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Lao People's Democratic Republic

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Country Strategic Plan

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Foreword by the Country Director

While 2016 was a year of strategy formulation, 2017 was a year of transformation for WFP.

In 2016, WFP globally embarked on the Integrated Road Map (IRM) process, and Laos was among the first eight countries to commence and complete efforts to articulate support to the Government of Laos in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 with focus on SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 17 (Partnerships).

For Laos, the process started with the launch of the National Strategic Review of Food and Nutrition Security, and the many subsequent consultations with all actors of society (through the whole-of-society approach), including the Government, development partners and United Nations (UN) agencies, to identify WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2017-2021.

During 2016, UN agencies in Laos also formulated the UN Partnership Framework 2017-2021, and all strategies and goals including the SDGs were synchronised and embedded in the Government of Laos' 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2016-2020.

In February 2017, WFP's Executive Board approved the CSP for Laos, to be implemented from 1 April 2017. During the first quarter of 2017, WFP implemented and closed the country programme (CP 200242) and prepared for the commencement of the CSP implementation. The Integrated Road Map required an overall transformation of the country office and procedures. The CSP triggered a revisit of staff capacities, tailored development plans and led to a decision to nationalize the country office by 2019. The CSP also warranted new and strengthened ways of working with partners and the Government, and WFP increasingly sought collaborative and innovative approaches and provided more upstream technical policy assistance and support to the Government.

In order to reach out to communities in an innovative manner, the beneficiary hotline was completed, and the CSP was transformed into a comic book that enabled visual presentation of the CSP to enhance understanding among all, especially those who cannot read. Significant efforts were made to strengthen the integration of gender in WFP's work, and mainstreaming of disability is underway.

Looking back, many programmatic changes and results were achieved in 2017, but an equal amount of seeds were sown, laying an important foundation for enhancing value for money, accountability, partnerships, and the continued delivery of WFP food assistance to the last mile.

Wide coverage of schools in 2017 contributed to increased access to food for students while nutrition indicators have improved for targeted children and pregnant and lactating women. WFP also made significant investments in strengthening the capacity of national institutions.

Changes and adapting to new processes take time. Within this CSP, WFP will move towards more technical assistance and hand over some activities to the Government and communities. The focus in 2018 will therefore be to continue building and strengthening the capacity of the Government and communities at all levels.



Sarah Gordon-Gibson, WFP Lao PDR Country Director

Executive summary

Food and nutrition security is a serious issue in Lao PDR. Causes of malnutrition include poor diet diversity, low education levels, lack of basic health care and sanitation, and traditional gender and ethnic norms around food utilization. While many development indicators such as poverty levels and enrolment have improved over the years, stunting reduction remains an ongoing challenge.

The Government of Laos recognises stunting reduction as a priority, is committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and has well-defined national strategies and plans guiding socio-economic programmes. The 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) 2016-2020 aims to enable Laos to graduate to middle income country status, eradicate poverty, achieve sustainable human development, and ensure the effective management and utilization of natural resources.

Based on the recommendations of the 2016 National Strategic Review of Food and Nutrition Security, WFP Laos' Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2017-2021 is aligned to the NSEDP 2016-20 and directly contributes to interventions of the National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan, which emphasizes a multi-sectoral and convergence approach to reduce all forms of malnutrition.

The CSP builds on investments made since WFP established its operational presence in Laos in 2000, while at the same time gradually shifting towards strengthening the capacity of government institutions and communities. The CSP contributes to the following four strategic outcomes:

- Strategic Outcome 1: Schoolchildren in remote rural areas¹ have sustainable access to food by 2021;
- Strategic Outcome 2: Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025;
- Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable households in climate-sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses;
- Strategic Outcome 4: National and local governance institutions are strengthened to improve service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025.

The CSP is aligned with four WFP strategic results (SR): SR 1–everyone has access to food; SR 2–no one suffers from malnutrition; SR 4–food systems are sustainable; and SR 5–developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs. In addition to SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger) and 17 (Global Partnerships), the CSP also contributed to SDGs 4 (Education), 5 (Gender Equality) and 13 (Climate Action).

WFP signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Planning and Investment in May 2017 and further solidified its partnerships with government counterparts: the Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and Lao Women's Union. In addition, WFP partnered with other United Nations agencies, including both Rome-based agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations and civil society actors.

¹ Attapeu, Luang Namtha, Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, Phongsaly, Saravane, Khammouane, and Sekong provinces.

WFP leveraged its commitment to the multi-sectoral approach, its large field presence and accountability to affected population mechanisms to further strengthen the effectiveness of programme implementation. In 2017, the CSP reached a total of 511,400 beneficiaries (224,000 male and 287,400 female) under the four strategic outcomes. All programmatic activities and support functions were carried out in line with the WFP Gender Policy.

Introduction

Country context and response of the government

Laos is a landlocked least developed country with a total population of 6.8 million people (World Bank 2016), predominantly residing in rural areas and comprising 49 officially recognised ethnic groups.

While Laos has managed to reduce the proportion of hungry poor people from 33 to 23 percent in the past decade,² the 2017 Global Hunger Index still rates hunger levels in the country as “serious”.³ Around 80 percent of the rural population’s household food and nutrition security relies on subsistence farming,⁴ and rural households depend heavily on rice-based agriculture, livestock raising and the collection of food from the forest. Remote upland areas are most vulnerable to malnutrition and food insecurity. Rural livelihoods depend heavily on rain-fed rice production, and are thus very sensitive to climate change. Lack of preservation of forests is increasingly leading to a decline in biodiversity and access to non-timber forest products, including important sources of food.

Food and nutrition security is closely associated with poverty and vulnerability. It is estimated that 30 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line (USD 1.25 per person per day). Lao PDR ranks 138 out of 188 in the 2016 Human Development Index,⁵ and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is USD 2,353.⁶ While the country enjoys annual growth of around 7 percent, most of the growth is largely based on hydropower and the extraction of natural resources such as mining and forestry. This growth contrasts with rising income inequalities across regions and population groups.

Malnutrition remains a major challenge with stunting affecting 37.6 percent of boys and 33.6 percent of girls under 5 years.⁷ The rate of anaemia among women of reproductive age is 31 percent, while 53 percent of children under 2 years are anaemic, exceeding the critical public health threshold. The annual economic cost of undernutrition is estimated at 2.4 percent of the country’s GDP or USD 380 million per year.⁸ The causes of malnutrition in the country include lack of diet diversity, low education levels, lack of basic health care and sanitation, poor water access,

² Pimhidzai, Obert. 2015. Drivers of poverty reduction in Lao PDR (English). Lao PDR poverty policy note. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group

³ United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report 2016.

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/laos/fao-in-laos/laos-at-a-glance/en/>

⁵ United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report 2016.

⁶ Pimhidzai, Obert. 2015. Drivers of poverty reduction in Lao PDR (English). Lao PDR poverty policy note. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.

⁷ Lao Child Anthropometry Assessment Survey, add-on to the 2015 National Immunization Survey, 2015, Ministry of Health, UNICEF

⁸ National Economic Research Institute (NERI), 2013, and extrapolated with 2016 GDP of Lao PDR

and traditional gender and ethnic norms around food utilization, which in some areas also affect access to food.

The Government of Laos promotes gender equality through the Lao Women's Union, which is present at all levels from the national level down to individual villages. The country's continued emphasis on women's empowerment and increased recognition of their valuable roles in and contributions to society have led to positive results. In 2015, Laos ranked 56 out of 145 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index. In 2016, this rank improved to 43. However, literacy rates still reflect widespread gender inequalities, with the literacy rate among men at 89.2 percent compared to 78.7 percent among women. Other examples of inequalities include women's limited representation in decision-making in rural areas, challenges in access to and control of assets and land, and heavy responsibilities for unpaid domestic and care work.

The Government is committed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and has well-defined national strategies and plans guiding socio-economic programmes. The objectives of the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016-2020) are to enable Laos to graduate to middle income country status, eradicate poverty, achieve sustainable human development, and ensure the effective management and utilization of natural resources. The National Nutrition Strategy (2016-2025) and Action Plan (2016-2020) emphasise a multi-sectoral and convergence approach to reduce all forms of malnutrition. Laos joined the Scaling Up Nutrition movement in 2011, and established a National Nutrition Committee in 2013 to provide guidance for the coordination and implementation of the action plan. The Plan of Action of the School Meals Programme (2016-2020) and the 2014 Policy on Promoting School Lunches recognise that the provision of lunches contributes to education, food security and nutrition outcomes. The Government is making significant efforts to address gender gaps, with legislative and policy reform through its National Development Plan on Gender Equality (2016-2020).

The National Strategic Review of Food and Nutrition Security, carried out in 2016 by an independent team of experts under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, identified the following gaps: i) the challenge for governance structures to address the complex and cross-sectoral issue of food and nutrition security, and translate strategies and plans into implementation; ii) insufficient budget to achieve SDG 2 targets; iii) limited social protection and safety nets; iv) persistent cultural taboos and poor nutrition knowledge; v) uneven access to food; vi) low levels of productivity of smallholder farmers; and, vii) increased vulnerability to climate risks and diminished capacity of smallholder farmers to cope with weather variations.

WFP's objectives and strategic coordination

Based on gaps identified and recommendations within the National Strategic Review of Food and Nutrition Security, WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2017-2021 was drafted in consultation with the Government, development partners and civil society members, and was approved by the WFP Executive Board in February 2017, with implementation starting in April. It is aligned to the National Socio-Economic Development Plan and United Nations Partnership Framework, and directly contributes to 19 of the 22 priority interventions of the National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan.

The CSP marks a shift for WFP, from the provision of food assistance to policy engagement and increased capacity strengthening work. It identifies communities at the centre of all of WFP's activities, ensuring equitable participation and ownership of interventions to facilitate their

incorporation into local development plans and structures. The adjustment from the focus on direct implementation to the provision of technical support paves the way for a gradual handover of programmes to national actors under the CSP. In the medium-term, the strategy leads to community-run and government-financed programmes, and aims for national stakeholders to independently design, implement and manage food and nutrition security interventions by 2030.

The CSP builds upon positive previous investments and achievements while strategically repositioning WFP as a key player among food and nutrition security stakeholders through a comprehensive, longer-term strategy with an embedded handover plan. To introduce the CSP and the agreed upon roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders (government, other partners, communities and WFP), in 2017 WFP and the Ministry of Planning and Investment conducted CSP workshops for relevant line ministries⁹ and provincial governors' offices at central and provincial levels. At the district level, local authorities, communities and WFP prepared district work plans in line with the CSP's strategic outcomes and activities, with priority given to the school meals handover.

The CSP details the following strategic outcomes and activities:

Strategic Outcome 1: Schoolchildren in remote rural areas¹⁰ have sustainable access to food by 2021;

- Activity 1: Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities to the Government
- Activity 2: Accelerate implementation of the Government's plan of action for the school meals programme
- Activity 3: Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities

Strategic Outcome 2: Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025;

- Activity 4: Provide technical assistance for evidence-based policy dialogue
- Activity 5: Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months
- Activity 6: Develop a social behaviour change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable households in climate-sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses;

- Activity 7: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities

Strategic Outcome 4: National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025.

- Activity 8: Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance
- Activity 9: Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions
- Activity 10: Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters

⁹ Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Education and Sport, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare

¹⁰ Attapeu, Luang Namtha, Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, Phongsaly, Saravane, Khammouane, and Sekong provinces.

In May 2017, WFP signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Planning and Investment, mandated to coordinate all overseas development assistance in Laos. For a successful implementation of the CSP, WFP has further solidified partnerships with the following government counterparts: the Ministry of Education and Sports for an eventual phased handover of school meals; the Ministry of Health for improved technical assistance for the prevention of stunting; the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute in areas focused on promoting climate- and nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices; the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for technical support to natural disaster preparedness and to the drafting of a social protection strategy; and the Lao Women's Union for support on community mobilization and the promotion of gender equality throughout all activities.

WFP already partners with Rome-based agencies - the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - on the Agriculture for Nutrition project funded by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme. WFP established a memorandum of understanding with FAO and separately with the United Nations' Population Fund to optimize complementary programming in the area of nutrition and food security. WFP also negotiated an agreement with the Ministry of Education and Sports for WFP to provide technical monitoring services to the government-run national school meals programme in 2018.

To support the implementation of the CSP, WFP engaged in partnerships with non-governmental organizations: Agrisud; Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR); Plan International; Population Services International; Big Brother Mouse; and Lao Disabled People's Association. WFP also established collaborative partnerships with *Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

Throughout the year, WFP took part in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, playing a leading supportive role in preparations for the establishment of the SUN Business Network in partnership with the European Union (the SUN donor focal point) and Population Services International (the SUN civil society focal point).



| WFP STRATEGIC GOALS | 1.SUPPORT COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE ZERO HUNGER (SDG 2) | | | 2.PARTNER TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs (SDG 17) |
|--------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| WFP STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES | 1. END HUNGER | 2. IMPROVE NUTRITION | 3. ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY | 4. SUPPORT SDG IMPLEMENTATION |
| WFP STRATEGIC RESULTS | 1. Access to food (SDG 2.1) | 2. End malnutrition (SDG 2.2) | 3. Sustainable food systems (SDG 2.4) | 5. Capacity strengthening (SDG 17.9) |
| WFP STRATEGIC OUTCOMES | Schoolchildren in remote areas have sustainable access to food by 2021 ROOT CAUSES | Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025 ROOT CAUSES | Vulnerable households in climate-sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses RESILIENCE BUILDING | National and local governance institutions are strengthened to improve service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas, by 2025 ROOT CAUSES |
| WFP ACTIVITIES | <p>Provide policy support, technical assistance and capacity transfer</p> <p>Accelerate implementation of the Government's plan of action for the school meals programme</p> <p>Support a national process for hand-over of the school meals programme to communities and the Government</p> | <p>Provide technical assistance for evidence-based policy dialogue</p> <p>Develop a social behaviour change communication strategy and nutrition schools for farmers</p> <p>Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months</p> | <p>Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities</p> | <p>Invest in national governance capacity for food and nutrition security</p> <p>Enable communities to lead and own food and nutrition security solutions</p> <p>Augment government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters</p> |

WFP's response

WFP has been providing assistance to Laos since 1976. In 2000, WFP established a permanent presence in-country and throughout the years has scaled-up activities and geographical coverage in response to needs. As populations are scattered over vast areas where access can be difficult, strengthening the self-reliance of communities to solve their own food and nutrition security problems was central to WFP's strategy. To maximise the provision of assistance, WFP sought to synergise activities in the same geographical locations where possible, whilst maintaining targeting of the most vulnerable populations.

WFP's gradual shift from direct delivery to building the capacity of both government institutions and communities to better address food insecurity and malnutrition challenges is reflected in a phased approach over the course of the five-year CSP. The inclusion of significant capacity strengthening and policy support activities across all strategic outcomes is critical to supporting the Government's vision of "a prosperous country, with a healthy population, free from food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty".

Strategic Outcome 1, which accounts for over half of the total CSP budget, aimed to address the root causes of food insecurity and low education indicators in remote and ethnically diverse districts through: 1) policy support, technical assistance and capacity transfer at national and subnational levels; 2) provision of multi-sector and integrated support packages to school meals programming; and, 3) bolstering the capacities of communities to take over the management and sustainable implementation of the school meals programme. The Government's approach to school meals aimed to improve access to food and achieve food and nutrition security. In 2017, WFP was operational in 1,450 pre-primary and primary schools in 30 priority districts¹¹ in 7 of 17 provinces with low education indicators and food insecurity, as prioritized by the Government. In 2017, the Government's national school meals programme, funded by the World Bank, covered 312 schools in 5 provinces.

Strategic Outcome 2 supported the Government's goal to reduce all forms of malnutrition¹² through a three-pronged approach focused on both upstream policy work and activities on the ground, including: technical assistance and capacity strengthening to support evidence-based policy and advocacy; access to nutritious food for children aged 6 to 23 months and pregnant and lactating women; and social and behavioural change through awareness campaigns and farmer nutrition schools.

In 2017, WFP provided regular support to the National Nutrition Committee Secretariat for the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement activities in Laos, including the development of the SUN Business Network. WFP, along with the European Union, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), supported the National Nutrition Committee Secretariat in organising the first Lao National Nutrition Technical Symposium, which was held in October-November in collaboration with the Ministries of Health, Education and Sports, Agriculture and Forestry, as well as Planning and Investment. Joint recommendations were presented, resulting in the formulation of a joint statement presented at the subsequent high-level forum for national planning. The Ministry of Health was supported in initiating work on a Food Fortification Strategic Action Plan. A Fill-the-Nutrient-Gap analysis was completed, and the report was launched by the Minister for Health in September. The report is based on a multi-

¹¹ In the northern provinces of Luang Namtha, Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Luang Prabang and in Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu provinces in the south

¹² In line with the National Nutrition Strategy Plan of Action 2016-2020.

sectoral consultative process along with capacity building of Ministry of Health and the Provincial Departments of Health staff.

In 2017, 1,100 most vulnerable and food-insecure communities in three¹³ provinces were targeted through nutrition awareness raising campaigns, and pregnant and lactating women and children below 2 years of age received specialized nutritious food (SNF). The distribution of SNF, which was previously done through the district health centres, was moved to village level distributions so as to increase access and reduce travel times for the beneficiaries.

To optimise programme delivery, WFP coordinated its geographic coverage with UNICEF who also implemented stunting prevention activities. The social behaviour change communication activities under the Agriculture for Nutrition project were initially implemented in four provinces¹⁴ in the north of the country, as prioritized by the Government. Social and behaviour change communication activities will be rolled out in other WFP-assisted areas in 2018. These activities assessed gender needs and were designed to benefit each household member.

Strategic Outcome 3 sought to enhance the resilience of households to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses, targeting vulnerable communities throughout the country in areas prone to climate change, as identified by the 2015 Consolidated Livelihoods Exercise for Analysing Resilience (CLEAR) report. Laos is particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change due to a high dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources and low adaptive capacity, hence climate change adaptation and mitigation actions are important government priorities. In 2017, WFP focused on adaptation activities in seven¹⁵ predominantly rice-growing provinces in northern, central and southern Laos. The geographic diversity of these sites ensured that a wide range of adaptation options may be considered for future scale-up and implementation.

Activities under Strategic Outcome 4 aimed to strengthen governance within both national and local level institutions to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 17, specifically through the provision of technical assistance and capacity strengthening to improve service delivery for food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations. At the national level, WFP worked with Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Lao Statistics Bureau and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, local governance-strengthening initiatives targeted the 400 villages in 12 districts that were reached through the social and behavioural change communications and farmer nutrition schools under Strategic Outcome 2, as part of the multi-stakeholder Agriculture for Nutrition programme.

In 2017, WFP activities were implemented in more than 2,500 communities reaching more than 500,000 people (approximately 7.5 percent of total population of Laos, or roughly a third of the vulnerable population¹⁶) in 9 provinces (38 districts).

To further ensure the sustainability of interventions and to support the achievement of SDG 2, the CSP promotes changes in people's behaviour by: introducing complementary nutritious crops; diversifying diets; and improving infant and young child feeding practices. These measures aim to

¹³ Odomxay, Luang Namtha and Sekong.

¹⁴ Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Huaphan and Xiengkong. These four provinces are targeted based on: (i) high levels of poverty in northern provinces; (ii) opportunities for convergence with nutrition activities are greater in these four provinces; (iii) government projects on food and nutrition security and market linkages already focused in southern provinces; (iv) opportunities to focus more on government policy to support Chinese and Vietnamese investors.

¹⁵ Xayabury, Borlikhamxay, Khammuane, Savannakhet, Champasack, Saravan and Attapeu provinces.

¹⁶ In Lao PDR, 23.2 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line in 2012. (Asian Development Bank – poverty page per January

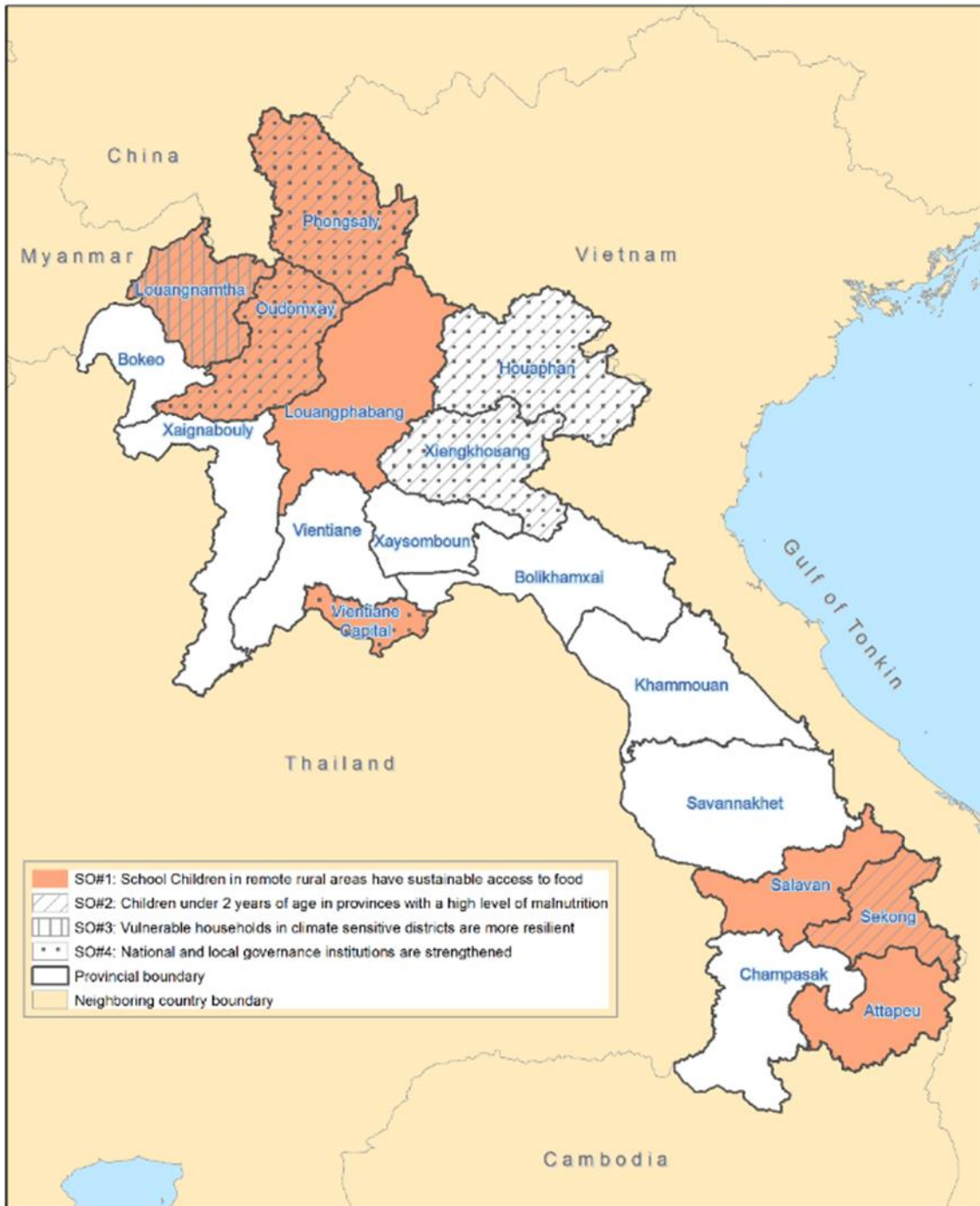
improve the nutritional status of vulnerable people throughout their life, as well as strengthening their resilience to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses.

Capacity strengthening (including direct technical assistance, guidance and training for communities and government staff), policy support and social and behaviour change communication initiatives were incorporated into all strategic objectives. In addition, food, non-food and resource transfers were the assistance modalities included in the following 2017 plans:

- **Strategic Outcome 1:** Food and non-food items were planned to reach just under 150,000 pre-primary and primary schoolchildren with daily school meals in 1,450 supported schools in remote and hard-to-reach areas. Some schools were also targeted to receive resource transfers to purchase local produce to increase dietary diversity in meals. Local farmer groups received agricultural tools and seeds to support local production and the supply of diversified crops. Transfer modalities under this strategic outcome included food, resource transfers and capacity strengthening;
- **Strategic Outcome 2:** Specialized nutritious food was provided to 19,500 children aged 6-23 months and 13,000 pregnant and lactating women on a monthly basis. The transfer modality under this strategic outcome included in-kind food as well as capacity strengthening;
- **Strategic Outcome 3:** Food and cash-based transfers were planned for men and women smallholder farmers participating in established farmer groups in seven provinces. Both in-kind food and cash-based transfers aimed to support livelihood activities and build resilience to climate change, through the establishment of rice banks, small irrigation infrastructure and improvement of access roads. In 2017, only in-kind transfers were implemented under Strategic Outcome 3.

Given the variations in community resources and capacities, WFP developed the Community Capacity Assessment (CCA) tool to assess communities' readiness to manage school meal programmes, and to design packages of assistance according to the identified needs. In line with the national policy on promoting school lunches, WFP conducted the CCA in over 1,000 communities to identify the most capable communities for inclusion in the first phase of the school meals handover, with the objective of programmes in 500 schools being handed over to the Government and communities by 2019.

WFP Lao PDR - 2017 operational map



Resources for results

In 2017, much of the resources contributed to the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) were multi-year allocations earmarked to specific strategic outcomes and activities. However, resourcing levels varied across individual strategic outcomes and activities. While Strategic Outcome 1 and Strategic Outcome 2 were sufficiently resourced to continue in-kind food delivery and scale up technical assistance, policy and advocacy work, Strategic Outcome 3 and Strategic Outcome 4 each experienced funding gaps of over 50 percent that required prioritization of activities. Despite this, through the prioritization of activities, results were still achieved for underfunded strategic outcomes. A small proportion of all contributions in 2017 were multilateral and were allocated to underfunded activities.

Under Strategic Outcome 1, in-kind food stocks valued at USD 5.8 million received in 2016 under the country programme (CP 200242) were transferred to the CSP (these are not reflected in Table 1-financial performance). In addition, WFP received USD 13.7 million towards this strategic outcome during the CSP period, of which USD 2.7 million was utilized in 2017 to implement all planned activities for capacity strengthening, food assistance, and the handover of school lunches to communities and the Government. During 2017, WFP achieved 9 percent of the Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard process milestones. As the CSP only started in April 2017, the target of 40 percent process milestones completed refers to the entire five-year duration of the CSP; therefore, the progress made in 2017 was in line with the status expected at this stage. The funds received under this strategic outcome were utilized to ensure the continuation of school meals and the provision of specialized nutritious food throughout the year. This enabled WFP to reach 100 percent of its target for pre-primary and primary schoolchildren with daily nutritious meals in 30 of the most educationally disadvantaged districts, contributing to the achievement of the Government's desired education, food security and nutrition outcomes under the Plan of Action of the School Meal Programme (2016-2020) and the 2014 Policy on Promoting School Lunches. Some funds from the resource transfer from the country programme will also be used for school meals into 2018. An in-kind food contribution from the Government of Japan registered in 2017 and valuing over USD 3 million will also arrive in-country in 2018 to support school meals and resilience building activities.

WFP received USD 5.8 million against Strategic Outcome 2 requirements during the CSP period and expended USD 1.2 million during 2017. The majority of the received funding, USD 4.8 million, is for the implementation of the Agriculture for Nutrition (AFN) project under Strategic Outcome 2. Prevention of stunting activities only received USD 900,000. In 2017, achievements mainly related to capacity strengthening, technical assistance, and food assistance. During the year, WFP achieved stabilised minimum acceptable diet and nutrition coverage indicators despite the pipeline break in June and July 2017.

WFP received USD 470,000 against Strategic Outcome 3 requirements during the CSP implementation period in 2017, and expended USD 158,000. Delayed receipt of resources resulted in lower than planned achievement of asset creation and resilience building activities under Strategic Outcome 3 in 2017. WFP and the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute rolled out the provision of technical assistance and capacity strengthening activities in climate services and climate adaptation for smallholder farmers, for which preparatory work had taken place in 2016 under the country programme.

WFP received USD 1.3 million against requirements for Strategic Outcome 4 during the CSP period in 2017, and expended USD 80,000 during 2017. Late confirmation of funding, as well as the postponement of some activities to 2018, resulted in lower achievement of planned activities under Strategic Outcome 4 in 2017, including delays in the provision of technical assistance and

the initiation of capacity strengthening with national stakeholders. WFP participated in rapid assessments and coordination meetings during the rainy season, but agreed with the Government to postpone emergency warning systems and capacity strengthening activities until 2018. Consequently, limited results were achieved to improve service delivery for food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations.

Multiyear earmarked funding ensured consistency and continuity in the implementation of the Agriculture for Nutrition project under Strategic Outcome 4. Funded through the contributions of public and private donors to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP), the resource allocation for the project covers six years of implementation, taking funding through to 2022. Using the 2017 contribution, the Government, supported by WFP capacity strengthening in strategic planning and financing, was able to make contributions to its decentralization policy to facilitate integrated rural development. The social behaviour change component of the Agriculture for Nutrition project (Activity 6) also began, led by WFP, focusing on improving household nutrition practices. GAFSP funding also enabled the implementation of nutrition-sensitive infrastructure planning at the subnational level under Activity 9 (enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions). WFP engaged with the Ministry of Education and Sports to begin preparations for the project's handover in 2019, including completing community capacity assessments in 1,000 communities and drafting the joint handover plan. With the next five years of implementation covered by this important multi-year contribution, activities will be leveraged with the aim of enabling communities to use their own resources and capacity to ensure local food and nutrition security.

With the launch of the CSP in April 2017, WFP made great efforts to engage stakeholders, build partnerships and prepare plans for long-term capacity strengthening activities that will be implemented over the course of the five-year CSP. These preparatory activities sometimes resulted in less expenditure than initially planned. For example, under Activity 1 (provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities), organizational work was finalised for a large South-South cooperation mission and workshops that will take place in early 2018.

In some cases, cost sharing with WFP Headquarters and the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific resulted in expenditure savings and increased cost efficiency, such as for the Fill-the Nutrient-Gap analysis and the development of the National Fortification Action Plan. Additional cost savings resulted from changes to implementation modalities. For example, instead of engaging a third-party institution as a service provider to prepare village development plans under Activity 9, WFP worked directly with the District Agriculture and Forestry Office to support communities to develop their own plans; the resulting savings will be re-directed to support village nutrition centre infrastructure.

The overall contributions received in 2017 included: more than 50 percent of funding from the United States Department of Agriculture McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program for school meals and the Local and Regional Procurement Programme (LRP); a fifth of funding from GAFSP; and approximately 10 percent each from the governments of Japan and Australia. Private sector donor contributions accounted for slightly over USD 1.5 million.

Laos CSP Financial Overview 2017*

| Strategic Result | Strategic Outcome | Activity | Approved Plan | Allocated Contribution | Expenditures | Balance of Contribution |
|--|--|---|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021. | Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme | 7,070,412 | 15,110,770 | 7,449,543 | 7,661,227 |
| | | Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities to Government of Lao | 354,067 | 910,442 | 101,924 | 808,517 |
| | | Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities | 554,089 | 3,189,523 | 486,179 | 2,703,344 |
| | | Non Activity Specific | 0 | 148,840 | 0 | 148,840 |
| Subtotal Strategic Result 1. Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1) | | | 7,978,568 | 19,359,576 | 8,037,646 | 11,321,929 |
| 2 | Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025 | Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools | 1,624,378 | 4,584,037 | 497,817 | 4,086,221 |
| | | Provide technical assistance for evidence based policy dialogue | 419,863 | 112,193 | 91,299 | 20,894 |
| | | Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months | 1,284,728 | 1,359,805 | 1,108,138 | 251,666 |
| | | Non Activity Specific | 0 | 240,431 | 0 | 240,431 |
| Subtotal Strategic Result 2. No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2) | | | 3,328,969 | 6,296,466 | 1,697,254 | 4,599,211 |
| 4 | Vulnerable households in climate sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses | Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities | 1,487,542 | 470,239 | 157,851 | 312,388 |
| Subtotal Strategic Result 4. Food systems are sustainable (SDG Target 2.4) | | | 1,487,542 | 470,239 | 157,851 | 312,388 |
| 5 | National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025 | Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions | 328,055 | 1,269,090 | 70,801 | 1,198,289 |
| | | Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters | 104,045 | 62,780 | 9,306 | 53,474 |
| | | Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance | 807,070 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9) | | | 1,239,169 | 1,331,870 | 80,107 | 1,251,763 |
| | | Non Activity Specific | 0 | 3,486,243 | 0 | 3,486,243 |
| Subtotal Strategic Result | | | 0 | 3,486,243 | 0 | 3,486,243 |
| Subtotal Direct Activity Costs | | | 14,034,247 | 30,944,394 | 9,972,859 | 20,971,535 |
| Adjusted Direct Support Cost (DSC) | | | 1,530,491 | 2,067,959 | 863,506 | 1,204,453 |
| Total Direct Operational Cost | | | 15,564,738 | 33,012,352 | 10,836,364 | 22,175,988 |
| Indirect Support Cost (ISC) | | | 1,089,532 | 1,548,061 | 1,548,061 | 0 |
| Grand Total | | | 16,654,270 | 34,560,414 | 12,384,426 | 22,175,988 |

*Figures presented in this table only include resources for the Country Strategic Plan and not financial information on the project(s) implemented.

Programme performance

Strategic Outcome 1 – Schoolchildren in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021

Strategic Result 1 – Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)

Activity 1: Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities to the Government

Activity 2: Accelerate the implementation of the Government's plan of action for the school meals programme

Activity 3: Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities

Since 2002, WFP has been implementing the school meals programme in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sports. WFP provides nutritious meals to pre-primary and primary schoolchildren to enhance learning, support access to education, and promotes health and nutrition, particularly in rural and remote areas. The school meals programme is a holistic and integrated approach to achieving sustainable access to food and nutrition. The programme provides technical assistance and capacity strengthening for government partners, and raises awareness on the importance of education and nutrition. Activities include: the provision of school lunches; resource transfers to schools to promote market demand for local fresh produce; school vegetable support to local farmer groups, linking smallholder farmers to schools; gardening support; promotion of improved, safe food storage; promotion of improved health and hygiene; and technical assistance to policy and advocacy work at the national and subnational levels.

In 2017, WFP assisted 100 percent of the targeted number of pre-primary and primary schoolchildren with daily nutritious meals, reaching 1,450 schools in 30 of the most educationally disadvantaged districts in four northern and three southern provinces. In 2015, in order to align with the national school meals programme, WFP started a gradual shift from providing mid-morning snacks to the provision of school lunches. By September 2017, the transition was completed in all WFP-assisted schools. The food commodities distributed in 2017 reflect the two modalities: mid-morning snack rations of specialized nutritious foods (SNF), sugar, and fortified oil, as well as lunch rations of in-kind rice, fortified oil, lentils and canned fish. The in-kind food provided was supplemented by fresh produce (meat and vegetables) sourced from the WFP-supported school gardens and farmer groups' harvests, and donated by parents and the community to give children more nutritious and diversified lunches.

Take-home rations for cooks and storekeepers (4,947 beneficiaries, receiving 495 mt of rice) were distributed as planned, once per semester.¹⁷ In addition, WFP distributed targeted take-home rations of SNF to students and their families (140,424 beneficiaries, receiving a total of 33 mt of SNF). These rations were distributed at the end of the 2016-2017 academic year in May 2017, marking the phase-out of the mid-morning snack modality. During the lean season, WFP provided an additional one-off take-home ration of rice to students and their families (340,334 beneficiaries, receiving 344 mt of rice), mainly located in flood-affected districts.

¹⁷ One storekeeper per school, and one cook per 50 students.

Resource transfers were provided to 101 out of 1,450 schools to support the local purchase of fresh food items, supplementing the in-kind food assistance. The cash modality was designed

based on the rules and regulations of resource transfers used to support schools in the national school meals programme. Both the Government and WFP provided resource transfers to schools based on the calculation of 800 kip (USD 0.10) per child per day in addition to a management fee per semester to collect funds, record, and maintain school lunches. Despite a delay in the start of this assistance due to initial administrative and legal challenges, the cash modality was successfully scaled up to reach the targeted number of schools. Targeted schools received two resource transfers during the year: the first in May to cover school meals for the second semester of the 2016 -2017 academic year; and the second in September to cover four months of school meals for the first semester of the 2017-2018 academic year. In 2018, resource transfers will be expanded to cover additional schools. Extensive coverage of schools in 2017 contributed to increased access to food for schoolchildren, and both enrolment and attendance rates remained high.

To strengthen the communities' capacity and ownership to lead the implementation of school meals, WFP provided agricultural, hygiene and cooking trainings. Agricultural training was provided for men and women smallholder farmers, while hygiene and cooking training were provided for both men and women school cooks. At a technical level, WFP supported the update and finalization of school garden manuals and guidance documents. In addition to the establishment of and trainings on school gardens in all schools, targeted communities received additional agricultural support for the set-up of fish and frog ponds, in partnership with the Association for Aid and Relief Japan.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Local and Regional Procurement (LRP) programme in Luang Namtha enabled farmer groups (comprised of a total of 474 farmers) to grow more diversified produce with improved efficiency - larger yields in shorter time frames - and to sell a variety of fresh vegetables and proteins to schools receiving resource transfers. By providing capacity investments to women and men farmers to increase the supply of nutritious food, WFP considers the LRP programme as a model for strengthening communities in providing nutritious meals for schoolchildren.

To address literacy challenges, WFP and two non-governmental organization partners, Big Brother Mouse and Plan International, supported the distribution of more than 40,000 books for children in rural and remote areas, and supported reading activities in schools and wider communities. In an effort to tackle hygiene and health risks, WFP and the World Bank also initiated awareness raising on the health benefits of using super-clean cook-stoves to reduce exposure to hazardous smoke among women and children. WFP provided super-clean cook-stoves in 48 villages in Nalae district, Luang Namtha Province, where the LRP project was implemented. WFP also provided support for the World Bank baseline survey on gender and the use of cook-stoves. The findings of the survey will be available in first half of 2018.

To promote hygiene in schools, WFP progressively set up hand washing stations in 130 schools and engaged in a collaborative partnership with *Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) to enhance hygiene promotion. WFP continued to collaborate with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on the complementary provision of school meals and water and sanitation initiatives in 100 schools in Saravane Province. With regards to school infrastructure improvements for school meals, WFP supported the repair of food storage facilities, kitchens and dining rooms in addition to distributing non-food items for cooking and school gardens.

WFP's efforts in strengthening the capacity of the Government focused around two critical pathways—policy and legislation and institutional accountability—as per WFP's capacity needs mapping tool. At the policy level, WFP and Catholic Relief Services co-chaired the School Meals Technical Working Group, under the direction of the Education Sector Working Group on Primary Education. The working group met twice a year to share progress on implementation, outcomes and lessons learned.

At the central level, WFP and the Ministry of Education and Sports drafted the school meals handover plan, which outlined the joint work plan for both the Government and WFP at all administrative levels. The plan is to be approved by the Ministry of Education and Sports in 2018. The plan details the handover of the first 500 schools to communities by 2019, and the remaining 950 targeted schools by 2021, coinciding with the completion of the five-year CSP.

Strategic Outcome 2 – Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025

Strategic Result 2 – No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)

Activity 4: Provide technical assistance for evidence-based policy dialogue

Activity 5: Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months

Activity 6: Develop a social behaviour change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools

In 2017, “A Study on Eating Habits among Adolescents”, conducted by market research company Ipsos Group S.A. on behalf of WFP and with WFP support, centred on both upstream policy work and implementation aimed at the prevention of stunting among children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women. In particular, WFP supported the Government in leading multi-sectoral policy through evidence generation, stakeholder engagement and institutional capacity strengthening.

WFP's policy support and stakeholder engagement in 2017 was demonstrated through the support provided to the National Nutrition Committee Secretariat in organising the first Lao National Nutrition Technical Symposium. The symposium served as a platform to enhance multi-sectoral partnerships related to nutrition at the inter-ministerial level and among development partners such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), academia and the private sector. The symposium was attended by more than 400 provincial, national and international delegates from various sectors, representing technical counterparts, academia, researchers, development partners and the public sector.

The Fill-the-Nutrient-Gap process and analysis in 2017 acted as a valuable capacity strengthening investment to the Ministry of Health, generating evidence on the constraints on access to nutritious food across the country and various programming options. Findings of the study continue to be used by development partners and the Government in various programmes, including the design of the national social behaviour change communication action plan and fortification initiatives. As an ongoing initiative, WFP is also supporting the Ministry of Health in initiating the Lao Food Fortification Strategic Action Plan.

On the implementation side, WFP supported the Government's efforts to accelerate progress towards ending all forms of malnutrition by implementing the stunting prevention programme focusing on the first 1,000 days of life. Ready-to-use supplementary food was distributed to pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-23 months in three provinces to help ensure optimal nutrient intake. The number of beneficiaries reached exceeded the planned figure due to improved access to specialized nutritious food resulting from the shift in distribution points from health centres to village health volunteers. However, due to pipeline breaks caused by late food arrivals, 6,800 children aged 6-23 months (41.5 percent) and 5,150 pregnant and lactating women (51 percent) were not reached in June and July. Despite this pipeline break, the proportion of children consuming a minimum acceptable diet was stabilised and the nutrition programme met the coverage target for 2017.

Along with direct nutrition support, an additional 39,000 indirect beneficiaries, including caregivers of children, received nutrition-related messages through WFP's nutrition awareness campaigns which were implemented at the village level. The campaigns took place in partnership with Population Services International in Oudomxay and Sekong provinces, reaching 14,000 beneficiaries in 400 villages. In the remaining 715 villages, nutrition education sessions conducted through the district health departments reached 25,000 beneficiaries. Village chiefs and village health volunteers also received nutrition training.

The prevalence of stunting in WFP-supported areas has reduced from 47.1 to 39.6 percent in Luangnamtha, and from 65.2 to 46.4 percent in Sekong (as per the Lao Child Anthropometry Assessment Survey). WFP support contributed to achieving these results. Despite multi-sectoral nutrition investment, the stunting rate in Oudomxay increased from 50 percent to 54.4 percent. Updated stunting figures will be available in 2018 in the Lao Social Indicator Survey II, and WFP will continue to monitor trends.

WFP is leading the social behaviour change component of the Agriculture for Nutrition project funded by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (Activity 6), implemented with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministry of Health. The strategy focused on households' nutrition practices and was conducted through farmer nutrition schools. The project targeted women and men smallholder farmers enabling them to prepare cash grant proposals for vegetable gardens and livestock. Once their proposals were accepted, women and men smallholder farmers received cash-based transfers. More than 240 provincial and districts staff and village officials were trained in 2017 to facilitate the farmer nutrition schools.

Strategic Outcome 3 – Vulnerable households in climate-sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses

Strategic Result 4 – Food systems are sustainable (SDG Target 2.4)

Activity 7: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities

To enable improved decision-making by smallholder farmers to increase their food security and resilience to the impacts of climate change, WFP supported the provision of technical assistance and capacity strengthening. Women and men smallholder farmers received climate services and training on climate adaptation activities in partnership with the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The activities took place in seven rice growing villages in seven provinces in Laos—Xayaboury, Bolikhamxay, Khammouane,

Savannakhet, Saravane, Attapeu and Champasack —with the possibility of expansion to other provinces in future. In each of the targeted provinces, an automated weather station was installed.

During 2017, 431 farmers (186 women and 245 men) received training at established climate-smart farmer field schools. These smallholder farmers received technical assistance only. Provincial and district Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry technical staff developed and shared seasonal dynamic crop calendars for each project location to support improved climate-smart decision-making for farmers, and started the development of a mobile application to support improved sharing of climate data and information. If the application is well received among potential users, its outreach will be expanded in 2018.

Asset creation activities, such as the establishment of rice banks, were initiated in January-February 2017 using funds from Country Programme (CP 200242), and were continued and assessed during the initial months of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP). In terms of funding and in-kind food distribution (rice), expenditures were realised under the CP using rice stocks. The food commodities planned for distribution under the CSP asset creation activities had not yet arrived during the first nine months of CSP.

WFP also began formulating implementation arrangements for using cash-based transfers for asset creation to be implemented in 2018. This will include productive assets such as community rice banks, irrigation systems, water supply systems, and roads to productive areas. At the end of the year, WFP was assessing the most suitable delivery mechanisms for cash-based transfers in each geographical location.

Strategic Outcome 4 – National and local governance institutions are strengthened to improve service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025

Strategic Result 5 – Developing countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)

Activity 8: Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance

Activity 9: Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions

Activity 10: Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters

Under Strategic Outcome 4, WFP aimed to strengthening government capacities at and between the central and local levels and monitor progress towards national sustainable development goal (SDG) targets, for which the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) identified support to the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

During 2017, WFP and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) jointly supported the efforts of the Lao Statistic Bureau (under the Ministry of Planning and Investment) toward measuring SDG 2. This included providing technical briefings and resulted in agreeing to include the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)—one of two SDG 2 indicators—and the Food Consumption Score (FCS) into the upcoming 2018 Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey (LECS-6). The LECS-6 survey will create a census-based poverty map, showing distribution of poor households at province and district levels.

In August 2017, WFP supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to conduct a joint rapid needs assessment in the southern provinces following widespread flooding brought by Tropical Storm Sonca. WFP's capacity strengthening support focused on primary data collection and analysis and the use of remote sensing imagery to inform decision-making. While the needs assessment concluded that there was no need for WFP food assistance, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare requested further capacity strengthening support on disaster preparedness and response from WFP in 2018.

At village level, WFP supported the village infrastructure planning component of the Agriculture for Nutrition project. Through the engagement of district multi-sectoral planning teams (composed of the Lao Women's Union, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture, and Ministry of Planning and Investment), 61 villages completed their village infrastructure plans. The three-year plans are nutrition-sensitive and include activities such as irrigation, roads, fish ponds, women's empowerment in agriculture, and support to link farmers groups to markets. The plans will be implemented by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as part of the Agriculture for Nutrition project.

Cross-cutting commitments

Progress towards gender equality

Laos ranks 106 out of 159 in the Gender Inequality Index¹⁸. Despite the Government's significant efforts to address gender gaps, women continue to face challenges, including low influence on decision-making, high burden of responsibilities (particularly for agricultural, household work, and unpaid care work), and low literacy rates among ethnic minority females.

WFP continued efforts to strengthen gender equality in 2017. Corporately, WFP created the Gender Transformation Programme (GTP), to ensure that gender is adequately embedded in all aspects and processes of WFP's work. The GTP supports country offices to include gender perspectives into all functions and to increase staff knowledge and capacities about gender equality.

Laos was the first WFP country office to complete the GTP in 2017. Through the GTP, staff took part in "learning-by-doing" sessions to determine behaviour measures that would improve gender equality across all WFP functions. As a result, WFP Laos has developed a gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation strategy, staff committees are gender balanced, an assessment of gender knowledge was introduced in recruitment interviews, and agreements with partners, counterparts, and suppliers include gender reporting obligations. Gender has also been integrated into WFP's resource mobilization strategy (2016-2021). Through partnership assessments, WFP has begun to measure how implementing partners have taken gender aspects into account in project implementation.

The GTP process provided a platform to adapt WFP programming and activities to gender needs. WFP established a partnership with the Lao Women's Union, a government-established organization which has a strong and permanent field presence in all villages. This partnership will support gender equality across all WFP's activities. Traditionally in Laos, women are responsible for preparing household meals. Women usually cook on open fires with high levels of exposure to hazardous smoke, leading to pulmonary diseases. In addition, contributing to poor health, these

¹⁸ 2015 rank in 2016 Statistical Annex – United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report.

cooking practices are also time consuming. As part of the school lunch activities, WFP in partnership with the World Bank started rolling out access to super-clean cook-stoves. WFP also provided technical support to the World Bank on gender issues during the baseline survey for the introduction of cook-stoves. The findings will be used by both the World Bank and WFP when expanding access to clean stoves to all target areas. To sustain the positive health impact of the stoves provided, WFP offered the opportunity for cooks to borrow a clean stove for home cooking on rotational basis, thereby bringing benefits to the all household members.

In Laos, women smallholder farmers carry out the most strenuous tasks of farming, such as weeding, in addition to other agricultural and domestic responsibilities. WFP has continuously made efforts to ensure that women smallholder farmers have equal access to technical support and information on more productive agricultural techniques. For example, 43 percent of beneficiaries participating in farmer field schools (under Strategic Outcome 3) were women and 57 percent were men, while women comprised 50 percent of participants in the Local and Regional Procurement Programme (under Strategic Outcome 1).

The proportion of women involved in decision-making on school meals' village education development committee was quite low (29 percent). Only 27 percent of village health volunteers in 2017 were women. These low numbers can be explained by the lack of ability to read and write among women. Despite these challenges, WFP strengthened its efforts to increase women's participation in decision-making by holding separate men's and women's focus group discussions during community mobilization.

Within primary education the gender ratio for cooks was 9:1, where women volunteers made up the majority of cooks. Meanwhile, nearly all storekeepers were men. The pass rate for boys in grade five in schools in WFP-assisted areas was 91 percent compared to only 29 percent for girls. However, as lower secondary school has now become compulsory it is expected that an increasing number of girls will complete primary and secondary education. At the central level, WFP was engaged with the gender/disability working group for the education sector and issues such as male drop-out rates and adolescent girl health were included within the memorandum of understanding between WFP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on adolescent girls.¹⁹ WFP also took part in the Gender Group which included United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Protection

Nearly all beneficiaries received WFP support without significant protection risks. Some students were unable to benefit from school meals as they were pulled out of school to help their parents on farms. Some mothers could not access the specialized nutritious food because they were not able to find the village health volunteers. To overcome this issue, nutrition awareness training urged health volunteers to make regular visits to pregnant and lactating women in their villages.

In partnership with the Lao Disabled People's Association, WFP started building the capacity of all staff to mainstream disability, with the objective of ensuring people with disabilities have adequate access to WFP assistance. In 2017, WFP monitored the number of people with disabilities benefitting from its assistance. WFP also extended the school meals programme to include two special schools for children with disabilities in Vientiane and Luangprabang. WFP carried out disability-targeted nutrition communication messages. As part of its nutrition awareness

¹⁹ The Noi Framework – United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Laos.

campaigns, WFP included messages to reinforce the importance of mothers and children with disabilities not being left behind.

Among the 196 schools monitored in the last quarter of 2017, 127 girls with disabilities and 80 boys with disabilities were present (out of a total of 10,300 girls and 11,182 boys). In 117 of these schools, students with disabilities could not access water to wash their hands before lunch. As such, in 2018, WFP will progressively expand the construction of handwashing stations in all schools with access to water. Handwashing stations will be designed to ensure that students with disabilities can access them easily.

Among the 157 villages monitored under the stunting prevention programme in the last quarter of 2017, findings identified three girls with disabilities and zero boys with disabilities aged 6-23 months. All children with disabilities received specialized nutritious foods, as per the planned blanket targeting of the programme.

Accountability to affected populations

Programmatic inputs and changes to WFP's programmes were communicated from and to communities through government counterparts, radio campaigns, and WFP monitoring staff. Communities were also able to provide feedback through the beneficiary feedback mechanism, part of WFP's accountability to affected populations model. The beneficiary feedback mechanism, launched in 2016 in every village where WFP operates, included a dedicated hotline, focus group discussions and interviews, and allowed assisted communities to provide feedback about WFP's support and activities. The communities used this opportunity to also voice other issues, for example raising concerns about the potential lack of rain and its impact on agriculture.

Calls to the beneficiary hotline were received by both men and women senior field programme staff, who promptly provided advice or took corrective action as needed. In 2017, WFP received a total of 132 phone calls, of which 14 percent were from women. Both the number of calls and the proportion of female callers decreased compared to 2016 (201 calls, of which 24 percent were from women). The decrease in the number of calls can be explained by two factors: the number of calls peaked in the months immediately after the roll-out of the feedback mechanism; and the calls reduced as WFP undertook follow-up actions to address programme implementation. To encourage women to use the hotline, WFP reemphasised that calls were answered by both women and men staff.

In 2017, most calls (78 percent) were requests for clarification or advice on school meals implementation, for example, guidance on how to cook lentils and the timing of distributions of food and non-food items. Calls related to the prevention of stunting programme represented 14 percent of the number total calls. In addition, 8 percent of calls related to resource transfers to schools under the school lunch programme and food assistance for assets.

In addition to receiving feedback from beneficiaries, WFP's accountability to affected populations model gave WFP insight into which communities were most engaged and enabled WFP to provide faster and improved operational and programmatic responses; for example, WFP was able to release materials for the rehabilitation of store rooms as and when required.

WFP also used beneficiaries' feedback to improve accountability. For example, waybills accompanying food deliveries were previously only provided in English, which challenged communities to validate the receipt of goods. As a result of this beneficiary feedback, WFP introduced a simplified waybill in the Lao language.

Difference we make—story of Daeng

Daeng is a primary school teacher and a mother of two in Phawy village, located in Nalae District in the northwestern province of Luang Namtha. Her 7-year-old son, Daophone, attends the primary school where she teaches and where WFP and the community are implementing the school meals programme.

Daeng is also one of ten members of a farmer group participating in the Local and Regional Procurement (LRP) programme, fully supported by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). As such, Daeng is in a unique position to participate in two complementary programmes and sees first-hand the positive impacts on her family, her farmer group, the children she teaches, the school environment and her community.

As a teacher, Daeng finds great value in how the package of assistance within the school meals programme facilitates her teaching, saying, “It is easier for me to teach the students about nutrition through practical activities, through learning-by-doing. For example, both boys and girls help to grow vegetables in the school gardens and see how the mushrooms are grown, which the cooks use for meal preparation, and then we all wash our hands at the handwashing station before sitting down and eating together. They see their parents contributing fresh produce and the farmer groups delivering vegetables. The boys and girls are learning all the time and take those lessons home to their families”.



*Photo: WFP/Kathleen Inglis
Daeng with her youngest child, Happy.*

Training in all facets of school meals implementation is provided to communities, in addition to farmer group trainings on agricultural techniques. The LRP programme has equal participation of men and women farmers. It aims to connect smallholder farmers to the school meals programme as a means to further build the capacity of communities to implement sustainable school meals activities themselves. The farmers sell fresh produce to their local schools, who add vegetables to the in-kind food ingredients provided by WFP or contributed by parents, to cook a nutritious and diverse school lunch.

Daeng remarked that the new farming techniques learnt through the LRP programme, such as the production of natural fertiliser and soil preparation, have increased efficiency and yields: “We have more and better [quality] vegetables and we can harvest in a much shorter time.”

As a teacher, Daeng regularly participates in the activities of the Village Education Development Committee who, with support from district officials from the Agriculture and Forestry Office and the Education and Sports Bureau, are preparing to take over the school meals programme when it is handed over and nationalized.

Management performance and value for money

For WFP Laos, “value” is about making the best choices in converting resources into inputs and ensuring that those inputs are transformed into the best possible outputs in order to achieve the intended results. Value for money is a concept that is intuitively contemplated in everyday work and WFP Laos always operates with due attention to considerations of effectiveness, economy, efficiency and equity. This is reflected in WFP’s corporate policies and guidelines, and WFP Laos risk management and management performance, all of which are predicated on the principles of value for money, and ensures accuracy and reliability of the financial and operating data. The WFP Laos Country Strategic Plan (CSP) reinforces results-based management in order to achieve WFP’s focus on the effectiveness of the programmes and in achieving results.

In 2017, WFP received 5,415 mt of food as in-kind contributions or international purchases. The food arrived through the port of Bangkok, Thailand, and was unloaded in Vientiane before onward dispatch to sub-office warehouses. Around 4,421 mt of food was distributed to 2,500 villages during the year. WFP responded to needs in rural and remote areas and remained committing to reaching the most vulnerable segments of the population. The “last mile” approach increased the cost of transport, as noted when the distribution of supplementary nutritious food was moved closer to the beneficiaries from district health centres to the village health volunteer centres. However, the change of distribution point led to a higher inclusion rate of children and pregnant and lactating women and therefore enhances WFP’s support to achieve the strategic outcome of reducing stunting rates.

To reduce overland transport costs, the local transport market was assessed regularly to increase the size of the shortlist and find the best value deals with transport companies. Food for multiple activities was dispatched at the same time, allowing for savings on transport costs. Post-delivery losses were negligible, as only 24 kg were lost in WFP storage throughout the year. Food was stored and handled through a network of warehouses, most of which were in-kind donations from the Government, leading to further cost savings for WFP. Value in procurement activities was achieved by updating the vendor shortlist on a yearly basis along with using long-term agreements from other United Nations agencies. In addition, bi-yearly procurement plans were sought from each WFP country office unit and purchases of similar items were combined as much as possible, thus saving time and money through economies of scale.

WFP increased its engagement in collaborative partnerships that drew upon each partner’s comparative advantages, activities and resources. Partners included various development partners, non-governmental organizations, the World Bank and United Nations agencies. WFP’s partnership with the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) to promote adolescent nutrition built on WFP’s existing outreach through school meals and primary education, and capitalized on UNFPA’s knowledge and established awareness campaigns. Another example was efforts to synergise and bridge WFP’s activities under Strategic Outcome 1 with the Government’s national school meals programme by using provincial officials from the national school meals programme target areas as trainers for WFP’s school meals activities.

In line with its focus on building national capacities, WFP plans to gradually nationalize the majority of staff positions in the country office. Technical support from WFP’s Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and Headquarters was provided to conduct a workforce review in early 2017. A plan

was developed to ensure WFP Laos has the right staff profiles and capacities to nationalize office positions and implement the CSP, including a staff development plan to build technical and managerial skills and knowledge. The number of staff members increased throughout 2017, reflecting increasing demands for field presence to implement activities related to community mobilization under the Agriculture for Nutrition project. Gender representation among national staff remains uneven with 29 percent female staff. The remoteness of project sites and norms around gender roles discouraged women from applying for field positions. WFP continued to encourage qualified female candidates to apply by including specific text in widely-circulated vacancy announcements. WFP also engaged with the Lao Women's Union to share information about vacant WFP positions, and WFP allowed flexible working arrangements for staff.

Risk management

As part of its efforts to promote internal controls, accountability, and peer-to-peer-learning, WFP prioritized internal learning on risk and internal controls and required each country office unit to conduct oversight and support missions to the field offices twice per quarter.

During annual performance planning throughout 2017, one high risk and two medium risks were identified. The seriousness of the risks remained the same throughout the year.

The high risk identified was the risk of WFP's workforce not fully matching the requirements of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP). The risk existed because of low levels of education and limited experience, candidates not applying for more remote field positions, and competition with the private sector, which offered higher salaries. As a result, some positions remained vacant, leading to additional workload or underperformance for existing staff. To mitigate this risk, WFP conducted a workforce review, and its implementation is ongoing. Regular staff meetings continued to be held to address the issues of the Lao People Strategy. As part of the nationalization of the WFP office, some existing staff were re-profiled and provided with the necessary knowledge and tools to take on new roles. Career path planning for national staff was initiated, while international staff were recruited to build capacities, particularly in specialized areas. The coverage of vacancy announcements was expanded, particularly to attract female candidates.

One medium risk was the lack of capacity of communities to take on ownership of programmes, which results from a lack of involvement, resources or ownership. Consequently, communities were at risk of having limited understanding of the long-term benefits of WFP's activities. To mitigate this risk, WFP created the Community Capacity Assessment tool to assess communities' readiness to manage and contribute to the school meals programme. Over 1,000 communities were assessed, including all communities identified for the handover. Packages of assistance for communities were developed according to their specific needs, including community awareness and strengthening the leadership of the village education development committee, with 10 staff assigned specifically to the handover initiative. CSP workshops were also held at the national and provincial levels to sensitise government counterparts at provincial and district levels on the handover.

The second medium risk identified was difficulty in carrying out the monitoring of the activities in remote areas during the rainy season (due to poor road and weather conditions). As a mitigation measure, monitoring and evaluation plans were reviewed to increase monitoring in remote areas before and after the rainy season. However, some sites could still not be monitored because of difficult access during the scheduled visits. As such, WFP will also engage in remote monitoring

through mobile phones and partner with third party monitors in 2018 to ensure regular monitoring in hard-to-access areas.

2017 Project implementation – Country Programme 200242

Country Programme (CP) 200242 was implemented in the first three months of 2017. The CP consisted of four components: 1) Emergency Preparedness and Response; 2) Mother Child and Health Nutrition; 3) School Meals; and 4) Livelihood Initiatives for Nutrition.

Country Strategic Plan activities continued from Country Programme 200242:

| Strategic Result (SR) / SDG Target | CSP Strategic Outcome | CSP Activity Name | Corresponding Project (January – March 2017) |
|---|---|---|--|
| SR 1 Everyone has access to food <i>SDG Target 2.1</i> | Strategic Outcome 1: School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021 | Activity 1: Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities | |
| | | Activity 2: Accelerate the implementation of the Government's plan of action of the school meals programme | Country Programme 200242 |
| | | Activity 3: Support a national process for community and government handover of schools | |
| SR 2 No one suffers from malnutrition <i>SDG Target 2.2</i> | Strategic Outcome 2: Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025 | Activity 4: Provide technical assistance for evidence based policy dialogue | Country Programme 20024220 |
| | | Activity 5: Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months | Country Programme 200242 and Trust Fund 200564 |
| | | Activity 6: Develop a social behaviour change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools | |
| SR 4 Food systems are sustainable <i>SDG Target 2.4</i> | Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable households in climate sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses | Activity 7: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities | Country Programme 200242 |

20 Components of Activity 4 were initiated during Country Programme 200242 and were completed during the first nine months of the Country Strategic Plan through the Fill-Nutrient-Gap Analysis.

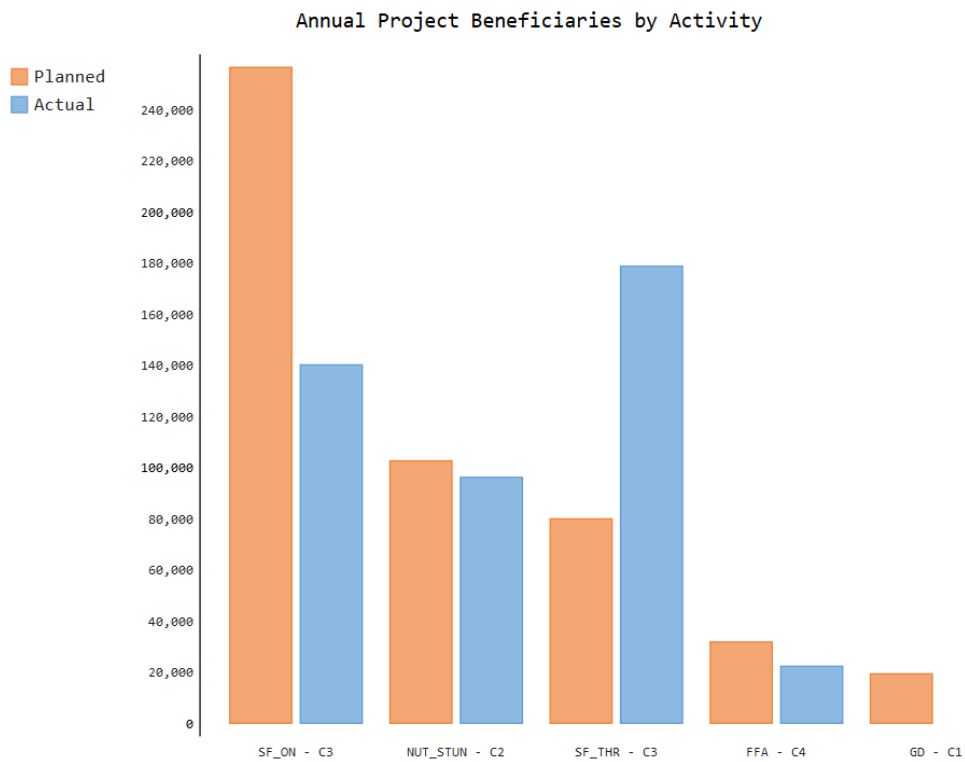
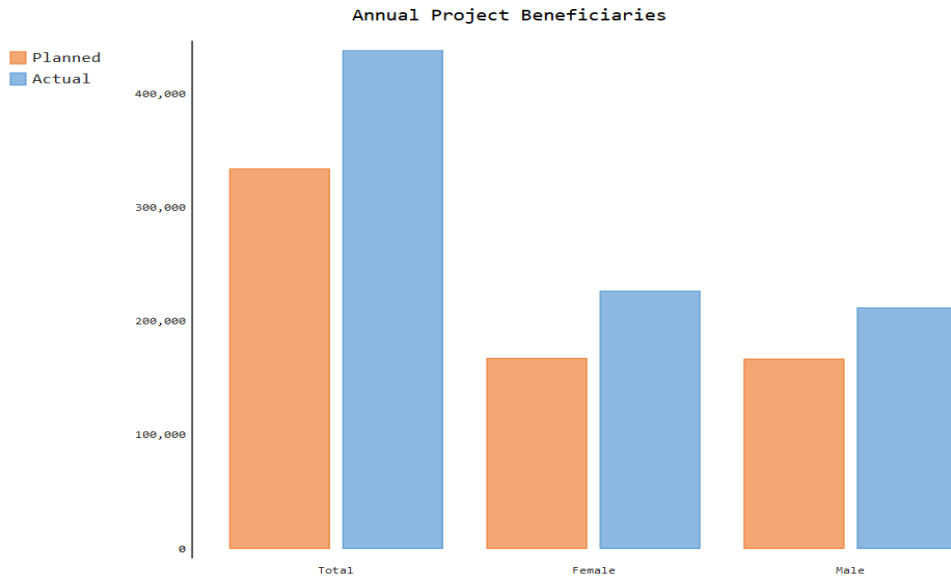
| | | | |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|
| SR 5 Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs <i>SDG Target</i> 17.9 | Strategic Outcome 4: National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025 | Activity 8: Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance | |
| | | Activity 9: Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions | |
| | | Activity 10: Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters | Country Programme 200242 |

In late 2016, the responsibility for emergency preparedness and response shifted from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. However, the shift did not come into effect immediately and the handover of responsibilities between the ministries was delayed well into 2017. Awaiting the completion of the handover, WFP continued to engage with both ministries but did not invest in any new capacity strengthening activities.

Early in 2017, the Government requested WFP to handle the storage and transport of the in-kind Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) rice for government emergency preparedness. WFP is currently storing the 225 mt of rice in its warehouse in Vientiane and will dispatch the food upon a request from the Government. This activity was not originally foreseen in the CSP but arose as a result of the good working relationship between the Government and WFP. Storage and transport costs incurred by WFP were covered by a grant given provided by the Government. This entails service provision to the Ministry of Agriculture, custodian of the APTERR rice, with whom WFP already partners under all four strategic outcomes. The agreement denotes that the Government covers all costs incurred by WFP to store and transport this rice.

The mother child and health and nutrition activities underwent several changes in anticipation of the CSP. In addition to a take-home ration of rice for pregnant and lactating women, WFP provided two different types of specialized nutritious foods for pregnant and lactating women and children aged up to 23 months. Due to a value for money and a nutrition needs analysis, WFP decided to change the nutrition support to using only one product for both target groups and to move the distributions from health centre to the village health volunteers. The take home rations of rice were also discontinued. The last take home rations to pregnant and nursing mothers were distributed in February and March. Communities were sensitized through awareness campaigns about the changes that the CSP entailed in early 2017.

Country Programme 200242



SF_ON: School Feeding (on-site)
NUT_STUN: Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting
SF_THR: School Feeding (take-home rations)
FFA: Food-Assistance-for-Assets
GD: General Distribution (GD)

With regards to the school meals programme, the activities continued under the country programme with the preparation for the shifting from mid-morning snack to school lunch, including setting up school gardens at more than 940 schools. This enabled WFP to complete the shift in September 2017. The packages of support, which included literacy activities and distribution of books, reached 4,600 children in partnerships with Plan International and Big Brother Mouse. A collaborative partnership with *Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) around hygiene promotion and handwashing was initiated. In response to the acceleration of the shift in modality from snacks to lunches, WFP distributed remaining stocks of Super Cereal, oil and sugar as take-home rations to students and their family members.

The fourth component of the CP, on linking livelihood initiatives for nutrition, was implemented through the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Lux Development supported the partnership programme *Soum Son Seum Jai* (SSSJ), which aimed to promote community-based food security and economic opportunities. The SSSJ was implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. WFP supported communities to create assets which would bring long-term impacts on their socio-economic development and livelihoods for communities while helping targeted communities become more food-secure during the lean season through conditional food assistance. Between January and February 2017, WFP supported the establishment 60 community rice banks, acting as a productive safety net for the targeted communities

Country Strategic Plan data

1. Resource inputs from donors

| Laos PDR Resource Inputs from Donors | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------|
| CP 200242 | | | Purchased in 2017 (MT) | |
| Donor | Cont.Ref.No. | Commodity | In-Kind | Cash |
| Australia | AUL-C-00245-01 | RUSF | - | 81.63 |
| USA | USA-C-01071-04 | LENTILS | 1,060.00 | - |
| USA | USA-C-01071-04 | RICE | 3,900.00 | - |
| USA | USA-C-01071-04 | Ve.Oil | 230.00 | - |
| WPD | WPD-C-03874-03 | RUSF | - | 27.21 |
| Grand Total | | | | 108.84 |

2. Beneficiary data

| Laos PDR Annual Country Beneficiaries | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Beneficiary Category | Planned Male | Planned Female | Planned Total | Actual Male | Actual Female | Actual Total | % Actual v. Planned Male | % Actual v. Planned Female | % Actual v. Planned Total |
| Total Beneficiaries | 96,229 | 102,771 | 199,000 | 223,998 | 287,414 | 511,412 | 232.8% | 279.7% | 256.2% |
| By Age Group: | | | | | | | | | |
| Children (under 5 years) | 21,062 | 21,660 | 42,722 | 19,434 | 16,877 | 36,310 | 92.3% | 77.9% | 85.0% |
| Children (5-18 years) | 69,110 | 66,399 | 135,509 | 136,036 | 117,625 | 253,660 | 196.8% | 177.1% | 187.2% |
| Adults (18 years plus) | 6,058 | 14,711 | 20,769 | 68,529 | 152,912 | 221,441 | 1131.3% | 1039.4% | 1066.2% |
| Total Beneficiaries | 96,229 | 102,771 | 199,000 | 223,998 | 287,414 | 511,412 | 232.8% | 279.7% | 257.0% |

| By Residence Status | Planned total | Actual Total | % Actual v. Planned Total |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Residents | 199,000 | 511,412 | 257.0% |
| Total Beneficiaries | 199,000 | 511,412 | 257.0% |

| Laos PDR Beneficiaries by Strategic Outcome, Activity and Modality | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic Outcome 1: School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021. | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity | Planned (Food) | Planned (CBT) | Planned (Total) | Actual (Food) | Actual (CBT) | Actual (Total) | % Actual v. Planned (Food) | % Actual v. Planned (CBT) | % Actual v. Planned (Total) |
| Act 2. Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme | 148,500 | n/a | 148,500 | 473,738 | n/a | 473,738 | 319.00% | n/a | 319.00% |
| Act 3. Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities | n/a | 10,500 | 10,500 | n/a | 8,620 | 8,620 | n/a | 82.10% | 82.10% |
| Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic Outcome 2: Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025 | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity | Planned (Food) | Planned (CBT) | Planned (Total) | Actual (Food) | Actual (CBT) | Actual (Total) | % Actual v. Planned (Food) | % Actual v. Planned (CBT) | % Actual v. Planned (Total) |
| Act 5. Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months | 32,500 | n/a | 32,500 | 47,198 | n/a | 47,198 | 145.20% | n/a | 145.20% |
| Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable households in climate sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity | Planned (Food) | Planned (CBT) | Planned (Total) | Actual (Food) | Actual (CBT) | Actual (Total) | % Actual v. Planned (Food) | % Actual v. Planned (CBT) | % Actual v. Planned (Total) |
| Act 7. Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities | 18,000 | 1,500 | 18,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

Laos PDR Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

| Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Strategic Outcome 1: School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021. | | | | | | | | | |
| Act 2. Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme | Planned (Food) | Planned (CBT) | Planned (Total) | Actual (Food) | Actual (CBT) | Actual Total | % Actual v. Planned (Food) | % Actual v. Planned (CBT) | % Actual v. Planned (Total) |
| Activity supporters | 5,000 | | 5,000 | 4,947 | | 4,947 | 98.90% | | 98.90% |
| Children receiving school meals in pre-primary schools | 25,256 | | 25,256 | 22,119 | | 22,119 | 87.60% | | 87.60% |
| Children receiving school meals in primary schools | 118,244 | | 118,244 | 446,672 | | 446,672 | 377.80% | | 377.80% |
| Total Participants | 148,500 | | 148,500 | 473,738 | | 473,738 | 319.00% | | 319.00% |
| Total Beneficiaries | 148,500 | | 148,500 | 473,738 | | 473,738 | 319.00% | | 319.00% |
| Act 3. Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities | Planned (Food) | Planned (CBT) | Planned (Total) | Actual (Food) | Actual (CBT) | Actual Total | % Actual v. Planned (Food) | % Actual v. Planned (CBT) | % Actual v. Planned (Total) |
| Children receiving school meals in pre-primary schools | | 1,995 | 1,995 | | | | | | |
| Children receiving school meals in primary schools | | 8,505 | 8,505 | | 8,620 | 8,620 | | 101.40% | 101.40% |
| Total Participants | | 10,500 | 10,500 | | 8,620 | 8,620 | | 82.10% | 82.10% |
| Total Beneficiaries | | 10,500 | 10,500 | | 8,620 | 8,620 | | 82.10% | 82.10% |
| Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable | | | | | | | | | |
| Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable households in climate sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses | | | | | | | | | |
| Act 7. Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities | Planned (Food) | Planned (CBT) | Planned (Total) | Actual (Food) | Actual (CBT) | Actual Total | % Actual v. Planned (Food) | % Actual v. Planned (CBT) | % Actual v. Planned (Total) |
| People participating in asset creation and livelihood support activities | 3,600 | 300 | 3,600 | | | | | | |
| Total Participants | 3,600 | 300 | 3,600 | | | | | | |
| Total Beneficiaries | 18,000 | 1,500 | 18,000 | | | | | | |

Laos PDR Nutrition Beneficiaries

| Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Strategic Outcome 2: Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity | Malnutrition prevention activities | Planned (Food) | Planned (CBT) | Planned (Total) | Actual (Food) | Actual (CBT) | Actual Total | % Actual v. Planned (Food) | % Actual v. Planned (CBT) | % Actual v. Planned (Total) |
| Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months | Children (6-23 months) | 19,500 | | 19,500 | 23,313 | | 23,313 | 119.60% | | 119.60% |
| | Pregnant and lactating women (18 plus) | 13,000 | | 13,000 | 23,885 | | 23,885 | 183.70% | | 183.70% |
| Total Beneficiaries | | 32,500 | | 32,500 | 47,198 | | 47,198 | 145.20% | | 145.20% |

3. Transfers - cash and food

| Laos PDR Annual CBT and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD) | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Commodities | Planned distribution (USD) | Actual distribution (USD) | % Actual vs. Planned |
| Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food | | | |
| Strategic Outcome 01: School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021. | | | |
| Cash | 144,900.00 | 46,819.58 | 32.31% |
| Total | 144,900.00 | 46,819.58 | 32.31% |
| Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable | | | |
| Strategic Outcome 03: Vulnerable households in climate sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses | | | |
| Cash | 135,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| Total | 135,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00% |
| Total Country | 279,900.00 | 46,819.58 | 16.73% |
| Laos PDR Annual Food Distribution (mt) | | | |
| Commodities | Planned distribution (MT) | Actual distribution (MT) | % Actual vs. Planned |
| Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food | | | |
| Strategic Outcome 01: School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021. | | | |
| Canned Fish | 87.572 | 58.773 | 67.11% |
| Corn Soya Blend | 396.194 | 332.072 | 83.82% |
| Lentils | 480.873 | 382.790 | 79.60% |
| Rice | 1,888.080 | 1,734.767 | 91.88% |
| Sugar | 74.286 | 59.086 | 79.54% |
| Vegetable Oil | 223.695 | 150.377 | 67.22% |
| Total | 3,150.700 | 2,717.865 | 86.26% |
| Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition | | | |
| Strategic Outcome 02: Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025 | | | |
| Ready To Use Supplementary Food | 195.000 | 125.651 | 64.44% |
| Total | 195.000 | 125.651 | 64.44% |
| Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable | | | |
| Strategic Outcome 03: Vulnerable households in climate sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses | | | |
| Rice | 742.503 | 0.000 | 0.00% |
| Total | 742.503 | 0.000 | 0.00% |
| Total Country | 4,088.203 | 2,843.516 | 69.55% |

4. Output indicators

| Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food | | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Strategic Outcome 1: School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021. | | | | |
| Act 2: Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme | | | | |
| Detailed Indicator | Unit | Target Value | Actual Value | % Achieved |
| Number of school gardens established | garden | 500 | 450 | 90.0% |
| Number of students benefiting from campaign to promote literacy | individual | 10000 | 9774 | 97.7% |
| Number of textbooks and other teaching and learning materials provided | item | 32000 | 31188 | 97.5% |
| Act 3: Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities | | | | |
| Detailed Indicator | Unit | Target Value | Actual Value | % Achieved |
| Number of assisted schools that procure fresh food items | school | 101 | 101 | 100.0% |
| Number of primary schools assisted by WFP | school | 1429 | 1429 | 100.0% |
| Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition | | | | |
| Strategic Outcome 2: Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025 | | | | |
| Act 5: Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months | | | | |
| Detailed Indicator | Unit | Target Value | Actual Value | % Achieved |
| Number of government staff trained in household access to macro- and micro-nutrients | individual | 12 | 12 | 100.0% |
| Number of participants of dissemination meeting | individual | 71 | 71 | 100.0% |
| Number of people trained in household access to macro- and micro-nutrients | individual | 14450 | 14436 | 99.9% |
| Number of workshop participants | individual | 115 | 115 | 100.0% |
| Act 6: Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools | | | | |
| Detailed Indicator | Unit | Target Value | Actual Value | % Achieved |
| Number of government counterparts trained | individual | 128 | 61 | 47.7% |
| Number of modules/guidelines produced | Module | 6 | 3 | 50.0% |
| Number of modules/lessons rolled out in villages | Module | 6 | 1 | 16.7% |
| Number of planned targeted villages | village | 61 | 61 | 100.0% |
| Number of PLW, mother with children under 2 who attended FNS session | individual | 1525 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Number of PLW, mother with children under 2 who received garden grants | individual | 1525 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Number of training sessions/workshops organized | training session | 28 | 14 | 50.0% |
| Number of Village facilitators trained | individual | 183 | 183 | 100.0% |

| Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable | | | | |
|--|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable households in climate sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses | | | | |
| Act 7: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities | | | | |
| Detailed Indicator | Unit | Target Value | Actual Value | % Achieved |
| Number of counterparts staff members trained in disaster and climate risk management | individual | 90 | 88 | 97.8% |
| Number of people trained (Skills: Livelihood technologies) | individual | 870 | 862 | 99.1% |
| Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs | | | | |
| Strategic Outcome 4: National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025 | | | | |
| Act 8: Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance | | | | |
| Detailed Indicator | Unit | Target Value | Actual Value | % Achieved |
| Number of technical support activities provided on food security monitoring and food assistance | activity | 1 | 2 | 200.0% |
| Act 9: Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions | | | | |
| Detailed Indicator | Unit | Target Value | Actual Value | % Achieved |
| Number of guidance document developed and circulated | item | 1 | 1 | 100.0% |
| Number of household which attended the planning session | household | 5185 | 4268 | 82.3% |
| Number of people trained | individual | 76 | 84 | 110.5% |
| Number of training sessions for beneficiaries carried out (livelihood-support/agriculture&farming/IGA) | training session | 2 | 2 | 100.0% |
| Number of Villages which completed the Village Plan | village | 61 | 61 | 100.0% |
| Act 10: Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters | | | | |
| Detailed Indicator | Unit | Target Value | Actual Value | % Achieved |
| Number of partners supported | partner | 1 | 1 | 100.0% |

5. Outcome indicators

Strategic Result 1 Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1 - School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.

Activity 2 Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme

| Outcome Indicator | Target / Location | Modalities | Date/Source/Mean Of Collection | Base Value | | | Latest Follow Up | | | Year End Target | | | CSP End Target | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------|---|------------|--------|---------|------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|
| | | | | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall |
| Attendance rate | School Lunch programme | Food | Base Value: 2017.04, WFP programme monitoring, PDM Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, PDM Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 87.5 | 87 | 87.2 | 87.5 | 87 | 87.2 | ≥90 | ≥90 | ≥90 | ≥90 | ≥90 | ≥90 |
| Enrolment rate | School Lunch programme | Food | Base Value: 2017.04, Secondary data, Desk-based Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, Secondary data, Desk-based Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 93.25 | 92.15 | 92.71 | 92.15 | 93.25 | 92.71 | ≥98 | ≥98 | ≥98 | >98 | >98 | >98 |

Activities 1, 2, 3 - Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities to Government of Lao, Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme, Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities

| Outcome Indicator | Target / Location | Modalities | Date/Source/Mean Of Collection | Base Value | | | Latest Follow Up | | | Year End Target | | | CSP End Target | | |
|--|------------------------|------------|--|------------|--------|---------|------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|
| | | | | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 1 (Policies and legislation) | School Lunch programme | Cash, Food | Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, Secondary data, Desk-based Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | | | | | | 28 | | | ≥10 | | | =40 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 2 (Institutional accountability) | School Lunch programme | Cash, Food | Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, Secondary data, Desk-based Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | | | | | | 8 | | | ≥10 | | | =40 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 3 (Strategic planning and financing) | School Lunch programme | Cash, Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =40 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 4 (National programme design and delivery) | School Lunch programme | Cash, Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =40 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 5 (Engagement and participation of non-state actors) | School Lunch programme | Cash, Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =40 |

Strategic Result 2 - No one suffers from malnutrition
Strategic Outcome 2 - Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025
Activity 5 Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months

| Outcome Indicator | Target / Location | Modalities | Date/Source/Mean Of Collection | Base Value | | | Latest Follow Up | | | Year End Target | | | CSP End Target | | |
|--|------------------------|------------|---|------------|--------|---------|------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|
| | | | | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall |
| Proportion of children 6--23 months of age who receive a minimum acceptable diet | Prevention to Stunting | Food | Base Value: 2017.04, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Monitoring Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Monitoring Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 30.7 | 30.7 | 30.7 | 30.7 | 30.7 | 30.7 | ≥31 | ≥31 | ≥31 | ≥70 | ≥70 | ≥70 |
| Proportion of eligible population that participates in programme (coverage) | Prevention to Stunting | Food | Base Value: 2017.04, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Monitoring Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Monitoring Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 91.5 | 91.5 | 91.5 | 91.5 | 91.5 | 91.5 | ≥91.5 | ≥91.5 | ≥91.5 | ≥50 | ≥50 | ≥50 |

Activities 4, 5, 6 - Provide technical assistance for evidence based policy dialogue, Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months, Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools

| Outcome Indicator | Target / Location | Modalities | Date/Source/Mean Of Collection | Base Value | | | Latest Follow Up | | | Year End Target | | | CSP End Target | | |
|--|------------------------|------------|---|------------|--------|---------|------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|
| | | | | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 1 (Policies and legislation) | Prevention to Stunting | Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =40 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 2 (Institutional accountability) | Prevention to Stunting | Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =40 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 3 (Strategic planning and financing) | Prevention to Stunting | Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =40 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 4 (National programme design and delivery) | Prevention to Stunting | Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =40 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 5 (Engagement and participation of non-state actors) | Prevention to Stunting | Food | Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Records Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | | | | | | 14 | | | ≥10 | | | =40 |

Strategic Result 4 - Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 3 - Vulnerable households in climate sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses

Activity 7 - Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities

| Outcome Indicator | Target / Location | Modalities | Date/Source/Mean Of Collection | Base Value | | | Latest Follow Up | | | Year End Target | | | CSP End Target | | |
|--|---|------------|--|------------|--------|---------|------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|
| | | | | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall |
| Dietary Diversity Score | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.01, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Monitoring Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 3.62 | 3.25 | 3.57 | | | | ≥3.6 | ≥3.6 | ≥3.6 | ≥3.8 | ≥3.8 | ≥3.8 |
| Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Acceptable Food Consumption Score | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Monitoring Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 56 | 50 | 55.2 | | | | ≥56 | ≥50 | ≥55.2 | ≥57.12 | ≥54.88 | ≥56 |
| Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Borderline Food Consumption Score | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Monitoring Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 28 | 37.5 | 29.3 | | | | ≥28.2 | ≥37.8 | ≥29.5 | ≤31.62 | ≤30.38 | ≤31 |
| Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Poor Food Consumption Score | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Monitoring Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 16 | 12.5 | 15.5 | | | | ≤15.8 | ≤12.2 | ≤15.3 | ≤13.26 | ≤12.74 | ≤13 |
| Proportion of targeted communities where there is evidence of improved capacity to manage climate shocks and risks | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Monitoring Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Monitoring Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | | | 0 | | | 0 | | | ≤10 | | | ≤60 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along All Pathways (Full CCS portfolio) | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =60 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 1 (Policies and legislation) | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =60 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 2 (Institutional accountability) | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Records Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | | | | | | 1 | | | ≥10 | | | =60 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 3 (Strategic planning and financing) | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =60 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 4 (National programme design and delivery) | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Records Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | | | | | | 1 | | | ≥10 | | | =60 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 5 (Engagement and participation of non-state actors) | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =60 |

| Strategic Result 4 - Food systems are sustainable | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|------------|---|------------|--------|---------|------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|
| Strategic Outcome 3 - Vulnerable households in climate sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activity 7 - Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Outcome Indicator | Target / Location | Modalities | Date/Source/Mean Of Collection | Base Value | | | Latest Follow Up | | | Year End Target | | | CSP End Target | | |
| | | | | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall |
| Dietary Diversity Score | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.01,WFP programme monitoring ,WFP Monitoring Year end Target:2017.12 CSP end Target:202112 | 3.62 | 3.25 | 3.57 | | | | ≥3.6 | ≥3.6 | ≥3.6 | ≥3.8 | ≥3.8 | ≥3.8 |
| Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Acceptable Food Consumption Score | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04, WFP programme monitoring ,WFP Monitoring Year end Target:2017.12 CSP end Target:202112 | 56 | 50 | 55.2 | | | | ≥56 | ≥50 | ≥55.2 | ≥57.12 | ≥54.88 | ≥56 |
| Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Borderline Food Consumption Score | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04, WFP programme monitoring ,WFP Monitoring Year end Target:2017.12 CSP end Target:202112 | 28 | 37.5 | 29.3 | | | | ≥28.2 | ≥37.8 | ≥29.5 | ≤31.62 | ≤30.38 | ≤31 |
| Food Consumption Score / Percentage of households with Poor Food Consumption Score | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04, WFP programme monitoring ,WFP Monitoring Year end Target:2017.12 CSP end Target:202112 | 16 | 12.5 | 15.5 | | | | ≤15.8 | ≤12.2 | ≤15.3 | ≤13.26 | ≤12.74 | ≤13 |
| Proportion of targeted communities where there is evidence of improved capacity to manage climate shocks and risks | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04, WFP programme monitoring ,WFP Monitoring Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring ,WFP Monitoring Year end Target:2017.12 CSP end Target:202112 | | | 0 | | | 0 | | | ≤10 | | | ≤60 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along All Pathways (Full CCS portfolio) | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =60 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 1 (Policies and legislation) | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =60 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 2 (Institutional accountability) | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring ,WFP Records Year end Target:2017.12 CSP end Target:202112 | | | | | | 1 | | | ≥10 | | | =60 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 3 (Strategic planning and financing) | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =60 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 4 (National programme design and delivery) | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring ,WFP Records Year end Target:2017.12 CSP end Target:202112 | | | | | | 1 | | | ≥10 | | | =60 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 5 (Engagement and participation of non-state actors) | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | | | | | | | | | | ≥10 | | | =60 |

Strategic Result 5 - Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 04 - National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025

Activities 8,9, 10 - Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance, Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions, Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters

| Outcome Indicator | Target / Location | Modalities | Date/Source/Mean Of Collection | Base Value | | | Latest Follow Up | | | Year End Target | | | CSP End Target | | |
|--|---|------------|---|------------|--------|---------|------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|
| | | | | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 1 (Policies and legislation) | National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery | | Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Records Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | | | | | | 1 | | | ≥5 | | | =25 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 2 (Institutional accountability) | National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery | | Latest Follow-up: 2017.12, WFP programme monitoring, WFP Records Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | | | | | | 1 | | | ≥5 | | | =25 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 3 (Strategic planning and financing) | National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery | | | | | | | | | | | ≥5 | | | =25 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 4 (National programme design and delivery) | National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery | | | | | | | | | | | ≥5 | | | =25 |
| Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard / % process milestones completed along Pathway 5 (Engagement and participation of non-state actors) | National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery | | | | | | | | | | | ≥5 | | | =25 |

Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard: Data for this indicator is computed as per the Capacity Needs Mapping (CNM) tool. CNM mandates a **qualitative baseline - therefore no baseline values are reported.**

Follow-up values refer to percentage (%) completion of milestones across applicable pathways of country capacity strengthening, as per WFP's Action Plan.

No 2017 follow-up value available:

- **Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard** > activities not implemented in 2017 under reference pathways

- **Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood** > During 2017, the food assistance for assets activities were initiated as part of the Country Programme (200242 Component 4). The baseline data refers to the values reported prior to April 2017. No further food/cash distributions took place during the 9 months of CSP implementation (Apr-Dec) and consequently no 2017 follow-up values are available

Not applicable

6. Cross-cutting indicators - protection

| Protection | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------|---|------------|--------|---------|------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|--|
| Cross cutting result: Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cross Cutting Indicator | Target / Location | Modalities | Date/Source/Mean Of Collection | Base Value | | | Latest Follow-up | | | Year End Target | | | CSP End Target | | | |
| | | | | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | |
| Activity 6 - Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of targeted people accessing assistance without protection challenges | Agriculture for Nutrition | Capacity strengthening | Base Value: 2017.06 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 96 | 98 | 97 | 96 | 98 | 97 | ≥80 | ≥80 | ≥80 | =50 | =50 | =100 | |
| Activity 7 - Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of targeted people accessing assistance without protection challenges | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 96 | 98 | 97 | | | | ≥85 | ≥85 | ≥85 | =95 | =95 | =95 | |
| Activity 5 - Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of targeted people accessing assistance without protection challenges | Prevention to Stunting | Food | Base Value: 2017.06 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 89 | 88 | 88 | 89 | 88 | 88 | ≥85 | ≥85 | ≥85 | =90 | =90 | =90 | |
| Activity 2 - Accelerate the implementation of the government's plan of action of the school meals programme | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of targeted people accessing assistance without protection challenges | School Lunch programme | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.06 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 96 | 98 | 97 | 96 | 98 | 97 | ≥85 | ≥85 | ≥85 | =95 | =95 | =95 | |

7. Cross-cutting indicators - accountability to affected populations

| Accountability to Affected Populations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------|---|------------|--------|---------|------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|
| Cross cutting results: Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cross Cutting Indicator | Target / Location | Modalities | Date/Source/Mean Of Collection | Base Value | | | Latest Follow-up | | | Year End Target | | | CSP End Target | | |
| | | | | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall |
| Activity 6 - Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) | Agriculture for Nutrition | Capacity strengthening | Base Value: 2017.06 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 82 | 84 | 83 | 82 | 84 | 83 | ≥85 | ≥85 | ≥85 | =85 | =85 | =85 |
| Proportion of project activities for which beneficiary feedback is documented, analysed and integrated into programme improvements | Agriculture for Nutrition | Capacity strengthening | Base Value: 2017.04 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 0 | - | - | 0 | - | - | ≥50 | - | - | =80 |
| Activity 7 - Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 82 | 84 | 83 | | | | ≥50 | ≥50 | ≥50 | =75 | =75 | =75 |
| Proportion of project activities for which beneficiary feedback is documented, analysed and integrated into programme improvements | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 75 | | | | - | - | ≥80 | - | - | =80 |
| Activity 5 - Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) | Prevention to Stunting | Food | Base Value: 2017.06 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 78 | 86 | 84 | 78 | 86 | 84 | ≥80 | ≥80 | ≥80 | =80 | =80 | =80 |
| Proportion of project activities for which beneficiary feedback is documented, analysed and integrated into programme improvements | Prevention to Stunting | Food | Base Value: 2017.04 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 75 | - | - | 75 | - | - | ≥80 | - | - | =80 |
| Activity 2 and 3 - Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme, Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) | School Lunch programme | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.06 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | 82 | 84 | 83 | 82 | 84 | 83 | ≥85 | ≥85 | ≥85 | =85 | =85 | =85 |
| Proportion of project activities for which beneficiary feedback is documented, analysed and integrated into programme improvements | School Lunch programme | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 75 | - | - | 75 | - | - | ≥80 | - | - | =80 |

8. Cross-cutting indicators - gender

| Gender | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------|---|------------|--------|---------|------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|
| Cross Cutting Result: Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cross Cutting Indicator | Target / Location | Modalities | Date/Source/Mean Of Collection | Base Value | | | Latest Follow-up | | | Year End Target | | | CSP End Target | | |
| | | | | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall |
| Activity 5 - Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of food assistance decision-making entity – committees, boards, teams, etc. – members who are women | Prevention to Stunting | Food | Base Value: 2017.04 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 29 | - | - | 29 | - | - | ≥30 | - | - | ≥35 |
| Activity 2 and 3 - Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme, Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of food assistance decision-making entity – committees, boards, teams, etc. – members who are women | School Lunch programme | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.06 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 29 | - | - | 29 | - | - | ≥30 | - | - | ≥35 |
| Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality / Decisions jointly made by women and men | School Lunch programme | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.06 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 16 | - | - | 16 | - | - | ≥34 | - | - | ≥34 |
| Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality / Decisions made by men | School Lunch programme | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.06 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 55 | - | - | 55 | - | - | ≥33 | - | - | ≥33 |
| Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality / Decisions made by women | School Lunch programme | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.06 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 29 | - | - | 29 | - | - | ≥33 | - | - | ≥33 |

| Gender | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------|---|------------|--------|---------|------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|---------|
| Cross Cutting Result: Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cross Cutting Indicator | Target / Location | Modalities | Date/Source/Mean Of Collection | Base Value | | | Latest Follow-up | | | Year End Target | | | CSP End Target | | |
| | | | | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall | Male | Female | Overall |
| Activity 7 - Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality / Decisions jointly made by women and men | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 15 | | | | - | - | ≥34 | - | - | =34 |
| Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality / Decisions made by men | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 30 | | | | - | - | ≥33 | - | - | ≥33 |
| Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality / Decisions made by women | Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood | Cash, Food | Base Value: 2017.04 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 20 | | | | - | - | ≥33 | - | - | ≥33 |
| Activity 5 - Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality / Decisions jointly made by women and men | Prevention to Stunting | Food | Base Value: 2017.06 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 11 | - | - | 11 | - | - | ≥34 | - | - | =34 |
| Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality / Decisions made by men | Prevention to Stunting | Food | Base Value: 2017.06 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 20 | - | - | 20 | - | - | ≥33 | - | - | ≥33 |
| Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality / Decisions made by women | Prevention to Stunting | Food | Base Value: 2017.06 Latest Follow-up: 2017.12 Year end Target: 2017.12 CSP end Target: 2021.12 | - | - | 69 | - | - | 69 | - | - | ≥33 | - | - | ≥33 |
| No 2017 follow-up value available. Community Resilience through productive assets and livelihood > During 2017, the food assistance for assets activities were initiated as part of the Country Programme (200242 Component 4). The baseline data refers to the values reported prior to April 2017. No further food/cash distributions took place during the 9 months of CSP implementation (Apr-Dec) and consequently no 2017 follow-up values are available. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

9. Procurement

| Country Programme (CP) 200242 | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Commodities | Quantity MT | | |
| | Local | Regional/International | Total |
| RUSF | 0 | 108.84 | 108.84 |
| Total | - | 108.84 | 108.84 |
| % of Total | 0% | 100% | |
| CSP | | | |
| Commodities | QTY MT | | |
| | Local | Regional/International | Total |
| RUSF | 0 | 123.66 | 123.66 |
| Total | - | 123.66 | 123.66 |
| % of Total | 0% | 100% | |
| Total Country (CP + CSP) | | | |
| Commodities | QTY MT | | |
| | Local | Regional/International | Total |
| RUSF | 0 | 232.50 | 232.50 |



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<http://www1.wfp.org/countries/lao-peoples-democratic-republic>