

Distribution: General
Date: 23 January 2017
Original: English

Agenda Item 7
WFP/EB.1/2017/7/6
Country Strategic Plans
For approval

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Lao People's Democratic Republic Country Strategic Plan (2017–2021)

Duration	1 March 2017–31 December 2021
Total cost to WFP	USD 85,344,103
Gender marker*	2A

* <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/gm-overview-en.pdf>

Executive Summary

Lao People's Democratic Republic is moving towards middle-income country status. Economic growth is strong, with reduced poverty and a decline in the proportion of hungry people. However, the country is behind on stunting reduction, and one-fifth of the population consumes less than the minimum dietary energy requirements.

This Country Strategic Plan supports the Government's vision of "a prosperous country, with a healthy population, free from food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty." It takes important steps in WFP's new strategic direction for strengthened national and local capacities to enable the Government and communities to own, manage and implement food and nutrition security programmes by 2030.

Lao People's Democratic Republic is in transition. This Country Strategic Plan builds on investments made since 2012 as WFP transitioned from emergency and recovery to development work, and entails a shift from direct delivery of programmes for enhancing schoolchildren's access to food, preventing stunting – with a focus on the first 1,000 days following conception – and building the resilience of vulnerable communities towards increased policy engagement, capacity development and knowledge sharing in preparation for the hand-over of gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate programmes.

The Country Strategic Plan is based on consultations with the Government, development partners and beneficiaries, contextual and gender analysis, and gap analysis and recommendations from the national strategic review on food and nutrition security.

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It seeks to achieve the following strategic outcomes:

- i) Schoolchildren in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.
- ii) Stunting rates among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025.
- iii) Vulnerable households in climate-sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses.
- iv) National and local governance institutions are strengthened to improve service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas, by 2025.

The Country Strategic Plan will contribute to implementation of the Government's National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016–2020), sector strategies and plans of action and the United Nations Partnership Framework (2017–2021), and to achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17. It is aligned with WFP's Strategic Results 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Draft decision*

The Board approves Lao People's Democratic Republic Country Strategic Plan (2017–2021) (WFP/EB.1/2017/7/6) at a total cost to WFP of USD 85.3 million.

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

1. Country Analysis

1.1 Country Context

1. Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is a land-locked and least-developed country, ranking 141st of 188 countries in the 2015 Human Development Index.¹ The country's population of 6.5 million people² is predominantly rural and ethnically diverse, with 49 officially recognized ethnic groups.
2. Lao PDR ranks as the world's 73rd most vulnerable country to climate change³ because of its dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources and its low adaptive capacity. It is susceptible to drought, floods and typhoons.
3. Annual growth in gross domestic product (GDP) is about 7 percent,⁴ largely from exploitation of natural resources. This growth contrasts with rising inequalities among regions and population groups.
4. Lao PDR ranks 57th of 145 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2015. Based on documents from Lao Women's Union, it is estimated that only 3 percent of village heads are women, and village committees often have only one woman member. The adult literacy rate is 77.4 percent for men and 68.7 for women,⁵ reflecting gender inequalities, which are magnified in remote ethnic communities. While the overall primary school enrolment rate is 98 percent, rates in areas with school meals are up to 8 percent higher than those in areas without. Attendance remains low, particularly in rural areas and among ethnic groups.

1.2 Progress Towards SDG 2

Progress on SDG 2 targets

5. *Access to food.* While Lao PDR has managed to reduce the proportion of hungry poor people from 33 to 23 percent over the past decade,⁴ the 2015 Global Hunger Index still rates hunger levels in the country as "serious".⁶
6. On average, 14 percent of the rural population is food-insecure. A household's access to food is constrained by poverty, declining land availability, volatile farmgate prices and low agricultural productivity. Changing climate patterns combined with poor access to both markets and diverse livelihoods worsen the situation in remote upland areas, where 25 percent of households are food-insecure.
7. Food and nutrition insecurity is closely associated with poverty and vulnerability. An estimated 30 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line of USD 1.25 per day.¹
8. *Nutrition.* Malnutrition remains a major challenge, with stunting affecting 37.6 percent of boys and 33.6 percent of girls.⁷ The annual economic cost of undernutrition is estimated at 2.4 percent of GDP, or USD 197 million.⁸

¹ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Human Development Report 2015.

² Of whom 50.3 percent are women or girls, and 49.7 percent are men or boys. Lao Statistics Bureau and World Bank. 2014. Poverty Profile in Lao PDR; and Lao Statistics Bureau. 2015. Results of the Population and Housing Census, 2015.

³ Germanwatch e.V. Global Climate Risk Index. 2016.

⁴ Lao Statistics Bureau and World Bank 2014. Poverty Profile in Lao PDR.

⁵ Lao Social Indicator Survey. 2011–2012.

⁶ International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). 2015. *2015 Global Hunger Index: Armed Conflict and the Challenge of Hunger*.

⁷ Ministry of Health and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). 2015. Lao Child Anthropometry Assessment Survey, add-on to the 2015 National Immunization Survey, 2015.

⁸ National Economic Research Institute (NERI), 2013. *The Economic Consequences of Malnutrition in Lao PDR: A Damage Assessment Report*.

9. Malnutrition is influenced by dietary restrictions during pregnancy and suboptimal child feeding practices linked to cultural beliefs and taboos. Only 40 percent of children under 6 months of age are exclusively breastfed, and 52 percent of infants aged 6–8 months receive complementary feeding.⁵
10. Causes of malnutrition include poverty; low education levels; insufficient access to potable water; poor sanitary conditions; geographic isolation; lack of basic health care, disease treatment and prevention; and traditional gender norms and child weaning practices.
11. *Smallholder farmer productivity and incomes.* Lao PDR is a predominantly agrarian society; 76 percent of households are engaged in agriculture,⁹ which accounts for 23.2 percent of GDP.¹⁰ Productivity in the non-farm sector is low.¹¹ Subsistence farming remains widespread, with 90 percent of rural households growing rice and 30 percent growing additional crops.
12. Livelihoods are sensitive to changes in food prices and the availability of land. As there are more sellers than buyers of rice, especially in surplus areas in the country's centre and south, an increase in rice prices has a net benefit, while a decrease results in reduced welfare.
13. *Sustainable food systems.* Climate change is a major challenge faced by rural livelihoods. Changes in rainfall quantities and the onset of the rainy season affect the conditions for paddy and cash crops. Increases in temperature and shorter but more intense rainy seasons increase the risk of both drought and floods. Only 17 percent of cultivable land is utilized, mainly for rice. The availability of forest foods is declining as a result of deforestation and inappropriate gathering methods.¹² These challenges increase women's workload and reduce dietary diversity for vulnerable communities.

Macroeconomic environment

14. Lao PDR is one of the fastest growing economies in the East Asia and Pacific region. The economic outlook remains favourable, with GDP growth of about 7 percent expected to continue, supported by the power sector and increasing integration into the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).¹³

Key cross-sector linkages

15. All strategic outcomes will contribute to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and be in synergy with the other SDGs, particularly SDG 5 on gender, SDG 4 on education (strategic outcome 1), and SDG 13 on climate action (strategic outcome 3) and sustainable development.

1.3 Hunger Gaps and Challenges

16. The national strategic review of food and nutrition security carried out in 2015/2016 involved consultations with stakeholders at the central level and in 17 provinces, including the Government, United Nations agencies, financial institutions, civil society, the private sector, academia and groups of women and men in communities. Members of the team carrying out the review visited Viet Nam to learn how it achieved food and nutrition security.
17. The review identified the following main challenges: i) weaknesses in the governance structures for addressing the complex and cross-sector issues of food and nutrition security and translating strategies and plans into implementation; ii) insufficient budget to achieve SDG 2 targets; iii) limited social protection and safety nets; iv) persistent cultural taboos and poor nutrition knowledge; v) uneven access to food; vi) low levels of productivity among smallholder farmers; and vii) increased vulnerability to climate risks and decreased capacity to cope with weather variations among smallholder farmers.

⁹ Lao Census of Agriculture, 2010–2011.

¹⁰ Lao Statistics Bureau. 2014. Statistical Yearbook 2014.

¹¹ World Bank. 2014. *Drivers of Poverty Reduction*.

¹² Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. 2016. Comprehensive Food Security Assessment.

¹³ World Bank, 2016. Overview: Lao PDR.

1.4 Country Priorities

Government

18. Lao PDR has well-defined national strategies guiding socio-economic programmes. The objectives of the 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) are to graduate to middle-income country (MIC) status, eradicate poverty, achieve sustainable human development, and ensure effective management and utilization of natural resources.
19. The National Nutrition Strategy (2016–2025) and Action Plan (2016–2020) emphasize a multi-sector and cohesive approach to reducing all forms of malnutrition. Lao PDR joined the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in 2011, and established a national nutrition committee in 2013 to coordinate implementation of the action plan.
20. The Agricultural Development Strategy to 2025 focuses on achieving food security through sustainable agriculture and a strengthened agricultural production system. The 2010 National Strategy on Climate Change reinforces the Government's commitment to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.
21. The Plan of Action of the School Meals Programme (2016–2020) and the 2014 Policy on Promoting School Lunch recognize that school meals contribute to food security.
22. The National Strategy for Gender Equality (2016–2025) includes activities for eradicating discrimination against women and girls in food and nutrition security and providing opportunities for women and girls to have the same access to quality food as men and boys have.
23. Finalized with support from WFP, the National Disaster Response Plan sets out roles and responsibilities for stakeholders in coordinated responses to natural disasters.

United Nations and other partners

24. The United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPF) 2017–2021 supports the Government in becoming an MIC whose people benefit equally from quality services.
25. The UNPF is based on country analysis, assessment of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and findings of an evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2012–2016.
26. Food and nutrition security is one of the outcomes in the UNPF human development pillar, which underlines the need to focus on the first 1,000-days after conception and to transition from subsistence to market-oriented agricultural production, adapted to climate change and the needs of smallholder farmers.
27. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provide capacity development and policy support, and implement food and nutrition security projects. Plan International coordinates the SUN Civil Society Alliance supporting the Government's nutrition agenda.
28. Donors provide multi-year development assistance, directly to the Government or through international organizations, and bilateral technical cooperation.

2. Strategic Implications for WFP

2.1 WFP's Experience and Lessons Learned

29. WFP started providing relief assistance in Lao PDR in 1975, establishing a country office in 2000. In 2012 it shifted to a five-year development portfolio providing school meals and activities for mother-and-child health and nutrition, asset creation and emergency preparedness and response. In view of the changing operational environment, WFP and the Government are moving towards sustainable outcomes, including through strengthened government systems and institutional capacity at all levels.

30. The 2014 mid-term evaluation of the country programme (2012–2016) highlighted the need for: i) enhanced sustainability through closer alignment of WFP's activities with national plans and capacity development of government counterparts for gradual hand-over; and ii) more comprehensive assistance to address stunting and persistently high malnutrition rates.
31. A 2015 baseline survey of the school meals programme identified the need to address limited dietary diversity, limited access to water, poor hygiene practices and low literacy rates. The 2016 Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) school feeding analysis concluded that a policy framework for school meals has been established, but the financial and institutional capacities for coordinating and implementing school feeding are still being developed.
32. An inter-agency simulation exercise facilitated by WFP in 2016 identified gaps in emergency preparedness and response capacity, needs assessments, response planning and coordination arrangements. The Government and humanitarian actors working in the country have prepared an action plan for addressing these challenges.

2.2 Opportunities for WFP

33. The strategic review identified six priority actions: i) strengthen coordination mechanisms at all levels and among sectors, and provide technical assistance; ii) ensure funding and implementation of the multi-sector plan of action for the national nutrition strategy; iii) provide basic social benefits for the most vulnerable people; iv) promote dietary diversity through consumption of locally available nutrient-rich food; v) support smallholder farmers along the value chain; and vi) increase farmers' awareness of climate risks for agriculture.

2.3 Strategic Changes

34. The CSP aims to address the challenges and implement the priority actions identified in evaluations, the strategic review and consultations with the Government, development partners and communities. It highlights the need for WFP to continue providing food assistance in the short-term while also working to strengthen national and local capacities and investing in sustainable food and nutrition security programmes to support the country's progress towards MIC status and achievement of SDG 2.
35. The CSP builds on WFP's long-term partnership with the Government, and its comparative advantages and complementarities with partners. It is aligned with the NSEDP, supports the resilience and human development pillars of the UNPF and contributes to WFP's Strategic Results 1, 2, 4 and 5.

3. WFP Strategic Orientation

3.1 Direction, Focus and Intended Impacts

36. The national nutrition strategy provides the framework for WFP's contribution to the achievement of national food and nutrition security targets. Developed with the aim of achieving SDG 2, this strategy uses a multi-sector cohesive approach with 22 priority interventions. WFP's strategic outcomes contribute directly to 19 of these.
37. Through this CSP, WFP plans to shift from providing food assistance to engaging in policy and capacity development for gradual hand-over, leading to community-run and government-financed food and nutrition security programmes in the medium term, with the Government and communities independently designing, implementing and managing their own programmes by 2030.
38. In alignment with the Government's strategy and WFP's commitments to being accountable to affected populations, communities will be at the centre of all actions, ensuring equitable participation in and ownership of activities to be incorporated into local development plans and structures.

39. The plan aims to contribute to the following strategic outcomes:
- i) Schoolchildren in remote rural areas¹⁴ have sustainable access to food by 2021.
 - ii) Stunting rates among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition¹⁵ meet national targets by 2025.
 - iii) Vulnerable households in climate-sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses.
 - iv) National and local governance institutions are strengthened to ensure improved service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas, by 2025.

3.2 Strategic Outcomes, Focus Areas, Expected Outputs and Key Activities

Strategic outcome 1: Schoolchildren in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021

40. WFP will play a leading role in supporting the Government's goal of improving access to food and achieving food security, as stated in the National Policy on Promoting School Lunch. The Government and WFP have designed a school lunch model, which is coupled with capacity development and knowledge transfer to ensure sustainability and national ownership.
41. This strategic outcome contributes to achievement of SDG target 2.1 and WFP's Strategic Result 1.

Focus areas

42. This strategic outcome will focus on addressing the root causes of food insecurity and low education indicators in remote and ethnically diverse districts through the implementation of a school meals programme.

Expected outputs

43. The food security of pre- and primary schoolchildren will be ensured by providing a daily snack or meal, with the Government and WFP investing in communities so that they can provide local inputs, engage with farmers and contribute to the school environment, leading to sustainable management of the programme. This output is linked to SDG 4 in ensuring that girls and boys complete primary education.
44. Strategic outcome 1 will be achieved through two outputs:
- i) Capacity development to enhance communities and the public sector in overcoming acute and transitory food insecurity.
 - ii) Food assistance for WFP-targeted schools.

Key activities

45. *Activity 1: Provide policy support, technical assistance and capacity transfer.* The Ministry of Education and Sports, WFP and Catholic Relief Services co-chair the coordination group on school meals. This platform positions WFP as a partner of choice in policy dialogue, development of legislative frameworks and assessment of financing solutions.
46. WFP will support the Government's efforts to integrate a structure for implementing a school meals programme into the Ministry of Education and Sports, deploying technical staff to enhance institutional capacity for programme design and implementation, and a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.
47. *Activity 2: Accelerate implementation of the Government's plan of action for the school meals programme.* WFP will transition from school snacks to the lunch modality, which will include inputs grown by schools in addition to food provided by WFP. This will be facilitated through the establishment of school vegetable gardens and fishponds and the raising of chickens,

¹⁴ Attapeu, Luang Namtha, Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, Phongsaly, Saravane, Khammouane, and Sekong provinces.

¹⁵ Luang Namtha, Oudomxay and Sekong provinces.

in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and NGOs such as the Japan Association for Aid and Relief.

48. In line with the Government's plan of action, WFP will adopt a multi-sector and integrated approach with the World Bank, UNICEF, the German Agency for International Cooperation, Big Brother Mouse and Plan International to deliver a package of assistance including access to water, hygiene, literacy and deworming activities, and clean stoves to reduce women's exposure to smoke and their workloads in collecting fuelwood and water. WFP, UNICEF and FAO will develop nutrition education materials and advocate for their inclusion in the primary school curriculum for girls and boys. As an incentive to supporting the programme, cooks and storekeepers will receive transfers of rice.
49. *Activity 3: Support a national process for hand-over of the school meals programme to communities and the Government.* To support the transition to a national school meals programme using the community-led and local food-based model designed by WFP and the Ministry of Education and Sports, school lunches will include rice provided by communities, vegetables and animal protein from school gardens and projects, and cash to procure additional items from farming families to ensure dietary diversity.
50. Given the variations in community resources and capacities, WFP and the Ministry of Education and Sports will develop a tool for assessing communities' readiness to manage school meal programmes, and design capacity development activities according to needs. The tool will be integrated into the national school profiling system, while school feeding programmes are integrated into local development plans. As communities become ready for hand-over, 500 schools will be integrated into the national school meals programme by 2019–2020, and the remaining 936 by 2020–2021. As schools are handed over, the Ministry of Education and Sports will provide them with cash and ensure implementation of activities.
51. The strategic review highlighted improved access to diversified food in schools as a priority in promoting basic social protection for children. WFP and partners will support the Government in establishing this social protection, using the national school meals programme as an entry point. Once a social protection system has been developed, WFP will be at the forefront in developing other schemes as part of an integrated strategic approach to social protection.

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

52. Preventing stunting is a priority in the national development agenda, and WFP will support the Government's work towards the target of reducing the malnutrition rate to 25 percent by 2025, using the multi-sector cohesive approach outlined in the national nutrition strategy.
53. As recommended by the strategic review, WFP and partners will support the Ministry of Health with nutrition-specific and -sensitive interventions, addressing gaps in policy frameworks, providing support for research and knowledge-sharing and developing institutional capacity.
54. This strategic outcome contributes to achievement of SDG target 2.2 and WFP's Strategic Result 2.

Focus areas

55. This strategic outcome addresses the direct and underlying causes of malnutrition through institutional capacity development, coordination, surveillance, analysis of gender roles and scaling up of nutrition interventions.

Expected outputs

56. Nutrition among targeted populations will be improved through a multi-sector approach that includes education on feeding practices, and nutrition education and social behaviour change.

57. Strategic outcome 2 will be achieved through three outputs:
- i) Technical assistance to improve nutrition among targeted populations.
 - ii) Food assistance for pregnant and lactating women, and for children aged 6–23 months.
 - iii) Establishment and strengthening of access to local food farmers for communities.

Key activities

58. *Activity 4: Provide technical assistance for evidence-based policy dialogue.* The national nutrition strategy and the strategic review emphasize the need to invest in strengthening institutions and human capacities. With partners such as UNICEF, FAO, the European Union and the World Health Organization (WHO), WFP will support the Ministry of Health by: i) facilitating the establishment of a SUN Business Network; ii) supporting the development of a nutrition surveillance system; iii) analysing nutrient gaps to obtain insights into the drivers of food choices, food availability and affordability; and iv) assessing national food fortification.
59. *Activity 5: Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6–23 months.* To ensure sustainability and reduce WFP's reliance on internationally procured Nutributter, WFP will support the Government in exploring private sector-led supply chains for locally available, affordable nutritious food for children.
60. To accelerate progress in reducing stunting, WFP will complement the Government's efforts by providing Nutributter for children aged 6–23 months, promote good infant and young child feeding and hygiene practices and address the higher prevalence of stunting among boys.
61. *Activity 6: Develop a social behaviour change communication strategy and nutrition schools for farmers.* In line with the Government's policy for achieving sustainable impact at scale in improving dietary diversity among pregnant and lactating women, WFP will provide Nutributter until 2019 while enhancing nutrition knowledge, awareness and practices by supporting the national social behaviour change communication strategy. This strategy covers infant and young child feeding practices, maternal nutrition components and the inclusion of men and boys in nutrition activities.
62. To reduce gender inequality and improve dietary diversity, particularly for adolescent girls and women, WFP will work through the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Health, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Lao Women's Union to support farmer nutrition schools, and are led by women to enhance knowledge of and access to nutrient-rich crops, post-harvest handling, food storage, safety, processing and preservation. In line with the WFP Gender Policy, the nutrition schools will empower women by increasing their ownership of and control over household agricultural production and income. The Government will provide financial contributions, technical support and coordination of activities.

Strategic outcome 3: Vulnerable households in climate-sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses

63. Given the country's vulnerability to the effects of climate change, and with 70 percent of the population relying on subsistence agriculture for its livelihood, adaptation and mitigation actions are government priorities.
64. The strategic review noted the need to increase awareness of climate change and ensure appropriate adaptation activities. Working with FAO, IFAD and other partners, WFP will assist communities in building their own resilience to climate change.
65. This strategic outcome contributes to achievement of SDG target 2.4 and WFP's Strategic Result 4.

Focus areas

66. WFP will assist vulnerable communities in shock-prone areas in adapting to climate change and building long-term resilience against climate risks.

Expected outputs

67. This outcome is linked to SDG 13 on climate action. The capacity of vulnerable communities will be strengthened to reinforce their resilience and protect their livelihoods through awareness-raising and education activities, human and institutional capacity development and asset creation.
68. Strategic outcome 3 will be achieved through two outputs:
- i) Technical assistance and capacity development to improve households' adaptation and resilience to climate and other shocks.
 - ii) Food and cash-based transfers (CBTs) for participants in food assistance-for-assets activities.

Key activities

69. *Activity 7: Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities.* Based on community-driven, bottom-up, multi-sector planning, and complementing IFAD's work through the GAFSP, WFP and its partners will: i) enhance agro-ecology and climate-adaptive local food production; ii) strengthen smallholder farmers' capacity through improved agricultural practices; and iii) support asset creation programmes to provide alternative livelihood options for vulnerable communities. As women account for 54 percent of the agricultural workforce, activities will be designed to increase the gender balance in control of and access to productive inputs. Findings from the 2015 Consolidated Livelihood Exercise for Analysing Resilience will be used to identify the geographic areas that are least resilient to climate change and affected by increasingly frequent natural disasters.
70. WFP will partner the National Agriculture Research Institute, providing technical support for real-time weather forecasting, the development of farmer field schools specializing in climate issues, and the dissemination of agroclimate information to women and men farmers to facilitate their decision-making on mitigating risks to food security and livelihoods and adapting to climate variations. The current environment is not conducive to a weather-based insurance pilot, but WFP will reassess the feasibility of carrying out a pilot later in the CSP period.

Strategic outcome 4: National and local governance institutions are strengthened to improve service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas, by 2025

71. As highlighted by the strategic review, the Government puts food and nutrition security at the top of the development policy agenda, with an extensive range of strategies and action plans. However, there are challenges in implementing and monitoring these plans, and governance systems face difficulties in addressing the complex and cross-sectoral issues of food and nutrition security.
72. WFP and partners will contribute to strengthening central and local governance and monitoring progress towards national SDG targets.
73. This strategic outcome facilitates work towards strategic outcomes 1, 2 and 3, and contributes to achievement of SDG target 17.9 and WFP's Strategic Result 5.

Focus areas

74. The focus of this strategic outcome is on addressing the root causes of challenges in national governance structures and their application at the subnational level through a strengthened decentralization policy and a multi-sector coordinated approach. This cross-cutting outcome will facilitate the achievement of the other three outcomes.

Expected outputs

75. This outcome is linked to SDG 5 in facilitating gender equality in participation in and benefits from development. The Government and communities will be provided with resources and capacity to design action plans that ensure household food and nutrition security.

76. Strategic outcome 4 will be achieved through one output:
- i) Technical assistance and capacity development to improve service delivery for food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations.

Key activities

77. *Activity 8: Invest in national governance capacity for food and nutrition security.* The National Nutrition Committee coordinates implementation of the plan of action for the national nutrition strategy. Given the need for a multi-sector approach to achieving SDG 2, WFP will deploy an expert to the committee to coordinate among ministries and provide technical support.
78. WFP will also provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Planning and Investment in monitoring and reporting on progress towards SDGs 2 and 17 through regular data collection and analysis.
79. *Activity 9: Enable communities to lead and own food and nutrition security solutions.* In support of the *Sam Sang*¹⁶ decentralization policy – which supports capacity development at the community level to facilitate integrated rural development – and to ensure complementarity with IFAD, WFP will work through the GAFSP to strengthen rural communities' capacity to prepare and lead their own three-year community development plans. These multi-stakeholder, multi-sector and nutrition-sensitive plans will enable communities to use their own resources and capacity to ensure local food and nutrition security. To maximize ownership and mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment, village-level processes will involve both women and men from different age groups.
80. *Activity 10: Enhance the capacity of government at all levels to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.* As highlighted by an inter-agency simulation exercise, the national disaster response plan defines roles and responsibilities clearly, but there are challenges in its implementation and capacity development is needed at all levels to prepare for and respond to emergencies. WFP will support the ministries of labour and social welfare, and natural resources and environment in: i) facilitating the establishment of early-warning systems and drafting a decree creating a fund for disaster victims; ii) conducting assessments and integrating the data generated into the Government's system, to enhance ownership and management of food security information; and iii) coordinating multi-stakeholder emergency responses.

3.3 Transition and Exit Strategies

81. This CSP represents a shift for WFP from country programmes based on direct provision of food assistance to the provision of capacity development, policy guidance and support to national- and local-led programmes as Lao PDR moves towards MIC status.
82. WFP will ensure that activities are integrated into national development plans for gradual hand-over, while developing and transferring capacities to the Government and communities. Women's essential role in communities will be recognized and their inputs will be incorporated into programme design, implementation and monitoring. To ensure sustainability and ownership of programmes, communities will be active partners able to make their own decisions and ensure food and nutrition security with their own inputs and capacities.

¹⁶ "Three Builds" – province, district and village levels.

4. Implementation Arrangements

4.1 Beneficiary Analysis

83. Activities for strategic outcome 1, which supports access to food for pre- and primary schoolchildren, will target districts with low education indicators and high food insecurity levels. The 2015 Food and Nutrition Security Survey identified areas with high stunting rates, where children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women will be assisted through strategic outcome 2 on reducing stunting. The 2015–2016 food security assessment carried out by WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the 2015 Consolidated Livelihood Exercise for Analysing Resilience will be used to target livelihood activities for increasing resilience to climate change among vulnerable communities for strategic outcome 3. WFP's beneficiary and transfer management platform SCOPE will be used for beneficiary registration.

Strategic outcome	Activity	Women/girls	Men/boys	Total
1	2–3 Provide school meals	82 260	66 240	148 500
2	5 Provide Nutributter for children aged 6–23 months to supplement complementary feeding	10 140	9 360	19 500
	6 Provide Nutributter for pregnant and lactating women	13 000	-	13 000
3	7 Create productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities to build community resilience	9 720	8 280	18 000
4	9 Develop capacity of rural communities in designing and implementing nutrition-sensitive development plans			
TOTAL		115 120	83 880	199 000

4.2 Transfers

Food and cash-based transfers

84. With the findings of a rapid assessment indicating that CBTs could be a suitable assistance transfer modality, WFP will undertake in-depth needs assessments in rural areas with ethnically diverse communities to confirm whether they are appropriate in all contexts.
85. Food transfer modalities will assist in achieving strategic outcomes 1, 2 and 3, with activities encompassing school meals, nutrition programmes and asset creation. Throughout the CSP period, food transfers will gradually reduce.

TABLE 2: FOOD RATIONS AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY (g/person/day)				
	Strategic outcome 1		Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3
	Activity 2		Activity 5	Activity 7
	Pre- and primary schoolchildren		Children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women	Vulnerable households in climate-sensitive areas
	Food and CBTs for schools (snack)	Food and CBTs for schools (lunch)	Food	CBTs
Cereals		100		
Pulses		40		
SuperCereal	80			
Oil	15	10		
Nutributter			20	
Sugar	15			
Total kcal/day	497	584	108	
% kcal from protein	11.6	12.5	9.8	
CBTs (USD/person/day)		0.10		3
Number of feeding days	175	175	365	30

TABLE 3: FOOD AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS		
Food type/CBT	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	9 108	5 511 315
Pulses	2 702	3 512 432
Oil and fats	779	923 840
Mixed and blended foods	396	280 504
Other	1 106	3 604 740
TOTAL (food)	14 091	13 832 831
CBTs (USD)		9 630 525
TOTAL	14 091	23 463 356

Capacity strengthening including South–South cooperation

86. Capacity development and technical assistance will be provided for all strategic outcomes as WFP gradually shifts from direct implementation. Strong partnerships with ministries will facilitate the development of skills and capabilities that support national ownership and sustainability.

87. WFP will facilitate exchange of knowledge, skills and expertise through South–South cooperation with the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil to strengthen the capacities of the government and communities in managing school meals programmes. Partnership opportunities will be explored with centres of excellence for asset creation in China and for food and nutrition security in India. WFP will liaise with ASEAN to ensure that emergency preparedness and response systems follow regional standards.

4.3 Supply Chain

88. Supply chain networks are well established for food commodities that arrive through Bangkok. Local procurement is difficult because of high prices and the limited availability of commodities and suppliers that meet WFP's quality standards. Food is transported overland to warehouses in Vientiane and in the country's north and south. To reduce transport costs, each delivery provides food for more than one activity. To avoid pipeline breaks, food is pre-positioned before the monsoon season when access to some areas becomes difficult.

4.4 Country Office Capacity and Profile

89. WFP will maintain the comparative advantage of its large field presence, with three suboffices covering northern and southern provinces, and a field presence in 31 districts.
90. To support the focus on nutrition, country office staff include international and national nutritionists. Experts in partnerships with government, CBTs, social protection and safety nets, climate change and resilience will be needed for the new direction of the CSP. A clear road map will guide the transfer of knowledge and responsibilities to national staff, for nationalization of the country office by 2019.

4.5 Partnerships

91. In line with the WFP Corporate Partnership Strategy (2014–2017) and the Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (2016–2025), WFP will leverage its long-term relationship as a trusted partner of the Government to achieve maximum impact towards a shared vision for 2030, together with the ministries of agriculture and forestry, education and sport, health, labour and social welfare, and natural resources and environment.
92. The strategic review positions WFP as a generator of knowledge; with the Ministry of Planning and Investment, WFP will explore the possibilities for periodic monitoring of implementation of the review's recommendations.
93. Through the UNPF, and to strengthen synergies, coherence and efficiency, WFP will expand its partnerships with the other Rome-based agencies to achieve the strategic outcomes by using the agencies' comparative advantages and complementarities. Through the GAFSP, WFP will partner IFAD to accelerate implementation of the national nutrition strategy by developing the capacities of rural communities in creating and operating infrastructure for nutrition-sensitive agriculture, and empowering women to achieve sustainable improvements in family nutrition. Through a local-level memorandum of understanding, FAO and WFP will collaborate on food security assessments, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, disaster risk reduction and management, and disaster response. WFP will partner UNICEF, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the World Bank on the school meals programme, and will explore partnership opportunities with WHO for improved nutrition service delivery, and with UNDP on livelihoods and resilience.
94. In the enabling environment provided by the Vientiane Declaration, WFP will strengthen strategic and operational partnerships with NGOs and projects, such as the *Soum Son Seun Jai* Programme, supported by IFAD, to achieve common objectives and ensure cost-effective, sustainable, gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate implementation of food security and nutrition initiatives. As Lao PDR's civil society is young, WFP will develop the technical and organizational capacities of non-profit associations for implementation at the local level and will expand its partnership with the Lao Women's Union. The value of these partners includes their presence in remote ethnic communities with different languages and cultural practices, and their capacities in community mobilization and asset creation.

95. WFP will develop relationships with the private sector to: i) encourage commercial supply chains to reach rural communities with nutritious foods; ii) explore the feasibility of local food fortification; iii) mobilize resources to support the initiatives of WFP and the Government; and iv) strengthen cooperation and innovation by establishing a SUN Business Network. WFP will collaborate with academia and research institutes to generate evidence for policy processes and develop social behaviour change communication strategies.
96. Recognizing the vulnerability and isolation of the most food-insecure people, WFP will incorporate protection and gender considerations – including prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse – and accountability to affected populations into all of its partnerships.

5. Performance Management and Evaluation

5.1 Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

97. Guided by the country office monitoring strategy, and in line with the NSEDP and the UNPF, WFP will develop an M&E system that measures progress towards the strategic outcomes, ensuring accountability, providing evidence of results achieved, and informing any necessary adjustments.
98. Indicators are collected by WFP and government staff of both sexes, and will be disaggregated by sex and age, where possible. Performance will be analysed in annual outcome and biannual monitoring reports. These will be complemented by food security and nutrition assessments and monitoring of market prices. Baseline data for strategic outcomes will be established in 2017, a decentralized mid-term evaluation of some CSP activities is planned for 2020 and a country portfolio evaluation for 2021.
99. The country office has a solid M&E and vulnerability assessment and mapping unit. Nearly 70 percent of staff will be located in the field, and most will be responsible for monitoring. Government reporting structures will be strengthened and used to ensure sustainability. At quarterly meetings, WFP and the Government will measure progress and results against established action plans.
100. Based on WFP's Gender Policy (2015–2020), and in line with the Asia-Pacific Gender Implementation Strategy, the country office has an action plan for gender mainstreaming and targeted actions. The plan is reviewed every six months to assess how well the needs of women, men, girls and boys are being addressed. All WFP staff have been trained in gender and protection, and newly recruited staff are also trained in humanitarian principles.
101. Based on WFP's Humanitarian Protection Policy (2012), a protection action plan develops awareness of WFP's protection programmes among groups of women, men, girls and boys. The beneficiary feedback mechanism included in the plan takes into account the needs of rural ethnic women, who often do not speak or read Lao.
102. The country office tool for managing effectively (COMET) and the Monitoring e-Data Collection and Analysis tool will be used to track performance indicators, and for planning and managing responses. Data from the field level will be collected electronically for real-time submission and analysis. Financial resources for staff, baseline monitoring and evaluations have been budgeted.

5.2 Risk Management

103. The contextual risks include: i) localized natural disasters – WFP will assist the Government in establishing an early-warning system and developing capacity in emergency preparedness and response; and ii) lack of capacity in communities – to be mitigated by the formulation and implementation of capacity development plans.
104. The main institutional risks are insufficient national budget allocations for activities after hand-over, and limited capacities. WFP will advocate for fund mobilization, explore alternative financing solutions with the Government, and develop capacities at all levels.

105. The major programmatic risk is lack of funding. WFP will work with current donors, seek to broaden the funding base, and strengthen joint fundraising with other organizations. A prioritized action plan has been prepared for each strategic outcome.
106. The country office has incorporated protection considerations into its programme activities. All programme sites will have mechanisms for facilitating accountability to affected populations. Environmental and social risk management will be developed through community mobilization.
107. Lao PDR is classified as being at the minimal United Nations security level, except for one area – without a WFP presence – where security is low. WFP offices and operating procedures are in compliance with minimum operating security standards.

6. Resources for Results

6.1 Country Portfolio Budget

Strategic outcome	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
1	9 468 069	10 426 987	9 665 167	10 519 982	8 582 068	48 662 272
2	3 950 446	4 808 024	5 435 435	4 471 560	4 895 138	23 560 603
3	1 765 248	1 907 657	1 621 426	1 667 603	1 468 822	8 430 757
4	1 470 506	852 018	697 291	925 098	745 559	4 690 472
TOTAL	16 654 270	17 994 686	17 419 318	17 584 243	15 691 587	85 344 103

108. The CSP has a budget of USD 85 million, with annual spending (Table 4) reflecting the shift from direct service delivery towards support for policy and capacity development, with the objective of achieving hand-over by 2021. This approach entails a progressive decrease in food transfers and aims to ensure sustainability for each of the strategic outcomes.
109. The objective of strategic outcome 1 is to ensure sustainable access to food for pre- and primary schoolchildren. This outcome has the largest budget, with USD 48.7 million or nearly 60 percent of total resources. A shift from food to CBTs is foreseen. The budget for this outcome covers a preparatory phase to transfer schools to the school lunch programme, assessments of community capacities to determine the package of support needed, and the shift to a national programme. Significant investments in capacity development at the community level will be made in all five years.
110. Strategic outcome 2 addresses stunting by combining supplementary feeding for children under 2 with increasing work in behaviour change, nutrition awareness and access to locally available nutritious food. The phase-out of food transfers for pregnant and breastfeeding women is planned for 2019. At a total cost of USD 23.6 million, this outcome accounts for 27 percent of the budget.
111. Strategic outcome 3 promotes increased resilience among vulnerable households in climate-sensitive areas. In total, USD 8.4 million – 10 percent of the budget – is allocated to this outcome for strengthening coping mechanisms and communities' resilience to climate change-induced shocks and stresses. Food transfers will gradually be replaced by CBTs in 2018, and WFP will provide technical assistance to smallholder farmers.
112. Strategic outcome 4 focuses on capacity development for improved service delivery. Activities support governance systems in coordinating and implementing multi-sector response plans. This strategic outcome supports achievement of the other three, and requires USD 4.7 million.
113. More than 15 percent of total expenditure for all strategic outcomes is allocated to gender activities.

114. As the strategic outcomes are interlinked and have complementary activities, responsibilities will have to be clearly defined to avoid duplication and ensure that expenditures can be linked to outcomes achieved so that assistance is provided efficiently and with accountability.

6.2 Resourcing Outlook

115. The CSP is expected to be funded mostly by traditional government donors and, to some extent, the private sector. On average, WFP received USD 14 million per year for its activities in Lao PDR between 2012 and 2016. Contributions have remained stable and WFP is positioned to maintain similar funding levels until 2021 as donors are interested in supporting the country's transition to MIC status.
116. It is expected that strategic outcome 1 will be fully funded throughout the CSP period. Based on confirmed contributions and indications from donors, strategic outcomes 2 and 3 will be 50 percent funded and strategic outcome 4, 75 percent.

6.3 Resource Mobilization Strategy

117. Resource mobilization and communication strategies highlight WFP's new strategic direction and the support it can provide as Lao PDR graduates to MIC status and achieves its national SDG targets.
118. In line with the new strategic direction, a dual approach will be adopted. WFP will engage increasingly in policy support, community empowerment, capacity development and knowledge generation to ensure sustainable interventions and hand-over. Food assistance – through food transfers or CBTs – will be continued in the initial years to consolidate the investments made, and will then be phased out as local inputs are introduced.
119. WFP will continue its engagement with donors through briefing meetings in Vientiane, Bangkok and Hanoi. These meetings ensure regular communication on results achieved and constraints, and increase accountability and transparency, facilitating opportunities for finding new sources of funding. WFP also engages with private-sector donors and has received positive indications regarding their future support.

ANNEX I

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (YEAR 2017–2021)

Items formulated at the country level	Elements from the Strategic Plan	Categories and indicators from the Corporate Results Framework
<p>Country: Lao People's Democratic Republic</p> <p>CSP start date: 01/03/2017 CSP end date: 31/12/2021</p>		
LOGICAL FRAMEWORK		
Strategic Goal 1: <i>Support countries to achieve Zero Hunger</i>		
Strategic Objective 1: <i>End hunger by protecting access to food</i>		
Strategic Result 1: <i>Everyone has access to food</i>		
<p>National SDG targets and indicators</p> <p>8th Five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (8th NSEDP) Outcome 2: Human resources are developed and the capacities of the public and private sectors are upgraded; poverty in all ethnic groups is reduced, all ethnic groups and both genders have access to quality education and health services; the unique culture of the nation is protected and consolidated; political stability, social peace and order, justice and transparency are maintained.</p> <p>SDG 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.</p> <p>SDG indicators:</p> <p>2.1.1. Prevalence of undernourishment</p> <p>2.1.2. Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale</p>		
<p>UNPF (United Nations Partnership Framework) priorities</p> <p>Outcome 2: More people have access to social protection benefits, in particular vulnerable groups and the poor</p> <p>Outcome 4: Children and youth enjoy better access to inclusive and equitable quality basic education and vocational skills</p> <p>Outcome 5: People enjoy improved access to quality health services, and water sanitation and hygiene</p>		
<p>Strategic outcome 1: Schoolchildren in remote rural areas have sustainable access to food by 2021.</p> <p><i>Nutrition-sensitive</i></p>	<p>Alignment to output category</p> <p>1.3 Enhanced social and public-sector capacity to assist populations facing acute, transitory or chronic food insecurity</p> <p>Outcome indicator</p> <p>1.3.1 Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard</p>	

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

<p>Output 1: Capacity development to enhance communities and the public sector in overcoming acute and transitory food insecurity <i>Contributes to SDG 4</i></p>	<p><i>Alignment to output category</i> C. Capacity development and technical support provided</p>
<p>Output 2: Food assistance for WFP-targeted schools</p>	<p><i>Alignment to output category</i> A2. Conditional resources transferred</p>
<p>Activity 1: <i>Provide policy support, technical assistance and transfer of capacities to the Government</i></p>	<p><i>Alignment to activity category</i> Institutional capacity strengthening activities</p>
<p>Activity 2: <i>Accelerate implementation of the Government's plan of action for the school meals programme</i></p>	<p><i>Alignment to activity category</i> School meal activities</p>
<p>Activity 3: <i>Support a national process for the hand-over of school meals to communities</i></p>	<p><i>Alignment to activity category</i> School meal activities</p>
<p>Strategic Goal 1: <i>Support countries to achieve zero hunger</i></p>	
<p>Strategic Objective 2: <i>Improve nutrition</i></p>	
<p>Strategic Result 2: <i>No one suffers from malnutrition</i></p>	
<p>National SDG targets and indicators 8th Five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (8th NSEDP) Outcome 2: Human resources are developed and the capacities of the public and private sectors is upgraded; poverty in all ethnic groups is reduced, all ethnic groups and both genders have access to quality education and health services; the unique culture of the nation is protected and consolidated; political stability, social peace and order, justice and transparency are maintained. SDG 2.2: By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons. SDG indicators: 2.2.1. Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age.</p>	
<p>UNPF (United Nations Partnership Framework) priorities Outcome 5: People enjoy improved access to quality health services, and water sanitation and hygiene Outcome 6: The most vulnerable people benefit from improved food security and nutrition Outcome 7: Institutions and policies at national and local level support the delivery of quality services that better respond to people's needs.</p>	

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

<p>Strategic outcome 2: Stunting levels among children under 2 in provinces with high levels of malnutrition meet national targets by 2025</p> <p>Nutrition-sensitive</p>	<p><i>Alignment to outcome category</i></p> <p>2.1. Improved consumption of high-quality, nutrient-dense foods among targeted individuals</p> <p>Outcome indicator</p> <p>2.1.1. Proportion of eligible population that participates in programme (coverage)</p> <p>2.1.3. Proportion of children 6–23 months of age who receive a minimum acceptable diet</p>
<p>Output 1: Technical assistance to improve nutrition among targeted populations</p>	<p><i>Alignment to output category</i></p> <p>C. Capacity development and technical support provided</p>
<p>Output 2: Food assistance for pregnant and lactating women, and for children aged 6–23 months</p>	<p><i>Alignment to output category</i></p> <p>B. Nutritious foods provided</p>
<p><i>Activity 1: Provide technical assistance for evidence-based policy dialogue</i></p>	<p><i>Alignment to activity category</i></p> <p>Institutional capacity strengthening activities</p>
<p><i>Activity 2: Develop a social behaviour change communication and establish farmer nutrition schools</i></p>	<p><i>Alignment to activity category</i></p> <p>Individual capacity strengthening activities</p>
<p>Output 3: Establishment and strengthening of access to local food farmers for communities</p>	<p><i>Alignment to output category</i></p> <p>F. Purchases from smallholders completed</p>
<p><i>Activity 1: Stimulate access to local specialized nutritious food for children aged 6–23 months</i></p>	<p><i>Alignment to activity category</i></p> <p>Malnutrition prevention activities</p>
<p>Strategic Goal 1: Support countries to achieve zero hunger</p>	
<p>Strategic Objective 3: Achieve food security</p>	
<p>Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable</p>	
<p>National SDG targets and indicators</p> <p>8th Five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (8th NSEDP) Outcome 3: Natural resources and the environment are effectively protected and utilized according to green-growth and sustainable principles; there is readiness to cope with natural disasters and the effects of climate change and for reconstruction following natural disasters.</p> <p>SDG 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality</p> <p>SDG indicator:</p> <p>1.4.1. Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture</p>	

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

UNPF priorities

Outcome 1: All women and men have increased opportunities for decent livelihoods and jobs

Outcome 3: Forests and other ecosystems are protected and enhanced, and people are less vulnerable to climate-related events and disasters

Outcome 7: Institutions and policies at national and local level support the delivery of quality services that better respond to people's needs.

Strategic outcome 3: Vulnerable households in climate-sensitive districts are more resilient to seasonal and long-term shocks and stresses

Alignment to outcome category

4.1. Improved household adaptation and resilience to climate and other shocks.

Outcome indicators:

4.1.1. Food consumption score (FCS), disaggregated by sex of head of household

4.1.2. Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

4.1.6. Proportion of targeted communities where there is evidence of improved capacity to manage climate shocks and risks.

Output 1: Technical assistance and capacity development to improve households' adaptation and resilience to climate and other shocks
Contributes to SDG 13.3

Alignment to output category

C. Capacity development and technical support provided

Output 2: Food and CBTs for participants in food assistance-for-assets activities

Alignment to output category

A.2. Conditional resources transferred

Activity 1: *Build community resilience through the creation of productive assets and sustainable livelihood opportunities*

Alignment to activity category

Asset creation and livelihood support activities

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Strategic Goal 2: Partner to support implementation of the SDGs

Strategic Objective 4: Support SDG implementation

Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

National SDG targets and indicators

8th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (8th NSEDP) Outcome 2: Human resources are developed and the capacities of the public and private sectors are upgraded; poverty in all ethnic groups is reduced, all ethnic groups and both genders have access to quality education and health services; the unique culture of the nation is protected and consolidated; political stability, social peace and order, justice and transparency are maintained.

SDG 17.9. Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the SDGs, including through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation.

SDG indicator:

17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries.

UNPF (United Nations Partnership Framework) priorities

Outcome 6: The most vulnerable people benefit from improved food security and nutrition

Outcome 7: Institutions and policies at national and local level support the delivery of quality services that better respond to people's needs.

Strategic outcome 4: National and local governance institutions are strengthened to improve service delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas by 2025

Alignment to outcome category

5.1 Enhanced capacities of public and private institutions and systems, including local responders, to identify, target and assist food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations

Outcome indicator

5.1.1 Zero Hunger Capacity Scorecard

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

<p>Output 1: Technical assistance and capacity development to improve service delivery for food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations Output 1 contributes to SDG 5.5.</p>	<p><i>Alignment to output category</i> K. Partnerships supported</p>
<p><i>Activity 1: Invest in national capacity for food and nutrition security governance</i></p>	<p><i>Alignment to activity category</i> Institutional capacity-strengthening activities</p>
<p><i>Activity 2: Enable communities to lead and own their food and nutrition security</i></p>	<p><i>Alignment to activity category</i> Institutional capacity-strengthening activities</p>
<p><i>Activity 3: Augment government capacity at all levels to prepare for and efficiently respond to natural disasters</i></p>	<p><i>Alignment to activity category</i> Institutional capacity-strengthening activities</p>
<p>Cross-cutting results: C.1 Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences C.2 Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity C.3 Improved gender equality and women’s empowerment among WFP-assisted population C.4 Targeted communities benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that does not harm the environment</p>	

ANNEX II

INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN (USD)					
WFP Strategic Results/SDG Targets	Strategic Result 1 (SDG target 2.1)	Strategic Result 2 (SDG target 2.2)	Strategic Result 4 (SDG target 2.4)	Strategic Result 5 (SDG target 17.9)	Total
WFP Strategic outcomes	1	2	3	4	
Focus area	Root causes	Root causes	Resilience-building	Root causes	
Transfer	35 715 353	16 731 606	6 224 727	3 304 568	61 976 254
Implementation	5 114 458	3 029 658	849 959	634 020	9 628 095
Adjusted direct support costs	4 648 947	2 257 991	804 526	445 030	8 156 495
Subtotal	45 478 759	22 019 255	7 879 212	4 383 618	79 760 844
Indirect support costs (7%)	3 183 513	1 541 348	551 545	306 853	5 583 259
TOTAL	48 66 272	23 560 603	8 430 757	4 690 472	85 344 103

ANNEX III

Relative status of food and nutrition security in Lao People's Democratic Republic



Date created: 03-03-2016
 Website: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/lao>
 Data source: CFSa 2015-2016, LECS5 2012-13, LSIS 2011-12, and FNSS 2015



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Food Programme (WFP) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its frontiers or boundaries.

Acronyms Used in the Document

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CBT	cash-based transfer
CSP	country strategic plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAFSP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
GDP	gross domestic product
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MIC	middle-income country
NGO	non-governmental organization
NSEDP	National Socio-Economic Development Plan
SABER	Systems Approach for Better Education Results
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition (movement)
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNPF	United Nations Partnership Framework
WHO	World Health Organization