



# WFP Lao PDR



COUNTRY BRIEF  
May 2026

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Minister of Education and Sports signed a Ministerial Agreement to increase the National School Lunch Programme budget from LAK 5,000 (USD 0.23) to LAK 10,000 (USD 0.46) per child per meal per day. The revised budget will take effect from the first semester of the 2026–2027 academic year.
- A study on the cost and financing of school meals in Laos is underway, supported by WFP. The study launch brought together key ministries and partners including the World Bank, to support the Government of Lao PDR in developing a realistic and sustainable financing plan with the help of the Sustainable Financing Initiative.

## IN NUMBERS



**166,800** people assisted in April 2026



**49%**  
Male



**51%**  
Female



**153 mt** food distributed, benefiting 161,500 students and supporters in schools

**Photo Caption & Credit:** Village nutrition facilitators lead the Farmer Nutrition School sessions with participants in Oudomxay Province. WFP/Vilakhone Sipaseuth

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a landlocked, least developed nation with a population of 7.8 million. As of 2024/2025, about 15 percent of its people live below the national poverty line of USD 1.10 per day. Despite poverty dropping by over half in the past twenty years, the 2024 Global Hunger Index rates the country's hunger as “moderate.”
- Climate change is a major challenge facing the rural population and the country is vulnerable due to its low adaptability and heavy dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources. Changing climate patterns, limited access to markets and varied livelihoods, further worsen the situation in remote upland areas, where over 20 percent of households are food insecure (national average: 10 percent). Chronic malnutrition affects 33 percent of children under five, while micronutrient deficiencies are high and overnutrition is on the rise in urban areas.
- WFP has been present in Lao PDR since 1976.



## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### School-Based Assistance

- WFP and the Ministry of Education and Sports, together with participants from 11 provinces and Vientiane Capital reviewed the progress of school meals and discussed the gradual transition to the Government's national programme by 2029. The meeting also provided an opportunity to share global evidence and best practices from the 2025 School Meals Coalition Summit.

### Nutrition and Resilience

- Village nutrition facilitators delivered Farmer Nutrition School modules to women and young mothers in 88 villages across 11 districts in four provinces. Almost 3,500 participants attended, most of them women, learning about causes of child malnutrition, the importance of food, hygiene, and supportive agricultural practices to promote social and behavior change for dietary diversity.
- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment and the Lao Women's Union, delivered financial literacy trainings to over 1,000 women in Houaphan province to strengthen climate-resilient livelihood through household budgeting, investment planning, and small-scale agriculture management. Participants subsequently developed household investment plans for the 2026 rainy season, focusing on home gardening, maize, coffee cultivation, and livestock raising activities.
- WFP, the Lao Farmers' Association and local agriculture offices supported 48 agricultural production groups in Houaphan and Xiengkhouang provinces to access revolving funds. Participants strengthened their business planning, proposal writing, financial management and market linkage capacities.

### Gender and Protection

- WFP participated in a protection cluster meeting to support an initiative to develop a unified service directory in Lao PDR. The directory provides essential information about protection services to ensure people in need are quickly connected to the right protection services.
- WFP attended a joint UN event on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV), highlighting the increasing risks women and girls face through online harassment and abuse.

Discussions emphasized that TFGBV is a broader protection issue linked to gender inequality, with impacts on safety, well-being and participation in public life.

## Story from the field



In the uplands of Oudomxay province in northern Lao PDR, Khamla, a farmer and trained community weather monitor, is helping his community adapt to increasingly unpredictable weather patterns. Using the *Lao Climate Services for Agriculture* application, he tracks real-time weather forecasts and shares weather updates and early warnings with farmers every two weeks, helping better prepare for floods, droughts, and changing seasons.

With WFP's technical support, Khamla also helps farmers adjust planting times and improve crop production as traditional farming calendars become less reliable due to increased climate variability.

"By following weather forecasts more closely, we can now plan our farming activities with greater confidence. We know better when the rains will come and how much to expect, which helps us decide when to plant. We are also better prepared to cope with floods and drought," Khamla says confidently.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW

### Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

CSP FUNDING	US\$123.79 M	US\$116.41 M
6-MONTHS NFR	US\$2.68 M	
REQUIREMENT	RECEIVED	NET FUNDING REQUIREMENT

### 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.