



# WFP Lao PDR Country Brief

April 2023

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

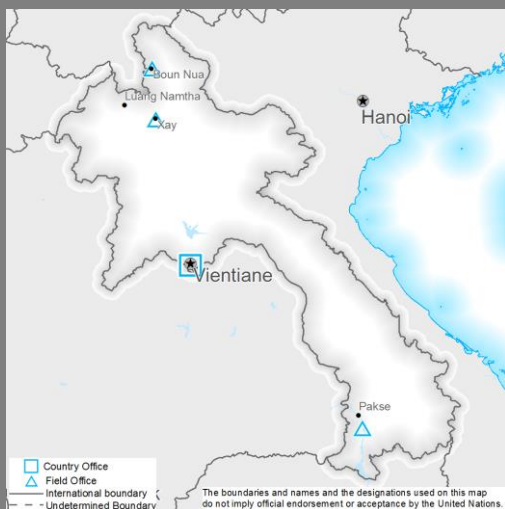


National launch of the nutrition project, implemented in partnership with MAF, ADB, EU and SNV.

## Operational Context

Lao PDR is a least developed country, ranked 140<sup>th</sup> 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 US\$2,551.30 (World Bank 2021). The country is ranked 137<sup>th</sup> 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**

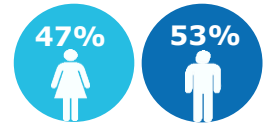
Chronic malnutrition: **33% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**440.3 mt** of food distributed

**US\$0.96 million** six-month (May-September 2023) net funding requirements

**184,278 people assisted**  
In April 2023



## Operational Updates

- In partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, WFP led a coordination meeting with 20 provincial representatives from Luangnamtha, Oudomxay, Saravane and Sekong provinces regarding the implementation of a lean season emergency response during July-September 2023. Together with the Government, WFP plans to support an estimated 100,000 people from 16 districts across the 4 provinces with a 21-day rice ration to support their immediate food needs.
- On 7 April, WFP organized the National Inception Meeting of a nutrition output tied to the Sustainable Rural Infrastructure Watershed Management Sector Project with high-level attendance from the Department of Irrigation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), provincial and district representatives from the target provinces of Houaphan and Xieng Khouang, the Asian Development Bank, the European Union and SNV. Following this meeting, the project team had field meetings in the two provinces to discuss targeting.
- WFP supported provincial and district education authorities to conduct capacity building training sessions for promoting school gardening in three districts of southern provinces. Provincial authorities who were earlier trained by WFP rolled out these training sessions for teachers and district education officials, for their engagement at the school level to promote school gardening.
- WFP is conducting a System Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) exercise as an important step in the School Meals Programme transition strategy. The desk review for SABER started in April.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
<b>85.93 m</b>	<b>45.41 m</b>	<b>0.96 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

## Donors

ADB, China, European Union, France, Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Republic of Korea, Russia, USA and private donors

- WFP, together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, organized a data preparation, analysis and GIS training to enhance capacities in the rapid implementation of emergency assessments (72-Hour Rapid Emergency Approach), bringing together 13 government officials from relevant ministries.

## Story from the field



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Anon, an 11-year-old boy attending Houay Pane School in the northern province of Luang Prabang, is in love with gardening. With his passion for cultivating fresh produce, he enjoys taking care of the school vegetable garden. During his free time, Anon tends the garden and learns about growing healthy food at the same time.

Growing up in a small countryside town, Anon was captivated by an array of vegetables sold at the local market. He would often accompany his mother on trips to buy fresh vegetables for the family dinner. It was during these excursions that Anon's passion for eating fresh vegetables and finding out how to grow them began. "I have learnt a lot about gardening at school and can now also assist my parents in our garden at home," Anon says.

Anon's dedication promotes a sense of community and sustainable living. His love for gardening has allowed him to make a positive impact on his school and family, while also cultivating a passion that he can carry with him throughout his life.