



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Cash distributions for household nutrition

Garden and livestock grants ensure availability of nutritious food

In 400 villages in the Northern provinces of Lao PDR (Oudomxay, Phongsaly, Xieng Khouang and Houaphan), the Agriculture for Nutrition project aims to contribute to reducing extreme poverty and malnutrition in the poorest communities. The development objective is to improve and diversify agricultural production and household nutrition to enhance life prospects.

Farmer Nutrition Schools, community nutrition learning centers, make use of basic information material and visual aids to promote the community to apply good nutrition behavior. Practical learning sessions aimed mainly at women share information about household nutrition, menu planning, food preservation and processing, dietary diversity and nutrition-sensitive gardening.

As an incentive to apply the newly acquired knowledge, the World Food Programme (WFP) is targeting 10,000 beneficiaries and distributing cash grants equal to LAK 1 million (70 USD) to each beneficiary that successfully complete the Farmer Nutrition School learning modules. These cash grants are used for small investments in family home-gardens, to cultivate nutrient-dense crops and rear small livestock, such as poultry and fish.



Distributions to 5,483 families in 316 villages

Throughout May and June 2022, WFP field staff distributed 5,483 cash grants to women across 316 villages in 12 districts, in four northern provinces. With the early rainy season posing considerable challenges, WFP field staff visited hundreds of villages in remote areas. These areas are mostly without access to banking services and WFP staff traveled on muddy and slippery roads, resorting to creative techniques of transportation wherever needed.



Distributions are implemented adhering to strict WFP protocol, including beneficiary registration, transparency and post-distribution monitoring. Clear information about community feedback mechanisms, such as a telephone number that beneficiaries can call in case of questions and grievances, ensures that WFP observes its principles of accountability to affected populations.

In areas where financial service providers are present, WFP field staff accompanied the distributions for monitoring purposes.



WFP staff, together with local staff from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry will continue to monitor the technical aspects of the household gardens. Previous experience shows that such small-scale home gardens contribute not only to household food security and nutrition, but also generate small cash income from sales of surplus produce, mainly in the form of chickens, ducks, eggs and fish. As such, these household gardens are an important tool in the fight against malnutrition and poverty.

