



WFP/Pia Artadi



WFP / Dominique McCarthy

# World Food Programme in Lao PDR

## School Meals Factsheet

### Overview

WFP has been operating a School Meals (SM) programme in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) in Lao PDR since 2002.

WFP provides fortified food to primary school students to enhance learning as well as to support access to education particularly for children in rural and remote areas. While it is too late to reverse stunting at school age, SM is contributing to its long-term reduction through inter-generational improved nutrition awareness and dietary diversity. WFP is also providing Take-home Rations to informal boarders as an incentive to continue secondary school despite the challenges and expense of living far from home.

The 2010 Labour Force and Child Labour Survey in Lao PDR found that 15 percent of children aged 5-17 are economically active and only 71 percent of children complete primary school. Secondary school enrolment decreases to 60 percent, or only 55 percent for females.

### Programme Coverage

WFP has gradually expanded to cover 1,722 schools in 32 districts across 7 provinces. Provinces include Phongsaly, Luang Namtha and Oudomxay (since 2002); Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu (since 2009) and Luang Prabang (since 2011).

### Activities

**Mid-morning Snack:** Vitamin- and mineral- fortified Super Cereal snack is provided every school day (approx. 166 days per year) for pre-primary and primary school students. The snack costs US\$0.15 per child per day and is prepared by village cooks. It includes 80g of SuperCereal, 15g oil and 15g sugar per student. WFP trains the cooks in how to prepare the snack, as well as in nutrition and hygiene. Cooks and storekeepers receive an incentive of 50kg rice per semester.

**Take-home ration:** A ration of 40kg rice is provided each semester (two per year) to informal boarders (IBs) whose

homes are too far to commute daily and typically live in informal settings around the school.

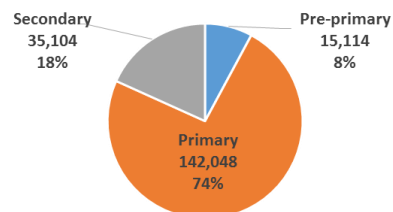
### Sustainability

WFP handed over implementation of School Meals in two districts to MoES in 2012. In May 2014, the Government of Lao PDR adopted a policy promoting school lunches as a social safety net to enhance the health and nutrition status of children as well as encourage access to education.

In support of this, WFP hosted a high-level Government study visit to the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil to assist the transition to the National School Lunch Programme by 2020. WFP is gradually shifting from the SuperCereal based snack to a lunch of fortified rice and vegetables grown in school-gardens.

### Results

School Meals beneficiaries for 2014 include:



♂ 84,868 (54%)  
**School Meals**  
 ♀ 72,294 (46%)



♂ 20,812 (55%)  
**Informal boarder**  
 ♀ 17,004 (45%)

### Beneficiary Perspective

*“Local villagers understand the importance of the programme so they actively provide local fruits to mix with the mid-morning snack—increasing the nutritional value and taste.”*

Somphone, Head of Homsouk Primary School, Oudomxay

### Funding

Donors: USDA, Australia, Cuba, JAWFP, YUM! Brands

### Partners

MoES, Lao Women’s Union, UNICEF, Save the Children



For more information visit: [www.wfp.org/countries/Lao-pdr](http://www.wfp.org/countries/Lao-pdr)  
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