

SAVING  
LIVES

CHANGING  
LIVES



# Lao People's Democratic Republic Annual Country Report 2019

Country Strategic Plan  
2017 - 2021



World Food  
Programme

# Table of contents

<b>Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Context and Operations</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CSP financial overview</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Programme Performance</b>	<b>9</b>
Strategic outcome 01	9
Strategic outcome 02	10
Strategic outcome 03	12
Strategic outcome 04	14
<b>Cross-cutting Results</b>	<b>16</b>
Progress towards gender equality	16
Protection	16
Accountability to affected populations	17
Environment	17
<b>Community-led school feeding</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Data Notes</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Figures and Indicators</b>	<b>21</b>
WFP contribution to SDGs	21
Beneficiaries by Age Group	22
Beneficiaries by Residence Status	22
Annual Food Transfer	22
Annual Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher	23
Strategic Outcome and Output Results	24
Cross-cutting Indicators	32

# Summary

In 2019, WFP has continued to make significant contributions to i) providing sustainable access to food for school children; ii) reducing stunting levels amongst children aged 6-23 months; iii) enhancing community resilience to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses; iv) strengthening capacities in national and local governance institutions.

Given that WFP passed the halfway point of the Country Strategic Plan in 2019, WFP conducted an internal mid-term review to assess whether its activities were achieving the desired results and whether the correct processes were in place to achieve Zero Hunger results. The review found that in terms of the strategic direction of WFP in the country, the shift from direct implementation to policy engagement, capacity development and handover was still relevant. This shift was crucial to enable government and communities to lead food and nutrition solutions to ensure sustainability and ownership by 2030. The continued relevance of the country strategic plan can be attributed to extensive and continued consultations, and it is recommended that continued success and sustainability of results for the remainder of the strategic period requires increased community ownership. Based on this recommendation, WFP took an implementation shift whereby field monitors became community facilitators and took active roles in mobilizing communities, identifying implementation challenges and solving challenges together with communities.

During 2019, WFP achieved the significant milestone of handing over the school feeding programme, with the first phase handing over 515 schools to the Ministry of Education and Sports. The remaining 924 schools will be handed over in mid-2021. This marked the start of the important strategic shift in WFP implementation from a model of food aid to one of food assistance to improve nutrition and reduce hunger. During and following the handover, WFP will continue providing technical support to ensure sustainability and strengthen local ownership, including the installation of school water systems, sanitation and hygiene facilities, setting up school gardens, community greenhouses and fishponds.

Given the high levels of anaemia and other forms of malnutrition in the country, WFP continued providing specialized nutritious foods in supplementary feeding, and mother and child health programmes to prevent and address nutritional deficiencies. In addition to this food-based approach, and given the need for creating local solutions and an enabling policy environment, WFP has supported the Government in making several positive developments in increasing the availability of nutrient-rich foods. Food fortification is one of the most cost-effective ways to improve access to micronutrients across the whole population. In this regard, WFP helped review the current status of food fortification in the country and identify the initial steps for setting food fortification standards in Lao PDR. Building resilience through the creation of productive assets remains a key strategy for WFP. In 2019 a total of 176 assets were established in 169 target locations and included a wide range of assets including community rice banks, community greenhouses, road rehabilitation and small-scale irrigation schemes.

During 2019, WFP successfully conducted two emergency food assistance initiatives following extensive flooding in 2018 and took part in several food security assessments including a Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission in 2019. Given these emergencies and the need for supporting national emergency preparedness and response operations, WFP continued supporting the Government and the logistics cluster in enhancing national logistics capacities. These recent extreme weather events have had significant impacts on food security and raised concerns on the increasing frequency and magnitude of climate-related shocks and stresses in the country. Through both in-kind contributions of food and cash-based transfers, WFP was able to meet the food needs of the affected populations. The successful use of cash in these circumstances and acceptance by beneficiaries highlights its effectiveness and justifies WFP's strategic shift towards more cash-based interventions. In supporting this strategic shift, WFP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund co-chair the Lao PDR cash working group which aims to improve the quality and coordination, increase the scale and broaden the scope of cash-based transfers in the country.

# 237,766

Total Beneficiaries in 2019

of which 6,659 is the estimated number of people with disabilities (3,330 Female, 3,329 Male)

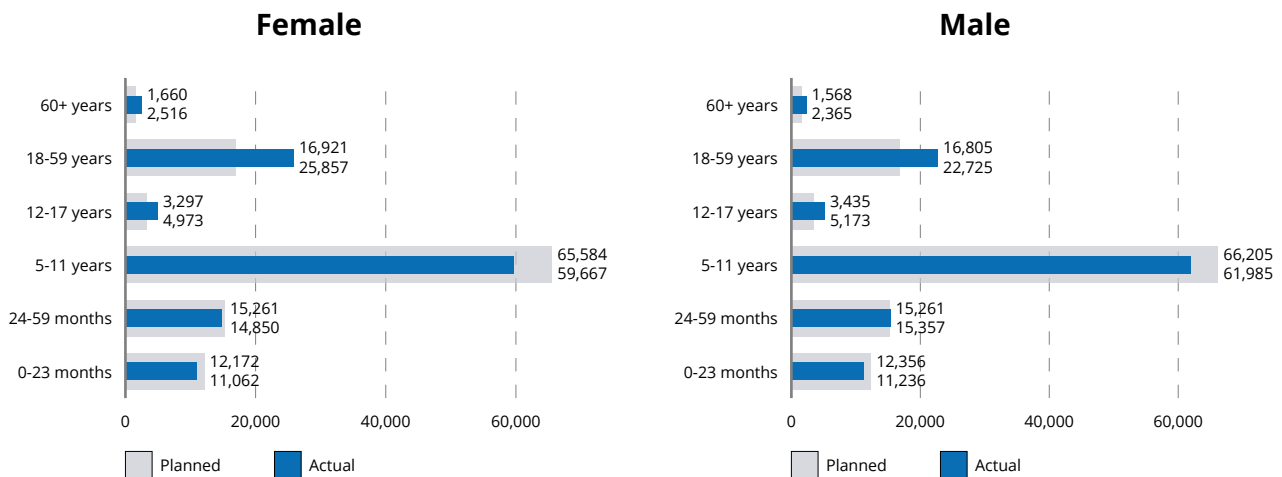


50% female

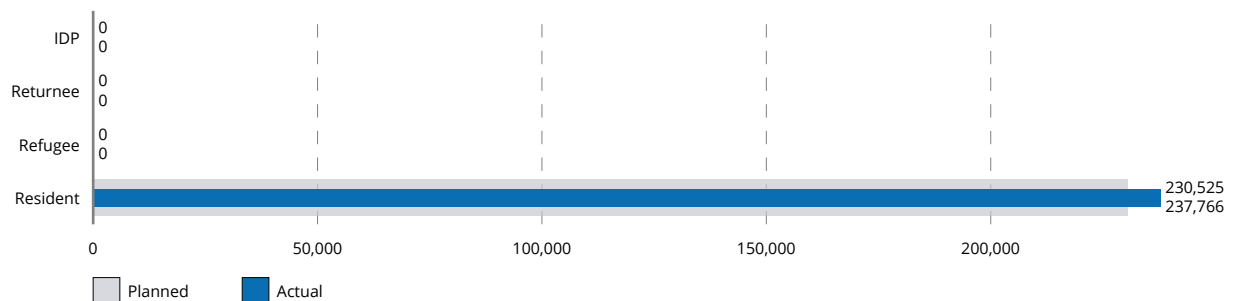


50% male

## Beneficiaries by Sex and Age Group



## Beneficiaries by Residence Status



## Total Food and CBT

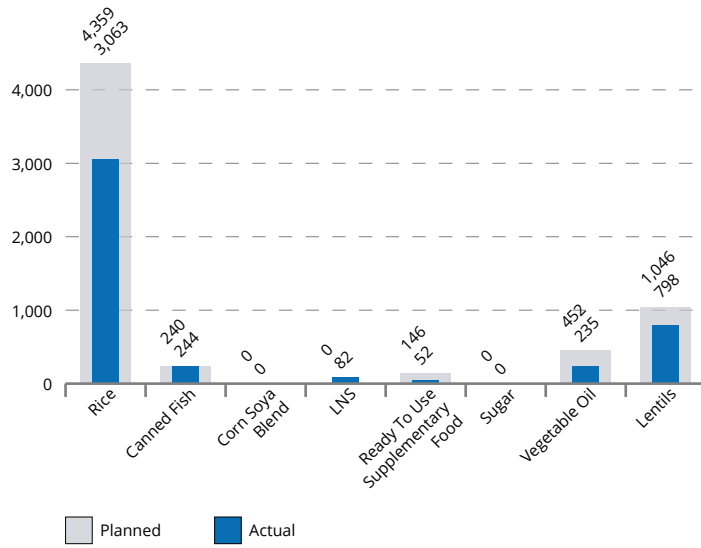


**4,473 mt**  
total actual food transferred in 2019  
of 6,243 mt total planned

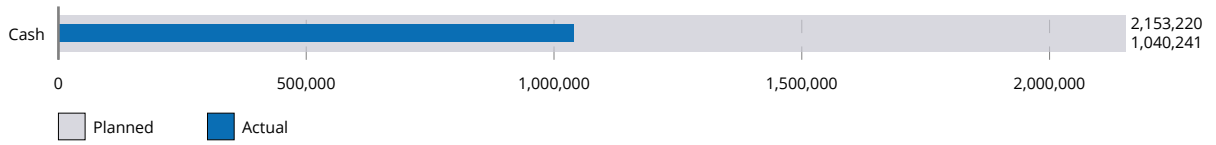


**US\$ 1,040,241**  
total actual cash transferred in 2019  
of \$US 2,153,220 total planned

### Annual Food Transfer



### Annual Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher





of the rural population, supplemented with livestock rearing, and collection of non-timber forest products and fish from local water supplies [6].

During 2019, the Government made significant progress in preparing the ninth National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NESDP) (2021-2025) outlining the key objectives of the plan: i) well-being and equality of the people; ii) sustainable socio-economic development; iii) a smooth transition from Least Developed Country (LDC) status; and iv) achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2019, the Government endorsed a comprehensive list of national SDG indicators, thereby promoting the localization and integration of the SDGs into the national planning framework. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights indicated that Lao PDR's impressive growth throughout the eighth NESDP has been achieved in large through encouraging foreign investment, particularly in mining, hydropower, and agriculture. However, this rapid economic growth has not led to a commensurate reduction in poverty [7].

In 2019, the capacity for scaling up nutrition interventions was improved through enhanced functioning of multisectoral coordination at central, provincial and district levels. Capacity was enhanced for planning and budgeting for national nutrition interventions through the development of key analysis and undertaking of surveillance data to inform countrywide planning and prioritization. Additionally, coordination of cash-based interventions was strengthened through leadership from WFP at both national and regional levels.

The 2019 wet season (May - October) was characterized by drought conditions in the north of the country and strong erratic rainfall in other parts. A tropical storm in the southern part of Lao PDR caused widespread flooding, affecting an estimated 765,000 people across six provinces and resulting in an estimated USD 164 million in damages. The 2019 floods compounded the impacts of the 2018 floods, causing widespread damage to livelihoods, disrupting economic activities and causing a deterioration of social conditions, all of which increased food insecurity risks [8].

Due to an increased risk of climate change and variability-related hazards in Lao PDR, a Disaster Recovery Framework has been integrated into the remaining period of the eighth socio-economic development plan as well as the development of the ninth plan. The development of the Disaster Recovery Framework is based on the foundation of the recently approved Disaster Management Law and the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, conducted following the devastating floods of 2018 [9]. Additional significant policy developments during 2019 include the national disaster management plan and the Decree on Climate Change [Lao PDR, 2019]. However, disaster and climate risk management systems in the country still require further improvement.

Through strategic partnerships with the Government as well as key UN and non-governmental partners, WFP supports the Government in addressing specific challenges via its Country Strategic Plan 2017-2021. Through food and cash-based transfers, technical assistance and capacity development, WFP supports the Government in working towards four Strategic Outcomes:

- 1) schoolchildren in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021;
- 2) stunting levels among children aged 6-23 months in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025;
- 3) vulnerable households in climate-sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses;
- 4) national and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery for food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025.

# CSP financial overview

As of December 2019, WFP was able to mobilize 62 percent of funds against the total needs-based plan of the country strategic plan (CSP). Since the start of the CSP in 2017, one country portfolio budget (CPB) revision was undertaken in late 2018 and no revisions were undertaken in 2019. Given that the CSP passed halfway of its implementation period during 2019, this funding status and trend remain positive for the remainder of the CSP period. However, the level of resourcing between Strategic Outcomes and Activities is not uniform.

Strategic Outcome 1 remains the most funded outcome with 59 percent funding against the total CSP needs-based plan. The highest contributing donors for Strategic Outcome 1 are the United States Department of Agriculture (McGovern-Dole), the governments of Australia and Japan.

Strategic Outcome 2 is 45 percent funded against the total CSP needs-based plan. This includes a multi-year contribution from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) until 2022 and contributions from the Government of France, and through private donations. However, this percentage masks a lack of funding for Activity 4 (Provide technical assistance for evidence-based policy dialogue) and Activity 5 (Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months). The multi-year GAFSP-funded Activity 6, Develop a social behaviour change communication strategy and nutrition schools for farmers, remains well-resourced.

Strategic Outcome 3 is 55 percent funded against the total CSP needs-based plan. Contributions to this outcome are focused on resilience building as well as emergency response activities. The main contributions for the outcome in 2019 continued to be from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (UNCERF), the governments of Russia, Australia and Japan, and through private donations.

Strategic Outcome 4 remains the most underfunded, with 30 percent funding against the total CSP needs-based plan. Most of these funds are allocated to Activity 9 through the multi-year GAFSP fund. The other two activities under this outcome - Activity 8 (Investing in national governance capacity for food and nutrition security) and Activity 10 (Enhancing the capacity of government to prepare for and respond to natural disasters) - have received no direct funding and remain largely underfunded. They have received 6 percent and 13 percent of their needs, respectively. For these two activities, WFP utilized small resource transfers from existing sources to implement small-scale activities and was not able to implement at scale. Activity 10 also received support from the Global Logistics Cluster for the implementation of a logistics preparedness project.

The CSP funding strategy in 2019 has continued to focus on contributions from key official development assistance partners of WFP in Lao PDR, with several new contributions received during 2019. The current strategy does not foresee the use of advance financing mechanisms. The successful completion of emergency assistance in 2019, particularly utilizing cash-based transfers, has shown the effectiveness of accessing and utilizing emergency funds such as UNCERF for activities not identified in the CSP.

Of the contributions received, 98 percent were earmarked for specific CSP activities while 2 percent were flexible contributions at top CPB level. The allocation of these flexible contributions to specific activities was made based on resource shortfalls according to needs-based plans as well as evolving emergency situations. To meet the resource needs for the remainder of the CSP, a revision of the CSP funding strategy is planned that highlights the existing donor base and seeks strategic funding from additional sources including multilateral funds, bilateral sources and the private sector.



# Programme Performance

## Strategic outcome 01

School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.

Needs-based plan	Implementation plan	Available resources	Expenditures
\$11,138,716	\$10,037,405	\$12,602,121	\$7,480,578

WFP is supporting the Government's ambition to address the root causes of food insecurity and low education levels through the school feeding programme. This is being achieved through enhancing the capacity of communities and the public sector and through food assistance for WFP-targeted schools. Strategic Outcome 1 is implemented through three key activities, (1) *provide policy support, technical assistance and capacity transfer*, (2) *accelerate implementation of the Government's plan of action for the school feeding programme*, and (3) *support the national process for handover of the school feeding programme to communities and the Government*.

In 2019, Strategic Outcome 1 continued to be well funded through multi-year funding sources. WFP spent less than anticipated in its latest implementation plan, mostly due to a delay in establishing partnerships for projects aimed at increased literacy and water access.

With the funds available, WFP continued providing daily lunch to all 137,567 pre-primary and primary school students (49 percent girls) in the 1,439 WFP-supported schools, including two special schools for students with hearing and visual impairments. The daily lunches provided were made up of 100g rice, 40g lentils, 30g canned fish and 10g vegetable oil rations, and were complemented by community contributions to increase their nutritional content. A total of 3,798 mt of food was distributed by WFP for school feeding and food assistance for asset activities, falling slightly short on planned distributions for asset creation activities. Funding throughout the year was well utilized with most output targets being met. As a result of WFP activities, pre-primary and primary school enrolment has slightly improved since 2018 and attendance rates in 2019 have remained high and above target values.

WFP continued to engage closely with the Ministry of Education and Sports as well as other relevant ministries and non-governmental organizations to provide school feeding and related services, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), literacy and nutrition. At the same time, the first set of 515 WFP-supported schools in nine districts were officially handed over to the Ministry. WFP also began preparations for the handover of the remaining 924 schools, which is scheduled for mid-2021.

Direct cash-based transfers to schools were used to reach school children in four of the nine districts handed over, supporting local food purchases in the 2018 - 2019 school year. Due to insufficient cash contributions, WFP was unable to meet the planned target of cash transfers to WFP supported schools in all nine handover districts during the 2018 - 2019 school year. However, in addition to ongoing efforts to add a budget line for school feeding within the Ministry budget, for the current (2019 - 2020) school year the Government reallocated its budget to provide USD 0.09 (LAK 800) per child per day to 821 schools including the 515 WFP-supported schools in the nine handover districts. These cash-based transfers are scheduled to be completed in early 2020.

Since the issuance of the national Policy on Promoting School Feeding in 2014, WFP has been engaging closely with the Government to build institutional frameworks and capacities, develop an evidence base for school feeding, and ensure that the communities and the Government are prepared for the phased handover. In 2019, several pieces of legislation were passed to support the handover process and to ensure long-term sustainability, including a Ministerial Directive on Promoting School Agriculture, which will ensure each educational institution has a garden; a Ministerial Circular to appoint a handover committee for the remaining provinces and districts to facilitate the handover process; and a Ministerial Circular on ownership and regular cooking in the remaining 21 districts.

Additional capacity strengthening activities in 2019 targeted at national, provincial and district-level government officials, school headmasters and teachers as well as community members included study visits to Thailand and Sri Lanka supporting south-south and triangular cooperation, participation in the annual Global Child Nutrition Forum, a joint mission for National Assembly members, and in-country peer to peer exchange visits. The study visits to Thailand and Sri Lanka not only exposed government and primary school staff to successful national school feeding programs, but also involved technical training on food processing, school gardens and other activities related to school feeding, with participants applying best practices back in their respective schools.

For the remaining 924 schools scheduled to be handed over mid-2021, WFP commenced preparations for the handover process through workshops at the provincial level. Results from the community capacity assessment were shared, and district officials presented on infrastructure and other support needed over the ensuing two years to ensure a successful handover. Through World Bank support, WFP supported the Ministry in developing and piloting a tablet-based school monitoring and self-reporting system in 306 schools in Northern Lao PDR with the objective of strengthening the national school reporting system and mainstreaming school feeding into the regular ministry

statistical reporting.

At the community level, the Ministry identified five model schools in each of the nine districts handed over in 2019 that will be used for study visits and trainings to support the future district handovers. Responding to the recommendations from the mid-term review of the country strategic plan and the need for increased community ownership, WFP developed a community mobilisation tool to help identify challenges and shifted the primary objective of field staff from monitoring to more community mobilisation and engagement. To support community mobilisation, WFP continued the partnership with the Lao Front for National Development, a mass organization with a presence in all villages across the country. The Lao Front works with WFP on regular monitoring of school feeding activities and engages in community mobilisation efforts to ensure communities can resolve issues on their own in preparation for a fully community-owned national school feeding programme. As a result of community mobilisation efforts, schools have seen increased community contributions and frequency of cooking of school lunches.

In supporting WASH objectives, WFP continued the partnership with the National Centre for Environmental Health and Water Supply. In 2019, the partnership established water access for the first time to 206 primary schools from local village water points. To promote literacy, WFP continued to work with the local partner Big Brother Mouse in delivering 122,500 supplementary learning materials to 18,897 children in 275 schools in five districts and provided training to teachers on the new materials. This significant over-achievement in distribution of learning materials and beneficiaries reached was made possible because of the availability of more cost-efficient literacy materials. Through the partnership and the provision of more cost-efficient literacy material, WFP was able to reach significantly more beneficiaries.

In order to ensure sustainability of the project and support capacity strengthening of communities, WFP provided additional assistance to increase production of nutritious food for the school feeding programme. Recognising the increased frequency and impact of climate-related events, 91 greenhouses were constructed in 2019. To ensure that children are provided with a nutritionally diverse diet from their daily lunch, WFP also supported the planting of 25,125 fruit trees and provided 786,775 fingerlings to the 190 fishponds established in 2018.

The end-line evaluation of the Local and Regional Procurement Programme in Nalae District found the programme to be generally effective in building the capacities of 1,132 smallholder farmers (556 women) to produce an increased variety of nutritious vegetables for local consumption. Through established market linkages, farmers provided fresh produce to the schools and sold any surplus in the local markets. As a result of the programme, the availability of nutritious vegetables helped to regularise school feeding for 90-95 percent of school days, benefitting a total of 4,888 students (1,880 girls), as well as increased income generation for participating farmers.

Gender and age were fully integrated into the implementation of activity 2 and 3 that contributed to Strategic Outcome 1, while activity 1 fully integrated gender. This is evidenced by the GaM M codes 3, 4 and 4.

WFP Gender and Age Marker	
CSP Activity	GAM Monitoring Code
Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities	3
Support a national process for community and Government handover of schools	4
Accelerate the implementation of the Government's Plan of Action of the School Meals Programme	4

## Strategic outcome 02

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

Needs-based plan	Implementation plan	Available resources	Expenditures
\$2,397,540	\$2,094,602	\$3,673,509	\$1,261,087

While stunting rates have declined over the years, one third of children in Lao PDR remain stunted. Through Strategic Outcome 2, WFP is addressing undernutrition with a multisector approach that includes education on nutrition and feeding practices, changes in social behaviour, institutional capacity development and assessment of gender roles. This is achieved through the provision of technical assistance to improve nutrition among targeted populations, food assistance for pregnant and lactating women and for children aged 6–23 months; and through the establishment and strengthening of access to local foods for communities. Strategic Outcome 2 is implemented through three key activities (4) *provide technical assistance for evidence-based policy dialogue*; (5) *stimulate access to local specialized nutritious*

*food for children aged 6–23 months; and the GAFSP-funded activity (6) develop a social behaviour change communication strategy and nutrition schools for farmers.*

Thanks to multi-year contributions, Strategic Outcome 2 was able to achieve good results in 2019. Despite resourcing imbalances between activities, annual expenditure was at par with the implementation plan and mirrors the achievement of outputs against targets. While coverage of the stunting prevention programme is on track, results from the latest national survey of children aged 6-23 months is concerning where only 27 percent are receiving a minimum acceptable diet. As the outcome targets are based on the National Nutrition Strategy to 2025, these concerning results highlight the need for increased social and behavioural change communication for improving dietary diversity and infant and young child feeding practices.

In supporting the Government to reduce all forms of malnutrition, WFP distributed a daily ration of 20g of specialized nutritious foods to 17,878 children aged 6-23 months in 1,122 villages across Oudomxay, Luangnamtha and Sekong provinces to bridge the nutrient gap during first 1,000 days of life. Additionally, WFP distributed the same 20g ration to 1,211 children aged 6-59 months and 244 pregnant and lactating women in 25 villages across Khammouane and Attapeu provinces to prevent malnutrition. To maximize impact, these distributions were done through community health centres with existing programmes and that complement school feeding locations where possible. In addition to this food-based approach and given the need for creating local solutions and an enabling policy environment, WFP supported the Government in making several positive achievements in increasing the availability of nutrient-rich foods.

During 2019, WFP continued the strategic partnership with the National Nutrition Centre to implement the above-mentioned activities, specifically providing policy support and the implementation of nutrition-related interventions through the technical working group on Food and Nutrition Security. In partnership with the National Nutrition Centre and contributing to the Government's efforts in promoting food fortification as a strategy to prevent micronutrient deficiencies related to malnutrition (44 percent of children suffer from anaemia) in Lao PDR, WFP facilitated a technical workshop reviewing the current status of food fortification in the country and the initial steps for setting food fortification standards in Lao PDR. Supported by WFP and the BASF Group, the workshop ensured participation from a wide number of stakeholders including different government ministries and departments, development partners including NGOs and representatives of the private sector. Participants helped identify key priority activities for 2020 including developing food fortification regulations, standards and a fortified food logo, and the piloting of rice and oil fortification with interested private sector partners from the Sun Business Network. WFP co-chairs the national fortification task force together with the National Nutrition Centre which has taken the responsibility to coordinate efforts in setting fortification standards and piloting the fortification of oil and rice in 2020.

Supported by WFP and the European Union, and in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, Population Services International and Save the Children, the Sun Business Network has expanded the number of registered members from 18 to 25 in 2019 since its launch in 2018. Specifically, WFP has supported the finalization of its five-year strategy (2018-2022). The Sun Business Network, with the support of the National Nutrition Centre, has developed workforce nutrition training materials and, in 2019, delivered workforce training to two network member factories with the aim of increasing worker awareness and improving basic nutrition understanding.

In 2019, WFP continued expanding farmer nutrition schools to an additional 203 villages, building on the 203 villages supported in 2018 (406 in total). A total of 615 village facilitators (84 percent women) were voluntarily selected and trained on farmer nutrition school modules and have carried out learning sessions in all the villages. Village health facilitators delivered the nutrition education sessions to a total of 9,674 pregnant and nursing mothers and families with children aged 6-23 months. These sessions focus on promoting nutritious food production and are primarily targeted at the specified group to improve the knowledge among caregivers towards consumption of foods with adequate dietary diversity. Participants were provided with knowledge on nutrient dense food crops, small animal raising for consumption, food storage and preservation techniques and priority nutritious foods to purchase with income. As of December 2019, a total of 10,895 women attending the schools in all 406 villages had submitted garden grant applications for home gardens and livestock activities. Of those applications, 5,696 women (52 percent) received grants by December 2019, with the remaining women scheduled to receive the grants in 2020. The small grants aim to improve household nutritional status by establishing gardens and small livestock including frogs.

In partnership with the Government, WFP supported the implementation of the Lao National Social and Behaviour Change Communication Strategy for nutrition through several channels including the farmer nutrition schools and nutrition education campaigns in target communities. Beneficiaries receiving direct food supplements also receive basic nutrition education sessions from the local health clinics staff. These nutrition sessions focus on infant and young child feeding practices, basic hygiene and health care, including discussions on locally available nutrient-rich food sources and are targeted to caregivers (women and men). Additional education sessions include the causes and effects of malnutrition; opportunities to increase nutritious food production; and cooking demonstrations to caregivers on complementary nutritious foods.

Together with the National Nutrition Centre and Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV), WFP initiated a study on the factors affecting food choices. The data collection was completed in 2019 and final report is expected in early 2020. The recommendations of the study will be piloted in communities that have the farmer nutrition schools and will explore which of the identified triggers will have the biggest impact at the household and community levels. Furthermore, the results will be utilized to inform the national social behaviour change communication design process in 2020.

WFP, supported by the Government, also initiated research on drawing up a comprehensive food list with nutrient-richness characteristics. While there is considerable information on Lao diets, their nutrient values have not been analysed and presented in a format that can be applicable to field implementation. The research therefore aims at identifying locally available and nutrient-rich foods in improving infant and young child feeding practices and determining locally acceptable complementary foods.

In May 2019, WFP co-organized a visit from the WFP Executive Director, the Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General and the International Fund for Agricultural Development Sub-Regional Director. The objective of the visit was to raise awareness about the importance of integrated food systems to improve food and nutrition security and to observe the impact of the three agencies' collaborative programmes, particularly the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme. Through the visit, the Heads of Agencies were able to see, first-hand, the positive impacts that the programme had on strengthening public services and establishing community-driven and agriculture-based nutrition interventions.

Gender and age were fully integrated into the implementation of activity 4 that contributed to Strategic Outcome 2, while activity 5 and 6 fully integrated gender. This is evidenced by the GaM M codes 4, 3 and 3.

WFP Gender and Age Marker	
CSP Activity	GAM Monitoring Code
Provide technical assistance for evidence-based policy dialogue	4
Stimulate access to local specialised nutritious food for children aged 6 to 23 months	3
Develop a social behaviour change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools	3

### Strategic outcome 03

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

Needs-based plan	Implementation plan	Available resources	Expenditures
\$1,875,681	\$1,813,530	\$3,053,492	\$1,807,700

Climate change and climate hazards pose a threat to food security and nutrition in Lao PDR. The country has been recognized as one of the countries that are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to a particularly high dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources and low adaptive capacities [10]. The country is projected to experience pronounced changes in rainfall and temperature patterns by 2050, with significant ramifications for ecosystems, communities and their livelihoods. These changes will have potentially devastating impacts on crops, livestock and human health in the country [11].

In addressing these challenges and through Strategic Outcome 3, WFP is assisting vulnerable communities in shock-prone areas to adapt to climate change and build long-term resilience against climate risks. Through (i) technical assistance and capacity development to improve households' adaptation and resilience to climate and other shocks; and (ii) food and cash-based transfers (CBTs) to participants in food assistance-for-assets activities, the capacity of vulnerable communities will be strengthened to reinforce their resilience and protect their livelihoods. Strategic Outcome 3 is implemented through one activity: (7) *build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities*. This activity includes food and cash-based transfers during emergency response and early recovery activities.

In 2019, Strategic Outcome 3 needs were met as a result of multi-year contributions to both resilience building and emergency response. Given the unpredictable nature of emergency situations, large variations in output targets are expected. Beneficiaries receiving cash-based transfers and cash distributed were lower given the lack of targeted funds available for resilience building activities. Additionally, the amount of food distributed was significantly higher as the

planned amounts did not consider emergency food distributions. In building community resilience, asset creation activities were on track with most assets being established during 2019, except for several community infrastructure and shallow well activities that were changed to feeder roads as a result of floods and changing community needs. A total of 2,417 beneficiaries (1,222 women) received trainings to enhance their food security and resilience. Key outcomes in 2019, include the approval of the Disaster Management Law and the Climate Change Decree culminating several years of support from multiple local and international partners, including WFP. In 2020 WFP will implement a food assistance for assets initiative that aims to enhance resilience to the impacts of climate change through the establishment of productive community assets.

During 2019, the partnership with the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry came to completion. The objective of the partnership was to develop climate-informed crop calendars by using existing expert knowledge in conjunction with real-time weather forecasts as a fully operational decision support system that enables farmers and policy makers to better manage risks associated with climate variability and change. The pilot project aimed to increase rain-fed rice productivity, enhance food security and improve rural livelihoods in seven target locations in northern, central and southern Lao PDR. During the 2017 – 2019 project period, 21 village-specific dynamic crop calendars and 24 weekly agricultural advisory bulletins were produced. A mobile phone application was developed to support the dissemination of crop calendars and climate advisories to decision makers at province, district and village levels. Over the project period, a total of 1,084 farmers (406 women) were trained through climate and agriculture field schools. In addition to piloting the climate advisories for enhanced decision making, the beneficiaries received on-farm demonstrations on best rice crop management practices, improving rice yields through locally produced manure and compost fertilizers, and generating household income through growing non-rice crops during the dry season.

In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, WFP is implementing the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Agriculture Project which aims to build capacity for government staff, at both national and local levels and farmers, in planning and integrating disaster reduction and management actions into agricultural sector development plans. The project has delivered two national and two provincial consultation workshops and drafted guidelines for integrating disaster risk management in agriculture for technical review. The project has experienced implementation delays resulting in an approved no-cost extension until June 2020.

In building community resilience through the creation of productive assets, WFP has implemented food assistance for asset activities with several partners using both food and cash for the participants. In partnership with the Southern Laos Food Nutrition Security & Market Linkages Programme, the Government and through technical assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, WFP established 42 community assets benefitting 10,109 beneficiaries (5,055 women) in 35 villages in southern Lao PDR. Types of assets included agricultural market structures, storage and drying facilities for agricultural products, water supply and small-scale irrigation systems, community fishponds and the rehabilitation of 9.35km of roads for seven villages to improve market accessibility. As a pilot food assistance for asset activity aimed at improving income generation and livelihood diversification for women, WFP established community weaving centres in three communities in Nalae district, Luangnamtha province using cash-based transfers. The pilot benefited a total of 74 women and their families. An assessment of the weaving centres found that village weaving centres are a cost effective and successful income generating activity that supports women's economic empowerment, livelihood diversification and resilience building. The village weaving centres resulted in women being better organized and experienced better social cohesion, mutual support and solidarity as well as resulted in improvements in the recognition of women, women's roles and leadership in the community.

In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, WFP has established 40 community rice banks in southern Lao PDR. These rice banks will allow up to 20,000 beneficiaries to borrow rice during the lean season, in times of food shortages, with the option to repay with an agreed interest rate with rice or cash after the next harvest. Community rice banks act as social safety nets aiming to enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities. Given the floods experienced during 2019 and associated impacts on rice production and food security, these community rice banks are already being utilized, and the immediate withdrawal of rice raises concerns on food security during the 2020 lean season.

Following widespread flooding during 2018, WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare continued to provide immediate food assistance in the form of unconditional cash-based transfers to a total of 6,388 flood-affected households (32,889 beneficiaries) in Khammouane province. During 2019, the Department of Social Welfare Offices and WFP distributed USD 853,788 to flood-affected households to meet their immediate food needs. Moreover, nutrition education messages were circulated to sensitize the affected population on the importance of diversified food sources and on which nutrient-rich foods to buy with the cash received. Beneficiaries received a total of USD 37 (LAK 320,000) distributed over two distribution cycles calculated to cover their food needs over the 6-month project period and aligned to the Lao PDR Social Welfare Decree. Post distribution monitoring indicated that over 90 percent of beneficiaries purchased food with the cash provided.

In partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Lao Red Cross, WFP continued to distribute food assistance to households in seven villages in Southern Lao PDR that were affected but not displaced from the floods and associated dam collapse in 2018. In total, 368mt of rice was provided to 1,085 households (5,395 beneficiaries) over three distribution cycles in 2019. In addition, 10.54mt of supplementary nutritious foods (Nutributter) was provided to 319 pregnant and lactating women and 1,744 children aged 6 - 59 months.

Gender was fully integrated into the implementation of the Activities that contributed to Strategic Outcome 3, as evidenced by the GaM M code 3.

WFP Gender and Age Marker	
CSP Activity	GAM Monitoring Code
Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities	3

### Strategic outcome 04

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

Needs-based plan	Implementation plan	Available resources	Expenditures
\$1,018,814	\$787,529	\$1,301,333	\$289,152

The Government has positioned food and nutrition security at the top of the development policy agenda, as highlighted by an extensive array of action plans and strategies. Yet, there remains challenges in the implementation of these complex cross-sectoral activities. Through Strategic Outcome 4, WFP is assisting the Government in strengthening its capacities in central and local governance in order to facilitate the realization of the strategic outcomes 1, 2 and 3. Through technical assistance and capacity development to improve service delivery for food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations, WFP continues to support strengthened decentralization policy through a multisectoral and gender-inclusive approach. Strategic Outcome 4 is implemented through three key activities (8) *invest in national governance capacity for food and nutrition security*; (9) *enable communities to lead and own food and nutrition security solutions*; and (10) *enhance the capacity of government at all levels to prepare for and respond to natural disasters*.

Strategic Outcome 4 is primarily funded through a multi-year contribution earmarked for Activity 9 until 2022 and limited funds available for Activities 8 and 10. Annual expenditure against the implementation plan shows overall under-expenditure given limitations in funding all activities. Despite resources being available compared to the needs-based plan in 2019, this does not correctly reflect the situation given that Activity 9 funds are targeted to a specific activity and are multi-year in nature. With the funds available, Strategic Outcome 4 was able to achieve the planned targets for Activity 9 and partly for Activities 8 and 10.

In strengthening national governance capacity in partnership with the Ministry of Planning and Investment, WFP continued supporting the Government in planning, monitoring and reporting food security and nutrition activities through regular multi-stakeholder meetings held at national and provincial levels. Joint missions to target provinces and districts ensured inter-ministerial collaboration and supported ownership and leadership, particularly in the handing over of the school lunch programme by 2021. In partnership with the Lao Front for National Development, WFP has enhanced inclusive monitoring and community mobilization capacities with the aim of building ownership towards the effectiveness and sustainability of development activities in target communities. Additionally, WFP provided support to the Government in the development of the Ninth National Socio-Economic Development Plan to be approved in 2020. However, continued lack of funding for Activity 8 has limited further results.

To strengthen communities' capacity to lead and own food and nutrition security solutions, WFP in partnership with the Government continued supporting the development and community ownership of nutrition-sensitive village development plans. In collaboration with district multi-sectoral teams, WFP trained communities and facilitated the nutrition-sensitive village planning in 183 villages in 2019. These community-based and gender-sensitive planning exercises saw the attendance of 14,274 beneficiaries, including women, men and key village informants to identify issues related to food and nutrition security. Priority actions, such as gravity-fed water systems, small-scale irrigation systems and access roads to productive areas, were agreed amongst communities. All village development plans were endorsed by local government and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for final approval and investments of up to USD 30,000 per community to fund the priority actions. All villages in which development plans are developed also benefit from Farmer Nutrition Schools implemented under Strategic Outcome 2.

In supporting the Government in accelerating and monitoring the implementation of 22 priority interventions under the National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action 2016 - 2020, WFP supported multi-sectoral nutrition planning at district levels. The district level multi-sectoral nutrition planning exercises supported the identification and prioritization of support needed and helped improve coordination between government and development partners.

Given the drought and flood conditions experienced across the country in 2019, the Government and WFP carried out several emergency food security assessments to assess the immediate food needs of the affected populations. Additionally, WFP played a key role in the development of the Government's 2019 Emergency Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan, particularly in providing logistics and warehousing support.

As a result, WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), undertook a Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission. The primary purpose of the assessment was to provide an accurate picture of the extent and severity of crisis-induced food insecurity, existing or expected, so that timely and appropriate actions can be taken by the government and the international community to minimize the impact on affected populations. The preliminary results indicate that while the overall food security situation appears to be acceptable during the harvesting season, there exists pockets of vulnerability and stress that will be exacerbated during the 2020 lean season. Key recommendations from the assessment include i) *Provision of food security interventions for vulnerable households*; ii) *Support dry season planting for vulnerable households and those which lost 2019 wet season harvest*; and iii) *Food Assistance for Asset interventions in the south of the country, particularly where irrigation systems were damaged*.

The use of cash-based transfers in the humanitarian and development context is quickly becoming the preferred and default method for providing support. Given this context, WFP supported the establishment of a local cash working group. Members include representatives from government departments, UN agencies, NGOs and the Red Cross Movement. The aim of the working group is to improve the quality and coordination, increase the scale (where relevant/appropriate) and broaden the scope of and use of cash-based transfers in Lao PDR. The cash working group is currently co-chaired by WFP and the United Nations Capital Development Fund. Identified priorities for 2020 include i) the development of a minimum expenditure basket for the country; ii) cash and voucher assistance guidelines for emergencies; and iii) training on cash and voucher assistance for the group members.

Supported by the Global Logistics Cluster and in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, WFP began implementation of the Logistics Preparedness Project to support national emergency preparedness and response operations. During 2019, WFP supported the preparation of a logistics preparedness roadmap and action plan jointly developed by the Government and its partners. To support the storage of emergency relief items, a Mobile Storage Unit prepositioning strategy was developed and implemented by the Ministry which included the prepositioning of 11 units across the country, including two donated by WFP in 2019. This included the delivery of mobile storage unit assembly trainings to Government, Military and Red Cross staff in all target Provinces.

Gender was fully integrated into the implementation of activities 9 and 10 that contributed to Strategic Outcome 4. This is evidenced by the GaM M code 3 for both activities. Given limited results from Activity 8, no GaM M codes are reported.

<b>WFP Gender and Age Marker</b>	
<b>CSP Activity</b>	<b>GAM Monitoring Code</b>
Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions	3
Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters	3

# Cross-cutting Results

## Progress towards gender equality

### Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population

Lao PDR continues to make impressive gains in promoting gender equality [12]. This is reflected in the Global Gender Gap Report 2020 index with the country ranking 43 out of 153 countries in 2019 [13]. Despite these gains, women in the country continue to face challenges. Farmers represent most of the active population in the country and rural women play a key role in the agriculture sector as they do much of the farm work in addition to domestic responsibilities [14]. Given this context, WFP continues to mainstream gender considerations as a priority throughout its programming and staffing and continuously makes efforts to ensure that smallholder women farmers have equitable access to support. Gender was fully integrated into implementation of WFP activities as evidenced by the overall GaM M code 3.

Gender indicators measured through beneficiary contact monitoring identified that 29 percent of the food assistance decision-making entities were women. Regarding food assistance for asset activities, it was found that household food related decisions were made by 17 percent of women, 7 percent of men and 76 percent jointly. However, these results are potentially skewed due to beneficiary targeting vulnerable women-headed households. Despite these achievements, WFP will continue to increase its efforts in gender mainstreaming in 2020.

Women represented on average 76 percent of the participants in the Farmer Nutrition Schools while 84 percent of the facilitators were women. Farmer nutrition school activities were planned to include both women and men as well as other influential elders in the family. Involvement of women in the schools ensured participation in group discussions and leadership, and encouraged women to partake in household decision making especially concerning the diets for themselves and their children. The design and delivery of social and behaviour change communications prepared for the farmer nutrition schools take gender considerations into account, where products are targeted at caregivers, both men and women.

The Local and Regional Procurement ensured for gender equality and human rights through the universal coverage of the programme. This contributed to ensuring that all boys and girls benefited from WFP assistance and that women and men smallholder farmers within intervention areas received capacity building assistance and similar entitlement. As a result, 49 percent of smallholder farmers in the programme were women who received agricultural trainings and technical support.

Given the importance of school feeding programmes in breaking barriers to girls' and boys' education and supporting better health and nutrition, WFP-supported school feeding activities resulted in 49 percent attendance by schoolgirls, all of whom enjoyed a mid-day lunch. These rates were similar to those in 2018. During 2019, WFP continued the partnership with the Lao Women's Union in providing trainings in communities and to school cooks as well as in supporting village infrastructure planning exercises to ensure gender considerations were incorporated into the plans.

## Protection

### Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity

In Lao PDR, there were a limited number of protection risks to WFP beneficiaries, particularly during implementation. Still, WFP ensured that food assistance activities did not increase the protection risks to beneficiaries and contributed to strengthening their safety, dignity and integrity.

Accessibility poses the biggest challenge, particularly during the rainy season when poor road conditions and landslides hamper distributions and delivery of technical assistance, or prevent beneficiaries from travelling to project locations to receive entitlements. In terms of stunting prevention and access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months, some pregnant and lactating women are unable to locate health volunteers or to travel to health centres to receive their entitlements due to the above-mentioned accessibility challenges. To address these challenges, WFP plans distributions with this seasonality in mind and ensures communication with contracted transport companies as well as the logistics cluster to keep up to date with road conditions. WFP goes further to ensure that all food and cash distributions are coordinated with affected populations and that beneficiaries are notified of distribution points, dates and possible changes in distribution dates or rations.

School attendance was sometimes adversely impacted by prevailing cultural norms. Boys and girls were unable to regularly attend school as they had to participate in farming work, especially during planting or harvesting seasons. By providing school lunches, WFP helped keep children in school and reduce the risk of child labour. Additionally, WFP ensured that the correct messaging reached communities and households stressing the importance of staying in school.

Safety considerations are incorporated into the programme design and include appropriate work norms for the culture and climate, the provision of appropriate work tools and more easy-to-transport ration sizes (e.g. 25kg rice bags instead of 50kg). Similarly, for cash distributions, WFP ensures through project design that interventions do not have an impact on local markets and livelihoods, and that distributions are undertaken with the appropriate safety and security to limit



risks to WFP and Government staff as well as beneficiaries. Through the installation of water connections in communities, WFP reduces risks associated with collecting water from remote locations.

Post-distribution of food and cash activities was conducted for all WFP interventions. It facilitated WFP's assessments of beneficiaries' access to, use of, and satisfaction with the assistance WFP provided. Feedback informed subsequent changes to future distributions.

### **Accountability to affected populations**

Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences

WFP operationalizes its commitments on accountability to affected populations through three focus areas: information provision; consultation; and complaints and feedback mechanisms. In Lao PDR, there are 49 recognized ethnic groups and over 80 living languages. Coupled with low levels of literacy and remoteness of target locations, this results in challenges in effectively providing information to all beneficiaries. WFP strives to ensure that all beneficiaries are well informed. However, gaps were still noted in 2019.

To overcome these communication challenges, WFP utilized multiple communication channels: radio campaigns in local languages, posters that relied on illustrations to deliver messages and verbal dissemination in local languages by WFP staff, community members or partners. For both food and cash-based transfers in emergency response activities, beneficiaries were notified prior to each distribution round of any targeting criteria used as well as of entitlements and distribution dates.

In terms of consultation, WFP ensured consultation with local communities as well as district, provincial and central government authorities in both planning and implementation of activities. This was done through community mobilization with government partners and the Lao National Front for Development. To support this consultative process in 2019, WFP hired an additional 12 district community facilitators (all women) to support the implementation of WFP assisted project activities, bringing the total number of district community facilitators to 23 (57 percent female). Their focus was the mobilization of communities to ensure increased ownership and to resolve implementation challenges. Moreover, most WFP field staff speak at least one minority language in addition to Lao.

The final evaluation of the LRP involved verification and dissemination workshops with the target beneficiaries to share the overall results of the intervention as well as to obtain their opinions and suggestions to the report. Additional consultation was mandatory in all emergency food and cash distributions through post-distribution monitoring.

Beneficiaries feedback was collected throughout the year through focus group discussions, household interviews and through a Complaints and Feedback Mechanism. This mechanism was primarily a WFP-operated hotline number to which beneficiaries from all the 2,206 locations could call in and WFP senior staff could promptly provide advice or take corrective actions. During 2019 a total of 19 calls were received from beneficiaries, of which 32 percent (6) were made by women. In total, 37 percent of the calls involved requesting construction materials for schools and clarifications on project implementation, 11 percent requesting information on food delivery dates in food assistance for asset activities and 5 percent reporting on low stocks of specialized nutritious foods. Additionally, 47 percent of calls received involved cases of cash redistribution during emergency cash-based transfer activities. Following these reports, WFP suspended distributions for two days to resolve the issue with the Government implementing partner, which highlights the importance of feedback mechanisms in quickly responding to beneficiary needs. All calls and requests received in 2019 were clarified and cleared, with no pending issues.

### **Environment**

Targeted communities benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that does not harm the environment

The impacts of climate change and rapid economic development are placing significant pressure on the natural environment, resulting in deforestation, soil and water pollution, altered hydrological flows and the loss of biodiversity. With 80 percent of the rural population being subsistence farmers, who rely heavily on rainfed rice-based agriculture and livestock farming, these negative impacts on natural resources place increased pressure on the food security of these communities. WFP operations in Lao PDR continue to take environmental concerns into consideration. During both planning and implementation, WFP strives to ensure that its activities do no harm to the environment.

Risk screening is an essential and primary step in assessing activities' environmental and social risks and impacts. The WFP Environmental and Social Safeguards are designed to prevent WFP from causing unintended harm to the environment or people. During planning food assistance for asset activities, WFP prioritizes the selection of assets that rehabilitate the natural resource base of vulnerable communities and protect against climate-related shocks.

In 2019, all 176 assets established in communities under Strategic Outcomes 1 and 3 were categorized as having low environmental impact (WFP category C). Risk screening is jointly undertaken by WFP, implementing partners and communities in the project planning and construction phase, during which risk mitigation measures are identified. For

example, several fishponds were initially considered as possessing medium levels of environmental and social risks due to their physical dimensions. However, WFP implemented initiatives that reduced the risk levels. These included selecting locally-sourced fish, installing fences to reduce physical harm to children and others, technical supervision during construction, etc.

At the village development planning stage, environmental screening is essential to identifying and leveraging environmental opportunities as well as manage risks. During 2019, WFP supported the completion of 186 nutrition-sensitive village development plans, all of which were identified as having low environmental impact. Additionally, WFP farmer nutrition schools continued to promote the use of natural pesticides in communities and included updated formulas and guidance in farmer nutrition school curricula and training packages. WFP ensured that programmatic best practices on environment and sustainability were well understood by WFP staff, especially the district community facilitators. In these instances, staff received trainings on critical topics including pesticide use, and climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation options.

From 2020 onwards, WFP will ensure that environmental and risk screening is applied to all activities, not only asset creation and engineering related projects. In addition, WFP aims to ensure that the WFP Environmental and Social Safeguards screening tool is used systemically and prior to implementation of activities to identify and implement risk mitigation options.

# Community-led school feeding

## *Linking farmers to school feeding - A community grown approach*

During March 2017 – June 2019, WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, supported smallholder farmer groups in 47 villages of Nalae district in Luangnamtha province through the United States Department of Agriculture-supported Local and Regional Procurement Programme (LRP). Through the programme, WFP provided 1,132 farmers (556 women) with technical expertise, agricultural trainings, tools and seeds, to produce a variety of fresh vegetables for the school feeding programme. In addition to the agricultural support provided to the communities, the project supported cash grants to schools for the purchase of the fresh foods from local suppliers.

By investing in organic and sustainable agricultural knowledge, support of local irrigation schemes for farmer groups and support for production of vegetables, the farmer households were able to benefit from selling to schools and markets, and increase household consumption of vegetables and greens. The end-line evaluation of the LRP found the programme to be effective in building the capacities of smallholder farmers to grow an increased variety of nutritious vegetables, with farmers providing fresh produce for school feeding and selling the surplus in markets for additional income. The evaluation also provided recommendations to consider for similar initiatives in the future.

The farmer groups, composed of men and women, received training sessions from district and central level authorities. The farmer groups were trained in producing organic fertilizer, preparing seeds and setting up small irrigation systems. The programme provided 11 types of seeds and manual agricultural tools such as sickles, manual water sprinklers and water buckets in year one for carrying out cultivation. In the second year, greenhouse plastic sheets, water pumps and piped water connections were provided to farmers cultivating vegetables across 10 model villages. Some communities set up mushroom-growing huts, while others received support for selling produce at the district markets. Through the LRP, farmers had established markets through the schools, which received USD 0.10 per child per day for purchase of vegetables and eggs. Additional production was then consumed in the farmer households, sold on the district market or donated to the school feeding programmes. The evaluation found that the programme helped increase the variety of vegetables cultivated by farmers in the intervention villages from four varieties before the start of LRP to 20 varieties by the second year.

Feedback from participating farmers through the evaluation was positive, as they saw the benefits for the entire community. The children had access to more nutritious lunch and the parents benefitted from growing more diverse foods at home, and from the small amount of cash earned from selling to markets and schools. Beyond production of vegetables, WFP supported activities including fishponds, mushroom huts, livestock and fruit trees for the farmer groups.

A key success factor of the programme was linking farmers to schools resulting in ownership among community members towards school feeding. Additional successes of the programme were attributed to enhanced collaboration among multiple stakeholders as well as the fact that the demand (community) and supply (government) sides were brought together under the programme. Finally, the evaluation recommended that any such programme in the future must consider *i) educating farmers about the demand and supply aspects; and ii) bringing all of them on one platform to plan the potential vegetable production, keeping in mind the demand and supply constraints.*

WFP is actively seeking engaging partnership opportunities to expand the project and give farmers access to support and training to produce more for the benefit of the community-led school feeding programmes.

## Context and operations

- [1] Global Hunger Index 2019 <https://www.globalhungerindex.org/laos.html>
- [2] Human Development Index 2018 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/LAO>
- [3] Lao Social Indicator Survey II 2017, Published June 2018
- [4] Asian Development Bank Development Indicators <https://www.adb.org/publications/basic-statistics-2018>
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- [6] FAO Laos at a glance <http://www.fao.org/laos/fao-in-laos/laos-at-a-glance/en/>
- [7] United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights - <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24417>
- [8] AHA Centre, Situation Update No. 6 - Tropical Storm PODUL and Tropical Depression KAJIKI
- [9] Lao People's Democratic Republic - National Round Table Process <https://rtm.org.la>

## Strategic outcome 03

- [10] Government of Lao PDR, 2012, National Climate Change Strategy
- [11] USAID Mekong ARCC Project, 2014, Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Study


## Progress towards gender equality

- [12] ADB and World Bank, 2012, Country Gender Assessment for the Lao People's Democratic Republic
- [13] World Economic Forum, 2020, The Global Gender Gap Report 2020
- [14] WOCAN, 2012, Scoping Study on Women's Leadership in the Agriculture Sector in Lao PDR

# Figures and Indicators

## WFP contribution to SDGs

 <b>SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</b>										
WFP Strategic Goal 1: Support countries to achieve zero hunger					WFP Contribution (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP Support)					
SDG Indicator	National Results			SDG-related indicator		Direct			Indirect	
		Female	Male			Overall	Female	Male		Overall
Prevalence of undernourishment	%			16.5	Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) to improve their food security	Number	39,704	28,370	68,074	2,200
					Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) in the context of emergency and protracted crisis response	Number	21,320	21,558	42,878	
Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age	%	32	34	33	Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) with stunting prevention programmes	Number	11,735	11,405	23,140	

 <b>SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</b>										
WFP Strategic Goal 2: Partner to support implementation of the SDGs					WFP Contribution (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP Support)					
SDG Indicator	National Results			SDG-related indicator		Direct			Indirect	
			Overall				Overall			
Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries	US\$				Dollar value (within WFP portfolio) of technical assistance and country capacity strengthening interventions (including facilitation of South-South and triangular cooperation)	US\$	3,934,403.7			

## Beneficiaries by Age Group

Beneficiary Category	Gender	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Total Beneficiaries	male	115,630	118,841	103%
	female	114,895	118,925	104%
	total	230,525	237,766	103%
By Age Group				
0-23 months	male	12,356	11,236	91%
	female	12,172	11,062	91%
	total	24,528	22,298	91%
24-59 months	male	15,261	15,357	101%
	female	15,261	14,850	97%
	total	30,522	30,207	99%
5-11 years	male	66,205	61,985	94%
	female	65,584	59,667	91%
	total	131,789	121,652	92%
12-17 years	male	3,435	5,173	151%
	female	3,297	4,973	151%
	total	6,732	10,146	151%
18-59 years	male	16,805	22,725	135%
	female	16,921	25,857	153%
	total	33,726	48,582	144%
60+ years	male	1,568	2,365	151%
	female	1,660	2,516	152%
	total	3,228	4,881	151%

## Beneficiaries by Residence Status

Residence Status	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Resident	230,525	237,766	103%
Refugee	0	0	-
Returnee	0	0	-
IDP	0	0	-

## Annual Food Transfer

Commodities	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual vs. Planned
Everyone has access to food			
Strategic Outcome: Strategic Outcome 01			
Rice	4,159	2,520	61%
Canned Fish	240	244	102%

Commodities	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual vs. Planned
Corn Soya Blend	0	0	0%
Sugar	0	0	0%
Vegetable Oil	452	235	52%
Lentils	1,046	798	76%
No one suffers from malnutrition			
Strategic Outcome: Strategic Outcome 02			
LNS	0	77	-
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	140	52	37%
Food systems are sustainable			
Strategic Outcome: Strategic Outcome 03			
Rice	200	542	271%
Canned Fish	0	0	0%
LNS	0	5	-
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	6	0	0%
Vegetable Oil	0	0	0%

## Annual Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher

Modality	Planned Distribution (CBT)	Actual Distribution (CBT)	% Actual vs. Planned
Everyone has access to food			
Cash	962,500	119,245	12%
Food systems are sustainable			
Cash	1,190,720	920,996	77%

## Strategic Outcome and Output Results

Strategic Outcome 01		School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.							- Nutrition Sensitive - Root Causes	
Activity 01	Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities to Government of Lao	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual				
Output C	Capacity development conducted to enhance communities and public sector in overcoming acute and transitory food insecurity									
C.5*	<b>Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)</b>									
	Number of technical assistance activities provided		School feeding (on-site)	<b>unit</b>	9	9				
Activity 02	Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual				
Output A, N*	Food assistance to WFP targeted schools									
A.1	<b>Beneficiaries receiving food transfers</b>	Students (primary schools)	School feeding (on-site)	Female Male <b>Total</b>	57,940 60,304 118,244	56,056 58,344 114,400				
		Activity supporters	Food assistance for asset	Female Male <b>Total</b>	6,559 6,561 13,120	6,847 6,848 13,695				
			School feeding (take-home rations)	Female Male <b>Total</b>	3,500 1,500 5,000	4,296 1,841 6,137				
		Children (pre-primary)	School feeding (on-site)	Female Male <b>Total</b>	13,591 14,145 27,736	11,352 11,815 23,167				
A.2	<b>Food transfers</b>			<b>MT</b>	5,896	3,798				
A.5	<b>Quantity of non-food items distributed</b>									
	Number of textbooks and other teaching and learning materials provided		School feeding (on-site)	<b>item</b>	10,314	122,500				
	Quantity of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizer) distributed		School feeding (on-site)	<b>non-food item</b>	31,678	33,711				
A.6	<b>Number of institutional sites assisted</b>									
	Number of students benefiting from campaign to promote literacy		School feeding (on-site)	<b>individual</b>	6,600	18,897				
	Number of school gardens established		School feeding (on-site)	<b>garden</b>	578	578				
	Number of WFP-assisted schools with adequate sanitary facilities		School feeding (on-site)	<b>school</b>	150	206				
	Number of kitchens or cook areas rehabilitated/constructed		School feeding (on-site)	<b>unit</b>	500	489				



N*.1	<b>Feeding days as percentage of total school days</b>								
	Feeding days as percentage of total school days		School feeding (on-site)	%	70	62			
N*.2	<b>Average number of school days per month on which multi-fortified or at least 4 food groups were provided (nutrition-sensitive indicator)</b>								
	Average number of school days per month on which multi-fortified or at least 4 food groups were provided (nutrition-sensitive indicator)		School feeding (on-site)	Days	14	12			
Activity 03	Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual			
Output A	Food assistance to schools								
A.1	<b>Beneficiaries receiving cash-based transfers</b>	Children (pre-primary)	School feeding (on-site)	Female	3,504	1,663			
				Male	3,646	1,731			
				<b>Total</b>	7,150	3,394			
		Students (primary schools)	School feeding (on-site)	Female	23,447	7,659			
				Male	24,403	7,972			
				<b>Total</b>	47,850	15,631			
A.3	<b>Cash-based transfers</b>			<b>US\$</b>	962,500	119,244			
A.6	<b>Number of institutional sites assisted</b>								
	Number of assisted schools that procure fresh food items		School feeding (on-site)	<b>school</b>	236	236			
<b>Outcome results</b>				<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End-CSP Target</b>	<b>2019 Target</b>	<b>2019 Follow-up value</b>	<b>2018 Follow-up value</b>	
Pre-Primary and Primary students; Laos; Cash, Food									
<b>Enrolment rate</b>									
	Act 02: Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme	School feeding (on-site)	<b>Female</b>	92.15	>98	≥98	97.11	96.16	
			<b>Male</b>	93.25	>98	≥98	98.12	98.34	
			<b>Overall</b>	92.71	>98	≥98	97.62	98.28	
Pre-Primary and Primary students; Laos; Cash, Food									
<b>Attendance rate (new)</b>									
	Act 02: Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme	School feeding (on-site)	<b>Female</b>	87	≥98	≥98	96.05	98	
			<b>Male</b>	87.50	≥98	≥98	93.95	98	
			<b>Overall</b>	87.20	≥98	≥98	95	98	
<b>Retention rate / Drop-out rate (new)</b>									
Drop-out rate	Act 02: Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme	School feeding (on-site)	<b>Female</b>	5.45	<5	≤5	5.37		
			<b>Male</b>	5.75	<5	≤5	4.83		
			<b>Overall</b>	5.60	<5	≤5	5.10		

Strategic Outcome 02	Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025	- Nutrition Sensitive - Root Causes						
Activity 04	Provide technical assistance for evidence based policy dialogue	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual		
Output C	Technical assistance to improve nutrition for targeted populations							
C.4*	<b>Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)</b>							
	Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	<b>individual</b>	69	52		
C.5*	<b>Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)</b>							
	Number of technical assistance activities provided		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	<b>unit</b>	2	2		
Activity 05	Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual		
Output A	Food assistance for Pregnant Lactating Women and Children 6-23 months							
A.1	<b>Beneficiaries receiving food transfers</b>	Children	Prevention of stunting	Female Male <b>Total</b>	9,666 9,834 19,500	9,468 9,621 19,089		
		Pregnant and lactating women	Prevention of stunting	Female Male <b>Total</b>		244 0 244		
A.2	<b>Food transfers</b>			<b>MT</b>	140	129		
Activity 06	Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual		
Output C	Technical assistance to improve nutrition among targeted populations							
Output E	Social behavior change communication awareness campaign							
Output E*	Social behaviour change communication awareness campaign							
Output F	Establish and strengthen access to local food farmers for communities							
C.4*	<b>Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)</b>							
	Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		Individual capacity strengthening activities	<b>individual</b>	163	121		

E*.4	<b>Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches</b>							
	Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches (female)		Prevention of stunting	<b>Number</b>	6,028	9,848		
	Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches (male)		Prevention of stunting	<b>Number</b>	3,000	2,647		
F.1	<b>Number of smallholder farmers supported/trained</b>							
	Number of Village facilitators trained		Individual capacity strengthening activities	<b>individual</b>	384	615		
	Number of PLW, mother with children under 2 who attended FNS session		Individual capacity strengthening activities	<b>individual</b>	5,854	9,674		
	Number of planned targeted villages		Individual capacity strengthening activities	<b>village</b>	331	406		
<b>Outcome results</b>				<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End-CSP Target</b>	<b>2019 Target</b>	<b>2019 Follow-up value</b>	<b>2018 Follow-up value</b>
Children 6-23 months; Laos; Food								
<b>Proportion of eligible population that participates in programme (coverage)</b>								
	Act 05: Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months	Prevention of stunting	<b>Female</b>	91.50	≥100	≥95	92	92
			<b>Male</b>	91.50	≥100	≥95	92	92
			<b>Overall</b>	91.50	≥100	≥95	92	92
<b>Proportion of children 6--23 months of age who receive a minimum acceptable diet</b>								
	Act 05: Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months	Prevention of stunting	<b>Female</b>	30.70	≥70	≥40	25.57	25.10
			<b>Male</b>	30.70	≥70	≥40	28.90	27.20
			<b>Overall</b>	30.70	≥70	≥40	27.23	26.20

<b>Strategic Outcome 03</b>	<b>Vulnerable households in climate sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses</b>	<b>- Resilience Building</b>						
Activity 07	Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual		
Output A, D	Food and cash assistance for assets creation							
Output C	Capacity strengthening to enable community resilience							
A.1	<b>Beneficiaries receiving food transfers</b>	All	Food assistance for asset	Female	2,770	3,142		
				Male	2,770	3,143		
				<b>Total</b>	5,540	6,285		
			General Distribution	Female	0	5,030		
				Male	0	5,031		
				<b>Total</b>	0	10,061		

		Pregnant and lactating women	General Distribution	Female Male <b>Total</b>	500 0 500	319 0 319		
		Children	General Distribution	Female Male <b>Total</b>	853 647 1,500	855 889 1,744		
A.1	<b>Beneficiaries receiving cash-based transfers</b>	All	Food assistance for asset	Female Male <b>Total</b>	360 360 720	5,055 5,054 10,109		
			General Distribution	Female Male <b>Total</b>	22,103 22,102 44,205	16,410 16,408 32,818		
		Children	General Distribution	Female Male <b>Total</b>	0 0 0			
A.2	<b>Food transfers</b>			<b>MT</b>	206	547		
A.3	<b>Cash-based transfers</b>			<b>US\$</b>	1,190,720	920,996		
A.1	<b>Number of women, men, boys and girls receiving food/cash-based transfers/commodity vouchers/capacity strengthening transfers</b>							
	Number of women-headed households that receive food assistance		General Distribution	<b>individual</b>	5,000	8,005		
C.1	<b>Number of people trained</b>							
	Number of direct beneficiaries receiving Capacity Strengthening transfers (Female)		Individual capacity strengthening activities	<b>Number</b>	1,300	1,222		
C.4*	<b>Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)</b>							
	Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		Individual capacity strengthening activities	<b>individual</b>	40	40		
C.5*	<b>Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)</b>							
	Number of training sessions/workshop organized		Individual capacity strengthening activities	<b>training session</b>	5	5		

	Number of technical assistance activities provided		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	<b>unit</b>	3	7		
D.1	<b>Number of assets built, restored or maintained by targeted households and communities, by type and unit of measure</b>							
	Number of goats houses constructed		Individual capacity strengthening activities	<b>Number</b>	7	7		
	Kilometres (km) of feeder roads built		Food assistance for asset	<b>Km</b>	2	12		
	Number of cereal banks established		Individual capacity strengthening activities	<b>Number</b>	40			
	Number of social infrastructures and Income Generating infrastructures constructed (School Building, Facility Center, Community Building, Market Stalls, etc.)		Individual capacity strengthening activities	<b>Number</b>	24	16		
	Kilometres (km) of irrigation canals rehabilitated		Food assistance for asset	<b>Km</b>	3	6		
	Number of wells or shallow wells built for domestic use		Individual capacity strengthening activities	<b>Number</b>	6	0		
	Number of fish ponds constructed		Individual capacity strengthening activities	<b>Number</b>	4	3		
<b>Outcome results</b>				<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End-CSP Target</b>	<b>2019 Target</b>	<b>2019 Follow-up value</b>	<b>2018 Follow-up value</b>
Government Counterpart; Laos; Capacity Strengthening								
<b>Number of national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and system components enhanced as a result of WFP capacity strengthening (new)</b>								
	Act 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities	Climate adaptation and risk management activities	<b>Overall</b>	0	=6	=3	2	
Households; Laos; Cash, Food								
<b>Proportion of the population in targeted communities reporting benefits from an enhanced livelihoods asset base</b>								
	Act 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities	Food assistance for asset	<b>Overall</b>	0	≥70	≥70	98	

Strategic Outcome 04	National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025	- Root Causes						
Activity 08	Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual		
Output C		Technical assistance and capacity development						
C.4*	<b>Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)</b>							
	Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	<b>individual</b>	600	240		
C.5*	<b>Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)</b>							
	Number of technical assistance activities provided		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	<b>unit</b>	15	8		
Activity 09	Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual		
Output C		Technical assistance provided						
C.4*	<b>Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)</b>							
	Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	<b>individual</b>	17,425	14,274		
C.5*	<b>Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)</b>							
	Number of technical assistance activities provided		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	<b>unit</b>	126	183		
Activity 10	Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual		
Output C, K		Technical assistance and support to partners						
C.4*	<b>Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)</b>							

	Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training		Emergency preparedness activities	<b>individual</b>	700	300		
C.5*	<b>Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)</b>							
	Number of technical assistance activities provided		Emergency preparedness activities	<b>unit</b>	10	6		
K.1	<b>Number of partners supported</b>							
	Number of partners supported		Institutional capacity strengthening activities	<b>partner</b>	3	3		
<b>Outcome results</b>				<b>Baseline</b>	<b>End-CSP Target</b>	<b>2019 Target</b>	<b>2019 Follow-up value</b>	<b>2018 Follow-up value</b>

Government Counterpart; Laos; Capacity Strengthening

**Number of national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and system components enhanced as a result of WFP capacity strengthening (new)**

	Act 08: Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance	Institutional capacity strengthening activities	<b>Overall</b>	0	=3	=1	0	0
	Act 10: Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters	Institutional capacity strengthening activities	<b>Overall</b>	0	=3	=1	1	

Government Counterpart; Laos; Capacity Strengthening

**Number of national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and system components enhanced as a result of WFP capacity strengthening (new)**

	Act 09: Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions	Institutional capacity strengthening activities	<b>Overall</b>	0	=3	=1	1	
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## Cross-cutting Indicators

Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity								
Proportion of targeted people having unhindered access to WFP programmes (new)								
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Female/Male/Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Men and Women; Laos; Capacity Strengthening, Cash, Food	Act 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities	Food assistance for asset	Female	0	=100	=100	94	
			Male	0	=100	=100	96	
			Overall	0	=100	=100	95	
Proportion of targeted people receiving assistance without safety challenges (new)								
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Female/Male/Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Men and women; Laos; Capacity Strengthening, Cash, Food	Act 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities	Food assistance for asset	Female	98	≥98	≥96	96	95
			Male	96	≥95	≥98	96	95
			Overall	97	≥97	≥97	96	95
Proportion of targeted people who report that WFP programmes are dignified (new)								
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Female/Male/Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Men and Women; Laos; Capacity Strengthening, Cash, Food	Act 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities	Food assistance for asset	Female	90	≥95	≥94	94	
			Male	90	≥95	≥94	94	
			Overall	90	≥95	≥94	94	
Pre-primary school and Primary students; Laos; Cash, Food	Act 02: Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme	School feeding (on-site)	Female	90	≥98	≥96	96	
			Male	90	≥98	≥96	96	
			Overall	90	≥98	≥96	96	

Targeted communities benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that does not harm the environment								
Proportion of activities for which environmental risks have been screened and, as required, mitigation actions identified								
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Female/Male/Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Men and Women; Laos; Capacity Strengthening, Cash, Food	Act 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities	Food assistance for asset	Overall	100	=100	=100	100	100



Pregnant & Lactating women; Laos; Capacity Strengthening, Cash	Act 06: Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools	Prevention of stunting	Overall	100	=100	=100	100	100
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### Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population

#### Proportion of food assistance decision-making entity – committees, boards, teams, etc. – members who are women

Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Category	Female/Male/Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Pre-primary and Primary students; Laos; Cash, Food	Act 02: Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme	School feeding (on-site)		Overall	29	≥35	≥30	29	29

#### Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality

Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Category	Female/Male/Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Men and Women; Laos; Capacity Strengthening, Cash, Food	Act 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities	Food assistance for asset	Decisions made by women	Overall	20	≤33	≤33	17	49
			Decisions made by men	Overall	30	≤33	≤33	7	18
			Decisions jointly made by women and men	Overall	15	≥34	≥34	76	33

### Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences

#### Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance)

Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Female/Male/Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Men and Women; Laos; Capacity Strengthening, Cash, Food	Act 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities	Food assistance for asset	Female Male Overall	84 82 83	≥85 ≥85 ≥85	≥85 ≥85 ≥85	86 86 86	86 86 86
Pregnant & Lactating women (PLW) and (men who are village facilitator); Laos; Capacity Strengthening	Act 06: Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools	Prevention of stunting	Female Male Overall	84 82 83	≥85 ≥85 ≥85	≥85 ≥84 ≥85	85 84 85	84 84 84

Pre- Primary and Primary students; Laos; Cash, Food	Act 02: Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme	School feeding (on-site)	Female	<b>84</b>	≥85	≥85	96	88
			Male	<b>82</b>	≥85	≥85	96	88
			Overall	<b>83</b>	≥85	≥85	96	88

**Proportion of project activities for which beneficiary feedback is documented, analysed and integrated into programme improvements**

Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Female/Male/Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Men and Women; Laos; Capacity Strengthening, Cash, Food			Overall	<b>75</b>	=100	=100	100	100
Pre-primary and Primary students; Laos; Cash, Food			Overall	<b>75</b>	=100	=100	100	100

## **World Food Programme**

### **Contact info**

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Children eating in Donethip village

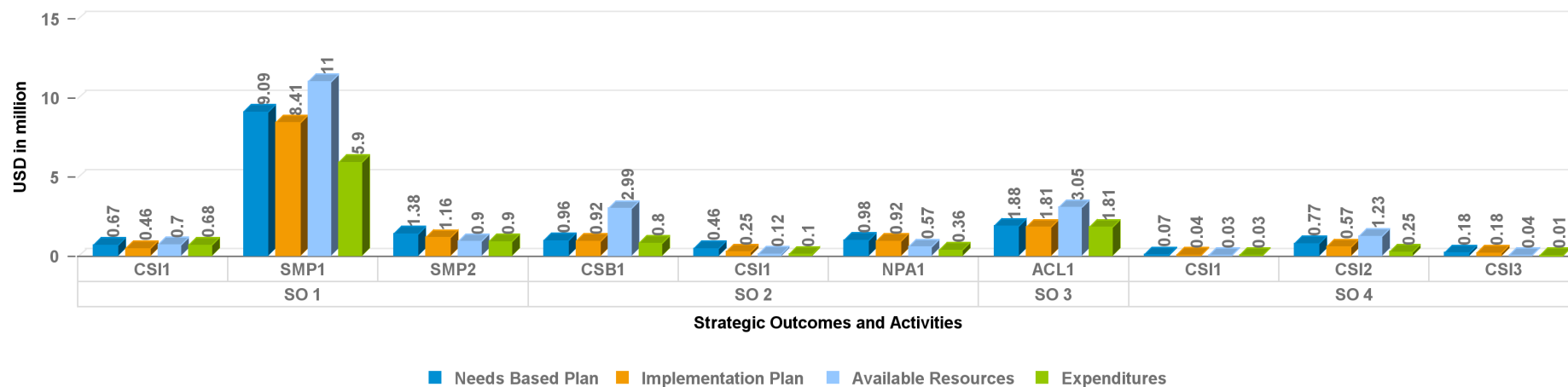
<https://www.wfp.org/countries/lao-peoples-democratic-republic>

# Annual Country Report

## Laos Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2017-2021)

### Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

#### Annual CPB Overview



Code	Strategic Outcome
SO 1	School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.
SO 2	Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025
SO 3	Vulnerable households in climate sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses
SO 4	National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025
Code	Country Activity Long Description
ACL1	Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities
CSB1	Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools
CSI1	Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance
CSI1	Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities to Government of Lao
CSI1	Provide technical assistance for evidence based policy dialogue
CSI2	Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions
CSI3	Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters
NPA1	Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months
SMP1	Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme
SMP2	Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities

# Annual Country Report

## Laos Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2017-2021)

### Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
1	School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.	Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities to Government of Lao	671,254	462,157	695,101	677,041
		Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme	9,087,382	8,414,241	11,002,467	5,903,625
		Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities	1,380,080	1,161,007	904,553	899,912
<b>Subtotal Strategic Result 1. Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)</b>			<b>11,138,716</b>	<b>10,037,404</b>	<b>12,602,121</b>	<b>7,480,577</b>
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	960,335	924,335	2,989,250	797,952
		Provide technical assistance for evidence based policy dialogue	461,172	248,500	116,968	101,202
		Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months	976,033	921,767	567,291	361,933
<b>Subtotal Strategic Result 2. No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)</b>			<b>2,397,540</b>	<b>2,094,602</b>	<b>3,673,509</b>	<b>1,261,087</b>

# Annual Country Report

## Laos Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2017-2021)

### Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
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	1,875,681	1,813,530	3,053,492	1,807,700
<b>Subtotal Strategic Result 4. Food systems are sustainable (SDG Target 2.4)</b>			<b>1,875,681</b>	<b>1,813,530</b>	<b>3,053,492</b>	<b>1,807,700</b>
5	National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025	Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance	68,213	40,928	30,123	28,539
		Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions	766,001	567,001	1,232,748	246,349
		Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters	184,600	179,600	38,462	14,264
<b>Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)</b>			<b>1,018,814</b>	<b>787,528</b>	<b>1,301,333</b>	<b>289,152</b>
	Non SO Specific	Non Activity Specific	0	0	163,120	0
<b>Subtotal Strategic Result</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>163,120</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Direct Operational Cost</b>			<b>16,430,751</b>	<b>14,733,065</b>	<b>20,793,575</b>	<b>10,838,516</b>
<b>Direct Support Cost (DSC)</b>			<b>1,351,285</b>	<b>1,144,188</b>	<b>2,170,448</b>	<b>1,030,153</b>
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>			<b>17,782,036</b>	<b>15,877,253</b>	<b>22,964,023</b>	<b>11,868,669</b>
<b>Indirect Support Cost (ISC)</b>			<b>1,155,833</b>	<b>1,032,021</b>	<b>47,434</b>	<b>47,434</b>

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# Annual Country Report

## Laos Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2017-2021)

### Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
Grand Total			18,937,869	16,909,274	23,011,457	11,916,103



Brian Ah Poe  
Chief

Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch

## Columns Definition

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### Needs Based Plan

Latest annual approved version of operational needs as of December of the reporting year. WFP's needs-based plans constitute an appeal for resources to implement operations which are designed based on needs assessments undertaken in collaboration with government counterparts and partners

### Implementation Plan

Implementation Plan as of January of the reporting period which represents original operational prioritized needs taking into account funding forecasts of available resources and operational challenges

### Available Resources

Unspent Balance of Resources carried forward, Allocated contribution in the current year, Advances and Other resources in the current year. It excludes contributions that are stipulated by donor for use in future years

### Expenditures

Monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting year

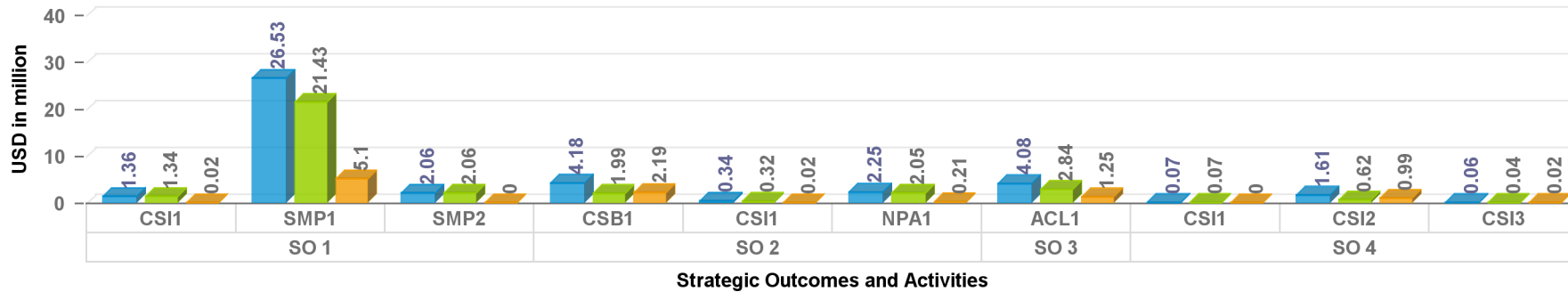


# Annual Country Report

## Laos Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2017-2021)

### Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

#### Cumulative CPB Overview



■ Allocated Resources ■ Expenditures ■ Balance of Resources

Code	Strategic Outcome
SO 1	School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.
SO 2	Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025
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SO 4	National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025
Code	Country Activity - Long Description
ACL1	Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities
CSB1	Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools
CSI1	Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance
CSI1	Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities to Government of Lao
CSI1	Provide technical assistance for evidence based policy dialogue
CSI2	Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions
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NPA1	Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months
SMP1	Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme
SMP2	Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities

# Annual Country Report

## Laos Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2017-2021)

### Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
1	School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.	Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities to Government of Lao	2,028,558	1,356,226	0	1,356,226	1,338,165	18,061
		Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme	24,755,322	26,533,709	0	26,533,709	21,434,867	5,098,842
		Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities	2,687,215	2,059,962	0	2,059,962	2,055,321	4,641
<b>Subtotal Strategic Result 1. Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)</b>			<b>29,471,095</b>	<b>29,949,897</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29,949,897</b>	<b>24,828,353</b>	<b>5,121,544</b>

# Annual Country Report

## Laos Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2017-2021)

### Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
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	3,586,997	4,184,486	0	4,184,486	1,993,188	2,191,298
		Provide technical assistance for evidence based policy dialogue	1,320,487	339,631	0	339,631	323,865	15,766
		Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months	3,263,272	2,251,369	0	2,251,369	2,046,011	205,358
<b>Subtotal Strategic Result 2. No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)</b>			<b>8,170,755</b>	<b>6,775,486</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,775,486</b>	<b>4,363,064</b>	<b>2,412,422</b>
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	4,409,288	4,081,435	0	4,081,435	2,835,644	1,245,791
<b>Subtotal Strategic Result 4. Food systems are sustainable (SDG Target 2.4)</b>			<b>4,409,288</b>	<b>4,081,435</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,081,435</b>	<b>2,835,644</b>	<b>1,245,791</b>

# Annual Country Report

## Laos Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2017-2021)

### Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
5	National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025	Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance	1,003,207	69,246	0	69,246	67,661	1,585
		Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions	1,608,474	1,607,055	0	1,607,055	620,655	986,399
		Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters	365,799	62,780	0	62,780	38,582	24,198
<b>Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)</b>			<b>2,977,479</b>	<b>1,739,081</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,739,081</b>	<b>726,899</b>	<b>1,012,182</b>
	Non SO Specific	Non Activity Specific	0	163,120	0	163,120	0	163,120
<b>Subtotal Strategic Result</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>163,120</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>163,120</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>163,120</b>
<b>Total Direct Operational Cost</b>			<b>45,028,618</b>	<b>42,709,018</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42,709,018</b>	<b>32,753,959</b>	<b>9,955,059</b>
<b>Direct Support Cost (DSC)</b>			<b>4,232,763</b>	<b>4,423,425</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,423,425</b>	<b>3,283,131</b>	<b>1,140,295</b>
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>			<b>49,261,381</b>	<b>47,132,444</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>47,132,444</b>	<b>36,037,089</b>	<b>11,095,354</b>
<b>Indirect Support Cost (ISC)</b>			<b>3,280,104</b>	<b>2,310,627</b>		<b>2,310,627</b>	<b>2,310,627</b>	<b>0</b>

This computer generated report is certified by the Chief of Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch (RMFC)

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# Annual Country Report

## Laos Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2017-2021)

### Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
<b>Grand Total</b>			52,541,485	49,443,071	0	49,443,071	38,347,716	11,095,354

This donor financial report is interim



Brian Ah Poe  
Chief

Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch

## Columns Definition

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### Needs Based Plan

Latest approved version of operational needs. WFP's needs-based plans constitute an appeal for resources to implement operations which are designed based on needs assessments undertaken in collaboration with government counterparts and partners

### Allocated Contributions

Allocated contributions include confirmed contributions with exchange rate variations, multilateral contributions, miscellaneous income, resource transferred, cost recovery and other financial adjustments (e.g. refinancing). It excludes internal advance and allocation and contributions that are stipulated by donor for use in future years.

### Advance and allocation

Internal advanced/allocated resources but not repaid. This includes different types of internal advance (Internal Project Lending or Macro-advance Financing) and allocation (Immediate Response Account)

### Allocated Resources

Sum of Allocated Contributions, Advance and Allocation

### Expenditures

Cumulative monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting period

### Balance of Resources

Allocated Resources minus Expenditures