



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

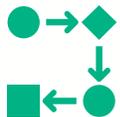
Q4 What are the factors that explain WFP performance and the extent to which it has made the strategic shift expected by the CSP?



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**



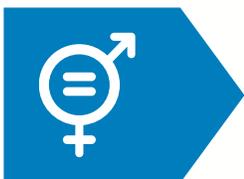
School meals handover strategy proceeding well though more attention needed to the level of community ownership to ensure sustainable handover



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