

## COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN REVISION

### REVISION

#### Laos country strategic plan, revision 05

Gender and age marker code: 2A

<b>BUDGET OVERVIEW</b>			
	<b>Current</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Revised</b>
	<b>1 Mar 2017- 31 Dec 2021</b>	<b>No Change</b>	<b>1 Mar 2017- 31 Dec 2021</b>
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>489,612</b>	<b>110,459</b>	<b>600,071</b>
<b>Total cost (USD)</b>	<b>88 532 208</b>	<b>4 297 627</b>	<b>92 829 834</b>
Transfer	68 531 116	3 223 330	71 754 446
Implementation	6 853 398	812 000	7 665 398
Direct Support Costs	7 670 974	0	7 670 974
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>83 055 487</b>	<b>4 035 330</b>	<b>87 090 817</b>
Indirect Support Costs	5 476 720	262 296	5 739 017

### 1. RATIONALE

1. This budget revision aims to make adjustments to the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) to account for increased needs under activities 2 and 7 as a result of COVID-19.
2. Since June 2020, WFP has been providing food assistance to returnees from neighbouring countries who have been staying at quarantine centres. The relatively low number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Lao PDR to date is linked at least in part to the strict border controls instituted by the Government, including the implementation of quarantine measures for all people entering the country. However, following a new wave of COVID-19 in Thailand, Laos has seen a surge in returnees since June 2021, with WFP reaching approximately 4,000 beneficiaries daily, compared to less than 1,500 earlier in the year. This budget revision thus increases the needs-based plan for activity 7 in order to address this increased need.
3. Separately, in line with the handover agreement signed with the Ministry of Education and Sports, WFP is scheduled to hand over school feeding programmes in 915 schools in September 2021. While the Government of Lao PDR recognizes the value of school feeding and continues to be committed to the handover, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the financial capacity of the Ministry of Education and Sports to take over the programmes. WFP and the Ministry of Education and Sports have reached an agreement whereby the Ministry will take over the programmes at the 915 schools as planned, while WFP will provide complementary food (rice and oil) during the upcoming school year to top-up the Government's cash allocation and community contributions. This budget revision thus increases the food needs for activity 2 to reflect this programmatic adjustment.

## 2. CHANGES

### *Strategic orientation*

4. This budget revision does not alter the strategic orientation of the CSP and does not involve the addition of a new strategic outcome.
5. There were two technical budget revisions in the past, as well as two substantive budget revisions. The first, approved in October 2018 by the Regional Director (budget revision 2):
  - adjusted and captured the overall food transfers from the previous Country Programme;
  - reduced the scope of cash transfers, primarily in school feeding, commensurate with the hand-over plans to the Government and to align plans with resource forecasts;
  - increased food assistance to accommodate new contributions; and,
  - decreased the overall budget by USD 6,102,747.
6. Budget revision 4, approved in 2020 by the Regional Director, adjusted the CSP for the response to COVID-19, increased food assistance under strategic outcome 3 and adjusted programme delivery under other strategic outcomes. In particular:
  - the budget for cash-based transfers (CBT) under Activity 3 (strategic outcome 1) was adjusted to a more realistic plan given the handover and low level of resourcing;
  - under strategic outcome 2, additional pregnant and lactating women were added, while the number of children 6-59 months was reduced;
  - under strategic outcome 3, the budget revision added additional CBT beneficiaries requiring food assistance through commodity vouchers at quarantine centers, as well as additional beneficiaries of food assistance for assets activities;
  - the revision increased the overall budget by USD 9,814,252.

### *Strategic outcomes*

7. This budget revision proposes an expansion of existing activities under two of the four existing strategic outcomes.
8. Under strategic outcome 1, the budget revision takes into account additional in-kind food support that WFP will provide to complement the Government's cash contribution to schools as well as community contributions. While the COVID-19 pandemic has had relatively limited health impacts to date, the safety measures implemented to prevent the spread of the virus have had significant effects on the livelihoods of the poor, as well as government finances. For the first time in four years, the annual budget of the Ministry of Education and Sports has decreased. While the Ministry remains committed to take over school feeding programmes in 915 schools in September 2021, given the financial constraints, WFP has agreed to provide additional in-kind food assistance.
9. As part of the COVID-19 response under Activity 7 (Strategic Outcome 3), WFP will continue to provide food assistance in quarantine centres to prevent the further increase

in community transmission in the country. As the COVID cases in neighbouring Thailand have spiked, so too has the number of returning migrant workers. This budget revision takes into account additional CBT beneficiaries receiving commodity vouchers at quarantine centres.

### **Beneficiary analysis**

10. Strategic outcome 1, activity 2: WFP plans to extend the duration of assistance to targeted students at the 915 schools where the school feeding programme will be handed over, through the end of the calendar year and into next year (covered by the next CSP). This budget revision does not change the number of planned beneficiaries, as the programme will simply extend the feeding period for the same beneficiary group.

11. Strategic outcome 3, activity 7: The number of estimated beneficiaries increases to cover the rise in returning migrants housed at the quarantine centres. WFP plans to provide support to 48,496 returnees from neighbouring countries staying in the COVID-19 quarantine centres across the country by providing three meals per day to the beneficiaries. In addition, WFP will also adjust the current plan by increasing 76,940 new beneficiaries to absorb the rice from Japan, Korea and the Russian sunflower oil which already inserted in the implementation plan earlier but not in the BR yet. After adjusting beneficiaries between the new increase of commodity vouchers, Rice from Japan, Korea and Russian sunflower oil, the number of beneficiaries increase from the current plan, the total adjusted increase for strategic outcome 3 is 110,459 beneficiaries.

Strategic Outcome	Activity <sup>11</sup>	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-18 years)	Boys (0-18 years)	Total
1	2	Current	20,210	8,661	103,394	107,615	239,880
		Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
		Revised	20,210	8,661	103,394	107,615	239,880
	3	Current	0	0	32,790	34,129	66,919
		Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
		Revised	0	0	32,790	34,129	66,919
2	5	Current	14200	0	10831	11019	36,050
		Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
		Revised	14200	0	10831	11019	36,050
3	7-CBT	Current	26,941	26,582	16,866	17,180	87,569
		Increase/decrease	12,524	12,396	7,799	7,945	40,682
		Revised	39,484	38,978	24,664	25,125	128,251
	7-Food	Current	19,389	15,613	17,803	18,035	70,840
		Increase/decrease	24,667	25,150	13,420	13,703	76,940
		Revised	44,055	40,763	31,224	31,738	147,780
<b>TOTAL (without overlap)</b>		Current	78,325	48,470	184,503	178,314	489,612
		Increase/decrease	37,141	39,244	10,639	23,435	110,459
		Revised	115,466	87,714	195,142	201,749	600,071

<sup>11</sup> Indicate whether transfer is in the form of in-kind, CBT or capacity strengthening. If more than one modality per activity, duplicate the rows.

## Transfers

12. Under strategic outcome 1, WFP will continue to provide complementary food (rice and oil) during the 2021/2022 school year to top-up the Government's cash allocation and community contributions. The budget revision takes into account this additional in-kind food support.

TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) or CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (USD/person/day) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY									
Strategic outcome	1						2	3	
Activity	2					3	5	7	
Beneficiary type	On site school meals	School-Community Asset Creation-Fish pond (THR)	School-Community Asset Creation-Rice bank (THR)	Activity supporters (Cooks & Storekeepers) THR	Additional support to hardcoverd areas (THR)	On-site school meals (Cash based Transfer	Specialized Nutritious Food children 6-23 months (THR)	Assets creation (THR)	General Distribution
Modality	Food	Food	Food	Food	Food	CBT	Food	Food/CBT	Food/CBT
Cereals	100	300	600	571					400
Pulses	40								
Oil	10							33	33
Canned Fish	30								
Mixed & Blend							20	5	
CBT (USD/person/day ; use average as needed)						0.09			3.67

TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE						
Food type / cash-based transfer	Current Budget		Increase		Revised Budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	14 325	7 722 549	1 538	911 455	15 863	8 634 004
Pulses	3 611	3 838 533	0	0	3 611	3 838 533
Oil and Fats	1 855	2 183 961	36	62 702	1 890	2 246 663
Mixed and blended foods	1 150	2 844 903	- 90	- 247 500	1 060	2 597 403
Other	816	3 559 621	0	0	816	3 559 621
<b>TOTAL (food)</b>	<b>21 756</b>	<b>20 149 567</b>	<b>1 484</b>	<b>726 657</b>	<b>23 240</b>	<b>20 876 224</b>
Cash-Based Transfers (USD)		6 143 051		2 491 673		8 634 724
<b>TOTAL (food and CBT value – USD)</b>	<b>21 756</b>	<b>26 292 618</b>	<b>1 484</b>	<b>3 218 330</b>	<b>23 240</b>	<b>29 510 948</b>

### 3. COST BREAKDOWN

13. The changes to the cost breakdown below are driven by the increased needs in activity 2 and activity 7.

**TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)**

	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 4/ SDG Target 2.4	Total
Strategic outcome	1	3	
Focus area	Root Causes	Resilience Building	
Transfer	521 162	2 702 169	3 223 330
Implementation	812 000	0	812 000
Direct support costs			0
Subtotal			4 035 330
Indirect support costs (6.5%)			262 296
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>4 297 627</b>

**TABLE 5: OVERALL CSP/ICSP/LEO COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)**

	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 2/ SDG Target 2.2	Strategic Result 4/ SDG Target 2.4	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9	Total
Strategic outcome	1	2	3	4	
Focus area	Root Causes	Root Causes	Resilience Building	Root Causes	
Transfer	43 499 858	12 363 807	11 427 926	4 462 854	71 754 446
Implementation	4 649 390	1 720 400	826 760	468 848	7 665 398
Direct support costs	4 631 718	1 365 641	1 188 082	485 533	7 670 974
Subtotal	52 780 966	15 449 847	13 442 769	5 417 235	87 090 817
Indirect support costs (6.5%)	3 475 208	1 022 703	882 083	359 023	5 739 017
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56 256 174</b>	<b>16 472 550</b>	<b>14 324 852</b>	<b>5 776 258</b>	<b>92 829 834</b>