

SCHOOL MEAL/FEEDING PROGRAM(S)

Most recently completed school year:
Sept 2017 – May 2018 (175 school days)

- National School Lunch Program
- School Lunch Program (World Food Program)
- Learning and Engaging All in Primary School II (LEAPS II)

Lead Agency: Ministry of Education and Sports

NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND STANDARDS

- ☒ National school feeding policy
- ☒ Nutrition
- ☐ Food safety
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Private sector involvement

Line item in the national budget... ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ NR

BUDGET

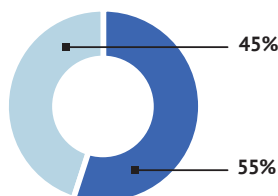
Total:
USD 14,220,985

☐ National government:
USD 6,336,000

☒ International donors*:
USD 7,884,985

☐ Private sector: USD 0

☐ Other donors: USD 0



*Contributions by United Nations agencies or non-governmental organizations often represent funding from multiple donors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Some schools in Laos have piped water, clean water, and dedicated eating spaces/cafeterias. Most schools have latrines, though very few have electricity.

SPECIAL NOTES

International donors include the World Bank and the Governments of Australia, Japan, and the United States.

NR = No Response

MEALS/SNACKS/MODALITY

- ☐ Breakfast
- ☒ Lunch
- ☐ Dinner
- ☐ Snacks
- ☐ Take-home rations
- ☐ Conditional cash transfer

- ☒ Grains/cereals
- ☒ Roots, tubers
- ☒ Legumes and nuts
- ☐ Dairy products
- ☒ Eggs
- ☒ Meat
- ☒ Poultry
- ☒ Fish
- ☒ Green, leafy vegetables
- ☒ Other vegetables
- ☒ Fruits
- ☒ Oil
- ☒ Salt
- ☐ Sugar

Prohibited food items: None

FOOD SOURCES

- ☒ Purchased (domestic)
- ☒ Purchased (foreign)
- ☒ In-kind (domestic)
- ☒ In-kind (foreign)

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- ☒ Handwashing with soap
- ☐ Height measurement
- ☐ Weight measurement
- ☒ Deworming treatment
- ☐ Eye testing/eyeglasses
- ☐ Hearing testing/treatment
- ☐ Dental cleaning/testing
- ☐ Menstrual hygiene
- ☒ Drinking water
- ☐ Water purification

COMPLEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- EDUCATION**
- ☒ Nutrition
- ☒ Health
- ☒ Food and agriculture
- ☒ Reproductive health
- ☒ Hygiene
- ☒ HIV prevention

- OTHER**
- ☒ School gardens
- ☒ Physical education

☒ = mandatory

The checked and highlighted items are reported as required, though they may not be uniformly implemented.



GCNF is a non-political, non-profit entity incorporated in 2006. Funding for this survey and a follow-up survey in 2021 is being provided, in part, by the United States Department of Agriculture under agreement number FX18TA-10960G002.

Lao People's Democratic Republic



SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

CHILDREN RECEIVING FOOD, 2017-18

School level	Total #	# Enrolled	# Receiving Food
Primary school	866,083	832,696	163,396
Secondary school	670,567	671,064	0
Total	1,536,650	1,503,760	163,396

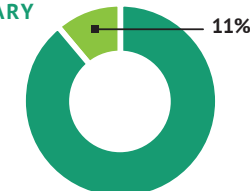


* Approximately 14% of these were pre-school children

COVERAGE: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Total number primary and secondary school-age children: 1,536,650

Receiving school food:
☒ 163,396



Food was also provided to some students in
☒ Pre-schools ☐ Vocational/trade schools
☐ University/higher education ☐ Other

NUTRITION

School feeding program(s) include/involve the following:

- ☒ **Fortified foods**
- ☐ Bio-fortified foods
- ☐ Micronutrient supplements
- ☐ Nutritionists involved
- ☒ **Special training for cooks/caterers in nutrition**
- ☒ **Objective to meet nutritional goals**
- ☒ **Objective to reduce obesity**

Food items fortified:

Oil, salt

Micronutrients added to fortified foods:

Vitamin A, Iodine, Vitamin E

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

National laws or policies related to school feeding include the National Policy on Nutrition (2008), National Nutrition Strategy (2030), and Action Plan 2016–2025. School cooks are trained in nutrition, menu planning, and food safety. Foods produced in school gardens are consumed by students and/or sold. A greenhouse system is also being developed.

AGRICULTURE, EMPLOYMENT, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Jobs created by school feeding programs

4,150	Cooks and food preparers
12	Transporters
NR	Off-site processors
8	Food packagers and handlers
83	Monitoring
1,845	Food service management
3	Safety and quality inspectors
NR	Other

Farmers were involved with the school feeding program(s)...

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ NR

Other private sector (for profit) actors were involved...

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ NR

There was a focus on creating jobs or leadership or income-generating opportunities for...

- ☒ **Women**
- ☒ **Youth**
- ☒ **Other groups**

There was community engagement (by parents or others) in the school feeding program(s)

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ NR

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Most cooks are volunteers, but they do receive a small in-kind payment. Laos reported that smallholder farmers are involved in the School Lunch Program, with subsidies/inputs, agricultural extension, and school feeding-specific training provided by the national government. The storage system for that program is under the responsibility of village youth organizations. Community engagement is highly encouraged.

CONTACTS: LAOS

Agency: Ministry of Education and Sports

Website: <http://moes.edu.la/moes/index.php>

Email: N/A

SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

Successes associated with school feeding programs in Laos include the promotion of school agriculture, improved water access in schools, greater community cohesion, community ownership of the program and of the education system, improved gender parity in education, and improved nutrition education and practices in schools.

Challenges also exist, however, especially related to the sustainability of the National School Lunch Program after handover to the national government. More effort and resources are needed to create more nutritious school meals, and to use local food varieties on school meal menus. Furthermore, some policies or program documents, such as the National Social and Economic Development Plan, the associated School Feeding Strategies, and the World Food Program Country Strategy Plan, are not perfectly aligned.

STUDIES CONDUCTED

School meals cost-benefit analysis, which showed a long-term return of 6 USD for every dollar invested

RESEARCH NEEDED

Eating habits and nutrition requirements of different age groups

NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education and Sports

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity
- To meet agricultural goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals

TARGETING:

Geographic

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	5,569	50%	50%
Primary school	19,051	48%	52%
Secondary school	0	—	—
Total	24,620	—	—

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals	Poultry	Fish
Legumes and nuts	Meats	Fruits
Roots/tubers	Green, leafy vegetables	Oil*
Eggs	Other vegetables	Salt*
* fortified		

FOOD SOURCES:

10% Purchased (domestic & foreign)
40% In-kind (domestic) 50% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

The Lao Women's Union at the village level leads the school lunch daily cooking.



SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Lead implementer(s): Ministry of Education and Sports

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals
- To prevent or mitigate obesity
- To meet agricultural goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals
- Five times per week during the school year

TARGETING:

Geographic

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	20,911	49%	51%
Primary school	113,141	48%	52%
Secondary school	0	—	—
Total	134,052	—	—

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals	Poultry	Fish
Legumes and nuts	Meats	Fruits
Roots/tubers	Green, leafy vegetables	Oil*
Eggs	Other vegetables	Salt*
* fortified		

FOOD SOURCES:

10% Purchased (domestic & foreign)
40% In-kind (domestic) 50% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

Management of this program will shift from implementation by the development partner (World Food Program) to the national government in June 2019. A greater budget is needed for monitoring activities and for the daily procurement of fresh food. Although this program uses a competitive tendering process for procuring food items, smaller companies tend not to be successful at competing for bids.

LEARNING AND ENGAGING ALL IN PRIMARY SCHOOL (LEAPS II)

Lead implementer(s): Catholic Relief Services

OBJECTIVES:

- To meet educational goals
- To provide a social safety net
- To meet nutritional and/or health goals

MODALITIES OF PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH FOOD:

- In-school meals three times per week during the school year
- Take-home rations monthly during the school year

TARGETING:

Geographic targeting of disadvantaged districts in Savannakhet Province, as determined by the Government of Lao PDR

HOW MANY STUDENTS RECEIVED SCHOOL FOOD IN 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR?

School level	# Students	% Girls	% Boys
Pre-school	5,670	50%	50%
Primary school	31,204	47%	53%
Secondary school	N/A		
Total	36,874	—	—

FOOD ITEMS:

Grains/cereals Legumes and nuts Oil*
* fortified

FOOD SOURCES:

0% Purchased (domestic) 10% In-kind (domestic)
0% Purchased (foreign) 90% In-kind (foreign)

NOTES:

Nearly all participating schools (99%) have on-site kitchens with electricity, storage space, serving utensils, and charcoal or wood stoves. Students' families contribute some in-kind donations, particularly firewood, salt, and sugar. Take-home rations are provided to cooks and teachers. At least three-quarters of the cooks are women.

All schools ask that parents contribute fuel for cook stoves or other inputs such as condiments to support the school feeding program. Students periodically carry the inputs to school. Small exceptions arise on a case by case basis for extremely poor families or those unable to contribute. Management of this program will shift from implementation by the development partner (Catholic Relief Services) to the national government in June 2019.

