

**Management response for the Final Evaluation  
of the FY14 USDA McGovern-Dole WFP School Feeding Program in Laos  
February 2018**

<b>Evaluation Recommendations</b>	<b>Baseline evaluation management actions</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
<i>Please include all evaluation recommendations identified in the evaluation report. USDA and the implementer may include additional findings, conclusions, and recommendations listed throughout the narrative of the report, as appropriate.</i>	<i>Please include the organization's response to each of the evaluation recommendations. This should include a discussion of the key actions the project intends to take to address the evaluation findings.</i>	<i>Please include the relevant time frame necessary to address and implement the various actions described in the Management Response. Multiple time frames may be given.</i>
<b>Recommendation 1:</b> Children should not be leaving school during lunch break		
Please provide details on action plan for next steps.	<p><b>Management Response: Accepted</b></p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b> This issue was raised by WFP during School Meals handover workshop at Luang Prabang, June 2018. Based on the workshop, Ministry of Education and Sports agreed to issue a circular on this issue.</p> <p>In addition, WFP will continue partnering with Big Brother Mouse, World Education, Save the Children, Child Fund, Plan International, and with national and local children cultural centers on improving behavioral changes.</p> <p><b>Take by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministry of Education and Sports</li> <li>- WFP Lao PDR</li> <li>- Members of education sectors working group INGOs, LNGOs.</li> </ul>	Academic year 2018/2019 until 2021/2022.
<b>Recommendation 2:</b> Improving access to water in schools		
Please provide details on action plan for next steps.	<p><b>Management Response: Partially accepted</b></p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b></p>	Phase 1 of FY17 award:

	<p>In addition to improve school gardens with accessible water source in schools, WFP is in final stages of partnering with National Center for Environmental Health and Water Supply (NCEHWS) known as “Namsaat” to assess water conditions, type of water sources and the quality of water in handover schools. Namsaat will also provide technical supports on installation of water connection and water filter systems in handover schools to ensure that the schools have access to water for drinking water, cooking, school gardens and handwashing.</p> <p>Initial assessment on 221 schools had been completed by Namsaat as part of their project proposal.</p> <p><b>Action by:</b> WFP Lao PDR Namsaat Ministry of Education and Sports</p>	<p>- Jan-Dec 2019</p> <p>Phase 2 of FY17 award: 2020-2021 based on phase 1 evaluation.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 3:</b> Training of a group of cooks in each school</p>		
<p>Please provide details on action plan for next steps.</p>	<p><b>Management Response: Partially accepted</b></p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b></p> <p>WFP is rolling out the training for the master cook from Lao Women Union. They will act as trainers for school cooks. Subjects of training include cooking, food safety, basic nutrition awareness.</p>	<p>2018-2021</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 4:</b> Strengthening gender dimensions of the project- cooking</p>		
<p>Please provide details on action plan for next steps.</p>	<p><b>Management Response: Accepted</b></p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b></p> <p>Storage keepers are male and involved in cooking practices under WFP’s supported project.</p> <p>To enhance the ownership, WFP engages in a dialogue with communities about equal participation in cooking and storage management by both female and male community members.</p> <p><b>Action by:</b> Ministry of Education and Sports Lao Women Union Lao Front for National Development</p>	<p>Sept 2018- 2021</p>

	Lao Youth Union WFP Lao PDR	
<b>Recommendation 5:</b> Strengthening gender dimensions of the project- managing commodities		
Please provide details on action plan for next steps.	<p><b>Management Response: Accepted</b></p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b> To enhance the ownership, WFP engages in a dialogue with communities about equal participation in cooking and storage management by both female and male.</p> <p>WFP will offer training on Storage Management and Hygiene to communities</p> <p><b>Action by:</b> Lao Women Union Ministry of Education and Sports WFP Lao PDR</p>	<p>2018-2021</p> <p>2019 (Feb-May and Sept-Dec) and onward till 2021.</p>
<b>Recommendation 6:</b> Convergence between the horizontal and vertical structures of the government		
Please provide details on action plan for next steps.	<p><b>Management Response: Accepted</b></p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b> Relevant ministries (e.g. MPI, MoES, MAF) shall take lead, identify roles and responsibilities to organize the review and planning meetings at provincial and district level; and ensure that detailed work plans and budgets are discussed for implementation It was agreed to conduct a joint hand-over workshop involving 4 ministries (Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Public Investment, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and Ministry of Health). The meeting will be led by Ministry of Education and Sports to discuss the school lunch handover and take over by government of Lao.</p> <p><b>Action by:</b> Ministry of Planning and Investment Ministry of Education and Sports Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Ministry of Health WFP Lao PDR</p>	<p>2018-2021</p>

<b>Recommendation 7:</b> Harmonization of MAF's technical support to school gardens and crop diversification for farmers		
Please provide details on action plan for next steps.	<p><b>Management Response: Accepted</b></p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b></p> <p>A directive on school garden is being prepared by Ministry of Education and Sports, and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. This directive is expected to improve coordination and facilitation by Provincial and District Agriculture and Forestry Offices on school garden programme.</p> <p>As per WFP Activity 2 work-plan point 2.22, 2.24, and 2.25. The Non Food Items for school garden for academic year 2018/2019 has been delivered to Oct 2018.</p> <p><b>Action by:</b>  Ministry of Education and Sports  Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  WFP Lao PDR</p>	2018: Oct and Dec. 2019: Jan-May and Aug-Sept
<b>Recommendation 8:</b> Capacity building of all stakeholders to deepen their understanding around community led school feeding programme.		
Please provide details on action plan for next steps.	<p><b>Management Response: Accepted</b></p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b></p> <p>The objective of FY17-21 is to build capacity of communities and government to take over school lunch programme by 2021.</p> <p>WFP is with support from USDA investing in community mobilization and capacity strengthening at all levels.</p> <p>More coaching and consultations at community level shall be facilitated by WFP in cooperation with Ministry Staff in the 9 handover districts.</p> <p>Community Capacity Assessment (CCA) was done and identified the package assistance for the 9 handover districts being implemented.</p> <p>Handover meetings with various stakeholders held at central and provincial level in April-June 2018</p> <p><b>Action by:</b>  Ministry of Education and Sports  Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  WFP Lao PDR</p>	2018-2021

<b>Recommendation 9:</b> Strengthening of M&E systems		
Please provide details on action plan for next steps.	<p><b>Management Response: Accepted</b></p> <p><b>Action to be taken:</b></p> <p>The main issue raised by evaluators are the maintenance of school records on enrolment, attendance, dropout, and repetitions. All of which closely relate to Ministry of Education and Sports – Education Management Information System authority and responsibility. WFP is initiating closer collaboration with MOES-EMIS department to strengthen reporting on education indicators.</p> <p>In June 2018 WFP Lao has re-designed a simpler monthly reporting books. These reporting books were delivered to all schools for the academic year 2018/2019.</p> <p>WFP partners with Lao Front for National Development, in which Lao Front will collect the hard-copies of the monthly report and submit to WFP field offices.</p> <p><b>Action by:</b> WFP Lao PDR Ministry of Education and Sports – Education Management Information System</p>	November 2018-2021.