



World Food Programme

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LIVES  
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LIVES

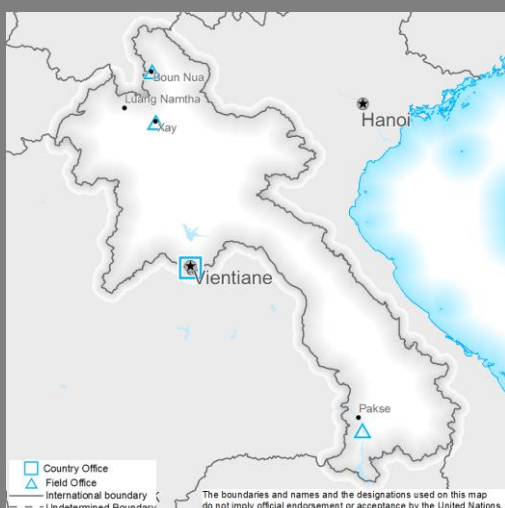
# WFP Lao PDR Country Brief December 2022



## 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 2,551.30 (World Bank 2021). 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 2022 Global Hunger Index rates hunger levels as “moderate”.

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: **7.37 million**

2021/2022 Human Development Index:  
**140 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

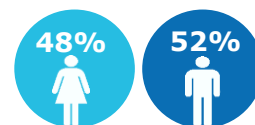
## In Numbers

**1023.5 mt** of food distributed

**US\$0.02 million (415 million LAK)** of cash-based transfers disbursed

**US\$1.5 million** six-month (January-June 2023) net funding requirements

**204,003 people assisted**  
In December 2022



## Operational Updates

- WFP participated in a handover ceremony of 1,000 mt of APTERR rice (700 mt from the Republic of Korea and 300 mt from Japan) as shown in the cover photo. The rice was handed over to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and will be managed by the Government in case of emergency with logistics support from WFP.
- WFP, in partnership with World Vision International, distributed a total of 516.2 mt of rice to 33,034 people (4,906 households) for participating in food assistance for asset activities in 45 flood-affected communities in Sepon and Xonnabouly districts, Savannakhet Province for their participation to rebuild community infrastructures.
- In December, WFP visited its cooperating partner, Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) project sites in Khammouane Province and reviewed their school meal activities. CRS has been implementing WFP's US Department of Agriculture McGovern Dole-funded school meal programmes in Khammouan and Savannakhet provinces. Apart from assuring the implementation progress, WFP and CRS exchanged practical knowledge in school infrastructure development, community mobilization, literacy promotion and other aspects of the project.
- Since early 2022, WFP has supported the Ministry of Education and Sports in rolling out the Green Box, a nutritional education toolkit, to 515 schools where WFP handed over school meal programmes to the Government. WFP provided technical and logistical assistance to the ministry's Research Institution for Educational Sciences (RIES) in evaluating this initiative. Building on the initial evaluation RIES conducted with WFP's assistance, the report will shed light on the acceptability and effectiveness of the Green Box at the target schools and enable the ministry and WFP to adjust its content for further distribution to other schools running school meal programmes.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
85.93 m	41.97 m	1.5 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

- WFP facilitated an orientation and planning workshop to prepare for a needs assessment for agriculture support from local farmers contributing their agricultural products to school meal programmes. Bringing together government officials from the Ministries of Education and Sports and Agriculture and Forestry at district and provincial levels, the workshop focused on the selection criteria for participating farmers, data collection procedures and work planning. Based on the results from the workshop, WFP will work with government partners to roll out the needs assessment from January 2023.
- On 15 December, a cash working group (CWG) meeting chaired by WFP was organized, bringing together representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare's Social Welfare Department, international NGOs and UN agencies. During the meeting, the minimum expenditure basket, Cash & Inter-Agency Preparedness for 2023 and priority activities for CWG in 2023 were updated and discussed.

## Story from the field



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Meet Boua, an ethnic Khmu school cook from Luang Prabang, who prepares healthy and delicious lunches for students in Kengmor Primary School. For her, nothing is more important than delivering healthy meals to children. She pays attention to keeping high hygiene standards when cooking and promotes nutrition to students and her community every day.

"Today's menu is fried rice, which is one of the favourite dishes for the children," says Boua. "We are using fresh eggs and vegetables from the school garden, which were grown without any chemical fertilizers. This is safer and healthier for children."

Boua's passion to promote healthy meals to children lies close to her heart. In the past, the students were not very keen on lentils when the cooks first started to introduce them in the lunch menu, for their protein-rich character. So, they changed cooking methods by mixing lentils with other ingredients such as vegetables, frying them with pork, or making them into soup, with eggs. "I am really glad to see that the students now love eating lentils, because I know that they are healthy and nutritious for them," says Boua.

## Donors

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