



World Food Programme in Lao PDR

Emergency Preparedness and Response Factsheet

Overview

Lao PDR continues to suffer from high levels of undernutrition. The national wasting rate stands at 6 percent. However, poverty levels and the lack of social safety nets, mean that certain communities can easily rise above the threshold of 15 percent in an emergency. WFP has been responding to emergencies in Lao with food assistance and recovery activities since 1976. The emergency preparedness component was added with the Country Programme in 2012 to build capacity of the Government in disaster risk reduction and management (DRR/M). This is to strengthen their ability to prepare and respond during an emergency and prevent wasting.

Programme Coverage

Preparedness programmes are currently focused at the central level as well as provincial level in Luang Prabang and Oudomxay, although WFP is able to respond throughout Laos in the event of an emergency with support for up to 35,000 people.

Activities

WFP provides comprehensive technical support at national and provincial levels including:

- Developing Standard Operating Procedures and Preparedness Plans;
- Development of a DRR/M training manual,
- Feasibility of a National Emergency Operations Centre,
- Establishing national and provincial-level Early Warning Systems;
- Training a pool of national EPR instructors; and
- Supporting local authorities and communities to do rapid needs assessments and beneficiary targeting.

At the government's request, WFP is also analyzing models for an improved Strategic Grain Reserve in Laos.

Sustainability

WFP works in cooperation with the Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change (DDMCC) within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) as well as the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW) to strengthen the institutional capacity to respond to natural disasters. WFP supported an inter-ministerial Lao delegation of disaster reduction officials to visit the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council in the Philippines in Jan 2015 to discuss regional approaches to DRR/M. WFP is also supporting the construction of mobile storage units in Oudomxay and Sekong Provinces to enable the Lao Government to pre-position supplies for emergency response.

Results

DRR/M Training of Trainers was completed with 89 government staff and EPR training workshops delivered to 110 government officials and partners in 2014. Course participants gained the knowledge and skills to conduct an emergency response assessment and plan an emergency response operation.

Food assistance was provided in Saravane province in Jan 2014 to 14,866 people due to flooding in Khongxedone district.



2014: 14,866



223mt



12.8mt



Funding

Donors: Australia, Japan, ECHO, ASEAN

Partners

DDMCC (MoNRE), MoLSW, Children's Fund, Plan International, Save the Children, FAO