



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Lao PDR Country Brief July 2019

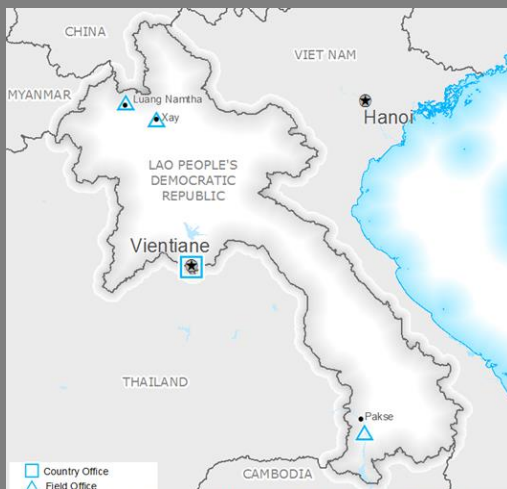


Operational Context

Lao PDR is a least developed country, ranking 139 out of 189 countries in the 2017 Human Development Index. It has one of the lowest population densities in Asia. 23 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line (USD 1.25/day), with a gross national income per capita of USD 2,270 (World Bank 2017). The country is ranked 64 out of 144 in the Global Gender Gap Index 2017.

While Lao PDR has managed to reduce the proportion of hungry poor to 23 percent, the 2015 Global Hunger Index still rates hunger levels as "serious". Climate change is a key challenge facing rural livelihoods, and the country is vulnerable to climate change due to its low adaptability and its 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 25 percent of households are food insecure.

WFP has been present in Lao PDR since 1975.



Population: 6.5 million

Human Development Index:
139 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

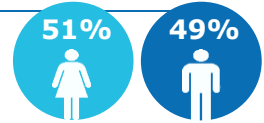
Chronic malnutrition: 35.6% of
children between 6-59 months

In Numbers

11,921 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.28 million six-month (Aug 2019 – Jan 2020) net funding requirements

14,256 people assisted



Operational Updates

- On July 22-24, the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) visited the joint IFAD-WFP project, Agriculture For Nutrition, in San and Namuang villages of Xiengkhaung Province.
- WFP held three workshops as part of its goal to hand over its school feeding programmes to the Government. The workshops took place in Salavan (covering the three southern provinces of Salavan, Sekong and Attapeu), Oudomxay (covering the northern provinces of Oudomxay and Luangnamtha) and Phongsaly Province. In total, the meetings were attended by nearly 200 participants, indicating strong commitment to a nationally owned school feeding programme from all levels of the Government.
- WFP completed an analysis of the infrastructure needed for the school feeding programme. This will provide important information for the process of handing the programme to the Government and support the successful delivery of school meals to children in Lao PDR the future.
- As part of the school feeding programme, literacy initiatives for students were discussed with new partners, with plans to start a new collaboration in October 2019.
- WFP has completed the desk-review phase of an end-line evaluation for the Local Regional Procurement (LRP) project. The LRP project, which is being implemented by the Lutheran World Federation, will finish at the end of September 2019 and the evaluation is due by December.
- WFP provided technical training on establishing community rice banks for 38 village management committees (18 in Sanamxai and 20 in Kaluem). 184 people attended the trainings.

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Aug 2019 – Jan 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
78.72 m	49.23 m	1.28 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Schoolchildren in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities
- Accelerate the implementation of the Government’s plan of action of the school meals programme
- Support a national process for community and Government hand-over of the schools.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national levels by 2025.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance for evidence-based policy dialogue
- Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6 to 23 months
- Develop a social behaviour change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools.

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable households in climate-sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses.

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: National and local governance institutions are strengthened to improve service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas, by 2025.

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance
- Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions
- Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters.

- The Logistics Cluster Preparedness Project commenced in July and has been officially endorsed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. The Project aims to enable local government, international and local NGO’s, UN agencies, development partners and the private sector to have a coordinated approach to improving supply chain resilience in Lao PDR. The project will run for 12 months with two initial activities to be conducted in August 2019.

Story from the field



“Today, I have more time to be with my grandchildren. This makes me happy.” Somphan Vongphachan, who is 62-years old, and his family had to leave their village and move 50 km to Longkhean Village of Nalae District in 2017, because of a dam construction.

With support from the Local Regional Procurement project, he learned various methods of improving soil fertility, was taught how to manage vegetable crops in order to prevent diseases and pests and received vegetable seeds to start his own garden.

Recently, Somphan, has started raising fish, frogs, chickens, ducks and pigs. His living condition has improved significantly as he can access food all year long and has more time to dedicate to his family and grandchildren.

Donors

USA, Australia, Japan, France, Russia, Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Government of Lao PDR, Private Donors