limit our mobility but not food availability. The floods took everything from us, but as long as I have the knowledge that I acquired from the farmer nutrition schools, I am confident to grow the crops and raise the livestock again."