



World Food
Programme

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WFP Lao PDR Country Brief

December 2025



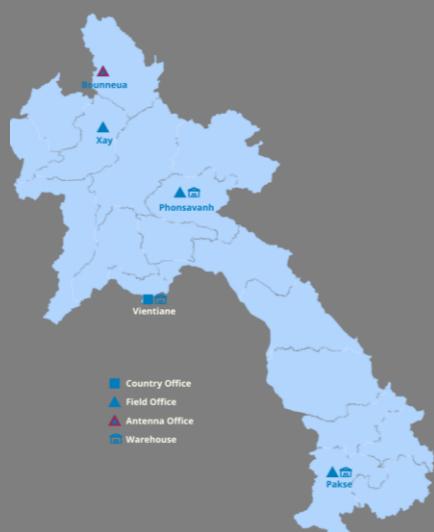
National journalists interview a farmer in Sekong who provides eggs for school meals. Photo: WFP/Vilakhone Sipaseuth

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 89th 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 1976.



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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In Numbers



118,153 people assisted

211 mt of food dispatched for school meals

USD 15 million six-month (January 2026 – June 2026) net funding requirement

Operational Updates

- WFP participated in a policy dialogue with UN agencies and the National Assembly to jointly review key challenges and proposed solutions, foster nationally owned, and demand-driven programmes, and identify synergies to maximize impact. WFP advocated for the inclusion of a Shock Responsive Social Protection Family Support Programme to strengthen social protection and expand coverage and resilience for food-insecure and disaster-affected households. These discussions contributed to aligning WFP's next Country Strategic Plans (2027-2031) with the Lao PDR's 10th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2026-2030) and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2027-2031).
- WFP Laos led a delegation of officials from four line ministries to a cross-country learning event on nutrition-sensitive social protection in Pakistan, convened under the Global Task Force on Social Protection for Nutrition, with WFP serving as the secretariat. The workshop facilitated experience sharing and resulted in agreed priority to strengthen institutional frameworks and the implementation.
- WFP distributed USD 75,000 to 647 households in Phongsaly and Oudomxay provinces as payment for their contribution to building and rehabilitating community infrastructure, such as water systems, bridges and roads, aimed at enhancing community resilience and reducing disaster risks. In Q4 2025, WFP supported the development of 40 Village Disaster Management plans and provided guidance to Village Disaster Management Committees on priority actions.
- WFP and the Lao Farmer Association convened two meetings to support climate-resilient agriculture and improved access to financing for sustainable farming, while strengthening farmer organizations to enhance food security and livelihoods in three northern provinces. The consultative meeting enabled farmer organizations, particularly women and youth, to engage with financial institutions, while the annual meeting reviewed 2025 progress and endorsed priorities for 2026.
- WFP conducted trainings for sub-national authorities from the Ministry of Education and Sports and Village School Lunch Management Committees in Oudomxay and Phongsaly provinces, focusing on promoting nutritious and hygienic school meals, effective cash

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (In USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
116.4 m	118.9 m	15 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.

management, and accurate monitoring and reporting to ensure transparent oversight of the national school meals programme.

- WFP provided capacity-strengthening training for District Disaster Management and Emergency Preparedness and Response Committees in four districts of Oudomxay and Phongsaly provinces to ensure full integration of disability inclusion into community-based risk management. Findings from the UNDRR 2025 survey were shared, highlighting the need for gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches.
- In collaboration with Khao Niew, a local theatre, WFP engaged communities in Feuang district of Vientiane province, on the importance of school meals. Through interactive theatre performance, community members reflected on their shared roles in sustaining the programme, and shared feedback on how to ensure a safe and inclusive learning environment for children.
- WFP dispatched 211 mt of food assisting 112,000 students with school meals.

Story from the field



Bountu presents dried pumpkin using the technique learned at the Farmer Nutrition School. Photo: WFP/ Vilakhone Sipaseuth

WFP organized a year-end field trip for national media to Champassak and Sekong provinces, providing journalists the opportunities to engage with local communities and learn about the long-term impact of WFP-supported programmes.

In Vangxang village, Laman district of Sekong province, where food insecurity is among the highest in Lao PDR, communities are learning food processing and preservation, under the Agriculture for Nutrition Project Phase II (AFN II). These skills help families maintain a balanced diet throughout the year.

Bountu, a nutrition facilitator, recounted his experience with journalists: "In the past, we struggled to access nutritious food year-round due to unfavourable weather condition, the long dry periods make it hard to grow fruits and vegetables, and storms during the rainy season often destroy our crops. With these new skills, our nutrition has improved, and we can even sell surplus products for extra income."

Donors

Asian Development Bank (ADB), Australia, 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.