In Numbers

**US$ 4.8 million** six-month (September 2020 – February 2021) net funding requirements

**2.479 mt** of food distributed

**5,911 people** assisted

Operational Updates

- As part of the COVID response, in partnership with the Swiss Red Cross (SRC) and World Vision International, WFP provided over 73,022 meals to 3,827 beneficiaries across six quarantine centres in Lao PDR at a cash-based transfer commodity voucher value of USD 131,854. In two quarantine centres, WFP and SRC are also providing water and basic WASH/hygiene items to the returnees.

- Participants from 3,400 households (15,653 beneficiaries) started to build community assets such as fish ponds and field access roads to improve their resilience to climate and other related shocks and stresses. During August, WFP therefore started the distribution of cash and sunflower oil to participating households from 49 communities in Phongsaly Province.

- Through support from WFP, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry approved and published the updated Disaster Risk Management in Agriculture Guidelines. These guidelines were presented at two provincial meetings held in Savannakhet and Khammuane during August, and will help local authorities plan for disasters.

- In partnership with the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction, WFP has developed several training videos to support strengthening capacity of government extension workers in climate-smart approaches to agriculture and rural development. These training videos include targeted videos on climate-smart villages; establishing community gardens; land preparation; transporting and transplanting fruit tree seedlings.

- Together with the Ministry of Education and Sports, WFP completed a series of workshops on the establishment of 148 school feeding model schools and farmer groups. The schools and groups will be resource centres for learning and exchange visits across and within districts and provinces regarding management and delivery of school lunches.

- WFP supported the National Nutrition Center of the Ministry of Health in organizing a workshop on social behaviour change communication, with the aim of developing tools and guidelines for nutrition workforce.

- WFP supported the Ministry of Health in developing food fortification standards and related visibility, led by the National Nutrition Center.

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Operational Updates (continued)

- To emphasize and memorize the lessons on nutrition topics shared during WFP-supported Farmer Nutrition School learning sessions, local speakers have been installed in 60 villages where Farmer Nutrition Schools are present. WFP supports 400 village authorities in creating and managing village development plans, including nutrition-sensitive agriculture practices. To this aim, WFP has developed and tested tools in one village before sharing them with all 400 villages.
- In support of the Government’s disaster preparedness, the Logistics Cluster, coordinated by WFP, organized a warehouse management training for provincial staff of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare in Luangprabang and Savannakhet provinces.

Story from the field

The villagers of Houay Waii village have just finished building a road that connects their homes with their fields./Photo: WFP/Vilakhone Sipaseuth

Access to production sources is very important for people in remote rural areas. In the past, people in Houay Waii Village, Phongsaly Province had to walk for 2-3 hours to reach the production area, but now it takes only 15 minutes by motorbike and hand tractor to reach the hilltop farmland. The villagers themselves build the 3 km access road which connects their community to the production area. For their labour, they will receive in-kind food assistance and cash through a food-assistance-for-assets activity. The activity helps villagers meet their immediate food needs, as well as improving their agricultural production and livelihood diversification long-term. This type of assistance, called community asset creation, is being implemented around the world in hard-to-reach communities, and has been very successful in Lao PDR.