



**WFP EVALUATION**

# Evaluation of Lao People's Democratic Republic WFP Country Strategic Plan 2017-2021

October 2021

Round Table



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# Context

- Population over 7 million
- 67% of population in rural areas
- Lower middle-income country
- Economic disparities
- Natural hazards and climate change shocks
- Food insecurity persistent
- Chronic undernutrition
- Government integrated SDG



# WFP Country Strategic Plan in Lao PDR

**Shift:** from provision of food assistance to policy engagement and intensification of capacity strengthening

## Four Strategic Outcomes



School children's access to food

1



Reduce stunting

2



Resilience to seasonal shocks

3



Government institutions capacity strengthening

4

# Data collection methods



- Documents review
- Field missions
- Key Informant interviews
- Attention to confidentiality, gender and ethical considerations
- Partially remote data collection considering COVID-19 travel restriction

# Findings

# Q1 To what extent are WFP's strategic position, role and specific contribution based on country priorities and people's needs, as well as WFP's strengths?



Relevant to the **national priorities** - appropriately aligned with **key national policies** and **strategies**



**Impressive reach** in the priority districts



Continuous challenge to reach some of the **most remote** communities



Successful adaption to **emergency: floods** and **COVID-19**



Strong alignment with the **UN Partnership Framework**

# Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to CSP strategic outcomes? (1/2)

## STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1



Significant contributions to national education policy and budget landscape for a **national school meals programme**



Capacity strengthening activities resulting in **uneven levels of community ownership**

## STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2



Successful individual **nutrition activities** but no consolidated scaled picture

## STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3



Some successful **food for assets creation** activities but **on a limited scale**

## STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4



No articulated overarching approach to **strengthening institutional capacity**

## Q2 What is the extent and quality of WFP's specific contribution to CSP strategic outcomes? (2/2)



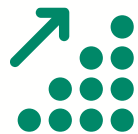
Targeting was **largely needs based**



Approach to **safely reach the beneficiaries**



Despite some challenges, **gender** was generally mainstreamed into the CSP's implementation



**Good progress in the handover of the school meals programme** but ongoing challenges in ensuring its sustainability



Clear outcome linking humanitarian and development work and **creative approach** to address **nexus**



# Q3 To what extent did WFP use its resources efficiently in contributing to CSP outputs and strategic outcomes?



**Timely** activity delivery



Despite the **limited data** for comprehensive analysis, available monitoring data shows improving **cost-efficiency**



**Cost-benefit analysis** of the school meals programme

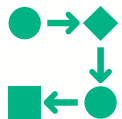
# Q4 What are the factors that explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the CSP?



**Uneven funding** with **limited flexibility** across the Strategic Outcomes



**Stronger partnerships** with **the Government** of Lao PDR at all levels



Increased **ability** and **flexibility** to adapt its activities to needs

# Conclusions



Shift to technical assistance strengthened **government partnerships**



Recognition of WFP's traditional **strength and extensive reach**



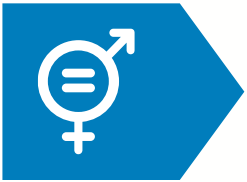
**School meals** handover strategy proceeding well though more attention needed to the level of community ownership to ensure sustainable handover



# Conclusions



Comprehensive approach to **country capacity strengthening** remaining a challenge



**Gender** widely mainstreamed



Comprehensive analytical framework, flexible funding and monitoring required for more **strategic engagement**



# Recommendations

1

Deepen utilization of up-to-date evidence to support the shaping and implementation of a realistic scope and focus for the new CSP 2021-2025

2

Engage partners more strategically for stronger integration of partnerships within programming and with donors that support the needs of the CSP

3

Develop and integrate a country office approach to resilience strengthening and emergency preparedness and response

4

Strengthen the capacity of WFP staff to design and implement Country Capacity Strengthening

5

Reappraise and reinforce WFP's approach to support the Government's strategy to take over the school meals programme