

Management Response Template

Version June 2016

This template provides a suggested structure and guidance on content for the management response to decentralized evaluation recommendations

Mc Govern Dole Mid Term Evaluation in Lao PDR from September 2015 to September 2016 WFP Lao PDR						
Rec. #	Recommendation Text (as per evaluation report)	Management Response (Is recommendation <i>Accepted</i> , <i>partially accepted</i> or <i>not accepted</i> ? If partially accepted or not accepted, provide a brief response)	Actions to be taken (Briefly state what actions will be taken to address the recommendation)	Action By [WFP Country Office, WFP Regional Bureau, WFP Headquarters, External Stakeholders (UN Agency, Government body, Donor)]	Implementation timeframe [Month, Year]	Status [Not started/In progress/On hold/Complete]
1	Improve the monitoring and evaluation function and in particular the table used for reporting against plans and targets	Accepted	WFP Lao M&E and Donor-Reporting sections will take over the reporting preparation of the Semi Annual Report. It has started for reporting period October 2016-March 2017. Notes shared from Washington (early May 2017) indicate they	WFP country office Lao PDR	2017-2018	In progress

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			are quite satisfied with the improvements in Semi Annual Reporting.			
2	Investigate the discrepancy between the number of beneficiaries reached and the number of school meals provided.	Partially accepted	<p>This has already been explained to the evaluators, and no further action (with regard discrepancy between the numbers) will be carried out since the reasons are already known:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. USDA reporting period is 1 April - 1 October. School holidays are from between mid-May to early September, therefore the number of meals provided were low, while the number of beneficiaries remain the same. The ASEAN summit, which took place in September 2016, had an impact on the start of the 2016/2017 school year. 2. The pipeline break of sugar also led to some schools not cooking during the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WFP country office - Ministry of Education and Sports - Communities 		Complete

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			reporting period, since snack cannot be made without sugar.			
3	Work with other partners to advocate for and assist the strengthening of Government monitoring systems	Accepted	This has been ongoing since early 2016 under the old Country Programme, and has already been included in the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) when the document was finalized in July 2016, under outcome 1/activity 1.	WFP country office	January 2016-December 2021	In progress
4	Create a model to strengthen current community capacity development activities, principally targeting schools and VEDCs, to facilitate the growth of local ownership of school feeding and related activities and improved	Accepted	This has already started as the country office has drafted a community strength assessment tool before the mid-term evaluation. The importance of assessing the communities to develop packages of support for hand over was included in the CSP, which was finalized in July 2016 (before the evaluation mission).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WFP country office/field offices - Ministry of Education and Sports - Communities 	Late 2016 - December 2021	In progress

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	functionality to play a stronger role with school staff					
5	Adapt WFP's deployment of local level personnel so as to provide more effective support to meaningful capacity development at community level	Accepted	WFP has been strengthening its field presence and capacity since late 2015, with deployment of consultants and standby partners. The M&E strategy had already been reviewed three times to accommodate changes in the system. The country office has also upgraded and increased the number of posts in the field (community mobilisers) to ensure that they build the capacity of communities who will be taking over the school meals programme. Technical support will be also requested from various ministries at provincial and district levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WFP country office - Communities - Ministry of Education and Sports - Ministry of Health - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry 	January 2016 - December 2017	In progress

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6	Experiment with cash based, local procurement models of school feeding	Partially accepted	This was included in the CSP (prior to the evaluation mission), and has already started.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WFP country office - Communities - Ministry of Education and Sports - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry 	April 2017-December 2021	In progress
7	In the next phase of MGD support, reconsider WFP's direct role in supporting complementary activities that are not linked to its core competences	Partially accepted	The recommendation is not uniquely addressed to WFP, and will require USDA comments relating to supporting complementary activities. From WFP perspective complementary activities and coordinated/ convened partnerships are crucial to any programme, and ensure that a comprehensive package of assistance is delivered to schools, and therefore the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WFP country office - Communities - Ministry of Education and Sports - Ministry of Health 	January 2016-December 2021	In progress

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			impact is much higher than if only food is provided. Seeing the schools meals programme as only delivery of assistance is shortsighted. As mentioned in the CSP, WFP together with partners, will plan to deliver a package of assistance. This was tested in 2016, and results showed the added value such assistance can bring to the school environment and impact it can have on children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry - Primary education working group 		
8	In the context of the School Feeding programme, and the convergent approach of the National Nutrition Strategy (NNS), collaborate with MoES, MoH, and MAF to review experience and seek a	Partially accepted	The school gardens are not meant (and cannot) provide all year round supply of food for the school lunches. Four elements are essential for a successful school meals programme: i) in-kind contribution from the donors (until schools are handed over to the Government); ii)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WFP Lao, - Communities - Ministry of Education and Sports 	September 2016-December 2021	In progress

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	better balance between using school gardens a) for educational purposes and b) to provide ingredients for school meals		vegetable gardens; iii) cash transfers to buy additional fresh food; and iv) contributions from communities. WFP is already working closely with the three ministries at central, provincial and district levels. No additional funding is required to scale up and strengthen the vegetable gardens. WFP does not agree with the recommendation to carry out another review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry - National Plan of Action on Nutrition working group 		
9	Strengthen nutrition education activities	Accepted	WFP Lao recognizes the importance of nutrition education, and it is already part of the CSP (strategic objective 1). WFP is also already aware of the opportunity to integrate nutrition into the national curriculum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WFP country office - Communities - Ministry of Education and Sports 	September 2016-December 2021	In progress

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			WFP is part of primary education working group and, together with other stakeholders, has been working on updating the primary education curriculum long before the evaluators' recommendation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Health - National Nutrition - National Plan of Action on Nutrition working group 		
10	Collaborate with partners to further mainstream gender into field-level activities	Accepted	Strengthening gender mainstreaming at all levels and in all areas started in late 2015, and Laos is the first country office to complete the Gender Transformation Programme, which enabled WFP to reflect upon gaps and opportunities of further integration of gender into programmatic activities such as school feeding. The country office gender action plan will be reviewed along these lines in 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WFP Lao - Communities - Ministry of Education and Sports - Ministry of Health - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry 		Complete

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