COUNTRY CONTEXT

Population: 7 million
- 67% in rural areas

- Economic disparities
- Persistent food insecurity and chronic undernutrition
- Natural hazards and climate change

COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN

- Focused on four strategic outcomes
- USD million: 88

1. School meals: Handover strategy proceeding well
2. Children's access to food
3. Reduce stunting
4. Resilience to seasonal shocks
5. Government institutions capacity strengthening

EVALUATION

- Covers WFP activities implemented from 2017 to October 2020, under the Lao People's Democratic Republic Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

July 2020 to April 2021

- Evidence and lessons to inform the development of the new Country Strategic Plan in Lao People's Democratic Republic
- 244 interviews with stakeholders
- 19 focus group discussions
- Documents review

CONCLUSIONS

- Shift to technical assistance strengthened government partnerships
- Recognition of WFP's traditional strength and extensive reach

- School meals handover strategy proceeding well
- More attention needed to the level of community ownership to ensure sustainable handover

- Comprehensive approach to country capacity strengthening remaining a challenge
- Gender widely mainstreamed

- Comprehensive analytical framework, flexible funding and monitoring required for more strategic engagement

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Deeper utilization of up to date evidence to support the shaping and implementation of a realistic scope and focus for the new CSP 2021-2025
2. Engage partners more strategically for stronger integration of partnerships within programming and with donors that support the needs of the CSP
3. Develop and integrate a country office approach to resilience strengthening and emergency preparedness and response
4. Strengthen the capacity of WFP staff to design and implement Country Capacity Strengthening
5. Reappraise and reinforce WFP's approach to support the Government's strategy to take over the school meal programme