



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Lao PDR Country Brief September 2025



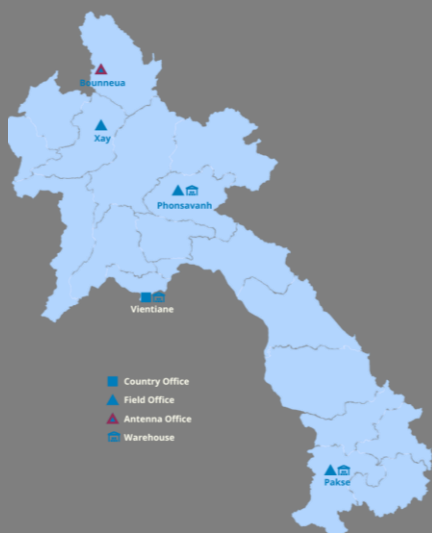
1,050 tons of emergency rice from ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve were handed over to the Lao Government to help families most affected by Tropical Storm Wipha, with WFP providing logistics support.

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 (USD 2.15/day), with a GDP per capita of USD 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**

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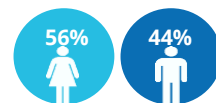
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Lao

In Numbers

119 mt. of food dispatched to schools

USD 1.18 million six-month (October 2025 – March 2026) net funding requirement

68,184 people assisted



WFP released two reports:

- [Market Monitor June 2025](#): Analyses key trends in food prices across the country using data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- [Seasonal Monitor and Forecast August 2025](#): Reviews weather patterns from the early months of the Monsoon season, including the impacts of tropical storms and typhoons, and provides an outlook for the coming weeks.

Operational Updates

- The Government of Lao PDR officially launched the revision of the National Nutrition Strategy (2026-2035) and Action Plan (2026-2030) - key frameworks guiding policy and governance for the next decade. As a long-standing partner, WFP continues to support national priorities and community wellbeing.
- September marked the start of the new school year. WFP dispatched 119 tons of food, including rice, cooking oil and canned fish, to 702 directly supported schools to prepare school meals.
- The Ministry of Education and Sports endorsed a cooking guidance developed with WFP and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). This guidance aims to strengthen cooks' understanding of nutrition, the use of appropriate cooking facilities and the five principles of food safety for school meals.
- WFP supported a delegation from the Ministry of Education and Sports to participate in the School Meals Coalition meeting in Brazil (18-19 September). The team presented the six commitments made in 2024 when Lao PDR became a member. The event highlighted that successful national school meals programmes rely on strong cross-sector collaboration among education, health, agriculture and environment, as well as co-operation with civil society, private sector and development partners.
- The Linking Agriculture, Natural Resource Management and Nutrition module was implemented in three remote villages in Xiengkhouang province, helping communities improve their nutrition and livelihoods by making better use of locally available resources.
- WFP and the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology organized trainings for government officials on using the Lao Climate Service for Agriculture (LaCSA) application to monitor weather

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
116.41 m	114.31 m	1.18 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 PDR, 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.

patterns, track crop disease outbreaks, and support climate-smart crop planning in Oudomxay and Phongsaly provinces.

- WFP, in partnership with the Lao Farmer Association, selected 16 young agripreneurs to receive seed funding of USD 750 each, based on their investment proposals. This initiative, part of the aGREEN project, aims to strengthen agribusinesses focused on increasing production, processing, and marketing.
- WFP supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in designing the Family Support Program - a government-led social protection scheme developed in consultation with provincial and district authorities in southern Laos, where a pilot is planned. The program will build on the existing social registry managed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment to identify vulnerable households for predictable, regular, and sustainable support that considers climate and disaster risks.

Story from the field



Somphone's vegetable farm provides a stable income for his family.

Photo by: WFP/Vilakhone Sipaseuth

Somphone, a smallholder farmer in Xiengkhouang province, has seen his life change since joining a producer group and the vegetable commodity network under the aGREEN project, supported by the Global Agriculture and Food Security program.

With WFP support, the Lao Farmer Association leads the project and brings years of farming experience and a strong market network to support farmers. By working as a group, farmers can plan better, increase productivity, and sell their crops more easily - often doubling their output.

"Before, we faced many challenges - low yield, no access to markets, and extreme weather made farming very hard. But now we are learning new techniques and finding buyers more easily for our crops." Somphone says with satisfaction.

This success is the result of joint efforts and a growing market-oriented approach, leading to a better life for farmers like Somphone.

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.