



# Standard Project Report 2015

## World Food Programme in Lao People's Democratic Republic (LA)

### Country Programme Laos (2012-2015)

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200242
Project Category	Country Programme

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	November 16, 2011
Planned Start Date	January 01, 2012
Actual Start Date	January 01, 2012
Project End Date	December 31, 2016
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	70,213,252
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	5,898,056
Direct Support Costs	15,292,025
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	890,304
Indirect Support Costs	6,460,555
<b>Total</b>	<b>98,754,191</b>

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	11,238
Actual Commodities 2015	6,124
Total Approved Commodities	54,657

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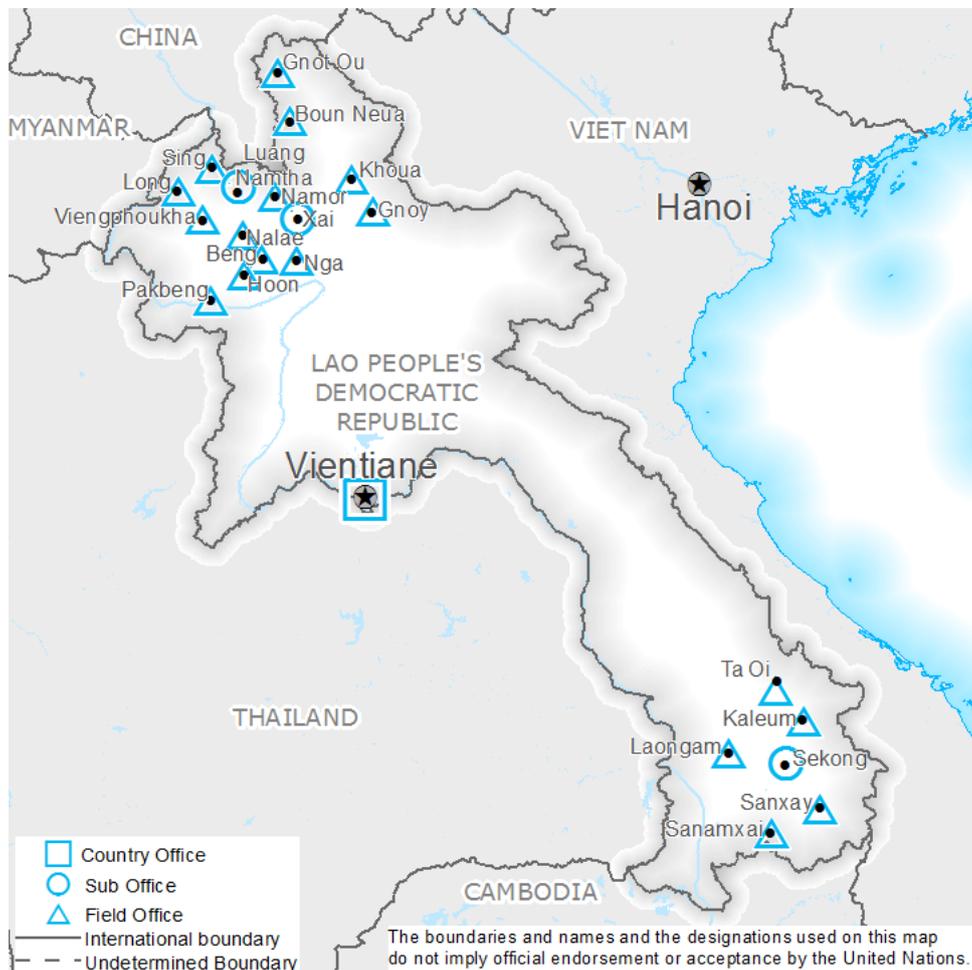
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# COUNTRY OVERVIEW



## Country Background

The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR or Laos) is a landlocked, least developed and low-income food-deficit country. It currently ranks 141 out of 188 in the 2015 Human Development Index (UNDP Human Development Report 2015). The GDP per capita is USD 1,794 (World Bank 2014). The population of 6.8 million comprises 49 officially recognised ethnic groups (World Bank 2014). It has one of the lowest population densities in Asia at 29 people per square kilometre (World Bank 2014) with a third of all villages inaccessible by road during the May to September rainy season. The rugged and mountainous terrain makes it difficult to reach most parts of the country. Laos is prone to natural disasters such as floods, landslides and droughts, which can cause an increase in acute malnutrition that is further exacerbated by low institutional capacity and weak community resilience.

Laos is experiencing high growth driven by the mining and hydropower sectors, and aims to graduate to middle-income status by 2024. As a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, in December 2015 Laos integrated into this economic community, which promotes a single market in a competitive economic region of equitable economic development as part of the global economy.

The country has halved the proportion of people suffering from hunger – Millennium Development Goal 1 – but disparities between rural and urban areas persist and progress is needed in addressing Millennium Development Goals 2 and 5. In May 2015, the government reaffirmed its commitment to addressing hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity by joining the Zero Hunger Challenge with a roadmap consolidating various programmes and activities to show how the country will meet its commitments to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by 2025. However, it remained off-track on the malnutrition target. The 2015 International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Global

Hunger Index rates hunger levels for Laos as 'serious' with Laos ranked 76 out of 104 countries. The 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) is being finalised with the goal of continued poverty reduction, graduation from least-developed country status and effective utilisation of natural resources.

The Laos gender inequality index is 0.534, indicating a 53.4 percent deficit in productivity, reproductive health, women's empowerment and employment because of gender inequalities. Women's representation in national politics has increased, but this progress has not reached the local level.

While three-quarters of the economically active population is employed in the agriculture sector, unexploded ordnances contaminate significant land area, limiting agricultural potential (Lao Agricultural Census Office 2012). National literacy rates for young men (15 to 24 years) surpass women at 77 percent compared to 69 percent (Ministry of Health and Lao Statistics Bureau 2013).

Currently, 27 percent of children are underweight and 44 percent of children are stunted. Although prevalence of stunting in the WFP-assisted provinces decreased modestly, stunting levels still exceed the WHO's 'critical' levels of 40 percent (Ministry of Health, Lao Statistics Bureau, UNICEF and WFP, 2015). The prevalence of wasting stands at 6 percent (Lao Social Indicator Survey, 2011-2012). Micronutrient deficiencies also affect large parts of the population with IFPRI (2014) reporting the prevalence of anaemia in school-aged children as 'severe' and anaemia in pregnant and lactating women (PLW) at 45.3 percent (Ministry of Health, Lao Statistics Bureau, UNICEF and WFP, 2015). The under-5 mortality rate stands at 7.1 percent with one in 14 children not reaching the age of five (IFPRI, 2015).

## Summary Of WFP Assistance

WFP is supporting the Laos Government in eliminating undernutrition and its effects on individual potential and national development. The current Country Programme is in line with the government's 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2011-2015) and the recently adopted 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016 - 2020), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012-2016, and contributes to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on hunger, education, child mortality, maternal health and gender equality (MDGs 1-5).

WFP's development programme tackles the inter-generational problem of stunting, affecting nearly every second child, and aims to prevent wasting and reduce micronutrient deficiencies. Specifically, the Mother and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) programme aims to prevent stunting in children under 2 years of age by focusing on the first 1,000 days of life. WFP supports over 17,000 PLW and 16,000 children under 2 in the three most affected provinces.

For school-aged children, the school meals programme provides a nutritious mid-morning snack to 1,500 primary schools across seven provinces, as well as take home rations at 200 secondary schools for informal boarders to support equal access to education. In line with the government's School Lunch Policy (2014), WFP supports the transition from mid-morning-snack to lunch in more than 200 schools.

To improve nutrition and long-term food security in chronically food-insecure communities, the food security and rural development component includes Food Assistance For Assets (FFA) activities.

To improve resilience capacity at the institutional level, the emergency preparedness and response (EPR) programme is building the capacity of the Laos Government to respond to emergencies. Under the United Nations Humanitarian Preparedness Framework, WFP has a lead role in the Emergency Task Force that reports directly to the Humanitarian Country Team. In parallel, WFP is leading the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters and co-chairs the Food Security Cluster with FAO and the government.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	21,928	22,450	44,378
Children (5-18 years)	79,389	85,109	164,498
Adults (18 years plus)	2,218	21,265	23,483
<b>Total number of beneficiaries in 2015</b>	<b>103,535</b>	<b>128,824</b>	<b>232,359</b>

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Country Programme	3,565	324	0	1,888	348	6,124
<b>Total Food Distributed in 2015</b>	<b>3,565</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,888</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>6,124</b>

# OPERATIONAL SPR

## Operational Objectives and Relevance

WFP is currently implementing a Country Programme, which has been extended by one additional year to end in December 2016, aligned with the extended UNDAF cycle. The Country Programme covers five areas of intervention:

- (i) emergency preparedness and response (EPR), linked to WFP's Strategic Objective 2;
- (ii) mother-and-child health and nutrition (MCHN), linked to WFP's Strategic Objective 4;
- (iii) school meals, contributing to WFP's Strategic Objective 4;
- (iv) livelihood initiatives for nutrition (LIN), linked to WFP's Strategic Objective 3; and
- (v) food fortification and marketing (FFM), linked to WFP's Strategic Objective 3.

These activities support food security and rebuild livelihoods following an emergency; increase long-term food security in households and communities; increase enrollment and attendance among primary school boys and girls; and reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger. In 2015, steps were taken to ensure more comprehensive measurement towards achieving these strategic objectives. Monitoring of outcomes, gender, protection and accountability to affected population indicators, has been mainstreamed into the regular programme monitoring.

The Country Programme is in line with the 7th NSEDP 2011-15, the UNDAF (2012-2016) and operates within the frameworks of the National Nutrition Policy and the National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action, the Agricultural Development Strategy (2011-2020), as well as the Educational Sector Development Framework and its related Strategy and Plan of Action (2011-2015).

## Results

### *Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution*

WFP targeted children under two years of age and PLW through the MCHN programme, school-age children through school meals, and addressed livelihood insufficiencies in the poorest households and boosted the resilience of communities most vulnerable to shocks through rural development and EPR interventions. The MCHN programme aimed to ensure that all children under two years of age received the essential nutrients for optimal growth and development during their first 1,000 days of life, including a blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP) for children aged 6-23 months in three of the provinces with the highest stunting rates. With regard to specialised nutritious foods, Nutributter was provided to PLW during the last six months of pregnancy and up to six months after delivery, while Plumpy'Doz was given to children aged 6-23 months. Rice incentives were also provided to encourage women to attend health centres for prenatal checkups, delivery and antenatal checkups.

Although EPR was planned for 35,000 beneficiaries in case of an emergency, no response was necessary in 2015. As a result, parts of the canned fish was re-allocated to school meals to contribute to the dietary diversity of the children at schools which implemented lunch. Through preparedness activities, 263 government staff who were trained on emergency preparedness and response at the provincial level.

The available funding enabled WFP to implement the MCHN activities only in three out of the six provinces originally planned, which explains the lower number of beneficiaries and distribution rates. The number of women beneficiaries reached increased (from 11,913 in 2014) as new villages were registered by the Government and additional health centres which met the service provision requirements were included in the programme. The number of children who received support decreased in 2015 (from 20,814 in 2014). In total, MCHN reached almost 50 percent of planned female beneficiaries (PLW and children) and almost 30 percent of the planned male beneficiaries (children only). This underachievement can be attributed to pipeline breaks, caused by quality checks of the commodity which led to delays in the availability. In addition to food beneficiaries, MCHN reached an additional 17,000 indirect beneficiaries. Those are caretakers who received nutrition-related messages.

The school meals programme provided a mid-morning snack consisting of Super Cereal, vitamin-enriched oil and sugar to pre-primary and primary schoolchildren (aged 3 to 5 years and 6 to 10 years respectively) to improve

attentiveness and boost school enrollment and attendance rates. Pre-primary schools were only targeted in case these were attached to a primary school. In total, 259 schools have transferred to a school lunch modality in September 2015 in order to progressively align to the government policy on promoting lunch. WFP provided 100g rice and 10g oil per student per day, as well as seeds, tools and technical assistance to establish school gardens to complement the lunch. The gardens yielded vegetables, such as long beans, cabbage and morning glory. As the production of vegetables took time, 30g of canned fish per student per day was provided to complement the lunch. Cooks and storekeepers received a rice incentive for their voluntary support. Informal boarders who lived 4 kilometres or more from home also received a take-home ration of rice at the beginning of each semester to encourage enrolment and continued school attendance. In September, 63 schools were suspended by WFP as communities were not able to support the programme. These community members were engaged in the production of cash crops and were not willing to engage in cooking of the school meal. The beneficiaries of take-home rations increased, due to a higher number of students registering as informal boarders. Consequently WFP had to reduce the take-home ration in order to assist all informal boarding students. Schools were encouraged to divide the available food among the students equally.

The LIN programme targeted communities for FFA activities based on their vulnerability. Communities which were part of the multi-sectoral food and nutrition action plan were targeted in the first step. The multi-sectoral food and nutrition action plan is a national streamlined version of the National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action to accelerate progress in reducing malnutrition. The Action Plan focuses on 22 priority interventions, ten under health, four under agriculture, four under the education sector, and four multi-sectoral in all villages of targeted vulnerable districts. In the second step, proposals were selected based on whether the asset would increase the community access to agricultural or irrigated land, increase the road access during rainy season, or build the communities' resilience for coping with shocks. Due to limited funding, fewer beneficiaries were reached in 2015 compared to 2014. All interventions were food-based although cash-based transfers could be considered in the future if market conditions are considered appropriate for such interventions.

The component 5 of the Country Programme had no food beneficiaries.

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information									
Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Total Beneficiaries</b>	162,229	183,119	345,348	106,896	133,001	239,897	65.9%	72.6%	69.5%
Total Beneficiaries (Comp.1-Emergency Preparedness and Respon)	17,500	17,500	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Beneficiaries (Comp.2-Mother and Child Health and Nutri)	23,081	38,163	61,244	8,094	25,629	33,723	35.1%	67.2%	55.1%
Total Beneficiaries (Comp.3-School Meals)	101,065	106,035	207,100	96,865	105,358	202,223	95.8%	99.4%	97.6%
Total Beneficiaries (Comp.4-Livelihood Initiatives for Nutrit)	20,583	21,421	42,004	1,937	2,014	3,951	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%
<b>Comp.1-Emergency Preparedness and Response</b>									
<b>By Age-group:</b>									
Adults (18 years plus)	17,500	17,500	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>By Residence status:</b>									
Residents	17,500	17,500	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Comp.2-Mother and Child Health and Nutrition</b>									
<b>By Age-group:</b>									

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information									
Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Children (6-23 months)	23,081	27,095	50,176	8,094	8,026	16,120	35.1%	29.6%	32.1%
Adults (18 years plus)	-	11,068	11,068	-	17,603	17,603	-	159.0%	159.0%
<b>By Residence status:</b>									
Residents	23,081	38,163	61,244	8,094	25,629	33,723	35.1%	67.2%	55.1%
<b>Comp.3-School Meals</b>									
<b>By Age-group:</b>									
Children (under 5 years)	16,361	17,604	33,965	13,953	14,560	28,513	85.3%	82.7%	83.9%
Children (5-18 years)	83,047	84,703	167,750	81,294	87,158	168,452	97.9%	102.9%	100.4%
Adults (18 years plus)	1,657	3,728	5,385	1,618	3,640	5,258	97.6%	97.6%	97.6%
<b>By Residence status:</b>									
Residents	101,065	106,035	207,100	97,471	104,752	202,223	96.4%	98.8%	97.6%
<b>Comp.4-Livelihood Initiatives for Nutrition</b>									
<b>By Age-group:</b>									
Children (under 5 years)	6,301	6,301	12,602	593	593	1,186	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%
Children (5-18 years)	7,141	7,559	14,700	672	710	1,382	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%
Adults (18 years plus)	7,141	7,561	14,702	672	711	1,383	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%
<b>By Residence status:</b>									
Residents	20,582	21,422	42,004	1,936	2,015	3,951	9.4%	9.4%	9.4%

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality									
Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
<b>Comp.2-Mother and Child Health and Nutrition</b>									
Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting	61,244	-	61,244	33,723	-	33,723	55.1%	-	55.1%
<b>Comp.3-School Meals</b>									
School Feeding (on-site)	173,300	-	173,300	157,604	-	157,604	90.9%	-	90.9%
School Feeding (take-home rations)	33,800	-	33,800	44,619	-	44,619	132.0%	-	132.0%
<b>Comp.4-Livelihood Initiatives for Nutrition</b>									
Food-Assistance-for-Assets	39,792	2,212	39,792	3,951	-	3,951	9.9%	-	9.9%

Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)									
Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Comp.3-School Meals</b>									
<b>School Feeding (on-site)</b>									
Children receiving school meals in pre-primary schools	16,982	16,983	33,965	14,184	14,185	28,369	83.5%	83.5%	83.5%
Children receiving school meals in primary schools	69,667	69,668	139,335	64,617	64,618	129,235	92.8%	92.8%	92.8%
<b>Total participants</b>	<b>86,649</b>	<b>86,651</b>	<b>173,300</b>	<b>78,801</b>	<b>78,803</b>	<b>157,604</b>	<b>90.9%</b>	<b>90.9%</b>	<b>90.9%</b>
<b>Total beneficiaries</b>	<b>86,649</b>	<b>86,651</b>	<b>173,300</b>	<b>78,801</b>	<b>78,803</b>	<b>157,604</b>	<b>90.9%</b>	<b>90.9%</b>	<b>90.9%</b>
<b>School Feeding (take-home rations)</b>									
Children receiving take-home rations in secondary schools	14,207	14,208	28,415	19,158	19,159	38,317	134.8%	134.8%	134.8%
Activity supporters	1,616	3,769	5,385	1,576	3,676	5,252	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%
<b>Total participants</b>	<b>15,823</b>	<b>17,977</b>	<b>33,800</b>	<b>20,734</b>	<b>22,835</b>	<b>43,569</b>	<b>131.0%</b>	<b>127.0%</b>	<b>128.9%</b>
<b>Total beneficiaries</b>	<b>15,823</b>	<b>17,977</b>	<b>33,800</b>	<b>21,049</b>	<b>23,570</b>	<b>44,619</b>	<b>133.0%</b>	<b>131.1%</b>	<b>132.0%</b>
<b>Comp.4-Livelihood Initiatives for Nutrition</b>									
<b>Food-Assistance-for-Assets</b>									
People participating in asset-creation activities	3,316	3,316	6,632	308	320	628	9.3%	9.7%	9.5%
<b>Total participants</b>	<b>3,316</b>	<b>3,316</b>	<b>6,632</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>
<b>Total beneficiaries</b>	<b>19,499</b>	<b>20,293</b>	<b>39,792</b>	<b>1,937</b>	<b>2,014</b>	<b>3,951</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food/cash/vouchers during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants.

Table 4: Nutrition Beneficiaries									
Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Comp.2-Mother and Child Health and Nutrition</b>									
<b>Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting</b>									
Children (6-23 months)	18,525	21,746	40,271	7,390	8,675	16,065	39.9%	39.9%	39.9%
Pregnant and lactating women (18 plus)	-	20,973	20,973	-	17,658	17,658	-	84.2%	84.2%
<b>Total beneficiaries</b>	<b>18,525</b>	<b>42,719</b>	<b>61,244</b>	<b>7,390</b>	<b>26,333</b>	<b>33,723</b>	<b>39.9%</b>	<b>61.6%</b>	<b>55.1%</b>

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
<b>Comp.1-Emergency Preparedness and Response</b>			
Canned Fish		354	-

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	19	-	-
Rice	1,050	-	-
<b>Sum</b>	<b>1,423</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Comp.2-Mother and Child Health and Nutrition			
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	747	223	29.9%
Rice	1,468	203	13.8%
<b>Sum</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>19.2%</b>
Comp.3-School Meals			
Canned Fish	-	33	-
Corn Soya Blend	2,236	1,664	74.4%
Rice	3,025	3,285	108.6%
Sugar	419	315	75.2%
Vegetable Oil	419	324	77.2%
<b>Sum</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>5,621</b>	<b>92.1%</b>
Comp.4-Livelihood Initiatives for Nutrition			
Rice	1,393	78	5.6%
Vegetable Oil	107	-	-
<b>Sum</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>5.2%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,238</b>	<b>6,124</b>	<b>54.5%</b>

Cash-Based Transfer	Planned Distribution USD	Actual Distribution USD	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	-	-	-
Voucher	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## Story Worth Telling

Bounsy, eight years old, is a second-grade student at Namkang primary school in the remote Phongsaly province in Laos. His ethnicity is Akha, one of the 49 ethnic groups in the country. As it is not his mother tongue, he proudly shows his progress in reading and writing Lao, and explains that his parents were not able to enjoy education like he does.

Every day in school, Bounsy looks forward to 11.30 am – the time when lunch is served. Since the WFP-supported school garden started producing vegetables, it is enhancing the dietary diversity of students like Bounsy. Just before lunch, Bounsy and his classmates head out to the garden besides the school to water the vegetable garden. He thinks having a garden is so much fun!

Namkang primary school is one of the more than 250 WFP-supported schools which have shifted from providing a mid-morning snack to lunch. At the beginning of the school year, WFP supported these schools to set up vegetable gardens to complement the lunch provided. WFP support includes oil, rice, and canned fish. The communities contribute other ingredients, including the vegetables grown in the school gardens. To ensure the involvement of the community as a whole, the parents have established a rotational system for the cooks.

His younger sister and brother, Bounsy says, cannot wait to attend the primary school, as they are looking forward to the tasty meals provided.

## Progress Towards Gender Equality

Indicators to measure WFP's progress towards gender equality have been monitored for the entire Country Programme except component 1, as no emergency response was undertaken.

Over the life of the project, the proportion of households making joint decisions on the use of the food has increased significantly from 67 percent to 83 percent. In the remaining households, women make the decision alone. The figures may mask diversity, as WFP serves 40 of the 49 ethnic groups in Laos and for example while Alak and Ta Oi are matriarchal, Hmong are patriarchal, and the main Lao group is a combination. Decision-making power can depend on birth order, for example where the groom of the youngest daughter comes to live with the bride's family, the woman may have relatively more influence.

School Meals and FFA both rely on community contributions, and communities are encouraged to form committees to foster decision-making with regards to the intervention.

The education system in Laos has been decentralised in recent years. Notably, the enactment of a policy empowering communities to set up Village Education Development Committees (VEDCs) has impacted the gender make-up of school committees. To be consistent with the government's policy and avoid duplication, WFP school committees which were previously established by the communities with the support of WFP, have been replaced by the VEDCs. However, a 2015 evaluation by UNICEF and World Vision, found that the representation of women and marginalised groups in the VEDCs needs to be improved. WFP has no control over the selection of VEDC members. The composition of the committee is established by the government and typically, chaired by the head of the village (a male) with the only female in the group being a representative of the Lao Women's Union, one of the Lao mass organizations. As WFP cannot influence the composition of the village committee, WFP will focus on developing the capacity of women in order to promote gender equality and empower women at the village level, and advocate at the central level for gender parity in local governance. However, this requires long-term efforts.

Besides specific gender indicators, WFP Laos placed emphasis on gender equality in 2015 which will payoff in the medium- to long term. Following the deployment of a gender and protection advisor, the country office staff received training in the relevant areas. A gender analysis based on stakeholder interviews and secondary data has been formulated to guide programme activities and identify opportunities to promote equality, for example; while gardening is perceived as a female task, the school gardens require boys and girls tending and learning about nutrition and school gardens together.

Efforts with nutritional training for MCHN continued to engage men as well as women, recognising that in some communities, men of different ages can play a role in care of small children. However, for the awareness campaign conducted in 2015, WFP did not find any male care-givers of children aged 6 to 24 months. Additional efforts were made with older people as care providers for small children to raise the understanding of the nutritional consequences of traditional food taboos around pregnancy and early motherhood.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Comp.1-Emergency Preparedness and Response				
<b>Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
<i>LAOS, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=40.00			
<b>Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
<i>LAOS, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=30.00			
<b>Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
<i>LAOS, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=30.00			

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees</b>				
<i>LAOS, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=50.00			
<b>Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution</b>				
<i>LAOS, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=60.00			
Comp.3-School Meals				
<b>Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees</b>				
<i>LAOS, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=50.00	47.00		38.00
<b>Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution</b>				
<i>LAOS, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=60.00	52.00		29.00
Comp.4-Livelihood Initiatives for Nutrition				
<b>Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
<i>LAOS, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=60.00	67.00		83.00
<b>Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
<i>LAOS, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=20.00	27.00		17.00
<b>Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food</b>				
<i>LAOS, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=20.00	6.00		0.00
<b>Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees</b>				
<i>LAOS, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=50.00	47.00		14.00
<b>Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution</b>				
<i>LAOS, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=60.00	52.00		30.00

## Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Although Laos is overall a very safe country, without conflict or major natural hazards in 2015, a few cases have been reported related to safety problems travelling to, or travelling from distribution sites. Those safety problems relate to challenges of carrying rice from the points of distribution. The school meals programme changed the timing of the distribution to the beginning of the semester to allow boarding students to consume the ration during the school term. No challenges have been reported for FFA. The distribution for FFA takes place at the villages.

The low level of awareness of WFP's programmes amongst PLW and caretakers of children aged 6-24 months (MCHN), students (School Meals), and FFA participants can be attributed to the limited investment in raising awareness about WFP activities in Laos. In addition, it can be partly linked to gender. Inequalities in access to education for rural ethnic females means that in many communities women cannot read or speak Lao. A pilot programme took place in 2015 for 'pictures only' explanation of WFP programmes and rations (the outcomes are not yet reflected in below figures). MCHN partnered with Population Services International to conduct an awareness campaign in all supported provinces. This campaign consisted of radio broadcasts with tailored messages and banners posted at villages informing about the MCHN activity and has improved the beneficiary awareness. For the awareness campaign, no male caretaker for children aged 6-24 months could be identified. The data has not been collected (cross-cutting table).

In the Lao context, there is a social preference against providing feedback. WFP piloted a set of beneficiary feedback mechanisms, including feedback boxes and a hotline to offer a variety of options and to determine the best solutions. WFP took into account poverty-related differences in access to cell phones. An innovative solution, involving youth mobilisers at community level, where a secondary student who is fluent in Lao as well as an ethnic language, and who has a cell phone, was trialed. The youth mobiliser assisted those who did not speak Lao, did not have a cell phone, or lacked confidence in articulating their concerns. Findings from the pilot suggested that there is no best solution, and the solutions offered complement each other: while beneficiaries used the hotline to get clarifications, beneficiaries reverted to mailboxes to post general comments. The acceptance of those mechanisms will take time. WFP will continue to offer an array of options and explore new approaches and platforms to improve awareness about the programme entitlements and where to provide feedback.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Comp.1-Emergency Preparedness and Response				
<b>Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)</b>				
<i>LAOS, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=90.00			
<b>Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site</b>				
<i>LAOS, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=100.00			
<b>Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)</b>				
<i>LAOS, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=90.00			
<b>Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites</b>				
<i>LAOS, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=100.00			
Comp.2-Mother and Child Health and Nutrition				
<b>Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)</b>				
<i>LAOS, Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2014.12</i>	=90.00	20.00		
<b>Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site</b>				
<i>LAOS, Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12</i>	=100.00	96.00		

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)</b>				
<i>LAOS, Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=90.00	27.00		56.00
<b>Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites</b>				
<i>LAOS, Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00		92.00
Comp.3-School Meals				
<b>Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)</b>				
<i>LAOS, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=90.00	20.00		22.00
<b>Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site</b>				
<i>LAOS, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	96.00		97.00
<b>Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)</b>				
<i>LAOS, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=90.00	27.00		20.00
<b>Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites</b>				
<i>LAOS, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00		97.00
Comp.4-Livelihood Initiatives for Nutrition				
<b>Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)</b>				
<i>LAOS, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=90.00	20.00		28.00
<b>Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site</b>				
<i>LAOS, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00		100.00
<b>Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)</b>				
<i>LAOS, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=90.00	27.00		0.00
<b>Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites</b>				
<i>LAOS, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00		100.00

## Outputs

The EPR programme contributed to government capacity development to prepare for, assess and respond to emergencies through the capacity building of 263 government staff on emergency preparedness and response procedures. An indicative target of 300 staff was not reached due to coordination challenges between the counterpart at central level and the two targeted provinces. Three mobile storage units are available to be deployed upon request of the government. WFP worked with the partners on guidelines to establish a national emergency operations center. The commodity and beneficiary planning figures for EPR were based on the Country Programme's commitment to assist up to 35,000 people at the request of the government in the event of an emergency with rations for 90 days per beneficiary. A food security assessment at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry was conducted after reports of deteriorating food security in Central- and Northern Laos were received. The assessment showed that an intervention was not necessary. An additional post-harvest assessment started in December and results will be available by March 2016.

WFP continued to provide specialised nutritious foods and tailored nutritional education to PLW and children aged 6-23 months. Women received an additional rice incentive to use prenatal and antenatal services at health centres. All health centres and villages that were planned to receive training or assistance in 2015 were reached. All planned care-givers received nutrition education training, with the majority of communities trained by the Danish Red Cross. The training provided focused on causes of malnutrition, benefits of a well-balanced diet, and how to maximise nutritional intake by using locally available food. Despite availability of diverse food, many foods are not considered edible by beneficiaries. WFP food assistance and nutrition education were part of the United Nations Joint Programme (UNJP) on Maternal and Neonatal Child Health and complemented by UNFPA family planning services, WHO health centre staff training, deworming tablets, iron and vitamin A supplementation, and UNICEF outreach services and funding for immunisations.

The school meals programme reached the planned number of primary schools with a snack and lunch as well as primary and secondary schools with the provision of take-home rations to informal boarding students. Although 68 schools were suspended in September, those are reported here as they were part of the programme until June. In total, 259 primary schools changed from provision of a snack to the provision of a school lunch in line with the government's Policy on Promoting School Lunch (2014). This transition will continue in 2016 with more schools providing lunch. As part of this transition, WFP has supported schools and communities to establish vegetable gardens. The members of the Village Education Development Committees (VEDC) in the five pilot districts were trained on maintenance of school gardens and in management of the school lunch programme. In addition, WFP provided garden materials, seeds and fences for all schools in order to establish the gardens. In some cases, the establishment of gardens was delayed, as the rehabilitation or construction of water sources had to be provided by WFP or partners.

Twenty-two FFA projects have been proposed by the communities in the three targeted provinces (Oudomxay, Luang Namtha, and Sekong), out of which 16 were completed in 2015. After the initial assessments concluded, six communities opted out as they were not ready to fully engage with the programme, and activities were suspended. WFP will re-assess the readiness of these communities in 2016. The most important community assets created were water springs to allow access to safe water, fish ponds to enhance the dietary diversity, and feeder roads to link villages and agricultural production to nearby markets.

Cash-based transfers were budgeted for the Country Programme as an option to be explored in areas where markets were functioning, but due to a lack of funding, this could not be implemented in 2015. A multi-functional training on cash-based transfers was provided to key country office staff in December 2015 and feasibility assessments are planned for 2016.

No outputs are reported under component 5, as WFP did not engage in any partnership for this component.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
<b>Comp.1-Emergency Preparedness and Response</b>				
<b>SO2: Capacity Development - Emergency Preparedness</b>				
Number of government staff members trained in emergency preparedness and response	individual	300	263	87.7
Number of government staff members trained in warehouse management	individual	30	0	0

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Number of mobile storage tents/units made available	unit	3	3	100.0
Number of national emergency operations centers set-up with WFP support	site	1	0	0
Number of national response plans developed with WFP support	policy	1	1	100.0
<b>Comp.2-Mother and Child Health and Nutrition</b>				
<b>SO4: Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting</b>				
Number of health centres/sites assisted	centre/site	121	121	100.0
Number of men exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP	individual	2,319	2,119	91.4
Number of people exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP	individual	17,875	17,475	97.8
Number of villages assisted	centre/site	1,067	1,067	100.0
Number of women exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP	individual	3,465	3,265	94.2
<b>Comp.3-School Meals</b>				
<b>SO4: School Feeding (on-site)</b>				
Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	2,400	1,380	57.5
Number of primary schools assisted by WFP	school	1,508	1,508	100.0
<b>SO4: School Feeding (take-home rations)</b>				
Number of secondary schools assisted by WFP	school	231	231	100.0
<b>Comp.4-Livelihood Initiatives for Nutrition</b>				
<b>SO3: Food-Assistance-for-Assets</b>				
Hectares (ha) of land cleared	Ha	115	45	39.0
Kilometres (km) of feeder roads built and maintained	Km	14	6	41.0
Number of fish ponds constructed (FFA) and maintained (self-help)	fish pond	3	2	66.7
Number of water springs developed	water spring	5	5	100.0

## Outcomes

In August 2015, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and WFP jointly conducted a Food Security Assessment in four provinces (Xayaboury, Xieng Khuang, Luang Prabang and Houaphanh) to assess the impact of unseasonal dry weather, local floods, locust and rodents on food security. WFP and the Government of Lao PDR concluded that the results do not require an intervention. On preparedness actions, WFP supported the capacity development of the government. Indicators to capture capacity building efforts have been updated in 2015. The Emergency Preparedness Capacity Index will be operationalised in 2016.

The prevalence of stunting in MCHN-supported provinces of Sekong, Luang Namtha and Oudomxay has significantly decreased compared to the 2012 baseline. As a number of factors determine the prevalence of

stunting, it cannot be attributed to WFP's intervention alone. The prevalence of stunting has also decreased in non-supported areas, which may be attributed to a general increase in wealth, and a narrowed rural-and urban divide. In order to determine the impact of the programme, an impact evaluation led by the University of British Columbia was undertaken. Results are expected in 2016.

The coverage of WFP's programme increased compared to 2014. This figure was determined by a desk review and includes all children who received at least one monthly ration. The proportion of children who consume a minimum acceptable diet, which measures both dietary diversity and the meal frequency has decreased compared to the previous year. Dietary diversity is a major challenge: whereas 75.3 percent of children meeting the minimum meal frequency, but only 35.5 percent of children meeting the minimum dietary diversity. The MCHN programme will tackle these challenges through nutrition training, encouraging caretakers to ensure children receive nutritious and diverse complementary food in addition to WFP's ready-to-use supplementary foods. It is expected that changing behavior in particular for enhancing diet diversity will take years and require new ways of raising awareness as well as continue investments in nutrition education at community levels.

School meals showed positive results as well. The enrolment in Laos was already at a high level, with 98.5 percent net enrolment on national average (Ministry of Education and Sports, 2015). Since the start of the Country Programme, net enrolment in Laos increased tremendously for both primary- and pre-primary schools. The ratio of girls to boys enrolled in primary education reached an almost 1:1 ratio as primary education is compulsory. However, the drop-out and repetition rates among boys are higher than among girls. In addition, pre-primary enrolment in 2015 increased as result of the establishment of more pre-primary facilities. However, challenges remain, for example student and teacher attendance and a high rate of student dropouts. 93 percent of girls and 91 percent of boys attended school at the day of visit. However, skipping school is common amongst primary students. WFP will continue raising awareness of the importance of education. With the new education law, approved in September 2015, primary and lower secondary education are compulsory.

WFP contributed to national level policy and strategy design through the Education Sector Working Group and the School Meals Sub-Working Group. As a result, the National Capacity Index (SF-NCI) improved compared to the 2012 baseline from latent (1.5) to emerging (2.4). It is particularly strong in the policy goal 1 (policy frameworks) and policy goal 5 (community roles), whereas the financial and the institutional capacity scores low. The provision of school feeding is still to be rolled out nationwide and moreover the lack of a government budget poses a threat to the sustainability of the programme.

The FFA intervention showed modest improvements in food security in targeted communities. Outcomes presented below are prone to strong seasonal variations. The baseline was conducted in May 2015, at the beginning of the lean season. The endline was conducted in September and November 2015. September marks the peak of the lean season, whereas in November the rice harvest usually concludes, and as such food security improves. In addition, the monsoon season with frequent local flooding lasts from May to October. The Community Asset Score has improved in only 38 percent of communities, meaning that those communities have potentially increased resilience. This is due to the timing of the surveys. The pre-assistance baseline was conducted during the dry season, whereas the endline was conducted in September and November after the monsoon season, at which time critical community assets in vulnerable communities usually get damaged. The number of households with an acceptable food consumption score (FCS) has increased after the intervention. This indicates increased short-term food security. Similarly, the proportion of households which engage in short-term consumption based coping strategies (rCSI) and medium term livelihood-based coping strategies (ICSI) has decreased slightly. Dietary Diversity remained at a low level (according to IFPRI thresholds) before and after the intervention. Low dietary diversity is a persistent problem in Laos and can only be addressed by a longer-term package of interventions.

The regional/national, and local purchase has decreased compared to previous years. This is due to a sharp decline in regional purchases. No local fortified foods have been purchased in 2015 due to no local availability of relevant fortified foods.

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>Comp.1-Emergency Preparedness and Response</b>				
<b>SO2 Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies</b>				
<b>Adequate food consumption reached or maintained over assistance period for targeted households</b>				
<b>FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score</b>				
LAOS , <i>Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.08 Joint survey</i>	=1.32	6.60	-	-

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score</b>				
<i>LAOS , Base value: 2015.08 Joint survey</i>		78.90	-	-
<b>FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)</b>				
<i>LAOS , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.08 Joint survey</i>	=0.00	0.00	-	-
<b>FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)</b>				
<i>LAOS , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.08 Joint survey</i>	=1.44	7.20	-	-
<b>FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (female-headed)</b>				
<i>LAOS , Base value: 2015.08 Joint survey</i>		92.30	-	-
<b>FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (male-headed)</b>				
<i>LAOS , Base value: 2015.08 Joint survey</i>		77.70	-	-
<b>Diet Diversity Score</b>				
<i>LAOS , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.08 Joint survey</i>	>4.34	4.34	-	-
<b>Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)</b>				
<i>LAOS , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.08 Joint survey</i>	>4.40	4.40	-	-
<b>Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)</b>				
<i>LAOS , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.08 Joint survey</i>	>4.33	4.33	-	-
<b>CSI (Food): Percentage of households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index</b>				
<i>LAOS , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.08 Joint survey</i>	<2.61	2.61	-	-
<b>CSI (Food): Percentage of female-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index</b>				
<i>LAOS , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.08 Joint survey</i>	<4.58	4.58	-	-
<b>CSI (Food): Percentage of male-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index</b>				
<i>LAOS , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.08 Joint survey</i>	<2.44	2.44	-	-
<b>Capacity developed to address national food insecurity needs</b>				
<b>EPCI: Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity Index</b>				
<i>LAOS , Project End Target: 2016.12</i>	=0.00		-	-
<b>Comp.2-Mother and Child Health and Nutrition</b>				
<b>SO4 Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger</b>				
<b>Reduced undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies among children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women, and school-aged children</b>				

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Desk review of records of all eligible children in target areas and children enrolled in target areas</i>	>70.00	72.80	-	91.50
<b>Proportion of children who consume a minimum acceptable diet</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring WFP PDM; Oct-Dec 2015</i>	>70.00	35.00	-	31.30
<b>Prevalence of stunting among targeted children under 2 (height-for-age as %)</b>				
<i>LUANG NAMTHA , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2012.01 Joint survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 Joint survey Food and Nutrition security survey 2015 (Ministry of Health, Lao Statistics Buero. UNICEF, WFP)</i>	=43.09	53.20	-	44.00
<b>Prevalence of stunting among targeted children under 2 (height-for-age as %)</b>				
<i>OULDOMXAY , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2012.01 Joint survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 Joint survey Food and Nutrition security survey 2015 (Ministry of Health, Lao Statistics Buero. UNICEF, WFP)</i>	=44.47	54.90	-	46.00
<b>Prevalence of stunting among targeted children under 2 (height-for-age as %)</b>				
<i>SEKONG , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2012.01 Joint survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 Joint survey Food and Nutrition security survey 2015 (Ministry of Health, Lao Statistics Buero. UNICEF, WFP)</i>	=50.79	62.70	-	49.00
<b>Comp.3-School Meals</b>				
<b>SO4 Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger</b>				
<b>Increased equitable access to and utilization of education</b>				
<b>Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted pre-schools</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2014.05 Secondary data , Latest Follow-up: 2015.05 Secondary data</i>	>3.00		23.81	13.24
<b>Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted pre-schools</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2014.05 Secondary data , Latest Follow-up: 2015.05 Secondary data</i>	>3.00		18.64	14.82
<b>Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2014.05 Secondary data , Latest Follow-up: 2015.05 Secondary data</i>	>3.00		1.64	0.03
<b>Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2014.05 Secondary data , Latest Follow-up: 2015.05 Secondary data</i>	>3.00		1.24	0.04

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>Gender ratio: ratio of girls to boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2011.05 Secondary data , Previous Follow-up: 2014.05 Secondary data , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring</i>	=0.90	0.95	0.98	0.98
<b>Ownership and capacity strengthened to reduce undernutrition and increase access to education at regional, national and community levels</b>				
<b>NCI: School Feeding National Capacity Index</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2012.03 Joint survey NCI Workshop , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 Joint survey Joint workshop: WFP and CRS, January 2016 (for reporting years 2014 and 2015)</i>	>1.50	1.50	-	2.40
<b>Comp.4-Livelihood Initiatives for Nutrition</b>				
<b>SO3 Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs</b>				
<b>Improved access to livelihood assets has contributed to enhanced resilience and reduced risks from disaster and shocks faced by targeted food-insecure communities and households</b>				
<b>CAS: percentage of communities with an increased Asset Score</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP survey</i>	=80.00		37.50	38.00
<b>FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.05 WFP survey , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP survey</i>	>50.00	50.00	54.10	61.11
<b>FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (female-headed)</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.05 WFP survey , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP survey</i>	>50.00	0.00	38.90	50.00
<b>FCS: percentage of households with acceptable Food Consumption Score (male-headed)</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.05 WFP survey , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP survey</i>	>55.81	55.81	54.60	64.29
<b>Diet Diversity Score</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.05 WFP survey , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP survey</i>	>4.10	4.10	4.41	4.02
<b>Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.05 WFP survey , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP survey</i>	>4.20	4.20	4.33	4.17

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.05 WFP survey , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP survey</i>	>4.09	4.09	4.41	3.98
<b>CSI (Food): Percentage of male-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.05 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP survey</i>	<17.35	17.35	-	15.43
<b>CSI (Asset Depletion): Percentage of households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.05 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP survey</i>	<2.46	2.46	-	2.13
<b>CSI (Asset Depletion): Percentage of female-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.05 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP survey</i>	<4.00	4.00	-	1.83
<b>CSI (Asset Depletion): Percentage of male-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.05 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP survey</i>	<2.28	2.28	-	2.21
<b>CSI (Food): Percentage of households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.05 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP programme monitoring</i>	<19.85	19.85	-	16.52
<b>CSI (Food): Percentage of female-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.05 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP survey</i>	<41.40	41.40	-	20.33
<b>Increased marketing opportunities for producers and traders of agricultural products and food at the regional, national and local levels</b>				
<b>Food purchased from regional, national and local suppliers, as % of food distributed by WFP in-country</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2012.01 WFP programme monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Procurement records</i>	=50.00	29.00	75.60	18.51
<b>Food purchased from aggregation systems in which smallholders are participating, as % of regional, national and local purchases</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2012.01 WFP programme monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	>10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Comp.5-Food Fortification and Marketing</b>				
<b>SO3 Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs</b>				
<b>Increased marketing opportunities for producers and traders of agricultural products and food at the regional, national and local levels</b>				

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>Fortified foods purchased from regional, national and local suppliers, as % of fortified food distributed by WFP in-country</b>				
<i>LAO PDR , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2012.01 WFP programme monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring</i>	>30.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

Under EPR, WFP continues to support government ownership in disaster risk reduction within the context of the Hyogo Framework For Action (2005-2015) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). WFP worked on strengthening the Emergency Preparedness and Response capacities of the government, and supported the creation of a National Emergency Operation Centre through provision of a manual and a training of trainers for government staff at provincial and district level. MAF and WFP jointly conducted food security assessments which have been a vehicle to share learning experiences, as staff from all levels (national, provincial, and local) were involved. In addition, WFP provided technical support on emergency preparedness to the WFP Indonesia Country Office. WFP analyzed models for an improved Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) and commissioned a study. A detailed report on SGR options was finalized and WFP facilitated a stakeholder workshop. The final report was shared with government partners.

To support the Lao Government and development partners understanding the impact of climate change to food security and livelihoods, WFP worked with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to undertake the pilot of CLEAR (Coordinated Livelihoods Exercise for Analyzing Resilience) tool in the whole country. Results will help all stakeholders to conduct better targeting and reach the least resilient areas. A draft report has been completed and stakeholders consultation on the results of CLEAR is planned for early 2016.

The MCHN component supported the Ministry of Health through joint initiatives across the development sector including the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, the UN Joint Programme on Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health, and the Multi-Sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan. WFP is building the capacity of the government to formulate nutrition-related policies to ensure implementation is sustainable. To prepare for hand-over, WFP is working to ensure that the government implements the programme at community level.

To address micronutrient deficiencies, food fortification is a priority intervention in the Lao National Nutrition strategy 2016-2025. In coordination with the Ministry of Health, WFP conducted a rice fortification landscape analysis with the aim to explore the feasibility of rice fortification in Laos. The results, including an action plan on next steps, will be available in 2016.

The school meals programme is transitioning from the current mid-morning snack to a more culturally appropriate and sustainable school lunch to help keep students in school for the full day. This shift is part of the plan to hand over the school meals programme to the government in the coming years. In 2015, 259 schools in five districts introduced school lunches and vegetable gardens have also been established. WFP provided technical inputs and guidelines to support the set-up and the maintenance of the gardens. As such, WFP drafted a school garden manual and counterpart staff joined in the Regional School Garden for Better Nutrition workshop in Thailand. WFP's support to the Education Sector Technical Working Group helped to coordinate activities and promote the National School Lunch Policy. Through WFP's support, counterpart staff were able to join the global child health and nutrition forum at Cape Verde. A transition workshop with the government and partners identified four potential models to hand over the school feeding programme, and a costing exercise for those four models is planned for 2016. The SABER (SF-NCI) exercise with CRS and the counterpart confirmed that Laos is advanced not only in terms of policies but also in terms of community involvement and coordination (technical working group and sector plans). However, the provision of school feeding is still to be nationwide and the lack of government budget poses a threat to the sustainability of the programme.

WFP continued to undertake FFA activities. In addition to training government staff on technical aspects of asset creation and maintenance, WFP has also provided guidance of preserving sustainable assets for communities.

## Inputs

### Resource Inputs

MCHN received multi-year funds. In addition, contributions were provided to determine the effectiveness of Plumpy' Doz in reducing stunting. Part of these funds were used to procure food. School meals received multi-year funding and a large in-kind-contribution, and tried to enhance the flexibility of these inputs in order to align the activities to the recent school meals policy. The LIN programme was severely underfunded and received no additional contributions. Operations were maintained on a small scale with the inputs from the previous year. An additional rice reserve through the ASEAN Plus Three Rice Reserve (APTERR) was under discussion with the APTERR secretariat to support the Government of Laos with 225 mt of rice for emergency disbursement.

Donor	2015 Resourced (mt)		2015 Shipped/Purchased (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
Australia	0	19	37
Cuba	0	0	305
Japan	0	0	446
Luxembourg	0	488	370
MULTILATERAL	0	186	300
Private Donors	0	175	57
USA	5,230	0	3,831
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,230</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>5,347</b>

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

### Food Purchases and In-Kind Receipts

Due to a significant increase of in-kind donations, the volume of food purchased decreased in 2015 compared to 2014. The volume of local procurement decreased, as local prices were not competitive compared to international and regional purchases. Only smaller amounts of sugar were procured locally, as the in-kind donation received from the Government of Cuba was sufficient to cover the needs. The main donor of in-kind commodities was USDA through the McGovern Dole funds. Referring to the outcomes table, food purchased from regional, national and local suppliers, as the percentage of food distributed by WFP, decreased from 75.6 percent to 18.5 percent.

Commodities	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Canned Fish	0	0	446	0
Corn Soya Blend	0	0	1,609	0
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	0	67	25	0
Rice	0	1,028	2,336	0
Sugar	76	0	305	0
Vegetable Oil	0	0	68	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>4,790</b>	<b>0</b>

### Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

WFP further improved the timeliness and efficiency of food delivery through early deliveries to remote locations that are difficult or impossible to access during the rainy season. Remote locations in Northern Eastern Laos (bordering with Myanmar and China) which were affected by landslides and seasonal floods, were accessed by boat on the Mekong River.

## Post-Delivery Losses

WFP had very minimal transport and warehouse post-delivery losses. Some losses occurred during storage at the village-level health centres and schools.

Due to a combination of misunderstanding on the first-in and first-out principle and an unanticipated reduction in consumption, the ready-to-use supplementary food expired during storage at village health centres. In addition, sugar and vegetable oil were missing (unaccounted for) from WFP-assisted schools. WFP will strengthen its monitoring at distribution points to minimise losses in the future.

## Management

### Partnerships

WFP worked in partnership with the government, NGOs and other United Nations agencies to address food security and undernutrition. Through its partnerships, WFP developed government capacity, delivered training and awareness campaigns, implemented food assistance activities, conducted joint monitoring, and ensured complementarity through participation in technical working groups. In 2015, WFP invested in strengthening the partnerships through regular sessions with the Ministry of Planning and Investment, responsible for coordinating the development assistance to Laos. Similarly, WFP worked on enhancing its partnership and coordination among six ministries with quarterly meetings to discuss results achieved, constraints faced, and prepare joint quarterly plans. A new partnership started in 2015 with the Danish Red Cross to provide nutrition education to communities, focusing on causes of malnutrition, the importance of a well-balanced diet, and how to maximise nutritional intake by using local food. Nutrition education was provided to more than 17,000 beneficiaries. The major advantage of the Danish Red Cross was the large presence on the ground in some of WFP's target areas which enabled to reach out to a wide range of beneficiaries. Where other partners were not available, WFP continued to partner with parastatal institutions, such as Lao Women Union and the provincial health department on nutrition education for villages.

WFP strengthened communication and partnership with donors, and on a quarterly basis, invited donors based in Laos, Thailand and Vietnam to briefing meetings to present activities, results achieved and challenges faced.

WFP and FAO co-chaired the UNDAF 2012-2016 outcome group on Food Security and Nutrition. WFP chaired the UN Monitoring and Evaluation working group in Laos and WFP's monitoring and evaluation team supported the UNDAF evaluation in 2015. The group provides technical support to the UNDAF monitoring and the upcoming UN-Lao PDR Partnership Framework and works as a platform to exchange. In late 2015, the group merged with the UN Research- and Data and Statistics group and started working with the government in enhancing the quality of data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

Under the United Nations Humanitarian Preparedness Framework, WFP took the lead in the development of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Contingency Plan. WFP led the Emergency Task Force (ETF) that reports directly to the Humanitarian Country Team. The ETF met to discuss options for flood responses. In June, WFP partnered with FAO to undertake an assessment to estimate the impacts of a locust outbreak in Northern Laos. In parallel, WFP led the Logistics and the Emergency Telecommunications clusters. The Food Security Cluster, co-chaired by WFP, FAO and the government reviewed coordination mechanisms, actions and responsibilities to meet humanitarian food needs and protect rural livelihoods in an emergency. WFP assisted the Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change in hosting an inter-ministerial National Response Plan workshop to finalise the plan for approval by the National Disaster and Prevention Control Committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. In November, WFP took over the co-chair of the Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation working group, which provided overall assistance for knowledge management and joint action on disaster risk management, such as assessment and planning, risk reduction and response and preparedness mechanisms, and climate change adaptation. To help the government and development partners understand the impact of climate change to food security and livelihood, WFP worked with government teams lead by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment to undertake the CLEAR assessment in the whole country.

For the MCHN programme, WFP worked with other United Nations agencies, such as UNFPA, WHO and UNICEF under the Joint UN programme on maternal and neonatal Child Health Care and Nutrition. For the school meals programme, WFP, in partnership with UNICEF, developed a joint monitoring framework for schools receiving assistance from both WFP (school meals) and UNICEF (water and sanitation). A Memorandum of Understanding

with CRS was also signed for this programme, confirming the strong coordination in school meals policy, programming and in formulating technical guidance. With the the Ministry of Education and Sports and CRS, WFP produced technical guidelines on school gardens, which are being used nationwide. Under LIN, WFP partnered with CARE International and the Government of Laos to implement FFA activities at the village level. Partners cost-shared the activities, and provided strong technical contributions. With the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and IFAD, design missions were undertaken to design the project document of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme in 2016.

Partnership	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total		2	1	4

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Comp.1-Emergency Preparedness and Response		
<b>Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)</b>		
<i>LAOS, Capacity Development - Emergency Preparedness , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=40,000.00	38,175.00
<b>Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services</b>		
<i>LAOS, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=2.00	2.00
<b>Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners</b>		
<i>LAOS, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00
Comp.2-Mother and Child Health and Nutrition		
<b>Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services</b>		
<i>LAOS, Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=6.00	3.00
Comp.3-School Meals		
<b>Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)</b>		
<i>LAOS, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=250,000.00	242,445.61
<b>Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services</b>		
<i>LAOS, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=2.00	3.00
<b>Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners</b>		
<i>LAOS, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00
Comp.4-Livelihood Initiatives for Nutrition		
<b>Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)</b>		
<i>LAOS, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=270,000.00	261,617.00
<b>Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services</b>		
<i>LAOS, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=3.00	3.00
<b>Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners</b>		
<i>LAOS, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=70.00	100.00

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Comp.5-Food Fortification and Marketing		
<b>Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)</b>		
<i>LAOS, Capacity Development - Food Fortification , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=0.00	0.00
<b>Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services</b>		
<i>LAOS, Capacity Development - Food Fortification , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=0.00	0.00
<b>Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners</b>		
<i>LAOS, Capacity Development - Food Fortification , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=0.00	0.00

## Lessons Learned

In the past, WFP was not part of policy dialogues at the ministry level. With the aim of enhancing effectiveness, WFP has in the past year, invested significant time to strengthen the overall relation and coordination with various line ministries at the central and district level. At the field level, the placement of WFP monitoring assistants at district offices has improved the communication between WFP and the counterpart. Due to concrete initiatives such as food security assessments and formulation of technical guidance, WFP is becoming the partner of choice for the government for technical assistance.

Overall, there has been an increased focus on programme quality with the re-packaging of the FFA component by linking food security and rural development with disaster risk reduction and resilience-building; re-assessment of the P4P programme; preparation of a monitoring and evaluation strategy to better capture and demonstrate results; impact evaluation carried out as planned; and the establishment of a beneficiary feedback mechanism.

The monitoring and evaluation strategy was developed by a monitoring and evaluation expert (former WFP staff). Implementation of the strategy started in October. Nearly 60 percent of WFP staff were in the field. In addition to three sub-offices, 23 monitoring assistants were based in the districts to be closer to project sites and the beneficiaries. Monitoring plans were prepared to ensure that all project sites were visited on a quarterly basis. Data was disseminated in monthly process monitoring reports and a quarterly consolidated outcome monitoring report.

WFP's monitoring and an impact assessment showed that the provision of rice to PLW as an incentive is not strong enough to get all PLW to visit health facilities for check-ups during pregnancy, institutional deliveries and after birth. The findings also suggested that most PLW attended check-ups and institutional deliveries because they knew about the health benefits. As a result, WFP will invest more in awareness creation among PLW.

To enhance the awareness of gender, protection and accountability to affected population amongst all WFP staff, 75 percent of WFP staff have been successfully trained on protection and accountability to affected populations.

The weak capacity of the commercial transport sector and the underdeveloped road infrastructure posed risks to the timely deliveries of WFP commodities. Through evaluations and frequent meetings with transport companies, WFP ensured adherence to high quality standards. To tackle the challenge posed by underdeveloped road networks, WFP sent commodities by boat, tractors which were able to cross small feeder roads, and selected alternative routes through neighbouring countries, such as Vietnam.

# Operational Statistics

## Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
<b>Comp.2-Mother and Child Health and Nutrition</b>									
Nutrition: Prevention of Stunting	61,244	-	61,244	33,723	-	33,723	55.1%	-	55.1%
<b>Comp.3-School Meals</b>									
School Feeding (on-site)	173,300	-	173,300	157,604	-	157,604	90.9%	-	90.9%
School Feeding (take-home rations)	33,800	-	33,800	43,569	-	43,569	128.9%	-	128.9%
<b>Comp.4-Livelihood Initiatives for Nutrition</b>									
Food-Assistance-for-Assets	6,632	2,212	6,632	628	-	628	9.5%	-	9.5%

## Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
Australia	AUL-C-00195-02	Sugar	0	19	19
Australia	AUL-C-00195-03	Vegetable Oil	0	0	18
Cuba	CUB-C-00016-01	Sugar	0	0	305
Japan	JPN-C-00328-01	Canned Fish	0	0	446
Luxembourg		Rice	0	0	278
Luxembourg	LUX-C-00094-04	Rice	0	26	0
Luxembourg	LUX-C-00094-05	Ready To Use Supplementary Food	0	92	92
Luxembourg	LUX-C-00094-05	Rice	0	370	0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Canned Fish	0	186	0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Corn Soya Blend	0	0	300
Private Donors	WPD-C-02644-02	Sugar	0	57	57
Private Donors	WPD-C-02676-08	Rice	0	118	0
USA		Corn Soya Blend	0	0	231
USA		Rice	0	0	1,995
USA	USA-C-01071-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	0	1,078
USA	USA-C-01071-01	Rice	0	0	459
USA	USA-C-01071-01	Vegetable Oil	0	0	68
USA	USA-C-01071-03	Corn Soya Blend	1,890	0	0
USA	USA-C-01071-03	Rice	2,980	0	0
USA	USA-C-01071-03	Vegetable Oil	360	0	0

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>5,230</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>5,347</b>