



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lao PDR Country Brief

July 2025



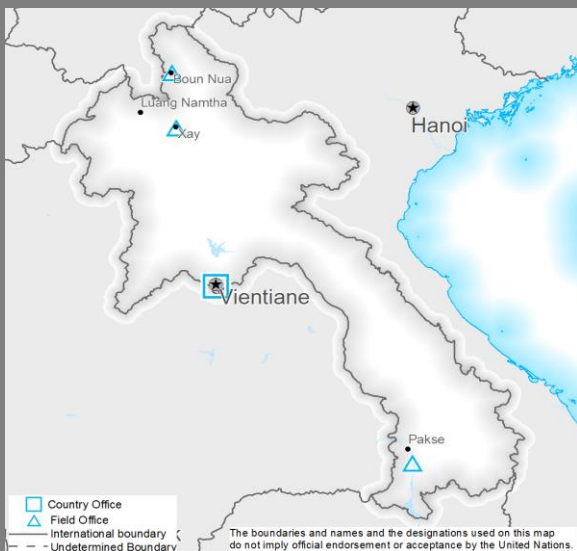
Participants in Avao village, Salavan province, attend nutrition training. Photo: WFP/Chansamai Phommachan

Operational Context

Lao PDR is a least developed landlocked 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 2024 Gender Inequality Index. 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**

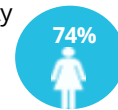
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

US\$ 2.21 million six-month (August 2025 – January 2026) net funding requirement

1,765 people received capacity strengthening support in July



Monsoon Updates

- Storm Wipha made landfall in Lao PDR on 21 July, causing heavy rainfall, flash floods and landslides. WFP estimates that 1.5 million people live directly in the storm's track, of which 82,000 are highly food insecure. An interagency assessment is ongoing in the five most affected provinces.
- Response: WFP is providing logistics support to the Government for the distribution of 1,050 mt of rice from the emergency reserve and will complement the Government's response with unconditional cash transfers to 20,000 people (targeting to be adjusted based on assessment results).

Operational Updates

- WFP, in collaboration with the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology and the Department of Social Welfare, held a workshop on Disability-Inclusive Early Warning Messaging in Vientiane. Discussions revolved around solutions to ensure early warning messages reach persons with disabilities in times of disasters.
- Under the Agriculture for Nutrition phase 2 (AFN2) project, between May and July 2025, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, delivered Farmer Nutrition School training modules in 168 villages across 15 districts in six provinces, reaching 6,113 participants, 91 percent of whom were women. Selected participants will receive approximately US\$116 each in cash to apply the skills they learned to grow more nutritious crops and improve their family's diet.
- WFP joined an Asian Development Bank/European Union monitoring mission of the Sustainable Rural Infrastructure and Watershed Management Sector project in Houaphan and Xieng Khouang provinces. Project implementation was deemed of high quality.
- Supported by WFP, the Lao Farmers Association and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment organized a three-day Lao Youth Farmers Camp. Participants built entrepreneurial and creative skills and gained real-life experience from agri-business practitioners. WFP held an awareness session on gender equality and protection, encouraging a more inclusive and respectful mindset.

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Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
100.72 m	114.22 m	2.21 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.

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 5: The Government of Lao PRD, humanitarian and development partners have access to reliable common services on demand.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide coordination and on-demand services to the Government of Lao PDR, humanitarian and development partners.

- According to the endline assessment of a food and nutrition security project in Southern Laos, with support of the government of France, food consumption improved from 53 to 70 percent over two years of project implementation, with increase of animal protein in diets. The use of negative coping strategies dwindled (33 to 1 percent), women's dietary diversity doubled (30 to 60 percent), while infants' minimum acceptable diet score increased from 10 to 52 percent and dietary diversity among children aged 2–5 years improved from 23 to 62 percent.
- WFP assessed the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) in Oudomxay and Attapeu provinces to review progress after the initial implementation phase in 2024. GALS, a tool developed by IFAD, aims to help community members, especially women and vulnerable groups, reflect on their goals, relationships and challenges, encouraging action to improve their nutrition and overall well-being. The results highlighted trainer support needs and shared community views on the strengths and opportunities of the GALS approach.



Voices of persons with disabilities and disaster preparedness experts remind us why inclusive communication is key to protecting lives and livelihoods, especially in times of crisis. Photo: WFP/Vilakhone Sipaseuth

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