



World Food Programme



Rapid Assessment of Food Security and Agriculture in Lao PDR

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



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ບົດສະຫລຸບຫຍໍ້

ເຖິງແມ່ນວ່າມາຮອດປະຈຸບັນ, ສປປ ລາວ ໄດ້ມີການຢັ້ງຢືນພົບຜູ້ຕິດເຊື້ອພະຍາດອັກເສບປອດຈາກເຊື້ອຈຸລະໂລກສາຍພັນໃໝ່ (ໂຄວິດ-19) ພຽງແຕ່ 19 ກໍລະນີ, ແຕ່ວ່າກໍຄືເຊັ່ນດຽວກັນກັບປະເທດອື່ນໆທົ່ວໂລກ - ສປປ ລາວ - ກໍແມ່ນໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບທາງ ເສດຖະກິດ ແລະ ສັງຄົມເປັນອັນດັບຮອງ, ເນື່ອງຈາກການຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດມາດຕະການເພື່ອສະກັດກັ້ນການແຜ່ລະບາດຂອງໂຄວິດ-19. ການສໍາຫລວດຄັ້ງນີ້ແມ່ນເພື່ອສຶກສາເຖິງຜົນກະທົບຂອງວິກິດການຕໍ່ກັບການຄ້າປະກັນດ້ານສະບຽງອາຫານ ແລະ ການກະສິກໍາ ເພື່ອກໍານົດບັນຫາທີ່ເປັນຂອດອຸປະສັກຕົ້ນຕໍ ແລະ ຈໍານວນປະຊາກອນທີ່ຖືກຜົນກະທົບຢູ່ແຂວງຕ່າງໆໃນຂອບເທດທົ່ວປະເທດ, ພ້ອມທັງເພື່ອເປັນທິດທາງສໍາລັບບາງການຕອບໂຕ້ ແລະ ຮັບມືທີ່ຈໍາເປັນ.

ການສໍາຫລວດໃນຄັ້ງນີ້ແມ່ນໄດ້ຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດໂດຍຮູບແບບການໂທຜ່ານໂທລະສັບເພື່ອເກັບຂໍ້ມູນ ເລີ່ມຕັ້ງແຕ່ວັນທີ່ 21-30 ເມສາ 2020, ຫຼັງຈາກວັນພັກບຸນກຸດສິງການ (ບຸນປີໃໝ່ລາວ) ແຕ່ວັນທີ່ 13-16 ເມສາ 2020. ໃນລະຫວ່າງນີ້ໄດ້ມີການປະຕິບັດມາດຕະການຄວບຄຸມ ແລະ ການປິດຕົວເມືອງ (ລວມທັງມາດຕະການຫ້າມການເດີນທາງເຂົ້າ-ອອກນອກປະເທດ ແລະ ລະຫວ່າງແຂວງຕໍ່ແຂວງ ພ້ອມທັງໄດ້ມີການປິດການໃຫ້ບໍລິການຂອງທຸລະກິດຫຼາຍປະເພດ) ຢ່າງເຂັ້ມງວດ ເລີ່ມຈາກວັນທີ່ 30 ມີນາ 2020 ຈົນຮອດ ວັນທີ່ 3 ພຶດສະພາ 2020. ໃນຊ່ວງຂອງການສໍາຫລວດ, ຜົນກະທົບຈາກການປະຕິບັດມາດຕະການດັ່ງກ່າວກໍໄດ້ຖືກນໍາມາພິຈາລະນາເຂົ້າໃນການເກັບຂໍ້ມູນຄັ້ງນີ້.

ການສໍາຫລວດຄັ້ງນີ້ ໄດ້ດໍາເນີນການສໍາພາດ 1,007 ຄົນໃນ 17 ແຂວງ ແລະ ນະຄອນຫລວງວຽງຈັນ. ໃນຂະນະທີ່ມີຂໍ້ຈໍາກັດໃນຫຼາຍດ້ານໃນການເຮັດການສໍາຫລວດຄັ້ງນີ້ ໃນນັ້ນລວມເຖິງຈໍານວນຕົວຢ່າງຂອງການເກັບຂໍ້ມູນຍັງມີຂະໜາດນ້ອຍໃນບາງແຂວງ, ກໍລະນີສຶກສາໃນຄັ້ງນີ້ແມ່ນອີງໃສ່ ຄວາມຮັບຮູ້ຂອງຄົນໃນທ້ອງຖິ່ນທີ່ມີຄວາມເຂົ້າໃຈຕໍ່ກັບສະພາບການດັ່ງກ່າວ.

ບາງຈຸດທີ່ສໍາຄັນຈາກການເກັບຂໍ້ມູນຕາມຂະແໜງການມີດັ່ງນີ້:

- **ດ້ານກະສິກໍາ:** ໂດຍສະເລ່ຍບໍ່ພົບການລາຍງານກ່ຽວກັບການຫຼຸດລົງໃນກິດຈະກໍາດ້ານກະສິກໍາ ຫລືການເຂົ້າເຖິງປັດໄຈເພື່ອການຜະລິດກະສິກໍາ, ຕາມການສັງເກດໂດຍລວມທົ່ວແຂວງ, ສັງເກດເຫັນວ່າແຂວງຫຼວງນໍ້າທາທຽບກັບແຕ່ລະແຂວງ ຂ້ອນຂ້າງໃຫ້ທັດສະນະທີ່ມີຜົນດ້ານລົບຕໍ່ກັບທຸກບັນຫາທີ່ກ່ຽວຂ້ອງກັບການກະສິກໍາ ເປັນຕົ້ນແມ່ນການຜະລິດກະສິກໍາ, ການປູກພືດເສດຖະກິດ (ເຊັ່ນ: ໝາກແໜ່ງ, ສວນຢາງ, ຊາ, ກາເຟ ແລະ ອື່ນໆ) ແມ່ນໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບຫຼາຍທີ່ສຸດຈາກວິກິດການຄັ້ງນີ້, ຮອງລົງມາກໍແມ່ນການປູກພືດສວນ.
 - **ບັນດາແຂວງທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບຫຼາຍທີ່ສຸດມີດັ່ງນີ້:** ແຂວງອັດຕະປື, ບໍ່ແກ້ວ, ບໍລິຄໍາໄຊ, ຫຼວງນໍ້າທາ, ສະຫວັນນະເຂດ ແລະ ໄຊສົມບູນ.
- **ດ້ານການຕະຫລາດ:** ການຈໍາກັດການເຄື່ອນຍ້າຍຂອງພໍ່ຄ້າ, ພໍ່ຄ້າຄົນກາງ ແລະ ຊາວກະສິກອນ ມີຜົນກະທົບຢ່າງເຫັນໄດ້ຢ່າງຈະແຈ້ງຕໍ່ການຂາຍຜົນຜະລິດ (ພືດເສດຖະກິດ ແລະ ພືດສວນ) ແລະ ຍັງມີຜົນກະທົບຕໍ່ລາຄາສິນຄ້າ ແລະ ອາຫານທີ່ມີຢູ່ບາງປະເພດໃນບາງແຂວງ ລວມທັງແຂວງຫຼວງນໍ້າທາ ແລະ ບໍ່ແກ້ວ.
 - **ບັນດາແຂວງທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບຫຼາຍທີ່ສຸດມີດັ່ງນີ້:** ແຂວງບໍ່ແກ້ວ ແລະ ຫຼວງນໍ້າທາ.
 - **ການດໍາລົງຊີວິດ:** ການວ່າງງານໄດ້ມີການເພີ່ມຂຶ້ນໃນທຸກພາກຂອງປະເທດ. ຜູ້ອອກແຮງງານລາຍວັນ ແມ່ນໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບຫລາຍທີ່ສຸດ, ລາຍໄດ້ໂດຍລວມຂອງຄົວເຮືອນຂອງຊາວກະສິກອນກໍໄດ້ມີການຫຼຸດລົງ ເນື່ອງຈາກປະລິມານການຂາຍທີ່ຫຼຸດລົງ ແລະ ລາຄາທີ່ຕໍ່າລົງ. ການສົ່ງເງິນໃຫ້ຄອບຄົວກໍຫຼຸດລົງ ແລະ ສິ່ງຜົນກະທົບຕໍ່ຫຼາຍຄົວເຮືອນ.
 - **ບັນດາແຂວງທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບຫຼາຍທີ່ສຸດມີດັ່ງນີ້:** ອັດຕະປື, ບໍ່ແກ້ວ, ຫຼວງນໍ້າທາ, ສະຫວັນນະເຂດ ແລະ ນະຄອນຫຼວງວຽງຈັນ.
- **ການເຂົ້າເຖິງອາຫານຂອງຄົວເຮືອນ:** ຂໍ້ຈໍາກັດຫຼັກຂອງການເຂົ້າເຖິງແຫຼ່ງອາຫານແມ່ນດ້ານການເງິນ, ຜູ້ທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບສ່ວນຫຼາຍແມ່ນຄົວເຮືອນທີ່ທຸກຍາກ ແລະ ຜູ້ອອກແຮງງານທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບຄ່າຈ້າງເປັນລາຍວັນ.
 - **ບັນດາແຂວງທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບຫຼາຍທີ່ສຸດມີດັ່ງນີ້:** ແຂວງຫຼວງນໍ້າທາ ແລະ ສະຫວັນນະເຂດ

- **ດ້ານສຸຂະພາບແລະໂພຊະນາການ:** ຂໍ້ສັງເກດໃນການໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບຕໍ່ດ້ານຕ່າງກ່າວຍັງມີລັກສະນະຈຳກັດ. ຂໍ້ສັງເກດຕ່າງກ່າວອາດຈະສະແດງໃຫ້ເຫັນໄດ້ຊັດເຈນຂຶ້ນໃນຊ່ວງໄລຍະກາງ. ຄົວເຮືອນໃນເຂດຊົນນະບົດແມ່ນຍັງອາໄສການຜະລິດກະສິກຳ ແລະ ແຫຼ່ງອາຫານຈາກທຳທະຊາດເຊັ່ນ: ປາ, ພືດສະໝຸນໄພ, ໝາກໄມ້ ແລະ ແມງໄມ້ທີ່ກິນໄດ້. ນອກຈາກນີ້ເກືອບໜຶ່ງສ່ວນສາມ (1/3) ຂອງຜູ້ໃຫ້ສຳພາດໄດ້ໃຫ້ຂໍ້ສັງເກດວ່າ ມີການປ່ຽນແປງໄປໃນທາງລົບຂອງຄຸນຄ່າທາງໂພຊະນາການຂອງອາຫານທີ່ໄດ້ກິນໃນແຕ່ລະມື້.
 - **ແຂວງທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບຫຼາຍທີ່ສຸດໄດ້ແກ່:** ແຂວງບໍ່ແກ້ວ ແລະ ຫຼວງນ້ຳທາ.

ດັ່ງທີ່ເຫັນຢູ່ຂ້າງເທິງ, ໂດຍອີງຕາມຄວາມຮັບຮູ້ຂອງຜູ້ໃຫ້ສຳພາດ, ແຂວງຫຼວງນ້ຳທາໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບເປັນພິເສດ. ກ່ຽວກັບດ້ານກະສິກຳ, ຜູ້ໃຫ້ສຳພາດ ໄດ້ໃຫ້ຂໍ້ສັງເກດວ່າມັນຍາກຫຼາຍທີ່ຈະເຂົ້າເຖິງປັດໄຈຕ່າງໆສຳລັບການກະສິກຳ ໃນນັ້ນລວມມີ: ປຸຍ, ອາຫານສັດ, ເຄື່ອງມື ແລະ ອຸປະກອນການກະເສດ. ມີບາງສິນຄ້າກໍ ຂາດແຄນໃນທ້ອງຕະຫຼາດ ແລະ ບາງຄົນກໍພົບກັບບັນຫາລາຄາສິນຄ້າເພີ່ມຂຶ້ນສູງ. ການເກັບກ່ຽວອ້ອຍອາດຈະໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບເປັນພິເສດຍ້ອນວ່າບໍ່ມີການເຄື່ອນຍ້າຍ ແລະ ການຂາດແຮງງານເພື່ອຊ່ວຍການເກັບກູ້ ໃນຊ່ວງນີ້.

ດ້ານການຕະຫຼາດໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບຢ່າງເຫັນໄດ້ຢ່າງຊັດເຈນ, ສ່ວນໜຶ່ງອາດຈະເປັນຍ້ອນ ບໍ່ມີພໍ່ຄ້າຊາວຫວຽດນາມຜູ້ທີ່ມີການຄ້າຂາຍໄປມາເປັນສ່ວນໃຫຍ່ໃນພື້ນທີ່. ນອກຈາກນີ້ແຂວງຫຼວງນ້ຳທາ ອາດຈະໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບຈາກຫລາຍດ້ານຍ້ອນວ່າເປັນຊາຍແດນລະຫວ່າງປະເທດລາວກັບມຽນມາ, ຈີນແລະ ໄທ ຜ່ານແຂວງບໍ່ແກ້ວ - ເຊິ່ງມີຄວາມສຳຄັນທາງດ້ານການຄ້າ.

ອີງຕາມເນື້ອໃນ ແລະ ປະເດັນທີ່ສຳຄັນຂອງບົດສຳຫລວດນີ້, ພວກເຮົາມີບາງຂໍ້ສະເໜີແນະເຊິ່ງເນື້ອໃນລະອຽດຈະໄດ້ຜັນຂະຫຍາຍໃນພາກຂອງ “ບົດສະຫຼຸບ” ດັ່ງນີ້:

- **ອະນຸຍາດໃຫ້ພໍ່ຄ້າແລະພໍ່ຄ້າຄົນກາງໄດ້ມີການເຄື່ອນໄຫວຫຼາຍຂຶ້ນ** ໃນລະດັບທີ່ເໝາະສົມເພື່ອຫຼຸດຜ່ອນຜົນກະທົບຕໍ່ກັບ ການເຂົ້າເຖິງອາຫານ, ແລະ ລາຄາອາຫານ ແລະ ສິນຄ້າດ້ານການກະສິກຳ, ເພື່ອຫຼຸດຜ່ອນພາລະດ້ານການເງິນຂອງຄົວເຮືອນ ແລະ ເພີ່ມການເຂົ້າເຖິງອາຫານໃນຄົວເຮືອນ.
- **ໃຫ້ການສະໜັບສະໜູນບັນດາຄອບຄົວທີ່ບໍ່ມີອາຫານພຽງພໍ** ໂດຍການແຈກຢາຍເປັນວັດຖຸ ຫຼື ເປັນເງິນສົດ ເພື່ອຫຼຸດຜ່ອນຄວາມບໍ່ໝັ້ນຄົງດ້ານສະບຽງອາຫານກະທັນຫັນ, ພ້ອມທັງພິຈາລະນາການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານອາຫານເພື່ອຊັບສິນ ຫຼື ອາຫານເພື່ອງານ (FFA) ເພື່ອສ້າງຄວາມເຂັ້ມແຂງໃຫ້ຊຸມຊົນໃນການຮັບມືກັບການຄ້າປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານໃນໄລຍະຍາວ.
- **ໃຫ້ການສະໜັບສະໜູນຊຸມຊົນໃນການວາງແຜນລະດູການຜະລິດ**, ໂດຍສະເພາະໃນລະດັບຄົວເຮືອນໃນການເຮັດສວນຄົວ, ການລ້ຽງສັດນ້ອຍ ແລະ ການລ້ຽງປາ. ການສະໜັບສະໜູນ ບັນດາກິດຈະກຳ ອາດຈະມີຄວາມສຳຄັນໃນການ ຊ່ວຍຫຼຸດຜ່ອນຜົນກະທົບອື່ນໆ ຂອງ ພະຍາດໂຄວິດ-19 ໂດຍສະເພາະ ກ່ຽວກັບຕ່ອງໂສ້ມູນຄ່າດ້ານກະສິກຳລວມທັງການສະໜັບສະໜູນພາກສ່ວນເອກະຊົນເພື່ອສ້າງຕັ້ງກຸ່ມສະໜອງປັດໄຈສຳລັບເຮັດການກະເສດໃນລະດັບກຸ່ມບ້ານ. ມີການກຳນົດແລະຊ່ວຍໃຫ້ຊາວກະສິກອນມີການຕິດຕໍ່ພົວພັນ ກັບຕະຫຼາດເພື່ອໃຫ້ມີທາງເລືອກສຳຮອງສຳລັບຜົນຜະລິດຕະຜົນທີ່ເກັບກ່ຽວໃໝ່ (ເຊິ່ງເຄີຍໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບຈາກສະພາບການຕ່າງກ່າວມາກ່ອນ ແລະ ໃຫ້ການສະໜັບສະໜູນກິດຈະກຳການຖະໜອມອາຫານ ແລະ ແປຮູບອາຫານ. ມາດຕະການໄລຍະສັ້ນ ສາມາດກວມເຖິງການສະໜອງແນວພັນປູກ, ອຸປະກອນເຮັດສວນຄົວເຮືອນ, ອຸປະກອນຮັກສາສຸຂະພາບສັດ ແລະ ການສະໜັບສະໜູນດ້ານເຕັກນິກຈາກພະນັກງານກະສິກຳເມືອງ ແລະ ບັນດາຜູ້ໃຫ້ບໍລິການໃນຂັ້ນທ້ອງຖິ່ນ.
- **ໃຫ້ຄວາມຮູ້ດ້ານໂພຊະນາການ ແລະ ມີການສະໜັບສະໜູນ / ສົ່ງເສີມອາຫານທີ່ມີໂພຊະນາການທີ່ມີໃນທ້ອງຖິ່ນ** (ເຊັ່ນ: ຊີ້ນ, ໄຂ່) ເຊິ່ງວຽກງານຕ່າງກ່າວອາດເປັນຂອບເຂດທີ່ສຳຄັນທີ່ຮຽກຮ້ອງໃຫ້ມີການສະໜັບສະໜູນເພີ່ມເຕີມ.

Executive summary

While there have been just 19 confirmed cases of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to date in Lao PDR, the country – as with other countries around the world – has been affected by secondary social and economic impacts as a result of measures instituted to stop the spread of the virus. This survey seeks to measure the impact of the crisis on food security and agriculture in order to identify bottlenecks and affected populations/provinces, and ultimately guide any required response.

The survey was conducted by phone from 21 – 30 April 2020. This period followed the Pi Mai (Lao New Year) holidays from 13 – 16 April 2020. Full “lockdown” measures (including restrictions on international and inter-provincial travel, as well as the closing of many businesses) were in place from 30 March 2020 until 3 May 2020. As such, we can expect that the full impact of these measures was being felt during the survey period.

A total of 1,007 completed interviews were conducted, covering all 17 provinces and Vientiane Capital. While there are limitations to this study including small sample sizes in some provinces, the study sought to capture the perceptions of local “experts” with an informed understanding of the situation.

Some key findings by sector include the following:

- **Agriculture:** While on average, significant reductions in agricultural activity or access to inputs were not reported, significant disparities were observed across provinces, with those in Luangnamtha perceiving significant negative impacts across issues. In terms of agricultural sub-sectors, cash crops (e.g. cardamom, rubber, tea, coffee, etc.) were by far the most impacted, followed by horticulture.
 - **Provinces perceived to be most impacted:** Attapeu, Bokeo, Bolikhamxai, Luangnamtha, Savannakhet and Xaixomboun
- **Markets:** The restrictions in movement by traders, middlemen and farmers had a visible impact on the sales of farmer produce (cash crops and horticulture) and on the availability and prices of some food products in some provinces, including Luangnamtha and Bokeo.
 - **Provinces perceived to be most impacted:** Bokeo and Luangnamtha
 - **Livelihoods:** Unemployment spiked in many parts of the country, with daily labourers most impacted. Overall income for farmer households also declined as a result of both reduced volume of sales and lower prices. A decline in remittances also affected a subset of households.
 - **Provinces perceived to be most impacted:** Attapeu, Bokeo, Luangnamtha, Savannakhet and Vientiane Capital

- **Household Access to Food:** The main constraint in access to food was financial, with poorer households and those with daily labour as the main source of income having the most acute access issues.
 - **Provinces perceived to be most impacted:** Luangnamtha and Savannakhet
- **Health and Nutrition:** The perceived immediate impact on health and nutrition was limited. This would also be a trend only visible in the medium-term. Rural households rely on food from their own agricultural production but also collect food from nature, such as fish, herbs, fruits and edible insects. There were also perceived negative changes in the nutritious value of what was consumed for almost one-third of respondents.
 - **Provinces perceived to be most impacted:** Bokeo and Luangnamtha

As seen above, Luangnamtha seems to have been particularly affected based on the respondents' perceptions. With regards to agriculture, respondents noted that it was very difficult to obtain agricultural inputs, including fertilizers, animal feed, tools and agricultural equipment, with some items in short supply and others experiencing significant price increases. Sugarcane harvest may have been particularly impacted as there was no movement and thus no access to external labour during this time.

Markets were also significantly impacted, possibly in part due to the absence of Vietnamese traders, who constitute the majority of mobile traders. In addition, Luangnamtha may have been disproportionately affected as its international borders – with Myanmar, China as well as Thailand through Bokeo – are significant in terms of trade.

Based on the findings from this survey, we recommend the following, which are further elaborated in the “Conclusions” section:

- **Allow traders and middlemen greater movement to the extent possible** to alleviate the impact on the availability and prices of agricultural and food items, ease the financial burden on households and to increase household access to food.
- **Support households with insufficient access to food** through in-kind or cash distributions to alleviate immediate food insecurity, while considering Cash or Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) to build longer-term resilience to food insecurity.
- **Support to agricultural season**, particularly at the household level through home gardens, small livestock raising and fish culture. It may also be important to support activities that mitigate other impacts of COVID-19 on the overall agricultural value chain, including the establishment of private input suppliers at the village cluster level, identifying and connecting farmers with alternative markets for fresh produce (which has been disproportionately affected) and supporting food preservation and processing activities. Short-term measures may also include the provision of seed-kits, home gardening equipment, animal healthcare material and technical support through DAFO and local service providers.
- **Nutrition** awareness raising and promoting/supporting the availability of nutritious food (e.g. meats, eggs) may be important areas requiring further support.

Background / introduction

COVID-19 is an infectious disease discovered in Wuhan, China in December 2019. On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). In Lao PDR, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed on 23 March 2020, and as of the writing of this report (mid-May 2020), there have been 19 confirmed cases in Vientiane Capital (14), Luangprabang (3) and Xaisomboun (2), with the last case identified on 13 April. No deaths or severe cases have been reported to date.

In addition to the health consequences of the virus, the measures put in place to stem the spread of transmission – such as the closure of international borders, restrictions on in-country travel and the closing of businesses – have secondary social and economic impacts, including on food security and agriculture. While COVID-19 has had a direct or indirect impact on the entire nation (primarily through these secondary effects), certain districts and provinces, as well as certain population groups, may face disproportionate challenges. Vulnerable population groups may include – but are not limited to – those engaged in daily labour, workers in the informal economy, migrant workers, the elderly, those with pre-existing conditions and the poor.

A brief overview of events – particularly related to Government orders restricting travel or instituting a stay-at-home order – is important to provide a context within which this survey took place, and to inform the interpretation of this survey and subsequent surveys, which may be conducted under different environments. This is in fact one of the key objectives of this periodic survey, i.e. to analyse the impact on various facets of food security and agriculture as the situation of both the virus as well as restrictions evolves over time.

The survey period – 21 to 30 April 2020 – took place shortly after the Pi Mai (Lao New Year) holidays from 13 – 16 April 2020. In advance of Pi Mai, on 29 March 2020, Prime Minister's Order Number 6 was released, prohibiting the population from leaving their

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