



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lao PDR Country Brief

June 2025



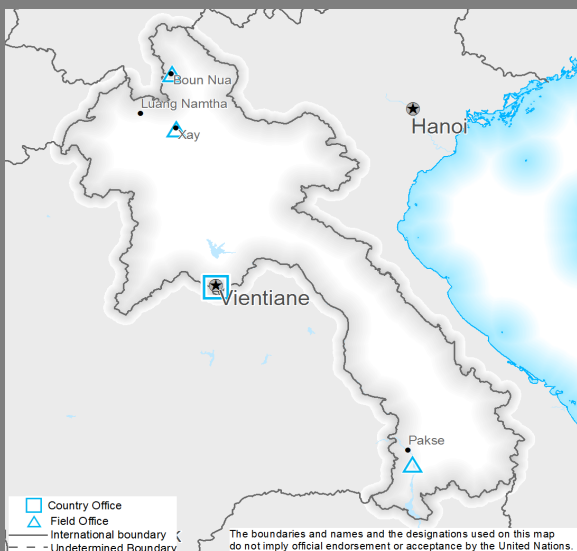
WFP accompanied government officials on a visit to a local rice mill to assess the potential to blend fortified rice kernels with local rice. ©National Nutrition Centre

Operational Context

Lao PDR is a least developed country, with one of the lowest population densities in Asia. Eighteen percent of the population lives below the national poverty line (US\$2.15/day), with a GDP per capita of US\$2,067 (World Bank 2023). The country is ranked 89 out of 146 countries in the Gender Inequality Index 2024. While the poverty rate in Lao PDR more than halved in the past two decades, the 2024 Global Hunger Index rates hunger levels as “moderate”.

Climate change is a key challenge facing the rural population, and the country is vulnerable 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 over 20 percent of households are food insecure.

WFP has been present in Lao PDR since 1975.



Population: **7.5 million**

2022 Human Development Index: **147 out of 193 countries**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

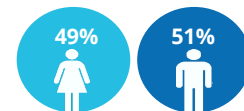
In Numbers

19.75 mt of food dispatched

US\$51,133 cash distributed

US\$2.45 million six-month (July-December 2025) net funding requirements

18,806 people assisted in June



Situational Updates

WFP's [food security monitoring](#) from January to March 2025, conducted in all 18 provinces, revealed:

- Food insecurity showed a further improving trend, dropping to a national level of 7 percent as of March, the lowest since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Significant disparities persist across provinces, with Sekong and Attapeu showing the highest chronic food insecurity. Conditions have worsened in Phongsaly province due to heavy reliance on single-season rice crops and the impact of the 2024 flash floods on some key production areas.
- Despite overall progress, 14 percent of households had insufficient food consumption and nearly half (47 percent) employed livelihood-based coping strategies, suggesting high vulnerability to shocks and stressors.
- Seasonal crop availability remains a major determinant of household food security. Post-harvest rice availability from October to December played a key role in reducing food insecurity nationally.

WFP released two other reports: a [market price bulletin](#) and a [seasonal monitor and forecast](#).

Operational Updates

- WFP signed an agreement with the Nong Deang Agriculture Centre, managed by the provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office in Salavan province. This collaboration aims to establish a chicken breeding unit and a poultry feed manufacturing plant, as part of the support to farmers on animal protein production for school lunches, under the home-grown school meals initiative funded by the Government of Germany.
- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, private sector companies Saka no Tochu and Saffron Coffee, as well as the Lao Farmer Association, supported coffee and broader agricultural value chains across Luang Prabang, Houaphanh, Xiengkhouang, and Oudomxay provinces. In Luang Prabang, under the COFFEE-JAPAN project, 93 farmers were trained on sustainable coffee planting techniques, including intercropping and agroforestry.

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Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirement (in US\$)
100.72 m	113.95 m	2.45 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

Donors

Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Union, France, Germany, Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, India, Ireland, Japan, Lao PDR, Luxembourg, Republic of Korea, Russia, United States of America, Switzerland and private donors

Additionally, 37 coffee-farming families received US\$115 each to help them grow nutritious crops and raise livestock for their own use. In Oudomxay, 13 agriculture producer groups were established across 13 villages. These groups are engaged in producing and growing tea, coffee, vegetables, poultry, and bees.

- As part of the Sustainable Rural Infrastructure and Watershed Management Sector project, WFP distributed US\$162 to each of 290 smallholder farmers across three villages in Luang Prabang province. The farmers will use the money to invest in farming inputs such as seeds, tools, fertilizers, and machinery, aiming to boost their production of high-value wet season crops, such as corn, peanuts and long beans.
- WFP conducted a training on child protection to strengthen the capacity of staff who are engaging with children, particularly those involved in the school meals programme. Additionally, a training on data protection principles and rules was held to ensure data collected is handled safely and responsibly.
- WFP joined an inter-agency discussion on environmental and social safeguards, focusing on protecting communities from the risks of unexploded bombs, which are still prevalent in some parts of Lao PDR. This meeting helped strengthen WFP's mitigation measures across its activities, supporting the achievement of its SDG 18 on keeping lives safe from unexploded ordnance.

Story from the field



Chansouk and her husband show the garlic they harvested this year.

©WFP/Khampaseuth Seneyavong

Chansouk and her husband Lar live in Kangvieng village, in Lao PDR's northeastern Xiengkhuang province. This year, they have grown an abundance of garlic, and half of it has already helped them recover their investment.

"We hope that the remaining garlic, along with chili and corn, will sell for a good price at the market," Chansouk says confidently.

As the rainy season approaches, the couple is preparing to plant upland rice and peanuts. With support from ADB and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, and through cash distributed by WFP, Chansouk's family was able to purchase quality seeds for planting during both dry and wet seasons. This not only boosts their production but also strengthens long-term food security for their family and community.