



World Food
Programme

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Lao People's Democratic Republic

Annual Country Report 2021

Country Strategic Plan
2017 - 2021

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Overview

During the final year of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP, 2017 - 2021), WFP continued to deliver results under the four Strategic Outcomes towards food security, nutrition, resilience, and government capacity strengthening. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, WFP was able to leverage its extensive field presence to implement 88 per cent of planned activities. The long-term investment in a sustainable national school feeding programme achieved another milestone in 2021, with WFP handing over programmes in 915 schools to the Government of Lao PDR, some of which WFP had supported since the early 2000s. Responding to the high prevalence of stunting and persistent micronutrient deficiencies, WFP continued to support evidence-based multi-sectoral policy dialogue, including for the National Plan of Action for Nutrition 2021-2025, while supporting enhanced nutrition and food security through nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions in more than 400 villages and building the evidence base on the causes of malnutrition. Meanwhile, in the face of natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP worked with partners to assist vulnerable households in climate-sensitive areas and supported returning migrant labourers quarantined in state facilities with food assistance. Lastly, to strengthen government institutions' capacities to deliver services in hard-to-reach areas, WFP continued to roll out training and workshops with various ministries to improve service delivery for food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations, such as food security assessments in emergencies and warehouse management training.

Despite the success in containing the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, Lao PDR experienced a surge in domestic COVID-19 cases in the second half of 2021. This second wave of COVID-19 in the country eroded livelihoods, food insecurity and malnutrition, and government finances. Compounding the impact of the pandemic, flooding and heavy rains put additional pressure on the affected populations in central and southern Lao PDR. While the Government started taking measures to revitalise the economy, the number of active COVID-19 cases continued to climb through the end of the year, disrupting trade, pushing up prices, and increasing food and nutrition security concerns for 2022.

WFP's overall healthy funding status in 2021 enabled it to deliver most of the expected results despite the challenges. WFP also revised the budget of the CSP to respond to increased needs due to the second wave of COVID-19 in Lao PDR. Thanks to multi-year and new contributions, WFP was able to maintain existing operations as well as expand target areas in support of the Government's priorities. These efforts contributed to addressing the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, while also mitigating the impacts of COVID-19. However, resources continued to be disproportionately earmarked to certain activities. In 2021, WFP continued strengthening engagement with existing partners, while developing new partnerships from both the public and private sectors. The close partnership with various government ministries continued to yield sustainable results for WFP to implement its CSP, such as the successful handover of school feeding programmes to the Ministry of Education and Sports. WFP collaborated with both local and international NGOs to deliver results effectively, including developing evidence around climate-smart agriculture.

The pandemic imposed increasing constraints on WFP's operations in 2021. Nonetheless, WFP adapted to this challenge thanks to lessons learnt from 2020. WFP reached 48,626 beneficiaries for individual capacity strengthening activities, through social behaviour change communication, agricultural, and climate adaptation training. Food assistance was provided to 1,430 schools in remote areas, allowing them to provide nutritious school lunches to 88,670 children. During the school closure in 2021, WFP collaborated with local education services and communities to successfully distribute 951 MT of food as take-home rations. Individuals and groups at risk of disasters and climate shocks received cash transfers from WFP to create assets and support livelihoods, totalling USD 64,994. As part of WFP's specific support to the Government in response to the COVID pandemic, WFP distributed over 2.1 million meals to 61,200 returning migrant labourers, including 30,600 women, at quarantine centres across 9 provinces together with NGO partners. Finally, WFP continued to operate regular humanitarian air services in the absence of commercial international flights, with 33 flights transporting 1,711 passengers and 2,252kg cargo, including much needed COVID-19 vaccines, in 2021.

237,800

Total beneficiaries in 2021



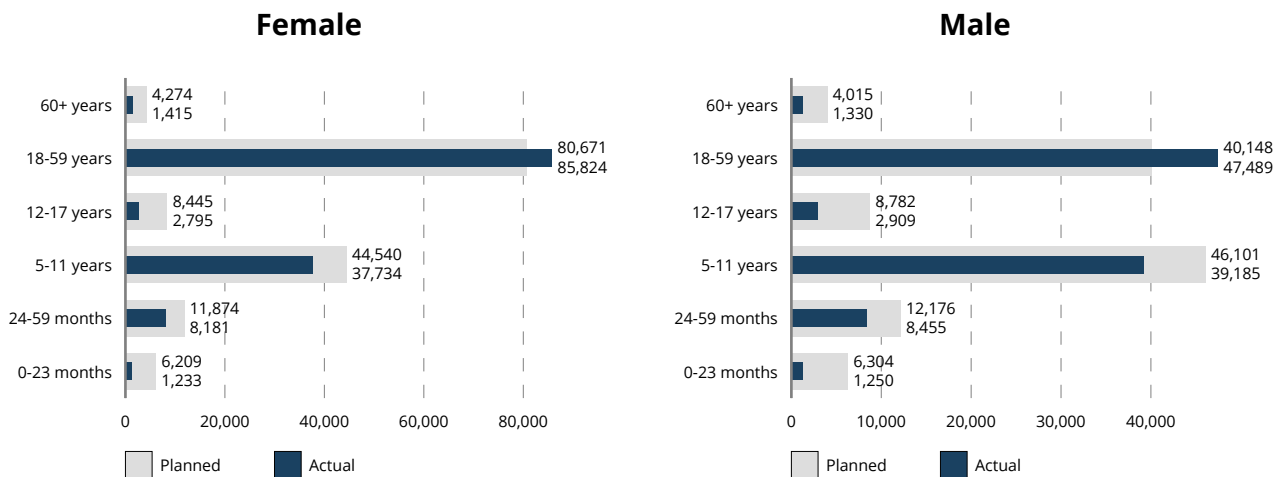
58% female



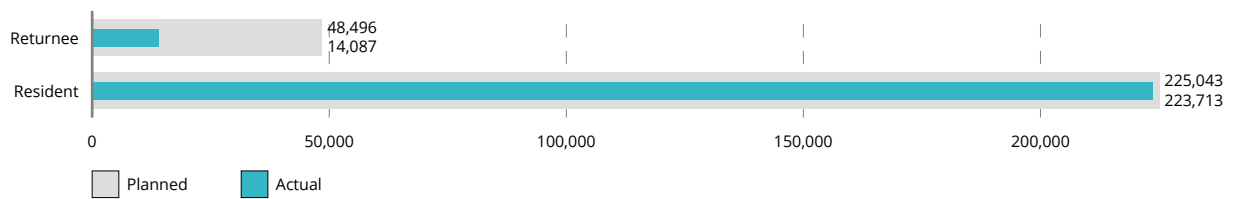
42% male

Estimated number of persons with disabilities: 217 (45% Female, 55% Male)

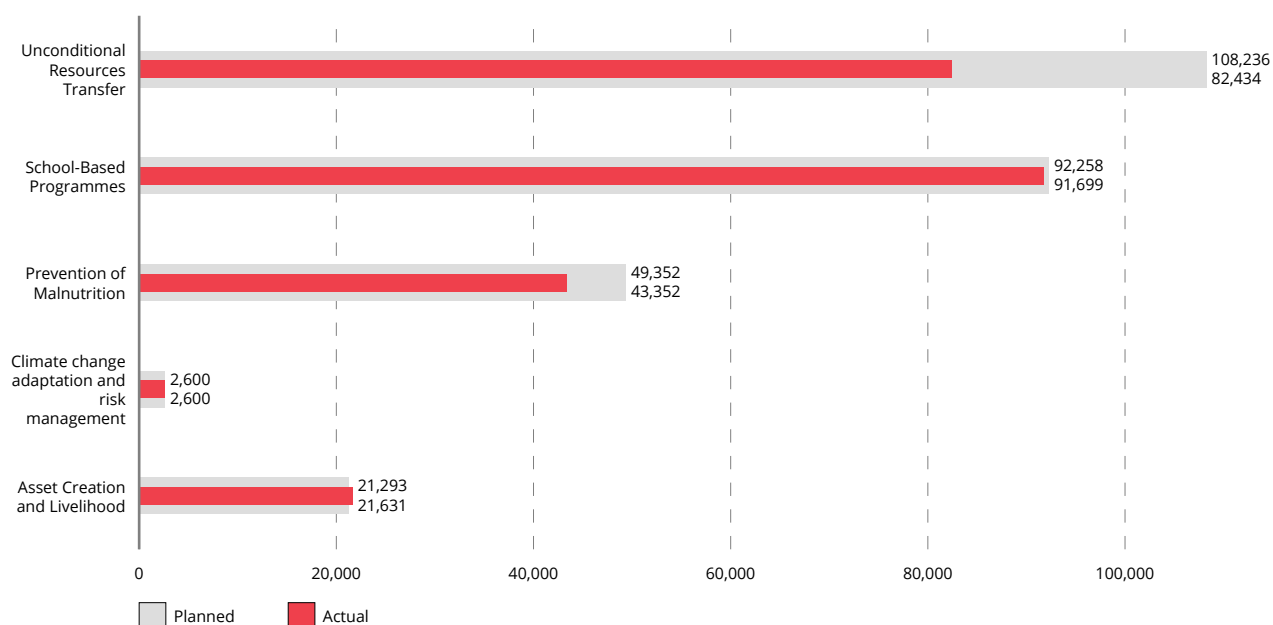
Beneficiaries by Sex and Age Group



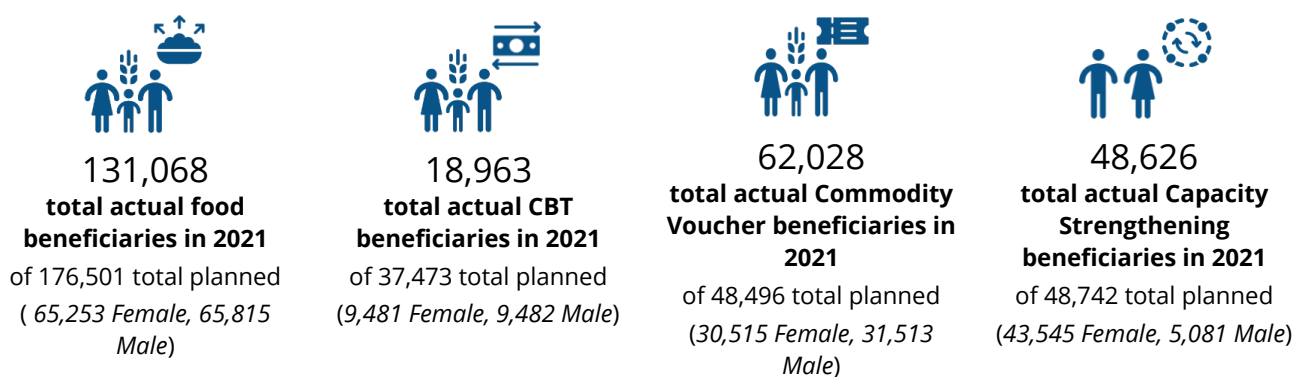
Beneficiaries by Residence Status



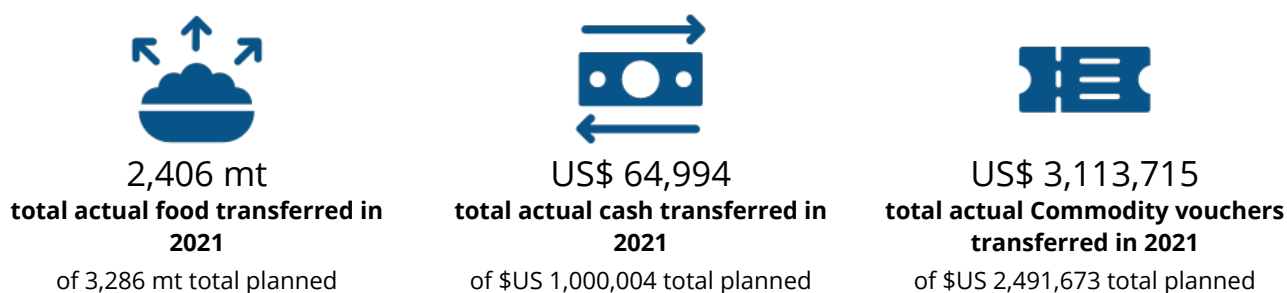
Beneficiaries by Programme Area



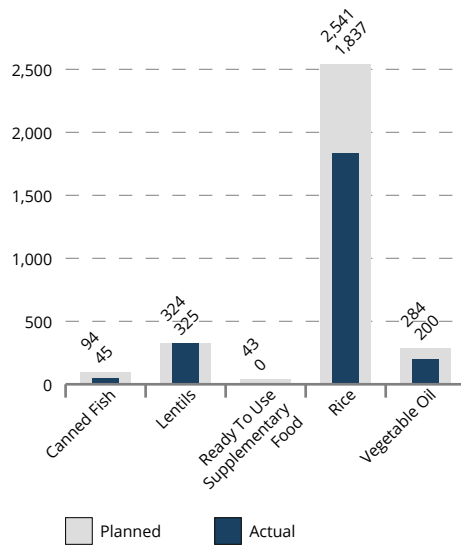
Beneficiaries by Modality



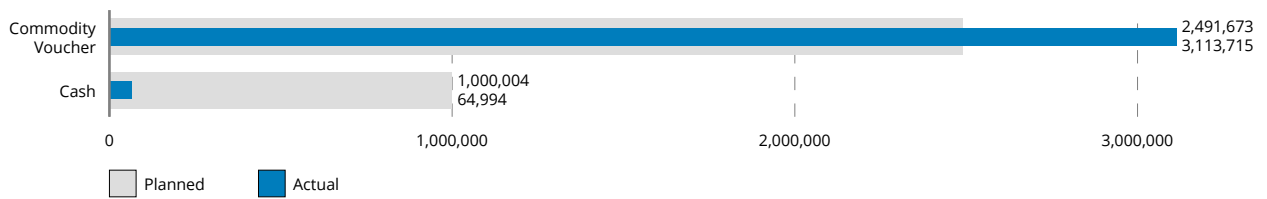
Total Food and CBT



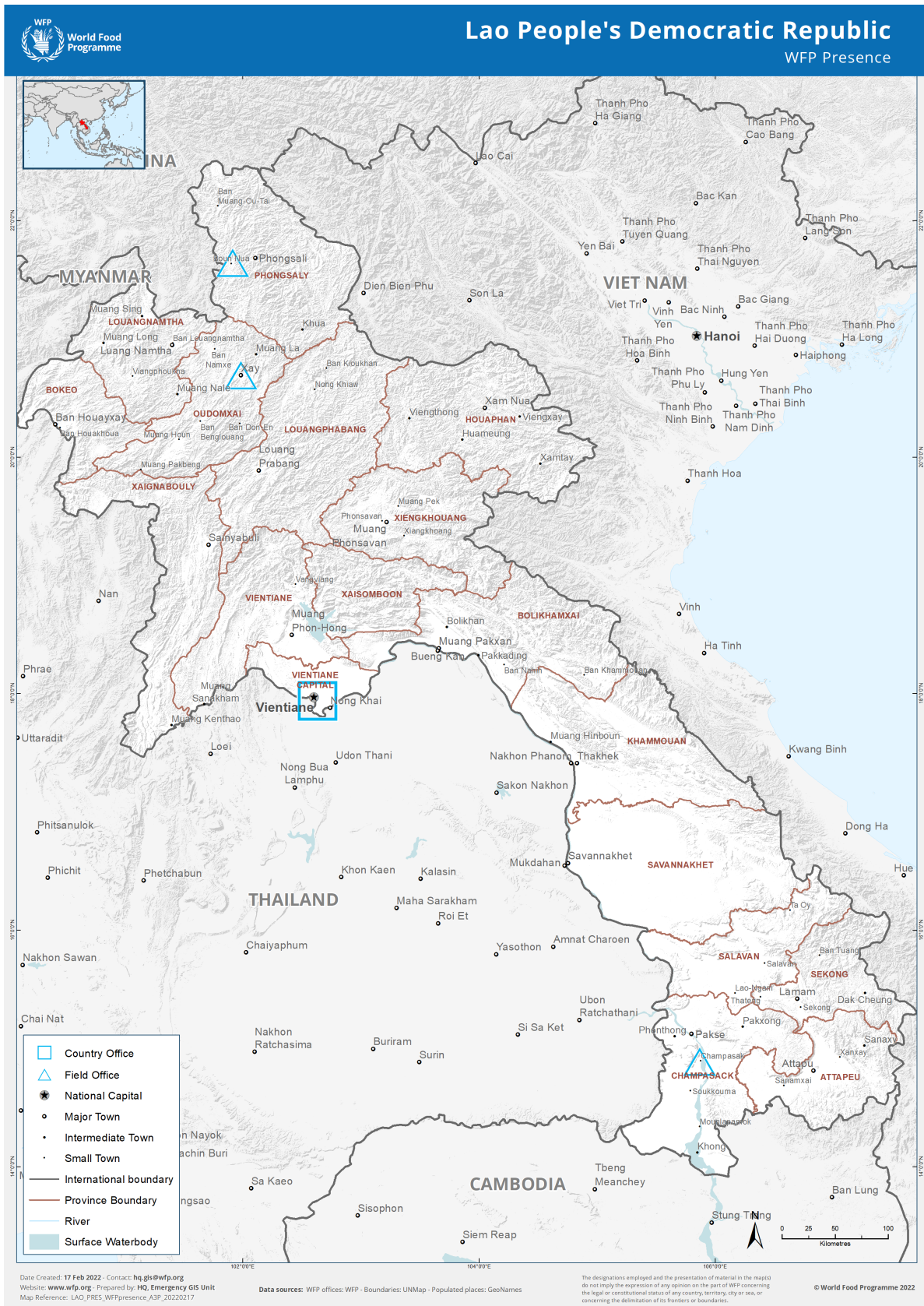
Annual Food Transfer



Annual Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher



Context and operations



Lao PDR was successful in containing the spread of COVID-19 in the country until the second quarter of 2021. After the Lao New Year in mid-April, imported cases spread to several provinces in the centre and south of the country, leading to a second wave of the pandemic in Lao PDR. The Government responded with prevention and control measures, including locking down major cities, closing schools and suspending inter-provincial movement. Despite a decrease of

positive cases reported mid-year, transmission spiked from September as a result of the infectious Delta variant. Since the last quarter of the year, while continuing to vaccinate the population, the Government began to take measures to ease the restrictions to re-vitalise the country's economy.

Despite the existing challenges, Lao PDR continued its preparations for LDC graduation expected in 2026. Prior to the pandemic, food insecurity and malnutrition were of concern in Lao PDR. In 2019, almost 20 per cent of the population experienced moderate to severe food insecurity with a stunting rate of 33 per cent among children aged 6-59 months. This country has already recorded increasing wasting rates before 2019, while the latest global evidence indicates that the prevalence of wasting will further increase as a result of COVID-19. In addition, primary school children in Lao PDR face a learning crisis^[1], with only 2 per cent of Lao children in Grade 5 meeting the expected reading proficiency in comparison to the average proportion of 29 per cent of six Southeast Asian countries. In addition, Lao PDR remains highly vulnerable to climate change. Floods and droughts continue to be the most significant threats to food and nutrition security in the country.^[2] In June 2021, flooding associated with Tropical Storm Koguma in Xayabouly Province affected approximately 15,000 people.

In 2021, the second wave of COVID-19 dented the economic recovery anticipated earlier, with a growth rate of just 2.2 per cent forecast for this year.^[3] The disruptive socio-economic impacts of the pandemic have put increasing pressure on the Government's fiscal space and its ability to finance development programmes. The pandemic also inflicted further losses to jobs and livelihoods and exacerbated food insecurity concerns. Over a quarter of surveyed households reported being very concerned about food insecurity in their community.^[4] Reducing food consumption became a strategy frequently used by local communities to cope with increasing prices, particularly for low-income vulnerable households.^[5] The nationwide closure of schools prevented food-insecure students from accessing nutritious school meals and learning effectively in the classroom, which risked worsening the already alarming learning crisis in Lao PDR. As schools closed and remittances from migrant workers plummeted, the extended impacts of the pandemic disproportionately affected women for unpaid care work and agricultural labour.

In 2021, thanks to the strong partnership with the Government, development partners and beneficiaries, WFP's support contributed to improving food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture in Lao PDR through four Strategic Outcomes outlined in the CSP, despite the challenges imposed by COVID-19.

After nearly two decades of direct implementation of school feeding programmes in Lao PDR, WFP handed over programmes in the last set of 915 schools that WFP had supported since the early 2000s to the Government. Through Strategic Outcome 1, WFP continued to enhance the capacities of the Government and communities to support a smooth transition to the National School Meals Program. In addition, WFP also mobilised supplemental food commodities to complement the national programme to ease the transition to national ownership in light of the tightening government fiscal situation due to COVID-19 and support communities affected by the pandemic. As a result of the pandemic, WFP suspended field activities and adapted to this challenge by continuing to provide capacity strengthening support through digital tools. To help ensure that children temporarily out of school continued receiving nutritious meals, WFP organised a once-off distribution of take-home rations. Responding to the high level of food insecurity and underperforming education outcomes among pre- and primary schoolchildren in remote and ethnically diverse areas that have never had school feeding programmes, WFP expanded its implementation to additional 707 schools in 17 priority districts of the Government for education.

Through Strategic Outcome 2, WFP continued to provide technical assistance to the Government for evidence-based multi-sectoral policy dialogue, develop social behaviour change communication (SBCC) materials and tools as well as support nutrition schools for farmers with nutrition-sensitive agricultural activities. Working closely with government partners from the health, agriculture, and education sectors, as well as private partners, WFP supported the Government in the development of the national nutrition strategy and provided technical assistance to 12 District Nutrition Committees under the Agriculture for Nutrition project. With field activities suspended due to COVID-19, WFP fell short of the target number of people reached through SBCC but managed to achieve most of the output targets. Despite delays caused by the pandemic, WFP completed training for over 174 village facilitators for farmer nutrition schools and provided garden grants to 2,134 women smallholders.

WFP's efforts on Strategic Outcome 3 continued building long-term resilience of vulnerable households against climate-related and other shocks through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities. In 2021, 18,963 beneficiaries received in-kind food assistance from WFP to create and maintain community assets. In addition, WFP contributed to the Government's emergency response to returning migrants driven due to COVID-19 outbreaks in neighbouring countries and to people affected by seasonal floods in the central and southern parts of the country. WFP also supported government officials from both the national and sub-national levels to enhance their capacities in climate-smart agriculture and disaster management and response.

WFP continued to strengthen the capacities of the Government and communities for food security, nutrition and disaster management through Strategic Outcome 4. Adapted to the COVID-19 restrictions, WFP trained national and subnational governmental officials from multiple sectors in a hybrid approach on warehouse management, emergency

food and livelihood assessment. Additionally, WFP supported the Government to import rice from the Asean Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve for emergency operations.

Risk Management

Most of the risks anticipated in the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) remained active in 2021, including natural disasters, insufficient national budget allocations for sustainable programmes and limited institutional and community capacity to deliver food security and nutrition solutions. In addition, the risk of expanded socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on food security and livelihood increased this year. The surge of community transmission and the introduction of a more infectious variant of the virus since mid-2021 has elevated the likelihood of these risks and increased their impacts.

WFP mitigated the risk of COVID-19 related restrictions on WFP's operations by adapting to virtual and hybrid approaches to deliver capacity strengthening assistance to beneficiaries as well as to monitor and evaluate activity implementation. Based on the lessons learnt from 2020, WFP provided take-home rations during the closure of schools to children who lost access to nutritious school meals. WFP's food assistance to returning migrant labourers continued at the state quarantine facilities. In addition, WFP continued to mainstream COVID-19 preventative measures across its operations, including physical distancing, handwashing, wearing masks and awareness-raising.

With a high frequency of natural disasters such as floods and droughts, leading to increased food insecurity in Lao PDR, WFP included disaster risk reduction in project concepts and dedicated project proposals to reducing disaster risks. Responding to the impacts of the limited national budget on project sustainability, WFP engaged closely with the Government to make timely adjustments to handover plans and mobilised supplemental resources to mitigate this risk. Moreover, community mobilisation and capacity-strengthening were key components of WFP's projects, contributing to mitigating the risk of limited community capacity. In 2021, WFP received the findings of the CSP evaluation. While highlighting the good practices in WFP's operations, the findings also unveiled areas for improvement, which informed WFP's actions to mitigate programme risks.

Partnerships

In 2021, WFP focused on strengthening existing partnerships with the Government of Lao PDR, while diversifying and strengthening relationships with development partners. WFP continued the close engagement with long-standing partners, such as the United States Department of Agriculture for school feeding, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme for nutrition, Japan for emergencies and recovery, as well as Russia and France for nutrition, recovery, and resilience building. New partners included USAID, Switzerland and Luxembourg for resilience and COVID-19 interventions, as well as newly established strategic partnerships with emerging donors such as the Republic of Korea for emergency response and recovery.

In support of the sustainability of national programmes and localization of project ownership, the CO has started strategically engaging with private sector organisations. WFP managed to receive flexible funding from the private sector in Japan and China to fill underfunded priorities in school feeding and emergencies. As part of the CO's efforts on research and evidence generation, WFP formed partnerships with international institutions. WFP continued partnering with international NGOs, critically also in food assistance to COVID-19 quarantine centres. WFP pursued joint programming with IFIs and UN partners, and contributed to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

Implementation of CSP activities in 2021 continued through key government partners including the Ministry of Planning and Investment for coordination within the Government at all levels and externally with development partners. Meanwhile, WFP continued the partnership with the Ministry of Education and Sports, which is WFP's key partner to support a sustainable national school meal programme. In addition, WFP maintained partnerships with the Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry; Labour and Social Welfare; Health; and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment for both technical and operational cooperation. Collaborations with mass organisations including the Lao Front for National Development, the Lao Women's Union and the Lao Red Cross are continuing. The Civil Aviation authority continued to collaborate with WFP relating to the coordination of WFP's humanitarian cargo and passenger service.

Partnerships with local and international NGOs continued to play a key role in implementing WFP's activities in 2021. School feeding implementation and related literacy components engaged several actors. WFP continued its partnership with the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction to support climate-smart and community-driven school feeding. WFP also engaged Helen Keller International for a study to understand the snack food environment for primary school children in Lao PDR as part of a regional initiative. WFP's partnerships with the Lao Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross and World Vision International in support of the government's quarantine facilities continued throughout the year.

WFP continued to partner with UN agencies and international financial institutions throughout 2021. Key partners included the Rome-based UN agencies, namely FAO and IFAD, for the implementation of the Agriculture for Nutrition project. WFP and FAO also started a project in Southern Lao PDR for cash assistance and resilient support to communities affected by floods. WFP worked closely with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and the wider UN Country Team in regard to the COVID-19 response. In addition, WFP received funding from WHO to provide food assistance to the state quarantine centres. Collaboration with UNICEF was enhanced through more regular meetings including at the management level, and a joint proposal for nutrition activities was prepared, which unfortunately did not get awarded with funding. Discussions with the World Bank continued throughout the year, in particular, to ensure that nutrition-related activities did not overlap and on social protection activities.

With the private sector, WFP continued its advocacy partnership with Lao Airlines for increased awareness and visibility on food and nutrition security in Lao PDR. In addition, WFP helped enhance private sector engagement in nutrition through the Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network. WFP is working with the government on strategies and advocacy to finance the national school feeding programme by leveraging the involvement of internal and external stakeholders including the private sector.

WFP would like to thank all donors for their generous contributions to WFP's Country Strategic Plan in Lao PDR.

CSP Financial Overview

In the middle of 2021, WFP revised the budget of the Country Strategic Plan 2017-2021 for the fifth time. This revision increased the total country portfolio budget from USD 88.5 million to USD 92.8 million. The revision raised the value of food and cash-based transfers to meet the increased needs for the response to COVID-19 in Lao PDR at the request of the Government. In particular, the revised budget contributed to the provision of food to returning migrant labourers in the state quarantine centres in partnership with the Swiss Red Cross and World Vision International.

WFP operations in Lao PDR remained overall well-funded as of 2021. By the end of this year, WFP mobilised 80 per cent of the total funds required to implement the needs-based plan of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2017-2021. Funds received as of this year came from direct contributions from bilateral and multilateral funds as well as private sector contributions. Specifically, in 2021, the combination of funds carried over from 2020 and newly confirmed contributions during this year totalled 118 per cent against the annual needs-based plan, for which 62 per cent was spent, equivalent to 84 per cent of the annual implementation plan.

The majority of the funding was earmarked for Strategic Outcome 1, which provided direct implementation and capacity strengthening support to the Government's efforts to provide nutritious school lunches to schoolchildren in remote areas of the country. Strategic Outcome 3 also constituted a significant portion of earmarked funds for strengthening resilience against shocks and emergency response. Thanks to the additional funding for the Agriculture for Nutrition project, Strategic Outcome 2 was better funded in 2021, compared with the past years. In comparison, while 82 per cent funded in 2021, with only 36 per cent of the needs cumulatively met since 2017, Strategic Outcome 4 struggled to yield results to improve the national and local capacities for service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas in the other years during this CSP.

As of 2021, WFP spent 87 per cent of the available resource under Strategic Outcome 1 cumulatively since 2017, 85 per cent under Strategic Outcome 2, 95 per cent under Strategic Outcome 3 and 81 per cent under Strategic Outcome 4.





During the year of 2021, WFP spent 73 per cent against the implementation plan of Strategic Outcome 1, 66 per cent for Strategic Outcome 2, 135 per cent for Strategic Outcome 3, and 88 per cent for Strategic Outcome 4. COVID-19 was the main disruptive factor that caused lower expenditures under Strategic Outcomes 1, 2 and 4. Under Strategic Outcome 3, WFP spent more than planned to provide commodity vouchers to state quarantine centres to meet the surged food needs of the returning migrant labourers.

Following the second wave of COVID-19 outbreak in Lao PDR, WFP received the request from the Government to continue providing supplementary food commodities to the national school feeding programmes after the handover of school feeding programmes. As the result, WFP provided more rice and oil to schools than the amount in the needs-based plan under Strategic Outcome 1 to alleviate the burden of the Government and communities in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Despite being well-funded as of 2021, WFP still needed to overcome challenges from earmarking that limited the flexibility of funds. For example, in 2021, some funds earmarked for food assistance to the COVID-19 quarantine centres had a short timeline for disbursement with no flexibility of extension, resulting in pressure to implement the large-scale activity within a limited time and in a fluid context of evolving needs.

Annual CSP Financial Overview by Strategic Outcome

	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditure
01: School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.	 8,772,660.0	 14,138,757.0	 12,937,053.0	 7,078,701.0
02: Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025	 3,797,775.0	 2,926,746.0	 2,317,071.0	 1,178,132.0
03: Vulnerable households in climate sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses	 4,633,988.0	 2,765,624.0	 6,041,324.0	 4,986,913.0
04: National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025	 937,901.0	 631,951.0	 765,606.0	 418,347.0
Non strategic result and non strategic outcome specific	 0.0	 0.0	 731.0	 0.0
Total Direct Operational Cost	 18,142,324.0	 20,463,078.0	 22,061,785.0	 13,662,093.0
Direct Support Cost (DSC)	 1,608,791.0	 1,800,515.0	 2,470,881.0	 1,386,759.0
Total Direct Costs	 19,751,115.0	 22,263,593.0	 24,532,666.0	 15,048,852.0
Indirect Support Cost (ISC)	 1,283,823.0	 1,447,134.0	 384,027.0	 384,027.0

Grand Total	 21,034,939.0	 23,710,728.0	 24,916,693.0	 15,432,878.0
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Programme performance

Strategic outcome 01: School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.



88,670 schoolchildren (43,488 female) in 915 target primary schools received school meals and take-home rations in response to COVID-19



Programmes in **915** schools were handed over to the Government and communities



420 schools received books and reading promotion activities.



1,480 farmers, including 450 women, participated in training to improve agricultural production to contribute to school feeding.



707 schools and **65,000** students in government priority districts were identified for expansion of the school feeding programme.

Supporting pre-primary primary schoolchildren in remote rural areas to have sustainable access to food, WFP continued to strengthen the Government and local communities' capacities and ownership of school feeding programmes in 2021. Building on the handover of the first set of school feeding programmes in 515 schools to the Government's National School Meals Program (NSMP) in 2019, WFP worked jointly with the Government in 2021 to transition the programmes in an additional 915 schools to the NSMP. WFP also invested significant resources to start a new school feeding project which expands school feeding to 17 government priority districts for education that do not have school feeding programmes.

In 2021, WFP continued to implement Strategic Outcome 1 through three key activities, (1) providing policy support, technical assistance and capacity strengthening to manage the National School Meals Programme and prepare for handing over WFP-supported schools; (2) providing an integrated school feeding package; and (3) supporting communities to manage and take ownership of the school feeding programmes. In response to school closures in April as a result of COVID-19, WFP provided a once-off take-home ration to the families of the students.

As the largest component of WFP's portfolio, Strategic Outcome 1 continued to remain well-funded in 2021. Thanks to multi-year contributions earmarked for school feeding, WFP provided daily lunch while schools were open and take-home rations during school closure to 88,670 schoolchildren (43,488 girls) in remote and rural areas, accompanied by capacity strengthening activities for government officials at all levels and members of communities. To ease the Government's financial burden after taking over these programmes in light of COVID-19, WFP managed to reallocate resources to complement the NSMP after the handover as well as conduct capacity strengthening activities for the districts undergoing handover to support this process. Leveraging flexible contributions from the private sector, WFP sought synergies between Strategic Outcome 1 and 3 for a food-assistance-for-assets initiative to build community fishponds that contributed to diversifying protein options for school lunches. In addition, with the newly approved multi-year contribution, the school feeding project will reach an additional 63,000 schoolchildren from 2022.

Outputs

In 2021, the second wave of COVID-19 outbreak in Lao PDR affected the rollout of WFP's capacity strengthening initiatives that required WFP's face-to-face support. Nonetheless, WFP still managed to start all the five planned training initiatives virtually and complete two of them by the end of this year. Thanks to the reduced cost of virtual training, WFP reached slightly more participants than planned. For instance, WFP expanded the training on the Government guidelines' on transferring funds for school feeding programmes to districts that WFP handed over to the Government in 2019. Prior to this outbreak, WFP managed to distribute USD 64,994 cash-based transfers to community members for food-assistance-for-asset activities that directly contribute to school feeding programmes in the communities, such as building fishponds, benefiting 18,963 people including activity supporter and their families. WFP also provided agricultural training to 1,480 farmers in support of the school feeding model schools in their communities in early 2021.

WFP slightly fell short of the food transfer target to schools, because of the decision to postpone feeding at new areas to better align the Government's planning cycle. Nonetheless, WFP delivered food commodities to all schools in existing areas as planned for school lunches and for take-home rations for community volunteers. Moreover, responding to the increasing pressure on the Government's fiscal space as a result of the pandemic, WFP mobilised 700 MT^[1] supplementary food commodities to complement the National School Meals Programme after handing over programmes to the Government in mid-2021. The additional commodities supported school lunches for one more semester than planned.

However, the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2021 affected WFP's delivery of non-food items in support of school feeding programmes in both existing project areas and new areas, particularly those associated with activities delayed by the pandemic, such as books for literacy activities. In addition, WFP also experienced delays in school kitchen development at new school feeding areas and water systems at existing areas. Despite this impact, WFP still managed to distribute most other non-food items to schools in existing areas in the first quarter of 2021 before the outbreak this year.

Since the second wave hit Lao PDR in April 2021, WFP distributed food in stock as take-home rations to schoolchildren and their families as school closed. As a result, while students received the quantity of the food as planned, the feeding days did not meet the planned number due to the closure of schools.

Outcomes

In 2021, WFP continued to enhance the Government's National School Meals Program, which was particularly marked by the successful handover of WFP-supported school feeding programmes to the national programme. As a result of the second wave of COVID-19 outbreak in Lao PDR this year, the prolonged socio-economic impact of the pandemic further disrupted education in this country. In 2021, the national primary education enrolment rate decreased, so did that in the districts where WFP supported school feeding programmes. At WFP-supported schools, the enrolment rate went down slightly but still maintained to a level higher than that in the post-pandemic time. Meanwhile, 2021 recorded the longest school closure since COVID-19 hit Lao PDR, which resulted in a lower attendance rate compared with 2020 when schools only closed for less than three months. In addition to cultural and social factors, such as religious beliefs and household-related work expectations, increasing schooling costs and deteriorating household livelihood caused by the pandemic also exacerbated the decreasing primary school enrolment and attendance rates. Factors such as increased poverty due to COVID-19 in 2021 also likely contributed to a higher drop-out rate in primary schools.

Partnerships

WFP continued to closely partner with the Ministry of Education and Sports to deliver results under this Strategic Outcome. Furthermore, the ministry acted as WFP's implementing partner for the first time to undertake activities for the new school feeding project in three of the 17 target districts. In addition, WFP has partnered with Catholic Relief Services for the implementation of this project in 5 districts and to consolidate the two organizations' experience and support for the NSMP. For literacy promotion activities, WFP worked with four cooperating partners in 2021. Engagement with two cooperating partners continued to review school feeding programmes that WFP handed over in 2019. WFP continued to rely on a local NGO to implement school feeding programmes in Khammouane Province. Additionally, the partnership with the environment and water service of the Ministry of Health enabled WFP to provide quality water connection assistance to schools in the southern provinces.

Lessons Learned and Next Steps

During the lead-up to handing over school feeding programmes in the 915 schools to the National School Meals Programme, WFP completed the Community Capacity Assessment (CCA) exercise that aimed to identify the readiness of communities to take over the programmes. This exercise captured key information on vulnerability, access to infrastructure, levels of community contribution and village education development committee functionality. As the next step, WFP will harmonise its data collection and analysis tools with those of Catholic Relief Services, and hand over the data and the tools to the Government to strengthen its monitoring and management of the national programme. WFP is also working to incorporate into its future handover plans the feedback from two local NGOs and international consultants who reviewed the handover exercises in 2019 and 2021.

Gender and Age Marker

Gender and age were fully integrated into the implementation of all Activities that contributed to Strategic Outcome 1. This is evidenced by the GaM code. For example, cooperating partner Plan International mainstreamed gender equality and social inclusion in project implementation. Posters on child safeguarding were provided to the target villages. Community awareness refresher training was conducted, covering child rights and gender equality, how to support children's learning at home and community libraries.

WFP GENDER AND AGE MARKER

CSP ACTIVITY	GAM MONITORING CODE
Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities	4
Accelerate the implementation of the Government's Plan of Action of the School Meals Programme	4
Support a national process for community and Government handover of schools	4

Strategic outcome 02: Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025



174 village facilitators, 83 percent of them women, received training to deliver nutrition-sensitive agriculture education activities



12,234 PLWs successfully completed Farmer Nutrition Schools and received a cash grant of 110 USD to implement their nutrition plan



36,680 people received nutrition-sensitive agriculture, health, and nutrition messages through SBCC interventions.



199 government staff and private sector partners received technical assistance and training

In 2021, through Strategic Outcome 2, WFP continued providing technical assistance and direct implementation to improve nutrition status among targeted populations. WFP addressed the direct and indirect causes of malnutrition through a multisectoral approach focused on nutrition-sensitive programming, including nutrition-sensitive agriculture, Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC), and improving nutritious food availability and accessibility for improved dietary diversity, health and nutrition behaviours and feeding practices. WFP supported institutional capacity development, working closely with the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and the private sector, as the convener of the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network, or SBN.

In 2021, SO2 was implemented through two key activities. Activity 4 provided technical assistance for evidence-based policy dialogue that supported the Government to draft the subsequent National Nutrition Action Plan 2021-2025, strengthened capacities for the private sector through SBN and initiated rice fortification initiatives. Activity 6 contributed to developing an SBCC strategy and Farmer Nutrition Schools (FNS). Previously, this strategic outcome included Activity 5 to stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food. However, given the change in the strategic direction of this strategic outcome to focus on more local solutions, WFP has discontinued this activity since 2020.

Thanks to multi-year contributions, Strategic Outcome 2 continued to be well-funded in 2021, allowing WFP to deliver most activities as planned. However, the majority of funds were earmarked for Activity 6, while Activity 4 continued to experience a shortage of funding this year. WFP has taken efforts to position itself as a technical enabler to strengthen the Government's capacities in nutrition for sustainable funding to Activity 4, by shifting away from direct delivery of food and focusing on providing technical support to government counterparts at the national and sub-national levels, engaging in evidence generation to inform policy and programmes as well as engaging with partners in global nutrition events, such as the Food Systems Summit. With a new contribution in late 2020, WFP implemented the Agriculture for Nutrition (AFN) project throughout 2021. In addition, WFP expanded FNS activities and implement SBCC interventions to new areas that the AFN project does not cover. WFP recorded low expenditures in 2021 for Strategic Outcome 2, because of travel restrictions and delays in recruitment of staff, as a result of COVID-19 and associated measures. Nevertheless, WFP still managed to conduct activities by adapting modalities and therefore achieved most targets.

Outputs

In 2021, WFP exceeded the target number of government officials and private partners with capacity strengthening initiatives, which aimed to enhance the capacities of national food security and nutrition stakeholders and improve the delivery of interventions. For example, WFP provided technical and financial support to the SUN Business Network activities, which included workshops, networking events and competitions at both the national and regional levels. These activities increased the membership of the network and contributed to the development of the Workforce Nutrition Programme, which has now been handed over to the Ministry of Health to implement the programme in interested businesses.

WFP fell short of the target for government staff and partners reached with SBCC, due to the decision to promote sustainability and ensure the efficiency of this activity in existing areas rather than expanding to new ones. However, WFP reached more than the target number of men and women through interpersonal SBCC approaches. This is the

result of additional funding, increased COVID-19 adaptability, and more innovative ways of disseminating information that reached more people. The number of people reached was also much higher in comparison to 2020.

WFP successfully scaled up AFN activities to almost all the target villages, and further expanded these activities to caregivers with children under 5 and women of reproductive age, owing to the importance of these age groups in improving household nutrition status. Whilst fewer people were trained than expected due to delays to implementation and travel restrictions as a result of COVID-19, a large number of people were still trained, owing to the project being well funded, as well as extensive field-level support and coordination.

Outcomes

In 2021, WFP supported two national food security and nutrition policies in 2021 as a result of its capacity strengthening initiatives. These included the release and endorsement of the National Plan of Action on Nutrition (NPAN) 2021-2025, for which WFP provided technical and financial support for the education and agriculture interventions; and the food fortification logo, developed through the SUN Business Network, which will help consumers identify foods which are fortified with vitamins and minerals.

In 2021, as part of WFP’s Agriculture for Nutrition project, 80.2 per cent of women aged 15-49 years surveyed in the project areas consumed at least 5 out of the 10 food groups over a 24-hour period prior to the survey. MDD-W^[5] scores fluctuate in comparison to previous years, however, as it is a 24-hour recall survey, the result depends heavily on the month when the survey was administered, especially in communities where most of the food supply relies on subsistence agriculture and collection of food items from the forest and rivers. Furthermore, the survey is subject to social-desirability bias.

Partnerships

Through the SUN Business Network, WFP partnered with the Ministry of Health and the EU Chamber of Commerce to develop the Workforce Nutrition Programme that will soon commence in garment factories, which mainly employ women. In partnership with Helen Keller International and the Ministry of Education and Sports, WFP initiated a research project to understand the drivers of food choices and snack food environment for primary school-age children. To support the Government’s participation in the UN Food Security Summit, WFP co-authored a background paper with UNICEF on food safety and nutrition for all.

Lessons Learned and Next Steps

Evidence generation on the drivers of food choice and the nutrition and food security situation poses a major barrier for future fundraising efforts, adequate targeting, and effective programme delivery. This is due in part to the lack of donor interest in funding research, and thus WFP must be more creative in fundraising for evidence generation. As such, WFP partnered with Helen Keller International to conduct a study on the drivers of food choice in primary school-age children. As WFP moves more towards technical assistance and shifts its focus on implementing SBCC strategies, WFP must improve its internal capacity to ensure that strategies are implemented effectively and that adequate monitoring and evaluation are conducted to show impact. To fill this gap in capacity and to progress efforts in SBCC, WFP engaged in internal capacity strengthening training on developing an SBCC strategy and implementing SBCC interventions.

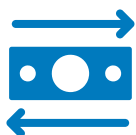
Gender and Age Marker

Gender and age were fully integrated into Activity 4 and 6, as evidenced by a GAM code of 4. Gender was considered in every step of the project cycle. For instance, WFP ensured that all SBCC materials developed considered gender norms. In project activities, WFP ensured adequate participation of both men and women and focused on nominating women facilitators for Farmer Nutrition Schools.

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	N/A
Develop a social behaviour change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools	4

Strategic outcome 03: Vulnerable households in climate sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses



USD 3,113,715 total cash transferred as commodity vouchers to provide food assistance to returning migrants in quarantine centres



2,116,694 meals provided to returning migrants in quarantine centres



3,658 households headed by women received food assistance



114 Government staff with enhanced capacities in disaster preparedness and response



2,640 people with enhanced capacities through targeted trainings on climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods

Due to its geographic and geophysical characteristics, high reliance on natural resources and agriculture, as well as limited adaptive capacities, Lao PDR remains highly vulnerable to climate change. In 2021, through Strategic Outcome 3, WFP assisted vulnerable households in climate-sensitive districts in adapting to climate change and in building long-term resilience against climate-related and other shocks and stresses. Given COVID-19 socio-economic impacts as well as flood events in 2021, emergency response activities were a key focus of this outcome in 2021.

WFP achieved Strategic Outcome 3 through the implementation of the dedicated Activity 7 to build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities as well as provide technical assistance to the Government and communities. In 2021, WFP and partners provided i) technical assistance and capacity development to Government and communities to improve adaptation and resilience to climate and other shocks; and ii) food and cash-based transfers to participants in food assistance-for-assets activities as well as those in need of emergency assistance as a result of COVID-19 or climate-related disasters. The use of corporate tools including SCOPE to support cash-based transfers continued to improve assurance of operations in 2021.

Multi-year and new contributions of both in-kind and cash contributions continued to support resilience building and emergency response activities in 2021. WFP secured significant resources in 2021 to support emergency response activities focussed on COVID-19 related food assistance activities, while new contributions towards resilience building were limited. Despite significant contributions towards COVID-19 related food assistance, WFP was unable to meet the full funding needs of both resilience building and emergency response activities.

Outputs

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictive measures impacted the achievement of all outputs of this Strategic Outcome in 2021. However, WFP was able to achieve significant results. WFP provided basic hygiene items and more than the planned commodity vouchers for meals at quarantine centres across 9 provinces in Lao PDR. This is a significant achievement distributing over 2.1 million meals in 2021, 1.8 million more meals than in 2020. To address immediate food needs resulting from recent floods in Xayaboury and Savannakhet Provinces as well as the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, WFP and partners distributed 524MT of rice and 40MT of fortified cooking oil to beneficiaries. Through food-assistance-for-assets activities in Phongsaly Province, WFP supported the creation of 13 community fishponds as planned and distributed 32MT of fortified cooking oil to 18,963 beneficiaries, including 9,481 women. As a result of COVID-19 implementation delays, no cash-based transfers were made for

food-assistance-for-assets activities in 2021.

WFP delivered more than planned capacity strengthening initiatives for national and subnational level government officials on climate-smart agricultural practices, post-disaster needs assessments, food and cash distributions and impact-based forecasting. However, they reached fewer people than expected due to COVID-19 restrictions. In Sekong and Attapeu Provinces, WFP delivered training on climate-smart agricultural techniques as planned to 2,674 beneficiaries, including native chicken and pig production and seasonal vegetable production. In supporting direct access to information on climate and weather risks, WFP continued its pilot on providing climate services through children and schools in Salavanh Province, reaching 2,640 beneficiaries.

Outcomes

In supporting national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and system components, WFP supported the Government in strengthening capacities in real-time monitoring of droughts and producing long-lead forecast products to better inform anticipatory action. In 2021, post-distribution monitoring in food-assistance-for-assets locations identified that beneficiaries had an average Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index value of 0.8 and reflected an important reduction in the percentage of households with rCSI^[6] from 53 per cent in 2020 to 27 per cent in 2021. This low value indicated that beneficiaries were not adopting negative food-related coping mechanisms, following a combination of recent in-kind food and cash-based transfers. The livelihoods-based coping strategies are used to better understand the longer-term coping capacity of households and are classified into three categories: stress (selling household assets/goods, accessing credit, spending savings, borrowing), crisis (selling productive assets or transport means, consuming future seed stocks, removing children from schools) and emergencies (selling houses/land, begging, selling last female livestock) strategies. In line with the rCSI, most beneficiaries reported not employing any livelihood coping strategies, with only 5 per cent adopting stress strategies, while 10 per cent report using some stress, crisis and emergencies strategies. No women reported using any livelihoods-based coping strategies. In addition, 90 per cent of beneficiaries reported that food-assistance-for-assets activities had indeed enhanced their livelihood asset bases.

Partnerships

For activities under this Strategic Outcome, in 2021, WFP partnered with the Ministries of Labour and Social Welfare, Agriculture and Forestry, Health, Natural Resources and Environment for implementation of resilience building and emergency response activities. WFP's NGO partners included the Lao Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and World Vision International for the provision of emergency food assistance and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), RIMES, and International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) for technical assistance on climate resilience.

Lessons Learned and Next Steps

Post-distribution monitoring of food-assistance-for-asset activities identified that cash-based transfer is the most preferred form of assistance across all households (63 per cent), followed by in-kind food assistance (32 per cent). Of those households preferring cash-based transfers, 63 per cent of male-headed households preferred cash assistance, compared to 52 per cent of female-headed households. Regarding the preference for in-kind food assistance, 31 per cent of male-headed households preferred this modality compared to 38 per cent of female-headed households. Future programming should continue to consider combinations of food assistance modalities, including in-kind food, cash-based transfers and vouchers that act as safety nets and reduce disaster risks. These modalities can be strengthened through continued key partnerships with technical partners and service providers, including financial service providers. In addition, WFP found that recent developments in the digital finance ecosystem are opening up interesting opportunities for national and international actors to move away from distributing cash in hand and use newly emerging digital solutions, such as mobile money as cash delivery mechanisms.

Gender and Age Marker

Gender was fully integrated into the implementation of the activity that contributed to Strategic Outcome 3, as evidenced by the GaM code 3. Resilience-building and emergency response activities have ensured assistance is tailored to the needs and interests of beneficiaries and reflect gender-inclusive targeting and participation in activities. Additionally, WFP ensures that gender is collected and analysed for all activities.

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



1,984 Village Nutrition Committee members received training and support to develop their village nutrition plans.



2,449 government staff participated in District Nutrition Committee (DNC) meetings supported by WFP



33 flights organized by WFP aviation service to support transportation of passengers and vital cargo during COVID-19 travel restrictions



386 Village Nutrition Centers have been constructed or rehabilitated to act as centres of learning

There exist limited national and subnational governance capacities in Lao PDR to implement complex and cross-sectoral food and nutrition security policies. To address this, as well as to enhance the achievement of Strategic Outcomes 1, 2, and 3, WFP focuses Strategic Outcome 4 on the provision of technical assistance and capacity-strengthening initiatives to enhance national and subnational governance capacities that would lead to improved service delivery for food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations.

WFP continued to implement Strategic Outcome 4 through the following three activities in 2021. Activity 8 strengthened national governance capacity for food and nutrition security. Activity 9 continued to support communities to lead and own food and nutrition security solutions. Activity 10 enhanced the capacity of the government at all levels to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

The majority of contributions to Strategic Outcome 4 came from multi-year funding earmarked for Activity 9. However, Activity 8 and 10 did receive small contributions during 2021 to help achieve results. Late contributions in 2020 helped enable the successful delivery of results under Activity 9 in 2021 through the Agriculture for Nutrition Programme. New contributions to Activity 10 in 2021 were received to support enhanced government capacities in emergency preparedness (including logistics), assessments, and response.

Outputs

WFP continued working closely with the Ministry of Planning and Investment this year, which served as the strategic coordination body for the Government of Lao PDR. Under Activity 8, WFP supported the ministry to organise 10 review and evaluation meetings at both the national and sub-national levels as planned. These meetings allowed for multi-sectoral dialogues between WFP and various government departments. As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, these meetings received slightly fewer participants than expected.

In 2021, Under Activity 9, even though COVID-19 travel restrictions and measures limited physical participation in meetings and training, WFP managed to roll out more capacity strengthening initiatives than planned for sub-national government partners. For instance, WFP provided technical support and training to members of District Nutrition Committees in all target areas for them to meet at least twice a year to develop, coordinate and implement a convergence plan on food and nutrition.

Under Activity 10, despite the reduced numbers of participants, WFP successfully achieved most of the planned results to strengthen the service delivery capacities of national and sub-national government partners in emergency preparedness and response. This support included training, tools, and technical assistance on emergency preparedness and response, rapid assessments, and supply chain management. WFP also delivered intensive training on the fundamentals of cash and voucher programming to 22 participants from the Lao PDR Cash Working Group as the co-chair.

Outcomes

Building on its technical assistance to the government at all levels under this Strategic Outcome, WFP supported the Ministry of Planning and Investment to enhance development cooperation coordination through Activity 8 and strengthened District Nutrition Committees through technical assistance under Activity 9 as part of the Agriculture for Nutrition project. Under Activity 10, WFP also enhanced the national evidence base to inform the design and delivery of shock-responsive social protection systems through a capacity assessment exercise as planned. The objective of the capacity assessment was to identify key capacities of the social protection system to provide more timely and effective assistance to people affected by shocks. This exercise highlighted the need to develop concrete social protection mechanisms in Lao PDR to respond to shocks and made recommendations for laying the foundation for shock responsive social protection in this country. Furthermore, WFP conducted a social protection scoping study to gain a better understanding of the national social protection landscape and assess the potential role that the WFP could play in this nascent space.

Partnerships

WFP continued the close cooperation with government partners at both the national and subnational levels under this Strategic Outcome in 2021. Working with the Ministry of Planning and Investment, WFP supported engagement at the sub-national level to review the implementation of the ODA. In collaboration with National and Provincial Nutrition Committees, WFP supported their district and village counterparts to develop local nutrition development plans. WFP also provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare as well as humanitarian and development partners on logistics preparedness and cash-based transfers through the technical and leadership roles as co-chairs of the Logistics Cluster and Cash Working Groups.

In addition, WFP joined the effort with IFAD to support the Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry to submit a proposal to the Global Agriculture Food Security Programme to expand the Agriculture for Nutrition project.

Lessons Learned and Next Steps

COVID-19 and its associated restrictive measures had an impact across all WFP operations in 2021. These significant operational challenges urged WFP to adapt to order to deliver results. These approaches included delivering capacity strengthening initiatives virtually and remotely, seeking alternative distribution partners for in-kind distributions and promoting innovative cash-based transfer modalities and payment instruments. For example, WFP found that recent developments in the digital finance ecosystem are opening up interesting opportunities for national and international actors to move away from distributing cash in hand and use newly emerging digital solutions, such as mobile money as cash delivery mechanisms.

Gender and Age

Gender and Age were fully integrated into Activity 8 and 9, as evidenced by the GAM code 4. Gender was fully integrated into the implementation of Activity 10 that contributed to Strategic Outcome 4. This is evidenced by the GaM code 3. This is evidenced by the GaM code 3. The implementation of AFN is adapted to the unique needs of different gender and age groups, WFP included Gender considerations in its training provisions and analysed social protection needs of different gender and age groups.

WFP GENDER AND AGE MARKER

CSP ACTIVITY	GAM MONITORING CODE
Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance	4
Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions	4
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 ranks 113th out of 189 countries on the 2019 Gender Inequality Index, despite continued efforts from the Government to promote gender equality and women's empowerment through various national policies, including the renewed National Plan of Action on Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children (2021-2025). Women in Lao PDR are underrepresented across all levels of decision-making institutions and in the formal sector, gender-based violence is affecting 1 in 3 women in the country. Despite the Government's efforts, the country still faces challenges in achieving gender equality, including child marriage and teenage pregnancy. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the disproportionate burden on women of unpaid care work and agricultural labour as school closures and reduced remittances from migrant workers redefined household structures.

WFP continued its work on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) by taking a two-track approach to gender mainstreaming across all programmes and operational activities, as well as including WFP gender-transformative actions into existing and new programmes, and dedicating resources to GEWE projects. Through meaningful consultation of women in communities and close collaboration with Lao Women's Union, WFP prioritized assets that reduce women's labour in food-assistance-for-asset activities, such as roads water connections. This effort resulted in an annual average of 59 per cent of assets directly reducing women's workloads. With targeted human resource policies, WFP increased gender parity across offices from 41 per cent in 2020 to 50 per cent in 2021. Working through the Gender Result Network, WFP mainstreamed the implementation of its Gender Action Plan across functional units and field offices.

In 2021, WFP continued the rollout of farmer nutrition schools through agriculture and livestock training for women. As the result of WFP's provision of garden grants, women, girls, and other caregivers of children aged under 5 increased their decision-making over household nutrition and finances. In addition, WFP started the development of a social behaviour change communication strategy that will address gender and age inequalities in the access to diverse and nutritious food. WFP supported women's economic empowerment through a pilot project connecting women smallholders to school feeding programmes. 180 women smallholders participated in training on agriculture and livestock raising and received a USD 170 grant to invest in their production. The pilot linked these women to existing farmer groups, effectively increasing women's representation in leadership within these groups, as well as creating an ongoing income stream for them from selling their produce to school feeding programmes.

WFP fully integrated gender into its activities as evidenced by the overall GaM code 3. Gender indicators measured in 2021 identified that 23 per cent of food assistance decision-making entities, the village education development committees, were women. Regarding food-assistance-for-asset activities, household food-related decisions were 6 per cent made by women, 21 per cent by men and 73 per cent jointly. Similarly, regarding household food-related decision-making of the farmer nutrition schools (FNS) facilitators, 95 per cent of decisions were made jointly in comparison to 93 per cent in 2020, and 4 per cent of women made the decisions.

Protection and accountability to affected populations

Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity. Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences

Lao PDR has been a stable country with no ongoing conflict but experiences protection risks that prevent the full realization of human rights, particularly for women and girls, ethnic minorities from the Mon-Khmer and Hmong-Mien ethnolinguistic minorities, persons with disabilities, older persons, LGBTQIQ persons, and migrants. Child marriage is very common, with 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 10 boys getting married before the age of 18. Social norms direct gender expectations and barriers, affecting resources, position and household roles of individuals, as well as partly causing the high prevalence of gender-based violence, particularly at the household level. COVID-19 has highlighted the limitations within the medical infrastructure and social protection schemes, particularly affecting older persons and persons with disabilities. The socioeconomic impacts on the population are severe and the return of migrants increases protection issues in terms of safe and dignified quarantine spaces, as well as by increasing the risk of trafficking and exploitation.

To support the Government's COVID-19 response, WFP continued its support to quarantine centres across 9 provinces in Lao PDR. Funding limitations of the government-run centres presented concerns about the dignity and health of returning migrants and COVID-19 affected individuals. Hence, the WFP support, implemented through the Swiss Red Cross and World Vision, provided essential assistance to beneficiaries by providing them with safe access to food with three nutritious meals per day, as well as basic hygiene items, including menstrual hygiene products. In its operations, WFP strictly adhered to government rules including lockdowns, and adapted project implementation to COVID-19 through providing masks, soap, and sanitizing gel to staff and beneficiaries, and through developing social distancing and hygiene guidelines for communities.

As a result of the second Indochina war (1964-1975), Lao PDR became the most heavily bombed country in the world. The south and east of the country, in particular, remain heavily affected, with dozens of fatalities a year. WFP considered UXO risks by including UXO in regular risk screening for relevant activities, by including in the programme design the option of screening and clearing sites or changing activities in areas where clearing is not possible. Furthermore, WFP distributed educational material from UXO partners to raise awareness of UXO in high-risk areas of operation.

WFP increasingly considered gender-based violence (GBV), particularly as related to projects focused on cash-based transfers to women. WFP developed inclusive protection questionnaires to assess intra-household dynamics for women-focused cash projects. WFP also integrated the national GBV referral channels, run by Lao Women's Union, into the Community Feedback Mechanism. Furthermore, WFP joined the annual 16 Days against Gender-Based Violence campaign, through a joint initiative with 46 other development partners, consisting of civil society organizations, government partners, international development organizations, embassy representatives and UN partners, reaching 1.7 million people through social media posts and actions. WFP started the mainstreaming of the Washington Group Short Set of Questions in its new projects. WFP also joined the Disability in Development Working Group to increase the awareness and reach of disability inclusion in Lao PDR jointly with other development partners. Under Strategic Outcome 1, WFP continued school feeding programmes in the only two inclusive education schools in Lao PDR. WFP furthermore initiated an assessment of office spaces and programmes with local organizations for persons with disabilities and WFP's regional bureau, to inform targeted action for disability inclusion.

In addition, WFP trained two data protection focal points, who subsequently strengthened the capacity of WFP staff on data protection and security for both staff and beneficiaries. The office continued the implementation of WFP's beneficiary management platform, which is safely accepted by financial service providers. The office conducted community consultations on data protection and protection, as well as spot checks on accountability to affected populations and protection for programme implementation, which were documented to further improve project design. WFP also started a privacy impact assessment to document challenges to beneficiary personal data protection and future actions to mitigate them. In Lao PDR, over 50 different ethnic languages are spoken within WFP's areas of operation. WFP continued addressing one of the main accountability challenges in Lao PDR by further mapping the languages and communication preferences of communities. This helped WFP adjust the information provision and the feedback mechanism more closely to beneficiary preferences.

59 per cent of PLW and 65 per cent of facilitators through agriculture-for-nutrition (AFN) activities and 48 per cent through food-assistance-for-asset (FFA) activities indicated being informed about the programmes, including targeting, assistance and length of intervention. This indicates the need for further improvements in communicating programme changes through consideration of the challenging language landscape and preferred communication tools. Under Activity 6, 88 per cent of targeted beneficiaries indicated that they were able to access assistance without protection challenges while 95 per cent faced no protection challenge under Activity 7. The main protection issues faced by beneficiaries included unsafe road conditions to and from distribution points, as well as mentions of intra-household conflicts. 99 per cent of beneficiaries under AFN and 100 per cent under FFA interventions indicated that they received assistance without safety challenges, 98 per cent under both AFN and FFA reported that WFP programmes are dignified, and 100 per cent have unhindered access to WFP programmes. Under school feeding programmes, 100 per cent of targeted persons indicated that the programmes were dignified.

WFP continued its efforts on standardising the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) to align the CFM to the needs of populations, as well as to corporate minimum requirements. While the CFM will continue to operate the hotline, WFP will put further emphasis on in-person feedback, which has proven to be more suitable within the Lao context, as well as incorporating other languages and communication tools identified during the communication preference mapping. While the current rate of closing the loop is 100 per cent, this is in part due to feedback not being recorded centrally, but rather responded directly by the field or programme staff. WFP will enhance central recording tools to accurately reflect the feedback collected and responded to within each field office.

Environment

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

Lao PDR has a high dependency on natural resources, as 80 per cent of the population are subsistence farmer households and diets are highly dependent on forest products. Nevertheless, natural environments are impacted by the overharvesting of natural resources, such as timber and forest products, as well as large-scale hydropower and mining projects that impact local biodiversity. Furthermore, Lao PDR is facing inadequate waste management, haze pollution, deforestation and land degradation, slash and burn, and loss of biodiversity, many of which have been further exacerbated by climate change. COVID-19 has also increased the pressure on the environment since travel restrictions on traders and loss of remittances has increased communities' reliance on natural resources to meet their food and income needs.

WFP put in place increased environmental and social safeguards to ensure that programmes do not cause harm to people or their environments. Through the integration of the Environmental and Social Risks Assessment tool, in 2021, WFP screened all its food-assistance-for-assets projects for environmental and social risks before the implementation and has started the integration of the risk assessment tool in other activities. WFP increased the capacity of all relevant staff, particularly activity managers, to identify and mitigate risks to people or the environment. To address the risks of more technically demanding projects, WFP hired a designated engineer to assess the risks of technical projects. The WFP engineer partook in spot checks to assess the implementation of assets, as well as coordinating with technical services of the Government to ensure the safety of workers, beneficiaries and their environment. WFP ensured that all project activities in the country were low-risk or included sufficient mitigation measures to negate the risks.

From the food-assistance-for-asset activities in Phongsaly Province, 81 per cent of communities indicated through the Asset Benefit Indicator that the assets had reduced their susceptibility to shocks. The fishponds and road connections that WFP supported enabled beneficiaries to access more diverse food sources, as well as to gain easier access to productive areas. This reduction of shock impacts has the co-benefit of lessening coping mechanisms that would negatively impact the environment, such as increased harvesting of forest products.

The ongoing Climate-Smart Village Project in 5 villages in Phongsaly Province continued this year, which introduced native species of pigs and chickens and related training to the communities. This built on the integrated climate-safe gardens focused on diverse native species that WFP started in 2020 and contributed to the holistic climate-smart approach of the pilot villages. Given the continued increase of monocropping and cash crops and the linked degradation of soil and loss of biodiversity, the climate-smart villages offered a sustainable and climate change resilient alternative. WFP also generated evidence in all 5 villages to facilitate the integration of lessons learned into other activities as well as scale-up of the project. Additionally, WFPs pilot on disseminating climate information and services through WFP supported schools in Salavanh Province continues to have environmental benefits through better-informed climate and disaster risk management at community levels.

Transition - Technical Support

Transition to Technical Assistance Towards Community-Run and Government-Managed Programmes

In 2021, WFP concluded its first Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for Lao PDR that officially ushered in WFP's gradual transition from a provider of direct food assistance to a technical enabler for the Government of Lao PDR to achieve zero hunger. WFP completed the handover of school feeding programmes in 915 additional schools to the Government, some of which had received support since the early 2000s. The CSP Evaluation in 2021 highlighted the increasing direct involvement of government departments from all levels in WFP's operations. Building on transition achievements over the past five years and findings of the evaluation, WFP's Executive Board approved WFP's second CSP for Lao PDR for the next five years (2022-2026) that aims to accelerate this gradual transition to a technical enabler while leaving no one behind.

In this first Lao PDR CSP, WFP featured policy and capacity-strengthening support to national and sub-national government partners across all its Strategic Outcomes and dedicated Strategic Outcome 4 to improving the Government's service delivery capacities in hard-to-reach areas. Through Strategic Outcome 1, WFP supported the Government to update school feeding policies, enact legislation, participate in south-south cooperation, and roll out a digital monitoring and evaluation system. Strategic Outcome 2 strengthened WFP's support to the Government to develop the next National Plan of Action for nutrition, as well as to improve the multi-sectoral coordination at the sub-national level through District Nutrition Committees. Through Strategic Outcome 3, WFP strengthened capacities in climate resilience to enable governments and the most vulnerable food-insecure people to address the impacts of climate change on their food and nutrition security. As the CSP Evaluation concludes, the shift to increased technical assistance has strengthened government partnerships and positioned WFP for greater engagement in strategic national legislation and policy development.

One of the milestones of the transition during this CSP is the successful completion of handing over school feeding programmes to the Government in 2021. WFP has been implementing school feeding programmes in Lao PDR since 2002. Over the years, WFP's support to these programmes grew from the provision of meals, to an integrated assistance package of food, capacity strengthening, literacy promotion, nutrition enhancement and WASH. In agreement with the Government, WFP handed over the programmes in the first batch of 515 schools to the National School Meals Program in mid-2019. In 2021, despite the challenges due to COVID-19, the Government remained committed to taking over the second batch of 915 schools from WFP. This successful handover of direct implementation allowed WFP to transition to policy and legislative support, as well as community mobilisation and training support, through the continued presence in these handed-over areas with a focus on capacity strengthening.

Students in the remote village of Thaenkhaen in Luang Prabang province, where locates a school that WFP handed over in 2021, received daily healthy lunches from WFP, which included lentils as an excellent source of protein, vitamins and minerals. Ms. Manivanh, a permanent community cook at the school, says: It took me a little while to get used to the smell and taste of lentils, and to learn how to make tasty meals with them. The children like them now, especially when they are added to stir-fries or soup. WFP Community Facilitator Syvongxay Sulivong adds: At the same time, we teach the community how to grow nutritious food that is local, such as a variety of beans - so that soon, they don't need our support anymore. This holistic recipe for success can be used long after WFP's direct support has come to an end.

In 2021, WFP's Executive Board approved the Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026) for Lao PDR. The new CSP will continue WFP's gradual strategic shift from the direct provision of food assistance to the provision of enabling support for the community-run and government-financed programmes. To this end, the new CSP has further integrated national and local capacity strengthening into its Strategic Outcomes, mainstreaming technical assistance and policy support across the key activities. While this new CSP will continue to gradually reduce the direct implementation of programmes, WFP will remain responsive to the needs of direct implementation assistance in areas where national capacities are still under development, such as large-scale emergency response, to ensure that no one is left behind. In addition, WFP will continue to engage international experts to facilitate capacity transfer to the Government and other domestic partners, in support of the national ownership of nutrition and food security programmes.

Data Notes

Context and Operations

[1] Government of Lao PDR, 2020, Nationally Determined Contribution

[2] <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lao/overview#1>

[3] <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/08/20/lao-pdr-economic-update-august-2021-a-path-to-recovery>

[4] World Bank presentation, COVID-19 and the vulnerable in Lao PDR

Partnerships

Australia, Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, private donors, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, and the United States of America

Strategic outcome 01

[1] WFP dispatched all of these 700 MT food commodities to target schools in 2021, but they were only partially cooked for lunches in 2021. The schools will continue to cook the remainder for lunches in 2022.

[-] WFP reached the planned beneficiaries of food-assistance-for-asset activities under Activity 02 through the same sub-activity under Activity 03, where a total number of 18,963 beneficiaries were reached by WFP with USD 64,994 cash-based transfers to develop assets for communities of school feeding programmes.

[-] After WFP handed over school feeding programmes to the National School Meals Program, the schools receive funding for school meals from the Government instead of WFP support.

[-] WFP supported 918 schools from the beginning, a few of which were merged with others or closed by the Government, so the final number of schools that WFP handed over to the Government was 915.

Strategic outcome 02

[5] The Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W) is a population-level indicator of diet diversity validated for women aged 15-49 years old.

Strategic outcome 03

[6] The Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) is used to assess the level of stress faced by a household due to food shortages.

[-] As a result of COVID-19 and associated prevention and control measures impacting field activities, WFP was unable to distribute CBT as planned for Food assistance for asset activities. These distributions are now planned for early 2022.

[-] WFP reached significantly more beneficiaries than planned for beneficiaries receiving commodity vouchers transfers which resulted from the second wave of COVID-19 in neighboring countries causing a surge in quarantine center feeding needs during the second part of 2021.

[-] Regarding institutional capacity strengthening activities, WFP did not reach the planned number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training due to COVID-19 related prevention and control measures impacting the number and attendance of staff. However, WFP did deliver several more trainings than planned, however, these trainings and workshops had less attendance and often involved the same staff.

[-] Regarding results for the the food consumption score and consumption/livelihood-based coping strategy results, it is important to note that the target population for 2021 is different to that of 2020 and is largely attributed to different contexts and vulnerabilities between communities. 2021 also serves as the first year that WFP has reported on livelihood-based coping strategy.

Protection and accountability to affected populations

[-] Under Activity 06, WFP extended the Agriculture for Nutrition project, so the changed end-date of the project led to confusion among beneficiaries. This is also in line with the findings that show the awareness of the end-date has the lowest score.

[-] Under Activity 07, 2021 Monitoring results for people being adequately informed about resilience-building activities were less than the target for 2021. This was a result of a change in food assistance modality from in-kind food assistance to a combination of in-kind food and cash-based transfers.

Annex

Reporting on beneficiary information in WFP's annual country reports

To produce estimates of the total number of unique beneficiaries WFP has assisted yearly, the data from all activities and transfer modalities must be adjusted to eliminate overlaps and add new beneficiaries. This exercise is based on WFP's understanding of the local context, partnerships and activities; the resulting adjusted totals are recorded in COMET. The process of calculating these adjusted totals follows the rules established during the activity planning stage, these rules can be amended to reflect new information that emerges once implementation begins.

The final estimated number of beneficiaries assisted in each country is validated by country offices and entered in COMET at the end of every year:

- the total number of beneficiaries, which is the sum of all direct beneficiaries reached under all country level activities, based on the adjusted totals that seek to eliminate overlap;
- the total number of beneficiaries receiving food transfers, cash-based transfers and commodity vouchers or capacity strengthening, the sum of all direct beneficiaries reached under the activities for each of these transfer modalities, based on the adjusted estimates that seek to eliminate overlap;
- the total number of beneficiaries assisted under each programme area, the sum of all direct beneficiaries reached under WFP's eight programme areas at the country level;
- the number of schoolchildren assisted under school-based programmes, the sum of all participants assisted under the school-based programmes, adjusted to exclude overlaps and activity supporters such as teachers and cooks.

Although WFP conducts quality assurance to provide beneficiary data which are as accurate as possible, numerous challenges remain regarding data collection, verification, entry and processing. Beneficiary numbers in ACRs should be considered "best estimates", subject to over- and under- estimation.

For the 2021 reporting period, disability data has been collected using a variety of approaches; the WHO 15 percent global disability prevalence average, head counts in single activities, or disaggregation of data from post distribution monitoring reports (PDMs). As standardised guidance was not available in WFP prior to 2020, these methods have varied according to the existing needs, capacity, and experience of various WFP activities and operational contexts. Moving forward, as part of the 2020 disability inclusion road map, WFP is building on continued efforts to mainstream and standardise disability data collection methodologies, aligning with international standards and best practices.

Figures and Indicators

WFP contribution to SDGs

 SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture											
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
	Unit	Female	Male	Overall	Year		Unit	Female	Male	Overall	
Prevalence of undernourishment	%			5.3	2019	Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) to improve their food security	Number	93,606	95,904	189,510	0
								Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) in the context of emergency and protracted crisis response	Number	39,126	40,077
Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	%			29.4	2019	Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) to improve their food security	Number	93,606	95,904	189,510	0
								Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) in the context of emergency and protracted crisis response	Number	39,126	40,077
Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age	%			30.2	2020	Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) with stunting prevention programmes	Number	40,721	2,631	43,352	0
Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	%					Number of people reached (by WFP, or by governments or partners with WFP support) with interventions that aim to ensure productive and sustainable food systems	Number	51,753	13,236	64,989	0



SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

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
	Unit	Overall	Year		Unit	Overall	
Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget	%			Dollar value of resources mobilized (by WFP) to increase government or national stakeholder access to financial resources to achieve the SDGs	US\$	2,510,052.87	0

Beneficiaries by Sex and Age Group

Beneficiary Category	Gender	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Total Beneficiaries	male	117,526	100,618	86%
	female	156,013	137,182	88%
	total	273,539	237,800	87%
By Age Group				
0-23 months	male	6,304	1,250	20%
	female	6,209	1,233	20%
	total	12,513	2,483	20%
24-59 months	male	12,176	8,455	69%
	female	11,874	8,181	69%
	total	24,050	16,636	69%
5-11 years	male	46,101	39,185	85%
	female	44,540	37,734	85%
	total	90,641	76,919	85%
12-17 years	male	8,782	2,909	33%
	female	8,445	2,795	33%
	total	17,227	5,704	33%
18-59 years	male	40,148	47,489	118%
	female	80,671	85,824	106%
	total	120,819	133,313	110%
60+ years	male	4,015	1,330	33%
	female	4,274	1,415	33%
	total	8,289	2,745	33%

Beneficiaries by Residence Status

Residence Status	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Resident	225,043	223,713	99%
Returnee	48,496	14,087	29%

Beneficiaries by Programme Area

Programme Area	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Asset Creation and Livelihood	21,293	21,631	101%
Climate change adaptation and risk management	2,600	2,600	100%
Prevention of Malnutrition	49,352	43,352	87%
School-Based Programmes	92,258	91,699	99%
Unconditional Resources Transfer	108,236	82,434	76%

Annual Food Transfer

Commodities	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual vs. Planned
Everyone has access to food			
Strategic Outcome: Strategic Outcome 01			
Canned Fish	94	45	48%
Lentils	324	325	100%
Rice	1,606	1,320	82%
Vegetable Oil	184	127	69%
No one suffers from malnutrition			
Strategic Outcome: Strategic Outcome 02			
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	43	0	0%
Food systems are sustainable			
Strategic Outcome: Strategic Outcome 03			
Canned Fish	0	0	0%
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	0	0	0%
Rice	935	517	55%
Vegetable Oil	100	73	73%

Annual Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher

Modality	Planned Distribution (CBT)	Actual Distribution (CBT)	% Actual vs. Planned
Everyone has access to food			
Cash	250,004	64,994	26%
Food systems are sustainable			
Commodity Voucher	2,491,673	3,113,715	125%
Cash	750,000	0	0%

Strategic Outcome and Output Results

Strategic Outcome 01: School children in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.				Root Causes	
Output Results					
Activity 02: Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme					
Detailed Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Activity supporters	Food assistance for asset	Female	413	0
			Male	413	0
			Total	826	0
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Activity supporters	School feeding (take-home rations)	Female	2,207	2,120
			Male	946	909
			Total	3,153	3,029
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Children (pre-primary)	School feeding (alternative take-home rations)	Female	0	7,034
			Male	0	7,322
			Total	0	14,356
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Children (pre-primary)	School feeding (on-site)	Female	7,405	7,342
			Male	7,707	7,642
			Total	15,112	14,984
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Students (primary schools)	School feeding (alternative take-home rations)	Female	0	34,021
			Male	0	35,410
			Total	0	69,431
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Students (primary schools)	School feeding (on-site)	Female	36,257	36,106
			Male	37,736	37,580
			Total	73,993	73,686
A.2: Food transfers			MT	2,208	1,816
Activity 03: Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities					
Detailed Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving cash-based transfers	All	Food assistance for asset	Female	0	9,481
			Male	0	9,482
			Total	0	18,963
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving cash-based transfers	Children (pre-primary)	School feeding (on-site)	Female	2,423	0
			Male	2,522	0
			Total	4,945	0
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving cash-based transfers	Students (primary schools)	School feeding (on-site)	Female	11,039	0
			Male	11,489	0
			Total	22,528	0
A.3: Cash-based transfers			US\$	250,004	64,994

Output Results				
Activity 01: Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities to Government of Lao				
Output indicator	Detailed indicator	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
C: Capacity development conducted to enhance communities and public sector in overcoming acute and transitory food insecurity				
Institutional capacity strengthening activities				
C.4*: Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.4*.1: Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	1,408	1,585

C.5*: Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.5*.1: Number of technical assistance activities provided	unit	5	2
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Activity 02: Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme

Output indicator	Detailed indicator	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
A: Food assistance to WFP targeted schools				
Individual capacity strengthening activities				
A.5: Quantity of non-food items distributed	A.5.MGD1.1.2: Number of textbooks and other teaching and learning materials provided	item	85,152	73,022
A.6: Number of institutional sites assisted	A.6.41: Number of physical and digital libraries established	unit	81	81
School feeding (on-site)				
A.5: Quantity of non-food items distributed	A.5.13: Quantity of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizer) distributed	non-food item	15	17
A.5: Quantity of non-food items distributed	A.5.14: Quantity of agricultural tools distributed	non-food item	81	81
A.5: Quantity of non-food items distributed	A.5.19: Quantity of kitchen utensils distributed (plates, spoons, cooking pots etc.)	non-food item	99,425	90,707
A.6: Number of institutional sites assisted	A.6.11: Number of institutional sites assisted	site	918	915
A.6: Number of institutional sites assisted	A.6.25: Number of schools with revitalised school gardens	school	275	254
A.6: Number of institutional sites assisted	A.6.54: Number of school-established fish ponds	fish pond	102	107
A.6: Number of institutional sites assisted	A.6.MGD2.4.B: Number of schools with improved sanitation facilities	school	109	30
N*: Food assistance to WFP targeted schools				
School feeding (on-site)				
N*.1: Feeding days as percentage of total school days	N*.1.1: Feeding days as percentage of total school days	%	85	65
N*.2: Average number of school days per month on which multi-fortified or at least 4 food groups were provided (nutrition-sensitive indicator)	N*.2.1: Average number of school days per month on which multi-fortified or at least 4 food groups were provided (nutrition-sensitive indicator)	Days	17	17
N*.5: Number of schools with infrastructure rehabilitated or constructed	N*.5.2: Number of kitchens or cook areas rehabilitated/constructed	unit	721	601

Outcome Results

Activity 01: Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities to Government of Lao

Outcome Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Pre-primary and Primary Student - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening - Subactivity: School feeding (on-site)								
Number of national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and system components enhanced as a result of WFP capacity strengthening (new)	Overall	0	≥1	≥1	1			WFP survey

Activity 02: Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme

Outcome Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Pre-Primary and Primary students - Location: Laos - Modality: Cash, Food - Subactivity: School feeding (on-site)								
Attendance rate (new)	Female	87	≥98	≥98	91.69	93.84	96.05	WFP
	Male	87.5	≥98	≥98	92.62	91.49	93.95	programme monitoring
	Overall	87.2	≥98	≥98	92.16	92.67	95	WFP programme monitoring
Enrolment rate	Female	92.15	≥98	≥98	96.77	97.1	97.11	Secondary data
	Male	93.25	≥98	≥98	97.48	97.6	98.12	Secondary data
	Overall	92.71	≥98	≥98	97.14	97.3	97.62	Secondary data
Retention rate / Drop-out rate (new): Drop-out rate	Female	5.45	≤5	≤5	6	4.1	5.37	Secondary data
	Male	5.75	≤5	≤5	6.18	4.9	4.83	Secondary data
	Overall	5.6	≤5	≤5	6.08	4.5	5.1	Secondary data

Strategic Outcome 02: Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025					Root Causes	
Output Results						
Activity 05: Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months						
Detailed Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual	
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Children	Prevention of stunting	Female	2,479	0	
			Male	2,521	0	
			Total	5,000	0	
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	Pregnant and lactating women	Prevention of stunting	Female	1,000	0	
			Total	1,000	0	
A.2: Food transfers			MT	43	0	
Activity 06: Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools						
Detailed Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual	
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving capacity strengthening transfers	All	Prevention of stunting	Female	40,725	40,721	
			Male	2,627	2,631	
			Total	43,352	43,352	

Output Results				
Activity 04: Provide technical assistance for evidence based policy dialogue				
Output indicator	Detailed indicator	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
C: Technical assistance to improve nutrition for targeted populations				
Institutional capacity strengthening activities				
C.4*: Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.4*.1: Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	140	199
C.5*: Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.5*.1: Number of technical assistance activities provided	unit	4	4
C.5*: Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.5*.2: Number of training sessions/workshop organized	training session	10	10
C.6*: Number of tools or products developed or revised to enhance national food security and nutrition systems as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)	C.6*.1: Number of tools or products developed	unit	3	3
C.7*: Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)	C.7*.1: Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)	Number	2	2
Activity 06: Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools				
Output indicator	Detailed indicator	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
C: Technical assistance to improve nutrition among targeted populations				
Institutional capacity strengthening activities				
C.4*: Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.4*.1: Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	192	150
C.5*: Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.5*.1: Number of technical assistance activities provided	unit	2	2
C.6*: Number of tools or products developed or revised to enhance national food security and nutrition systems as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)	C.6*.1: Number of tools or products developed	unit	2	3
C.7*: Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)	C.7*.1: Number of national institutions benefitting from embedded or seconded expertise as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)	Number	3	3
E*: Social behaviour change communication awareness campaign				
Prevention of stunting				
E*.4: Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches	E*.4.1: Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches (male)	Number	1,560	1,660
E*.4: Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches	E*.4.2: Number of people reached through interpersonal SBCC approaches (female)	Number	20,800	32,520

E*.5: Number of people reached through SBCC approaches using media	E*.5.2: Number of people reached through SBCC approaches using mid-sized media (i.e. community radio)	individual	2,000	2,500
F: Establish and strengthen access to local food farmers for communities				
Individual capacity strengthening activities				
F.1: Number of smallholder farmers supported/trained	F.1.63: Number of Village facilitators trained	individual	192	174
F.1: Number of smallholder farmers supported/trained	F.1.65: Number of PLW, mother with children under 2 who attended FNS session	individual	20,800	12,234
F.1: Number of smallholder farmers supported/trained	F.1.69: Number of planned targeted villages	village	120	120

Outcome Results								
Activity 05: Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months								
Outcome Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Children 6-23 months - Location: Laos - Modality: Food - Subactivity: Prevention of stunting								
Proportion of children 6-23 months of age who receive a minimum acceptable diet	Female	30.7	≥70	≥70			25.57	Secondary data Secondary data Secondary data
	Male	30.7	≥70	≥70			28.9	
	Overall	30.7	≥70	≥70			27.23	
Proportion of eligible population that participates in programme (coverage)	Female	91.5	≥100	≥100		97	92	WFP programme monitoring WFP programme monitoring WFP programme monitoring
	Male	91.5	≥100	≥100		97	92	
	Overall	91.5	≥100	≥100		97	92	
Activity 06: Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools								
Outcome Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: PLW - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening - Subactivity: Prevention of stunting								
Minimum Dietary Diversity – Women	Overall		≥80	≥80	80.2	88		WFP survey
Target Group: ddd - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening - Subactivity: Prevention of stunting								
Number of national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and system components enhanced as a result of WFP capacity strengthening (new)	Overall	0	=3	=3	2			WFP programme monitoring

Strategic Outcome 03: Vulnerable households in climate sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses				Resilience Building	
Output Results					
Activity 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities					
Detailed Indicator	Beneficiary Group	Sub Activity	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving capacity strengthening transfers	All	Climate adaptation and risk management activities	Female	1,274	1,274
			Male	1,326	1,326
			Total	2,600	2,600
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving capacity strengthening transfers	All	Food assistance for asset	Female	1,618	1,551
			Male	1,172	1,123
			Total	2,790	2,674
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving cash-based transfers	All	Food assistance for asset	Female	5,000	0
			Male	5,000	0
			Total	10,000	0
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving commodity vouchers transfers	All	General Distribution	Female	24,249	30,515
			Male	24,247	31,513
			Total	48,496	62,028
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	All	Food assistance for asset	Female	8,838	9,481
			Male	8,839	9,482
			Total	17,677	18,963
A.1: Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	All	General Distribution	Female	30,982	10,202
			Male	30,981	10,204
			Total	61,963	20,406
A.2: Food transfers			MT	1,035	590
A.3: Cash-based transfers			US\$	750,000	0
A.4: Commodity Vouchers transfers			US\$	2,491,673	3,113,715

Output Results				
Activity 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities				
Output indicator	Detailed indicator	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual
A: Food and cash assistance for assets creation				
Food assistance for asset				
A.1: Number of women, men, boys and girls receiving food/cash-based transfers/commodity vouchers/capacity strengthening transfers	A.1.13: Number of women-headed households that receive food assistance	individual	3,224	3,658
C: Capacity strengthening to enable community resilience				
Institutional capacity strengthening activities				
C.4*: Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.4*.1: Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	200	114
C.5*: Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.5*.1: Number of technical assistance activities provided	unit	15	15
C.5*: Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.5*.2: Number of training sessions/workshop organized	training session	30	43
D: Food and cash assistance for assets creation				
Food assistance for asset				
D.1: Number of assets built, restored or maintained by targeted households and communities, by type and unit of measure	D.1.67: Number of fish ponds constructed	Number	13	13
G: Capacity strengthening to enable community resilience				
Climate adaptation and risk management activities				
G.8*: Number of people provided with direct access to information on climate and weather risks	G.8*.4: Number of people provided with direct access to information on climate and weather risks through face-to-face communication channels	Number	2,640	2,640

Outcome Results								
Activity 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities								
Outcome Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Government Counterpart - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening - Subactivity: Climate adaptation and risk management activities								
Number of national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and system components enhanced as a result of WFP capacity strengthening (new)	Overall	0	=6	=6	4	3	2	WFP programme monitoring
Target Group: Household - Location: Laos - Modality: Cash, Food - Subactivity: Food assistance for asset								
Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (Average)	Overall		<10	<10	0.8	4.06		WFP programme monitoring
Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (Percentage of households with reduced CSI)	Overall		<53.1	<53.1	27.1	53.1		WFP survey

Food Consumption Score: Percentage of households with Acceptable Food Consumption Score	Overall		>72	>72	72.3	54		WFP programme monitoring
Food Consumption Score: Percentage of households with Borderline Food Consumption Score	Overall		≤21	≤21	20.5	29		WFP programme monitoring
Food Consumption Score: Percentage of households with Poor Food Consumption Score	Overall		≤7	≤7	7.2	15		WFP programme monitoring
Proportion of the population in targeted communities reporting benefits from an enhanced livelihood asset base	Overall		≥70	≥70	90		98	WFP survey
Target Group: household - Location: Laos - Modality: Cash, Food - Subactivity: Food assistance for asset								
Livelihood-based Coping Strategy Index (Percentage of households using coping strategies): Percentage of households not using livelihood based coping strategies	Overall		>85	>85	90			WFP programme monitoring
Livelihood-based Coping Strategy Index (Percentage of households using coping strategies): Percentage of households using crisis coping strategies	Overall		<5	<5	3			WFP programme monitoring
Livelihood-based Coping Strategy Index (Percentage of households using coping strategies): Percentage of households using emergency coping strategies	Overall		<5	<5	2			WFP programme monitoring
Livelihood-based Coping Strategy Index (Percentage of households using coping strategies): Percentage of households using stress coping strategies	Overall		<5	<5	5			WFP programme monitoring

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	
Output Results					
Activity 08: Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance					
Output indicator	Detailed indicator	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual	
C: Technical assistance and capacity development					
Institutional capacity strengthening activities					
C.4*: Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.4*.1: Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	240	205	
C.5*: Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.5*.1: Number of technical assistance activities provided	unit	10	10	
Activity 09: Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions					
Output indicator	Detailed indicator	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual	
C: Technical assistance provided					
Institutional capacity strengthening activities					
C.4*: Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.4*.1: Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	2,800	2,449	
C.5*: Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.5*.1: Number of technical assistance activities provided	unit	5	7	
Activity 10: Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters					
Output indicator	Detailed indicator	Unit of measure	Planned	Actual	
C: Technical assistance and support to partners					
Emergency preparedness activities					
C.4*: Number of people engaged in capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.4*.1: Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	200	126	
C.5*: Number of capacity strengthening initiatives facilitated by WFP to enhance national food security and nutrition stakeholder capacities (new)	C.5*.1: Number of technical assistance activities provided	unit	6	5	
Institutional capacity strengthening activities					
C.6*: Number of tools or products developed or revised to enhance national food security and nutrition systems as a result of WFP capacity strengthening support (new)	C.6*.1: Number of tools or products developed	unit	5	4	
K: Technical assistance and support to partners					
Emergency preparedness activities					
K.1: Number of partners supported	K.1.1: Number of partners supported	partner	5	5	

Outcome Results					
Activity 08: Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance					

Outcome Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Government Counterpart - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening - Subactivity: Institutional capacity strengthening activities								
Number of national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and system components enhanced as a result of WFP capacity strengthening (new)	Overall	0	=3	=3	3	2		WFP programme monitoring
Activity 09: Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions								
Outcome Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Government Counterpart - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening - Subactivity: Institutional capacity strengthening activities								
Number of national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and system components enhanced as a result of WFP capacity strengthening (new)	Overall	0	=3	=3	3	2	1	Secondary data
Activity 10: Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters								
Outcome Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Government Counterpart - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening - Subactivity: Institutional capacity strengthening activities								
Number of national food security and nutrition policies, programmes and system components enhanced as a result of WFP capacity strengthening (new)	Overall	0	=3	=3	3	2	1	Secondary data

Cross-cutting Indicators

Progress towards gender equality indicators

Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population								
Activity 02: Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Pre-primary and Primary students - Location: Laos - Modality: Cash, Food - Subactivity: School feeding (on-site)								
Proportion of food assistance decision-making entity – committees, boards, teams, etc. – members who are women - -	Overall	29	≥35	≥35	23	21	29	Secondary data
Activity 06: Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Pregnant & lactating women (PLW) - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening, Cash - Subactivity: Prevention of stunting								
Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - Decisions jointly made by women and men	Overall	50	≥60	≥60	95	93		Secondary data
Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - Decisions made by men	Overall	30	≤20	≤20	1	1		Secondary data
Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - Decisions made by women	Overall	20	≤20	≤20	4	6		Secondary data
Activity 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Men and Women - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening, Cash, Food - Subactivity: Food assistance for asset								
Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - Decisions jointly made by women and men	Overall	34	≥34	≥34	73	69	76	WFP programme monitoring
Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - Decisions made by men	Overall	30	≤33	≤33	21	16	7	WFP programme monitoring

Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality - Decisions made by women	Overall	36	≤33	≤33	6	15	17	WFP programme monitoring
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Protection indicators

Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity								
Activity 02: Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Pre-primary school and Primary students - Location: Laos - Modality: Cash, Food - Subactivity: School feeding (on-site)								
Proportion of targeted people who report that WFP programmes are dignified (new)	Female	90	≥98	≥98	100	100	96	WFP programme monitoring
--	Male	90	≥98	≥98	100	100	96	-
--	Overall	90	≥98	≥98	100	100	96	-
Activity 06: Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: PLW - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening, Cash - Subactivity: Prevention of stunting								
Proportion of targeted people accessing assistance without protection challenges -	Female	0	=100	=100	88			-
-	Overall	0	=100	=100	88			WFP programme monitoring
Proportion of targeted people having unhindered access to WFP programmes (new) - -	Female	0	=100	=100	100			-
--	Overall	0	=100	=100	100			WFP programme monitoring
Proportion of targeted people receiving assistance without safety challenges (new) - -	Female	0	=100	=100	99			WFP programme monitoring
--	Overall	0	=100	=100	99			-
Proportion of targeted people who report that WFP programmes are dignified (new)	Female	0	=100	=100	98			WFP programme monitoring
--	Overall	0	=100	=100	98			-
Activity 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Men and Women - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening, Cash, Food - Subactivity: Food assistance for asset								
Proportion of targeted people accessing assistance without protection challenges -	Female	0	=100	=100	95			WFP programme monitoring
-	Male	0	=100	=100	95			WFP programme monitoring
--	Overall	0	=100	=100	95			WFP programme monitoring
Proportion of targeted people having unhindered access to WFP programmes (new) - -	Female	0	=100	=100	100	94	94	Secondary data
--	Male	0	=100	=100	100	96	96	Secondary data
--	Overall	0	=100	=100	100	95	95	Secondary data
Proportion of targeted people who report that WFP programmes are dignified (new)	Female	90	≥95	≥95	98	90	94	-
--	Male	90	≥95	≥95	98	90	94	-
--	Overall	90	≥95	≥95	98	90	94	-
Target Group: Men and women - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening, Cash, Food - Subactivity: Food assistance for asset								

Proportion of targeted people receiving assistance without safety challenges (new) - -	Female	98	≥98	≥98	100	99	96	WFP
	Male	96	≥95	≥95	100	99	96	programme
	Overall	97	≥97	≥97	100	99	96	monitoring
								WFP
								programme
								monitoring
								WFP
								programme
								monitoring

Accountability to affected population indicators

Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences								
Activity 02: Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Pre- Primary and Primary students - Location: Laos - Modality: Cash, Food - Subactivity: School feeding (on-site)								
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) - -	Female	84		≥85	98	88	96	WFP programme monitoring WFP programme monitoring WFP programme monitoring
	Male	82		≥85	99	88	96	
	Overall	83		≥85	99	88	96	
Target Group: Pre- Primary and Primary students - Location: Laos - Modality: Food - Subactivity: School feeding (on-site)								
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) - -	Female		≥85	≥85				-
	Male		≥85	≥85				-
	Overall		≥85	≥85				-
Target Group: Pre-primary and Primary students - Location: Laos - Modality: Cash, Food - Subactivity:								
Proportion of project activities for which beneficiary feedback is documented, analysed and integrated into programme improvements - -	Overall	75	=100	=100	100	100	100	WFP programme monitoring
Activity 06: Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: PLW attending FNS session - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening, Cash - Subactivity: Prevention of stunting								
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) - -	Female	0	≥80	≥80	59			-
	Overall	0	≥80	≥80	59			WFP programme monitoring
Target Group: Pregnant & Lactating women (PLW) and (men who are village facilitator) - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening - Subactivity: Prevention of stunting								
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) - -	Female	84	≥85	≥85	52	85	85	WFP programme monitoring WFP programme monitoring WFP programme monitoring
	Male	82	≥85	≥85	77	85	84	
	Overall	83	≥85	≥85	64.5	85	85	
Activity 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Men and Women - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening, Cash, Food - Subactivity:								
Proportion of project activities for which beneficiary feedback is documented, analysed and integrated into programme improvements - -	Overall	75	=100	=100	100	100	100	WFP programme monitoring

Target Group: Men and Women - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening, Cash, Food - Subactivity: Food assistance for asset								
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance) - -	Female	84	≥85	≥85	46	86	86	WFP
	Male	82	≥85	≥85	51	86	86	programme
	Overall	83	≥85	≥85	48	86	86	monitoring
								WFP
								programme
								monitoring
								WFP
								programme
								monitoring

Environment indicators

Targeted communities benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that does not harm the environment								
Activity 01: Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities to Government of Lao								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Pre& Primary student - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening - Subactivity: School feeding (on-site)								
Proportion of FLAs/MOUs/CCs for CSP activities screened for environmental and social risk - -	Overall	0	=100	=100				-
Activity 02: Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Pre& primary student - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening, Food - Subactivity: School feeding (on-site)								
Proportion of FLAs/MOUs/CCs for CSP activities screened for environmental and social risk - -	Overall	0	=100	=100	100			WFP programme monitoring
Activity 03: Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Pre& primary student - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening, Cash - Subactivity: School feeding (on-site)								
Proportion of FLAs/MOUs/CCs for CSP activities screened for environmental and social risk - -	Overall	0	=100	=100				-
Activity 04: Provide technical assistance for evidence based policy dialogue								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Individual and Institution - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening - Subactivity: Institutional capacity strengthening activities								
Proportion of FLAs/MOUs/CCs for CSP activities screened for environmental and social risk - -	Overall	0	=100	=100				WFP programme monitoring
Activity 05: Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: PLW & Children under 5 - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening, Food - Subactivity: Prevention of stunting								
Proportion of FLAs/MOUs/CCs for CSP activities screened for environmental and social risk - -	Overall	0	=100	=100				WFP programme monitoring
Activity 06: Develop a social behavior change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Pregnant and Lactating women - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening - Subactivity: Individual capacity strengthening activities								
Proportion of FLAs/MOUs/CCs for CSP activities screened for environmental and social risk - -	Overall	0	=100	=100				-
Activity 07: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities								
CrossCutting Indicator	Sex	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2021 Target	2021 Follow-up	2020 Follow-up	2019 Follow-up	source
Target Group: Men and Women - Location: Laos - Modality: Capacity Strengthening, Cash, Commodity Voucher, Food - Subactivity: Food assistance for asset								

Proportion of FLAs/MOUs/CCs for CSP activities screened for environmental and social risk - -	Overall	0	=100	=100	100	100		WFP survey
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Cover page photo © WFP Laos / Ildiko Hamos

Sor Yang from northern Laos bought a pig with a women's farmer group grant from WFP, also contributing to local school lunches.

World Food Programme

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

Financial Section

Financial information is taken from WFP's financial records which have been submitted to WFP's auditors.

Annual Country Report

Laos Country Portfolio Budget 2021 (2017-2021)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021 (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

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Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021 (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	680,267	906,188	652,911	329,764
		Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme	6,450,613	9,722,615	9,416,391	5,148,929
		Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities	1,641,780	3,509,954	2,867,751	1,600,007
		Non Activity Specific			0	
Subtotal Strategic Result 1. Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)			8,772,660	14,138,757	12,937,053	7,078,701
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	3,187,085	2,653,945	2,041,011	990,963
		Provide technical assistance for evidence based policy dialogue	114,000	159,500	174,909	142,025
		Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months	496,690	113,301	101,150	45,144
Subtotal Strategic Result 2. No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)			3,797,775	2,926,746	2,317,071	1,178,132

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Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021 (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	4,633,988	2,765,624	6,041,324	4,986,913
Subtotal Strategic Result 4. Food systems are sustainable (SDG Target 2.4)			4,633,988	2,765,624	6,041,324	4,986,913
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	97,990	92,040	26,131	14,343
		Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions	797,411	497,411	503,513	354,893
		Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters	42,500	42,500	235,962	49,111
Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)			937,901	631,951	765,606	418,347
	Non SO Specific	Non Activity Specific	0	0	731	0
Subtotal Strategic Result			0	0	731	0
Total Direct Operational Cost			18,142,325	20,463,079	22,061,785	13,662,092
Direct Support Cost (DSC)			1,608,791	1,800,515	2,470,881	1,386,759
Total Direct Costs			19,751,116	22,263,594	24,532,666	15,048,851
Indirect Support Cost (ISC)			1,283,823	1,447,134	384,027	384,027

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Annual Country Report

Laos Country Portfolio Budget 2021 (2017-2021)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
Grand Total			21,034,939	23,710,728	24,916,693	15,432,878



Wanee Piyabongkarn
Chief

Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch

Columns Definition

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

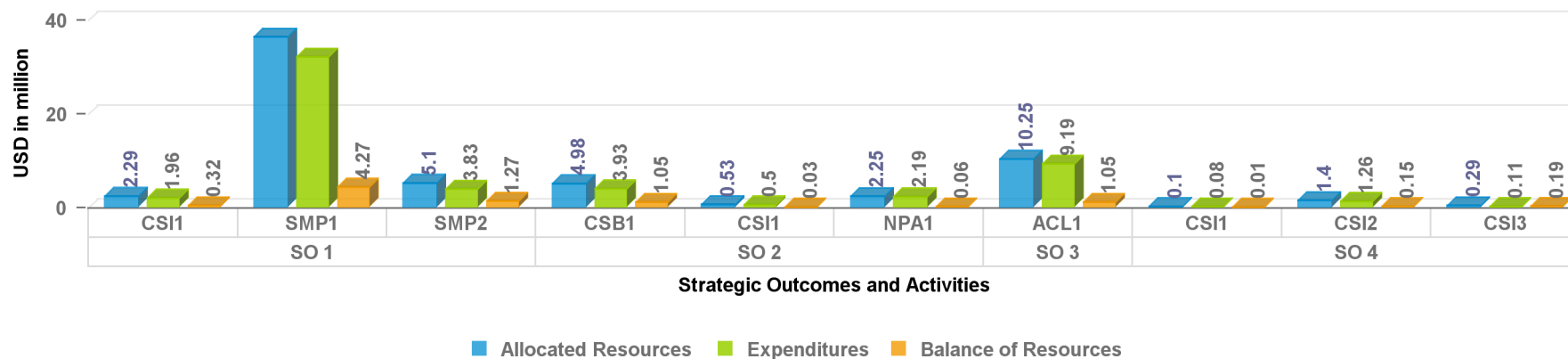
Monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting year

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Laos Country Portfolio Budget 2021 (2017-2021)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2021 (Amount in USD)

Cumulative 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 2021 (2017-2021)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2021 (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.	Accelerate the implementation of the Government of Lao's plan of action of the school meals programme	39,049,034	36,287,556	0	36,287,556	32,020,095	4,267,461
		Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities to Government of Lao	3,678,611	2,285,801	0	2,285,801	1,962,654	323,147
		Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities	5,421,603	5,098,026	0	5,098,026	3,830,282	1,267,744
		Non Activity Specific	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Strategic Result 1. Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)			48,149,248	43,671,382	0	43,671,382	37,813,031	5,858,352

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Annual Country Report

Laos Country Portfolio Budget 2021 (2017-2021)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2021 (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	8,028,750	4,978,033	0	4,978,033	3,927,984	1,050,048
		Provide technical assistance for evidence based policy dialogue	1,732,862	533,136	0	533,136	500,251	32,885
		Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6-23 months	4,322,595	2,249,508	0	2,249,508	2,193,502	56,006
Subtotal Strategic Result 2. No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)			14,084,207	7,760,677	0	7,760,677	6,621,738	1,138,939
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	12,254,686	9,707,915	541,033	10,248,948	9,194,536	1,054,411
Subtotal Strategic Result 4. Food systems are sustainable (SDG Target 2.4)			12,254,686	9,707,915	541,033	10,248,948	9,194,536	1,054,411

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Annual Country Report

Laos Country Portfolio Budget 2021 (2017-2021)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2021 (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	Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security solutions	3,229,516	1,404,105	0	1,404,105	1,255,485	148,620
		Enhance government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters	475,699	294,399	0	294,399	107,548	186,851
		Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance	1,226,487	96,711	0	96,711	84,922	11,789
Subtotal Strategic Result 5. Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG Target 17.9)			4,931,702	1,795,215	0	1,795,215	1,447,956	347,259
	Non SO Specific	Non Activity Specific	0	731	0	731	0	731
Subtotal Strategic Result			0	731	0	731	0	731
Total Direct Operational Cost			79,419,843	62,935,920	541,033	63,476,953	55,077,261	8,399,692
Direct Support Cost (DSC)			7,670,974	6,902,817	0	6,902,817	5,818,695	1,084,123
Total Direct Costs			87,090,817	69,838,737	541,033	70,379,770	60,895,955	9,483,815

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Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2021 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
		Indirect Support Cost (ISC)	5,739,017	4,865,690		4,865,690	4,865,690	0
		Grand Total	92,829,834	74,704,427	541,033	75,245,460	65,761,645	9,483,815

This donor financial report is interim



Wannee Piyabongkarn
Chief

Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch

Columns Definition

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