

FWC Services for the Implementation of External Aid 2018

**FINAL EVALUATION OF
FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION
IN LAO PDR**

DCI-FOOD/2013/023-724

Final Report

July 2022

Evaluation Contract No.

FWC SIEA 2018 - Lot 4, 2018/6272



This project is funded by
The European Union



A project implemented by
International Consulting Expertise EEIG (ICE),
in consortium with
Four Assist Development Consulting Ltd

This evaluation is supported and guided by the European Commission and presented by International Consulting Expertise EEIG (ICE). The report does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the European Commission.



Final Report

of the

FINAL EVALUATION OF

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN LAO PDR

FWC SIEA 2018, Lot: 4, Request for Services No.: 2018/6272

Prepared by

Mr Timothy Bene

and Mr Vanxay Vang

Presented by

International Consulting Expertise EEIG (ICE)



in consortium with

Four Assist Development Consulting (Cyprus)



Table of Contents

Abbreviations	1
1 Introduction	3
1.1 Intervention Logic and Theory of Change of the FSN Project.....	5
1.2 The Final Evaluation of the FSN Project	7
1.2.1 Evaluation Methodology	7
1.2.2 Limitations of the evaluation	8
2 Answered questions / Findings.....	8
2.1 Relevance.....	8
2.2 Coherence	10
2.3 Efficiency.....	14
2.4 Effectiveness	20
2.5 Potential for impact.....	30
2.6 Sustainability.....	35
2.7 EU Added Value	41
2.8 Gender, other Crosscutting Issues and Approaches.....	43
3 Conclusions and Recommendations	47
3.1 Lessons learnt	47
3.2 Conclusions	48
3.3 Recommendations.....	50
Annexes to the report.....	53
Annex 1 FSN Project Logframe with updated indicators.....	54
Annex 2 Theory of Change linkages between Project Activities and NNS Strategic Objectives and Priority Interventions	67
Annex 3 Terms of Reference for this Evaluation	74
Annex 4 Evaluation Matrix.....	75
Annex 5 Evaluation Methodology including: options taken, difficulties encountered and limitations; detail of tools and analyses	93
Annex 6 Key Informants and Discussion Groups.....	101
Annex 7 Documents Consulted	103
Annex 8 Comparison of Actions funded under PIN Pillar 3.....	106
Annex 9 Baseline data and updated targets.....	111
Annex 10 Data quality control example	114
Annex 11 Animal pass-on loan scheme	116
Annex 12 Evolution of Crosscutting Issues and Approaches in planning documents.....	120
Annex 13: Evolution of the FSN Project	126
Table A1: Evolution of the Results Chain	127
Table A2: Comparison of planned activities at different stages of the preparation	129
Annex 14: Final Workshop.....	135
Annex 15: Evaluation Brief (EN).....	136
Annex 16: Evaluation Brief (LA).....	137

Abbreviations

AAP	Annual Action Programme
ANC	Antenatal care
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
CBA	Childbearing age
CDF	Community Development Facilitator
CFP	Call for Proposals
CLTS	Community-led total sanitation
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus
CSA	Civil Society Alliance
CU5	Children under five years of age
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DAFO	District Agriculture and Forestry Office
DHO	District Health Office
DNC	District Nutrition Committee
ER	Expected Result
EM	Evaluation Matrix / Ethnic Minority
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunisation
EQ	Evaluation Question
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FNS	Food and nutrition security
FPP	Fundacion Pueblo a Pueblo
FSN Project	Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR (also known as Partnership for Increased Resilience and Improved Food and Nutrition Security of Vulnerable Communities in Khammouane Province, Lao PDR)
FSTP	Food Security Thematic Programme
GIS	Geographic Information System
GoL	Government of Lao PDR
HH	Households
HPA	Health Poverty Action
IMC	Implementation Management Committee
INGO	International Non Government Organisation
IP	Implementing Partner
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JP	European Joint Programming for Lao PDR, 2016-2020
KE2	Key Expert 2
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
KI	Key Informant
KII	Key Informant Interview
LANN	Linking Agriculture, Natural Resource Management and Nutrition
LCAAS	Lao Child Anthropometric Assessment Survey (2015)
LRRD	Linking Rehabilitation, Relief and Development
LSIS	Lao Social Indicator Survey
LWU	Lao Women's Union
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MNCH	Maternal, newborn and child health
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
MoH	Ministry of Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Member States (of the European Union)
MTR	Midterm review
NNC	National Nutrition Committee
NNS	National Nutrition Strategy

NNSPA	National Nutrition Strategy 2016-2025 and Plan of Action 2016-2020
NPAN	National Plan of Action on Nutrition
NSA	Nutrition sensitive agriculture
NSEDP	National Socio-economic Development Plan
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
PAFO	Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office
PDR	People's Democratic Republic
PHO	Provincial Health Office
PI	Priority Intervention (of the NNSPA)
PIF	Project Identification Fiche
PIN	Partnership for Improved Nutrition
PNC	Provincial Nutrition Committee / Postnatal Care
PY1, PY2	Project Year 1 etc
Q1, Q2 etc	First quarter, second quarter etc
ROM	Results Oriented Monitoring
SAM	Severe acute malnutrition
SBCC	Social and behavioural change communication
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SO	Strategic Objective (of the NNSPA) or Specific Objective of the Project logframe
SP3	Specific Purpose 3 of the FSTP, which related to LRRD and resilience
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
SUN	Scaling-Up Nutrition
SUNWIP	Scaling Up Nutrition and WASH Infrastructure
TAPs	Technical and Administrative Provisions
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
VHC	Village Health Committee
VHW	Village Health Worker
VNV	Village Nutrition Volunteer
VVW	Village Veterinary Worker
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WMC	Water Management Committee
WRA	Women of reproductive age
WS	Water supply

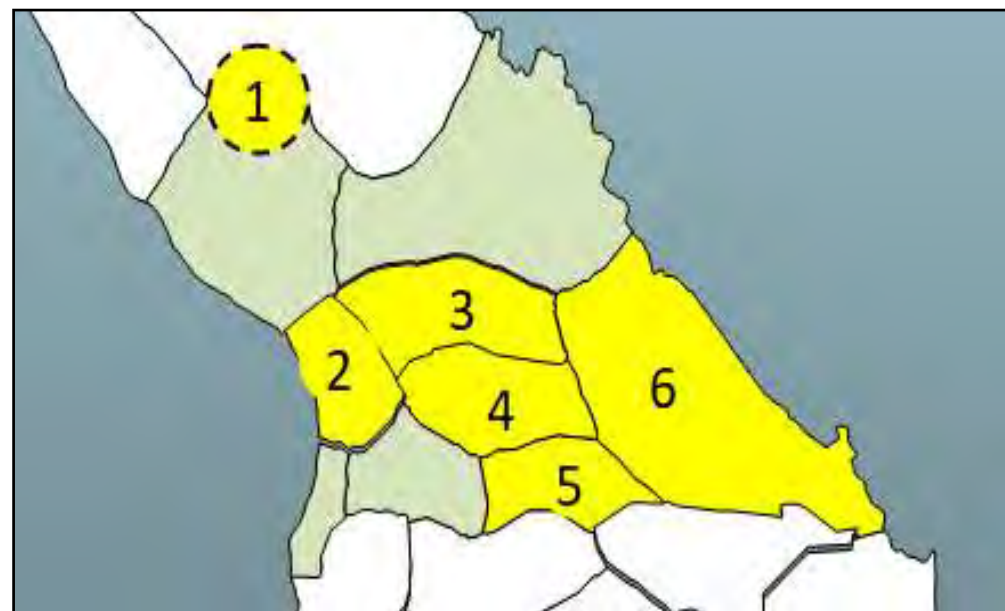
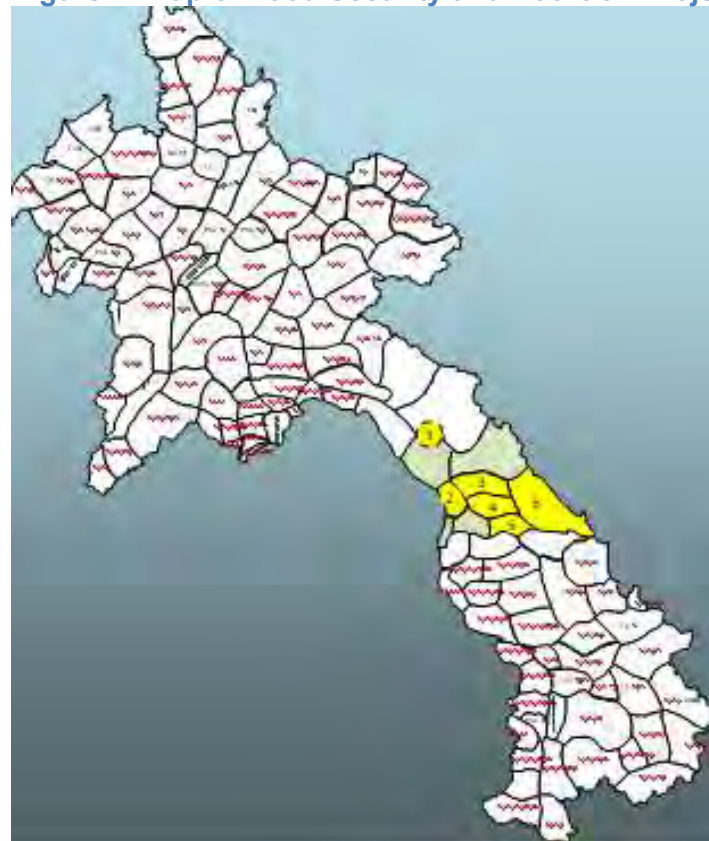
1 Introduction

The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) has made significant economic progress since the turn of the century but nevertheless 33% of children under 5 (CU5) were stunted in 2017 (Lao Social Indicator Survey II – LSIS II). In Khammouane Province CU5 stunting incidence was about 30% and wasting 10% and the Province contains many remote ethnic communities where rates are expected to be considerably above the provincial average. In 2015 the Government of Lao PDR, strongly supported by the European Union (EU), approved a National Nutrition Strategy 2016-25 (NNS) and Plan of Action 2016-2020 (NNSPA). The EU developed a Partnership for Improved Nutrition (PIN) as a contribution to NNSPA implementation, and the project under evaluation – *Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR* (hereafter referred to as the FSN Project, or simply the Project) – was awarded through a Call for Proposals (CFP) under PIN Pillar 3. Information about the relationship of the Project to other actions funded under the three pillars of the PIN are discussed in Section 2.1 (Finding 3 - Finding 5).

Unlike the other PIN projects that were developed from scratch, the FSN Project evolved from a previously planned flood response project that was to have been funded under the EU's Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP), and utilised that allocated funding. The evolution in project formulation and design, which was discussed in detail in Section 1.2 of the Inception Report (reproduced hereunder in Annex 13), resulted in a CFP that included some of the FSTP objectives pertaining to food security and resilience, which are still to be found in the Project's logframe. A change to be noted is that whereas the wording of two of the Expected Results (ERs) remained unchanged in the iterations between identification and CFP, they were changed in the proposal and therefore in the subsequent grant award. The change removed the integration between the ERs and enabled the possibility to undertake them independently.

The FSN Project grant contract was awarded to a consortium of three co-applicants, the International Non Government Organisations (INGOs) Health Poverty Action (HPA) and Fundacion Pueblo Para Pueblo (FPP) and the Khammouane Provincial Health Office (PHO) (hereafter referred to as the consortium) in August 2017 with an implementation period of 39 months. It took until January 2019 for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed by the Director General of the Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion, Head of Secretariat Office of National Nutrition Committee, and in December 2020 a no-cost extension until August 2021 was granted. Figure 1 shows the location of Khammouane Province and the Project's six target districts in Lao PDR.

Figure 1: Map of Food Security and Nutrition Project Target Districts



Khammouane Province

1. Khounkham (indicative location, new district);
2. Thakek;
3. Gnommalath;
4. Mahaxay;
5. Xaybuathong;
6. Boualapha

1.1 Intervention Logic and Theory of Change of the FSN Project

The Project has the Overall Objective to *Contribute to improved nutrition and food security towards achieving Priority 1 of Lao PDR National Nutritional Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020, and [Sustainable Development Goal] SDG2 and the Specific Objective of Improved nutritional status and food security in 5,000 vulnerable households in 100 villages of 6 districts with special focus on children under 5, women of CBA [child bearing age] including EM [ethnic minority] women, urban poor and migrants - and youth.* This is to be achieved through three Expected Results:

ER1: *Food security, resilience and dietary diversification in vulnerable communities is strengthened*

ER2: *Increased community capacity to prevent, respond to and manage the wider determinants of malnutrition through improved nutrition, nutrition sensitive and hygiene knowledge and practices amongst target communities*

ER3: *Enhanced capacity of provincial and district level staff to lead multi-sectoral planning and improve coordination*

The logframe, with updated targets and incorporation of MOU indicators and targets (see 0 para b), is provided in Annex 1. This intervention logic was discussed in detail in the Inception Report (Section 2 and Annexes 4 and 5). Caveats about each Expected Result were noted as follows:

ER1: The statement refers to strengthening vulnerable communities but the activities refer to target farmers. There is no explicit selection activity to ensure that target farmers belong to vulnerable communities or are vulnerable themselves – as required by the SO statement of 5,000 vulnerable households.

ER2: A convergent approach requires that all components of the Project address the same target groups, but there is no specification that target communities should be vulnerable.

ER3: The activities are appropriate for improved coordination, but do not build leadership.

The Theory of Change was also described in detail in the Inception Report. The Project represents implementation of the NNSPA in its six target districts and hence the Theory of Change is the same as that of the NNSPA except for its geographic focus. The NNSPA identified 22 'Priority 1' interventions of which four are multi-sectoral and the rest pertain to the health & hygiene, agriculture and education sectors¹. These interventions variously address the basic, underlying and immediate causes of malnutrition through three Strategic Directions and 11 Strategic Objectives, resulting in improved nutritional status.

The Project's Theory of Change was to support 18 priority multisectoral, health and hygiene and agriculture interventions in its target area to achieve the three Strategic Directions and 11 Strategic Objectives of the NNSPA, thereby addressing the immediate, basic and underlying causes of malnutrition, leading to improving nutritional status of the target communities. An illustrative overview is shown in Figure 2 while Annex 2 presents graphical and tabular representations demonstrating how the Project's 29 activities relate to the priority interventions and Strategic Objectives.

¹ The initial implementation of the NNSPA, of which the Project was a part, did not include the four education Priority Interventions

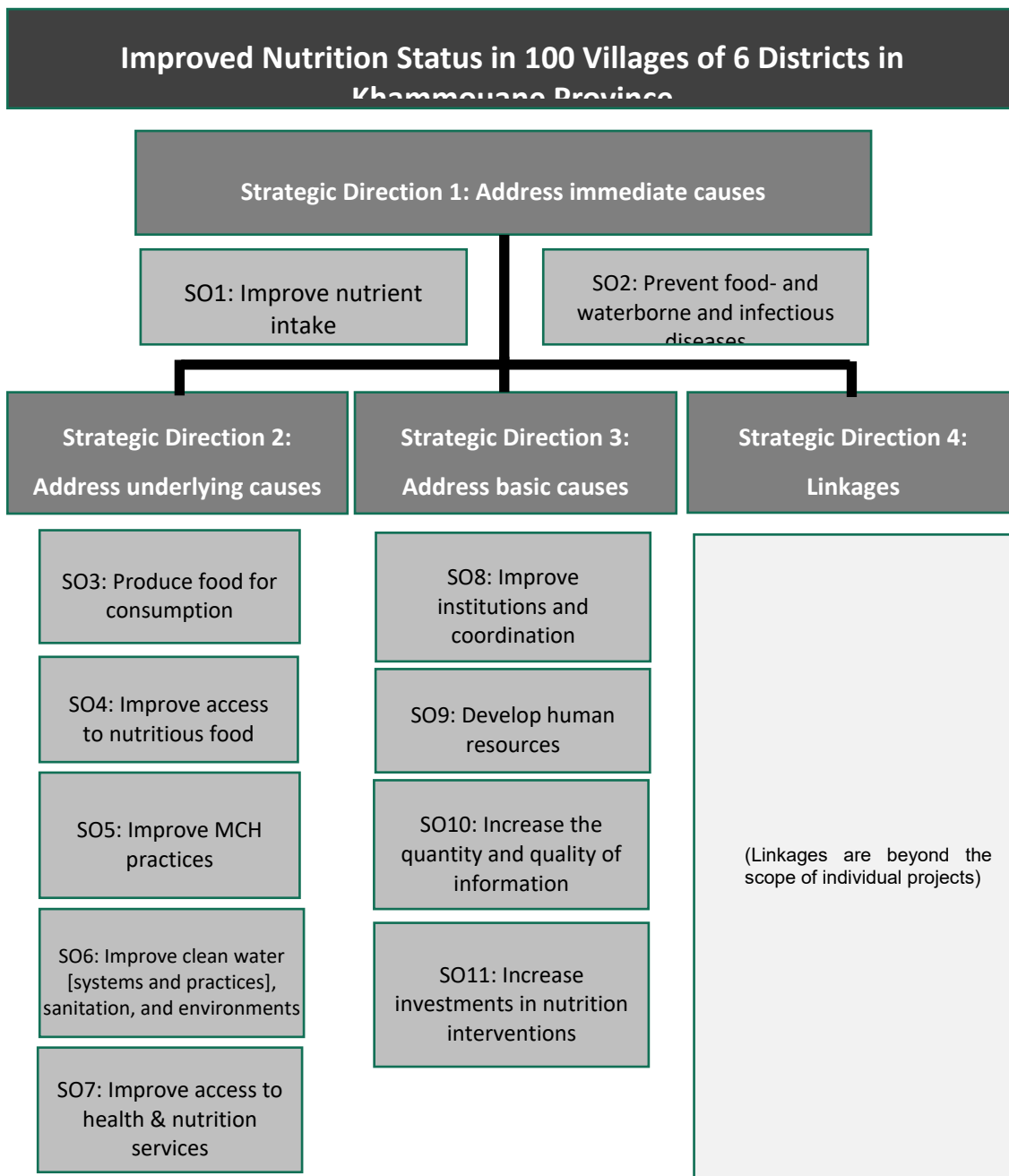


Figure 2: Outline Theory of Change for FSN Project

Adapted from GoL, 2015, National Nutrition Strategy to 2025 and Plan of Action to 2020, Fig 2, p11

1.2 The Final Evaluation of the FSN Project

The Terms of Reference (TOR) of this evaluation are attached in Annex 3. The main objectives are to provide relevant services of the European Union, and interested stakeholders with:

- an overall independent assessment of the past performance of the Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR, paying particular attention to its results measured against its expected objectives; and the reasons underpinning such results;
- key lessons learnt, conclusions and related recommendations in order to improve future Interventions.
- the concrete best practices, challenges, and coordination among the members of consortium and the coordination between the consortium and the government counterparts at sub-national level and other government stakeholders involved in the Action. The evaluation will assess the enabling factors that hamper a proper delivery of results.

The TOR request the Evaluation Team to pay attention to specific issues that include:

- delays in the start of the physical implementation of the action;
- the modality of implementation for the consortium;
- the synergy with other EU funded projects and other donors' initiatives;
- the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) mission
- preliminary indications of achievement of results and key factors impacting (positively or negatively) their likelihood to deliver what was expected by the end of their life;
- gender mainstreaming in the design, execution, and management of the action.

In addition, the Evaluation Manager stressed that recommendations should be suitable to inform a future round of multisectoral nutrition programming. The main users of this evaluation are expected to be the EU Delegation to Lao PDR, Government of Lao PDR stakeholders in multisectoral nutrition and the Project's Co-Applicants and Associates.

1.2.1 Evaluation Methodology

The Evaluation Team comprised Tim Bene as Team Leader and Vanxay Vang as Key Expert. Because of the Covid 19 pandemic travel restrictions, Mr Bene worked remotely from Europe while Mr Vang was able to travel unhindered for fieldwork.

The Evaluation followed the structure laid out in detail in the TOR and further elaborated in our Proposal and Inception Report. It comprised three phases – the Inception Phase, the Field Phase and the Synthesis Phase. There were no specific Desk or Reporting Phases.

The Inception Phase commenced with a briefing meeting and review of basic Project documentation, followed by analysis and reconstruction of the intervention logic, description of the theory of change, and development of a stakeholder map, evaluation questions (EQs), evaluation matrix, evaluation methodology and fieldwork schedule. The Inception Report was submitted in early January 2022 and a presentation and discussion was held with the Evaluation Manager on 6th January.

The objective of the field phase was to obtain answers to the EQs. The Evaluation Matrix (Annex 4) specifies the tools to be used for each EQ. Questions related to coherence, crosscutting issues and EU added value were addressed mainly by detailed document review and a limited number of interviews with key informants, some of whom were not directly related to the Project. Relevance was similarly addressed except that it involved a larger number of respondents enabling triangulation across a range of sub-national levels. The approach to EQs concerning efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability involved fieldwork and examination of data and materials supplied by former Project staff and related stakeholders. The fieldwork tools comprised key informant interviews at provincial, district and village levels, village level group discussions and

physical observation. Details about the tools and process, including selection of three districts and nine villages and the field visit itinerary, are provided in Annex 5. The fieldwork was conducted in late January and February 2022. Twenty-three male and 19 female key informants were interviewed while 109 members of Farmers Clubs (49 male and 60 female) and 42 members of Women's / VHW / VNV groups (2 male and 40 female) participated in group discussions. The list of key informants and groups consulted, and the list of documents and data files consulted, can be found in Annex 6 and Annex 7 respectively. An Intermediary Note was submitted on 17 February and an online presentation with the review group was held on 25th February.

The information forthcoming from each interview and discussion was systematically recorded on a spreadsheet. During the synthesis phase the spreadsheets were combined, creating a database that could quickly filter information, for instance by checklist numbers sub-filtered by other characteristics such as respondent category, district, village etc.

The Synthesis Phase was a process of addressing each EQ by developing a number of findings based on evidence. The evidence was obtained by review of relevant documents and other materials and interrogation of the dataset. Triangulation was achieved by comparing responses with peers (e.g. between the same category of official from different districts); between categories of respondent; and where relevant and possible, between data sets (for instance between endline data provided by the Project and, data in the Endline Survey or data provided by health centres). There are about 50 findings for the 11 EQs. Each finding is presented as a statement supported by one or more paragraphs of evidence, with tables or figures where appropriate. We have been careful to provide the evidence on its own without expressing comments on it, and to provide balance where possible. We present the evidence in a logical sequence within each finding and EQ, often beginning with what had been planned (eg in the Project Proposal which became the Description of the Action) and leading on to what had been done (for instance as reported in Project reports and data), and then proceeding to what we found in the field.

Lessons Learnt incorporate the evidence and our wider experience. The Conclusions represent our opinions based on the evidence and Findings, to which they are hyperlinked. The Lessons Learnt and Conclusions were shared and discussed with senior Project stakeholders prior to submission of the draft Final Report. The Recommendations are based on the Conclusions and Lessons Learnt and have been developed specifically with a view to informing future multisectoral nutrition programming.

A workshop was conducted at the end of the assignment presenting principal findings of the Evaluation mission, and recommendation for future programming, while time was provided to discuss how to mainstream nutrition in district programming (relevant documents in Annex 14).

1.2.2 Limitations of the evaluation

In Section 7 of the Inception Report we discussed potential risks related to the methodology. Risks concerned with fieldwork disruption or non-participation by potential informants due to COVID-19 did not arise. Annex 5 includes a discussion of several limitations faced by the evaluation, including those which were included amongst the risks. The important ones are listed below.

- Remote working of Evaluation Team Leader and lack of Project Team Leader
- No opportunity to pre-test the tools
- Work overload for KE2 delayed record-keeping

Together these limitations resulted in reduced depth of detail – for instance we are unable to explain the reasons behind the apparently widespread non-continuation of Farmers' Groups - but because of the systematic approach fostered by the Evaluation Matrix, we consider it unlikely that they invalidate any of the findings.

2 Answered questions / Findings

2.1 Relevance

Finding 1 The project was relevant to all stakeholders.

- a. The Project was developed in accordance with the detailed guidelines provided by the EU for Lot 3 of the grant Call for Proposals relating to Pillar 3 of the PIN. The proposal's Overall Objective – to contribute to improved nutrition and food security, towards achieving the NNSPA and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 was very similar to the Overall Objective recommended in the CFP guidelines – to contribute to SDG2 through the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) convergence approach. There was a slight deviation in Specific Objectives, in which the guidelines called not only for improved food and nutrition security in rural households, but also sustained agricultural wealth production. The proposal's Specific Objective does not specify the latter, although the proposal does include an activity to develop agricultural production groups and indeed incorporates the majority of the activities suggested in the Call.
- b. The PIN was the EU's immediate response to the implementation of the NNSPA, whose development it had supported. Being a national strategy, all provinces should be encouraged to participate and hence it is reasonable for the EU to have selected Khammouane (based on the availability of funding related to an earlier flood recovery project that had not materialised) even though the Province was slightly below average in terms of CU5-stunting according to LSIS 2011-12 (40.8% against a national average 44.2%) and remained so in 2017 according to LSIS II (30% compared to a national average of about 33%). The NNS favours targeting of remote mountain areas populated by ethnic minorities, and Khammouane possesses many such areas.
- c. The NNS specifies 22 Priority 1 interventions that contribute to 11 Strategic Objectives. Annex 2 indicates how the project activities were intended to address each of these.
- d. Provincial respondents from the PHO and Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO), including a Provincial Nutrition Committee (PNC) member and the former Project Coordinator, separately stated that the Project was completely in line with the Provincial Development Plan. They confirmed the assertion in the Project Proposal that the applicants had consulted with them in detail at the time of preparing the proposal, during which coherence with sectoral plans was ensured and the six target districts were selected. One of them pointed out that alignment with provincial development plans was reassessed and confirmed during preparation of the MOU. The PAFO representative stated that the project was aligned with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and PAFO food security and nutrition objectives in their 1 year and 5 year plans, and that the ER1 activities were appropriate to achieve them. Likewise the PHO staff confirmed that the ER2 activities were in line with health strategy and that the activities were appropriate. The same stakeholders agreed that the ER3 capacity building activities were in line with 1 and 5 year plans and with the GoL policy that capacity building is essential for sustainable development.
- e. District Health Office (DHO) and District Agriculture Office (DAFO) staff in all the visited districts agreed that ER1 was in line with DAFO's strategy on food security and that the activities were appropriate to achieve it. For ER2 they responded similarly in terms of DHO strategy, but focused their answers on community capacity building *per se* rather than on preventing, responding to and managing the wider determinants of malnutrition. They also unanimously agreed that ER3 was in line with their district capacity building plans and that the training provided was appropriate.
- f. All nine Village Authorities interviewed said that the Project was in line with their village development plans or strategies. Eight of them specifically mentioned that the plans were focused on food security (the ninth said agriculture), while two mentioned nutrition, one hygiene and sanitation and one the three-builds strategy as also being part of their development plans.
- g. Globally, Laos is an 'early riser' of the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, having joined in April 2011, and is therefore publicly committed to a strong response against malnutrition. The NNSPA is the mechanism of its response and the project (whose INGO co-applicants are members of the SUN Civil Society Alliance in Laos) is an implementation action under the NNSPA. Additionally, Laos is committed to the SDGs and the NNSPA represents its approach to much of SDG2. The project is therefore a relevant contributor to the global nutrition agenda.
- h. Both the Mid-term Review (MTR) and Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) mission assessed the project to be relevant, although the MTR highlighted the caveat that the 'one size fits all' approach to nutrition sensitive agriculture (ER1) compromised its relevance. While sharing

concern about the approach, we do not think it diminishes relevance because the point of the PIN was to rapidly scale up known solutions.

In the Inception Report we noted that whereas the activities listed for ER1 and ER2 were capable of providing comprehensive nutrition support, there was no mechanism in the design that guaranteed a convergent approach, without which the support would not be comprehensive. This would put Relevance in doubt so we drafted EQ1.

EQ1: To what extent did the project ensure that its activities in each target community met the multisectoral convergence requirements to deliver its intended nutrition outcomes?

Judgement Criteria for EQ1	Rating
Coordinated planning by HPA & FPP.	Satisfactory
Coordinated implementation by HPA & FPP.	Satisfactory

Finding 2 The project adopted and implemented a convergent approach that ensured the activities of Expected Results 1 and 2 were undertaken in the same communities and frequently by the same households.

- a. The selection of villages and beneficiaries in the six target districts was explained separately by the former Operations Manager and the former Agriculture Officer who was also the Project's lead staff for the co-applicant FPP. Their explanations tallied and were confirmed by the former Project Coordinator. Selection of villages was largely undertaken jointly by the DHOs, DAFOs and District Lao Women's Union (DLWU). They lacked information about nutrition status of the villages, and selection was done before they received their training in multisectoral approaches. As a result, while there was an attempt to prioritise villages with known child nutrition issues, the selection was based mainly on the 'poor village' list, location (ie a balance between remote and near to the district headquarters) and there was some prioritisation of those with poor access to water. Household selection was done by villagers themselves, supported by representatives from the same offices and from both project INGOs. Criteria included families known to have malnourished children and poor families with CU5, prioritising those with an interest and capability to participate in Project activities. There was still not sufficient data to ensure families at most risk of malnourished children were selected and in year 2, after screening had been undertaken, more than 100 additional households were added. The purpose of household selection was to identify about 50 households per village to be enrolled as members of Farmers' Clubs, and hence benefit from ER1 activities. ER2 activities were aimed at all households with CU5 or women of child bearing age, and some activities, such as social and behaviour change communication (SBCC), targeted the entire village populations.
- b. Representatives from DHOs, DAFOs and the District Nutrition Committees (DNCs) in all visited districts agreed that the Project took a convergent approach to planning its activities, which were then implemented separately. This was also confirmed by Village Authorities and other respondents such as Farmers' Club members in all nine sampled villages. They also noted that having separate implementation was an advantage because the same households could not be involved in more than one activity at a time – which is clear evidence of convergent implementation.

2.2 Coherence

EQ2: To what extent were the Project's objectives aligned with the objectives of the PIN and with other projects financed under all three pillars of the PIN?

Judgement Criteria for EQ2	Rating
Objectives consistent with PIN objectives	Satisfactory
Activities consistent with other Pillar 3 actions, and coordination embedded in design	Partially satisfactory
Coordination with Pillar 1 embedded in design	Satisfactory
Coordination with Pillar 2 embedded in design	Satisfactory

PIN Management and Governance Stakeholders views on Project Coherence	Satisfactory
Examples of coherence in practice	Partially Satisfactory

Finding 3 The Project’s Objectives were well aligned with the objectives of PIN Pillars 1 and 2, and with those of the Pillar 1 & 2 action supported by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

- a. Pillar 1 of the PIN (concerning nutrition governance) was facilitated through a single action managed by UNICEF. Its Expected Results included *Enhanced capacity for Lao PDR’s multi-sectoral nutrition coordination, planning, monitoring, and reporting at the national, provincial, and district levels*; and *Improved awareness on the causes, consequences, and key actions to address under-nutrition among leaders, decision-makers, and the general public*. It involved, inter alia, support to the National Nutrition Committee (NNC) to set up and manage Provincial Nutrition Committees (PNCs) and DNCs throughout the country. Some of the activities under the Project’s ER3 (*Enhanced capacity of Provincial and District level staff to lead multi-sectoral planning and improve coordination*) supported multisectoral Provincial and District level nutrition awareness capacity building and the development and operation of the DNCs. The former Operations Manager explained that at the outset of the Project, UNICEF had already created the PNC, while DNCs existed on paper but had not yet held any meetings or received any briefings about their intended function. There was a Provincial Coordinator supported by UNICEF with whom the Project worked closely. The Project Proposal and MOU indicated that the Project would support all 10 DNCs in Khammouane Province, but in fact it only supported those in its six target districts and UNICEF covered the other four. This information was corroborated by UNICEF.
- b. PIN Pillar 2 was facilitated through the same action managed by UNICEF, with the Expected Result of *Strengthened institutional capacity of the Ministry of Health to plan, deliver, monitor, and report on nutrition-specific interventions*. The Project’s ER2, despite its title (*Increased community capacity to prevent, respond to and manage the wider determinants of malnutrition through improved nutrition, nutrition sensitive and hygiene knowledge and practices amongst target communities*), involved significant nutrition specific support. A main area of support under Pillar 2, as explained by the UNICEF Nutrition Manager, is the Integrated Outreach Programme involving quarterly village visits by teams from health centres (now called small hospitals²) and DHOs, to monitor CU5 growth and provide services such as Vitamin A, deworming, and immunisation. In the six Project districts, UNICEF provided the materials and the Project facilitated training and logistics of the DHO and health centre staff. This was confirmed by the former Operations Manager. Another example of coherence, provided by UNICEF, is that UNICEF provided training in Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) and in Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), while the Project supported the implementation of these activities in its target villages.

Finding 4 The Project’s objectives were aligned with PIN Pillar 3, and with those of the other Pillar 3 projects.

- a. As discussed under Finding 1a, the Project was funded through a grant award under Pillar 3 of the PIN and its Objectives were aligned with the Objectives required for Lot 3 of the Call for Proposals. Lot 3 was specifically intended for a single action in Khammouane Province, which became this Project.
- b. Pillar 3 also comprised two other projects awarded under lots 1 and 2 of the same CFP and two projects under delegated management with other donors (AFD and KfW), for a total of 5 projects facilitating sub-national interventions supporting the implementation of the NNSPA³. Salient

² Although now officially known as small hospitals, we use the term ‘health centre’ for consistency with all other reports related to the Project.

³ Pillar 3 also included a central level support to MAF managed by FAO through its FIRST programme, but this had completed before the FSN MOU was signed.

details of these actions, extracted from their respective project documents (and thus reflecting intentions – we have not compared implementation), are provided in Annex 8. The Expected Results of the Project are reasonably similar to that of the others⁴. For instance one of the Projects (AHAN) has very similar expected results, while the other two projects, which share their geographic target areas, between them also have a very similar set of results relating to agriculture, nutrition specific activities and governance. Annex 8 shows the planned priority interventions and strategic foci for each action, which confirm alignment of objectives.

Finding 5 Other characteristics of the PIN Pillar 3 Projects vary in their degree of alignment

- a. Annex 8 shows the timeframes, budgets and target groups of the five Pillar 3 projects. All the projects except the FSN Project had 48-52 month implementation periods. The FSN Project had only just over one quarter of the EU Contribution allocated to the AHAN Project, which covers a similar number of villages (120 in 12 districts compared to the Project's 100 in 6 districts), but only half the target households and slightly higher number of government partners. Thus the potential spend per beneficiary of AHAN is almost eight times more than the FSN Project. The combined budget of SCALING and NUSAP, jointly covering 420 villages in four northern provinces, is about six times greater than the Project's.
- b. Annex 8 also compares the intended technical approaches and group approaches of the Pillar 3 projects. This evaluation, covering only one of the five projects, does not enable a more detailed comparison to be elaborated, but it is worth noting the different approaches that can be taken to achieve similar objectives, and also to note that these can have repercussions on the coherence of the overall PIN programme. For instance all of the actions include capacity building of government personnel, who are then usually the ones responsible for implementation in the field. The different technical and group approaches to implementation mean that the capacity building will not have been consistent, which may lead to confusion as staff rotate between districts and to a less extent between provinces and to the national level. According to Project and other PIN Pillar 3 project informants, there was no interaction to enable learning, comparison of approaches or sharing of resources.
- c. It should be noted that the PIN and the Project were foreseen in and coherent with the European Joint Programming 2016 - 2020 which is discussed in Finding 39

Finding 6 The Project Objectives were coherent with the EU's Nutrition Budget Support Programme which was launched in September 2019 and overlapped with the final two years of Project activities.

- a. According to its Action Fiche, the Nutrition Budget Support Programme has three Specific Objectives:
 - SO 1 – Improve the quality of nutrient intake with a particular focus on gender equality and reaching disadvantaged groups, to address immediate causes of malnutrition in Lao PDR;
 - SO2 – Improve nutrition-related service use, to address underlying causes of malnutrition in Lao PDR;
 - SO3 – Improve nutrition multi-sectoral governance, to address basic causes of malnutrition in Lao PDR.
- b. The Project's three Expected Results also involve improving the quality of nutrient intake by increasing the range and diversity of nutritious food production, mainly for household consumption (ER1); improving nutrition related service use by strengthening the integrated nutrition outreach activities of health centres and DHOs (ER2); and capacity building of the sub-national components of the multi-sectoral nutrition governance system (ER3).

EQ3: How did the Project ensure that its activities a) complemented and b) did not duplicate those of other concurrent and recently completed interventions in the six selected districts?

⁴ with the exception of SUNWIP which is specifically a water supply and WASH intervention mainly targeted towards small towns.

Judgement Criteria for EQ3	Rating
Project in accordance with Provincial and District development plans	Satisfactory
Effective coordination with other relevant projects in the 6 districts	Partially Satisfactory

Finding 7 The Project was fully aligned with Provincial and District development plans

- a. At Provincial level we met with representatives of the PNC, PHO and PAFO. They informed us that during preparation of the MOU there had been a detailed vetting procedure at Provincial and National levels to ensure that Project objectives and activities were in line with government strategy and planning. The capacity development under ER3 was in line with sector strategies and one respondent noted that it was also relevant to a Provincial development plan to strengthen staff capacities. They found the Project to be fully coherent with Provincial development plans, but two of them suggested that stronger emphasis on multisectoral coordination would have been useful.
- b. Likewise in each of the three visited districts we met with representatives of the DNC, DHO and DAFO and received very similar responses to those mentioned above. In all cases the respondents said that the Project was fully coherent; some added that it had been planned that way. One DAFO representative echoed suggestions at Provincial level that multisectoral coordination could have been given more attention.

Finding 8 The Project participated in regular meetings with other projects and stakeholders

- a. Khammouane Province does not hold coordination meetings for all projects to attend to discuss their programmes and ensure complementarity and lack of duplication. However, there were provincial meetings of the Scaling-Up Nutrition – Civil Society Alliance (SUN-CSA), quarterly meetings of each district’s DNC and 6-monthly meetings of the PNC, all of which provided opportunities for awareness raising, sharing and coordination between projects. There was also the Project’s own Implementation Management Committee (IMC) to which agencies such as LuxDev and World Vision were invited.
- b. The PNC representative confirmed that the Project attended PNC meetings every six months and all District level health and agriculture respondents, including DNC representatives, stated that the project attended DNC meetings in each district every quarter. At these meetings the Project, and other projects, presented their progress and plans in detail by sector. The former Project Agriculture Officer and a respondent from the Nurture project confirmed that other projects attended and gave similar presentations, although attendance was not consistent between meetings, and meetings were not held as regularly as claimed. Both of those respondents confirmed Provincial SUN-CSA attendance too.

Finding 9 Knowledge about other projects’ activities and approaches was limited; attempts to reduce duplication and increase synergy and learning were modest.

- a. The Project Proposal (p13) stated that *“In Bualapha, Mahaxay, Nhommalath, and Xaybuathong, HPA will coordinate respectively with Luxdev and Nurture / USAID in addressing Priority 1 Interventions of the NNSPA. In such districts HPA and partners are planning to differentiate villages where possible to avoid duplication of efforts. In those villages where there is overlap, PHO will support coordination with USAID and HPA/FPP with Luxdev in order to avoid duplication of activities from the outset of the project. The project team will involve USAID and LuxDev as possible in the in-depth assessment (Op2 A2) and joint baseline activities and ensure that results from these studies are useful to all Parties involved. Biannual meetings will be scheduled with USAID and Luxdev to share learning, experiences and best practices and through the coordination of efforts of PHO, the project will ensure that Save the Children and Lux Dev participates in the multi-sectorial coordination meetings and planning activities.”* In fact most of these promised coordination activities did not take place. There was no coordination with LuxDev and very limited with USAID. Neither organisation took part in the in-depth village assessment (which was not undertaken) or baseline study.

- b. The Project was aware that it had overlaps with the Nurture project and with a World Vision nutrition and food security project. Indeed the proposal (p6) stated that the Project would ‘coordinate with World Vision on WASH [water, sanitation and hygiene] in Mahaxay and Boalapha, and with [Save the Children International] SCI on [S]BCC activities (according to Unicef’s nutrition mapping)’. From our interviews it did not appear that there was a good understanding within the Project about the extent of technical and geographic overlaps. For instance Nurture (the SCI project referred to above) informed us that it overlapped with all the Project target villages in Gnommalath, Mahaxay and Xaybouathong districts and that its outputs included capacity building of the DNCs and strengthening of Health Centres as well as WASH and SBCC, thereby coinciding with a significant amount of ER2 and ER3.
- c. According to Nurture there was an agreement for Nurture to concentrate its SBCC activities on hygiene, while the Project was able to provide latrines (that Nurture could not); and for the Project to concentrate its SBCC on breastfeeding, identifying and preventing malnutrition etc. The former Agriculture Officer stated that there was an understanding with World Vision to avoid technical overlap in some villages, since both projects were involved in vegetable cultivation and animal pass-on loans. He also pointed out the benefits of sharing information in the SUN-CSA meetings, for instance to be able to compare the WV approach (which was financial without technical support) with the Project’s ‘feet on the ground’ approach.
- d. LuxDev took an interest in the Project in late 2020, having seen a Project signboard. They partner with the Ministry for Planning and Investment (MPI) and provide financial support such as Village Development Funds. They thought it could be interesting to link up with the Project but the bureaucratic hurdles were too great with the Project closing date approaching. Nevertheless they were impressed with the materials the project was using - Food Flag, posters, cards etc. They obtained copies via DAFO and have incorporated them into their own training programmes.

2.3 Efficiency

EQ4: What changes did the Project make to its targets and activities to ensure efficient use of resources in light of a) the reduced period for implementation; b) the findings of the Baseline Survey; c) the recommendations made by the MTR / ROM; and d) its own experience in the field? What were the implications of any changes made?

Judgement Criteria for EQ4	Rating
Evidence of need for changes	Needed
Evidence that needed changes were made	Partially Satisfactory
Examples of how the changes improved efficiency	Partially Satisfactory
Examples of any other implications	None identified

Finding 10 The Project did not amend its activities or targets following signing of the MOU, to adapt to the reduced time available for implementation

- a. The Grant Contract was signed on 29th August 2017 with the implementation starting date of 1st September 2017 and duration of 39 months. Thus the end date of the implementation period was 30 November 2020. The MOU was signed on 4th January 2019 with an immediate starting date (but also 39 months duration). At that time there could be no guarantee that the EU would grant an extension, nor of its duration. Thus the assumption had to be that the implementation period was from 4 January 2019 to 30 November 2020 – a period of 23 months, representing only 59% of the duration for which the Project had been designed.
- b. Project managers discussed how to address the time limitation with their coordinators in PHO and PAFO. It was decided to continue with all activities as originally planned. PAFO was particularly concerned to initiate work on seed banks and producer groups as these were initiatives that they had started some time earlier but had stalled for lack of resources, but this didn’t involve any change in the programme. The only adjustment was to ensure that the ‘seed’ animals to be provided by the Project for the pass-on loan scheme should be of sufficient maturity to breed and enable offspring pass-on during the implementation period – specifically it was decided that the chickens and ducks provided should weigh 0.8-1kg and the goats and pigs should weigh 15-20kg.

Finding 11 The Project updated some indicators but did not amend activities as a result of the Baseline Survey and the first village screenings. The changes did not involve implications for resource use efficiency, Project management or target groups.

- a. A number of indicators were updated because actual data collected in 2019 in the target villages demonstrated improvements over the published data (which was mainly at Provincial level) used in the proposal prepared in 2017. Annex 9 combines data obtained from the original logframe with that from either the 2019 Baseline Household Survey or the 2019 CU5 screening activity, and their respective updated values obtained from the Project's Year 2 Interim Narrative Report. That report also noted that several other indicators were found to be impractical to measure and had been placed under review. It should be noted that the Baseline Survey data for ER1 indicators are not directly applicable as they relate to a random selection of households whereas the indicators refer specifically to the 5,000 target farmers / households enrolled in the Farmers' Clubs. Indicators for ER3 are not included in the annex as they were assumed to be null at baseline and not included in the survey. Two of them were impractical to measure and put under review by the Project in its Year 2 Interim Narrative Report.
- b. Many of the indicators call for disaggregation by gender and sometimes by other criteria (such as age, pregnancy). As Annex 9 shows, in most cases the baseline data is not disaggregated, but there was no suggestion to modify the indicators by removing the disaggregation criteria in the Interim Narrative Report.
- c. The Baseline Report not only presented the survey data but it also made numerous suggestions and recommendations. For instance on reporting the data for SOC.i5 that 70% of families consumed 3-4 food groups per day, it suggested "*M&E staff from HPA might analyse this question more into details in terms of ethnic groups, villages and groups of food.*" Among the report's recommendations, the following is a sample which indicates the richness of learning the survey provided:
 - *There are great differences between villages regarding the data collected for the base line survey, so it is important that HPA & partners look carefully at the results of the data base per village and still collect data in all villages to be able to select villages priorities according to the data and define in a participatory way what should be done for the coming months*
 - *The Project should integrate understandings on how gender and cultural norms impact child undernutrition and conduct in depth analysis of the children data base according to gender.*
 - *Access to water for irrigation is now a question of survival for some communities so the project objective to provide access to 80% of the communities is crucial.*
 - *Some of the villages are really dirty... HPA needs a plan of action to achieve clean households and environments in communities, especially with regard to newborn, infant, and child hygiene.*
 - *Activities that decrease women's workload: weeding, rice milling, water collection, animal feeding, etc. should be prioritized as especially rice milling is costly in terms of time and energy spent.*
- d. The Project did not undertake more detailed analysis of the Baseline Survey database nor extend the data collection to other villages.
- e. The former Agriculture Officer explained that following the Baseline Report it was decided to give extra focus on provision of water for irrigation, on the indicators relating to balanced food and on pre and post-harvest crop losses, but this did not result in changes to activities or plans.

Finding 12 The Project considered the recommendations of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) and ROM, and adopted or adapted those it found to be appropriate.

- a. The MTR was undertaken in mid-2020 and issued its report in August 2020. At that time the Project extension to August 2021 was anticipated, although it had not yet been approved. The MTR made six recommendations for the final 12 months of the Project. These are listed below with information about the Project's response provided by former Project personnel:
 1. *Prioritise villages for food security activities for the remainder of the project:* by the time of the recommendation all of the intensive work in 100 villages had been done and they only needed to be supported and monitored. The new work was to develop producer groups in 6 villages and seed banks in 10 villages, and the villages selected for them were all among the 32 villages that had already been prioritised for health and hygiene.

2. *Establish 2-3 model livestock management villages in each district:* Conducted awareness raising on animal hygiene in all 100 villages, for instance to re-site animals living under human dwellings. Developing model villages was outside the scope of the Project.
 3. *Develop group regulations and financial systems for established farmer groups:* By agreement with the DAFOs they used standard regulations, not customised per group. Following the recommendation they met Farmers' Club committees and leaders to ensure that they possessed and understood the standard regulations.
 4. *Vaccinate livestock before they are rotated to the new households.* This was done. Small savings funds were set up to enable the Village Veterinary Workers (VVs) to be reimbursed for providing the vaccine and service in future.
 5. *Review the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach as currently practised:* CLTS activities were reduced to 32 villages, providing reinforced health and hygiene training in the villages that had already been pre-selected for women's and youth groups
 6. *Support additional training in the use of the Anthro app, including the development of master trainers:* Additional training was provided.
- b. The ROM Report of 19 May 2021 (3.5 months before the project closed) made 3 recommendations. One called for increasing ownership and sustainability prospects of seed banks and producer groups; another suggested provision of a gender adviser and the third concerned enhanced communication with central government authorities. These were not followed up, because of shortage of time, staff resources and budget. It was pointed out that the issue of communication with national level staff was something almost impossible to remedy. Representatives from all relevant national sectors were invited to all IMC meetings, but there was a tendency for different individuals to come each time. The ROM monitor spoke to somebody in the National Nutrition Centre who was not familiar with the project and therefore got the opinion there had been insufficient communication.

Finding 13 Other potential opportunities to improve efficiency of the Project were not recognised or taken.

- a. As the Project entered implementation it was realised that the 100 selected villages in fact comprised 194 sub-villages. In most cases the distances between village and sub-village meant that they needed to be treated separately, especially for pregnant women and nursing mothers who could not be expected to travel between the locations. This involved a lot of extra work for the field teams. The Project increased the number of women's and youth groups from 25 to 32. It was not possible to provide all services to all sub-villages and it was particularly noted that the loudspeakers used to disseminate nutrition and SBCC messages could not be heard in the sub-villages. For the agriculture activities, 100 Farmers' Clubs were established but in some cases there needed to be two clubs per village, and in others one club served more than one village. Our analysis of village and sub-village lists provided by the project shows that interesting options could have been considered to revise the selection to reach approx 100 sub-villages, as highlighted in Table 1.

	Number of sub-villages (excluding main village)							Totals
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Total villages	45	32	11	8	1	2	1	100
Total main+subs	45	64	33	32	5	12	7	198

Table 1: Sub villages per main village (Evaluation Team analysis based on Project data)

- b. At the outset of Project implementation it was learnt from PAFO that one of the proposed agricultural activities, System of Rice Intensification (SRI), had been tried previously and had been unsuccessful because it requires a level of water management that is not easy to achieve in areas with unreliable irrigation. Nevertheless the Project went ahead with the activity, warning farmers about the risks and suggesting they only adopt the system if they thought they could manage it. We were informed that about 35% tried the system, of which about three-quarters applied it successfully (25% of the total trained) and the others failed due to inadequate water availability.

- c. Two planned activities that could have provided excellent opportunities for project learning and efficiency did not take place:
- According to the proposal (Op2.A1), HPA was to provide a consultant to manage an in-depth investigation into nutritional taboos and cultural practices among ethnic minorities, particularly with regard to eating habits, breastfeeding, HH dynamics/workloads, WASH, language barriers as well as early marriage and early pregnancy. This would enable the project to formulate appropriate, culturally tailored SBCC, community outreach work and agricultural practices supporting logframe activities Op2: A2 & 3; Op1: A4, 5, 6 & 7).
 - Participatory Annual Assessments (Op3.A2) were foreseen to measure the effectiveness of various elements and approaches, including cost-benefit analysis, impact and scalability. According to the proposal they were to be supported by M&E technical teams from HPA/FPP based in London and Madrid and would provide a research framework for the cost effectiveness of each selected intervention.
- d. An in-depth baseline survey for WASH covering nearly 14,000 households in all 198 villages and sub-villages was undertaken in January and February 2019 by Project, PHO and DHO staff. It provided basic household information plus detailed information about the type, condition and management of water supply, availability and use of latrines and some other topics including fencing of animals, use of mosquito nets etc. A similar survey of 109 schools in the target area was also conducted. These enabled prioritisation of villages and schools for the provision of water supply and latrines, but a lot of data remained unused and apart from WASH the survey does not at all replace the village investigation mentioned above.
- e. An opportunity was taken that could not be included as a specific activity in the proposal and hence is not prominent in Project reports. This concerns demining of areas selected for communal demonstration plots in 16 villages of Boualapha District. The Project was able to negotiate with the demining company to provide free clearance of unexploded ordinance to enable these plots to be accessed and cultivated. Clearly this will be a lasting benefit and would normally have cost about \$2,000 per village.

EQ 9: To what extent did the independent implementation of their respective activities by the two IPs - HPA and FPP – enhance or hinder a) the efficient use of human and financial resources, including those of target groups and institutions, b) the effective delivery of planned activities; and c) the potential for impact on the nutritional status of target groups arising from a convergent approach to the delivery of multisectoral interventions?

This question was intended to address a main concern expressed in the evaluation TOR about the modality of implementation of the consortium. We assumed this referred to the use of two INGO co-applicants which had been commented on in the MTR and ROM reports. In subsequent calls with the Evaluation Manager we understood that it was about the inclusion of PHO Khammouane as a co-applicant and beneficiary of the grant award along with HPA and FPP. We therefore adjusted the focus of investigation during the course of the evaluation and can provide findings about each of these aspects. In addition, during the course of the Synthesis Phase we realised that the withdrawal of one of the Associates of the Action, SODA, which had not been much covered in previous reports, merited inclusion in this section.

Judgement Criteria for EQ9	Rating
Human resource management enhanced /hindered	Hindered
Financial resource utilisation enhanced / hindered	Operationally neutral
Delivery of activities enhanced / hindered	Enhanced
Potential for impact enhanced / hindered	Hindered

Finding 14 The Action was not managed as a single project, and each INGO operated independently with loose coordination. There was an absence of overall leadership, management and strategic thinking

- a. The ROM Mission found that *“the intervention is run as if there were two separate projects, complementing each other, but operating almost separately from one another... At the local*

level, between the two entities, there seems to be no accountability... Fortunately, this management arrangement has not affected negatively or disrupted the intervention... the project is run efficiently and with no anomalies resulting from this arrangement.” We agree with the first two parts of this statement, but less so with the rest.

- b. The Operations Manager was nominally responsible for the whole project but did not have authority over the Agriculture Officer who was in charge of the ER1 activities. Neither of these staff were empowered to take strategic decisions which was the responsibility of their superiors in the Country Offices of their respective organisations. There were regular meetings of these four managers (Operations Manager, Agriculture Officer, HPA and FPP representatives), usually held in Khammouane before or after IMC meetings. In some cases decisions were referred to their international headquarters in the UK and Spain. An important example of this occurred when, shortly prior to MOU signing, FPP and PAFO initiated the village selection and beneficiary selection processes and HPA was concerned that the latter did not adequately take account of nutritional status. Other projects would have a Team Leader who would determine the timing and methodology of such a fundamental process, but the Operations Manager did not have team leadership authority and neither of the INGO representatives did either.
- c. When discussing the Project’s outcomes and impacts it was clear that there had been no detailed reflection among the four managers as to the suitability of the originally proposed logframe indicators and no real understanding of the relationship between outputs, outcomes and impact – and hence how a more unified approach could have been beneficial.
- d. There were no significant financial implications of the arrangement – the only additional Project staff being a financial assistant for the FPP accounts. At management level the additional cost of oversight by two country offices (50% + 20%) would be to some extent offset by the need to increase the time commitment of only one office.
- e. There were no issues concerning transfer of funds, which was dealt with efficiently between the European offices of the INGOs, and there was no instance of activities needing to be delayed as a result of the arrangement.

Finding 15 Having PHO Khammouane as a Co-Applicant does not seem to have resulted in improved DNC coordination

- a. Figure 3 shows the technical responsibilities of the three co-applicants. It can be seen that PHO Khammouane, together with HPA, was jointly responsible for Result 3. PAFO, being an Associate to the Action as opposed to a co-applicant, is not shown together with FPP for Result 1.

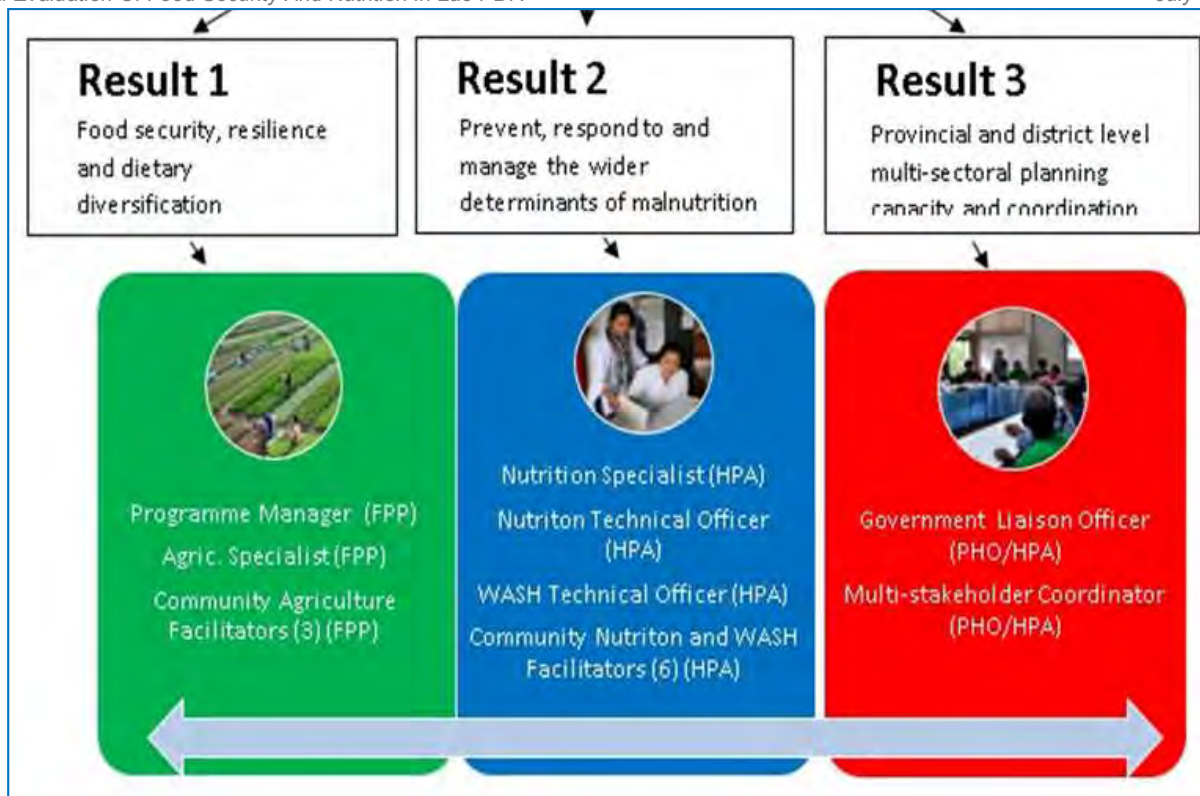


Figure 3 Co-Applicant responsibility per Result (extracted from Proposal)

- b. There were different understandings among Project senior management, including the full-time PHO Project Coordinator, about the difference between a Co-applicant and an Associate to the Action. PAFO was concerned about its status (as Associate) which only permitted it to receive reimbursement for logistical matters but not to receive a budget allocation. Some respondents indicated that this was a recurring source of discontent.
- c. As a Co-Applicant PHO was entitled to receive funding, with a budget allocation of 128,000 euros for staff salaries (full-time coordinator and three seconded staff), preparation of training materials and delivery of trainings such as cooking demonstrations to the Village Nutrition Volunteers (VNVs).
- d. Result 3 required substantial liaison with senior officers in multiple sectors in six districts to activate and develop the DNCs. The seconded PHO staff were junior level volunteers and did not have sufficient rank or experience to take the lead on this, so ER3 was managed by HPA. It was outside the scope of this evaluation to determine whether there was any difference in performance of the six DNCs set up in this manner and DNCs set up in other ways.
- e. The seconded staff did play an important role in facilitating HPA's paperwork requirements for Result 2 fieldwork, in terms of coordination with DHOs and Health Centres, and expediting field visit authorisations (including for visits from IMC members). Nevertheless FPP, with its 20 Farming Instructors, had a much bigger field-based workload and successfully arranged its logistics with PAFO and the DAFOs without such assistance.

Finding 16 One of the intended Associates, SODA, did not take up its foreseen role

- a. The Social Development Alliance Association (SODA) is a national non-profit association. According to the Project Proposal, SODA was included to undertake a range of crucial social development activities including the creation of Farmers' Clubs, Womens' Groups and cooperatives (producer groups), intensive training of FPP's Farming Instructors, and development of training materials for climate smart agriculture, SBCC and water management committees. They were to be responsible for gender mainstreaming, community needs assessment and liaison with Lao Women's Union (LWU).
- b. Senior management of the Project do not agree that this was SODA's role and say it was related to the construction of irrigation and water supply systems. This is not mentioned in the proposal

narrative, but does appear in the proposal's Section 4 where SODA's role appears to be almost identical to that of PAFO. This seems to be a copy-and-paste error in the table.

- c. SODA was included as an Associate in the proposal, not as a third party, so no budget was available for its participation except for per diems and travel. This seems an untenable arrangement for a non-profit organisation as the tasks involved would have required significant human resources. Soon after commencement of the Project, when it became apparent that there was no budget available, SODA withdrew.
- d. The Project determined that it could carry on without making adjustments for the absence of SODA because PAFO was already expecting to lead the irrigation work. There was no consideration about how to replace SODA's expertise in the social development activities described above because of the misunderstanding over its role.
- e. SODA is not mentioned in the MTR or ROM reports.

2.4 Effectiveness

EQ5: According to the Project's monitoring system and other readily available information, confirmed or otherwise by stakeholders in the field, to what extent did the project achieve each of its three Expected Results and, for each ER, what were the main factors determining / hampering this achievement?

Judgement Criteria for EQ5	Rating
ER1: <i>Food security, resilience and dietary diversification in vulnerable communities is strengthened</i> achieved. Major factors determining / hampering ER1 achievement identified	Partially Satisfactory
ER2: <i>Increased community capacity to prevent, respond to and manage the wider determinants of malnutrition through improved nutrition, nutrition sensitive and hygiene knowledge and practices amongst target communities</i> achieved. Major factors determining / hampering ER2 achievement identified	Partially Satisfactory
ER3: <i>Enhanced capacity of provincial and district level staff to lead multi-sectoral planning and improve coordination</i> achieved. Major factors determining / hampering ER2 achievement identified	Partially Satisfactory

Finding 17 The Project did not have a monitoring strategy, monitoring framework or overall Project database.

- a. The Project Proposal was weak on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and did not provide useful guidance for the Project team. It did not make a clear distinction between Project activities which involve a large amount of capacity building and participatory involvement in M&E for government staff and village participants, and the need for the Project's own M&E. A project M&E system involves tracking progress, process and performance, thereby enabling managers to make informed decisions, and this was not visible in the proposal.
- b. The situation is complicated by the fact that the logframe indicators and/or targets and those in the MOU are often not identical (Annex 1). An example is indicator 1.4 concerning post-harvest losses in which the logframe indicator is the extent of reduction of losses (target 50% decrease, disaggregated by male and female farmers), while the MOU seeks the proportion of farmers who have been able to reduce their losses (target 75%, not disaggregated). The Project needed to provide 6-monthly reports to the IMC using MOU indicators and annual interim reports to the EU using the logframe indicators and it is easy to see how this can become muddled without strong leadership and M&E framework. The Baseline Report used the logframe indicators and the Endline Report used the MOU indicators.
- c. The former M&E Officer explained that he had been employed by HPA and was not involved in monitoring ER1 activities, for which FPP was responsible. He pointed out that many of the indicators for ER2 are the direct result of project activities such as screening, and he prepared the data collection forms and the database, and undertook data entry and basic analysis. He did not make recommendations and did not know how the data was subsequently used. He was not

involved in monitoring ER3. He did not know whether FPP maintained a database of the 5,000 target households, and if so what information it contained, and was sure that HPA did not have such a database. FPP provided membership lists of all 100 Farmers' Clubs. They had not been collated and the only information they contained was name and gender of the members. Table 2 shows the result of our own analysis of the lists, which indicates an average of 67 members per Club, indicating that the lists are provisional as Farmer's Clubs should have 50 members.

	Farmers/ District	Male	Female	% of female	# groups	farmers/ group
Mahaxai	1132	633	499	44	17	67
Thounkham	1282	1054	228	18	17	75
Saybouathong	1208	984	224	19	17	71
Thakhek	908	658	250	28	15	61
Gnommalath	1175	870	305	26	17	69
Boualapha	988	862	126	13	17	58
Total	6693	5061	1632	24	100	67

Table 2: Collated Farmers' Club membership information

- d. ER1 MOU indicators were regularly monitored by Project and DAFO staff together and the results were reported to the IMC. There was an administrative process by which the data was checked and approved by PAFO and the Project Agriculture Officer. PAFO and DAFO respondents all said that the targets were successfully achieved, except in Boualapha where it was mentioned that the livestock indicator was not achieved. FPP shared a number of spreadsheets that contained village and district level data for a number of activities and the MOU indicators. Examination of some of the data collected indicate an absence of quality control and data cleaning that would most likely have been addressed had there been a strong Project M&E system, potentially leading to different values for the indicators. Annex 10 provides an example.

Finding 18 The indicator, targets and data collection methods for ER1 do not provide a useful basis by which to judge Effectiveness

- a. Table 3 (below) presents the indicators for ER1 together with their baseline values and endline values provided in the Project's Final Narrative Report (28 Feb 2022) and the Endline Survey. It should be noted that:
- the baseline data is based on a sample survey that pre-dates farmer selection and therefore does not necessarily represent 'target farmers'
 - the Project's own data is based on target farmer data collected by Project and DAFO staff who were not experts in conducting this kind of data collection
 - the Endline Survey covered a small sample of target farmers in only five villages.

Although we discuss the data in Finding 19, we are not convinced that it is sufficiently robust.

- b. Additionally there are issues with most of the indicators, as follows:
- Op1.i1 Twelve month food consumption recall data is impossible to collect so the Baseline Survey used 24hr recall, but was conducted in January when food is plentiful. Even upgraded to 3 meals, the result was close to 100% and there was no point to continue with it
 - Op1.i2, Op1.i5 are subjective indicators that depend on the understanding of data collector and respondent of 'to complete a healthy diet', and 'increase in income' (since the quantitative element of the income indicator was discarded); they are prone to seasonal variation, market conditions and recall issues.
 - Op1.i3, and i9 reflect that the farmers were involved in the activities, not about the consequence of their involvement. The quantity of diversified crop production would have been more meaningful and is something the data collectors have more experience in collecting. Somewhat similarly the value provided for Op1.i8 (4,332) is the sum of

farmers who received animals directly through involvement with the project (2,262) and farmers to whom they passed on offspring (2,070).

- Op1.i4 about post harvest losses is ambiguous as it is not clear which crop(s) or season(s) are to be counted. The indicator refers to the quantity of the loss, while both sets of endline data refer to the number of farmers who experienced a loss.

Finding 19 Alignment between project-reported endline data and the Endline Survey data is inconsistent.

- a. In Table 3 the two right hand columns are split into two rows per indicator. The upper rows show the logframe target (with update where appropriate) and the value reported in the Final Narrative Report, while the lower rows give the MOU indicator and target, and the result presented in the draft Endline Survey report. Of the nine indicators there are three on which both sources agree. These are that the targets for number of farmers reporting increased agricultural income (i1.5) and for farmers receiving animals in the pass-on loan scheme were not achieved (i1.8) and that the target for access to irrigation (i1.9) was achieved. Also the data from both surveys is very similar for i1.1, but the logframe target of 20% increase over a 97% baseline is unachievable. However, for the other five indicators there are real differences in the data and in all those cases the Project data found that the indicators had been achieved while the Endline Survey found that they had not.

Results chain	Logframe Indicators	Baseline Value Jan 2019	Logframe Targets	Endline value
			MOU Indicators & targets	Final Narrative Report Draft Endline Study
Op1: Food security, resilience and dietary diversification in vulnerable communities is strengthened	Op1.i1 - % household members eating at least 2 meals a day all year (including during lean season) in the past 12 months (m/f and adult / teenager / CU5)	97% had 3 meals the prior day (Jan 2017)	20% increase	99.36%
			75% HH members eating at least 3 meals a day	94%
	Op1.i2 - % of target farmers who report being able to buy the necessary food items to complete a healthy diet		22% increase updated to: 80%	97.36%
			75% of target farmers with a complete healthy diet.	60%
	Op1.i3 - % of target 5,000 farmers (m/f) having diversified production since the start of the project with at least a) 1 or b) 2 new crops or vegetables being cultivated		a) 80% b) 50%	a) 8.9% b) 91.1%
			75% of target farmers with diversified production with new crops / vegetables.	45%
	Op1.i4 - % post-harvest losses experienced by targeted farmers (m/f)	43% farmers reported some losses	50% decrease	3.22% experienced losses
			75% of target farmers reduce post-harvest losses.	66%
	Op1.i5 - % of target 5,000 farmers (m/f) reporting increased agricultural income (disaggregated by income increased by 20%, 40% 60%, 80%, 100%)		a) 80%	68.3%
			75% of target farmers with increased agricultural income.	20%
	Op1.i6 - % of target 5,000 farmers (m/f) reporting being able to sell excess produce	80% did not produce excess to sell	25% increase	72.04% can sell
			75% of target farmers able to sell excess produce.	73%

Results chain	Logframe Indicators	Baseline Value Jan 2019	Logframe Targets	
			MOU Indicators & targets	Endline value
	Op1 .i7 - % of the target 5,000 farmers who have engaged in post-harvest food processing in the past 12 months	19%	50%	Final Narrative Report
			75% of target farmers who have engaged in post-harvest food processing.	Draft Endline Study
	Op1 .i8 - # and % of the target farmers who have received animals through the pass-on loans	7%	50%	87.52%
			2,500 target farmers who have received pass-on loan animals.	0%
	Op1 .i9 - # and % of the targeted 5,000 farmers with access to water / irrigation systems	10%	80%	2156 farmers
			4310 famers	43.12%
		75% of target farmers with access to water / irrigation	35%	
			86.2%	
			75%	

Table 3: Baseline, target and endline data for ER1

Finding 20 Qualitative data from our visits to three districts and nine villages indicate agreement that the Project has resulted in increased food security and dietary diversity.

- The PAFO and three DAFO informants all considered that the Project contributed to increased food security. It was clear from their answers that they considered the Project activities – especially capacity building – led to increased food production and hence food security. One DAFO respondent emphasised the importance of having selected participants based both on their lower nutrition status and their willingness to take part in Project activities. One representative of DHO made a similar comment and also specifically mentioned capacity building in rice and vegetable cultivation.
- We asked the same informants if they thought all members of the household (eg men, women, women of child-bearing age (CBA), pregnant and lactating (PL) women, girls, boys, CU5) have improved dietary diversity, and whether this was discussed in Project meetings. They unanimously responded positively to both questions. They all credited vegetable production, two mentioned animal raising and two also pointed out the contribution of the health sector, one specifically mentioning the cooking demonstrations.
- In group discussions with members of Farmers' Clubs in nine villages there was unanimous agreement that food security had improved. Asked in what way, there was a range of answers but in every village the ability to grow a wider variety of green vegetables for regular home consumption was considered a major benefit. Two of the Clubs also mentioned improved success in rice production and two in animal raising.
- In each village we also met with either a Womens' Group or with the VHWs / VNVs. Their comments were similar to the farmers, but in four villages they also mentioned that it was possible to sell surplus vegetables and use the income to buy other foods – pork, beef, cooking oil and farmed fish were mentioned purchases. It is interesting that it was the Womens' Groups that referred to sales. Only one member of a Farmers' Club had mentioned the possibility of buying eggs, and not in the context of selling vegetables, but because of better knowledge on nutrition.
- Regarding dietary diversity, all Farmers' Clubs and Womens' Group members were clear that their diets had improved. Most notable was the fact that they now regularly eat green vegetables. Previously, although they did grow a less diverse range, they didn't eat them very often. As a result of the awareness raising by the Project, as well as the vegetable

demonstration plots, they now have a regular and varied supply that they consume frequently. Most groups also mentioned that they eat more eggs, and some mentioned other protein sources such as fish, pork, poultry and frogs.

- f. When asked whether they considered the communities to be more resilient as a result of the project, none of the Farmers' Club group members gave very suitable responses. Most repeated that the additional skills in vegetable and small animal production meant that they were more resilient. None of them mentioned seed banks or irrigation systems. One group did say that they were not more resilient because there was no possibility of providing irrigation in their location, and they were waiting to be relocated.
- g. Two of the Womens' Groups said that their communities were now more resilient because of the formation of groups focused on food and nutrition, and two of the VHW / VNV groups pointed out that the improved food production and consumption, along with the sanitation and hygiene improvements, led to improved health and nutrition status and thereby increased resilience. The other Women and VHW/VNV groups only mentioned the improved ability to produce vegetables and animals (and in one case rice).

Finding 21 The most successful aspect of ER1 was the introduction of new vegetables through the demonstration plots although lack of water remains a problem. The distribution of small animals was popular, but the pass-on scheme was hampered by low survival rates and unclear guidelines.

- a. In every visited village Farmers' Club members considered the vegetable demonstration plots to be the main agricultural success of the Project, and in two villages they also specified the provision of water to the demo plots. They pointed out that many other villagers had observed the demo plots and had started growing more vegetables on their own initiative. On the other hand, in eight of the nine villages farmers said that the main problem they had was lack of water to grow vegetables. Although the Project tried to provide water for all of the demo plots it was not always possible to do so, and for farmers who were not involved in the demo plots water remained a problem. Solutions were to grow vegetables beside a river or fish pond, or near the house but there were risks associated with river flooding and, near the house, with damage by roaming animals. It should be noted that although the logframe activity refers to target households having access to water / irrigation systems, the activity was restricted to providing water to the demo plots, and not all farmers used, or continue to use those plots.
- b. The animal pass-on loan scheme received mixed reviews. While it was widely regarded as a popular measure, it was only considered successful in four visited villages while respondents from three villages were concerned that too many of the animals had died. Project managers agreed that there had not been enough time to properly prepare participants for the animal loan scheme. We provide further information about this scheme, based on our village visits and review and analysis of documents provided by the Project in Annex 11.

Finding 22 The expression defining ER2 : *Increased community capacity to prevent, respond to and manage the wider determinants of malnutrition through improved nutrition, nutrition sensitive and hygiene knowledge and practices amongst target communities* is complex and not well understood by stakeholders

- a. The term '*wider determinants of malnutrition*' is not internationally recognised and is not explained in the Project Proposal. As is clear from Figure 2 the NNSPA refers to Immediate, Underlying and Basic causes of malnutrition, which correspond to the terminology used internationally by UNICEF at the time (it has recently changed to using Basic, Underlying and Enabling Determinants but these are of nutrition, not malnutrition). Prevention and response to malnutrition can be taken to cover the immediate causes, and the '*wider determinants*' would then most likely refer to the underlying causes, which include food insecurity (hence relating also to ER1) as well as poor access to mother and child health services and sanitation and hygiene.
- b. The phrase '*improved nutrition, nutrition sensitive and hygiene knowledge and practices*' is open to multiple interpretations, especially whether the first item refers to improved nutrition, or to improved nutrition knowledge and practices.

Finding 23 All Provincial and District level respondents think that target communities and households are now better able to prevent malnutrition than before.

- a. Thirteen officials from PHO, PAFO, DHOs, DAFOs, DLWUs and three health centres responded individually and unanimously. Most of them gave a combination of two to three reasons as follows:
 - training on hygiene and sanitation (10 responses)
 - improved ability to produce nutritious food (6)
 - better ability to cook nutritious food / increase food groups in diet (4)
 - VHW / VNV monitoring women and children in villages (1)
- b. While the Womens' Groups and VHW/VNV groups generally considered all of the ER2 activities to be important in preventing malnutrition, five of the nine mentioned the cooking demos as being particularly good, and four mentioned the provision of nutrition and hygiene messages via miking equipment provided by the Project. The main issue hampering prevention of malnutrition, faced in four of the visited villages, concerned low motivation to use existing and construct new latrines in areas that lacked water.

Finding 24 Responses indicated inconsistent understanding about response to malnutrition.

- a. Of the 13 government officials, only those from the health centres and one from DLWU mentioned the VHW/VNV, and only one of them in terms of their role in monitoring mothers and children. All the others gave similar responses to those for prevention: that people were now better educated about nutrition and better able to eat a nutritious diet.

Finding 25 Asked about wider determinants, there was limited mention of improved food availability and of community-based child monitoring but no mention of hygiene or sanitation.

- a. One of the representatives from DLWU and one from DAFO said that the Project's role in supporting farmers to grow and eat more nutritious food, combined with its support of the VHW network to monitor children in the village, enabled improved management of the wider determinants of malnutrition. One each of the remaining DLWU and DAFO representatives cited improved agricultural production
- b. Representatives from the three Health Centres all gave responses about the role of VHW / VNV in child monitoring, identifying malnutrition in the communities, and being able to refer cases. Two also said that the VNVs could train mothers to prepare nutritious food. These answers are more related to response to malnutrition and the DHO representatives also gave answers related to response.

Finding 26 The indicators and targets set for ER2 do not provide a useful basis by which to judge success of the Expected Result either because of ambiguity or a mismatch between targets and realistic expectations.

- a. Table 4 presents the ER2 logframe and MOU indicators with their targets and baseline and endline values. Examples of ambiguous or inconclusive indicators include:
 - indicator 2.i1 seeks to measure the number of women who can correctly identify at least 3 good cooking methods and one food myth. At baseline, most women successfully recognised eight good cooking practices, leading to questions in the Year 2 Interim Report about the validity of the indicator and how it could be measured that were apparently unresolved.
 - indicator 2.i2 targets an absolute number of CU5 for community level screening, without indicating the proportion of children this was intended to represent. The total number of CU5 in the Project villages ranged between 7,100 – 7,400 over the implementation period, which is less than half the target number (16,600). The fact that in the final year 81% were screened seems successful at first glance, but it is only an increase of about 5% over the baseline proportion of 77%.

- indicator 2.i5 has potential to be misinterpreted. It refers to the proportion of 6-23 months old children receiving complementary food. It is likely that at some point this has been taken to mean supplementary food for malnourished children. The Baseline Survey interpreted it to mean “other food than their mothers’ milk”. The mid-term review compromised with “HPA supporting rice porridge... PHO providing food supplements where needed.” The Final Narrative Report refers to complementary foods provided during screening, which is not the same as the regular and increasing use of complementary foods as part of a gradual weaning process.
- indicator 2.i9 targets can never be achieved because they require endline values above 100%.

Results chain	Logframe Indicators	Baseline Value Q1 2019	Logframe Targets	Endline value
			MOU Indicators & targets	Final Narrative Report Draft Endline Study
Op2: Increased community capacity to prevent, respond to and manage the wider determinants of malnutrition through improved nutrition, nutrition sensitive and hygiene knowledge and practices amongst target communities	Op2.i1 - % of women/teenager girls who can: a) correctly identify 3 good practices for food preparation, cooking, and storage b) reject at least 1 common food myth	82% (recognise 8 good practices) 27%	a) 15%increase b) 20%increase	a) 90% (11% increase) b) 88% (326% increase)
			80% of women with correct food knowledge and practices	84%
	Op2.i2 - # CU5 screened for malnutrition at community level	5,530 (77% of 7,185)	16,600	6,033 (81% of 7,410)
			80% ofCU5 screened for malnutrition	82%
	Op2.i3 - % of children aged 6-59 months (m/f) who received in the last 6 months: a) EPI visits b) de-worming c) a dose of vitamin A	a) 66% b) 63% c) 54%	a) 80% b) 80% increase c) 80%increase updated to: 80% absolute	a) 95% b) 98% c) 98%
			95% of children 6-59 months receiving EPI visits, de-worming, and Vit A	97.39%
	Op2.i4 -% of women/teenager girls with children under 12 months who attended: a) 1 + ANC visit b) 4+ ANC visits c) 1 PNC visit	a) 66% b) 20% c) 37%	a) 70% b) 25% c) 10% increase updated to: a) 85% b) 27% c) 45%	a) 93% b) 57% c) 82%
			75 % of women attending ANC and PNC	75%
	Op2.i5 - % children aged 6-23 months who receive complementary foods	50%	15% increase updated to: 80% absolute	86% (during screening activities) and Project support for 2,608 malnourished cases
			80% children aged 6-23 receiving complementary foods	84%
	Op2.i6 - % of CU5s suffering from diarrhea who receive oral rehydration therapy (ORT)	92%	80% updated to: 90%	93%
			90% CU5s with diarrhoea who receive ORT	92%
Op2.i7 - % of children exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life	51%	30% updated to: 60%	42% (representing 18% decline over baseline value of 51%)	
		60% exclusive breastfeeding	84%	

Results chain	Logframe Indicators	Baseline Value Q1 2019	Logframe Targets	Endline value
			MOU Indicators & targets	Final Narrative Report Draft Endline Study
	Op2.i8 - % households demonstrating the following practices: a) using water sources contaminated b) practicing open defecation c) not using soap	a) 46 b) 75 c) 64	a) 20% b) 20% c) 25% updated to: 30% 40% 45%	a) 6% b) 25% c) 22%
			75% households demonstrating safe hygiene practices	79%
	Op2.i9 - % of target HHs with: a) means to treat their water (eg. filter) at home b) access to a clean water source in their village c) a HH latrine/toilet	a) 65% b) 63% c) 70%	Increase by: a) 70% b) 80% c) 20%	a) 85% (31% increase) b) 92% (46% increase) c) 71% (1% increase)
			a) 75% b) 90% c) 75%	a) 79% b) 91% c) 67%

Table 4: Baseline, target and endline data for ER2

- b. Table 4 shows that the indicator values provided by the Project (which mostly arise from screening and monitoring data collected with DHO staff) and those of the Endline Survey are remarkably similar. They show that service provision reached a much higher proportion of mothers and children than at baseline. Particularly notable are the increases in antenatal and postnatal care (ANC and PNC) attendance and the provision / distribution of the Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI), deworming and vitamin A. The data also indicate very strong reductions in poor hygiene practices such as using contaminated water sources, open defecation and not using soap.
- c. Figure 4 illustrates the Project-reported data for ANC and PNC in comparison with LSIS I and LSIS II data for Khammouane Province. Taking the latter as the best available (though imperfect) indicator of the underlying direction of change, it is possible to compare the slopes achieved by the Project. It can readily be seen that the slopes for 4+ ANC visits and PNC are steeper, suggesting that progress has been achieved beyond what would have happened anyway. The extent by which the targets have been surpassed is evident. The less clear result for ANC 1+ possibly reflects the difficulty of recruiting the remaining small proportion of the population. Had there been a Project M&E programme in place it might have been possible to determine the characteristics of the unrecruited – for instance if they belonged to particular ethnic groups or age groups, lived in more remote locations etc.

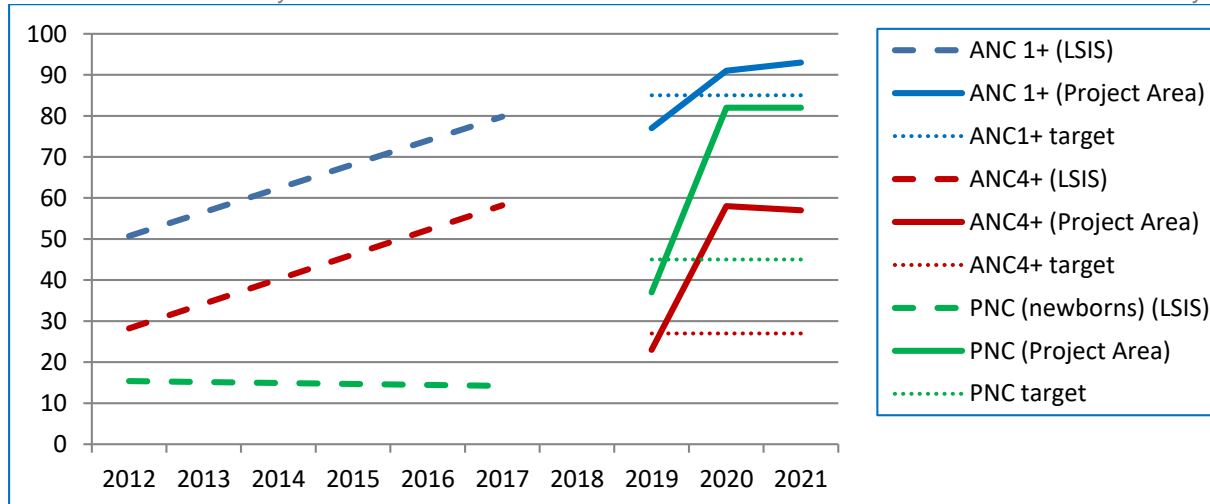


Figure 4: Comparison of LSIS and Project ANC and PNC slopes

d. Similarly, Figure 5 juxtaposes LSIS and Project reported data for open defecation and use of contaminated water sources. Again, if LSIS data can be taken as a guide to the background rate of change, the Project data has steeper slopes, meaning faster rates of improvement.

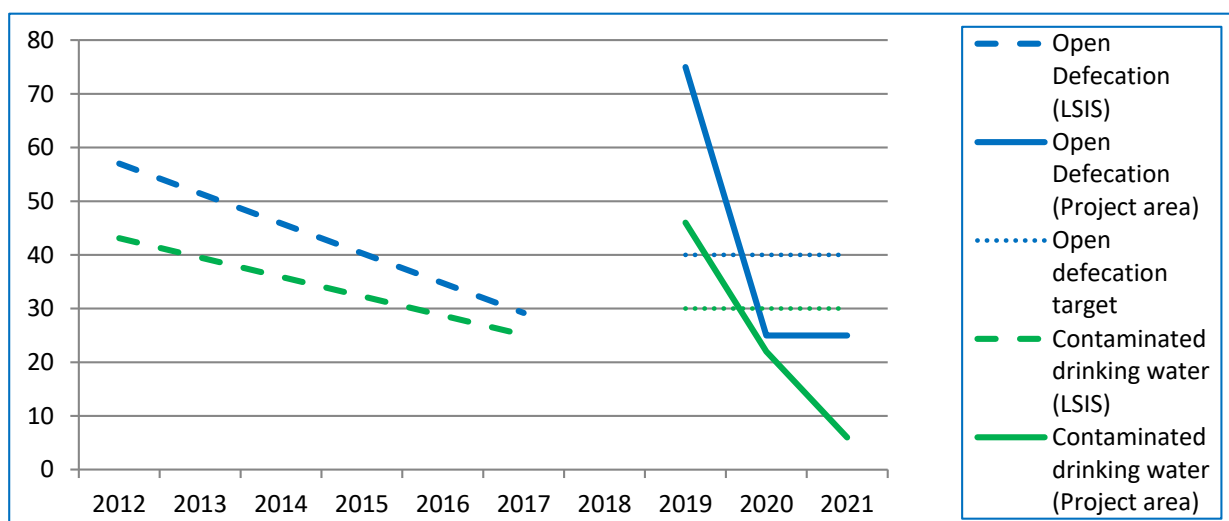


Figure 5: Comparison of LSIS and Project hygiene indicator slopes

e. Two important targets for ER2, were missed according to Project reported data:

- Instead of increasing, the level of 6 months exclusive breastfeeding fell by 18%. The Final Report suggests that this must be due either to differences in measurement technique or to ‘poor practices among the mothers’. The baseline survey found considerable variation between ethnic groups and perhaps the ‘lower breastfeeding’ groups were more represented among Project households, but there is no data to confirm this.
- The proportion of households with latrines was effectively unchanged at about 70%. We note however that there was a massive reduction in open defecation (from 75% to 25%). The baseline survey found that many households that had a latrine sometimes or always did not use it and this data suggests the SBCC may have persuaded them to use it.

Finding 27 The indicators for ER3 are subjective, difficult to measure and not suitable to determine achievement of the Result.

Results chain	Logframe Indicators	Targets	Endline value (Final Narrative Report)
Op3: Enhanced capacity of provincial and district level staff to lead multi-sectoral planning and improve coordination	Op3.i1 - # of multi-sectoral stakeholders quoted as saying that the project has influenced their views or practices on nutrition and nutrition sensitive interventions	10	Not reported – not considered a suitable or appropriate indicator.
	Op3.i2 - Proportion of target stakeholders receiving training on food and nutrition security (5 PHO, 6 PAFO, 30 DHO, 30 DAFO) who demonstrate improved knowledge and capacity	95%	95 Participants (48 women), from 1 province (10 persons) and 6 Districts (85 persons). 5 sections from provincial - PHO, PAFO, PES, PLWU, PPI and 6 sections from district - DHO, DAFO, DYO, DLWU, DES, DPI
	Op3.i3 - # of documents at provincial level reflecting prioritisation of the link between food security and nutrition	5	7 documents (1 annual report and work plan, 6 quarterly reports and work plan from 6 districts).
	Op3.i4 - # of agriculture, health and education staff at province and district level using knowledge from trainings, guidelines and manuals (including WASH and health issues)	70	77 Participants (55 women) from 6 DHOs and 39 Health Centres
	Op3.i5- Functional monitoring and evaluation systems for nutrition by PNC/DNC	System functional and in use	Meetings were held with the PNC and 6 DNCs to present progress on nutrition-related work and planning (93 participants) Refresher training including report writing, planning and the role of the PNC and DNCs was delivered to 6 DNCs (95 participants)
	Op3.i6 - # of inter- institutional sub-national cooperation fora discussing / reflecting baseline and impact survey data, project results and lessons learnt since the start of the project	3	2 project staff and 2 PHO staff attended the annual Nutrition Forum Meeting in Vientiane to review progress in nutrition. Project staff with the PHO coordinator attended the NNC meeting to discuss the NPAN 22021. Project staff attended the SUN CSA Annual General Meeting and Nutrition Stakeholders' Learning workshop.

Table 5: Baseline, target and endline data for ER3

- As can be seen from Table 5, the Project did not report on the first indicator for ER3, which it found vague and inappropriate in the local context. The same could be said for indicators 3.i2 and 3.i4 in terms of the demonstration and use of new knowledge – qualities that are not reflected in the values provided by the Project. Likewise, for 3.i3 there is no conviction that the documents they refer to (facilitated by the Project) reflect prioritisation, and for 3.i5 no suggestion that the M&E system can be regarded as functional or in use.
- Moreover even if the indicators were appropriate and suitable data was provided, they would not offer very useful information about capacities for leadership, multisectoral planning or coordination. Two of the reasons for this are that 3.i2 refers specifically to training for food and nutrition security and 3.i4 refers to knowledge about WASH and health issues. The former Operations Manager confirmed that food and nutrition security, WASH and health issues were not part of DNC training. DNC representatives reported that the training covered multi-sectoral coordination, planning and reporting of nutrition convergence activities, and that it was useful for helping them participate in DNC meetings and field monitoring visits.
- None of our DNC or PNC informants was able to provide us with any of the 2021 annual or quarterly reports, plans or budgets that are described in the Final Narrative Report with reference to Op3.i3. They told us that there were no district plans or budgets and that they

submitted data sectorally to be collated at Provincial level. The Project was also unable to provide any of these reports.

- d. Discussions with the same informants and a PNC representative did not reveal any insights into leadership. The plan we have seen, which is from 2019, only reflected activities supported by projects and there is no sign of mainstreaming multisectoral planning and coordination outside of the context of projects.
- e. Senior Project stakeholders were sure that DNC members were now capable of preparing multisectoral plans and budgets but were doubtful that it was a useful exercise, a view shared by UNICEF.

2.5 Potential for impact

EQ6: To what extent has the Specific Objective “to improve nutritional status and food security in 5,000 vulnerable HHs in 100 villages of 6 districts with special focus on children under 5, women of CBA including EM women, urban poor and migrants and youth” been achieved? What were the main factors determining / hampering this achievement?

Judgement Criteria for EQ6	Rating
Project understood complexity of SO Statement	Unsatisfactory
Project simplified and understood its scope	Unsatisfactory
SO (Impact) Statement achieved. Major factors determining / hampering Impact identified	Partially Satisfactory

Finding 28 The Specific Objective statement was not interpreted by Project Management to mean that the overall Project needed to place special focus on the specified groups – vulnerable households, CU5, CBA women, ethnic minority CBA women and youth.

- a. It has already been noted that urban poor and migrants were included erroneously, and that household selection was based on families known to have malnourished children and poor families with CU5, prioritising those with an interest and capability to participate in project activities (Finding 2). These criteria do not include CU5 households where the family is not poor or the child is not malnourished; CBA women who do not currently have CU5; or youth. It also does not specifically include ethnic minority CBA women.
- b. This is not to say that those groups were excluded, but that some of them might not have received special focus. In fact one of the features of the Project is that not all activities were based on the selected households – the integrated outreach activities of ER2 were targeted to all relevant households (ie all households with CU2 / CU5, all pregnant women etc as appropriate) and therefore would include qualifying households from those groups. However, the Project did not record data about the categories of household with which it engaged. We have examined all 100 Farmers’ Club membership lists provided by the Project and the only information they contain is the name and gender of the member.
- c. According to former Project personnel, they did not know how many or what proportion of the total number of households in their target area were vulnerable, and did not consider all 5,000 selected households to have been vulnerable. It varied from district to district, with not many vulnerable households in Thakek, and a high number of poor households in Boualapha. They estimated that ethnic minorities comprised about 60-70% of selected households, being particularly high in Mahaxay, Boualapha and Xaybouathong, and low in Thakek.

Finding 29 The Project’s target communities have significantly reduced levels of CU5 MAM and SAM, though anaemia rates have not improved.

- a. Given that the Specific Objective (Impact) statement concerns improved nutritional status and food security, the only indicators needed are those relating to those topics. Nutrition is well covered by indicators relating to MAM, SAM, Anaemia and (at Overall Objective / wider impact level) stunting and underweight. Food security is not covered at either level.
- b. Table 6 shows the baseline values, targets and reported end of project values for the six Specific Objective indicators. The MOU impact indicator values were not collected by the

Endline Survey. The COVID 19 pandemic prevented data collection for SOC.i5 concerning food group consumption and resulted in reprioritisation of PHO budget, affecting SOC.i6.

Logframe Indicators	Baseline Value 2019	Logframe Targets	Endline value 2021
SOC.i1- % CU5 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) based on weight for height below between -2 and -3 standard deviation	4.1%	5% updated to: 3.8%	1.5% of which 51% male 49% female
SOC.i2 - % CU5 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) based on weight for height below -3 standard deviation (m/f)	1.0%	1% updated to: 0.8%	0.15% Of which 53% male 47% female
SOC.i3 - Prevalence of a) women / teenagers CBA and b) CU5 (m/f) suffering from anaemia (Hb <12g/dl)	a) 13% b) 0.5% (all female)	a) 23% updated to: 10% b) 30% updated to: 10%	a) 13% b) 2% (negative direction of travel)
SOC.i4 - % of children a) U5 and b) under 2 suffer with sub-clinical vitamin A deficiency (m/f)	a) 66% provision b) 63% provision	a) 15% b) 25% updated to: 80% CU5 and CU2 receive vitamin A supplementation	98% 6-59m supplementation
SOC.i5 - % household members (M/F and pregnant / not pregnant / CU5) having: a) increased the average number of consumed food group items per day by at least 1 item b) increased consumption of meat, fish, or other iron-rich or iron-fortified foods	a) HH: 6% 1 group 23% 2 groups 70% 3-4 groups a) CU5: 10% 1 group 21% 2 groups 68% 3-4 groups b) CU5: 92% consume meat/fish; 77% consume green veg	a) 25% increase b) 20% increase	Data could not be collected due to COVID19
SOC.i6 - % of budget allocation of relevant sub- national authorities to nutrition and nutrition sensitive interventions as a result of multi-sectorial coordination and annual planning	17.2% (PHO) Other sectors' data not reported	10% increase updated to: 20% absolute	6% because of prioritisation of COVID 19 by PHO. Other sectors' data not reported.

Table 6: Baseline, target and endline values for the Specific Objective

- c. Targets for SOC.i1 and SOC.i2, covering CU5 MAM and SAM respectively, have been comfortably exceeded. Communication with UNICEF emphasised that wasting data needs to be interpreted with the context and timing of data collection because, for instance, the prevalence of wasting will be significantly different between the lean season and post-harvest season or between wet and dry seasons. Therefore we have not compared reported results with LSIS data. The baseline data was collected in February and March 2019 which is a low risk time for wasting, and the endline data in July 2021 which is high risk. Therefore the improvements in MAM and SAM may be greater than the data indicates.
- d. Project results need to be considered in the context of the underlying change in direction of the indicator. Normally this would be done by 'with and without' data collection, by which data for non-target villages is used to estimate underlying trends. In the absence of an M&E programme this data was not collected. We were able to obtain district level data from the three DHOs visited and have used them as comparisons (Figure 3). This is not ideal because the district data covers all villages in the three districts, including project villages, and does not include any data from the other three districts. The number of children screened varied dramatically and inconsistently between years and districts. The data were collected in December of each year,

while the Project data is from different months, and although many of the health centre staff involved in district data collection will have been trained by the Project, the VHWs in non-target villages won't, so there may be differences in measurement skills.

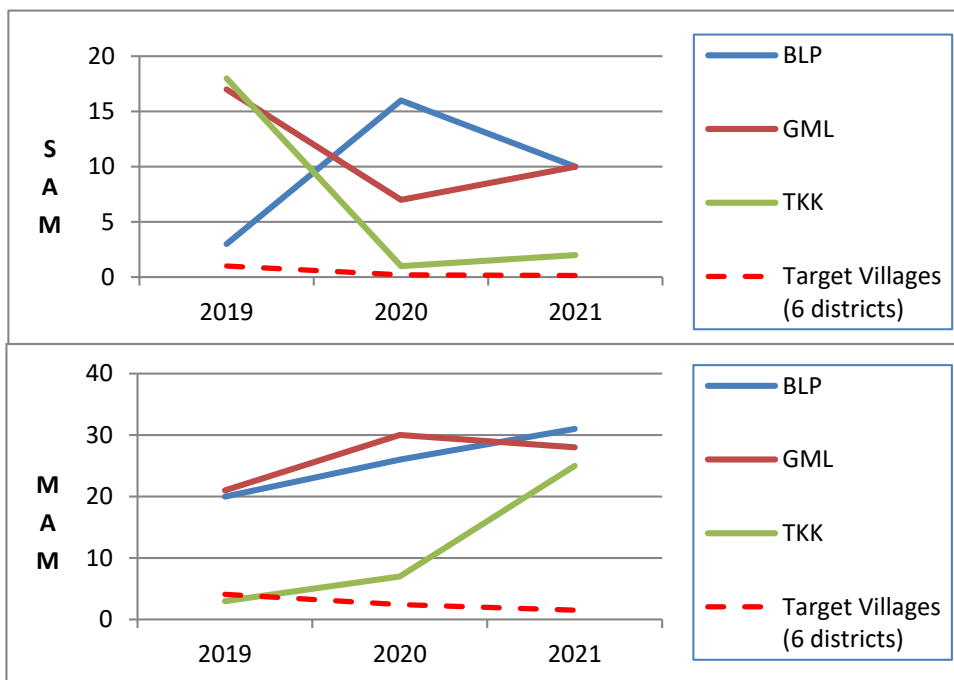


Figure 6: Comparison of DHO provided SAM and MAM data for 3 districts with Project reported data for 100 target villages in 6 districts

- e. Subject to those caveats, the Project appears to have reversed the underlying trend for MAM. However the charts raise an important question about village selection because the Project should have been targeting villages that had high malnutrition in 2019 but it seems they had those with the lowest.
- f. Stunting, which represents chronic malnutrition, and underweight are conditions that fluctuate less wildly than wasting (acute malnutrition). They are both included as indicators of wider impact (Overall Objective level) in the logframe. Figure 7 indicates that Project data approximately follows the underlying trends, which is reasonable over the short timeframe as pre-existing cases might not recover.

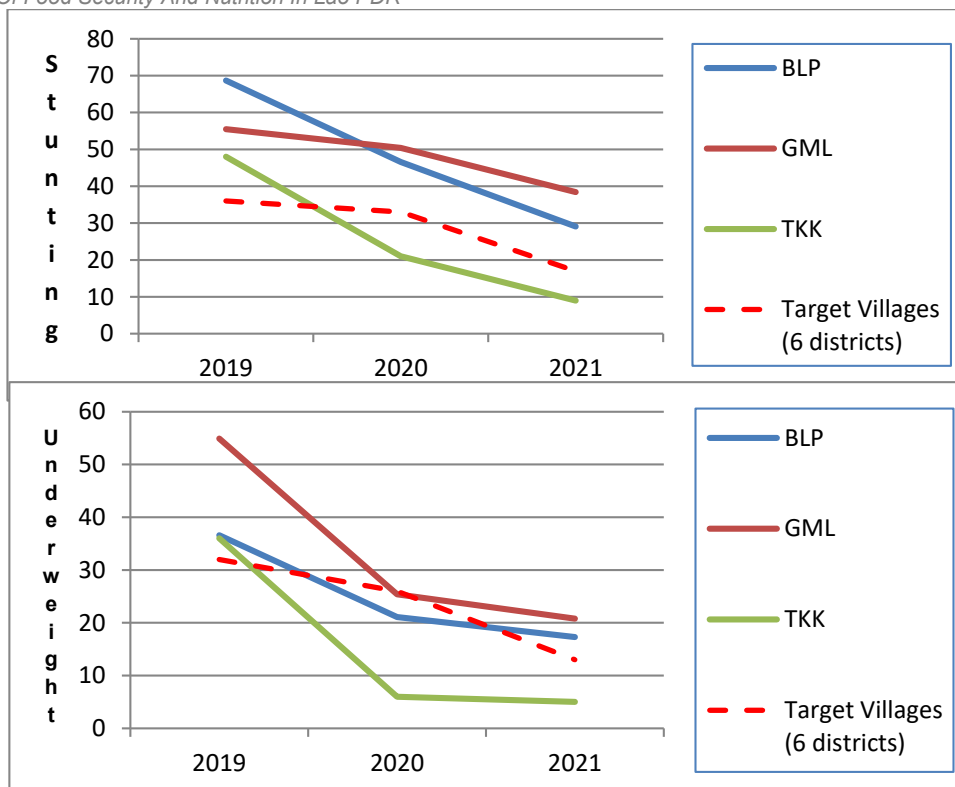


Figure 7: Comparison of DHO provided stunting and underweight data for 3 districts with Project reported data for 100 target villages in 6 districts

- g. Regarding Vitamin A supplements to CU5 and CU2, the modified Soc.i4 targets have been exceeded, comfortably in the case of CU5. As with SAM and MAM, this modified indicator is not suitable as an impact indicator as the Project was directly involved in facilitating provision, and is better placed at Output level (ER2, where it already exists anyway as Op2.i3c).
- h. There has been a surprising result for anaemia (SOC.i3). It seems that there has been no improvement in anaemia rates for women and girls of child bearing age, and the prevalence among CU5 seems to have quadrupled (albeit from a very low baseline). Neither the Project's Final Report nor former staff have an explanation for this.

Finding 30 According to village-level respondents, there were cases of acute malnutrition before the Project and there are none now. They attribute this to Project activities.

- a. Womens' Group and VHW/VNV respondents in eight of the nine villages visited reported low numbers of CU5 acute malnutrition pre-project – ranging from 1 – 5, but in one village 'many' – and none at the time of our fieldwork in January and February 2022. In the other village there were no cases pre-project and still none now.
- b. The respondents explained this change in ways that reflected a successful convergent approach – commenting that "Project activities on mother and child health and home gardens led to the reduced of number of CU5 malnutrition" and "this was a result of the project as villagers are educated to eat nutritious food and health centre staff come to monitor the mothers' and children's health regularly".

Finding 31 All village respondents understood the need to consume a varied diet and said that their daily diet was now more varied as a result of the project. Children older than 12m had similar diets to their parents.

- a. The SOC.i5a indicator refers to food groups. The baseline value is already quite high and the endline value could not be collected in the pandemic. In all nine villages members of Womens' Groups and VHW/VNV groups said they ate a more varied diet every day. This involves 3-year recall which is unreliable and it is not clear that they were referring to an increase in food groups or to more diversity within food groups. However they were quite clear that the reason for this greater diversity was because of awareness raising by the project and better food availability as

a result of improved home gardening skills. They also mentioned a large number of hunted foraged food items. Food lists provided include “*rice, river fish, shrimps from the canal, eggs, green vegetables, bamboo shoot, chili sauces, chicken, papaya, eggplants and wild frogs*” and “*rice as the main food, vegetable from the home gardens, river fish, forest food, chili, cooking oils.*”

- b. Members of Farmers’ Clubs said that children ate similar diets to their parents except that babies have breastfeeding and young children over 6 months also get breast feeding and ‘softer’ foods like fish, eggs, bananas, pork and frogs. Members of Womens’ Groups and VHW / VNVs listed similar food for children – for example rice, river fish, eggs, chickens, wild frogs, papayas.

Finding 32 Village level respondents specifically said they eat more green vegetables as a result of the Project.

- a. We specifically asked the Womens’ Group VHW/VNVs focus groups if their households consume more meat, fish, green vegetables and other foods, as a result of the Project (SOC.i5 b). Respondents from six of the nine villages said that they eat more green vegetables as a result of the Project. Those from the other three villages said they eat more types of food.
- b. Despite the animal pass-on loan scheme, only one group mentioned meat, saying that they eat pork and meat (i.e. beef) more than they did before.
- c. Although we asked for a breakdown by family member, as per the indicator, all respondents said that all family members ate more green vegetables.

Finding 33 District and Provincial level respondents identified multisectoral activities as reasons for potential improvements in impact indicators.

- a. We asked representatives from DNCs, DLWU and Health Centres in the three districts visited, and the PNC, if they considered the project to have decreased CU5 MAM incidence and if so how. Four of the six DNC and DLWU respondents and the PNC respondent said that MAM had been reduced as a result of the Project’s activities in agriculture that helped to improve daily food intake while receiving the health activities such as awareness raising on mother and child health, the need for a balanced diet and how to prepare nutritious food. One of the other respondents said that through screening the Project was able to identify CU5 MAM cases and focus special attention on them such as dietary counselling and cooking demonstrations, so that the children were soon cured. When asked if they thought CU5 SAM incidence had been reduced, the same respondents gave similar answers, but focused more strongly on the cooking demonstrations than on food production or hygiene. All the respondents gave similar answers to a question about anaemia but we are not sure on what basis they thought incidence had been reduced.
- b. The Directors of the three Health Centres responded differently. Two of them said they did not know if CU5 MAM or SAM incidence was reduced in Project villages because they did not have pre-Project baseline data and (according to one of them) there had been a general decline in CU5 MAM and SAM. The third Health Centre respondent did think that there had previously been a lot of MAM in the Project villages and that incidence had decreased because the project provided health education, cooking demonstrations and the ability to grow more vegetables. There had not been any cases of SAM pre-project, nor during and after the Project, and these Project activities made it less likely for new cases to arise. Regarding anaemia, the Directors said that incidence had reduced among CBA women, adolescent girls and CU5 because of the same Project activities.
- c. Regarding Vitamin A deficiency all of the respondents said that Vitamin A provision was a government programme and was taking place regularly, either during village monitoring and screening visits, or when children are taken to health centres, and there is also distribution through schools. The Project facilitated some of the village visits, but was not seen as a major factor. They didn’t have much to say about incidence of Vitamin A deficiency but did not consider it to be an issue.

2.6 Sustainability

EQ 7: To what extent are the pre-existing and new groups, volunteer networks and local institutions supported by the project fully functional in January 2022 in the villages and districts sampled by the Evaluation? What are the main factors determining or hampering these results and to what extent are these factors related to the Project?

Judgement Criteria for EQ7	Rating
Current functionality of target groups	Unsatisfactory
Current functionality of supported initiatives	Partially Satisfactory
Major factors determining / hampering Sustainability and extent to which project is responsible for them	Unsatisfactory
Prospects of long term continuation for currently functional interventions	Partially Satisfactory

Finding 34 The Project Proposal described some potential for sustainability, but did not propose a sustainability strategy

- a. The Description of the Action has a section entitled *Sustainability of the Action* (Section 2.4). The Financial Sustainability sub-section describes the following four sustainability strategies:
1. 6 Producers Groups will be established as cooperatives that will “*set the basis for long-term farmers’ revenues*”
 2. For high cost / high maintenance inputs like water systems the Project “*will support communities to set up saving funds to cover ongoing costs*”
 3. Training and equipment provision to VVWs will enable them “*to sell their services at a reasonable price after the project to ensure that their role continues*”
 4. Provision of micro-nutrients, food packs and other supplies to Health Centres “*will continue through PHO/MoH [Ministry of Health] channels by the end of the project; these will form part of the current budget allocations and current programmes funded by MoH, Unicef and the EC*”
- b. The sub-section on Institutional Sustainability describes a long list of strategies:
- *The structures that are developed/strengthened in the project (PNC, DNC among others) will allow the activities to continue because the Action will utilise and build the capacity of existing and new government-mandated structures and systems*
 - *The Project will “support PHO Health Management Information System to collect data, to monitor achievements and report on indicators, enabling ongoing analysis of the gaps in implementation...”*
 - *“behavioural changes are expected to replace socially and culturally-engrained practices that are detrimental to health and the environment”*
 - *“Nutrition governance, is an integral part of this project and is included... crucially to ensure the sustainability of the project’s benefits in the future”*
 - *“Improvements to the health facilities targeted by the proposed action will be sustained through government ownership”*
 - *“A shared cohesive vision of the situation in the target villages and what needs to be done will enable communities to make plans and to act upon them with the assistance and support of the concerned government staff”*
 - *“Capacity building of community structures and communities will improve the knowledge and skills of local people to meet their demands for water and sanitation, food security and health and nutrition services”*

- *“Once motivated and equipped with skills, communities that are actively involved and whose ideas are appreciated will be able to maintain the skills and knowledge obtained and become self-sufficient in terms of hygienic practices, water usage, food production and maintenance of good health and nutrition”*
 - *“The knowledge will remain with the communities and target groups after the end of the project”*
- c. Some of the points listed above are not valid as sustainability strategies under this Project – for instance:
- The design did not include an activity to set up savings or maintenance funds
 - Provision of items to Health Centres has long been part of budget allocations and programmes funded by EU and others. The Project was part of that continuum which cannot be regarded as a sustainability mechanism. But the project was also tasked with supporting DNCs and facilitating increased budget allocations, so an initiative to address health centre finance could have been facilitated.
 - Supporting the Health Management Information System does not make it sustainable
 - Most of the points for Institutional Sustainability are merely assumptions unless pro-active effort is made to promote them as sustainability mechanisms.
- d. There is no specific mention of community institutions that were introduced by the Project – such as Farmers’ Clubs, Women’s Groups, Youth Groups or VNVs – as vehicles for sustainability.

Finding 35 Project partners did not develop a sustainability or exit strategy

- a. Former senior Project stakeholders agree that there was no pro-active strategy to ensure the sustainability of benefits after the closure of the Project and that it was expected that, having partnered closely with DAFOs and DHOs, the government departments would continue supporting project groups and initiatives.
- b. We asked DAFO and DHO representatives in the three districts visited whether they had any system or method to ensure sustainability of benefits. Unanimously they said that they did not. Almost unanimously they said that they relied upon capacity building of target groups during Project lifetime to be sufficient to engender sustainability. When asked what could have been done to improve prospects of sustainability:
- DLWU respondents said that bottom-up planning would have increased community interest and motivation, and that it is important to train district partners first, before beginning capacity building at community level, which itself should take place before starting activities. Then the partners should follow up on the implementation and introduce a community-based monitoring system.
 - DAFO respondents stressed the importance of strong group formation, with clear roles and responsibilities before beginning field activities, then close monitoring and follow-up by DAFO thereafter
 - DHO respondents stressed the need for regular follow up following capacity building of health centers and VHW/VNV.
- c. At Provincial level we asked the PNC respondent if they had a strategy to ensure continuity of benefits and they did not. She said Project outputs ensuring sustainability were trainings, handbooks, manuals and basic infrastructure.

Finding 36 The Mid-Term Review was not optimistic about sustainability and made recommendations aimed at improving it.

- a. The MTR Report contains a table showing key activities and whether sustainability was judged by district teams (Project and sector staff) to be ‘certain’ or ‘uncertain’. The only items marked ‘certain’ were rice porridge cooking, the village loudspeaker system and the Anthro app (because it is nationally mandated by the Ministry of Health).

b. Reasons presented in the MTR to explain its ‘uncertain’ judgement about sustainability were:

- *Rushed group formation (eg Farmers’ Clubs) resulting in use of generic regulations instead of individually discussed and agreed regulations*
- *Risk with the animal pass-on scheme, including difficulty to feed pigs; disease risk for ducks and chickens (especially since inappropriate chicken varieties were provided) and the possibility that people will sell their animals before rotating offspring, especially if there is a poor harvest*
- *Activities being undertaken to ‘tick the box’ even though they were known to be unsustainable, such as SRI.*

Project responses to MTR recommendations to improve sustainability have been discussed in Finding 12.

Finding 37 The ROM report was more optimistic about sustainability but considered some activities to have low sustainability prospects

- a. The ROM mission was conducted remotely in March 2021, about 5 months before the end of the Project. It considered that sustainability would be high because of the close relationships formed between the community beneficiaries and the DAFOs and DHOs; and because of the creation of local institutions (Farmers’ Clubs, Youth Groups, Womens’ Groups, VNVs etc.) of which it considered the majority were ‘*not likely to dissolve after the intervention ends*’. As will be discussed in the following Finding, DAFOs and DHOs have not been following up on Project interventions and many of the institutions have dissolved. Another reason the ROM gave for likely strong sustainability was that the Project had a target to increase the allocation of resources to nutrition-related activities by 20 per cent. In fact the Project target was to increase allocation from 17.2% to 20% (not *by* 20%) and as has been seen, the end of project allocation by PHO was cut to 6% because of diversion of funds in response to COVID 19.
- b. The ROM mission noted that with 5 months remaining, the Project was only at the early stages of creating the producer groups and seed banks. It was sceptical that there would be sufficient time to support their development into well-organised, capably managed sustainable institutions.

Finding 38 Fieldwork indicates that vegetable gardening as demonstrated, SBCC practices and latrine provision, and activities that supported routine health activities are sustainable.

We categorised the majority of Project initiatives into groups, activities or infrastructure as shown in Table 7 and asked district and village level respondents whether each initiative was continuing successfully at the time of the fieldwork (January - February 2022, about 5 months after the Project closed). Those marked in bold are the ones we consider to be sustainable at scale.

Project Supported Groups	Project Supported Activities	Project Infrastructure Supported
Farmers’ Clubs Womens’ Groups VHW / VNV Producer groups DNCs	Vegetable gardens SRI Pass-on animals Climate smart agriculture Food processing / storage Screening / monitoring CU5 SBCC practices EPI Visits / deworming / Vit A Pregnant women attend ANC	Seed banks Irrigation facilities Latrines (no opinion on potable water supply)

Table 7: Interventions in bold have good sustainability prospects

In each visited district we asked DAFO, DHO and DNC staff about the sustainability of the initiatives pertinent to their sectors. In each visited village, we asked the same to Village Authorities, Farmers’ Club and Women’s / VHW/VNV Groups. Their responses are summarised below:

a. Groups:

Farmers’ Clubs: In the three districts, there has been no follow-up by DAFO except to one club in Thakhek (Nakhangxang village) which is being supported to provide vegetables to

the market; no knowledge about other clubs in that district. In another district DAFO reported that there had only been nine Farmers Clubs created in the district (which had 17 target villages) of which only one was still active, and in the third the situation was not known by DAFO. Reasons given for groups disbanding were that villagers found it more convenient to grow vegetables on their own plots due to proximity to their homes or fields, and lack of access to water. In the visited villages the Clubs were regarded as being for the vegetable demonstration plots and not for other agricultural activities that were not linked to those plots. In five of the villages Village Authorities told us that the groups were no longer active. Reasons given were that in one village the plot was too far away to be visited daily, in another the plot was closed because of proximity to the village COVID 19 quarantine facility and in the remaining villages there were water problems. In one of these, the gasoline pump broke down and has not been repaired. In two other villages the Project originally provided gasoline pumps but the villagers could not afford to run them, so at the end of the Project they were given electric pumps; these have not yet been used but probably will be in the coming season. None of the Farmers' Clubs representatives were able to show us their membership books or meeting books. Although the Project reports 50 households per Club, our respondents gave much lower current figures, saying there had been many dropouts. For instance the Nakhangxang group mentioned above reported having seven households, while other Clubs reported currently having five, 10 and 16 households.

Womens' Groups: In two districts, DHOs reported the groups to be inactive now, and in the third, continuing to provide occasional support to VHWs to spread sanitation and hygiene messages. The Project reports that it developed Womens' Groups in 32 villages, and we visited four of them. Womens' Groups had become inactive in three of these, according to Village Authorities and former members. In the other village the group was still active and being led by a VNV.

VHWs / VNVs: DHOs reported that VHWs existed previously but were officially reinstated (across the whole Province) during Project implementation. Those in Project villages now have more skills and motivation and are continuing in service. The VNVs were newly created by the Project and while still present in the villages, they are not all considered to be still active. However they were particularly valued for providing cooking demonstrations and even most of the inactive ones are expected to do so again for households where MAM or SAM children are identified. This was also confirmed by Village Authorities and by the VHWs and VNVs met in the visited villages. The VNVs confirmed that they could no longer do general cooking demonstrations because they had no funds to buy ingredients or fuel, but that they would go to the homes of acute malnourished children and show their mothers how to cook the nutritious porridge.

Producer groups: The Project supported producer groups in one village per district. Three were completely new groups and three had been pre-established by DAFO but had not begun functioning. The reported training of 678 group members implies about 113 members per group – ie much larger than the Farmers' Clubs and more than the average number of households of the target villages (102 according to data provided by the Project). In two districts there had been no follow up by DAFO, in the third district we were informed the producer group was not active. Two of the villages we visited were listed as having producer groups - one pre-existing and one newly established. The pre-existing group was in Nakhangxang where, as will be seen, DAFO is still active with seven members of the Farmers' Club. But the DAFO respondent said that there hadn't been any follow up of the producer group in that village. None of the Village Authorities or participants in group discussions in either of the villages mentioned producer groups or the related training. In our combined experience exceeding 5 decades in agricultural extension in Asia we have seen numerous attempts to establish producer groups and cooperatives. Top down methodologies invariably fail because the intended members do not have sufficient motivation to participate, so we would not expect this activity to be sustainable.

DNCs: In the three visited districts, respondents had attended one additional meeting since the Project closed, in December 2021. The next quarterly meeting was due in March 2022 and none of the respondents knew whether it would take place because the UNICEF support had also finished and there was no budget allocation. We also received confirmation from

UNICEF that it had supported the six Project district DNCs for a meeting in December and would not be continuing.

b. Activities

Vegetable production: This activity is continuing in all districts, with an emphasis on home consumption. In two of the districts sale of excess production was reported, including in Nakhangxang which is the village being encouraged to attend periodic produce markets in Thakhek town.

Climate smart agriculture: Not followed up by DAFOs, but they consider it to have been a training related to the vegetable production which is continuing. The farmer groups and Village Authorities from all nine villages confirmed this view. The main point they learnt from it, and are continuing to practice, is the use of animal manure instead of chemical fertiliser.

Animal Pass-on Loans: Not followed up by DAFO. Detailed information provided by farmers and Village Authorities has been presented in Annex 11. The high mortality rates for chickens and ducks, and loose pass-on agreements, compromise the sustainability of this activity.

SRI: We did not follow up on SRI in the visited villages as the Project already informed us that PAFOs had previously found it to be unsustainable and there had not been a rice season since the Project closed.

Food processing / storage: DAFOs reported that the training took place but the knowledge is not being used as farmers are not producing sufficient surpluses. In eight of the nine villages, Village Authorities and farmers confirmed that they did not process food, except occasionally they would ferment bamboo shoots using traditional methods. They said they preferred to eat the fresh vegetables, and sell occasional excesses, and that following the project they could have fresh vegetables for most of the year. The remaining village was Nakhangxang where farmers salted eggs and fish for home consumption, in addition to fermenting bamboo shoots.

CU5 screening / monitoring: DHO staff reported that CU5 screening and mother and child health monitoring are routine activities that are carried out during quarterly village visits by health centre staff, as well as whenever a mother and child go to the health centre. Directors of the three health centres visited also said that they are still able to keep to their quarterly schedule of village visits, not only to the Project target villages, but to all villages in their catchment area (about 8 villages each). Two of them credited Lao-Lux support for the funding to enable them to do so. They said that their roles have not changed since before the Project, but the capacity of their staff has greatly increased as a result of Project supported trainings. All nine Village Authorities, and the Womens' Groups or VHW/VNV groups confirmed the quarterly visits from the health centres were continuing and several highlighted the assistance provided by VHWs before and during the visits.

SBCC practices: DHO respondents reported that SBCC focusing on sanitation, hygiene, breastfeeding and nutrition is carried out by health centre staff when visiting villages, and by VHWs who are able to use the loudspeaker systems provided by the Project in many villages. Village Authorities and Womens' Group members all said that the practices are being adopted, and confirmed that VHWs and, in some cases, village LWU volunteers were able to continue messaging. However the VHW / VNV respondents gave surprisingly different responses, in one village saying that they had discontinued messaging and in only one village saying that they regularly used the loudspeaker. In other villages they said they only opportunistically passed on SBCC messages, for instance in general village meetings or face to face when encountering villagers using inappropriate practices.

EPI / deworming / Vitamin A distribution: Health centre directors explained that these are routine activities that were in place before the Project and the role of the Project was simply to finance them. The EPI is provided during village visits and the Vitamin A and deworming tablets are mainly distributed at the health centres. The DHO respondents confirmed this and also mentioned availability at District Hospitals. One health centre director pointed out that the activities are continuing now supported by Lao-Lux. Village Authorities and

discussion group participants in all villages confirmed that health centres provided all these services 6-monthly in the villages and that parents could take their children to the health centres between visits if necessary.

ANC Attendance: DHO respondents all said that all pregnant women attend ANC, and that they can do so at health centres, district hospitals or the provincial hospital according to their convenience. Only in one district it was mentioned that those who cannot go to one of these locations can also receive ANC during the quarterly village visits of their health teams. Health centre directors gave more detailed information and two of them noted that the Project had been instrumental in raising demand for ANC and PNC services, especially through reinvigoration and training of VHWs who are now better able to explain the benefits. The health centres ask VHWs to identify all pregnant women so that they can be put onto a monthly appointments system and notified by phone. Village Authorities and discussion participants all agreed that this system is working well and that all pregnant women nowadays receive ANC appointments and usually attend.

c. Infrastructure

Seed banks: In the closing weeks of the Project 'seed banks' were provided to 10 villages of which we visited three. Two of these cases consisted not of a supply of seed but of 5m kip revolving cash funds. Village management committees set regulations regarding loan amounts and repayment terms for loans to farmers for seed purchase. In one village farmers told us that the funds were only for rice seed and the interest rate was 10% for 6 months. It had not yet been used as there had not been a rice season since the fund was set up, but they said it would be used. In the second village, farmers said that the loans cost 30% per month and could be taken for 3 months; at the time of the visit three farmers had taken loans. The third seed bank was a supply of rice seed that had been left with DAFO. Farmers and DAFO said they expected to operate the seed bank in the coming rice season, but did not give details about the regulations.

Irrigation facilities: The facilities were very small scale to support vegetable cultivation on the demonstration plots and should really be regarded as a part of that activity. As many of the demonstration plots are no longer in use, it follows that non-portable components of the irrigation (eg boreholes) may also not be in use, although they could be adopted by other farmers in the vicinity. Portable parts include electric and gasoline pumps, 200 litre storage drums, PVC piping and watering cans. They could be moved and used by individuals, with a consequent reduction in the number of beneficiaries. Village Authorities and group discussion participants in the visited villages informed us that:

- In two villages the original systems remain in use. One of these is Nakhangxeng, with only seven participating households
- In another two villages (one with only five participating households), the provided gasoline pumps have been replaced with electric ones because of high running costs (600-800,000 kip per hectare)
- In one village the gasoline pump broke down, villagers could not repair it and ceased using the demo plot.
- In two villages there was no suitable water source and no system was supplied
- In one village there was not enough water and although equipment was supplied it was used unsuccessfully for one year and then packed up and placed in storage
- In one village the pump and piping were not used because the demo plot was closed for COVID quarantine

Potable water sources / filters: The support to water supply had not been followed up by DHO in any of the three visited districts. One DHO representative said that as they had not received any information from communities they assumed that the facilities were still functioning properly. The villages visited during our fieldwork did not have Project supported water supply, so we do not have village-level feedback.

Latrines: In all nine villages some of the households already had latrines prior to the Project, either provided by other organisations such as Lao Red Cross or self-constructed, but there remained a considerable number without latrines. Five of the villages visited were among the

32 villages prioritised for CLTS. In three of these the Project facilitated latrine construction according to need (20 in one village, eight and two in the others). Each of the other two villages had 25-30 households lacking latrines (according to their Village Authorities) and in one of them villagers had now constructed their own. In the four non-CLTS villages visited, the Project had provided latrines in one of them. In all villages, discussion participants said that the latrines were in daily use and our inspections found them to be clean and having water present, but limited evidence of soap.

2.7 EU Added Value

EQ8: To what extent was the project in line with the EU Joint Programming (JP) 2016-2020 and how satisfactorily did it contribute to the achievements of the Joint Programme?

Judgement Criteria for EQ8	Rating
Alignment with EU Joint Programming	Satisfactory
Alignment / integration with Member States' initiatives	Partially Satisfactory
The Project made a satisfactory contribution to the Joint Programme	No evidence

Finding 39 The Project was fully aligned with the EU Joint Programme 2016-2020 and was part of the EU's commitment of 85% of the Joint Programme funds allocated to nutrition.

- a. The European Joint Programming for Lao PDR 2016-2020 was the collective response of European Partners in support of the GoL's 8th National Social Economic Development Plan (8th NSEDP). It was synchronised and aligned with the government's 2016-2020 planning cycle, and sought to support national policies and promote timely dialogue with the Government at the national and sector levels. By programming together, European Partners intended to deliver more efficient development support to the government, including in nutrition which had a defined Sector Response Plan with Specific Objectives and Results as shown in Table 8. It can immediately be seen that the Project was well aligned with all three of the Sector Response Plan's Specific Objectives. It contributed to R1.2 in Khammouane Province, six target districts and 100 villages, especially in terms of planning, coordination and capacity development for nutrition governance under its ER3. The Project's ER2 contributed directly to R2.1, R2.2, R3.3 and (to some extent) R3.4 of the Sector Response Plan, while ER1 contributed directly to R3.1 and R3.2. The only Result not addressed by the Project was R1.1 which refers to a national initiative that did not require support from sub-national projects.

Specific Objective	Results
SO1: Support to strengthened Nutrition Governance	R1.1. The National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN) is functional and institutionalised. R1.2. Planning, resource mobilisation, coordination, communications and capacity development at the national, provincial, district and village levels strengthened.
SO2: Contribute to scaled-up Nutrition Specific Support	R2.1. Integrated outreach and end delivery of nutrition specific services and investments at district and village levels improved. R2.2. Nutrition status improved in vulnerable communities, with particular attention on mothers and children health and nutrition status.
SO3: Contribute to scaled-up Nutrition Sensitive Support	R3.1. Smallholders' production in farming activities with high nutrition impact increased. R3.2. Vulnerable communities have access to and consume quality and diverse food throughout the year (agricultural products as well as non-timber forest products). R3.3. Hygiene, water and sanitation related services to the vulnerable members of the community improved. R3.4. Vulnerable communities, in particular mothers and young children, have access to functioning parenting and community learning groups.

Table 8: Specific Objectives and Results of Priority Sector 2.6 (Nutrition) of the EU Joint Programming for Lao PDR, 2016-2020.

- b. The achievements of the Joint Programme, including those of the Sector Response Plan for Nutrition have not been elaborated in a Final Report so it is not possible to determine the Project's contribution to it. A Mid-Term Review of the Joint Programme was held in 2018, which was prior to the commencement of Project activities.
- c. Due to the rotation of staff in Member States' representations, and to the fact that the current Joint Programme (2021-2028) bears little resemblance to the previous one in terms of nutrition, it was difficult to obtain informed responses on the matter of the Project's EU Added Value. However we are able to draw on our previous work in Laos which includes a round table meeting with Member States representatives (from France, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland) in 2019. Member States acknowledged and praised the central role that the EU played in bringing and maintaining the policy agenda on nutrition as co-chair with UNICEF of the Development Partners Working Group for more than a decade. Without this continuous effort there would be no NNSPA and thus any work undertaken on nutrition would be piecemeal. In terms of operationalising the NNSPA Plan of Action 2016-2020, it is clear from the Joint Programming 2016-2020 that the EU is the main European player. It committed funds of €71m, representing 85% of the eventual €83.64m JP commitment for nutrition. This is such a large proportion that there is no need to consider the potential substitution effect of whether Member States would have made the contributions in the absence of the EU. In specific terms of the Project, there were no other actions programmed for Khammouane under the Sector Response Plan for Nutrition.

Finding 40 The potential to add value to Member States' interventions in Khammouane Province existed and to some extent occurred.

- a. There were other relevant Member State funded projects active in Khammouane Province at the same time as the Project. One of these is SUNWIP (Scaling Up Nutrition and WASH Infrastructure), or PIN Pillar 3 project co-funded by Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), which is still operational and deals only with water supply for small towns and large villages, and associated WASH awareness raising. Representatives of KfW were new and not aware of either the EU Joint Programme 2016-2020 or the FSN Project (which had closed before they joined). SUNWIP works in 2 districts in Khammouane, of which one, Gnommalath, is a target district of the FSN Project, however there is no overlap between the four locations supported by SUNWIP and the 17 villages supported by the Project. After receiving a verbal overview of the Project, the KfW respondent agreed that it supported SDG2 and potentially added synergy and hence value to their programme.
- b. France supported two relevant projects in Khammouane during the FSN Project implementation period. One of these involved income generation for 17 villages in Nakai district that had to be relocated because they would be flooded by a reservoir. There were nutrition issues due to loss of access to non timber forest products (NTFPs) (forests also submerged), and to poor quality of allocated land - 1ha per HH, sandy and infertile. Nakai was not an FSN target district and the FSN Agriculture Officer confirmed that the projects had not been aware of each other. The other French supported project, the Pilot Project for Irrigation of Nam Kata (PPINK) was implemented by the PAFO Irrigation Department in Boualapha District between 2017 and 2022. Its objectives included securing wet season rice cultivation, supporting diversification in the dry season, and establishing Water User Groups to collectively manage the rehabilitated scheme that covers two villages. Although the FSN Project was aware of PPINK through PAFO, there had not been any interactions with it.
- c. The other relevant Member State initiative is the LuxDev Local Development Programme already discussed in Finding 9. LuxDev definitely saw the potential for the FSN Project to add value to its programme because it was providing lots of capacity building within communities that would be eligible to receive village development funds support. This was a passive value addition, in that there was no direct interaction between the projects although they overlapped in 12 target villages. Khammouane is also one of three target provinces for the LaoLux Health Sector Support Programme which has the specific objective to support the implementation of the Health Sector Reform Framework 2013-2025 with a specific focus on Mother and Child Health, by fostering district health systems and actors. The Project Proposal (p6) indicated that the

Project would 'coordinate with LuxDev Laos on governance where appropriate', but Project informants said that did not occur. The FSN Project's support to DHO and health centre capacity building did not represent duplication and in fact represents added value as Health Centre staff explained they are able to continue using the capacities built by the Project through current funding support from Luxembourg.

2.8 Gender, other Crosscutting Issues and Approaches

EQ10: To what extent were gender, environment and climate change mainstreamed; the relevant SDGs and their interlinkages identified; the principle of Leave No-One Behind and the rights-based approach methodology followed in the identification/formulation documents, Call for Proposal Guidelines, Grant Contract (and addendum) and the MOU? Did the monitoring and governance systems track whether these topics were reflected in Project implementation to the extent foreseen in these planning documents?

Judgement Criteria for EQ10	Rating
Coverage of the listed issues in the design documents	Partially Satisfactory
Monitoring system coverage of the listed issues	Unsatisfactory
IMC oversight of the listed issues	Unsatisfactory

Finding 41 Environment and climate change (always grouped together) was the most comprehensively covered of these issues in the programming documents, and became fully mainstreamed in the Description of the Action. Promising mainstreaming of gender in the Action Fiche was not followed through in subsequent documents. Different interpretations of the rights to be included in the rights-based approach were evident.

- Annex 12 traces the coverage of these issues along the chain of programming documents. As would be expected, the Identification Fiche makes only brief reference, tangentially to gender and more specifically to environment (ecological sustainability especially of NTFPs).
- The Action Fiche provides the most knowledgeable and relevant discussions. It points out that "women play a key role in food security and nutrition and have different needs and roles in daily life than men, but don't always have the same rights and opportunities" and is explicit that "The project will have to ensure that women are fully incorporated at all levels and that specific needs of women and men are addressed; also it needs to be ensured that no additional work load is put upon the shoulders of women." Regarding environment & climate change, the Action Fiche describes the main issue – "Climate change is also expected to lead to a longer annual dry season, more intensive rainfall events and more frequent and severe drought" – and highlights the need to "strengthen adaptation efforts and implement a comprehensive programme that addresses key barriers to adaptation in the agricultural sector at all levels". In addition to women's and child rights, the Action Fiche highlights the right to food.
- The Technical and Administrative Provisions (TAPs) coverage of crosscutting issues is borrowed verbatim from the Action Fiche.
- The Call for Proposals takes a more technical approach. It requests applicants "to analyse relevant gender gaps and to integrate, in the proposed actions, initiatives in support to gender equality and/or (young) women empowerment what regards nutrition challenges in Laos" and requires "a description of how the environment and climate change-related aspects of the proposed action will be addressed, if applicable, to ensure the environmental sustainability and climate resilience of the proposed action, where relevant." There is no mention of rights in the main text of the Call, but the scoring grid mentions the needs of the disabled and the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples.
- The Description of the Action (Project Proposal), which is annexed to the Grant Contract and its Addendum, is thin on gender, simply asserting that "The activities of the Action promote the participation of women as well as men, thereby ensuring gender equality and also take into account the needs of people with disabilities, children and the elderly." However it is strong on climate change stating that "The overall project design effectively integrates environmental issues into its strategy with particular attention to climate change and sustainable use of natural resources" and describing the approach in some detail. It also mentions that the Project

addresses “the rights of minority peoples to good nutrition, access to basic services and increased knowledge on health, nutrition and water and sanitation issues”.

Finding 42 The programming documents did not discuss the principle of Leave No-One Behind or of SDG interlinkages.

- a. These two topics were introduced in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that was adopted in 2015. Therefore they do not form part of the Identification Fiche or Action Fiche which were prepared in 2012, or the TAPS, prepared in 2014. They are also not included in the subsequent Call for Proposals or Project Proposal, both of which refer to SDG2, but not to potential interlinkages.
- b. The Action has potential for interlinkages, that could have been discussed, with:
 - SDG1 (No Poverty) – eg access of poor and vulnerable to basic services, and their resilience to climate change and other shocks
 - SDG3 (Health & Well-being) – eg for indicators on newborn and CU5 mortality
 - SDG5 (Gender Equality) – eg recognise and value unpaid work / promote shared responsibility; promote women’s leadership and decision-making
 - SDG6 (Clean water and Sanitation) – eg access to potable water; provision of sanitation and hygiene; local communities water and sanitation management; improved efficiency of water use across all sectors
 - SDG12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) – eg sustainable use of natural resources (NTFPs); waste reduction (biogas)
 - SDG13 (Climate Action) – eg resilience to climate related hazards; awareness raising on climate change mitigation / adaptation
 - SDG15 (Life on Land) – eg sustainable management of forests; restore degraded forests / land and reduce land degradation

Finding 43 Crosscutting issues and themes that are not among those listed in the Evaluation’s Terms of Reference were raised in the programming documents

- a. The Identification and Action Fiches raised issues which were pressing at the time in Lao PDR, and may have become less of a priority subsequently, concerning issues around resettlement and the plight of small farmers who become worse off as a result of hydropower, mining, and agribusiness concessions.
- b. Those issues were not followed up in the Call for Proposals which did, however, specify that particular attention should be paid to cross-cutting principles such as empowerment, participation and non-discrimination of vulnerable groups.
- c. The Project Proposal followed the Call’s comment literally by asserting that “*The action also directly responds to all of the call’s cross-cutting issues: It has a strong focus on **participation** as well as **empowerment** for community actors, particularly those who are often excluded: ethnic minority women, women headed HHs, urban poor, migrants and youth.*” It states that “*The project is focused on improving the nutritional health of rural, EM and other marginalised people by meeting their specific needs. By engaging with EM community members, especially [traditional birth attendants] TBAs, and developing their participation as Agents of Change, services will be tailored to respond to cultural contexts and challenge taboos and beliefs that reinforce malnutrition*”. It further notes that the six target districts are the most vulnerable in the Province and 78% of the target population belong to seven ethnic minority groups.

Finding 44 The MOU does not mention any of these issues or approaches

- a. The MOU lists all of the Project’s Expected Results and Activities, but it does not mention crosscutting issues or approaches. It does list among its annexes the Project Design Document and the grant contract between HPA and the EU, which also incorporates the proposal, but neither of these annexes are referred to in the MOU main text. Hence they are ‘orphaned’ and

unlikely to be noticed, especially as they are written in English and not included in the same file as the main text.

Finding 45 The monitoring systems did not track these issues and approaches

- a. The Call for Proposals required that *“Applications should anticipate a methodology and an initial set of indicators allowing data gathering and monitoring of the implementation of the said cross-cutting issues [i.e. empowerment, participation and non-discrimination of vulnerable groups] throughout the action based on available data where relevant”*. It did not specifically call for tracking of the other issues.
- b. The Project Proposal does not contain a methodology or initial set of indicators to track empowerment, participation or non-discrimination of vulnerable groups (although it does mention participatory M&E will involve marginalised groups, but it does not specify what they will be monitoring). It also does not contain any methodology or indicators to cover gender or any of the rights. It did include some monitoring of activities, which included climate smart agriculture and Womens’ Groups, but only in terms of project progress monitoring.
- c. All the former Project staff interviewed, including the M&E Officer, informed us that there was no tracking of crosscutting issues during Project implementation.
- d. The Grant Contract, Annex VI, specifies the format for narrative reporting. There is no section for crosscutting issues to be reported in the Interim Narrative Reports, but the Final Narrative Report, Section 2.5 requires an explanation of *“how the Action has mainstreamed cross-cutting issues such as promotion of human rights, gender equality, democracy, good governance, children’s rights and indigenous peoples, environmental sustainability and combating HIV/AIDS (if there is a strong prevalence in the target country/region)”*.
- e. The response to this in the Project’s Final Narrative Report was *“The project applied consistent approaches and engagement with the stakeholders including community members that ensure that every member of the target communities are equally accessible to the services provided. The decision-making instances throughout project implementation such as working with farmers’ clubs, Womens’ Group, selecting members of WMCs, recruiting volunteers, organizing meetings with stakeholders and disseminating the results of surveys/project were made transparent, respectable, participatory and collective.”*

Finding 46 The governance system did not track these issues and approaches

- a. The Implementation Management Committee was the body responsible for oversight of the project. The MOU contains detailed membership and terms of reference for the IMC, which included annual site visits and monitoring and evaluation meetings for national level members and ongoing monitoring for provincial and district level members. The topics of the M&E are not mentioned and the Minutes of IMC meetings inspected do not include comments on crosscutting issues. Former Project staff reported that the IMC did not track crosscutting issues.

EQ11: What evidence is there to demonstrate that the Co-Applicants recognised the difference between targeting women and a gender sensitive approach, and that they actively pursued the latter over the former during Project implementation?

Judgement Criteria for EQ11	Rating
Adequacy of differentiation	Unsatisfactory
Project implementation was demonstrably gender sensitive	Unsatisfactory

Finding 47 Senior stakeholders in project management had limited understanding of the gender sensitive approach.

- a. The former Country Director of HPA had a satisfactory understanding of gender issues. He said that projects should have gender policies that are not only about women but encompass the gender dynamics of, for example target communities and households, including household gender issues, family decision making, market opportunities, division of labour etc. The other senior project management stakeholders gave answers that indicated they did not see a difference between gender and targeting women.

Finding 48 The project did not have a gender policy or strategy, and did not follow a gender sensitive approach.

- a. Responses from senior project management stakeholders about the gender sensitive approach of the project reflected their responses about the approach in general. Both representatives of FPP pointed out that the Farmers' Club members may be of either gender and that activities were not restricted to that person – any other member of the household, of either gender, could participate according to their interest. No ER1 activities were designated specifically for men or for women. The senior HPA respondent stated that the gender approach was totally missing from the Project and was a major omission, but considered that this should have been identified at a much earlier stage, or indeed made obligatory in the Call for Proposals.
- b. The Call for Proposals did invite applicants “to analyse relevant gender gaps and to integrate, in the proposed actions, initiatives in support to gender equality and/or (young) women empowerment what regards nutrition challenges in Laos.” The Proposal itself did not present such an analysis or include one as a Project activity. There was a potential missed opportunity as the in-depth community needs and practices assessment (Activity 2.A1) could have been broadened to include gender analysis, and to cover ER1 as well as ER2, although it transpired that the activity was not carried out anyway.
- c. The Proposal asserts that “*where gender equality measures are successful in the Lot 2 districts, this action will be able to apply similar approaches to Lot 3 districts.*” However as already noted in Finding 5 was insufficient interaction with other PIN projects to permit this. SCALING and AHAN (the PIN Lot 2 actions) followed gender sensitive approaches and both have subsequently published brochures describing their gender analyses and learning.
- d. There was no gender analysis undertaken by the project. It was pointed out that the MOU budget did not provide for one. However the Project did support Lao Women's Union to undertake their pre-existing training programmes in target villages, and these did include participatory analysis of the time spent by women on different activities. But this information was not used by the project.

Finding 49 Project stakeholders do not have consistent views about the Project's impact on women's burden of work or on the balance of workload between men and women, which were not monitored

- a. The senior project management stakeholders have opinions about these topics, but do not have data to back them up. Some consider that the agricultural activities imposed extra burden on women while others feel that although there are some new activities, they improve upon and replace existing activities and do not add more burden. The health and hygiene activities are not thought to impose more burden and one respondent suggested that the water systems and latrines saved time.
- b. Lao Women's Union representatives were interviewed in the three visited districts. Two considered women had less work as a result of the project, and the other that they had more, but 'easy' work. All of them said that nowadays men do more work than they used to and are more inclined to do work traditionally associated with women, and also to discuss more and share decision taking, although there are still some ethnic minorities that have not changed. This is a general point, not limited to Project areas, and, they say, is related to the LWU training mentioned above. However the former Operations Manager did think that there was a noticeable change from the first year of activities, in which she said almost all the agriculture activities were done by women, to the end when men were also participating.
- c. Out of 12 Provincial and District Officials representing the PHO, PAFO, PNC, DHO, DAFO and DNC, only two considered that women had less work as a result of the Project. The remainder said more but 'easy' work and men did the 'hard work' and were also more helpful nowadays than they used to be.
- d. When asked what steps the project had taken to reduce the amount of work for pregnant and breastfeeding women, the answers all concerned awareness raising and training, mainly by LWU, that made women know how to take care of themselves and their children. Only two of the respondents mentioned men, one of them (from a DHO) said that the training enabled both

women and men understand that women need more time to take care of themselves and their children. None of them indicated that men needed to undertake more of the work traditionally undertaken by women during these times.

Finding 50 The ROM recommendations concerning gender were not implemented

- a. The ROM Report (May 2021, following a remote ROM mission in March 2021) correctly identified that there was no gender strategy set out in the Proposal and that one had not been developed during implementation. Although it then mistakenly found that the Project's focus on women means that gender considerations had been widely implemented, it recommended that the Project consider seeking expertise from a gender specialist who could bring a gender approach to some of the remaining activities and to help report through a gender perspective.
- b. Senior Project management stakeholders reported that the recommendation was not implemented because there was insufficient time (less than 3.5 months between the report publication and the end of the project) or budget to mount such an input.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

3.1 Lessons learnt

During the course of the evaluation we learned a number of lessons which are relevant when considering the planning and implementation of future multisectoral nutrition programmes, and could also be adapted to cover multisectoral initiatives in other spheres.

- 1) The nature of implementation by sectors is different. Mother and child health initiatives need to include all pregnant women and mothers with CU5 in the target community. This is not a fixed or constant number, but is dynamic depending on the occurrence of new pregnancies and the number of children reaching their fifth birthday. On the other hand the number of farmers in a community is fairly constant and agricultural extension often relies on regular communication with a motivated cadre of farmers to spread messages to their peer groups of core farmers. Numeric targets such as '5,000 households' are therefore relevant to agricultural extension but meaningless to mother and child health and are not appropriate for use at the Specific Objective level. An alternative would be to focus on target communities.
- 2) From the above it is clear that convergence will occur as long as households that contain, or are likely to contain during implementation, pregnant women and children under 5 are among the agricultural participants. Thus the composition of households along with information about their nutrition / vulnerability status and ethnicity should be used as selection criteria, and should be recorded. There will probably be more 'qualifying' households than can be accommodated and thought should be given in project formulation and calls for proposals as to how community convergence can be achieved, so that households that are unable to participate in agriculture (or other non-health sector) activities can still benefit from those activities.
- 3) Systematically recorded target household information and a good M&E system would make it possible to learn lessons and take decisions that could improve the efficiency and outcomes of a project. For instance some ethnic groups might be found to respond very well to group formation while others might participate better as individuals; some might prefer hunting for forest animals than keeping domestic animals etc.
- 4) Most of the health and hygiene work comprised facilitation of longstanding existing programmes that were already priorities for the sector and were adequately staffed. The focus was therefore on capacity building and operational support, enabling staff to do their existing jobs better. The agricultural interventions are not part of longstanding programmes, having been developed specifically for the NNSPA. At PAFO and DAFO levels priorities mainly concern meeting targets for commercial crop and livestock production and staff need to be diverted from those to the smaller scale nutrition-oriented activities with which they do not have much experience. Thus the role of the Project was more concerned with capacity building and motivating staff to do new things with new groups of farmers as an add-on to their existing work. The different circumstances and challenges need to be more widely understood and acknowledged between the sectors, and in the development of future projects.
- 5) Whilst we did not find any benefit to having PHO as a co-applicant, it does not mean the concept of having a government agency as co-applicant is not an interesting one. If the seconded officers had been more senior the outcome might have been better. But we feel that the choice of the health sector as co-applicant sends an unfortunate message. If considering a GOL co-

applicant in future, we feel that the PNC would be an empowering choice that could invigorate a multisectoral approach. Alternatively PAFO would be a good choice too. As mentioned above, there are no DAFO staff allocated to NNSPA priority interventions. During Project implementation 22 Farming Instructors were hired and DAFO allocated 36 staff part-time to work with them; each time an Instructor went to the village, they had to be accompanied by DAFO staff, which was inefficient and not empowering for the staff. If it had been possible to assign a number of DAFO staff full-time to the Project using Co-applicant budget allocation, instead of hiring Farming Instructors, the benefits to efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability could have been enormous.

- 6) The use of two INGOs as co-applicants resulted in a management and leadership vacuum with no sense of ownership of the overall project and the two INGOs basically running separate projects from the same office. It was also an arrangement that was not welcomed by the government and was partly responsible for the long delay in obtaining the MOU.
- 7) The Guidelines for the Call for Proposals contained a long list of potential activities and resulted in a proposal that promised virtually all of them. What was omitted from the Guidelines, and subsequently from the proposal, was Project Management as a specific activity encompassing systematic review of the suitability of the intervention logic and its indicators; development and implementation of a project M&E framework and learning strategy; elaboration and adherence to a customised gender strategy; and adoption by mid-term of an exit strategy focused on sustainability.
- 8) A lesson learnt back in 2012 and included in the original Formulation Document, but unfortunately not heeded in the Call for Proposals, needs to be learned again. It is:
 - *“Need longer duration for implementation. Under the Food Facility, the short duration of projects limited the prospects for sustainability. Behaviour changes are extremely slow for all activities related to nutrition, agriculture activities need to be tested over several seasons and overall, many villages are not accessible during the wet season. The programme will support actions of 4 years minimum. The time necessary for setting up projects and signing the Memoranda of Understanding should also be taken into consideration”*

3.2 Conclusions

Relevance

The Project was relevant to its development context at all levels, from global to village. Laos was an early riser in the SUN movement and developed a multisectoral National Nutrition Strategy incorporating a Plan of Action. The Project delivers on the Plan of Action in Khammouane Province, where stakeholders found it to be relevant to their development strategies and plans at Provincial, District and Village levels (Finding 1). Nevertheless it would still have been possible for the Project not to have maintained relevance by failing to adopt a convergent approach. We found that, within the context of limited household data availability, the Project took a sufficiently convergent approach and remained relevant (Finding 2).

Coherence

The Project’s objectives were fully coherent with those of the National Nutrition Strategy, and the EU support to the NNSPA which included the Partnership for Improved Nutrition and the Nutrition Budget Support Programme (Finding 4, Finding 6). They were also fully aligned with the EU Joint Programming for 2016-2020 (Finding 39) and the sub-national development plans in Khammouane Province and the target districts and villages (Finding 7, Finding 1). There was a considerable difference in budget and timeframe with the other actions funded under PIN Pillar 3, which all benefited from longer implementation periods and significantly higher budgets – the neighbouring AHAN project potentially having eight times the budget on a per-beneficiary basis (Finding 5). It will be important to take this into account when comparing PIN actions.

Nevertheless, we consider **the Project was insufficiently pro-active in interacting with other interventions** in Khammouane Province (Finding 8, Finding 9) and within the PIN (Finding 5). While recognising that interaction requires motivation from both sides, we attribute this partly to the lack of leadership discussed in Finding 14.

Efficiency

The absence of leadership and strategic direction resulted in an activity-driven project that lacked the flexibility to adapt, learn and improve.

The management arrangements adopted by the two INGO co-applicants effectively resulted in two separate project teams with no overall leadership or vision (Finding 14). Individuals had ownership of particular aspects of the Project, but there was nobody who felt or exercised ownership of the Project as a whole. This is the probable cause of the absence of M&E, gender and sustainability strategies (0, Finding 48, Finding 35). Without these strategies it is very difficult to manage a project efficiently. One of the MTR conclusions was that *“there is a tendency for the Project to rush to meet its defined targets (100 villages) at the expense of quality or sustainability”*. In our discussions we realised this was related to reluctance to challenge or change activities that were in the MOU. So it was not limited to meeting targets of 100 villages, but also to not modifying or cancelling activities according to circumstances, as discussed in Finding 10, Finding 11 and Finding 13. We believe this is also a consequence of the leadership vacuum.

Effectiveness

The unsuitability of output statements and indicators and the lack of a Project M&E framework make it impossible to objectively assess the effectiveness of the Project.

Issues with the indicators for all three expected results are related to ambiguity, subjectivity and inconsistency in interpretation and measurement that have been set out in Finding 18, Finding 26 and Finding 27 respectively. We also found the Output statement for ER2 was complex, subject to misinterpretation and partially dependent on ER1 in terms of wider determinants (Finding 22 - Finding 25).

Subjectively we conclude that the Project resulted in target communities having improved awareness about nutrition, regularly consuming a more nutritious home-grown diet and receiving improved mother and child health services. Government services have improved understanding about nutrition and the need to address it multisectorally.

This conclusion is based on fieldwork in nine of the 100 villages across three of the six districts covered by the Project. It is the outcome of a consistent yet non-quantitative evaluation approach. Finding 20 and Finding 21 discuss the improvements in food security and diet, particularly as a result of the diversified vegetables introduced through the demonstration plots and that have been widely adopted by target and non-target farmers on their own plots. We found the animal pass-on loan scheme to be an attractive concept for a project tasked with scaling up, but it met with high mortality rates and mixed success. The ability to produce nutritious food, coupled with the knowledge about preparing it in a nutritious way and improved hygiene awareness are widely expected to improve prospects for preventing malnutrition (Finding 23) but stakeholders did not have much to say about the Project’s role in improving response to malnutrition (Finding 24). Although screening exceeded the MOU target of 80% of CU5, it was not a huge increase over the baseline level of 77%, and there may not have been a noticeable difference in the response when cases were identified. The training of DNC members, and their inclusion in field monitoring visits, has initiated the concept of multisectoral coordination (Finding 27). We were unable to obtain any of their recent quarterly or annual reports but judging from older reports and our interviews, there has been no attempt to develop leadership in the sense of DNCs developing plans for further multisectoral nutrition initiatives or seeking to make their existing sectoral programmes more convergent.

Impact

MAM, stunting and underweight declined and SAM disappeared from target villages during Project implementation. There is insufficient data to enable this to be attributed to the Project.

Although many respondents considered improvements in nutritional status were due to the Project (Finding 30), health centre managers pointed out that there was insufficient evidence for this assertion (Finding 33). Our own analysis of the limited available data is also inconclusive (Finding 29). This is because the data appears to show that the improvement in nutrition status reported by the project (especially regarding chronic malnutrition) mirror the underlying trend, but does not surpass it. We did not have the opportunity or resources to investigate this further.

The Project’s impact on food security cannot be estimated

The impact statement specifies improved food security as well as improved nutrition, but does not have an associated food security indicator (Finding 29). The duration of the Project, with only two main crop seasons, is too short to confidently identify food security impacts because of normal year to year variability.

Sustainability

We found evidence of sustainability of sufficient key interventions to maintain nutrition enhancing practices in target communities

Many of the sustainability actions foreseen in the proposal were not suitable or not implemented, the project lacked a sustainability strategy and the two principle government partners did not follow up in the six months between project closure and this evaluation (Finding 34, Finding 35). However our fieldwork showed that the interventions that are most likely to have brought about the potential impact described above are continuing at scale (Finding 38). These include vegetable production and activities linked to it such as climate smart agriculture; and all of the village-level health activities provided through health centres and VHWs. The Project played an important role in re-invigorating VHWs and although it did not achieve an increase in latrine coverage, it probably motivated regular use of the existing facilities (Finding 26). Villagers informed us about their improved diets and these include protein from hunted forest animals and some purchased eggs and meat (Finding 31). The knowledge gained from nutrition training and cooking demonstrations is widely acknowledged and practiced in the villages (Finding 23).

Some of the other interventions were found to be sustainable in a limited number of cases, but not among the majority of the target households. These include the animal pass-on loans, the demonstration plots and hence the irrigation facilities, and food processing (Finding 38).

Regrettably we consider a number of the interventions to have been not sustainable, and this includes almost all of the group formation – Farmers' Clubs, Womens' Groups, Youth Groups – that could have represented vehicles for long-term sustainability at scale for the community-level activities. No sense of ownership or interest in the groups (as distinct from activities promoted through the groups) was expressed in any of the visited villages. We note the confusion over the role of SODA and consider its absence from the Project to be a likely reason for this. There was no evidence of producer groups in the two villages where they should have been found and we do not expect them to be sustainable. It is not possible to form an evidence-based opinion about sustainability of the seed banks, which were set up at the end of the Project and have mostly not yet become operational, but the general lack of follow-up by DAFOs and disappointing group sustainability suggest they might not last. (Finding 38, Finding 16).

3.3 Recommendations

In line with the findings and conclusions of this evaluation, we have developed a set of recommendations. Of these, the first four provide a roadmap for government stakeholders to mainstream nutrition in their regular programmes through decentralised convergent planning. These recommendations propose a significant update to nutrition governance and stem from Finding 27, which identified that the DNCs were not able to develop leadership in nutrition and the section of Finding 38 that found that there was no expectation for sustainability of DNCs. This set of recommendations was discussed at the closing workshop for the evaluation on 28 June 2022, attended by MPI, MOH, MAF and others, and met with general support and no dissenting voices. It has also been transformed into an evaluation brief for wider dissemination in both English and Lao languages (Annexes 15 and 16).

1. Mainstream nutrition into sub-national development plans

Malnutrition exists throughout the country and it is neither realistic nor appropriate to rely upon projects to address it. Since the sectoral interventions needed are already undertaken to greater or lesser extent by each respective sector, the main topic to be addressed is how to use existing sectoral resources in a convergent manner, instead of independently. This can be achieved through the existing system of provincial and district development planning committees (DPCs) and village development committees (VDCs). The advantages of using these committees instead of continuing with the provincial and district nutrition committees are that they have the authority to provide leadership and allocate resources, as well as the reduction of inefficiencies of duplicate committees. The DPCs will need training in multisectoral convergence planning and monitoring. Technical support for this can be provided by the National Nutrition Centre (as it was for the DNCs under this project), with external financial support. It is unlikely that the DPCs will be able or willing to place all of their resources into a convergent approach, so they will need to agree how much to allocate.

What is important is that all the relevant sectors (at minimum health, agriculture and MPI, and preferably also education and others) agree to allocate an appropriate share of their resources. When this has been agreed, the District DPCs implement recommendations 2-4 below.

2. Select villages by health centre (small hospital) areas

As noted in Finding 2 village-level nutrition status data is not yet available in Laos. The lowest level of availability is the small hospital. Small hospitals cover several contiguous villages (the number varies considerably but in Khammouane the average is around eight villages). By selecting the entire cluster of villages of those health centres reporting the poorest nutrition status, focus would be improved, logistics would be simplified and results would be easier to demonstrate.

3. Facilitate VDCs to prepare village development plans incorporating the most relevant NNS Priority Interventions

VDC members in the selected villages will require some awareness raising on the NNS PIs. They will then be able to use their local knowledge to include the PIs that are most relevant to their circumstances and to determine the scale of provision possible according to available resources. They will also identify participants or localities of the village in such a way as to ensure convergence and prospects for strong nutritional outcomes. Bottom-up planning, as noted by DLWU (Finding 38) develops ownership and empowerment at the community level and thereby improves prospects for sustainability.

4. Allow adequate time and develop an exit strategy to enhance sustainability

Lesson Learnt 8) was forgotten during the formulation of this Project, so we re-emphasise it here. Resources need to be provided in the target villages for an adequate period of time to allow for behavioural change, adoption of agricultural practices, provision, installation and troubleshooting of infrastructure etc. A minimum of three years should be expected, with the understanding that a longer time period maybe needed. The VDC and district DPC members should undertake regular multisectoral monitoring of nutrition issues, as was previously done by the DNCs. An exit strategy should be prepared in the second year, whereby the VDC sets out its plan to ensure the sustainability of the programme. This will not only include maintenance plans for infrastructure, but also mechanisms to ensure the continuity of newly adopted behaviours and practices, and of supply chains for agricultural and medical inputs etc. When it is agreed that the interventions have been sufficient to enable the exit strategy to be successful, the cycle starts again with the selection of the next small hospital service area.

The recommendations below are addressed primarily to the EU Delegation in Lao PDR and may be of value to other Delegations and Development Partners. They would be helpful in development of future multisectoral nutrition programmes, and may be of interest to other partners, in other countries or perhaps in other fields. Recommendation 2 above is also relevant here. Recommendations 7, 8 and 10 are of wider interest being applicable to grant awards in general.

5. Focus on communities, not households

Health services need to cover the entire community in a dynamic manner – e.g. ‘all pregnant women’, ‘all mothers with CU5’, ‘all CBA women’ etc. Agricultural services tend to focus on fixed numbers of contacts per village. Interventions need to address not only the existing mothers and CU5, but also the households that are likely to have children in the next few years. Finding 28 demonstrated that the target numbers and categories were over-specified at the Specific Objective level, were poorly understood by the Project team and were not systematically followed. Grant applicants should be asked to provide a methodology that follows a convergent approach in this context. This will probably mean that their Specific Objectives should focus more on communities than on household numbers.

6. Differentiate between home consumption and commercial or semi-commercial approaches to the agriculture interventions

These approaches are different and require different skills and timeframes even if they both involve production of the same crops and animals. They need to be covered by separate projects. Most of

the emphasis of the NNSPA is on remote communities because that is where the highest rates of malnutrition are thought to occur. But the highest numbers of malnourished CU5 are thought to occur in urban communities. Activities such as creation and support of producer groups have pre-conditions that include a good level of production of marketable produce, a potential market, and motivated producers. If such circumstances exist then a project could be developed to support them. It would require at least three years. In itself this would not be multisectoral, in the same way that SUNWIP was not, but it could be associated with other nutrition interventions. An obvious starting point would be to leverage the SUNWIP urban and peri-urban water supply by facilitating nutritious food markets through well-established producer groups.

7. Provision of sufficient time

Multisectoral projects require a range of social and technical preliminary studies that need to take place between selection of target villages and beginning of activities. A study phase of 3-6 months should be built-in to projects through the Call for Proposals (CFPs) and workplans for the main activities should be revised in light of the studies. Subsequently, most agricultural activities require a minimum of 3 maincrop seasons to motivate adoption by farmers, and behaviour change also takes a long time. Additionally it is not unrealistic to allow for at least one year to obtain the MOU. In the case of this Project, the MOU took 17 months (Finding 10) and the intended detailed study was not undertaken (Finding 13). Thus implementation periods need to be in the order of 5 years. Project teams do not need to be fully mobilised for the entire period - eg skeleton team for MOU preparation, core team for study period; full team for peak implementation period; reduced team in final year - and CFPs should ask for a mobilisation strategy.

8. Incorporate project management requirements in Calls for Proposals

It is as important to guarantee that proposals will result in projects that reach certain minimum standards in terms of management expertise as it is for technical expertise. It should not be possible for a leadership vacuum such as the one experienced by this Project (Finding 14 and Conclusion for Efficiency) could occur. One senior project stakeholder said that the lack of a gender strategy may be because it wasn't asked for in the CFP. We recommend that CFPs specifically require proposals to explain how and when the project would prepare and then implement gender, communication, M&E, sustainability and exit strategies and that each of these should be deliverables. In addition, in the case of proposals involving co-applicants, it is essential to ensure that proposals specifically include management arrangements whereby there will be a team leader with overall responsibility for the entire project, meaning with authority to make strategic and operational decisions on behalf of all co-applicants and having authority over all project personnel, regardless of the co-applicant by whom they are employed.

9. Pro-actively encourage development of partnerships

The Partnership for Improved Nutrition had several 'partners' but no 'ship' and the opportunities for sharing and learning were missed (Finding 4, Finding 5). If a similar new initiative is developed, it would be advisable to incorporate a catalyst for the development of the partnership. This could take the form of a rotating chair of 6-monthly or annual meetings (with each Action including in its budget the costs to host one meeting and attend all others) and/or of a study to be undertaken jointly by the partners at the outset, of learning from the PIN, using a combination of ex-post study visits, Key Informant Interviews / institutional memory and document review.

10. Improve systems for accountability

The accountability procedure for grant awards is in need of review. The narrative reporting format does not provide the Delegation with adequate information to be considered an accountability tool. For instance, it cannot be understood from the narrative report that there was no overall team leader, that the strategies mentioned above were absent, that fundamental activities such as in-depth village studies had not been undertaken, or that other activities deviated from their descriptions in the proposal. Data presented in narrative reports are insufficient to be relied upon or critically examined. The absence of the Delegation from the IMC, and the fact that the MTR was internal, meant that the Delegation had insufficient means by which to assess the Project and potentially call for adjustments. Although the reporting format is not at the Delegation's discretion, these shortcomings are valid and need to be addressed, perhaps by lobbying the relevant Brussels services to review accountability mechanisms.

Annexes to the report

- Annex 1 FSN Project Logframe with updated indicators
- Annex 2 Theory of Change linkages between Project Activities and NNS Strategic Objectives and Priority Interventions
- Annex 3 Terms of Reference for this Evaluation
- Annex 4 Evaluation Matrix
- Annex 5 Evaluation Methodology including: options taken, difficulties encountered and limitations; detail of tools and analyses
- Annex 6 Key informants and discussion groups
- Annex 7 Documents consulted
- Annex 8 Comparison of Actions funded under PIN Pillar 3
- Annex 9 Baseline data and updated targets
- Annex 10 Data quality control example
- Annex 11 Animal Pass-on loan Scheme
- Annex 12 Evolution of Crosscutting Issues and Approaches in planning documents
- Annex 13 Evolution of the FSN Project
- Annex 14 Final Workshop
- Annex 15 Evaluation brief (in English language)
- Annex 16 Evaluation brief (in Lao language)

Annex 1 FSN Project Logframe with updated indicators

Logframe Indicators	Logframe Targets	Baseline Value	Endline value (Final Narrative Report)	MOU Indicators & targets	Endline Value (Draft Endline Study)	Assumptions
Overall Objective: Impact						
Contribute to improved nutrition and food security towards achieving Priority 1 of Lao PDR National Nutritional Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020, and SDG2.						
OO.i1- Decrease Maternal mortality rate	160/100,000 live births (2020)	197/100,000 live births (2015)				
OO.i2 - Decrease CU5 mortality rate (m/f)	54/1,000 live births (2020)	67/1,000 live births (2015)				
OO.i3 - Decrease CU5 stunting prevalence (m/f)	27% (2020)	33,9% (2015, LCAAS)				
OO.i4 - Decrease CU5 underweight prevalence (m/f)	17% (2020)	29,9% (2015, LCAAS)				
Specific objective: Impact						
Improved nutritional status and food security in 5,000 vulnerable households in 100 villages of 6 districts with special focus on children under 5, women of CBA including EM women, urban poor and migrants - and youth						
SOC.i1- % CU5 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) based on weight for height below between -2 and -3 standard deviation	5% (2020, NPAN) updated to: 3.8%		2.42% Of which 38% male 62% female	5% CU5 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)	Specific Objective not covered by study	GoL will remain committed to a convergence approach and integrate its priority nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions in the
SOC.i2 - % CU5 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) based on weight for height below -3 standard deviation (m/f)	1% (2020, NPAN) updated to:		0.21% Of which	1% CU5 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)		

Logframe Indicators	Logframe Targets	Baseline Value	Endline value (Final Narrative Report)	MOU Indicators & targets	Endline Value (Draft Endline Study)	Assumptions
	0.8		37% male 63% female			8th NSEDP and relevant sectoral development plans.
SOC.i3 - Prevalence of a) women / teenagers CBA and b) CU5 (m/f) suffering from anaemia (Hb <12g/dl)	a) 23%(2020) b) 30%(2020) updated to: 10% 10%		Not measured	23% women / teenagers with anaemia		
SOC.i4 - % of children a) U5 and b) under 2 suffer with sub-clinical vitamin A deficiency (m/f)	a) 15% (2020) b) 25% (2020) updated to: 80% CU5 and CU2 receive vitamin A supplementation		91% (40m, 51f) 81% (37m, 44f) supplementation	80% CU5 and CU2 receive vitamin A supplementation		
SOC.i5 - % household members (M/F and pregnant / not pregnant / CU5) having: a) increased the average number of consumed food group items per day by at least 1 item b) increased consumption of meat, fish, or other iron-rich or iron-fortified foods	a) 25%increase (2020) b) 20% increase (2020)			50% household increase in food diversity		
SOC.i6 - % of budget allocation of relevant sub- national authorities to nutrition and nutrition sensitive interventions as a result of multi-sectorial coordination and annual planning	10% increase (2020) updated to: 20%		20%	10% of budget allocation for nutrition sensitive interventions		
Expected Results						
Op1: Food security, resilience and dietary diversification in vulnerable communities is strengthened						

Logframe Indicators	Logframe Targets	Baseline Value	Endline value (Final Narrative Report)	MOU Indicators & targets	Endline Value (Draft Endline Study)	Assumptions
Op1.i1 - % household members eating at least 2 meals a day all year (including during lean season) in the past 12 months (m/f and adult / teenager / CU5)	20% increase (2020)	97% had 3 meals the prior day (Jan 2017)	99.36%	75% HH members eating at least 3 meals a day	94%	Continuous commitment from the GoL to strengthened data collection, reporting and analysis for nutrition. No major environmental disaster will occur in target areas.
Op1.i2 - % of target farmers who report being able to buy the necessary food items to complete a healthy diet	22% increase (2020) updated to: 80%		97.36%	75% of target farmers with a complete healthy diet.	60%	
Op1.i3 - % of target 5,000 farmers (m/f) having diversified production since the start of the project with at least a) 1 or b) 2 new crops or vegetables being cultivated	a) 80%(2020) b) 50% (2020)		a) 8.9% b) 91.1%	75% of target farmers with diversified production with new crops / vegetables.	45%	
Op1.i4 - % post-harvest losses experienced by targeted farmers (m/f)	50% decrease	43% farmers reported some losses	3.22% experienced losses	75% of target farmers reduce post-harvest losses.	66%	
Op1.i5 - % of target 5,000 farmers (m/f) reporting increased agricultural income (disaggregated by income increased by 20%, 40% 60%, 80%, 100%)	a) 80%(2020)		68.3%	75% of target farmers with increased agricultural income.	20%	
Op1.i6 - % of target 5,000 farmers (m/f) reporting being able to sell excess produce	25% increase	80% did not produce excess to sell	72.04% can sell	75% of target farmers able to sell excess produce.	73%	
Op1 .i7 - % of the target 5,000 farmers who have engaged in post-harvest food processing in the past 12 months	50% (2020)	19%	87.52%	75% of target farmers who have engaged in post-harvest food processing.	0%	
Op1 .i8 - # and % of the target farmers who have received animals through the pass-on loans	50% (2020)	7%	2156 farmers 43.12%	2,500 target farmers who have received pass-on loan animals.	35%	

Logframe Indicators	Logframe Targets	Baseline Value	Endline value (Final Narrative Report)	MOU Indicators & targets	Endline Value (Draft Endline Study)	Assumptions
Op1 .i9 - # and % of the targeted 5,000 farmers with access to water / irrigation systems	80% (2020)	10%	4310 famers 86.2%	75% of target farmers with access to water / irrigation	75%	
Op2: Increased community capacity to prevent, respond to and manage the wider determinants of malnutrition through improved nutrition, nutrition sensitive and hygiene knowledge and practices amongst target communities						
Op2.i1 - % of women/ teenager girls who can: a) correctly identify 3 good practices for food preparation, cooking, and storage b) reject at least 1 common food myth	a) 15%increase b) 20%increase	a) 82% (recognise 8 good practices) b) 27%	a) 83.59% of women cook food for their family and rice soup for the children based on the knowledge they learned from project. b/ 20% of the mothers and fathers said some children don't like rice soup (Khaopiak).	80% of women with correct food knowledge and practices	84%	
Op2.i2 - # CU5 screened for malnutrition at	16,600 (2020)	5,530 (77% of	70% (5,035	80% ofCU5 screened	82%	

Logframe Indicators	Logframe Targets	Baseline Value	Endline value (Final Narrative Report)	MOU Indicators & targets	Endline Value (Draft Endline Study)	Assumptions
community level		7,185)	children) of (7,184) of all children have been screened and 95% (3,259) of 3,430) of malnourished children have been monitored. From project team (HPA, DHO, HC) in May to July 2020 for 100 target village.	for malnutrition		
Op2.i3 - % of children aged 6-59 months (m/f) who received in the last 6 months: a) EPI visits b) de-worming c) a dose of vitamin A	a) 80% b) 80% increase c) 80%increase updated to: 80% absolute	a) 66% b) 63% c) 54%	a) 97% b) 91% c) 91%	95% of children 6-59 months receiving EPI visits, de-worming, and Vit A	97%	

Logframe Indicators	Logframe Targets	Baseline Value	Endline value (Final Narrative Report)	MOU Indicators & targets	Endline Value (Draft Endline Study)	Assumptions
Op2.i4 -% of women/teenager girls with children under 12 months who attended: a) 1 + ANC visit b) 4+ ANC visits c) 1 PNC visit	a) 70% (2020) b) 25% (2020) c) 10% increase (2020) updated to: 85% 27% 45%	a) 66% b) 20% c) 37%		75 % of women attending ANC and PNC	75%	
Op2.i5 - % children aged 6-23 months who receive complementary foods	15% increase (2020) updated to: 80% absolute	50%	70% of children received food supplement (Rice soup, khaopiak) from quarterly screening and monitoring of CU5	80% children aged 6-23 receiving complementary foods	84%	
Op2.i6 - % of CU5s suffering from diarrhea who receive oral rehydration therapy (ORT)	80% (2020) updated to: 90%	92%	95%	90% CU5s with diarrhoea who receive ORT	92%	
Op2.i7 - % of children exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life	30% (2020) updated to: 60%	51%	40.56%	60% exclusive breastfeeding	84%	
Op2.i8 - % households demonstrating the	a) 20%(2020)	a) 46		75% households	79%	

Logframe Indicators	Logframe Targets	Baseline Value	Endline value (Final Narrative Report)	MOU Indicators & targets	Endline Value (Draft Endline Study)	Assumptions
following practices: a) using water sources contaminated b) practicing open defecation c) not using soap	b) 20% (2020) c) 25%(2020) updated to: 30% 40% 45%	b) 75 c) 64		demonstrating safe hygiene practices		
Op2.i9 - % of target HHs with: a) means to treat their water (eg. filter) at home b) access to a clean water source in their village c) a HH latrine/toilet	a) 70% increase (2020) b) 80% (2020) c) 20% increase (2020)	a) 65% b) 63% c) 70%		75% of target HHs with means to treat their water (eg. filter) at home. 90% of target HHs with access to clean water source in their village 75% of target FIHs with a HH latrine / toilet	a) 79% b) 91% c) 67%	
Op3: Enhanced capacity of provincial and district level staff to lead multi-sectoral planning and improve coordination						
Op3.i1 - # of multi-sectoral stakeholders quoted as saying that the project has influenced their views or practices on nutrition and nutrition sensitive interventions	10 (2020)	ER3 baseline values null	Not reported – not considered a suitable or appropriate indicator	71 trained multi-sectorial stakeholders from local partners influenced by the project.	ER3 not covered by endline study	
Op3.i2 - Proportion of target stakeholders receiving training on food and nutrition security (5 PHO, 6 PAFO, 30 DHO, 30 DAFO) who demonstrate improved knowledge and capacity	95% (2020)		95 Participants (48 women), from 1 province (10 persons)	90% of trained stakeholders with improved nutrition sensitive knowledge.		

Logframe Indicators	Logframe Targets	Baseline Value	Endline value (Final Narrative Report)	MOU Indicators & targets	Endline Value (Draft Endline Study)	Assumptions
			and 6 Districts (85 persons). 5 sections from provincial - PHO, PAFO, PES, PLWU, PPI and 6 sections from district - DHO, DAFO, DYU, DLWU, DES, DPI			
Op3.i3 - # of documents at provincial level reflecting prioritisation of the link between food security and nutrition	5		7 documents (1 annual report and work plan, 6 quarterly reports and work plan from 6 districts).	1 annual plan document at provincial level reflecting prioritisation of the link between food security and nutrition;		
Op3.i4 - # of agriculture, health and education staff at province and district level using knowledge from trainings, guidelines and manuals (including WASH and health issues)	70		77 Participants (55 women) from 6 DHOs and 39 health Centres	75% of staff at province and district level using knowledge of the project;		
Op3.i5- Functional monitoring and evaluation systems for nutrition by PNC/DNC	System functional and in use (2020)		Meetings were held with the PNC and 6 DNCs to present progress	The PNC and target DNCs use the nutrition M&E tools developed by the National Nutrition Committee		

Logframe Indicators	Logframe Targets	Baseline Value	Endline value (Final Narrative Report)	MOU Indicators & targets	Endline Value (Draft Endline Study)	Assumptions
			on nutrition-related work and planning (93 participants) Refresher training including report writing, planning and the role of the PNC and DNCs was delivered to 6 DNCs (95 participants)			
Op3.i6 - # of inter- institutional sub-national cooperation fora discussing / reflecting baseline and impact survey data, project results and lessons learnt since the start of the project	3 (2020)		2 project staff and 2 PHO staff attended the annual Nutrition Forum Meeting in Vientiane to review progress in nutrition. Project staff with the PHO coordinator attended the NNC meeting to discuss the NPAN 2021.	Organise annual sub-national cooperation fora discussing the project findings.		

Logframe Indicators	Logframe Targets	Baseline Value	Endline value (Final Narrative Report)	MOU Indicators & targets	Endline Value (Draft Endline Study)	Assumptions
			Project staff attended the SUN CSA Annual General Meeting and Nutrition Stakeholders' Learning workshop.			
Activities:	<p>Op1 .AO Recruitment and training of 20 Farming Instructors and 3 Agriculture Facilitators</p> <p>Op1 .A1 Creation of 100 Farmers Clubs</p> <p>Op1 .A2. Preparation of 100 demonstration plots for crops farming</p> <p>Op1 .A3 Preparation of 100 demonstration vegetable gardens</p> <p>Op1 .A4 Training on climate-smart agriculture and other sustainable agricultural practices</p> <p>Op1 .A5 Establishment of 10 seeds banks</p> <p>Op1 .A6 Adoption of small-scale water systems for irrigation</p> <p>Op1 .A7 Training of Trainers on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) Methodologies</p> <p>Op1 .A8 Training in animal husbandry and set-up animal pass-on-loan schemes</p> <p>Op1 .A9 Introduction of innovative techniques of food processing, preparation and storage</p> <p>Op1.A10 Creation of 6 Producers Groups</p>	Means: <u>Human Resources:</u> Programme Director (1) Programme Manager (1) Operation Manager (1) Nutrition Technical Officer (1) WASH Technical Officer (1) Nutrition Specialist (1) Agriculture Specialist (1) Community Development Facilitators (Nutrition, WASH, Agriculture) (9) M&E Officer (1) Government Liaison Officer (1) Multi-stakeholder Coordinator (1) Finance and Admin Manager (1) Finance Officer (1)	Assumptions <p>Target farmer HHs continue to be committed to the project implementation and are keen to adopt new agricultural / farming techniques.</p> <p>DAFO and PAFO will maintain their commitment to support farmer through their extension workers.</p> <p>Market price for crops produced will remain relatively stable and fluctuations will not affect farmers' sales of excess produce.</p>			

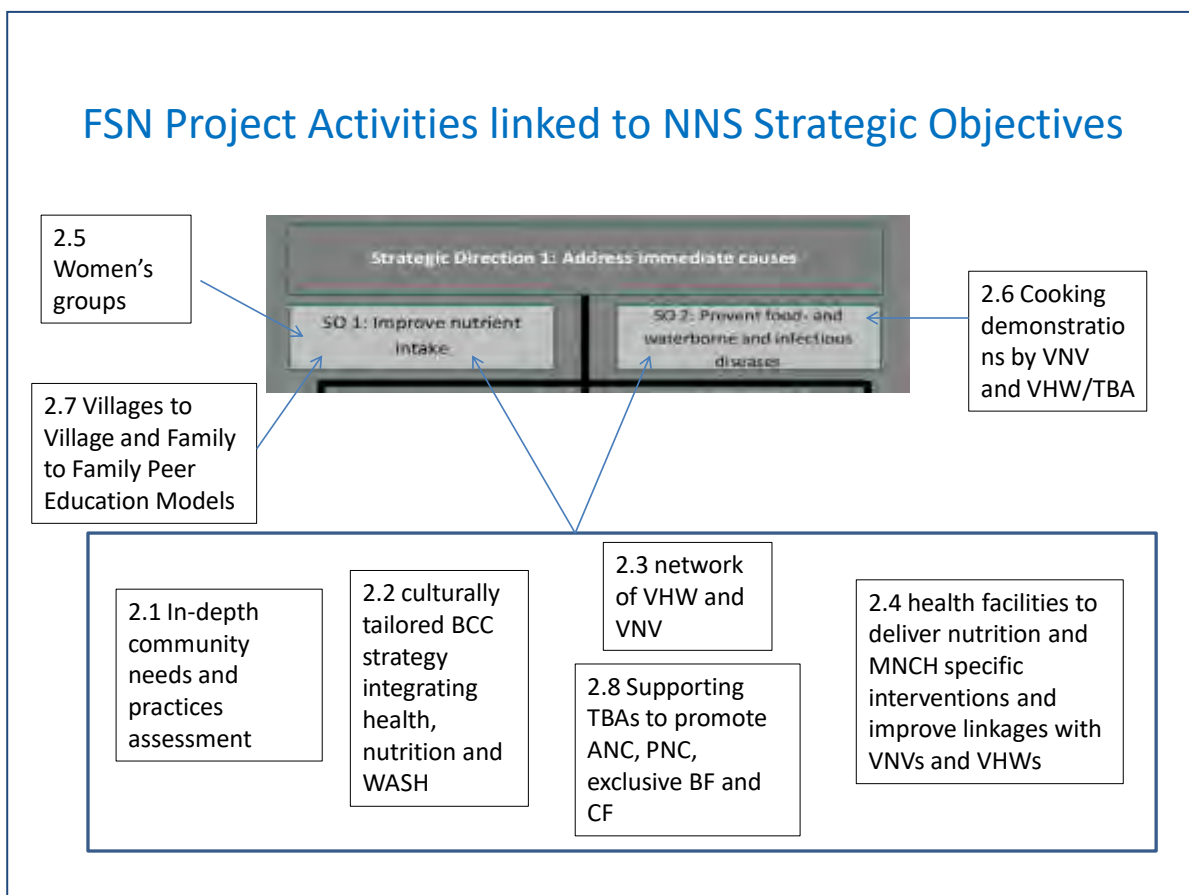
Logframe Indicators	Logframe Targets	Baseline Value	Endline value (Final Narrative Report)	MOU Indicators & targets	Endline Value (Draft Endline Study)	Assumptions
	<p>(Cooperatives) and procure processing equipment for them</p> <p>Op2.A1 In-depth community needs and practices assessment, including GIS, together with 100 VHC's members</p> <p>Op2.A2 Designing a culturally tailored BCC strategy integrating health, nutrition and WASH</p> <p>Op2.A3 Supporting a network of 100 VHW and 200 VNV to perform integrated community outreach activities</p> <p>Op2.A4 Providing health facilities with technical and logistical support to deliver nutrition and MNCH specific interventions and improve linkages with VNVs and VHWs</p> <p>Op2.A5 Establishing and supporting 25 women groups</p> <p>Op2.A6 Cooking demonstrations by VNV and CHW /TBA</p> <p>Op2.A7 Carrying out Villages to Village and Family to Family Peer Education Models (based on HPA Laos positive deviance models)</p> <p>Op2.A8 Supporting 150 TBAs to promote ANC, PNC, exclusive breast feeding and complementary feeding</p> <p>Op2.A9 Supporting Youth Peer education and community youth clubs</p> <p>Op2.A10 Physico-chemical and E-Coli testing of water samples from all existing water points</p> <p>Op2.A 11 Setting up or strengthening 100 WMC in the</p>	<p>Finance Assistant (1)</p> <p>Logistic and Admin Officer (1)</p> <p>Driver (2)</p> <p>Support Staff (2)</p> <p><u>Equipment/supplies:</u></p> <p>4x4 vehicle (1)</p> <p>Motorbikes (10)</p> <p>Computers, media equipment (19)</p> <p>Office equipment and furniture (8)</p> <p>Agriculture Material kits</p> <p>Training materials</p> <p>Rice seed</p> <p>Food processing equipment</p> <p>Livestock (goats, pigs, chickens, ducks)</p> <p>Rice milling machines</p> <p>Nutrition outreach equipment</p> <p>Health facilities equipment and supplies</p> <p>TBAs kits and record books</p> <p>Veterinary kits</p>			<p>Community, state and non-state actors will maintain their commitment to participate to the project activities.</p> <p>EM women and men will accept interventions that will challenge taboos and change food traditions.</p> <p>Teenage girls, including pregnant teenagers and young mothers, are willing to participate in project activities.</p>	

Logframe Indicators	Logframe Targets	Baseline Value	Endline value (Final Narrative Report)	MOU Indicators & targets	Endline Value (Draft Endline Study)	Assumptions
	<p>target communities</p> <p>Op2.A 12 Supporting the rehabilitation/construction of water facilities and HH sanitation facilities in target villages</p> <p>Op3.A1 Capacity building of 5 PHO, 6 PAFO, 30 DHO, 30 DAFO staff on food and nutrition security, nutrition sensitive health interventions</p> <p>Op3.A2 Performing a joint baseline, endline and participatory annual surveys</p> <p>Op3.A3 Establishing a PNC and 10 DNCs (as per NNSPA strategy)</p> <p>Op3.A4 Secondment of PHO staff to assist with coordination of multi-sectoral activities at district level working with the PNC <i>[absent in MOU]</i></p> <p>Op3.A5 Supporting Annual Nutrition Fora and SUN meetings and participation of PNC <i>and all relevant partners [italicised part added in MOU]</i></p> <p>Op3.A6 Coordinating with implementing partners of Lot 1 and 2 to improve synergies and dissemination of results <i>changed in MOU to</i></p> <p><i>Coordinating with development partners working with food and nutrition in the province to improve synergies and dissemination of results</i></p>		<p><u>Studies:</u></p> <p>Baseline, Endline surveys</p> <p>Mid Term Review</p> <p>External Final Evaluation</p> <p>Participatory need assessment on attitudes, beliefs, and behaviour.</p> <p><u>Training of:</u></p> <p>5000 Farmers</p> <p>500 Step-up Farmers</p> <p>50 VVW</p> <p>500 VHW</p> <p>100 WMC</p> <p>100 VHW, 200 VNV, 100 TBA</p> <p>500 Women Groups members</p> <p>50 Youth Clubs</p> <p>121 Health workers</p> <p>70 GoL staff</p> <p>Costs:</p> <p>Human Resources: €1 837,599.00</p> <p>Travel: € 24,829.00</p>		<p>There is continued commitment from GoL sub-national authorities to improve knowledge around nutrition / WASH /agriculture.</p> <p>There is continued commitment from GoL sub-national authorities to strengthen data collection, reporting and analysis for nutrition.</p> <p>Other stakeholders and the successful awardees from Lot1 and Lot2 are willing to collaborate.</p>	

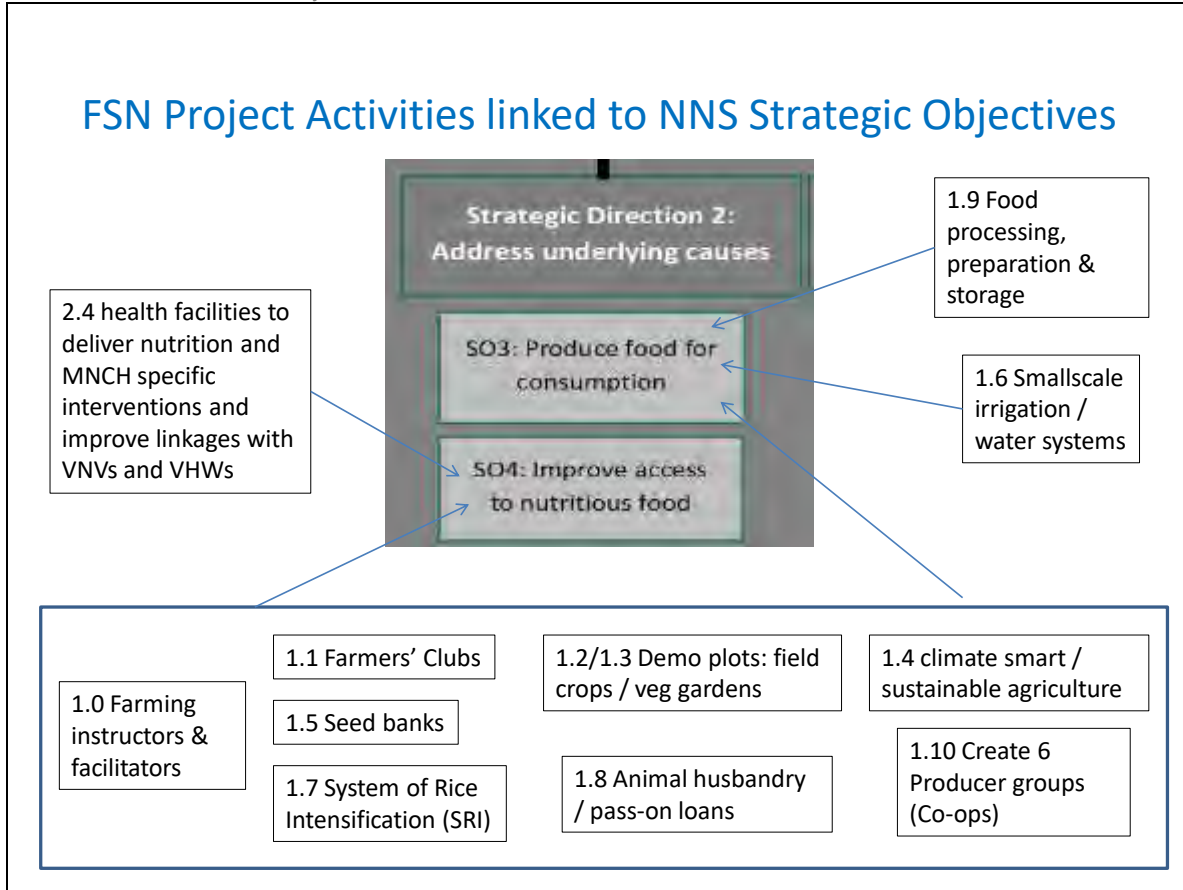
Logframe Indicators	Logframe Targets	Baseline Value	Endline value (Final Narrative Report)	MOU Indicators & targets	Endline Value (Draft Endline Study)	Assumptions
			Equipment/supplies:€ 397,317.00 Local Office: € 107,055.00 Other costs, services: € 69,605.00 Other: € 1,263,491.00 Admin-Indirect costs (7%): €188,993.00 Total:€ 2,888,889.00			

Annex 2 Theory of Change linkages between Project Activities and NNS Strategic Objectives and Priority Interventions

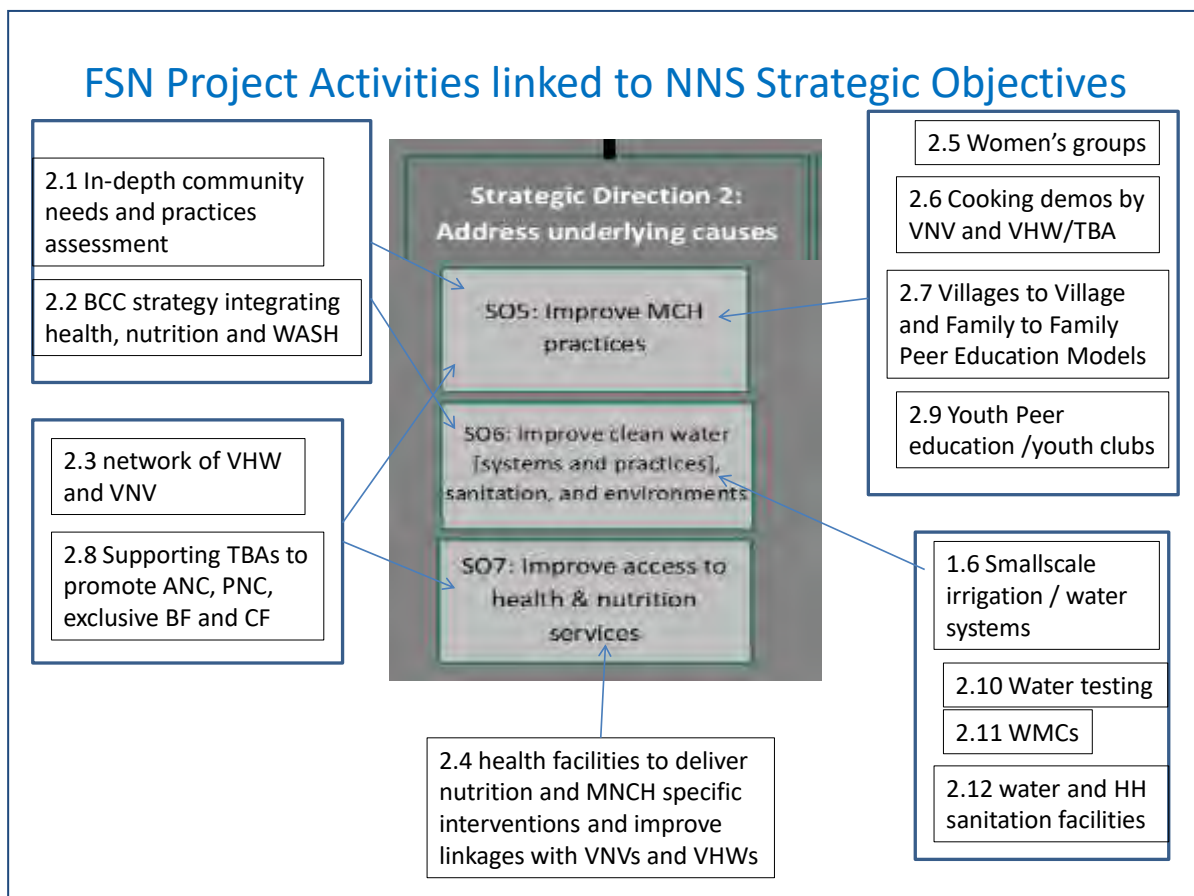
The four diagrams below show the relationships between FSN Project’s activities and the three Strategic Directions and four Strategic Objectives of the NNS. These are followed by a table showing for each activity, its link to Priority Interventions, Strategic Objectives, and types of cause of malnutrition (as per the project document). Finally a key to the Priority Interventions is provided.



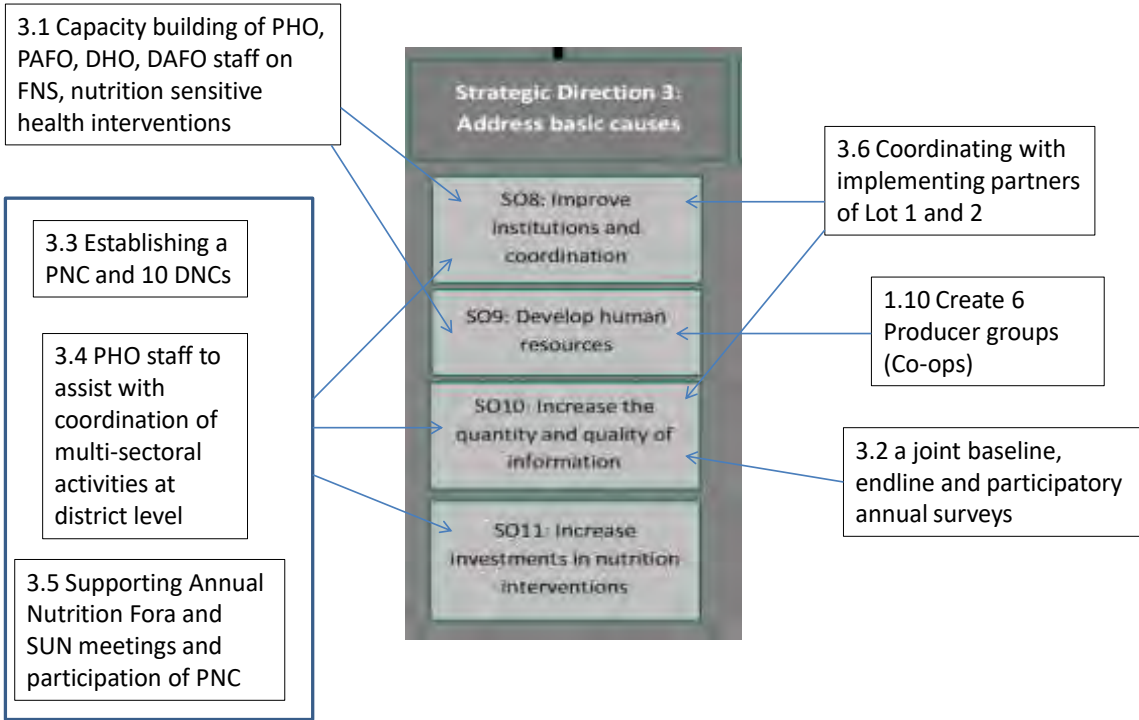
FSN Project Activities linked to NNS Strategic Objectives



FSN Project Activities linked to NNS Strategic Objectives



FSN Project Activities linked to NNS Strategic Objectives



FSN Project Activities in relation to the NNS PIs and SOs and to the causes of malnutrition.

	Activity	NNS Priority Intervention	NNS Strategic Objective(s)	Malnutrition cause
<i>ER1: Food security, resilience and dietary diversification in vulnerable communities is strengthened</i>				
Op1.A0	Recruitment and training of 20 Farming Instructors and 3 Agriculture Facilitators	15-18	3,4	Underlying
Op1.A1	Creation of 100 Farmers Clubs	15-18	3,4	Underlying
Op1.A2	Preparation of 100 demonstration plots for crops farming	15	3,4	Underlying
Op1.A3	Preparation of 100 demonstration vegetable gardens	15	3,4	Underlying
Op1.A4	Training on climate-smart agriculture and other sustainable agricultural practices	15,17	3,4	Underlying
Op1.A5	Establishment of 10 seeds banks	15	3,4	Underlying
Op1.A6	Adoption of small-scale water systems for irrigation	16	3,6	Underlying
Op1.A7	Training of Trainers on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) Methodologies	18	3,4	Underlying
Op1.A8	Training in animal husbandry and set-up animal pass-on-loan schemes	16	3,4	Underlying
Op1.A9	Introduction of innovative techniques of food processing, preparation and storage	17	3	Underlying
Op1.A10	Creation of 6 Producers Groups (Cooperatives) and procure processing equipment for them	18	3,4,9	Underlying, Basic

ER2: Increased community capacity to prevent, respond and manage the wider determinants of malnutrition through improved nutrition, nutrition sensitive and hygiene knowledge and practices amongst target communities.				
Op2.A1	In-depth community needs and practices assessment, including GIS, together with 100 VHC's members	5-14	1,2,5,6	Immediate and underlying
Op2.A2	Designing a culturally tailored BCC strategy integrating health, nutrition and WASH	5-14	1,2,5,6	Immediate and underlying
Op2.A3	Supporting a network of 100 VHW and 200 VNV to perform integrated community outreach activities	5-14	1,2,5,7	Immediate and underlying
Op2.A4	Providing health facilities with technical and logistical support to deliver nutrition and MNCH specific interventions and improve linkages with VNVs and VHWs	12	1,2,7,4	Immediate and underlying
Op2.A5	Establishing and supporting 25 women groups	8,13	1,5	Immediate and underlying
Op2.A6	Cooking demonstrations by VNV and VHW/TBA	11,13	2,5	Immediate and underlying
Op2.A7	Carrying out Villages to Village and Family to Family Peer Education Models (based on HPA Laos positive deviance models)	13	1,5	Immediate and underlying
Op2.A8	Supporting 150 TBAs to promote ANC, PNC, exclusive breast feeding and complementary feeding	5,6,7,8,9,13	1,2,5,7	Immediate and underlying
Op2.A9	Supporting Youth Peer education and community youth clubs	13	5	Underlying

Op2.A10	Physico-chemical and E-Coli testing of water samples from all existing water points	14	6	Underlying
Op2.A11	Setting up or strengthening 100 WMC in the target communities	14	6	
Op2.A12	Supporting the rehabilitation/construction of water facilities and HH sanitation facilities in target villages	14	6	
ER3: Enhanced capacity of provincial and district level staff to lead multi-sectoral planning and improve coordination				
Op3.A1	Capacity building of 5 PHO, 6 PAFO, 30 DHO, 30 DAFO staff on food and nutrition security, nutrition sensitive health interventions	1,2,3,4	8,9	Basic
Op3.A2	Performing a joint baseline, endline and participatory annual surveys	3	10	Basic
Op3.A3	Establishing a PNC and 10 DNCs (as per NNSPA strategy)	1,2,3,4	8,10,11	Basic
Op3.A4	Secondment of PHO staff to assist with coordination of multi-sectoral activities at district level working with the PNC	1,2,3,4	8,10,11	Basic
Op3.A5	Supporting Annual Nutrition Fora and SUN meetings and participation of PNC	2,4	8,10,11	Basic
Op3.A6	Coordinating with implementing partners of Lot 1 and 2 to improve synergies and dissemination of results	2,3	8,10	Basic

Source: Evaluation compilation from information provided in the Project Document.

Key to NNS Priority Interventions

SO	PI	Multi-sectoral
SO8, SO9	1	Provide System Capacity Building
SO8	2	Improve coordination and partnership among nutrition stakeholders
SO10	3	Improve information management (monitoring and evaluation; surveillance and research); and policy development
SO11	4	Increase communication, advocacy, and investment for nutrition
SO	PI	Health Sector
SO1	5	Provide micronutrient supplements – activities include any micronutrients provided through supplementation or added to the diet (such as iron folic acid, vitamin A, MNP, zinc, vitamin B1 and so forth)
SO2	6	Deworming
SO1	7	Food fortification including salt iodisation
SO1	8	Promote Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and maternal nutrition
SO1	9	Provide food supplements for pregnancy and breastfeeding women
SO1	10	Provide food supplements for children aged 6-23 months
SO2, SO3	11	Improve food quality and safety
SO1	12	Management of acute malnutrition in health facilities and in communities
SO5	13	Nutrition education and communication for social behaviour change to promote good practices and healthy diet.
SO6	14	Strengthen water sources and supply systems; and improve sanitation in households, communities, health facilities and schools.
SO	PI	Agriculture Sector
SO3	15	Increase the production of nutritionally rich plant-based foods for household consumption
SO3	16	Increase the production animal-based protein (for example meat, poultry, fish and other aquatic life) for household consumption
SO3	17	Support establishment of post-harvest facilities and apply technology to food processing, preservation and storage to ensure year-round availability of safe and nutritious food
SO4	18	Promoted agriculture-based and NTFP-based income generating activities, to increase household incomes, with emphasis on women
SO	PI	Education Sector
SO3	19	Provide nutritious food in schools
SO3	20	Promote and support vegetable gardens in schools
SO9	21	Integrate nutrition into curricula
SO1, SO2	22	Provide iron folic acid supplements and deworming in schools
Priority 2 interventions		
SO2	23	Promote immunizations (based on the Expanded Program on Immunization)
SO2	24	Prevent and control diarrhea
SO2	25	Prevent malaria and dengue fever (based on the Five Year Strategic Plan to Combat Malaria and Dengue Fever)
SO2	26	Prevent and control malnutrition associated with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (based on the Five-Year Plan to Combat AIDS)

Source: Evaluation compiled from the Mid Term Review of the NNSPA 2016-2020, National Nutrition Secretariat, 2019

Annex 3 Terms of Reference for this Evaluation

SPECIFIC TERMS OF REFERENCE – PART A
Final Evaluation of Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR
FWC SIEA 2018 - LOT 4 - Human Development and safety net
EuropeAid/138778/DH/SER/multi
OPSYS reference number: SIEA-2018-6272

CONTRACTING AUTHORITY: THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO LAO PDR

1	BACKGROUND	2
1.1	RELEVANT COUNTRY / REGION / SECTOR BACKGROUND.....	2
1.2	THE INTERVENTION TO BE EVALUATED	3
1.3	STAKEHOLDERS OF THE INTERVENTION	4
1.4	OTHER AVAILABLE INFORMATION	4
2	DESCRIPTION OF THE EVALUATION ASSIGNMENT	5
2.1	OBJECTIVES OF THE EVALUATION	5
2.2	REQUESTED SERVICES.....	6
2.3	PHASES OF THE EVALUATION AND REQUIRED OUTPUTS.....	6
2.4	SPECIFIC CONTRACT ORGANISATION AND METHODOLOGY (TECHNICAL OFFER)	10
2.5	MANAGEMENT AND STEERING OF THE EVALUATION	11
3	LOGISTICS AND TIMING	12
3.1	PLANNING, INCLUDING THE PERIOD FOR NOTIFICATION FOR PLACEMENT OF THE STAFF	12
4	REQUIREMENTS.....	12
5	REPORTING	12
5.1	USE OF THE EVAL MODULE BY THE EVALUATORS.....	12
5.2	NUMBER OF REPORT COPIES.....	13
5.3	FORMATTING OF REPORTS.....	13
6	MONITORING AND EVALUATION	13
6.1	CONTENT, TIMING AND SUBMISSION	13
6.2	COMMENTS ON THE OUTPUTS	13
6.3	ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF THE FINAL REPORT AND OF THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	13
7	PRACTICAL INFORMATION	13
	ANNEX I: SPECIFIC TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA.....	14
	ANNEX II: INFORMATION THAT WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE EVALUATION TEAM.....	15
	ANNEX III: STRUCTURE OF THE FINAL REPORT AND OF THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	16
	ANNEX IV: PLANNING SCHEDULE	18
	ANNEX V: QUALITY ASSESSMENT GRID.....	19
	ANNEX VI: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX (LOGFRAME) OF THE EVALUATED ACTION(S)	23
	ANNEX VII: THE EVALUATION CRITERIA	25
	GUIDANCE TO THE PART B.....	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.

1 BACKGROUND

Over the years, the EU approach to nutrition has become more comprehensive going beyond the rural development and food and nutrition security. Indeed the emphasis under the EU Multi-Indicative-

Planning 2014-2020 is on the improvement of nutrition in Lao PDR focusing on the nutrition governance, nutrition specific interventions, and nutrition sensitive support including increased food production, food diversification, gender, WASH. Furthermore the priorities are also to promote a sustainable food security system resilient to increasing climate change-related challenges.

1.1 Relevant country and sector background

Lao PDR is a lower middle-income country with a GDP per capita of US\$2,460 (2018). The country has a population of about 7 million of whom over a third (36.7 per cent) are under 15 years and only 3.7 per cent are 65 or over. The economy has seen significant growth with GDP growth averaging 7.7 per cent over the last decade, however, the impact of COVID has declined growth rate. From the assessment of the impact of COVID on children and adolescent, the economy is projected to shrink to less than 3% or in the worst case -1.3%. The Government is seeking to maintain macroeconomic stability by taking actions to improve domestic revenue collection, controlling expenditure, and strengthening public debt management, including fiscal consolidation leading to a reduction in the annual budget deficit. The current limited revenues being collected by the Government, combined with the tenure of loan commitments and debt service payments will place adverse strains on the public finance in the short to medium term.

Lao PDR has made positive progress in improving the food and nutrition security in last decade, mainly driven by rapid economic growth and many successful social, food and nutrition policies and programmes.

The production and supply of food in society, especially rice, during 2015-2020 was enough to guarantee national food security, and to provide a basis for improved livelihoods and poverty reduction of the people; however, an attention should be paid to other production such as crops, vegetables, livestock... to ensure the variety of diets of population. The progress on food and nutrition has been made that the stunting and underweight rates declined from 44.2% and 26.6% in 2011 to 33% and 21.1% in 2017. At province level, stunting and underweight prevalence remains high. Some provinces those rates are more than 40% and 25% respectively (LSIS II). Children in rural areas without roads, those whose mothers have no education and from ethnic minorities and poorest quintile are 2-3 times more likely to suffer from stunting than children in urban settings, with educated mothers, and those from the richest quintile.¹ While the total number of stunted children fell to 257,000 in 2017, a further reduction to 173,000 cases is required within next five years if the World Health Assembly Global Target of 40% reduction in the number of stunted children is to be achieved.³ Currently, the achievement of the target is under serious threat from potential increase in stunting as a result of food insecurity and declining access to services caused by the on-going covid-19 pandemic.

Although the government legal framework¹ developments in place and the favourable momentum towards nutrition, the actual implementation is still facing challenges, which are mainly related to the need of nutrition governance with a complex multi sectorial response. Indeed fragmentation among the different nutrition sensitive sectors is still an issue such as the multi-sectoral coordination at all level, sector policy linkages, and M&E framework, public investment and tracking the expenses on nutrition.

¹ the National Plan of Action for Nutrition 2016-2020

1.2 The Intervention to be evaluated²

Title of the Intervention to be evaluated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR
Budget of the Intervention to be evaluated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 290 000
CRIS and / or OPSYS number of the Intervention to be evaluated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• n° DCI-FOOD/2013/023-724
Dates of the Intervention to be evaluated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start: 26/12/2014• End: 26/09/2023

The Food Security and Nutrition programme was designed to assist the Government to achieve its commitments to the global and national agenda in combating the challenges of Food and Nutrition Security. The programme contributes to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the National Strategy and Plan of Action for Nutrition in Lao PDR. Under this programme, one grant contract was awarded to the NGO consortium to implement the action in Khammouane Province. The grant was rewarded through a call proposal with a reference number EuropeAid/153320/DD/ACT/LA, which was composed of the two programmes namely Food Security and Nutrition and Partnership for Improved Nutrition in Lao PDR.

The specific focus of the programme is to improve the Food and nutrition security of the poor population in target villages and households of ethnic groups to be able to access to nutritious food, hygiene and sanitation, particularly women and children under five years old. The strengthening capacity of government counterparts, stakeholders and communities involved was also the crucial part of the programme to ensure the technology transfer, knowhow and the sustainability.

The programme implements the government strategies including the 8th National Social Economic Development Plan, National Nutrition Strategy and Plan of Action 2016-2020 as well as the Plans of Sectors concerned, particularly Agriculture and Health to enhance the food and nutrition security, to eradicate the poverty, and to improve the access to the social services by the ethnic communities in remote and isolated areas as well as the communities at risk in natural disasters.

The Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR falls under the strategic priority 3 – addressing food security for the poor and vulnerable in fragile situations - of the Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP) Multi-Indicative Programme 2011-2013; and is in line with the EU policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security challenges³. The project fits well into both the 2007-2013 Country Strategic Programming (CSP) and the EC Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for 2011-2013 for the Lao PDR.

The "*Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR under AAP 2013*" tackles the Food and Nutrition challenges, which is one of the government priorities. The Financing Agreement between the Government of Lao PDR and the EU was signed in December 2014. The programme aims at improving the food and nutrition security of the poor population in target villages and households in Central Lao PDR through the support of communities with food and nutrition security activities based on an approach linking relief with

² The term 'Action' is used throughout the report as a synonym of 'project and programme'.

³ COM(2010) 127 final

rehabilitation and development (LRRD). Action is in line with Government strategies in particular, the national multi-sectoral food and nutrition security action plan.

Action promotes pro-poor approaches, equality with regard to gender equality, rights of indigenous people and other ethnic groups, bottom-up participation and planning (community participation). The action intends to achieve three main expected results namely (1) Vulnerable communities are better prepared, capable and resilient to cope with recurring 'lean' seasons and external shocks, (2) Nutrition status is improved in vulnerable communities through linking nutrition security improvements to food security related improvements, and (3) Enhanced capacity of the Government at sub-national level to address food and nutrition insecurity.

The reduction in prevalence of stunting and the increase of average MUAC in children under-5 year olds are the key target groups. Furthermore, the increase of women between 15 and 40 years of age with adequate BMI is the key targets. The increase of average number of food items in daily diet, the increase of consuming three meals a day in the hungry season, increase in ownership of productive assets at household level are the priority groups.

During the implementation of the action, gender equality activities have been sensitised over the project areas. Many ethnic communities reported that their husbands help household work, while some communities faced the challenge of the women workloads.

1.3 Stakeholders of the Intervention

The main target groups and final beneficiaries of the overall Programme are children under 5 years old, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls (aged 15-40) from poor households from the target districts in Khammuane Province.

Government at provincial, district and village level from the agricultural, health and education sector are direct beneficiaries of the proposed action. Non-profit making organisations are also the main partners to implement the interventions at province, district and village level. Non-profit making organisations are instrumental in supporting the government and contribute to those areas, where the government capacity may appear insufficient. Their role in capacity building of the government may enable government to increase their role and input regarding food security and nutrition.

The private sector may be a target group for instance related to value chain development, post harvesting techniques and food processing. Good results have been achieved for instance with small rice mills at community level to decrease rice milling losses. The implementers should encourage any hydropower, mining, or agribusiness entity that operates in the target area to contribute financially to the project as the project may potentially support farmers who have suffered (been resettled or had land taken away from them) from the creation of the business entity

1.4 Other available information

A ROM mission took place in March 2021 for the level of contract/project. Main conclusions and recommendations are in annex VIII.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE EVALUATION ASSIGNMENT

Type of evaluation	Final evaluation
Coverage	Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR
Geographic scope	Lao PDR: Khammouane Province
Period to be evaluated	26/12/2014 – 31/08/2021

2.1 Objectives of the evaluation

Systematic and timely evaluation of its programmes and activities is an established priority⁴ of the European Commission⁵. The focus of evaluations is on the **assessment of achievements**, the **quality** and the **results**⁶ of Interventions in the context of an evolving cooperation policy with an increasing emphasis on **result-oriented approaches and the contribution towards the implementation of the SDGs**.⁷

From this perspective, evaluations should **look for evidence of why, whether or how these results are linked to the EU intervention** and seek **to identify the factors driving or hindering progress**.

Evaluations should provide an understanding of the **cause and effect links** among: inputs and activities, and outputs, outcomes and impacts. Evaluations should serve accountability, decision making, learning and management purposes.

The main objectives of this evaluation are to provide the relevant services of the European Union, and the interested stakeholders with:

- an overall independent assessment of the past performance of the Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR, paying particular attention to its results measured against its expected objectives; and the reasons underpinning such results;
- key lessons learned, conclusions and related recommendations in order to improve future Interventions.

In particular, this final evaluation will find out the concrete best practices, challenges, and coordination among the members of consortium and the coordination between the consortium and the government counterparts at sub-national level and other government stakeholders involved in the Action. The evaluation will assess the enabling factors that hamper a proper delivery of results.

⁴ COM(2013) 686 final "Strengthening the foundations of Smart Regulation – improving evaluation" - http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/docs/com_2013_686_en.pdf; EU Financial regulation (art 27); Regulation (EC) No 1905/2000; Regulation (EC) No 1889/2006; Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006; Regulation (EC) No 1717/2006; Council Regulation (EC) No 215/2008

⁵ SEC (2007)213 "Responding to Strategic Needs: Reinforcing the use of evaluation", https://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/docs/com_2013_686_en.pdf; SWD (2015)111 "Better Regulation Guidelines", http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/guidelines/docs/swd_br_guidelines_en.pdf; COM(2017) 651 final 'Completing the Better Regulation Agenda: Better solutions for better results', https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/completing-the-better-regulation-agenda-better-solutions-for-better-results_en.pdf

⁶ Reference is made to the entire results chain, covering outputs, outcomes and impacts. Cfr. Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 "Laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action" - https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/financial_assistance/ipa/2014/236-2014_cir.pdf

⁷ The New European Consensus on Development 'Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future', Official Journal 30th of June 2017. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C:2017:210:TOC>

The main users of this evaluation will be the EU Delegation to Lao PDR, and other stakeholders (the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Health, among others) that are involved in the implementation of the Action to be evaluated.

2.2 Requested services

2.2.1 Scope of the evaluation

The evaluation will assess the Intervention using the six standard DAC evaluation criteria, namely: relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact. In addition, the evaluation will assess one EU specific evaluation criterion, which is:

- the EU added value (the extent to which the Intervention brings additional benefits to what would have resulted from Member States' interventions only);

The definition of the 6 DAC + 1 EU evaluation criteria is contained for reference in the Annex VII.

The evaluation team shall furthermore consider whether gender, environment and climate change were mainstreamed; the relevant SDGs and their interlinkages were identified; the principle of Leave No-One Behind and the rights-based approach methodology was followed in the identification/formulation documents and the extent to which they have been reflected in the implementation of the Intervention, its governance and monitoring.

2.2.2 Issues to be addressed

The specific issues to be addressed as formulated below are indicative. Based on the latter and following initial consultations and document analysis, the evaluation team will discuss them with the Evaluation Manager⁸ and propose in their Inception Report a complete and finalised set of Evaluation Questions with indication of specific Judgement Criteria and Indicators, as well as the relevant data collection sources and tools.

Once agreed through the approval of the Inception Report, the Evaluation Questions will become contractually binding.

The main concerns are the delays in the start of the physical implementation of the action, the modality of implementation for the consortium, the synergy with other EU funded projects and other donors' initiatives. Other fears are the implementation of the recommendations issued by ROM mission and the preliminary indications about achievement of results and key factors impacting (positively or negatively) their likelihood to deliver what expected by the end of their life. The gender mainstreaming in the design, execution, and management of action is also the priority to be look at during the assessment.

2.3 Phases of the evaluation and required outputs

The evaluation process will be carried out in three phases:

- Inception
- Field
- Synthesis

The outputs of each phase are to be submitted at the end of the corresponding phases as specified in the synoptic table in section 2.3.1.

The translation/interpretation services will be required for all phases.

⁸ The Evaluation Manager is the staff of the Contracting Authority managing the evaluation contract. In most cases this person will be the Operational manager of the Action(s) under evaluation.

2.3.1 Synoptic table

The following table presents an overview of the key activities to be conducted within each phase and lists the outputs to be produced by the team as well as the key meetings with the Contracting Authority and the Reference Group. The main content of each output is described in Chapter 5

Phases of the evaluation	Key activities	Outputs and <i>meetings</i>
<u>Inception Phase</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial document/data collection • In-depth document analysis (focused on the Evaluation Questions) • Background analysis • Inception interviews • Stakeholder analysis • Reconstruction of the Intervention Logic, and description of the Theory of Change (based upon available documentation and interviews) • Identification of information gaps and of hypotheses to be tested in the field phase • Methodological design of the evaluation (Evaluation Questions with judgement criteria, indicators and methods of data collection and analysis) and evaluation matrix 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kick-off meeting with the Contracting Authority and the Reference Group</i> face-to-face with expert in country (Laos) and via remote conference with expert outside the country. • Inception report • Slide presentation of the Inception Report
<u>Field Phase</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathering of primary evidence with the use of interviews, focus groups, and any other relevant tool • Data collection and analysis (linked to the hypotheses to be tested in the field and in view of filling the gaps) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Initial meetings at country level with the contracting authority, project team, implementing partners, stakeholders such as government counterparts at all levels, communities, etc.</i> • Intermediary Note. • Slide Presentation of key findings of the field phase • <i>Debriefing with the Reference Group: the EU Delegation face-to-face for the expert in country and via remote conference for the expert outside the Laos</i>

Phases of the evaluation	Key activities	Outputs and <i>meetings</i>
<u>Synthesis phase</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final analysis of findings (with focus on the Evaluation Questions) • Formulation of the overall assessment, conclusions and recommendations • Reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Final Report • Executive Summary according to the standard template published in the EVAL module • Final Report • Slide presentation • <i>Meeting with Reference Group: with the EU Delegation face-to-face for the expert in country and via remote conference for the expert outside Laos.</i> • Brochure/brief: 4 pages of the key achievements, lessons learned, challenges of the actions and recommendations and way forwards for similar initiatives, particularly for the Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

2.3.2 Inception Phase

This phase aims at structuring the evaluation and clarifying the key issues to be addressed.

The phase will start with a kick-off session in Vientiane between the EU Delegation to Lao PDR and the evaluators. The expert, who is not in country, may remotely join the exercise. Half-day presence of the whole team (if possible) is required. The meeting aims at arriving at a clear and shared understanding of the scope of the evaluation, its limitations and feasibility. It also serves to clarify expectations regarding evaluation outputs, the methodology to be used and, where necessary, to pass on additional or latest relevant information.

In the Inception phase, the relevant documents will be reviewed (see annex II)

Further to a first desk review of the technical/cooperation framework of EU support to Food and Nutrition Security in Lao PDR, the evaluation team, in consultation with the Evaluation Manager, will reconstruct the Intervention Logic of the Intervention to be evaluated.

Furthermore, based on the Intervention Logic, the evaluators will develop a narrative explanation of the logic of the Intervention that describes how change is expected to happen within the Intervention, all along its results chain, i.e. Theory of Change. This explanation includes an assessment of the evidence underpinning this logic (especially between outputs and outcomes, and between outcomes and impact), and articulates the assumptions that must hold for the Intervention to work, as well as identification of the factors most likely to inhibit the change from happening.

Based on the Intervention Logic and the Theory of Change the evaluators will finalise i) the Evaluation Questions with the definition of judgement criteria and indicators, the selection of data collection tools and sources, ii) the evaluation methodology, and iii) the planning of the following phases.

The methodological approach will be represented in an Evaluation Design Matrix⁹, which will be included in the Inception Report. The **methodology of the evaluation should be gender sensitive, contemplate the use of sex- and age-disaggregated data and demonstrate how actions have contributed to progress on gender equality.**

The limitations faced or to be faced during the evaluation exercise will be discussed and mitigation measures described in the Inception Report. Finally, the work plan for the overall evaluation process will be presented and agreed in this phase; this work plan shall be in line with that proposed in the present ToR. Any modifications shall be justified and agreed with the Evaluation Manager.

The kick-off meeting with stakeholders should be organized in both in-person and online, with visual IT support along with simultaneous translation during the meeting. The evaluation experts should coordinate with the National Nutrition Committee Secretariat to facilitate in organising the kick-off meeting and ensure the key stakeholders participate in the meeting.

On the basis of the information collected, the evaluation team should prepare an **Inception Report**; its content is described in Chapter 5 **Error! Reference source not found.**

2.3.3 Field Phase

The Field Phase starts after approval of the Inception Report by the Evaluation Manager.

In the first days of the field phase, the evaluation team shall hold a briefing meeting with the programme manager of the EU Delegation and the EU management prior to conducting the meeting with other relevant stakeholders such as project team, government authorities at national and sub-national level, etc.

During the field phase, the evaluation team shall ensure adequate contact and consultation with, and involvement of the different stakeholders; with the relevant government (such as provincial and district agriculture offices, provincial and district health offices - the list will be provided in due time) authorities and agencies. Throughout the mission the evaluation team will use the most reliable and appropriate sources of information, respect the rights of individuals to provide information in confidence, and be sensitive to the beliefs and customs of local social and cultural environments.

At the end of the field phase, the evaluation team will summarise its work, analyse the reliability and coverage of data collection, and present preliminary findings in a meeting with the EU Delegation.

At the end of the Field Phase an **Intermediary Note** a Slide Presentation will be prepared; its content is described in Chapter 5.

2.3.4 Synthesis Phase

This phase is devoted to the preparation by the contractor of **two distinct documents**: the **Executive Summary** and the **Final Report**, whose structures are described in the Annex III; it entails the analysis of the data collected during the desk and field phases to answer the Evaluation Questions and preparation of the overall assessment, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation.

The evaluation team will present, in a single Report with Annexes, their findings, conclusions and recommendations in accordance with the structure in Annex III; a separate Executive Summary will be produced as well, following the compulsory format given in the EVAL module (see Annex III).

The evaluation team will make sure that:

⁹ *The Evaluation Matrix is a tool to structure the evaluation analysis (by defining judgement criteria and indicators for each evaluation question). It helps also to consider the most appropriate and feasible data collection method for each of the questions,*

- Their assessments are objective and balanced, statements are accurate and evidence-based, and recommendations realistic and clearly targeted.
- When drafting the report, they will acknowledge clearly where changes in the desired direction are known to be already taking place.
- The wording, inclusive of the abbreviations used, takes into account the audience as identified in art. 2.1 above.

The evaluation team will deliver and then present in Vientiane for the expert that is based in country and via teleconference for the expert is outside Laos the **Draft Final Report** to the Reference Group to discuss the draft findings, conclusions and recommendations. Half day of presence of whole team is required. The half-day workshop will be conducted on both presence and online approaches for all the relevant stakeholders (max. 50 persons + interpreters). The relevant visual support and simultaneous translation during the meeting will be prepared by the evaluation experts. The costs of organising the workshop (venue, lunch, refreshments; materials, translation and other logistics) should be part of the offer. The copies of the presentations, and necessary documents have to be produced and delivered to the participants.

The Evaluation Manager consolidates the comments expressed by the Reference Group members and sends them to the evaluation team for the report revision, together with a first version of the Quality Assessment Grid (QAG) assessing the quality of the Draft Final Report. The content of the QAG will be discussed with the evaluation team to verify if further improvements are required, and the evaluation team will be invited to comment on the conclusions formulated in the QAG (through the EVAL Module).

The evaluation team will then finalise the **Final Report** and the **Executive Summary** by addressing the relevant comments. While potential quality issues, factual errors or methodological problems should be corrected, comments linked to diverging judgements may be either accepted or rejected. In the latter instance, the evaluation team must explain the reasons in writing. After approval of the final report, the QAG will be updated and sent to the evaluators via EVAL Module.

All documents will be written in English. The length of the final main report should not exceed 50 pages including the Executive summary. Additional information should be included in the annexes.

The final evaluation report will be provided only on a non-editable digital version (USB key support), and will include the report the executive summary in English and translation into Lao and all annexes, in 5 units.

A production of a brief should also be made to compose the results of evaluation, which includes but not limits to the key achievements, lessons learned, challenges of the action and way forwards to implement a similar initiative for the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The leaflet/brochure to be produced for dissemination purposes shall be no longer than four pages, including any relevant visual/graphic support (the offer must be based on 1000 units printed).

2.4 Specific Contract Organisation and Methodology (Technical offer)

The invited Framework Contractors will submit their specific Contract Organisation and Methodology by using the standard SIEA template B-VII-d-i and its annexes 1 and 2 (B-VII-d-ii).

The evaluation methodology proposed to undertake the assignment will be described in the Chapter 3 (Strategy and timetable of work) of the template B-VII-d-i. Contractors will describe how their proposed methodology will address the cross-cutting issues mentioned in these Terms of Reference and notably gender equality and the empowerment of women. This will include (if applicable) the communication action messages, materials and management structures.

By derogation of what is specified in the standard SIEA template B-VII-d-i, the maximum length of the specific Contract Organisation and Methodology is 7 pages, written in Times New Roman 12 or Arial size 11, single interline, excluding the framework contractor's own annexes (maximum length of such annexes: 3 pages), additional to the Annexes foreseen as part of the present Specific ToRs. The timetable is not accounted and may be presented on an A3 page

A methodology that includes a field verification component:

The final evaluation requires a physical verification on the ground. A consultant has to conduct the field work at the project site to assess the results and achievements of the action. At least two target districts and four communities should be visited to collect the primary information on the programme progress, achievements, challenges, etc.

The translation/interpretation services will be required for the mission. The interpretation would be needed for both physical field visit at sub-national and at meetings and interview on the offline and online modalities.

A methodology adaptive to travel restrictions:

An administrative arrangement/approval of the international and in-country traveling may also be required during the assignment. A consultant may require to have an evidence of complete vaccination against Covid-19 along with them while travelling on the mission.

A methodology adapted to Covid-19:

Due to the Covid pandemic and the compliance with the travelling restrictions for an expert, who may be based outside the country of assignment, would remotely conduct the final evaluation exercise. The following weblinks provides some guidance for the methodological adaptation: <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/devco-ess> and https://www.betterevaluation.org/en/theme/MandE_technology_insecure_settings

The experts are required to fully complete the quarantine for 14 days when entering in the country of assignment before conducting the field work. The detailed Lao Government's travelling restrictions can be found: <https://www.covid19.gov.la/index.php>

2.5 Management and Steering of the evaluation

2.5.1 At the EU level

The evaluation is managed by the Evaluation Manager of the EUD; the progress of the evaluation will be followed closely with the assistance of a Reference Group consisting of members of EU Services with the government bodies concerned including the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The main functions of the Reference Group are:

- To define and validate the Evaluation Questions.
- To facilitate contacts between the evaluation team and the EU services and external stakeholders.
- To ensure that the evaluation team has access to and has consulted all relevant information sources and documents related to the Intervention.

- To discuss and comment on notes and reports delivered by the evaluation team. Comments by individual group members are compiled into a single document by the Evaluation Manager and subsequently transmitted to the evaluation team.
- To assist in feedback on the findings, conclusions, lessons and recommendations from the evaluation.
- To support the development of a proper follow-up action plan after completion of the evaluation.

2.5.2 At the Contractor level

Further to the Requirements set in the art. 6 of the Global Terms of Reference and in the Global Organisation and Methodology, respectively annexes II and III of the Framework contract SIEA 2018, the contractor is responsible for the quality of: the process; the evaluation design; the inputs and the outputs of the evaluation. In particular, it will:

- Support the Team Leader in its role, mainly from a team management perspective. In this regard, the contractor should make sure that, for each evaluation phase, specific tasks and outputs for each team member are clearly defined and understood.
- Provide backstopping and quality control of the evaluation team's work throughout the assignment.
- Ensure that the evaluators are adequately resourced to perform all required tasks within the time framework of the contract.

3 LOGISTICS AND TIMING

Please refer to Part B of the Terms of Reference.

3.1 Planning, including the period for notification for placement of the staff¹⁰

As part of the technical offer, the framework contractor must fill in the timetable in the Annex IV (to be finalised in the Inception Report). The 'Indicative dates' are not to be formulated as fixed dates but rather as days (or weeks, or months) from the beginning of the assignment (to be referenced as '0').

Sufficient forward planning is to be taken into account in order to ensure the active participation and consultation with government representatives, national / local or other stakeholders.

4 REQUIREMENTS

Please refer to Part B of the Terms of Reference.

5 REPORTS

For the list of reports, please refer to Part B of the Terms of Reference.

5.1 Use of the EVAL module by the evaluators

It is strongly recommended that the **submission of deliverables** by the selected contractor **be performed through their uploading in the EVAL Module**, an evaluation process management tool and repository of the European Commission. The selected contractor will receive access to online and offline guidance in order to operate with the module during the related Specific contract validity.

¹⁰ As per art 16.4 a) of the General Conditions of the Framework Contract SIEA

5.2 Number of report copies

Apart from their submission -preferably via the EVAL Module-, the approved version of the Final Report will be also provided in one (1) paper copy and in electronic versions (pdf and word) at no extra cost.

5.3 Formatting of reports

All reports will be produced using Font Arial or Times New Roman minimum letter size 11 and 12 respectively, single spacing, double sided. They will be sent in Word and PDF formats.

6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

6.1 Content of reporting

The outputs must match quality standards. The text of the reports should be illustrated, as appropriate, with maps, graphs and tables; a map of the area(s) of Intervention is required (to be attached as Annex).

6.2 Comments on the outputs

For each report, the Evaluation Manager will send to the Contractor consolidated comments received from the Reference Group or the approval of the report within 10 calendar days. The revised reports addressing the comments shall be submitted within 10 calendar days from the date of receipt of the comments. The evaluation team should provide a separate document explaining how and where comments have been integrated or the reason for not integrating certain comments, if this is the case.

6.3 Assessment of the quality of the Final Report and of the Executive Summary

The quality of the draft versions of the Final Report and of the Executive Summary will be assessed by the Evaluation Manager using the online Quality Assessment Grid (QAG) in the EVAL Module (text provided in Annex V). The Contractor is given – through the EVAL module - the possibility to comment on the assessments formulated by the Evaluation Manager. The QAG will then be reviewed following the submission of the final version of the Final Report and of the Executive Summary.

The compilation of the QAG will support/inform the compilation by the Evaluation Manager of the FWC SIEA's Specific Contract Performance Evaluation.

7 PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Please address any request for clarification and other communication to the following address(es):
DELEGATION LAOS FCS delegation-laos-fcs@eeas.europa.eu

ANNEXES TO TOR - PART A

ANNEX I: SPECIFIC TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

SPECIFIC TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Request for Services n. SIEA-2018-6272

FWC SIEA 2018 - LOT 4 - Human Development and safety net

EuropeAid/138778/DH/SER/multi

1. TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Contracting Authority selects the offer with the best value for money using an 80/20 weighting between technical quality and price¹¹.

Technical quality is evaluated on the basis of the following grid:

Criteria	Maximum
<i>Total score for Organisation and Methodology</i>	50
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding of ToR and the aim of the services to be provided	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall methodological approach, quality control approach, appropriate mix of tools and estimate of difficulties and challenges	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical added value, backstopping and role of the involved members of the consortium	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organisation of tasks including timetable	10
<i>Score for the expertise of the proposed team</i>	50
<i>OVERALL TOTAL SCORE</i>	100

2. TECHNICAL THRESHOLD

Any offer falling short of the technical threshold of 75 out of 100 points, is automatically rejected.

3. INTERVIEWS DURING THE EVALUATION OF THE OFFERS

During the evaluation process of the offers received the Contracting Authority reserves the right to interview by phone one or several members of the proposed evaluation teams.

Phone interviews will be tentatively carried out during the period of offers evaluation, tentatively on the second half of September 2021.

¹¹ For more details about the 80/20 rule, please see the PRAG, chapter 3.3.10.5 - https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/funding/about-funding-and-procedures/procedures-and-practical-guide-prag_en

ANNEX II: INFORMATION THAT WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE EVALUATION TEAM

- Legal texts and political commitments pertaining to the Intervention(s) to be evaluated
- Country Strategy Paper for Lao PDR and Indicative Programmes (and equivalent) for the periods covered
- Relevant national / sector policies and plans from National and Local partners and other donors
- Intervention identification studies
- Intervention feasibility / formulation studies
- Intervention financing agreement and addenda
- Intervention's quarterly and annual progress reports, and technical reports
- European Commission's Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) Reports, and other external and internal monitoring reports of the Intervention
- Intervention's mid-term evaluation report and other relevant evaluations, audit, reports
- Relevant documentation from National/Local partners and other donors
- Guidance for Gender sensitive evaluations
- Calendar and minutes of all the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Intervention(s)
- Any other relevant document

Note: The evaluation team has to identify and obtain any other document worth analysing, through independent research and during interviews with relevant informed parties and stakeholders of the Intervention.

ANNEX III: STRUCTURE OF THE FINAL REPORT AND OF THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The contractor will deliver – **preferably through their uploading in the EVAL Module - two distinct documents**: the **Final Report** and the **Executive Summary**. They must be consistent, concise and clear and free of linguistic errors both in the original version and in their translation – if foreseen.

The Final Report should not be longer than the number of pages indicated in Chapter 6. Additional information on the overall context of the Intervention, description of methodology and analysis of findings should be reported in an Annex to the main text.

The presentation must be properly spaced and the use of clear graphs, tables and short paragraphs is strongly recommended.

The cover page of the Final Report shall carry the following text:

"This evaluation is supported and guided by the European Commission and presented by [name of consulting firm]. The report does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the European Commission".

Executive Summary

A short, tightly-drafted, to-the-point and free-standing Executive Summary. It should focus on the key purpose or issues of the evaluation, outline the main analytical points, and clearly indicate the main conclusions, lessons to be learned and specific recommendations. It is to be prepared by using the specific format foreseen in the EVAL Module.

The main sections of the evaluation report shall be as follows:

1. Introduction

A description of the Intervention, of the relevant country/region/sector background and of the evaluation, providing the reader with sufficient methodological explanations to gauge the credibility of the conclusions and to acknowledge limitations or weaknesses, where relevant.

2. Answered questions / Findings

A chapter presenting the answers to the Evaluation Questions, supported by evidence and reasoning.

3. Overall assessment (*optional*)

A chapter synthesising all answers to Evaluation Questions into an overall assessment of the Intervention. The detailed structure of the overall assessment should be refined during the evaluation process. The relevant chapter has to articulate all the findings, conclusions and lessons in a way that reflects their importance and facilitates the reading. The structure should not follow the Evaluation Questions, the logical framework or the evaluation criteria.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

4.3 Lessons learnt

Lessons learnt generalise findings and translate past experience into relevant knowledge that should support decision making, improve performance and promote the achievement of better results. Ideally, they should support the work of both the relevant European and partner institutions.

4.1 Conclusions

This chapter contains the conclusions of the evaluation, organised per evaluation criterion.

In order to allow better communication of the evaluation messages that are addressed to the Commission, a table organising the conclusions by order of importance can be presented, or a paragraph or sub-chapter emphasizing the 3 or 4 major conclusions organised by order of importance, while avoiding being repetitive.

4.2 Recommendations

They are intended to improve or reform the Intervention in the framework of the cycle under way, or to prepare the design of a new Intervention for the next cycle.

Recommendations must be clustered and prioritised, and carefully targeted to the appropriate audiences at all levels, especially within the Commission structure.

5. Annexes to the report

The report should include the following annexes:

- The Terms of Reference of the evaluation
- The names of the evaluators (CVs can be shown, but summarised and limited to one page per person)
- Detailed evaluation methodology including: options taken, difficulties encountered and limitations; detail of tools and analyses.
- Evaluation Matrix
- Intervention logic / Logical Framework matrices (planned/real and improved/updated)
- Relevant geographic map(s) where the Intervention took place
- List of persons/organisations consulted
- Literature and documentation consulted
- Other technical annexes (e.g. statistical analyses, tables of contents and figures, matrix of evidence, databases) as relevant
- Detailed answer to the Evaluation Questions, judgement criteria and indicators

ANNEX IV: PLANNING SCHEDULE

This annex must be included by Framework Contractors in their Specific Contract Organisation and Methodology and forms an integral part of it. Framework Contractors can add as many rows and columns as needed.

The phases of the evaluation shall reflect those indicated in the present Terms of Reference.

		Indicative Duration in working days ¹²		
Activity	Location	Team Leader	Evaluator ...	Indicative Dates
Inception phase: total days				
•				
•				
•				
•				
Field phase: total days				
•				
•				
Synthesis phase: total days				
•				
•				
•				
•				
TOTAL working days (maximum)				

¹² Add one column per each evaluator

ANNEX V: QUALITY ASSESSMENT GRID

The quality of the Final Report will be assessed by the Evaluation Manager (since the submission of the draft Report and Executive Summary) using the following quality assessment grid, which is included **in the EVAL Module**; the grid will be shared with the evaluation team, which will have the possibility to include their comments.

Intervention (Project/Programme) evaluation – Quality Assessment Grid Final Report

Evaluation data			
Evaluation title			
Evaluation managed by		Type of evaluation	
Ref. of the evaluation contract		EVAL ref.	
Evaluation budget			
EUD/Unit in charge		Evaluation Manager	
Evaluation dates	Start:		End:
Date of draft final report		Date of Response of the Services	
Comments			
Project data			
Main project evaluated			
CRIS/OPSYS # of evaluated project(s)			
DAC Sector			
Contractor's details			
Evaluation Team Leader		Evaluation Contractor	
Evaluation expert(s)			

Legend: scores and their meaning

Very satisfactory: criterion entirely fulfilled in a clear and appropriate way

Satisfactory: criterion fulfilled

Unsatisfactory: criterion partly fulfilled

Very unsatisfactory: criterion mostly not fulfilled or absent

The evaluation report is assessed as follows

1. Clarity of the report

This criterion analyses the extent to which both the Executive Summary and the Final Report:

- Are easily readable, understandable and accessible to the relevant target readers
- Highlight the key messages
- The length of the various chapters and annexes of the Report are well balanced
- Contain relevant graphs, tables and charts facilitating understanding
- Contain a list of acronyms (only the Report)
- Avoid unnecessary duplications
- Have been language checked for unclear formulations, misspelling and grammar errors
- The Executive Summary is an appropriate summary of the full report and is a free-standing document



Strengths	Weaknesses	Score
Contractor's comments	Contractor's comments	

2. Reliability of data and robustness of evidence

This criterion analyses the extent to which:

- Data/evidence was gathered as defined in the methodology
- The report considers, when relevant, evidence from EU and/or other partners' relevant studies, monitoring reports and/or evaluations
- The report contains a clear description of the limitations of the evidence, the risks of bias and the mitigating measures



Strengths	Weaknesses	Score
Contractor's comments	Contractor's comments	

3. Validity of Findings

This criterion analyses the extent to which:

- Findings derive from the evidence gathered
- Findings address all selected evaluation criteria
- Findings result from an appropriate triangulation of different, clearly identified sources



- When assessing the effect of the EU intervention, the findings describe and explain the most relevant cause/effect links between outputs, outcomes and impacts
- The analysis of evidence is comprehensive and takes into consideration contextual and external factors

Strengths	Weaknesses	Score
Contractor's comments	Contractor's comments	

4. Validity of conclusions

This criterion analyses the extent to which:

- Conclusions are logically linked to the findings, and go beyond them to provide a comprehensive analysis
- Conclusions appropriately address the selected evaluation criteria and all the evaluation questions, including the relevant cross-cutting dimensions
- Conclusions take into consideration the various stakeholder groups of the evaluation
- Conclusions are coherent and balanced (i.e. they present a credible picture of both strengths and weaknesses), and are free of personal or partisan considerations
- (If relevant) whether the report indicates when there are not sufficient findings to conclude on specific issues



Strengths	Weaknesses	Score
Contractor's comments	Contractor's comments	

5. Usefulness of recommendations

This criterion analyses the extent to which the recommendations:

- Are clearly linked to and derive from the conclusions
- Are concrete, achievable and realistic
- Are targeted to specific addressees
- Are clustered (if relevant), prioritised, and possibly time-bound
- (If relevant) provide advice for the Intervention's exit strategy, post-Intervention sustainability or for adjusting Intervention's design or plans



Strengths	Weaknesses	Score
Contractor's comments	Contractor's comments	

6. Appropriateness of lessons learnt analysis (if requested by the ToR or included by the evaluators)

This criterion is to be assessed only when requested by the ToR or included by evaluators and is not to be scored. It analyses the extent to which:



- Lessons are identified
- When relevant, they are generalised in terms of wider relevance for the institution(s)

Strengths	Weaknesses	
Contractor's comments	Contractor's comments	
Final comments on the overall quality of the report		Overall score

ANNEX VI: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX (LOGFRAME) OF THE EVALUATED ACTION

1. DCI-FOOD/2013/023-724 Indicative Result Matrix

Appendix I .INDICATIVE LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROJECT				
	Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable Indicators of achievement (targets will be determined by the baseline survey)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective	Contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1 in Lao PDR	Progress in achieving MDG1 in the target province by 2015 and prolongation of the trend after 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDG Reports • LECS Surveys • MICS Surveys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous commitment of government
Specific objective	Food and nutrition security of the poor population in target villages and households in central Lao PDR improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of reduction of prevalence in child stunting under 5 years old in target villages by the end of the implementation phase • % increase average number of food items in daily diet in targeted households by the end of the project implementation phase • % of increase of households in target villages consuming three meals a day in the hungry season by the end of the project implementation phase • % of women between 15 and 40 years of age with adequate BMI in target villages by the end of the project implementation phase • % of increase of average MUAC in under-5 year olds in target villages by the end of the project implementation phase • % of increase in ownership of productive assets at household level in target villages by the end of the implementation phase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LECS/LSIS Surveys • Surveys from development partners • Project baseline and impact survey • Data from village health centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and social stability in the target province • Absence of natural or man-made disasters
Expected results	1. Vulnerable communities are better prepared, capable and resilient to cope with recurring 'lean' seasons and external shocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % increase of farmers from targeted villages having diversified crop production with at least X new agricultural production activity(ies) by the end of the project implementation period • % of target group villagers who are able to sell excess produce by the end of the project implementation period • % of target group villagers who are able to buy necessary food items to complete healthy diet by the end of the project implementation period • % of villagers have increased their productive household assets by at least ...% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project progress reports • Baseline and impact study • Needs assessment report • Other studies in the area • Field visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Villages and communities have sufficient land access • Government at district level supports project activities • Communities take on responsibility for shared production • No major disasters like flooding, drought, typhoons or rodent infestation

<p>2. Nutrition status is improved in vulnerable communities through linking nutrition security improvements to food security related improvements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of target villagers demonstrate improved WASH and hygiene practices by the end of the project implementation phase • % of target villagers having increased on average the number of consumed food group items per day by at least X throughout the year by the end of the project implementation phase (dietary diversity score) • % of children between 1 and 5 having increased on average their consumption of food group items per day by at least X throughout the year by the end of the project implementation period (dietary diversity score) • % of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers having increased on average their consumption of food group items per day by at least X throughout the year by the end of the project implementation period (dietary diversity score) • % of target villagers display increased knowledge on healthy nutrition (measured through KAP survey) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline and impact study • Project progress reports • Other studies in the area • Field visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient and diversified food available from improved agricultural production • Villagers are willing and able to attend nutrition education training
<p>3. Enhanced capacity of the Government at sub-national level to address food and nutrition insecurity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of coordination activities between agricultural and nutrition sector at provincial and district level • Number of documents at provincial level reflecting prioritisation of the link between food security and nutrition • Number of inter-institutional cooperation fora reflecting baseline and impact survey data, project results and lessons learned • Number of line ministries and mass organisations attending meeting reflecting the project results and lessons learned • % of agriculture, health and education staff at province and district level is using knowledge from trainings, guidelines and manuals (including WASH and health issues) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy documents from various ministries • Action plans from government at national and province level • Distribution list survey report • Meeting minutes with government and other development partners • Project progress reports • Other studies in the area • Training reports and training evaluations (before and after) • Field visits • Government reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food security policies and strategies of government and other development partners remain focused on nutrition • Government staff willing, committed and able to participate in nutrition and food security related activities • Limited staff turnover at district and village level

ANNEX VII: THE EVALUATION CRITERIA

The definition and the number of the DAC evaluation criteria has changed following the release (10 December 2019) of the document “Evaluation Criteria: Adapted Definitions and Principles for Use” (DCD/DAC(2019)58/FINAL).

The evaluators will ensure that their analysis will respect the new definitions of these criteria and their explanatory notes. Reference and guidance documents are being developed and can be found here: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>

Unless otherwise specified in the chapter 2.2.1, the evaluation will assess the Intervention using the six standard DAC evaluation criteria and the EU added value, which is a specific EU evaluation criterion. Their definitions are reported below:

DAC CRITERIA

- **Relevance:** the “extent to which the intervention objectives and design respond to beneficiaries’, global, country, and partner/institution needs, policies, and priorities, and continue to do so if circumstances change.”
- **Coherence:** the “compatibility of the intervention with other interventions in a country, sector or institution.”
- **Effectiveness:** the “extent to which the intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives, and its results, including any differential results across groups.”
- **Efficiency:** the “extent to which the intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way.”
- **Impact:** the “extent to which the intervention has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended or unintended, higher-level effects.”
- **Sustainability:** the “extent to which the net benefits of the intervention continue or are likely to continue.”

EU-SPECIFIC CRITERION

- **EU added value:** the extent to which the Intervention brings additional benefits to what would have resulted from Member States' interventions only in the partner country. It directly stems from the principle of subsidiarity defined in the Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union (<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/7/the-principle-of-subsidiarity>).

ANNEX VIII: THE ROM REPORT OF CONTRACT/PROJECT

Conclusions	
N°	Conclusion
C1	Relevance: The intervention is highly relevant to the needs of target groups and beneficiaries. The presence of numerous other international stakeholders acting in similar thematic areas in the targeted province is a favourable factor for the relevance of the intervention, from a geographical and social perspective. The highly participatory approach adopted by the intervention has resulted in a visible high level of ownership among all beneficiaries and stakeholders. Local capacities have been utilised to maximise efficiency and effectiveness as well as to address the knowledge gaps that needed to be tackled.
C2	Coordination, complementarity and EU Added value: Complementarities and synergies with key governmental stakeholders and their development partners have been fully explored by the intervention. It has permitted the intervention to broaden its scope, maximise its resources as well as those of the EUD, as the interventions in its portfolio complement each other. Similarly, all possibilities to avoid duplication have been adequately explored and whenever possible, turned into opportunities for collaboration.
C3	Intervention logic, Monitoring & Learning: The success of the intervention relies mostly on its monitoring system. It is one of the intervention's key strengths that allows to compile a multitude of data for complex indicators. The intervention will not have problems demonstrating its success rate at the end of the execution period and justifying its adopted methodology. The use of a widely implemented formula for nutrition related interventions has contributed to this success. It is a proven recipe as long as from the very start of the intervention all stakeholders are made aware and are willing to participate in systematic regular data collection, from the final beneficiaries, intermediaries, to the regular analysis of the compounded data.
C4	Efficiency: The project has demonstrated to be highly efficient in spite of the initial long delays. Its cost efficiency can be rated high as it has also reached most of its indicators' targets within the foreseen timelines and sometimes earlier. It has made good progress and it is very likely that all planned activities will end on time. Nevertheless, the management set up, having virtually two operation managers, one for Outputs 2 and 3 and one for Output 1, is found to be unusual. Coordination is appropriate and satisfactory, but administrative accountability between Outputs does not happen at the field level. This has not hampered the implementation or affected the intervention's efficiency in any visible way. At 75% of expenditure with 83% of time elapsed, as of December 2020, it remains slightly behind in this area but it has continued to make advances since then and it is expected to catch up in the remaining months.
C5	Effectiveness: Progress towards outputs delivery and outcomes achievement is quite encouraging. Intervention monitoring data demonstrates the accomplishment of many of its targets, including those that have been revised. The intervention is on the way to reach the impact indicators' target, as preliminary data has already shown.
C6	Sustainability: As a consequence of its participatory approach from its design to the constant feedback from its stakeholders, sustainability prospects are likely to lead to enhanced resilience for target beneficiaries. Most of the inputs necessary to continue operating after the end of the intervention already exist in terms of knowledge, physical inputs, and the incentive by all parties to continue experiencing a higher quality of life. Necessary awareness levels that will enable WASH practices to continue to be applied, seem to be robust enough to allow the HHs to carry on with higher hygiene standards. Nevertheless, some of the delays occurred might affect the sustainability of the relevant outcomes, as the respective activities will be implemented at the very end of the execution period of the intervention. It is likely that there will not be sufficient time to make adjustments or to consolidate them and leave adequate time to promote ownership.
C7	Cross-cutting Issues: While the intervention targets women, young women and girls, there are no provisions at design level to include a gender strategy or to employ a gender specialist who could have provided a gender focus and perspective to most areas of intervention, including areas where gender might not seem relevant. Steps have been taken to address environmental issues as farmers are provided with the knowledge and encouraged to adhere to sustainable agricultural production systems involving the use of sustainable fertilizers and water saving techniques. Its participative approach to decision-making and equal access to its benefits qualifies it as a rights based approach intervention. It also contributes to EU climate change by adopting measures to reduce forest degradation and greenhouse emissions by providing alternatives to non-sustainable practices of non-timber food products extraction.
C8	Communication and Visibility: Central government authorities are well informed about the intervention's objectives and general strategy. Still, they do not seem to be as informed about the achievements and advances accomplished by the intervention. Provincial and district authorities are well informed about all aspects of the intervention. The intervention has made sound progress and has achieved many objectives that the central authorities would appreciate to acknowledge. This is particularly important, not only for the reputation of the Implementing Partners, but also for the visibility and positioning of the EU in the country's context.

Recommendations					
#	Linked to	Recommendation	To whom	Priority	Importance
R1	6	Consider shifting approach to increase communal ownership and a sense of individual responsibility to the direct beneficiaries of the activities which are planned to be implemented at the very end of the implementation period (Seedbanks and Producers' groups). Suggest Social handover ceremonies and/or other public display formats that could have the effect of self-policing. Assign accountability roles and self-monitoring systems that might increase the sustainability levels of these actions. Officialise "transfer of ownership" with relevant groups or relevant local authorities.	Implementing partners, PAFO	Short term	High
R2	7	For the remaining execution period, consider seeking expertise from a gender specialist who can bring a gender approach to some of the remaining activities and to help report through a gender perspective. It is considered important that for the final evaluation, gender is dealt with as a transversal theme, as much as possible. The intervention could consider preparing for this in advance.	Implementing partners	Short term	High
R3	8	Enhance efforts to communicate directly and more regularly with key central government authorities in Vientiane. Consider elaborating small hardcopy and yet informative briefs to relevant central government ministries like the Ministry of Health, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, and others, for the few remaining months. Widen the visibility through the promotion of the achievements already accomplished, as soon as possible and not waiting until the very end of the execution period. Ponder providing short informative capsules addressed to key central government stakeholders. Coordinate the communication efforts with the EUD.	Country Directors in Vientiane, HPA and FPP, EUD	Short term	High

TERMS OF REFERENCE – PART B

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Benefitting Zone

Laos

2. Contracting authority

The European Union, represented by the European Commission, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium.

3. Contract language

English

LOCATION AND DURATION

4. Location

- **Key Expert 1: Team Leader:**
 - Normal place of posting of the specific assignment: Home-based
 - Mission(s) outside the normal place of posting and duration(s): N/A
- **Key Expert 2: Expert in country of assignment:**
 - Normal place of posting of the specific assignment: Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR
 - Mission(s) outside the normal place of posting and duration(s): Khammouane Province

5. Start date and period of implementation

The indicative start date is 01/11/2021 and the period of implementation of the contract will be 181 days from this date (indicative end date: 01/05/2022).

REQUIREMENTS

6. Expertise

For this assignment, one individual expert must be proposed for each position.

The expertise required for the implementation of the specific contract is detailed below.

- **Key Expert 1: Team Leader:**
 - General description of the position: The Team Leader leads the final evaluation of the Food Security and Nutrition Programme and ensure all required deliverables
 - Expert category: Cat. I (>12 years of experience)
 - Qualifications and skills required: • Graduate university degree (Master's degree or

equivalent qualification) in domain related to food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, social sciences, development economics or equivalent relevant, directly related area. • 12 years of experience in evaluation of programmes and projects (ex-ante, mid-term or ex-post) in the fields related to the ToRs; with at least 5 evaluations as Team Leader and at least 3 evaluations in South Asia. • Experience in food and/or nutrition public policy, and institutional capacity building at central and local levels.

- General professional experience: See above
 - Specific professional experience: See above
 - Language skills: Fluent in English - C2 level
 - Minimum number of working days: **29** days
 - Additional information: • The expert should have 6 years of experience in projects related to the TORs at grass-root level; • The expert shall have cumulatively done 6 evaluations in the fields related to the ToRs.
- **Key Expert 2: Expert in country of assignment:**
 - General description of the position: The expert has to be conducted the evaluation in the country of assignment
 - Expert category: Cat. II (>6 years of experience)
 - Qualifications and skills required: • University degree (minimum Bachelor degree or equivalent qualification) in domain related to food security and nutrition, agriculture, development studies or equivalent relevant. • At least 6 years of experience in Food and Nutrition Security with focus in the fields related to the ToRs; experience with EU funded projects will be an asset; • At least 6 years of experience in Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) systems with experience in the Logical Framework Approach.
 - General professional experience: See above
 - Specific professional experience: See above
 - Language skills: Fluent in English - C2 level
 - Minimum number of working days: **28** days
 - Additional information: The expert shall have cumulatively done 6 evaluations in the fields related to the ToRs.

7. Incidental expenditure

No incidental expenditure provided for in this contract.

8. Lump sums

No lump sums provided for in this contract.

9. Expenditure verification

No expenditure verification report is required.

10. Other details

No other details provided for in this contract.

REPORTS AND DELIVERABLES

11. Reports and deliverables requirements

Annex 4 Evaluation Matrix

EQ 1: To what extent did the project ensure that its activities in each target community met the multisectoral convergence requirements to deliver its intended nutrition outcomes?				
Evaluation criteria covered		Relevance		
Judgement criteria (JC)	Indicators (Ind)	Information sources		Methods / tools
		Primary	Secondary	
1.1 – Coordinated planning by HPA & FPP.	1.1.1 – Coordination planning system can be explained	Project Managers ⁵		KII (TB ⁶)
	1.1.2 - ER1 + ER2 activities planned in same target communities, unless not needed	Project Managers Project Community Development Facilitators (CDFs)	Village Activity List	KII (TB) KII (VV ⁷) Document Review (VV)
1.2 – Coordinated implementation by HPA & FPP.	1.2.1 – Target communities received multisectoral ER1 & ER2 interventions according to their requirements	Project Managers CDFs		KII (TB) KII (VV) KII / FGD (VV)

⁵ By Project Managers we refer to the HPA Operations Manager and the FPP Agriculture Officer

⁶ To be investigated by Tim Bene

⁷ To be investigated by Vanxay Vang

		Target Communities		
--	--	--------------------	--	--

EQ 2: To what extent were the Project's objectives aligned with the objectives of the PIN and with other projects financed under all three pillars of the PIN?

Evaluation covered	criteria	Coherence		
Judgement criteria (JC)	Indicators (Ind)	Information sources		Methods / tools
		Primary	Secondary	
2.1 Objectives consistent with PIN objectives	2.1.1 PIN objectives 2.1.2 Project objectives		Project document, PIN Call for Proposals	Document review (TB)
2.2 Activities consistent with other Pillar 3 actions, and coordination embedded in design	2.2.1 Project Activities 2.2.2 Other Pillar 3 project activities 2.2.3 PIN Pillar 3 coordination activities included in all Pillar 3 project designs		Project document, project documents of other PIN Pillar 3 actions	Document review (TB)
2.3 Coordination with Pillar 1 embedded in design	2.3.1 Project design and includes coordination with Pillar 1 2.3.2 Pillar 1 project design includes collaboration with the Project		Project document and Pillar 1 Project document	Document review (TB)

2.4 Coordination with Pillar 2 embedded in design	2.4.1 Project design and includes coordination with Pillar 2 2.4.2 Pillar 2 project design includes collaboration with the Project		Project document and Pillar 2 Project document	Document review (TB)
2.5 PIN Management and Governance Stakeholders views on Project Coherence	2.5.1 EUD opinion 2.5.2 NNC Secretariat opinion 2.5.3 Managers of other PIN 3 projects opinions 2.5.4 Managers of Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 opinion	Project Managers (FNS, other Pillar 3; Pillar 1; Pillar 2) IMC Members		KII (TB)
2.6 Examples of coherence in practice	2.6.1 Examples provided by FNS Project Managers 2.6.2 Examples provided by Pillar 3 project stakeholders 2.6.3 Examples provided by Pillars 1 & 2 stakeholders	Project Managers Pillar 3 project stakeholders Pillars 1 & 2 stakeholders		KII (TB)

EQ 3: How did the Project ensure that its activities a) complemented and b) did not duplicate those of other concurrent and recently completed interventions in the six selected districts?				
Evaluation covered	criteria	Coherence		
Judgement criteria (JC)	Indicators (Ind)	Information sources		Methods / tools
		Primary	Secondary	
3.1 Project in accordance with Provincial and District development plans	<p>3.1.1 Participation in Provincial Coordination Meetings</p> <p>3.1.2 Provincial and district authorities satisfied that FNS project coherent with their development strategy / plan</p>	Provincial and District Authorities	MOU	<p>KII (VV)</p> <p>Document review (VV)</p>
3.2 Effective coordination with other relevant projects in the 6 districts	<p>3.2.1 Coordination meetings between FNS and other projects</p> <p>3.2.2 Examples of realignment of plans to ensure coherence – eg villages added / dropped or activities added dropped.</p>	Project Managers IPs of other projects	Minutes of meetings	<p>KII (TB, VV)</p> <p>Doc review (VV)</p>

EQ 4: What changes did the Project make to its targets and activities to ensure efficient use of resources in light of a) the reduced period for implementation; b) the findings of the Baseline Survey; c) the recommendations made by the MTR / ROM; and d) its own experience in the field? What were the implications of any changes made?				
Evaluation covered	criteria	Efficiency		
Judgement criteria (JC)	Indicators (Ind)	Information sources		Methods / tools
		Primary	Secondary	
4.1 Evidence of need for changes	4.1.1 Reduced time 4.1.2 Baseline Study 4.1.3 MTR / ROM 4.1.4 Project experience	Project Managers	Baseline and MTR reports	KII (TB) Document review (TB)
4.2 Evidence that needed changes were made	4.2.1 Reduced time 4.2.2 Baseline Study 4.2.3 MTR / ROM 4.2.4 Project experience	Project Managers	PY1,2&3 Interim Reports	KII (TB) Document review (TB)
4.3 Examples of how the changes improved efficiency	4.3.1 Reduced time 4.3.2 Baseline Study 4.3.3 MTR / ROM 4.3.4 Project experience	Project Managers		KII (TB)
4.4 Examples of any other implications	4.4.1 Reduced time 4.4.2 Baseline Study 4.4.3 MTR / ROM 4.4.4 Project experience	Project Managers		KII (TB)

EQ 5: According to the Project's monitoring system and other readily available information, confirmed or otherwise by stakeholders in the field, to what extent did the project achieve each of its three Expected Results and, for each ER, what were the main factors determining / hampering this achievement?					
Evaluation covered	criteria	Effectiveness			
Judgement criteria (JC)	Indicators (Ind)	Information sources		Methods / tools	
		Primary	Secondary		
5.1 ER1: <i>Food security, resilience and dietary diversification in vulnerable communities is strengthened</i> achieved	5.1.1 – 5.1.9 indicators as per logframe	Project Officer	M&E	Project database ROM Report Project Final Report (draft) Project Endline Report (draft)	M&E KII / Database enquiry (TB) Document review (TB) KII with DAFO & DHO (VV) Target group discussions (VV) Direct observation (VV)
5.2 ER2: <i>Increased community capacity to prevent, respond to and manage the wider determinants of malnutrition through improved nutrition, nutrition sensitive and hygiene knowledge and</i>	5.2.1 – 5.2.17 indicators and sub-indicators as per logframe	Project Officer	M&E	Project database ROM Report Project Final Report (draft) Project Endline Report (draft)	M&E KII / Database enquiry (TB) Document review (TB)

<i>practices amongst target communities achieved</i>		DAFO / DHO Evaluation village-level fieldwork		KII with DHO, Health Centre staff, DAFO (VV) Target group discussions (VV) Direct observation (VV)
5.3 ER3: <i>Enhanced capacity of provincial and district level staff to lead multi-sectoral planning and improve coordination achieved</i>	5.3.1 – 5.3.6 indicators as per logframe	Project Officer PNC / DNC	M&E Project M&E database ROM Report Project Final Report (draft) Project Endline Report (draft)	KII / Database enquiry (TB) Document review (TB) KIIs with PNC, DNC members (VV)
5.4 Major factors determining / hampering ER1 achievement identified	5.4.1 Reflection and feedback on selected ER1 activities	Project Managers CDFs DAFO partners Target groups	MTR & ROM reports	KII (TB) KII (VV) Document review (TB)
5.5 Major factors determining / hampering ER2 achievement identified	5.5.1 Reflection and feedback on selected ER2 activities	Project Managers CDFs DHO partners Target groups	MTR & ROM reports	KII (TB) KII (VV) Document review (TB)
5.6 Major factors determining / hampering ER3 achievement identified	5.6.1 Reflection and feedback on selected ER3 activities	Project Managers PNC / DNC members	MTR & ROM reports	KII (TB) KII (VV) Document review (TB)

EQ 6: To what extent has the Specific Objective “to improve nutritional status and food security in 5,000 vulnerable HHs in 100 villages of 6 districts with special focus on children under 5, women of CBA including EM women, urban poor and migrants and youth” been achieved? What were the main factors determining / hampering this achievement?				
Evaluation covered	criteria	Impact		
Judgement criteria (JC)	Indicators (Ind)	Information sources		Methods / tools
		Primary	Secondary	
6.1 Project understood complexity of SO Statement	6.1.1 Definition of vulnerable HH used in beneficiary selection	Project Managers		KII (TB)
	6.1.2 Number of vulnerable HH present in 100 target villages	Project Managers / M&E officer	M&E database	KII, database enquiry (TB)
	6.1.3 Number of vulnerable urban poor and migrant HH in the 100 villages?	Project Managers / M&E officer	M&E database	KII, database enquiry (TB)
6.2 Project simplified and understood its scope	6.2.1 Proportion and number of ER1 and ER2 target HH that were vulnerable	Project Managers / M&E officer	M&E database	KII, database enquiry (TB)
	6.2.2 Proportion of targeted vulnerable HH that contained: – CU5 – CBA – EM CBA	Project Managers / M&E officer	M&E database	KII, database enquiry (TB)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Urban poor & migrants – Youth 			
6.3 SO (Impact) Statement achieved	6.3.1 – 6.3.9 indicators and sub-indicators as per logframe, disaggregated by all HH, vulnerable HH	<p>Project Managers / M&E officer</p> <p>DHO / DAFO</p> <p>Evaluation village-level fieldwork</p>	M&E database	<p>KII, database enquiry (TB)</p> <p>KII with DHO, Health Centre staff, DAFO (VV)</p> <p>Target Group discussions (VV)</p> <p>Direct Observation (VV)</p>
6.4 Major factors determining / hampering Impact identified	6.4.1 Reflection and feedback on selected anticipated impacts (Specific Objective level indicators)	<p>HPA / FPP Country Managers</p> <p>Project Managers</p> <p>NNC / PNC / DNC Secretariat members</p>	MTR & ROM reports	<p>KII (TB)</p> <p>Document review (TB)</p> <p>KII (VV)</p>

EQ 7: To what extent are the pre-existing and new groups, volunteer networks and local institutions supported by the project fully functional in January 2022 in the villages and districts sampled by the Evaluation? What are the main factors determining or hampering these results and to what extent are these factors related to the Project?

Evaluation criteria covered	Sustainability			
Judgement criteria (JC)	Indicators (Ind)	Information sources		Methods / tools
		Primary	Secondary	
7.1 Current functionality of target groups	7.1.1 New groups 7.1.2 Pre-existing groups 7.1.3 New volunteers 7.1.4 Pre-existing volunteers 7.1.5 New local institutions 7.1.6 Pre-existing local institutions 7.1.7 PNC 7.1.8 DNCs	DHO / DAFO Village level stakeholders of each category		KII (VV) Group Discussion (VV)
7.2 Current functionality of supported initiatives	<u>7.2.1 Supported activities</u> Vegetable gardens SRI Pass-on animals Climate smart agric practices Food processing / storage	DNC / DHO / DAFO staff Village Authorities VNV, VHW etc		KII (VV) Group Discussion (VV) Direct Observation (VV)

	<p>Screening / monitoring CU5</p> <p>SBCC practices</p> <p>EPI Visits/deworming/Vit A</p> <p>Pregnant women attend ANC</p> <p><u>7.2.2 Supported infrastructure</u></p> <p>Seed banks</p> <p>Irrigation facilities</p> <p>Potable water source / filters</p> <p>Latrines</p> <p><u>7.2.3 Supported fora</u></p> <p>Annual Nutrition Forum</p> <p>SUN CSA meetings</p>	Direct observation in the field		
7.3 Major factors determining / hampering Sustainability and extent to which project is responsible for them	<p>7.3.1 Project sustainability strategy</p> <p>7.3.2 District sustainability strategies for project interventions</p> <p>7.3.3 Reflection and feedback</p>	Project Managers DHO / DAFO / DNC respondents	Project interim and draft Final reports ROM report Sustainability strategy documents	<p>KII (TB)</p> <p>KII (VV)</p> <p>Document review (TB)</p> <p>Document review (VV)</p>
7.4 Prospects of long term	7.4.1 Supported groups	DNC / DHO /		KII (VV)

continuation for currently functional interventions	7.4.2 Supported activities 7.4.3 Supported infrastructure 7.4.4 Supported fora	DAFO staff Village Authorities VNV, VHW etc		Group Discussion (VV)
---	--	---	--	-----------------------

EQ 8: To what extent was the project in line with the EU Joint Programming (JP) 2016-2020 and how satisfactorily did it contribute to the achievements of the Joint Programme?

Evaluation criteria covered	EU added value			
Judgement criteria (JC)	Indicators (Ind)	Information sources		Methods / tools
		Primary	Secondary	
8.1 Alignment with EU Joint Programming	8.1.1 Joint Programming included similar multisectoral nutrition objectives		JP 2016-2020	Document Review (TB)
8.2 Alignment / integration with Member States' initiatives	8.2.1 The Project fills a gap that would not otherwise have been filled by MS programming 8.2.2 Evidence of sharing / coordination between the project and other JP Nutrition initiatives	Member States cooperation representatives Project Managers	JP MTR and Final Evaluation (if available)	KII (TB) Document Review (TB)
8.3 The Project made a satisfactory contribution to the Joint Programme	8.3.1 Member States express satisfaction with Project implementation and outcomes	Member States cooperation representatives		KII (TB)

EQ 9: To what extent did the independent implementation of their respective activities by the two IPs - HPA and FPP – enhance or hinder a) the efficient use of human and financial resources, including those of target groups and institutions, b) the effective delivery of planned activities; and c) the potential for impact on the nutritional status of target groups arising from a convergent approach to the delivery of multisectoral interventions?				
Evaluation criteria covered	Efficiency, Effectiveness, Impact			
Judgement criteria (JC)	Indicators (Ind)	Information sources		Methods / tools
		Primary	Secondary	
9.5 How successful was the secondment of Government Liaison staff to the project?	9.5.1 Contribution to efficiency 9.5.2 Desirability to include PAFO staff	IP Country Managers Project Managers PNC members DNC members PHO / PAFO staff		KII (TB) KII (VV)
9.1 Human resource management enhanced / hindered	9.1.1 Project human resource use 9.1.2 Target group time burden in project activities	IP Country Directors Project Managers Provincial, district and village level authorities		KII (TB) KII (VV)
9.2 Financial resource utilisation enhanced / hindered	9.2.1 Economic use of project finances 9.2.2 Cash flow	IP Country Directors Project Managers	ROM Report	Document Review (TB) KII (TB)
9.3 Delivery of activities enhanced / hindered	9.3.1 Implementation rate of planned activities 9.3.2 Timeliness of	Provincial, district and village level authorities	MTR Report ROM Report Project Final	Document Review (TB) KII (VV) KII (TB)

	implemented activities 9.3.3 Quality of activities 9.3.4 Role of implementation modality in 9.3.1-9.3.3	Project Managers	Report	
9.4 Potential for impact enhanced / hindered	<u>Examples of:</u> 9.4.1 Pro-active convergent planning 9.4.2 Proactive convergent implementation 9.4.3 Avoidable non-convergent activity	IP Country Managers Project managers Provincial, district and village level authorities		KII (TB) KII (VV)

EQ 10: To what extent were gender, environment and climate change mainstreamed; the relevant SDGs and their interlinkages identified; the principle of Leave No-One Behind and the rights-based approach methodology followed in the identification/formulation documents, Call for Proposal Guidelines, Grant Contract (and addendum) and the MOU signed with Khammouane Province? Did the monitoring and governance systems track whether these topics were reflected in Project implementation to the extent foreseen in these planning documents?

Evaluation criteria covered	Crosscutting issues			
Judgement criteria (JC)	Indicators (Ind)	Information sources		Methods / tools
		Primary	Secondary	
10.1 Coverage of the listed issues in the design documents	Level of detail of discussion about: 10.1.1 Gender 10.1.2 Environment 10.1.3 Climate change 10.1.4 SDGs and their interlinkages 10.1.5 Leave No one Behind 10.1.6 Rights based approach		Identification Fiche, Action Fiche, Call for proposals Description of the Action Grant Contract and Addendum Project MOU	Document review (TB)
10.2 Monitoring system coverage of the listed issues	10.2.1 Topics tracked 10.2.2 Tracking frequency	Project Managers M&E Officer	Project database	KII (TB) Database query (TB)
10.3 IMC oversight of the	10.3.1 Extent of use made	Project Managers	IMC Meeting	KII (TB)

listed issues	of monitoring data 10.3.2 Existence of other mechanisms to ensure the issues were correctly addressed by the Project	IMC Members	minutes	KII (VV) Document review (VV)
---------------	---	-------------	---------	----------------------------------

EQ 11: What evidence is there to demonstrate that the IPs recognised the difference between targeting women and a gender sensitive approach, and that they actively pursued the latter over the former during Project implementation?

Evaluation criteria covered	Crosscutting issues			
Judgement criteria (JC)	Indicators (Ind)	Information sources		Methods / tools
		Primary	Secondary	
11.1 Adequacy of differentiation	11.1.1 Capacity to describe the difference between targeting women and gender sensitive approach in project design in general. 11.1.2 Capacity to explain the gender sensitive aspects of the FNS Project design and to justify any potential additional burden on women created by the design	HPA / FPP Country Directors (including former CDs) HPA / FPP Project Managers		KII (TB)
11.2 Project was implemented	11.2.1 Existence of gender strategy	Project Managers	ROM report	KII (TB) Document review (TB)

demonstrably sensitive	gender	11.2.2 Activity level gender-based burden analysis			
		11.2.3 Extent of implementation of ROM report recommendation			

Annex 5 Evaluation Methodology including: options taken, difficulties encountered and limitations; detail of tools and analyses

Options taken in the design of the evaluation

The principal factors that shaped the methodology of the evaluation were known at the time of our proposal preparation and were that a) the Team Leader would not be able to travel to Laos because of the Covid 19 pandemic; and b) that resources would only be sufficient for a two person team, with the second team member being a Laos based consultant who would need to do all of the fieldwork.

We saw this as an opportunity to improve the efficiency of use of human resources over typical evaluations that require Team Leader presence in-country for the opening meeting and the debriefing presentation, with the consequence that team member inputs largely overlap. In the case of this evaluation, by reducing overlap we were able to increase the Team Leader's time available for the Inception and Synthesis phases and the KE2's time available for fieldwork. This presented the possibility, which we embraced, of increasing the time for fieldwork from two to three weeks, enabling us to cover three districts and nine villages (50% of target districts and 9% of villages).

The same human resource limitation did not permit quantitative methods such as sample surveys to be considered. The evaluation tools that we selected were mainly the self-evident ones of document review, key informant interviews (KII), group discussions (we do not refer to them as focus group discussions as we were not focusing on specific issues) and field observation. On the basis of comments in the ROM report (Section 3.4) we understood that there would be a high quality database available and, since the baseline report had also encouraged the Project to undertake detailed examination of the survey database and expand on some of the issues to a wider range of villages, we included database enquiry as a further tool. This was of interest for two reasons. First because we were concerned that the logframe statements (especially the Specific Objective) and many of the indicators required detailed disaggregation of data and we wanted to examine how that had been handled; and second to be able to seek patterns in results according to village characteristics, such as distance from market, quality of groundwater and ethnic composition.

An evaluation tool that we would have liked to use, especially as the timing of fieldwork five months after the Project ended meant that an ex-post approach could be valid, was the case study. However the TOR were clearly aimed at a Final Evaluation with its numerous requirements, so the only possibility would have been to revert to two weeks of fieldwork for the main evaluation and to use the third week for a case study. We rejected this option at the proposal stage for two reasons. First we felt that using the third week to increase coverage of the main evaluation by 50% (increasing from two to three districts and six to nine villages) would provide more robust evidence, and second we did not have time within the field phase to identify a case study topic, design the study, plan the logistics and carry it out.

The selection of tools for each Evaluation Question is shown in the Evaluation Matrix.

Tools used in the Evaluation

Document review: this is a tool that enables a wide variety of secondary data (data not produced by the evaluation team itself) to be used to:

- provide background information, for instance about the Project's formulation process, or about topics not directly related to the Project, such as the NNSPA, Joint Programme, information about other projects etc
- explain the objectives of the Project and its activities – for instance the Description of the Action and the MOU
- provide data and information about project performance – for example the annual Narrative Reports, baseline, mid-term, endline and ROM reports
- demonstrate the nature of some of the activities, or the procedures used – for example training manuals, SBCC flipcharts, Farmers' Club record books, animal receipts etc

- demonstrate governance aspects, such as IMC and DNC meeting agendas, minutes and attendance sheets (although we were unable to obtain sufficient of these).

The list of documents consulted is presented in Annex 7, categorised into materials covering the formulation, design and performance of the Project; internal Project materials and resources; resources provided by informant during the fieldwork; and non-Project related documents. Much use has been made of these materials in this Evaluation Report and also in the Inception Report. They are credited in the text as sources of data or information and sometimes extracts are quoted directly from them (*in italics*)

Key Informant Interview (KII) is the main source of primary data used in this evaluation. Most of the key informants were directly or closely related to the Project – for instance former staff and managers, former coordination officers at Provincial and District level health, agriculture and Lao Women’s Union offices, Health Centre managers and Village Authorities. Others were associated with other projects and member states. The 24 male and 19 female key informants are listed in Annex 6.

The Evaluation Matrix indicates which EQs would be addressed by each category of informant and this was used as a tool to enable us to prepare separate checklists for each category. A numbering system was used to enable items on the checklists to be linked to the EQ sub-questions to facilitate compilation. All of the Provincial, District and Village level KIIs were conducted in person by the KE2, Vanxay Vang, with the exception of those involving the former Operations Manager and former Agriculture Officer. Those, and all of the other KIIs, were conducted remotely by the Team Leader, Tim Bene, in many cases with Mr Vang in attendance. Respondents were provided with informed consent forms and most of the interviews – both remote and in-person – were recorded to facilitate accurate note taking. The recordings will be deleted after acceptance of the Final Report.

Group Discussions. One of the features of the Project is the number of groups that it created and it was very important for us to meet group members and discuss their experiences with the Project. These meetings were mainly intended to cover the effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the Project, and they served well to triangulate with responses from district officials and with data and responses provided by the Project representatives. In all nine sampled villages we held group meetings with a total of 49 male and 60 female members of Farmers’ Clubs. Not all villages had Women’s Groups, but five of our sample did, and all other villages did have smaller groups of VHWs and VNVs (who were part of the Women’s Groups where they existed), and we met with these – in total 40 women and two men (Annex 6). The procedure for checklists preparation, and recording meetings was as for KIIs, and all participants verbally provided informed consent, with one signing on behalf of all.

Database enquiry It transpired that the Project did not have an M&E strategy and did not maintain a database of participants. HPA and FPP separately conducted their own monitoring of activities and indicators, using different spreadsheets for each activity. Therefore while it was possible to use some of this data to look at general performance of an activity (for instance the animal pass-on scheme), it was not possible to link this to households with, for example, a history of CU5 malnutrition, or by ethnic group. Furthermore the data provided to the Project M&E Officer by the baseline survey team was not in the form of a database, but consisted of a set of tables that could not be used for further analysis. Therefore we were unable to use this tool in the way we had hoped to – to be able to track participation and performance by the categories listed in the Specific Objective statement – but we did review the spreadsheets, draw on some of the data in a few of the findings, and form a general view about the reliability of the data.

Procedure for the fieldwork

During the Inception Phase we identified the three sample districts and nine villages. As we did not intend to collect quantitative data requiring rigorous sampling protocols we opted to select districts and villages purposively. Boualapha district was chosen because it had high baseline CU5 malnutrition; Thakek was chosen for being the Provincial capital and therefore providing a significant market for vegetable and small animal production; and Gnommalath for being included in previous

studies including the MTR. These districts were discussed with Project representatives, who shared them with their Provincial sector colleagues and all agreed with the selection.

Regarding village selection, the baseline survey had covered six villages in each district and we considered it would be interesting to purposively select two of these – one close to the district centre and one remote (at the time we assumed the baseline survey database would be provided to us). For the third village in each district we had hoped to choose a relocated village as these are known to have nutrition issues (which was also confirmed to us in one of the calls with Member States representatives, which had undertaken a project relating to relocated villages in a neighbouring district of Khammouane). We were informed there were no relocated villages among the project villages. Therefore it was decided to ensure we got coverage of a good combination of project activities and a range of low, medium and high baseline malnutrition rates. Most ER1 and ER2 activities were undertaken in all villages, but CLTS Nutrition (32 villages), seed banks (10) and producer groups (6) were exceptions and we wanted to ensure sufficient coverage of each. To expedite approvals for the fieldwork the Co-Applicants facilitated discussions with the DHOs and DAFOs to make a village selection based on these criteria which resulted in the village listed in the following table. The itinerary of the fieldwork, which took place between 20th January and 11th February 2022 is appended to this annex.

Throughout the fieldwork Mr Vang was accompanied by the former Project Coordinator, Dr Odai of the Provincial Health Office (now retired) and Mr. Bounheng Keovongkoth, Deputy Head of Hygiene and Health Promotion Section of PHO, who was officially nominated to accompany the team. HPA was unable to provide any former staff to participate and FPP missed the first two districts due to a logistical misunderstanding, but was represented in the visits to Thakek villages by Project Officer Olieng.

District	Village	Covered by Baseline Survey or Women-Food-Land	Proximity to District Centre	% HH w CU5 mal nutrition In 2019	Special Features
Boulapha	Napeng		Close	27	Producer group; Seed Bank; CLTS Nutrition
	Namorkhou		Remote	55	CLTS Nutrition
	Naphanung	Baseline	Close	40	
Yommalath	Phonesaed	Baseline and Women-Food-Land	Remote	32	CLTS Nutrition
	Tard	Baseline	Remote	49	CLTS Nutrition Seed Bank
	Natherd	Women-Food-Land	Close	38	
Thakhek	Nakhangxang		Close	34	Producer group; Seed Bank; CLTS Nutrition
	Muanglathkhuay		Remote	17	Seed bank
	Nonghang	Baseline	Remote	48	

In each district the fieldwork began on a Monday with meetings in the District Headquarters. On the same day the accompanying PHO officer worked with DHO staff to arrange the village and health centre meetings that were to be held on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This was done by telephone to the Village Authority, who was asked to be available for a key informant interview and to gather members of the Farmers' Club and Women's / VHW-VNV group at the appointed time, depending on travel time from the district centre. The DHO staff accompanied the team on those days. In the villages the KII with the Authority was held first, followed by the group meetings and ending with field observations of village cleanliness, latrine condition, and nearby agricultural activities such as demonstration plot and household individual vegetable gardens as detailed in the appendix.

Difficulties encountered and limitations

During the assignment, the following difficulties were encountered, some of which had more serious implications than most.

Absence of Team Leader from Lao PDR Although there was no choice about this, and as explained above we turned it somewhat to advantage by reallocating team member's inputs per phase, it was also a constraint. We missed the regular contact that would normally happen when the team would be regular visitors to – or possibly even based at – the Project office or NGO office in Vientiane. This contact makes it much easier not only to develop working relationships, but also to get a more comprehensive knowledge of the way the Project operated, to raise small issues before they get forgotten, nag for documents that don't get provided and jointly discuss priorities to follow-up, potential conclusions and recommendations etc. The basic work can be done remotely, but these nuances are missed, especially in the context of the next limitation.

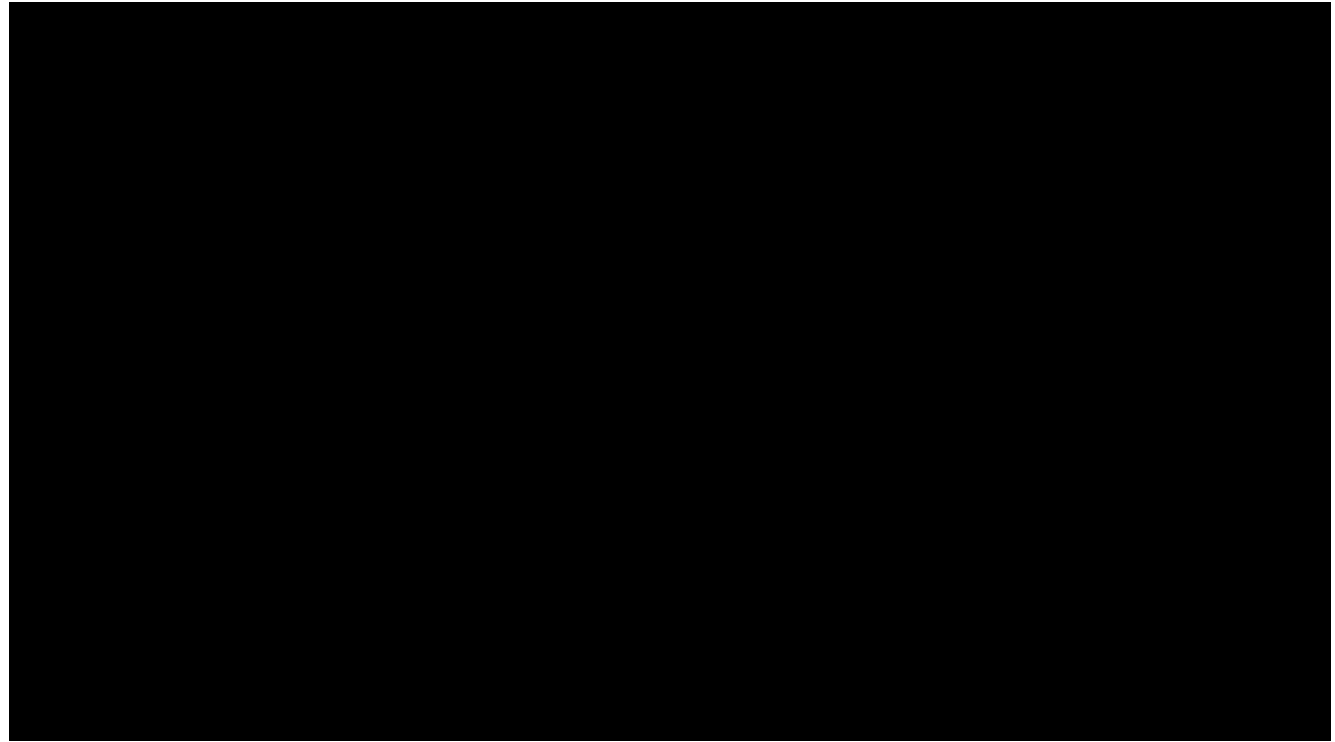
Absence of a Team Leader for the Project. We were given four contact points for the Project, when normally there would be one, and none of them could speak on behalf of the whole Project. This makes the above limitation four times more pertinent.

Lack of opportunity to field test the methodology and checklists. The compact time frame of the fieldwork made this impossible, as did the difficulty encountered in preparing timely meeting records (see below), which are needed in order to identify issues. Had we been able to do this we could have found different ways to ask certain questions that kept receiving similar answers. For instance the ER2 statement refers to a) preventing, b) responding to and c) managing the wider determinants of malnutrition, so we needed to ask respondents about each of those three aspects. Many of them gave the same answer for prevention and response, and there were not many good responses about the wider determinants.

Difficulty in preparing timely meeting records. Unfortunately with only one team member in the field, despite the fact that we tried to limit the number of meetings per day, it was not possible to write-up all meetings on the same day, and a backlog developed. It required more than a month after the end of the fieldwork for all the meetings to be written-up, and although the meetings had been recorded there was a loss of depth in the notes. In our experience there are two ways to do this better – by having two evaluators in each meeting, the number of meetings to be written-up per evaluator is halved, they put peer pressure on each other to write them on the same day and they also peer review each-others notes, resulting in better quality output; and second by having a much shorter and more focused checklist, but that would mean not being able to cover the multiple requirements of the TOR. One of the implications for this, taken together with the absence of a suitable database, is that we did not have the depth of data to identify differences related to category of village.

We did not have difficulty meeting people in the field as a result of Covid 19. This was a minor concern raised in the Inception report and we are pleased to say that the fieldwork progressed without serious difficulty in meeting people. It was the season for planting cassava and many farmers, both male and female, had to prioritise that as their fields were distant from the village, but

we did meet more than 100 members of Farmers' Clubs and more than 40 members of Women's /VHW-VNV groups as mentioned above, which we consider to be sufficient.



Annex 7 Documents Consulted

A. Documents concerning project from Identification to the end of implementation (chronological order)

Standalone Project Identification Fiche, 2012 / 023-724, 2012

Action Fiche Lao PDR/Food security and nutrition (with annexes), 2012

Correspondence between EU / MPI / MAF / MOH prior to signing FA, 2014

Financing Agreement with TAPS, signed December 2014

Partnership for Improved Nutrition in Lao PDR, Guidelines for Grant Applicants, Dec 2016

Grant Contract and Annexes, signed August 2017

Year 1 Interim Narrative Report, 2018

Memorandum of Understanding, January 2019

Baseline Survey, April 2019

Year 2 Interim Narrative Report, 2019

Newsletter #1, March 2020

Newsletter #2, June 2020

Midterm Review Report, August 2020

Year 3 Interim Narrative Report, 2020

Addendum #1 to Grant Contract, December 2020

ROM Report (Consolidated and Monitoring Questions), May 2021

Endline Report, draft version, December 2021

B. Internal Documents and Resources provided by the Project

Farmers' Club membership lists
Farmers' Club record books
Women's group database
Youth group database
Village lists by activity
Demo crop production figure spreadsheets for 6 districts
Land certificate for demo plot
Animal loan scheme summary data for 6 districts
Animal loan scheme receipts / agreements
Final SO indicator spreadsheets
Village and Schools WASH survey data
SBCC flipcharts
DNC training materials
Project summary endline data for Strategic Objective, ER2 & ER3

C. Documents obtained during the fieldwork in three districts

Boualapha DHO Report 2021-Plan 2022
CU5 Malnutrition 2019-2021 in 3 districts_Thakhek-Gnommalath-Boualapha – Emergency Nutrition Assessment (ENA)
DHO Gnommalath ENA 12-2021
Health Center of Gnommalath CU5 ENA 12,2021
DHO Thakhek Report on 22 Interventions for 9 Months and planning for last quarter of 2021 (draft for DNC)
PAFO Report 2021 and Planning for 2022
PAFO Review 5 Yrs Planned 2016-2020 _Plan 2021-2025 (Version 06.07.2021)

D. Other Documents

National Nutrition Strategy to 2025 and Plan of Action 2016-2020, December 2015
European Joint Programming for Lao People's Democratic Republic 2016–2020, June 2020
Mid-Term Report : European Joint Programming for Lao People's Democratic Republic 2016-2020, September 2018
Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Laos 2013-2014, EU Delegation
Project Documents of the other PIN Pillar 3 projects – AHAN, NUSAP, SCALING, SUNWIP
Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS) 2011-12, Lao Statistics Bureau
Lao Social Indicator Survey II (LSIS II) 2017, Lao Statistics Bureau

Silke STOEBER, Engsone SISOMPHONE, Chusana HAN, 2013: Women, Food and Land:

Joost Foppes and Vansy Sengyavong, 2017: Case Study on Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture in Lao PDR, Helvetas /FAO / MAF

Understanding the impact of gender on nutrition, food security and community resilience in Lao PDR, CARE / FAO

Annex 8 Comparison of Actions funded under PIN Pillar 3

Contract title	Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR CN: 387742	Accelerating Agriculture and Healthy Nutrition (AHAN) CN:388055	Scaling up WASH Nutrition and Infrastructure Programme (SUNWIP) CN: 388833	Sustainable Change Achieved through Linking Improved Nutrition and Governance (SCALING) CN: 387739	Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Project (NUSAP) CN: 387658
Provinces	Khammouane	Savannakhet Saravane Attapeu	Savannakhet, Khammouane (Saravane), (Attapeu)	Phongsaly, Luang Namtha Luang Prabang, Huaphan	Phongsaly, Luang Namtha Luang Prabang, Huaphan
EU Contribution	€2,600,000	€10,000,000	€15,000,000	€10,000,000	€5,000,000
Duration	39 months	48 months	52 months	48 months	48 months
Dists & Villages	6 districts 100 villages	12 dists 120 villages	10 -12 small-medium sized towns and village clusters in poor districts	14 districts 420 villages	14 districts 420 villages

Contract title	Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR CN: 387742	Accelerating Healthy Agriculture and Nutrition (AHAN) CN:388055	Scaling up Nutrition and WASH Programme (SUNWIP) CN: 388833	Sustainable Change Achieved through Linking Improved Nutrition and Governance (SCALING) CN: 387739	Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Project (NUSAP) CN: 387658
Expected Results	R1: Food security, resilience and dietary diversification in vulnerable communities is strengthened; R2: Increased community capacity to prevent, respond and manage the wider determinants of malnutrition through improved nutrition, nutrition sensitive and hygiene knowledge and practices amongst target communities; R3: Enhanced capacity of provincial and district level staff to lead multi-sectoral planning and improve coordination.	SO1: Improved access to and availability of sufficient and/or diverse foods year-round SO2: Improved dietary and care practices among Women of Reproductive Age and Children Under 5 SO3: Reduced incidence of selected Water, Sanitation and Hygiene related diseases/illnesses linked to undernutrition SO4: Improved gender equitable relations at the household level, particularly in decision-making and distribution of workload SO5: Strengthen multi-sector coordination and support for nutrition	R1 Improved access to clean water R2 Improved WASH Awareness R3 Strengthened WASH Governance	R1: Improved nutrition and hygiene-related behaviours and access to quality nutrition and RNMCH services in 14 target districts R2: Local environment mitigates adverse underlying causes of malnutrition in 14 target districts R3: Nutrition governance strengthened at district, kumban and community levels in 14 target districts	R1: GoL's institutional and technical capacity at provincial and district level will be strengthened in nutrition sensitive agriculture R2: Nutrition status is improved in vulnerable communities with particular attention on maternal and child health and nutrition R3: Vulnerable communities have access to and consume quality and diverse food throughout the year (agricultural products as well as non-timber forest products); and smallholders' production in farming activities with high nutrition impact is increased
NNSPA Priority 1 Interventions	1,2; 8,13,14; 15,16,17,18;	1,2, 13,14, 15, 16,17,18	1,3; 14 (project SO)	1,2,3; 13,14,28:	1,2,3; 13; 15,16,17,18
Dists & Villages	6 districts 100 villages	12 dists 120 villages	10 -12 small-medium sized towns and village clusters in poor districts	14 districts 420 villages	14 districts 420 villages

Contract title	Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR CN: 387742	Accelerating Healthy Agriculture and Nutrition (AHAN) CN:388055	Scaling up Nutrition and WASH Programme (SUNWIP) CN: 388833	Sustainable Change Achieved through Linking Improved Nutrition and Governance (SCALING) CN: 387739	Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Project (NUSAP) CN: 387658
Target groups	5000 Farmers; 25 Women Groups 100 Village Chiefs; 100 VHC; 100 WMC; 100 VHW; 150 TBA; 200 VNV. PHD; PAFO; 6 DHOs; 6 DAFOs PNC & Secretariat; 10 DNCs	2,400 Small farmers; 120 VVWs; 96 Rice Millers; 12 DHO staff; 12 District Hospital staff; 72 Health Centre staff; 120 VHV; 120LWU; 120 TBAs; 360 VWSMC; 64 government staff (multi-sector); and 3,600 caregivers.	Individual Schools Hospitals Restaurants and businesses Public Works staff at all levels HH	40,700 First 1,000 Day Households; 28,500 caregivers of young children; 420 villages including village committees & village leaders; Staff from 14 DHOs, DAFOs, LWU and LYU; 108 HC, 84 LSS; local vendors of WASH products, small shop owners of 14 districts; SUN-CSA; NNC; 4 PNC, 14 DNC	ca 20,000 HH PAFO and DAFO staff
Group approaches	Farmers' Clubs Producer groups Women's groups (PLA) Youth clubs Water facility mgmt groups	Farmers' groups Savings groups Nutrition groups VWSMCs	not group approach - individual HH connections and associated training, etc.	A range of peer support groups - eg breastfeeding mothers, young fathers, adolescent girls etc. VSLAs.	NSA Clubs Small-scale collective post-harvest investments; Linkages to SCALING peer groups

<p>Contract title</p>	<p>Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR CN: 387742</p>	<p>Accelerating Agriculture and Healthy Nutrition (AHAN) CN:388055</p>	<p>Scaling up WASH Nutrition and Infrastructure Programme (SUNWIP) CN: 388833</p>	<p>Sustainable Change Achieved through Linking Improved Nutrition and Governance (SCALING) CN: 387739</p>	<p>Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Project (NUSAP) CN: 387658</p>
<p>Strategic foci</p>	<p>Focus on community-based approaches</p> <p>Nutrition sensitive agriculture</p> <p>Nutrition specific outreach services</p> <p>Environment, WASH and nutrition awareness raising</p> <p>Nutrition governance</p>	<p>Multi-sectoral approach encompassing:</p> <p>food security; dietary and care practices; sanitation and sanitary practices;</p> <p>intra-household gender relations; and multi-sectoral coordination for nutrition</p>	<p>To mitigate the nutritional impact of diarrhoeal disease and accelerate nutritional gains.</p>	<p>1) improvements in nutrition and hygiene-related behaviours and access to quality nutrition and RNMCH services;</p> <p>2) mitigating underlying (environmental) causes of malnutrition ; and</p> <p>3) ensuring that local experience and context inform national policy, and strengthen local implementation of national policies, plans & strategies.</p>	<p>Improved nutrition sensitive agriculture;</p> <p>Improved diets of the nutritionally vulnerable;</p> <p>Improved nutrition governance.</p>

Contract title	Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR CN: 387742	Accelerating Healthy Agriculture and Nutrition (AHAN) CN:388055	Scaling up Nutrition and WASH Infrastructure Programme (SUNWIP) CN: 388833	Sustainable Change Achieved through Linking Improved Nutrition and Governance (SCALING) CN: 387739	Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Project (NUSAP) CN: 387658
Technical approaches	<p>Agricultural demonstration plots</p> <p>SBCC</p> <p>Participatory Learning & Action</p> <p>Model Villages / Model HH</p> <p>Youth engagement</p>	<p>FS: Production pathways and income pathways; village rice mills; local markets</p> <p>Nutrition sensitive and specific approaches - IYCF, C-Change etc</p> <p>Sanitation - CLTS, minor infrastructure, hygiene promotion</p> <p>Gender - C-Change, labour saving practices</p> <p>Multi sectoral - information, capacity and resources to plan and coordinate inter-sectoral and multi-stakeholder interventions</p>	<p>WASH infrastructure installation and initial O&M;</p> <p>Improved WASH awareness among beneficiary communities;</p> <p>Improved WASH governance</p>	<p>LANN iNuW</p> <p>SBCC Supply and demand side of WASH products</p> <p>Gender and social equity</p>	<p>Direct implementation by MAF/PAFOs/DAFOs</p> <p>Improved knowledge on NSA, and improved nutrition behaviour;</p> <p>Improved diets of vulnerable groups.</p>

NB This annex is based on a review of Project Documents. Some details might have changed during implementation.

Annex 9 Baseline data and updated targets

Indicator	Proposal (%)		Baseline Household Survey January 2019			Project Screening 2019			Updated target (%)
	Baseline	Target	Value	M	F	Value (%)	Proportion M	Proportion F	
SOC.i1: CU5 MAM	6	5				4.11	38.9	67.1	3.8
SOC.i2: CU5 SAM (m/f)	1.4	1.0				1.0	80	20	0.8
SOC.1.3a: women / girl anaemia	36	23				12.7		100	10.0
SOC.i3b: CU5 anaemia (m/f)	41	30				0.5		100	10.0
SOC.i4a: CU5 Vit A deficient (m/f)	28	15				66 %provision of Vit A			80 %provision of Vit A
SOC.i4b: CU2 Vit A deficient (m/f)	50	25				63 %provision			80 %provision
SOC.i5a: Food groups consumed (m/f; pregnant/not; CU5)		25% Increase by 1 group (20% CU5)	#groups	HH	CU5				No change
			3-4	70	68				
			2	23	21				
			1	6	10				
SOC.i5b: Increased consumption of iron-rich / fortified foods (m/f; pregnant/not; CU5)		20% increase	92% CU5 meat/fish 77% CU5 green veg						No change
SOC.i6 Budget allocation as a result of multisectoral planning		10% increase				17.2 (PHO)			20
Op1.i1: HH consume at least 2 meals per day over last year (m/f; adult/teen; CU5)		20% increase	97% had 3 meals the prior day (Jan 2017)						Under review
Op1.i2: Target farmers able to buy necessary food items for a		22%				74%			80%

Indicator	Proposal (%)		Baseline Household Survey January 2019			Project Screening 2019			Updated target (%)
	Baseline	Target	Value	M	F	Value (%)	Proportion M	Proportion F	
healthy diet						(Project, Jan 2020)			
Op1.i3: % target farmers (m/f) who increase veg/crop diversity by a)1, b)2 items	0 0	80 50							No change
Op1.i4: % postharvest losses (m/f)		50% decrease	43% farmers reported some losses						No change
Op1.i5: Proportion target farmers having increased agricultural income (m/f) (disaggregated by 20/40/60/80% increases)	0	80%							No change
Op1.i6: %Farmers reporting an sell excess produce (m/f)		25% increase	80% did not produce excess to sell						No change
Op1.i7: % farmers engaged in postharvest food processing in past year	0	50%	19%						
Op1.i8: % farmers having received pass-on animals	0	50%	7%						
Op1.i9: Farmers w access to water for irrigation	10%	80%	10%						
Op2.i1:CBA women who a) Correctly identify 3 good practices for food cooking / prep / storage b) reject at least 1 food myth		15% increase 10% increase	82% (recognise 8) 27%						No change
Op2.i2: CU5 screened for malnutrition at community level	0	16,600	76%						No change

Indicator	Proposal (%)		Baseline Household Survey January 2019			Project Screening 2019			Updated target (%)
	Baseline	Target	Value	M	F	Value (%)	Proportion M	Proportion F	
			(5,530)						
Op2.i3: CU5 EPI/ deworming / VitA (m/f)		80% increase	66% 63% 54%						80% absolute
Op2.i4 mothers w CU1 attending ANC / PNC	a1-3 ANC:57 b 4 ANC: 18 c PNC: x	a:70% b: 25% c: 10% increase	a: 66% b: 20% c: 37%						a:85 b: 27 c: 45
Op2.i5: 6-23m complementary foods		15% increase	50%						80%
Op2.i6 CU5 diarrhoea ORT		80%	92%						90% indicator under review
Op2.i7: 6m exclusive breastfeeding	13%	30%	51%						60%
Op2.i8: HH using: Contaminated water source	50	20	46						30
Open defecation	80	20	75						40
No soap	50	25	64						45
Op2.i9: %HH with: Means of water treatment Access to clean water source Latrine		Increase by: 70% 80% 20%	65% 63% 70%						No change

Annex 10 Data quality control example

This is one example of Project provided data that appears unreliable. There are similar examples for other districts. Such a large amount of '50', '45' and '40' values, and no other values, should prompt a thorough quality control review. In particular note 1.8: It is impossible that all farmers could have received animals. Separate Project provided data for Gnommalath farmers receiving pass-on animals (directly plus first rotation) is 327, which is only 39% of the 845 reported here.

ລ/ດ	ກດຈະກາ MOU Indicators	ຈານວນຊາວກະສກອນ / Gnommalath (17 Project villages)																ຈານວນລວມຂອງຊາວກະສກອນ	
		Phonesee	Phonethat	Pomkhoun	Tard	Kaunphanh	Khoksavang	Phonekeo	Hard zone	Natherd	Thath	Phonesad	Xiengdao	Tarlak	Thachone	Chakaun	Khamhae		Thongkong
ຜນໄດຮບ1: ຮບປະກນຄວາມໝນ ຄງດານສະບຽງອາຫານເພອການຟນຟແລະຄວາມຫາກຫາຍຂອງອາຫານໃນຊມຊນທມຄວາມສຽງ																			
1.1	ຈານວນຂອງສະມາຊກໃນຄອບຄວໄດກນອາຫານ 3 ຄາບຕມ 75% HH members eating at least 3 meals a day	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	850
1.2	ຈານວນຂອງກມເປາຫມາຍຊາວກະສກອນຈະມອາຫານ,ເຊງເປນອາຫານທມຄນປະ ໂຫຍດຕສຂະພາບ 75% of target farmers with a complete healthy diet.	45	50	50	45	50	43	40	45	45	50	50	50	45	50	40	50	45	793
1.3	ຈານວນຂອງກມເປາຫມາຍຊາວກະສກອນຈະມສວນຜກໃຫມທປກຜກຫລາກຫລາຍຊະນດ 75% of target farmers with diversified production with new crops / vegetables	45	45	45	40	45	45	50	50	40	50	50	50	50	40	50	50	50	795
1.4	ຈນວນຂອງກມເປາຫມາຍຊາວກະສກອນຕອງຮບປະກນບໃຫມຜນເສຍຫາຍຫລງການເກບກຽວ 75% of target farmers reduce post-harvest losses.	50	50	40	40	50	40	40	50	45	50	50	40	40	40	45	40	40	750

1.5	ຈານວນຂອງກມຊາວກະສກອນຈະມລາຍຮບເພມຂນຈາກຜນຜະລດກະສກາ 75% of target farmers with increased agricultural income.	50	40	50	40	40	45	40	50	40	50	50	45	45	40	40	45	45	755
1.6	ຈານວນຂອງກມເປາຫມາຍຊາວກະສກອນສາມາດຂາຍຜນຜະລດສວນຫເຫລອກນ 75% of target farmers able to sell excess produce.	45	40	45	40	40	50	45	40	40	50	40	45	45	40	45	50	40	740
1.7	ຈານວນຂອງກມເປາຫມາຍຊາວກະສກອນຈະໄດສງເສມໃນການເຮດອາຫານແປຮບຫລງເກບກງວ 75% of target farmers who have engaged in post-harvest food processing.	50	50	50	50	50	50	40	40	50	50	40	50	50	50	40	50	50	810
1.8	ຈານວນຊາວກະສກອນຕບານຈະໄດຮບສດລຽງຫມນວຽນຂອງໂຄງການທງຫມດ 2,500 target farmers who have received pass-on loan animals	50	50	45	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	845
1.9	ຈານວນຂອງກມເປາຫມາຍຊາວກະສກອນຈະເຂາເຖງແຫລງນາ/ການສະຫນອງຊນລະປະທານຂະຫນາດນອຍ 75% of target farmers with access to water / irrigation	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	850

Annex 11 Animal pass-on loan scheme

The animal pass-on loan scheme involves provision of 'seed' animals to members of Farmers' Clubs on the understanding that they will pass on the same number of firstborn female offspring of those animals to other members, with the same proviso. The number of recipients and animals varied according to the type of animal and between the two rounds of distribution. It seems that in the first distribution every target village (i.e. 100 villages) received ducks and chickens, usually with eight members receiving 5 ducks and a different eight members receiving 5 chickens. In about half of the villages around nine members received three goats each and also in about half of the villages, with limited overlapping, about eight farmers received two pigs each. There was more variability in distribution in the second round and in many cases households received only 1 or 2 chickens or ducks. The Project provided district-wise data about the status of the scheme at the end of the Project, which can be summarised as follows:

	Animals				Farmers		
	initial distribution	newborn	rotation	%	initial distribution	rotation	%
Goats	146	126	34	23	49	23	47
Pigs	98	29	4	4	49	2	4
Chicken	4278	1999	254	6	850	69	8
Ducks	4930	1327	189	4	944	84	9

The distribution data above tallies closely with the first round of distribution reported in the Project's Year 3 Interim Narrative Report, so there has been sufficient time for reproduction and pass-on of the first-born. If the farmers were keeping to their commitments then we would expect to see the numbers of rotated animals and rotation farmers approaching the same number as those distributed, especially for the chicken and ducks that have fast reproductive cycles. There has been initial progress with goats, whereby the 34 animals rotated represent 23% of the 146 originally distributed. But with 126 newborns, and assuming 50% females, the number of rotated animals should be around 60, although some may still have been weaning. It appears that some farmers must have passed on two kids to two different farmers, explaining the difference in proportion of animals rotated and farmers receiving them (reaching 47% of the original number of farmers). This raises the question of how many goats are needed to operate a pass-on scheme and whether one will be enough to support a second rotation.

It is possible that most pigs had not reached breeding age as 29 newborns only represents about 5 litters. If that is the case then the pass-on seems to be on track at 4%.

	distributed	died	%
Goats	146	45	31
Pigs	98	32	33
Chicken	4278	2739	64
Ducks	4930	2405	49

The figures for chicken and duck reproduction and rotation are very low. The Project collected mortality rates explain this. The mortality of goats and pigs was more than 30% which is high and the rates for chicken and ducks are extremely high. This was confirmed during the evaluation fieldwork. While it was not possible to collect full details during the visits, the tables below summarise information provided to us orally by Village Authorities and Farmers' Club discussion group members. It therefore refers to the situation in early

2022 and hence about 6 months after the project closed.

Name of village	Goats

	No. of HHs	Received	Died	Remaining	New HHs received goats
Nam Orhou	2	3	2	1	0
Napeng					
Naphanang					
Phonsaed	3	9	0	17	12
Tard					
Natherd					
Nakhangxang					
Nonghang	1	3		5	0
Muangladkhuay	1	3	2	9	0

Name of villages	Pigs					
	No. of HHs	Received	Died	Sold	Remaining	New HHs received pigs
Nam Orhou						
Napeng	2	4	2	0	2	0
Naphanang	1	2	2	14 (piglets) for 5.9m kip	0	0
Phonsaed						
Tard		2	2			
Natherd	1	2	0	0	5	0
Nakhangxang	1	2	0	5.000.000Kip	11	2
Nonghang						
Muangladkhuay						

Name of villages	Chickens				
	No. of HHs	Received	Died	Remaining	New HHs received chickens
Nam Orhou	16	80	35	115	7
Napeng	8	40	28	92	15
Naphanang	16	40	40	0	0
Phonsaed	43	56	Some	Unknown	0
Tard		60	90%	Unknown	0

Natherd	10	70	Some	Unknown	0
Nakhangxang	14	70	Some	88	3
Nonghang	14	70	37	Unknown	2
Muangladkhuay	14	70	many	Unknown	0

Name of villages	Ducks				
	No. of HHs	Received	Died	Remaining	New HHs received ducks
Nam Orhou	8	40	17	23	0
Napeng	8	40	Many	60	15
Naphanang	8	40	Many	Unknown	2
Phonsaed	23	26	Some	Unknown	0
Tard		40	90%	Unknown	0
Natherd	10	100	some	Unknown	0
Nakhangxang	4	20		121	3
Nonghang	8	80	Almost all	18	1
Muangladkhuay	8	80	Some	Unknown	0

The data from the field, which is a small sample, has a higher mortality rate for pigs (50%) than the Project data, and it is interesting that in Naphanang two provided pigs died after having piglets that the owner sold. This suggests that their mortality was not connected with the quality of animal provided. However chicken and duck mortality was high in most villages. Project and DAFO staff, and some of the Farmers' Club members said that in some cases cross-bred chickens suitable for intensive production in chicken houses had been provided, and they were unable to survive outdoors. Some also said that the provided animals had been too small. Naturally with poultry the question of vaccination arises, but this does not seem to have been the problem. The Project ensured vaccination of the provided animals and trained VNVs to vaccinate animals prior to rotation using a fund that scheme participants are supposed to maintain. But a lot of vaccinated animals have died.

With the exception of Napeng village, the pass-on rate of ducks and chickens to new farmers has been around 9-10%, which is similar to the Project reported data. In Napeng village the pass on rate of both types of animal has been very high – nearly 200%.

Topics that would be interesting for further investigation and to inform new projects that might want to include animal pass-on schemes are:

- Identify the problem instead of specifying a solution. Study the issues concerning small livestock in every target village. Does a problem exist? What is the solution? Be clear about the objective:

Ducks and chicken provide eggs and are a suitable size for household consumption. But very many households already keep them. It might be better to identify the constraint for those who do not keep them and try to fix that (it might not be a supply issue) than to set up a pass-on scheme

Goats and pigs may be more suitable for sale than for home consumption and therefore would be better targeted to commercially minded farmers with access to a market. This requires careful selection not only for the first recipient but also for the pass-on recipients; the project would need a strategy for that.

- Don't try to hurry the scheme. A major challenge is to keep the animals alive. Therefore a lot of training and preparation is needed prior to distributing the animals. Animal housing is important and fodder production or feed supply is essential for some animals. It is not enough to ask for a commitment from recipients – they should build the housing, plant the fodder or arrange the supply, and it should be inspected by the project and found adequate before their animals are procured.
- Create peer pressure to keep the scheme going. Have a known list of downstream farmers who can keep the current owner motivated. It could perhaps be circular so that after several rotations the original farmer gets a turn and the cycle starts again.
- Develop a mechanism for a virtual reserve of rotating animals (a bit like a seed bank), so that if all the animals belonging to one recipient die or fail to reproduce, one of the other recipients provides an allocated 'reserve animal' to the next farmer of the first group so that the cycle can continue.

Annex 12: Evolution of Crosscutting Issues and Approaches in planning documents

Issue	Identification Fiche	Action Fiche and TAPs	Call for Proposals Guidelines
Gender	<p>“Given the nature of related MDGs off track, women will be the main beneficiaries of the action. ”</p>	<p>“women play a key role in food security and nutrition and have different needs and roles in daily life than men, but don’t always have the same rights and opportunities. The role and needs of women and gender equality are not always sufficiently addressed in food security related projects in Lao PDR”</p> <p>“The project will have to ensure that women are fully incorporated at all levels and that specific needs of women and men are addressed; also it needs to be ensured that no additional work load is put upon the shoulders of women. Respecting and implementing rights for women, like the right to breastfeed, women’s labor rights, land and inheritance rights, and acknowledge them as producers and economic actors are the way to ensure gender equality in food security as well. The rights of the child related to their nutritional security will contribute to the focus on the 1,000 days window of opportunity.”</p> <p>“Women and children will have a special focus in the project’s target group. They tend to be the worst affected by malnutrition and closing the gender gap is shown to have beneficial effects on the entire household, also in food security and nutrition related interventions. The main project indicator will be the reduction in severity and magnitude of malnutrition in women and</p>	<p>“The promotion of gender equality and (young) women’s rights is fundamental to this Call for Proposals and instrumental in achieving results. With specific regard to gender equality, applicants are invited to analyse relevant gender gaps and to integrate, in the proposed actions, initiatives in support to gender equality and/or (young) women empowerment what regards nutrition challenges in Laos. ”</p>

Issue	Identification Fiche	Action Fiche and TAPs	Call for Proposals Guidelines
Environment	“The project will ensure that approaches will be sustainable and ecologically efficient, particularly with regards to the use of forest – a key source of food for rural population.”	children.” [the statement below comes under <i>Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability</i>]	Compulsory for the action to include: “A description of how the environment and climate change-related aspects of the proposed action will be addressed, if applicable, to ensure the environmental sustainability and climate resilience of the proposed action, where relevant.”
Climate Change	[the statement above comes under <i>Environment and Climate Change</i>]	“Apart from drought and rodents, water, even though being essential, also presents the most serious threat to the vulnerable population and their food security. The Mekong River plays a pivotal role in Lao PDR but is also a cause of flooding, which may aggravate as a result of climate change. Climate change is also expected to lead to a longer annual dry season, more intensive rainfall events and more frequent and severe drought. There is an urgent need to strengthen adaptation efforts and implement a comprehensive programme that addresses key barriers to adaptation in the agricultural sector at all levels. The project contributes by awareness raising and resilience building.”	See above.
SDGs and their interlinkages	Identification pre-dated the SDGs	Pre-dated the SDGs	Not mentioned

Issue	Identification Fiche	Action Fiche and TAPs	Call for Proposals Guidelines
Leave No one Behind	Not included	Not mentioned	Not mentioned
Rights Based Approach	Not included	<p>Women’s rights and child rights – covered under Gender above.</p> <p>“Food security is acknowledged as a basic human right under international law.”</p> <p>“The Right to Food approach may be useful whilst addressing the problems and constraints of poor farmers, whose situation has been aggravated by loss of their land as a result of for instance land concessions for rubber and other commercial plantations, hydropower dams or mining. The Right to Food also facilitates the incorporation of links between gender equality and nutrition, since all citizens are regarded as having equal rights and should be allowed equally to fulfill their nutritional needs.”</p>	Only mentioned in scoring grid (see below) – “rights of minorities and rights of indigenous peoples”
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Other issues raised and pertinent information</p>	<p>“Governance - The issue of resettlement in villages will be followed up and experience from the field will feed into the central level, through the INGO network and the round table process.”</p> <p>Gender and environment questionnaires were stated to have been submitted to oQSG (not seen by us)</p>	<p>“Commercial agriculture is prioritized. Involvement of and benefits for local farmers are promised but only seldom fulfilled; on the contrary, poor farmers around resettlement, hydropower, mining, and agribusiness areas are often worse off than before.”</p> <p>Gender Equality Screening Checklist (GESCF) to be used at project formulation was annexed to the Action Fiche (seen by us)</p>	<p>“Particular attention should be paid to cross-cutting principles such as empowerment, participation and non-discrimination of vulnerable groups.”</p> <p>“Applications should anticipate a methodology and an initial set of indicators allowing data gathering and monitoring of the implementation of the said cross-cutting issues throughout the action based on available</p>

Issue	Identification Fiche	Action Fiche and TAPs	Call for Proposals Guidelines
			<p>data where relevant.”</p> <p>Scoring grid (for 5 out of 30 points under Relevance:</p> <p>“2.4. Does the proposal contain specific added-value elements, such as environmental issues, promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities, needs of disabled people, rights of minorities and rights of indigenous peoples, or innovation and best practices [and the other additional elements indicated under 1.2. of these guidelines]?”</p>

Issue	Description of the Action (annexed to Grant Contract & Amendment)
Gender	<p>“The activities of the Action promote the participation of women as well as men, thereby ensuring gender equality and also take into account the needs of people with disabilities, children and the elderly.” (p8)</p> <p>Consideration of most marginalised groups: The project is focused on improving the nutritional health of <u>rural, EM and other marginalised people</u> by meeting their specific needs. By engaging with EM community members, especially TBAs, and developing their participation as Agents of Change, services will be tailored to respond to cultural contexts and challenge taboos and beliefs that reinforce malnutrition. <u>Women and girls</u> will, for the first time, have the opportunity to participate in peer education and PLA practices improving their knowledge and become active and positive role models for other women. (p23)</p>
Environment	<p>‘In addition, care will be taken to ensure that there are no negative environmental impacts by promoting environmental protection, energy saving and women labour reduction practices: community rubbish collection, tree planting, adoption of cook stoves which burn rice husks not firewood.’ (p8)</p>

	<p>“The overall project design effectively integrates environmental issues into its strategy with particular attention to climate change and sustainable use of natural resources. It will introduce and reinforce the use of climate smart agriculture production systems such as conservation agriculture (CA). Training and practices will emphasise: (i) minimum soil disturbance; (ii) minimum tillage; (iii) mulching and minimal burning of crop residues; (iv) mixing and rotating crops; and (v) efficient use of inputs. Farmers will be trained in planting crops in the forest, to substitute indiscriminate collection of NTFP. Project activities will include promotion of water management practices, and sustainable farming methods in the demonstration plots and backyard gardens. The biomass gasifiers for drying/smoking and food processing produce clean energy from gasification of rice hulls, eliminate smoke in the kitchen and generate biochar as a by-product which is used as natural fertiliser for vegetable gardens and animal fodder. Negative environmental impacts will be mitigated as much as possible.</p> <p>” (p35)</p>
Climate Change	See above
SDGs and their interlinkages	Not mentioned
Leave No one Behind	Not mentioned
Rights Based Approach	<p>“The Action addresses cross-cutting issues, focusing on the rights of minority peoples to good nutrition, access to basic services and increased knowledge on health, nutrition and water and sanitation issues.” (p8)</p> <p>See also Marginalised Groups under Gender above.</p>
Others	<p>“The action will address the <u>call’s value added elements</u>: It contributes to local empowerment by working closely with and building the capacity of PHD, PAFO and SODA. Secondment of PHD staff to the project will ensure engagement, leadership and coordination of multi-sectoral actions, through the PNC. At village level the project will be locally-led, actively engaging non state actors, local bodies (e.g. VHC) as well as men and women from ethnic communities ” (p5)</p> <p>“The action also directly responds to all of the <u>call’s cross-cutting issues</u>: It has a strong focus on participation as well as empowerment for community actors, particularly those who are often excluded: ethnic minority women, women</p>

	<p>headed HHs, urban poor, migrants and youth.” (p5)</p> <p>“Action will target the 6 most vulnerable districts of Khammuane... where stunting rates are highest... and where up to 76% of the target population belongs to 7 EM groups.” (p10)</p> <p>Grant Contract Annex VI – Final Narrative Report Format (but not included in Interim Narrative Report):</p> <p>“2.5 Explain how the Action has mainstreamed cross-cutting issues such as promotion of human rights, gender equality, democracy, good governance, children’s rights and indigenous peoples, environmental sustainability and combating HIV/AIDS (if there is a strong prevalence in the target country/region)”</p>
--	--

There is no mention of crosscutting issues in the MOU. However the MOU did have annexed to it the ‘Project Design Document’ (presumably the DoA) and the contract between HPA and the EU, which also has the DoA annexed. These annexes were not referred to in the text of the MOU and hence carry no weight, and were not included electronically in the MOU file.

Annex 13: Evolution of the FSN Project

The Project Identification Fiche (PIF) for the Project was prepared in Q1 2012, the successful grant proposal was submitted by Health Poverty Action (HPA) in Q2 2017 and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Secretariat of the National Nutrition Committee (NNC) and HPA was signed in Q1 2019. In the intervening seven years there were several changes in context, in particular the transition from MDG1 to SDG2 with its emphasis on nutrition, the signing of the NNSPA, formation of its governance system including the NNC, and the formulation of the PIN, and a number of modifications to the Project design (for example in the Action Fiche, TAPs and Call for Proposal Guidelines). The results chains applied at each stage are presented side-by-side in Table A1 below, enabling easy comparison. It can be seen that they have remained very similar throughout the period. The main change was to Expected Result 3 (ER3), the institutional capacity building outcome that originally included a policy dialogue element which was removed as PIN Pillar 1 included policy dialogue. There were also considerable changes in the wording of the results chain in the winning grant proposal that subsequently became the Project's Description of the Action. These changes enabled the emphasis of the intervention logic to move closer to the multisectoral nutrition approach of the PIN from the original FSTP SP3 LRRD approach. For instance the Overall Objective refers for the first time to the NNSPA and also references SDG2, while the Specific Objective moves away from the original concept of food and nutrition security to the dual concepts of nutritional status and food security, and for the first time in the Project's evolution it specifies children under five years old (CU5) and women of childbearing age (CBA women) among its focal groups.

Furthermore, ER1 has reduced emphasis on shocks, implying that communities can be implicitly vulnerable to undernutrition, and ER2 gives more elaboration to multisectoral nutrition and nutrition sensitive approaches. These changes are positive from a nutrition perspective. However this version of ER2 does not specify agriculture among its nutrition sensitive approaches as it had been in all earlier formulation stages, and this has the potential effect of reducing prospects for convergence.

As can be seen from Table A2 below, which compares the foreseen activities at significant formulation and design stages, there are several slight but potentially significant differences to the nature of planned activities. The activities for Expected Result 1 (ER1) are very similar to those foreseen even in the Identification Fiche. Activities for ER2 are largely similar to those foreseen, but the awareness raising on nutrition sensitive agriculture appears to have been discarded. This has the effect of ER1 becoming 'Agriculture' and ER2 becoming 'Health and hygiene', with no explicit mechanism to integrate them. Thus it would be possible for the two ERs to be implemented independently, and this adds to the concern raised above about convergence. Finally, activities for ER3 are very similar to those foreseen from the outset and have been specified in a manner more appropriate to the context of the NNS. The main change is that the intended coordination and synergy with other PIN Pillar 3 projects (EU-funded projects operating in other provinces with similar objectives for multisectoral nutrition through scaling up the NNSPA Priority Interventions), was changed in the MOU to coordination and synergy with other food and nutrition interventions in Khammouane province.

Table A1: Evolution of the Results Chain

	Identification Fiche (Q1 2012)	Action Fiche (undated)	TAPs (Q1 2013)	CFP (Q4 2016)	Grant Contract (Q3 2017) and MOU (Q1 2019)
Overall Objective	To contribute to the achievement of MDG 1 in Lao PDR, through increased sustainable food security of vulnerable groups in rural areas of Lao PDR.	Contribute to the achievement of MDG 1 "Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty" in Lao PDR.	Contribute to the achievement of MDG 1 "Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty" in Lao PDR.	Directly contribute to the achievement of SDG 2 "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture". This is building on the GoL's convergence approach and commitment to integrate its priority interventions in the 8th NSEDP (2016-2020)	Contribution to improved nutrition and food security towards achieving Priority 1 of Lao PDR National Nutritional Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020, and SDG2.
Specific Objective	Increased food security of vulnerable groups in rural areas of Lao PDR in a sustainable manner.	Food and nutrition security of the poor population in target villages and households in Central Lao PDR improved.	Food and nutrition security of the poor population in target villages and households in central Lao PDR improved.	Improve food and nutrition security among rural households and create sustainable agricultural wealth at the village and household level.	Improve nutritional status and food security in 5,000 vulnerable households in 100 villages of 6 districts with special focus on children under 5, women of CBA including ethnic minority women HHs, urban poor and migrants - and youth.
Expected Result 1	Rural communities are better prepared, capable and resilient to cope with recurring 'lean' seasons and external shocks.	Vulnerable communities are better prepared, capable and resilient to cope with recurring 'lean' seasons and external shocks.	Vulnerable communities are better prepared, capable and resilient to cope with recurring 'lean' seasons and external shocks.	Vulnerable communities are better prepared, capable and resilient to cope with recurring 'lean' seasons and external shocks.	Food security, resilience and dietary diversification in vulnerable communities is strengthened.
Expected Result 2	Nutrition status is improved in rural areas through linking nutrition, agriculture and food security.	Nutrition status is improved in vulnerable communities through linking nutrition security improvements to food security related improvements.	Nutrition status is improved in vulnerable communities through linking nutrition security improvements to food security related improvements.	Nutrition status is improved in vulnerable communities through linking nutrition security improvements to food security related improvements.	Increased community capacity to prevent, respond and manage the wider determinants of malnutrition through improved nutrition, nutrition sensitive and hygiene knowledge and practices amongst target communities.

	Identification Fiche (Q1 2012)	Action Fiche (undated)	TAPs (Q1 2013)	CFP (Q4 2016)	Grant Contract (Q3 2017) and MOU (Q1 2019)
Expected Result 3	n/a	Evidence-based policy dialogue and capacity of the Government are increased at provincial and district levels regarding the link between food and nutrition security. [NB – this was ER1 in the AF, but reordered here for consistency]	Enhanced capacity of the Government at sub-national level to address food and nutrition insecurity.	Enhanced capacity of the Government at sub-national level to address food and nutrition insecurity.	Enhanced capacity of provincial and district level staff to lead multi-sectoral planning and improve coordination.

Table A2: Comparison of planned activities at different stages of the preparation

	Identificaton Fiche	Action Fiche and TAPs	Call for Proposals	Grant Contract	MOU
ER1 Resilience of vulnerable communities	<p>Examples of activities include:</p> <p>agriculture improvement and diversification</p> <p>access to seeds</p> <p>access to market</p> <p>integrated smallholders value chains</p> <p>small scale irrigation, etc.</p>	<p>combinations of various multi-sectoral investments and activities (e.g. food diversification, specific farming enterprises like bee keeping,</p> <p>commercial growing of NTFPs, fruit trees, livestock, fish raising, small-scale irrigation and</p> <p>infrastructure, village rice mill, food storage, communal land registration, etc) and including LANN and WASH approaches</p> <p>□ improving access to resources and markets, as well as forming and strengthening farmers groups and associations.</p>	<p>• combinations of various multi-sectoral investments and activities (e.g. food diversification, specific farming enterprises like bee keeping, commercial growing of NTFPs, fruit trees, livestock, fish raising,</p> <p>small-scale irrigation and infrastructure, village rice mill, food storage, communal land registration, etc.),</p> <p>using a variety of different approaches such as possibly LANN, WASH or even IYCF approaches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and training of 20 Farming Instructors and 3 Agriculture Facilitators • Creation of 100 Farmers Clubs • Preparation of 100 demonstration plots for crops farming • Preparation of 100 demonstration vegetable gardens • Training on climate-smart agriculture and other sustainable agricultural practices • Establishment of 10 seeds banks • Adoption of small-scale water systems for irrigation • Training of Trainers on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) Methodologies • Training in animal husbandry and set-up animal pass-on-loan schemes • Introduction of innovative techniques of food processing, preparation and storage 	<p>1.1. Recruitment and training of 20 Farming Instructors to provide training to target communities.</p> <p>1.2. Creation of 100 Farmers Clubs by providing training, support materials for planting and raising animals and facilitate learning through village-to-village tour visits.</p> <p>1.3. Preparation demonstration plots for crops farming and demonstration vegetable gardens per village.</p> <p>1.4. Training on climate-smart agriculture and other sustainable agricultural practices.</p> <p>1.5. Establishment of 10 seeds banks and training on management.</p> <p>1.6. Support and repair of small-scale water systems for irrigation</p> <p>1.7. Training of Trainers on System of Rice</p>

	Identificaton Fiche	Action Fiche and TAPs	Call for Proposals	Grant Contract	MOU
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of 6 Producers Groups (Cooperatives) and procure processing equipment for them 	<p>Intensification (SRI) methodologies.</p> <p>1.8. Training in animal husbandry and set-up animal pass-on loan schemes.</p> <p>1.9. Training / introduction of innovative techniques of food processing, preparation and storage.</p> <p>1.10. Creation of 6 Producers Groups (Cooperatives) to improve access to local markets.</p>
ER2 Nutrition status improved	<p>Activities such as:</p> <p>nutrition training and education</p> <p>agriculture diversification</p> <p>production of micronutrient-rich food</p> <p>and ensuring</p>	<p>Interactive nutrition education and awareness activities in the selected villages</p> <p>(including hygiene and safe water knowledge) at household and school level linked to</p> <p>improved and diversified agricultural production, using the LANN approach.</p> <p>□ Address constraints as identified by baseline survey and needs assessment which hamper</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interactive nutrition education and awareness activities linked to for example improved and diversified agricultural production and/or responsible mother counselling on how to feed their baby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth community needs and practices assessment, including GIS, together with 100 VHC's members • Designing a culturally tailored BCC strategy integrating health, nutrition and WASH • Supporting a network of 100 VHW and 200 VNV to perform integrated community outreach activities • Providing health facilities with technical and logistical support to deliver nutrition and MNCH specific 	<p>2.1 In-depth community needs and practices assessment, including geographic information system (GIS), together with 100 village health committee (VHC) members.</p> <p>2.2. Designing/support materials a culturally tailored SBCC strategy integrating health, nutrition and WASH.</p> <p>2.3. Supporting a network of 100 village health workers (VHWs) or traditional birth attendants (TBAs) and</p>

	Identificaton Fiche	Action Fiche and TAPs	Call for Proposals	Grant Contract	MOU
	better utilisation of food.	<p>nutritional improvement. This could include issues like better access to improved water</p> <p>supply and quality, improved sanitation and small-scale irrigation.</p> <p>□ awareness on healthy nutrition (including hygiene and safe water knowledge) for</p> <p>nutritionally compromised target groups in the selected villages</p> <p>□ healthy nutrition behaviour and safe water and hygiene measures through health</p> <p>clinics in the selected villages</p> <p>□ Improve the processing and preservation of available food and decrease post harvest and storage losses in the selected villages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • following baseline survey and needs address issues like cultural taboos, better access to improved water supply and quality, improved sanitation and small-scale irrigation. • awareness on healthy nutrition (including hygiene and safe water knowledge). • healthy nutrition behaviour and safe water and hygiene measures through health clinics. • processing and preservation of available food and decrease post-harvest and storage losses, etc 	<p>interventions and improve linkages with VNVs and VHWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing and supporting 25 women groups • Cooking demonstrations by VNV and VHW/TBA • Carrying out Villages to Village and Family to Family Peer Education Models (based on HPA Laos positive deviance models) • Supporting 150 TBAs to promote ANC, PNC, exclusive breast feeding and complementary feeding • Supporting Youth Peer education and community youth clubs • Physico-chemical and E-Coli testing of water samples from all existing water points • Setting up or strengthening 100 WMC in the target communities • Supporting the rehabilitation/construction of water facilities and HH sanitation facilities in target 	<p>200 village nutrition volunteers (VNVs) by training, monitoring malnourished children and screening children <5 year to perform integrated community outreach activities.</p> <p>2.4. Providing health facilities with technical and logistical support to deliver nutrition and maternal, new-born and child health (MNCH) specific interventions and improve linkages with VNV, VHWS and TBAs.</p> <p>2.5. Establishing and supporting 25 women groups by training, group meeting, monitoring activity in the village.</p> <p>2.6. Cooking demonstrations to target village by VNVs and VHWS/TBAs.</p> <p>2.7. Carrying out Village to Village and Family to Family peer Education.</p> <p>2.8. Supporting 150 VHWS/TBAs to promote ante-natal care (ANC), post-natal care (PNC) exclusive breastfeeding</p>

	Identificaton Fiche	Action Fiche and TAPs	Call for Proposals	Grant Contract	MOU
				villages	and complementary feeding. 2.9. Supporting Youth Peer Education and community youth clubs. 2.10. Physico-chemical and E-Coli testing of water samples from all existing water points in project target village. 2.11. Setting up or strengthening 100 WMCs in the target communities. 2.12. Supporting the rehabilitation/construction of water facilities and HH sanitation facilities in target villages.
ER3 Capacity of sub-national GOs	Nutrition will be mainstreamed and the setting up of coordination mechanisms owned by the Government could be supported.	<p>studies, baseline and impact surveys, assessments and monitoring in the Province.</p> <p>- Review existing nutritional studies and data; identify shortcomings and missing information regarding malnutrition and its causes and location in the target province; Collect relevant data</p>	<p>• studies, baseline and impact surveys, assessments and monitoring in the Province: review existing nutritional studies and data; identify shortcomings and missing information regarding malnutrition and its causes and location in the target</p>	<p>•Capacity building of 5 PHO, 6 PAFO, 30 DHO, 30 DAFO staff on food and nutrition security, nutrition sensitive health interventions •Performing a joint baseline, endline and participatory annual surveys •Establishing a PNC and 10 DNCs (as per NNSPA strategy •Secondment of PHO staff to</p>	<p>3.1. Establishing and supporting the Provincial Nutrition Committee (PNC) and District Nutrition Committees (DNCs) function regularly in accordance with the NNSPA strategy. Ensure the coordination of all stakeholders. 3.2. Capacity building of 5 PHO, 6 PAFO, 30 DHO, 30 DAFO staff on</p>

	Identificaton Fiche	Action Fiche and TAPs	Call for Proposals	Grant Contract	MOU
		<p>throughout the project's duration including a thorough baseline</p> <p>study (incl. maternal and child nutritional indicators, nutritional needs and habits information, analysis of various causes and KAP survey) in the target province producing disaggregated data;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participatory monitoring collecting disaggregated data and use outcomes for adaptation/improvement activities; - Impact study producing disaggregated data at the end of the project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Disseminate results at central level and to other provinces, familiarization visits of decision makers and use the media (TV and radio) to publicise results and feed the policy dialogue on food security and nutrition <input type="checkbox"/> Train staff at province, district and village level of 	<p>province;</p> <p>collect relevant data throughout the project's duration including</p> <p>a thorough baseline study (incl. maternal and child nutritional indicators, nutritional needs and habits information, analysis of various causes and KAP survey) in the target province producing disaggregated data; participatory monitoring collecting disaggregated data and use outcomes for adaptation /improvement activities;</p> <p>impact study producing disaggregated data at the end of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the dissemination of results. • training staff at all level and from various line ministries on food and nutrition security. • improvement of 	<p>assist with coordination of multi-sectoral activities at district level working with the PNC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Annual Nutrition Fora and SUN meetings and participation of PNC • Coordinating with implementing partners of Lot 1 and 2 to improve synergies and dissemination of results 	<p>food and nutrition security, nutrition sensitive health interventions.</p> <p>3.3. Performing a joint baseline, mid-term and end line surveys for the evaluation of project implementation.</p> <p>3.4. Supporting Annual Nutrition Fora and SUN meetings and participation of PNC and all relevant partners.</p> <p>3.5. Coordinating with development partners working with food and nutrition in the province to improve synergies and dissemination of results.</p>

	Identificaton Fiche	Action Fiche and TAPs	Call for Proposals	Grant Contract	MOU
		<p>the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, and</p> <p>Education in the target districts/villages on food and nutrition security.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Improve awareness and strategic management skills of government at provincial and district levels on the importance and opportunities of food and nutrition security. □ Familiarize government staff members on the various approaches linking agriculture and <p>nutrition that have been field tested and how they assure year round food and nutrition security.</p>	<p>awareness and strategic management skills of government at provincial and district</p> <p>levels on the importance and opportunities of food and nutrition security.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarize government staff members on the various approaches linking agriculture and nutrition that <p>have been field tested and how they assure year round food and nutrition security.</p>		

Annex 14: Final Workshop

List of documents attached:

1. Power point presentation in English and Lao languages
2. List of participants
3. Photos

FINAL EVALUATION OF
FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN LAO PDR
Project No.
FWC SIEA 2018 - Lot 4, 2018/6272

Workshop Session 1
The Evaluation and its Findings
28 June 2022

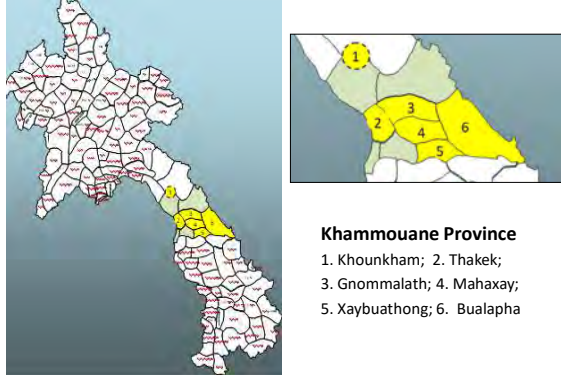


Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR
also known as
Partnership for Increased Resilience and Improved Food
and Nutrition Security of Vulnerable Communities in
Khammouane Province

Awarded: 29 August 2017 (for 39 months)
MOU signed: 4 January 2019
Commenced: 5 January 2019
Closed: 31 August 2021 (32 months duration)

Project Objectives

Overall Objective	Specific Objective
<p><i>Contribute to improved nutrition and food security towards achieving Priority 1 of Lao PDR National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020, and SDG2</i></p>	<p><i>Improved nutritional status and food security in 5,000 vulnerable households in 100 villages of 6 districts with special focus on children under 5, women of CBA including EM women, urban poor and migrants - and youth</i></p>



Khammouane Province

1. Khounkham; 2. Thakek;
3. Gnommalath; 4. Mahaxay;
5. Xaybuathong; 6. Bualapha

Expected Results

ER1: Food security, resilience and dietary diversification in vulnerable communities is strengthened

ER2: Increased community capacity to prevent, respond to and manage the wider determinants of malnutrition through improved nutrition, nutrition sensitive and hygiene knowledge and practices amongst target communities

ER3: Enhanced capacity of provincial and district level staff to lead multi-sectoral planning and improve coordination

Co-Applicants and Associates



Evaluation of the Project

- an overall independent assessment of the past performance of the Project, paying particular attention to its results measured against its expected objectives; and the reasons underpinning such results;
- key lessons learnt, conclusions and related recommendations in order to improve future Interventions.
- the concrete best practices, challenges, and coordination among the members of consortium and the coordination between the consortium and the government counterparts at sub-national level and other government stakeholders involved in the Action.

Evaluation Team

Tim Bene, Team Leader

Remote working

Overall responsibility, all stages

Vanxay Vang, Key Expert

Vientiane and Khammouane

Fieldwork and reporting

Support development of methodology, findings and conclusions

Evaluation Schedule

Inception Phase: December 2021

Fieldwork: January – February 2022

Synthesis and reporting: March – June 2022

Evaluation Topics

Relevance

- at all levels from national to local;
- degree of convergence assured by the design

Coherence

- Alignment with other PIN projects and other projects being implemented in Khammouane Province

Efficiency

- whether the implementation arrangements helped or hindered performance

Evaluation Topics

Effectiveness

- Extent of achievement of Expected Results

Impact

- Likelihood that Specific Objective ‘to improve nutritional status and food security in 5,000 vulnerable HHs in 100 villages of 6 districts with special focus on children under 5, women of CBA including EM women...’ will be achieved

Sustainability

- Current functionality of the groups, institutions, infrastructure and other technologies provided by the Project

Evaluation Topics

EU Added Value

- Alignment with EU Joint Programme 2016-2020

Gender and other Crosscutting Issues and Approaches

- Gender
- Environment & climate
- Leave no-one behind
- Rights-based approach.

Evaluation Locations

District	Village	Date Visited	Proximity to District Centre	% HH w CU5 stunting in 2019	Special Project Features
Boulapha	Namorkhou	26 January	Remote	55	CLTS Nutrition
	Napeng	27 January	Close	27	Producer group; Seed Bank; CLTS Nutrition
	Naphanung	28 January	Close	40	
Yommalath	Phonesaed	1 February	Remote	32	CLTS Nutrition
	Tard	2 February	Remote	49	CLTS Nutrition Seed Bank
	Natherd	3 February	Close	38	
Thakhek	Nakhangxang	9 February	Close	34	Producer group; Seed Bank; CLTS Nutrition
	Nonghang	10 February	Remote	48	
	Muanglathkhuay	11 February	Remote	17	Seed bank

Limitations of the Evaluation

- Remote working of Evaluation Team Leader
- Project closed and staff dispersed
- Lack of overall Project Team Leader
- No opportunity to pre-test the tools
- Work overload during the field phase

Principal Findings

Relevance

- The Project was relevant to stakeholders at all levels from national to local
- It implemented a convergent approach that ensured the activities of Expected Results 1 and 2 were undertaken in the same communities and frequently by the same households.

Principal Findings

Coherence

- The Project design was coherent with the EU's Programme for Improved Nutrition (PIN) and its subsequent Budget Support Programme
- It was well aligned with Provincial and District Development Programmes.
- There was insufficient learning and sharing between projects

Principal Findings

Efficiency

- The Project was managed as 2 separate projects with different teams and no overall Team Leader
- There was no Project M&E programme
- Opportunities to adapt to externalities such as delayed start-up, new data availability etc were missed.

Principal Findings

Effectiveness - what worked very well

- ✓ Vegetable demonstrations
- ✓ Training on hygiene, sanitation and nutrition
- ✓ Health monitoring and screening with strengthened VHVs
- ✓ Cooking demonstrations

Principal Findings

Effectiveness - what did not work or worked less well

- ❖ Animal pass-on loans
- ❖ Producer groups
- ❖ Development of DNC leadership in multisectoral nutrition planning and coordination

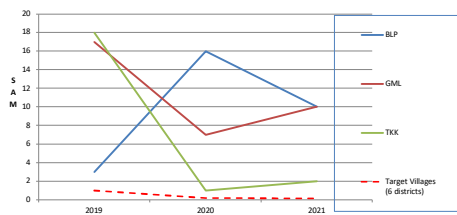
Principal Findings

Impact

- The Project exceeded its targets for reduced acute malnutrition and chronic malnutrition
- However some of these targets seem to be within the underlying direction of change of the indicators (see graphs)

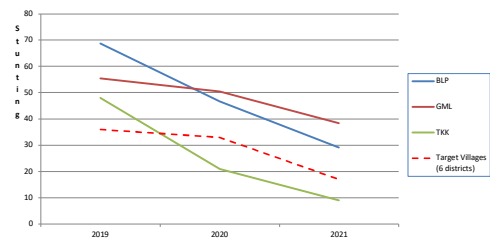
Principal Findings

Impact



Principal Findings

Impact



Principal Findings

Sustainability

- There was no sustainability strategy

Items in **bold** have good prospects for sustainability:

Groups	Activities	Infrastructure
Farmers' Clubs Womens' Groups VHW / VNV Producer groups DNCs	Diversified nutritious vegetable demonstrations SRI Pass-on animals Climate smart agriculture Food processing / storage Screening / monitoring CU5 SBCC practices EPI Visits / deworming / Vit A ANC and PNC attendance	Seed banks Irrigation facilities Latrines

Principal Findings

Crosscutting Issues

- Climate change / environment was addressed through the selection of agricultural technologies promoted
- No gender strategy or gender sensitive approach
- Other specified topics were not addressed
- Project governance systems did not track CCI's

Lessons Learnt

For future grant awards

Prepare calls for proposals in a manner that:

- Prevents possibility of leadership vacuum
- Ensures written gender, M&E, CCI and sustainability strategies will be followed
- Promotes smooth adoption by relevant government agencies

For multisectoral nutrition programming

- DNCs are unable to provide leadership in multisectoral nutrition programming

(Topic of the next session)

FINAL EVALUATION OF
FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN LAO PDR
Project No.
FWC SIEA 2018 - Lot 4, 2018/6272

Workshop Session 2
Recommendation for future Multisectoral Nutrition Programming in Lao PDR
28 June 2022



National Nutrition Strategy

Three Strategic Directions:

1. Address Immediate Causes
2. Address Underlying Causes
3. Address Basic Causes

Eleven Strategic Objectives...

National Nutrition Strategy

1. Address Immediate Causes

1. Improve nutrient intake
2. Prevent food and water-borne infections

National Nutrition Strategy

2. Address Underlying Causes

3. Produce food for consumption
4. Improve access to nutritious food
5. Improve Mother & Child Health practices
6. Improve clean water, sanitation and environments
7. Improve access to health and nutrition services

National Nutrition Strategy

3. Address Basic Causes

8. Improve institutions and coordination
9. Develop human resources
10. Increase quality and quantity of information
11. Increase investment in nutrition interventions

Priority 1 Interventions

SO	PI	Multi-sectoral
8,9	1	Provide System Capacity Building
8	2	Improve coordination and partnership among nutrition stakeholders
10	3	Improve information management (monitoring and evaluation; surveillance and research); and policy development
11	4	Increase communication, advocacy, and investment for nutrition

Priority 1 Interventions

SO	PI	Health sector
1	5	Provide micronutrient supplements – activities include any micronutrients provided through supplementation or added to the diet (such as iron folic acid, vitamin A, MNP, zinc, vitamin B1 and so forth)
2	6	Deworming
1	7	Food fortification including salt iodization
1	8	Promote Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and maternal nutrition
1	9	Provide food supplements for pregnancy and breastfeeding women
1	10	Provide food supplements for children aged 6-23 months
2,3	11	Improve food quality and safety
1	12	Management of acute malnutrition in health facilities and in communities
5	13	Nutrition education and communication for social behaviour change to promote good practices and healthy diet
6	14	Strengthen water sources and supply systems; and improve sanitation in households, communities, health facilities and schools.

Priority 1 Interventions

SO	PI	Agriculture sector
3	15	Increase the production of nutritionally rich plant-based foods for household consumption
3	16	Increase the production animal-based protein (for example meat, poultry, fish and other aquatic life) for household consumption
3	17	Support establishment of post-harvest facilities and apply technology to food processing, preservation and storage to ensure year-round availability of safe and nutritious food
4	18	Promoted agriculture-based and NTFP-based income generating activities, to increase household incomes, with emphasis on women

Priority 1 Interventions

SO	PI	Education sector
3	19	Provide nutritious food in schools
3	20	Promote and support vegetable gardens in schools
9	21	Integrate nutrition into curricula
1,2	22	Provide iron and folic acid supplements and deworming in schools

How to Mainstream Nutrition in District Programming?

1. Development Planning Committee decides whether to prioritise nutrition, and what proportion of resources to allocate.
2. Select villages covered by the small hospital with highest malnutrition rates in the district
3. Ensure allocated resources are used by relevant sectors to implement their PIs in the same target villages, sub-villages and communities (ie convergently)
4. Focus on the same communities for at least 3 years and regularly monitor effect on malnutrition rates
5. When appropriate, start again with the small hospital having the highest malnutrition rate at that time.

Points for discussion!!

- Can this plan work?
- What support is needed from Provincial level?
- What support is needed from National level?
- How can we improve this plan?

Thank You Very Much!!

**ການປະເມນໂຄງການຄຳປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານ ແລະ ປັບປຸງ
ໄພຊະນາການ ຢ່າງສະໄບສະໄຊ ຮອບສດທ້າຍ
ລະຫວ່າງໂຄງການ.**

FWC SIEA 2018 - Lot 4, 2018/6272

**ກອງປະຊຸມສາມະນາ ພາກທີ 1
ການປະເມນຜົນ ແລະ ຜົນໄດ້ຮັບ
28 ມາຖຸນາ 2022**





**ການຄຳປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານ ແລະ ປັບປຸງໄພຊະນາ
ການ
ຢ່າງສະໄບສະໄຊ
ຫຼືເອີ້ນອີກຊື່ໜຶ່ງວ່າ**

**ການເປັນຄຣອມເພື່ອເພີ່ມຄວາມທັນທ່ານ ແລະ ປັບປຸງການຄຳ
ປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານ ແລະ ໄພຊະນາການ ໃຫ້ແກ່ຊຸມຊົນທຸກ
ຄວາມອ່ອນໄຫວ ຢ່າງແຂ້ງຄາມວນ**

ອະນາໄມໂຄງການ: 29 ສຸງຫາ 2017 (ໄລຍະ 39 ຄອບນ)

ລຽນາມ MOU: 4 ມັງກອນ 2019

ເລີ່ມຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ: 5 ມັງກອນ 2019

ວັນທັດ ປິດໂຄງການ: 31 ສຸງຫາ 2021 (ໄລຍະຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ 32 ຄອບນ)


ເປົ້າໝາຍ ຂອງ ໂຄງການ

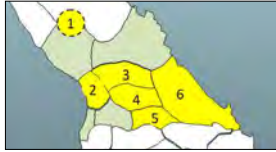
ເປົ້າໝາຍໂດຍລວມ

ປະກອບສ່ວນໃຫ້ແກ່ການ
ປັບປຸງໄພຊະນາການ ແລະ
ການຄຳປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານ
ເພື່ອບັນລຸ ບົດບັນຍັດ 1 ຂອງ
ຍຸດທະສາດໄພຊະນາການ ແຫ່ງ
ຊາດ ຂອງ ສປປ ລາວ,
ແຜນດຳເນີນງານ ໄລຍະ 2016-
2020, ແລະ ເປົ້າໝາຍ ປະລິມ 2

ເປົ້າໝາຍສະເພາະ

ປັບປຸງສະຖານະໄພຊະນາການ
ແລະ ການຄຳປະກັນສະບຽງ
ອາຫານ ໃຫ້ແກ່ 5000 ຄອບຄອນທຸກ
ມຄວາມອ່ອນໄຫວ ຢ່າງສະໄບສະໄຊ ໃນ
6 ຕາວເມືອງ ໂດຍສະເພາະໃນເມັດອາຍ
ຕາວກວ້າງ 5 ປີ, ຜູ້ຮັບ CBA
ລວມທັງ ຜູ້ຮັບ EM, ຜູ້ຮັບກຸຍາກ
ໃນຕາວເມືອງ, ຜູ້ຮັບຍາຍຸກ
ຖານ ແລະ ຄົນໄວໜຸ່ມ





ແຂວງຄາມວນ

1. ຄົນຄາ; 2. ທາດຂາກ;
3. ບຸນລາວ; 4. ມະຫາໄຊ;
5. ໄຊບຸນທອງ; 6. ບວລະພາ

ຄາດຄະເນຜົນໄດ້ຮັບ

ER1: ການສ້າງຄວາມເຂັ້ມແຂງໃຫ້ແກ່ການຄຳປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານ,
ການຍົກລະດັບຄວາມທັນທ່ານ ແລະ ການສົ່ງເສີມການກຸ້ມຄອງອາຫານ
ແບບຫາກຫາຍ ໃຫ້ແກ່ຊຸມຊົນທຸກຄວາມອ່ອນໄຫວ

ER2: ການເພີ່ມຄວາມສາມາດ ຂອງ ຊຸມຊົນປະຊາຊົນ ໃນການສະກັດ
ກຸ້ມ, ຮັບ, ແລະ ຄຸ້ມຄອງບຸລິມະສິດທຳມະຊາດໃຫ້ມີຄວາມທັນທ່ານຂາດ
ສານອາຫານແບບຊຸກເຮືອ ໂດຍຜ່ານການປັບປຸງໄພຊະນາການ, ຄວາມ
ຮູ້ ແລະ ວຸທິການດ້ານສະຖານະໄມ

ER3: ສ້າງຄວາມເຂັ້ມແຂງ ແລະ ຍົກລະດັບຄວາມສາມາດ ໃຫ້ແກ່
ພະນັກງານຂັ້ນແຂວງ ແລະ ເມືອງ ໃນການນຳພາການວາງແຜນ ແລະ
ການປະສານງານ ລະຫວ່າງ ບັນດາຂະແໜງການກ່ຽວຂ້ອງ.

**ຜສະໜາຄຣອມ ແລະ ພາກສ່ວນ
ກ່ຽວຂ້ອງ**



ການປະເມນໂຄງການ

- ການປະເມນໂດຍລວມແບບເອກະລາດ ກ່ຽວກັບ ການດາວນຸ່ງງານ ໂຄງການທຸກຊຸດ, ໂດຍເອົາໃຈໃສ່ປະເມນຜນໃດຮບຕອຈງຕກບເປາ ໝາຍຄາດຄະເນ; ແລະ ສາເຫດທຣຣດໃຫມຜນໄດຮບຕອງກາວ
- ບດຣຽນຕານຕທສາມາດຖອດຖອນໄດ ແລະ ອາເນະນາຕາງໆ ເລອ ປັບປຸງກດຈະກອນງໃນອານະຄດ.
- ວທການທດທເປນຮບປະທາ, ສງທາທາຍ ແລະ ການປະສານງານ ລະຫວ່າງ ສະມາຊກ ແລະ ການປະສານງານ ລະຫວ່າງ ສະມາຊກ ແລະ ຄ ຮວມວດຖະບານ ຢຂນທອງຖນ ແລະ ພາກສວນກງວຂອງອນງ.

ທມງານປະເມນຜນ

ທານ ທມ ເບນ (Tim Bene), ຫວໜາທມ	ທານ ວນໄຊ ວາງ, ຊງວຊານຫກ ວງງຈນ ແລະ ຄາມວນ
ການເຮດວງກແບບທາງໄກ	ເຮດວງກພາກສະໜາມ ແລະ ການລາຍງານ
ໜາທຣບຜດຊອບລວມ, ທກ ຂນ	ສະໜບສະໜນການພດທະນາ ວທການວທະຍາ, ຜນການປະ ເມນ ແລະ ຂສະຫບ.

ຕາຕະລາງການປະເມນຜນ

ໄລຍະລເລມ: ທນວາ 2021

ເຮດວງກຢພາກສະໜາມ: ມງກອນ – ກມພາ 2022

ການວເອາະ ແລະ ລາຍງານ: ມນາ – ມຖຸນາ 2022

ຫວຂປະເມນຜນ

- ຄວາມສາຄນ** ທກລະດບ ຈາກລະດບຊາດ ຫາ ທອງຖນ;
- ລະດບວທການໜງດງວຫາຍຂະແໜງການເລອເກໄຂບນຫາໄພລະນາ ການ ທຣບປະກນໂດຍການອອກແບບ
- ຄວາມສອດຄອງ**
- ສອດຄອງກບໂຄງການ PIN ອນງ ແລະ ໂຄງການທໄດຈດຕາງປະຕບດ ຢ ແຂວງຄາມວນ
- ປະສດທພາບ**
- ວທການຈດຕາງປະຕບດໄດຊວຍເຫອ ຫ ເຮດໃຫການດາວນຸ່ງງານ ຫຍງຍາກ

ຫວຂປະເມນຜນ

- ປະສດທຜນ**
- ການບນວຜນໄດຮບຄາດຄະເນໃນລະດບໃດ
- ຜນກະທບ**
- ຄວາມເປນໄປໄດໃນການບນວເປາໝາຍສະເພາະ ‘ການປັບປຸງສະຖານະ ໄພລະນາການ ແລະ ການອາປະກນສະບຽງອາຫານ ຢ 5000 ຄວເຮອນ ໃນ 100 ບານ ຢ 6 ຕວເມອງ ໂດຍສມໃສເດກນອຍຕາກວາ 5 ປ, ຜຍງ CBA ລວມທງ ຜຍງ EM...’
- ຄວາມຍນຍງ**
- ສະພາບການເຮດວງກປະຈບນຂອງກມ, ສະຖາບນ, ໂຄງລາງພນຖານ ແລະ ເຕກໂນໂລຊອນງ ທໂຄງການໄດສະໜອງໃຫ.

ຫວຂປະເມນຜນ

- ການສາງມນຄາເລມ ຂອງ EU**
- ສອດຄອງກບແຜນງານຮວມ ຂອງ EU 2016-2020
- ບດບາດຍງ-ຊາຍ ແລະ ຫວຂປນອອມ ແລະ ວທການ**
- ວງກບດບາດຍງ-ຊາຍ
 - ສງແອດລອມ ແລະ ການປຽນແປງດນຟາອາກາດ
 - ບປະປອຍໃຜໄວເບອງຫງ
 - ວທການ ອງຕາມ ສດທ

ສະຖານທຳປະເມນຜນ

District	Village	Date Visited	Proximity to District Centre	% HH w CUS stunting in 2019	Special Project Features
Boulapha	Namorkhou	26 January	Remote	55	CLTS Nutrition
	Napeng	27 January	Close	27	Producer group; Seed Bank; CLTS Nutrition
	Naphanung	28 January	Close	40	
Yommalath	Phonesaed	1 February	Remote	32	CLTS Nutrition
	Tard	2 February	Remote	49	CLTS Nutrition Seed Bank
	Natherd	3 February	Close	38	
Thakhek	Nakhangxang	9 February	Close	34	Producer group; Seed Bank; CLTS Nutrition
	Nonghang	10 February	Remote	48	
	Muanglathkhuay	11 February	Remote	17	Seed bank

ຂໍ້ຈາກກດໃນການປະເມນຜນ

- ການເຮັດວຽກທາງໄກ ຂອງ ຫວໜາທມປະເມນຜນ
- ໂຄງການປັດແລວ ແລະ ພະນັກງານກໄດຍກະແຈກກະຈາຍ
- ບມຫວໜາທມງານ ຂອງ ໂຄງການ
- ບມໂອກາດໃນການທດລອງເຄອງມຕາງໆ ລວງໜາ
- ໜາວຽກຫາຍເກນໄປໃນໄລຍະເຮັດວຽກຢພາກສະໜາ

ຜນການປະເມນຕານຕ

ຄວາມສາຄນ ແລະ ກຽວຂອງ

- ໂຄງການມຄວາມສາຄນຕຜທມສວນຮວມທກລະດບ ຈາກລະດບຊາດ ຫາ ທອງຖນ.
- ໄດຈດຕງປະຕບດວທການໜງດຽວຫາຍຂະແຜນງການ ຊງໄດຮບປະກນການຈດຕງປະຕບດກດຈະກາຂອງ ຜນໄດຮບຄາດຄະເນ 1 ແລະ 2 ໂດຍຊມຊນ ແລະ ຄວເຮອນ.

ຜນການປະເມນຕານຕ

ຄວາມສອດຄອງ

- ການອອກແບບໂຄງການ ສອດຄອງກບ ແຜນງານ ປັບປຸງໄພຊະນາການ ຂອງ EU (PIN) ແລະ ແຜນງານສະໜບສະໜນງບປະມນ.
- ມຄວາມສອດຄອງດກບແຜນພດທະນາ ຂອງ ແຂວງ ແລະ ຕວເມອງ.
- ການແລກປຽນບດຮຽນ ແລະ ປະສບການ ລະຫວາງໂຄງການຍງມຂໍ້ຈາກກດ

ຜນການປະເມນຕານຕ

ປະສດທພາບ

- ທງ 2 ໂຄງການດງກາວໄດຖກຄມຄອງບລຫານ ແບບ ແຍກການ ໂດຍທມທມງານຕາງກນ ແລະ ບມຫວໜາໂຄງການ
- ບມແຜນງານຕດຕາມ ແລະ ການປະເມນຜນ ຂອງໂຄງການ
- ໂອກາດໃນການປັບຕວກບປດໄຈພາຍນອກບມ ຕວຢາງຄວາມຊກຊາໃນການລເລມໂຄງການ, ການເຂາເຖງຂມຄນ.

ຜນການປະເມນຕານຕ

ປະສດທຜນ - ສງທເຮດໄດດ

- ✓ ການສາທດປກຜກ
- ✓ ການຜກອບຮມດານສຂະອານະໄມ ແລະ ໄພຊະນາການ
- ✓ ການຕດຕາມ ແລະ ການຄກກອງສຂະພາບ ໂດຍທມVHWs ທມຄວາມເຂມແຂງ
- ✓ ການສາທດການແຕງກນ

ຜົນການປະເມນຕາມຕາມ

ປະສິດທິພາບ - ສາມາດປະຕິບັດໄດ້ ຫ ບ ໄດ້ເທົ່າທຽມ

- ❖ ສັດວຽງປອຍກ
- ❖ ກມຜະລິດ
- ❖ ການພັດທະນາ ແລະ ສາຍການນາພາ DNC ໃນການວາງແຜນ ແລະ ປະສານງານວຽກໄພຊະນາການລະຫວ່າງ ຫາຍຂະແໜງການ

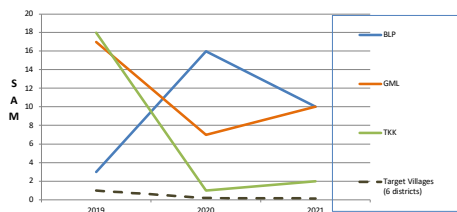
ຜົນການປະເມນຕາມຕາມ

ຜົນກະທົບ

- ໂຄງການສາມາດບັນລຸການຫຼຸດຜ່ອນການຂາດສານອາຫານແບບຮຸນແຮງ ແລະ ການຂາດໄພຊະນາການແບບຊາຮອ ແບບເກນຄາດໝາຍ.
- ຕຸ່ຍຢາງໃດກຕາມ, ຜົນສຸບາເລດດຽກກາວ ບສາມາດສະແດງໃຫ້ເຫັນວ່າເປັນຜົນກະທົບຂອງໂຄງການ (ເບິ່ງຮູບເສັ້ນສະແດງ)

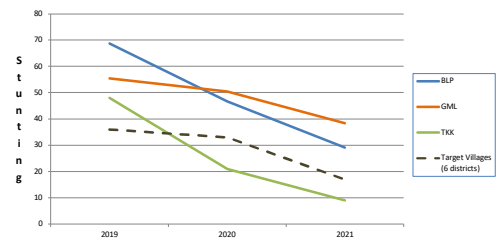
ຜົນການປະເມນຕາມຕາມ

ຜົນກະທົບ



ຜົນການປະເມນຕາມຕາມ

ຜົນກະທົບ



ຜົນການປະເມນຕາມຕາມ

ຄວາມຍືນຍົງ

- ໂຄງການບໍ່ມີຜົນກະທົບຕໍ່ຄວາມຍືນຍົງ

ວາຍການທຽບປຸງຕາມຄວາມສອບຮູ້ ມາດຕະຮຽນລະບົບຄວາມຍືນຍົງ:

ກມ	ກົດຈະກາ	ໂຄງລ່າງພຽງ
ສະໄມສອນ ຊາວກະສາກອນ ກມແມ່ຍງ VHW / VNV ກມຜະລິດ DNCs	ການສາທິດການປຸງພຸດຜົນສາມາດອາຫານທາກຫາຍ SRI ສັດວຽງປອຍກ ການກະສານສາມາດປັບຕາມ ການປ່ຽນແປງດິນຟ້າອາກາດ ການປັບແຕ່ງ/ຕາມຮກສາ ອາຫານ ການຄັດກອງ / ການຕັດຕາມ CUS ວທການ SBCC	ທະນາຄານແນວພັນ ສາມາດອາຫານສະດວກ ທີ່ເປັນລະບົບລະບົບປະທານ ຫອງນາ

ຜົນການປະເມນຕາມຕາມ

ບັນຫາບັນອອມ

- ການປ່ຽນແປງດິນຟ້າອາກາດ / ການປັບປຸງຮກສາ ສາມາດລວມ ໄດ້ຖືກແກ້ໄຂຜ່ານການສູນເສຍຕາມ ໃນໄລຍະການກະສັດທິໄດ້ຖືກຄັດລອກ
- ບໍ່ມີຜົນກະທົບ ຫ ອາດການບັດບາດຢາງ-ຊາຍ
- ຂາດຄວາມສາມາດອາຫານໄດ້ຖືກລະບ ບໍ່ໄດ້ຖືກຈັດຕາງປະຕິບັດ
- ລະບົບຄວາມຄອງໂຄງການບໍ່ສາມາດຕັດຕາມ CCIIs

ບດຮຽນທສາມາດຖອດຖອນໄດ

<p>ສາລະການໃຫຍ່ ຊວຍເຫລືອໃນອານະຄ ກະກຽມການເປດສະໝັກໂດຍ ທ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ຫວຽກງານຂາດການນາພາ • ຮບປະກັນການອອກແບບຍອດທະ ສາດ M&E, CCI ແລະ ຄວາມຍືນ ຍົງ ພອມທຽກການຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ • ສົ່ງເສີມການຮບຮອງ ແລະ ອະນຸມັດໂດຍອົງການຈັດຕັ້ງພາກ ວັດທະນະຊື່ຂອງ 	<p>ສາລະການອອກແບບແຜນ ງານໄພຊະນາການ ລະຫວ່າງ ຫາຍຂະແໜງການ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ບສາມາດນາພາການອອກ ແບບແຜນງານໄພຊະນາການ ລະຫວ່າງ ຫາຍຂະແໜງການ <p>(ຫວຽກງານບຸກຄົນປະຊຸມສາມະນາຕໄປ)</p>
--	--

ການປະເມນໂຄງການຄາປະການສະບຽງອາຫານ ແລະ ບົບປຸງໄພຊະນາການ ຢ
ສປປ ລາວ ຮອບສດທາຍ
ລະຫວ່າງ ໂຄງການ.
FWC SIEA 2018 - Lot 4, 2018/6272

ກອງປະຊຸມ ສາມະນາ ພາກທີ 2
**ຄາແນະນາ ສາລະການອອກແບບແຜນງານບົບປຸງໄພຊະ
ນາການ ລະຫວ່າງ ຫາຍຂະແໜງການ**
ໃນອານະຄ
28 ມຖຸນາ 2022






ຍອດທະສາດແຫ່ງຊາດດານໄພຊະນາການ

ສາມທດທາງຍອດທະສາດ:

1. ແກໂຂບນຫາໂດຍກົງ
2. ແກໂຂບນຫາຕາມຕາ
3. ແກໂຂບນຫາພານຖານ

11 ເປາໝາຍຍອດທະສາດ...

ຍອດທະສາດແຫ່ງຊາດດານໄພຊະນາການ

1. ແກໂຂບນຫາໂດຍກົງ
 1. ບົບປຸງການບວໂພກ
 2. ບົບປຸງການເກດພະຍາດຈາກກນາ ແລະ ອາຫານປນ
ເປ່ອນ ແລະ ພະຍາດຊມເຊອ

ຍອດທະສາດແຫ່ງຊາດດານໄພຊະນາການ

2. ແກໂຂບນຫາຕາມຕາ
 3. ຜະລິດໃຫມ່ອາຫານບວໂພກ
 4. ບົບປຸງການເຂາເຖງອາຫານທມຄນຄາທາງໄພຊະນາ
ການ
 5. ບົບປຸງແປງເມດຕາໃນການຮກສາສະພາບແມ ແລະ
ເດກ
 6. ບົບປຸງນາສະອາດ, ສະຂະອະນາໄມ ແລະ ສົ່ງແອດລອມ
 7. ບົບປຸງການເຂາເຖງການບວການສະພາບ ແລະ ໄພຊະ
ນາການ

ຍອດທະສາດແຫ່ງຊາດດານໄພຊະນາການ

3. ແກໂຂບນພານຖານ
 8. ບົບປຸງອົງກອນ ແລະ ການປະສານງານ
 9. ການເພດທະນາຊບພະຍາກອນມະນດ
 10. ບົບປຸງຂມນທາງດານປະລມານ ແລະ ຄນນະພາບ
 11. ເພມການລົງທນໃສ່ວຽກໄພຊະນາການຫາຍຂນ

ມາດຕະການບລມະສດ ທ 1

SO	PI	Multi-sectoral
8,9	1	Provide System Capacity Building
8	2	Improve coordination and partnership among nutrition stakeholders
10	3	Improve information management (monitoring and evaluation; surveillance and research); and policy development
11	4	Increase communication, advocacy, and investment for nutrition

ມາດຕະການບລມະສດ ທ 1

SO	PI	Health sector
1	5	Provide micronutrient supplements – activities include any micronutrients provided through supplementation or added to the diet (such as iron folic acid, vitamin A, MNP, zinc, vitamin B1 and so forth)
2	6	Deworming
1	7	Food fortification including salt iodization
1	8	Promote Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and maternal nutrition
1	9	Provide food supplements for pregnancy and breastfeeding women
1	10	Provide food supplements for children aged 6-23 months
2,3	11	Improve food quality and safety
1	12	Management of acute malnutrition in health facilities and in communities
5	13	Nutrition education and communication for social behaviour change to promote good practices and healthy diet
6	14	Strengthen water sources and supply systems; and improve sanitation in households, communities, health facilities and schools.

ມາດຕະການບລມະສດ ທ 1

SO	PI	Agriculture sector
3	15	Increase the production of nutritionally rich plant-based foods for household consumption
3	16	Increase the production animal-based protein (for example meat, poultry, fish and other aquatic life) for household consumption
3	17	Support establishment of post-harvest facilities and apply technology to food processing, preservation and storage to ensure year-round availability of safe and nutritious food
4	18	Promoted agriculture-based and NTFP-based income generating activities, to increase household incomes, with emphasis on women

ມາດຕະການບລມະສດ ທ 1

SO	PI	Education sector
3	19	Provide nutritious food in schools
3	20	Promote and support vegetable gardens in schools
9	21	Integrate nutrition into curricula
1,2	22	Provide iron and folic acid supplements and deworming in schools

ຄວນຈະໃຊ້ທິດເພອເຊອມສານວຽກໄພຊະນາການ ໃນການສາງແຜນງານລະດັບເມອງ?

1. ຄະນະການວຽກແຜນເພອການພັດທະນາ ເປັນຜູ້ຕອບສະໜອງ ແລະ ການດູແລງສາງແຜນງານໄພຊະນາການ ແລະ ການຈັດສັນ ຊັບພະຍາກອນ.
2. ການຄວບຄຸມອາຫານທຳມະດາ ທີ່ມອດຕາການຂາດສານອາຫານທຳມະດາໃນຕອນເມອງ
3. ຮູບປະການຊັບພະຍາກອນທຳມະດາ ໄດ້ຖືກນຳໃຊ້ໂດຍຂະແໜງການກ່ຽວຂ້ອງ ເພອຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ ປັດຈຸບັນ ຢ່າງເປັນທາງການ ແລະ ຊຸມຊົນດຽວກັນ. (ກຳລັງ ວຽກງານໜັງສືຂະແໜງການ)
4. ສາມໃສ່ຊຸມຊົນດຽວກັນຢ່າງຕາ 3 ປ ແລະ ຕັດຕາມຜນກະທັບຕອດຕາການຂາດສານອາຫານເປັນປະຈຳ.
5. ເວລາທຳການສາມ ແມ່ນໃຫ້ເວລາໃໝ່ ຈາກໂຮງໝໍຍອຍ ທີ່ມອດຕາການຂາດສານອາຫານທຳມະດາໃນເວລານັ້ນ.

ປະເດນເພອການສນທະນາແລກປ່ຽນ!!

- ແຜນສາມາດຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດໄດ້?
- ຕ້ອງການ ການສະໜັບສະໜູນ ແລະ ຊ່ວຍເຫຼອກຈາກຂັ້ນ ແຂວງແບບໃດ?
- ຕ້ອງການ ການສະໜັບສະໜູນ ແລະ ຊ່ວຍເຫຼອກຈາກ ລະດັບຊາດແບບໃດ?
- ພວກເຮົາສາມາດປັບປຸງແຜນນັ້ນໄດ້ອາດແບບໃດ?

Final Workshop

28 June 2022

Final Evaluation of Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR





Annex 15: Evaluation Brief (EN)



HOW TO IMPROVE NUTRITION STATUS

in Lao PDR through Coordinated Decentralised Planning

About 1 in 3 children under the age of 5 in Lao PDR is malnourished, with the rate being even higher in remote rural areas and among ethnic minorities. It is known that children who are still malnourished after their 5th birthday will be affected for the rest of their lives, being more prone to ill-health, performing worse at school, receiving lower wages and living less fulfilling lives than their well-nourished peers. Malnutrition can start before birth if the mother is malnourished. One of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals is to end all forms of malnutrition in children under 5 and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, and pregnant and lactating women.

Malnourishment is caused by a combination of factors including poor diet, poor sanitation, lack of clean water, and insufficient access to health services. Each of these factors can have multiple causes – for instance a child might have poor diet because of non-availability of affordable nutritious food throughout the year, or because her mother does not know how to cook food in an appetising and nutritious way. Malnutrition will not be prevented by

addressing only one cause or factor at a time. They all need to be addressed together. Since the issues are the responsibility of different sectors, all relevant sectors need to coordinate so that they provide their services in the same communities instead of working independently in different communities. This is called multisectoral convergence and it is the methodology that has been adopted by the Government of Lao PDR in the National Nutrition Strategy. The National Nutrition Strategy also provides a list of Priority Interventions that need to be conducted to prevent malnutrition. These are shown in the table on the next page. Most of the interventions are not new to the responsible sectors; the important point is that they should be implemented convergently.

This leaflet is based on the lessons learnt from the independent final evaluation of the Food and Nutrition Security in Lao PDR project. It proposes a mechanism by which Provincial and District Development Planning Committees can take the initiative to mainstream a convergent nutrition approach into their regular programming.

LESSONS LEARNT



GOVERNANCE

It is not necessary to wait for special projects or create special committees to address malnutrition. Instead malnutrition should be mainstreamed into the development programmes of provinces, districts and villages. This can be achieved if the Development Planning Committees at each level adopt a convergent approach. In other words the relevant sectors – agriculture, education, health, planning and investment, supported by Lao Women’s Union and by other sectors as needed – coordinate to focus their priority interventions on the communities that have the highest risk of malnutrition.



SELECTION OF TARGET AREAS

It is difficult to choose villages based on nutrition status because the lowest level of reporting about nutrition in Lao PDR is the area served by a small hospital. Therefore, districts should focus their development agendas on the areas served by the small hospitals with the highest levels of children under 5 malnutrition (measured by stunting and wasting). They should cover as many villages as possible – especially remote villages – in those areas, with all sectors working in the same villages / sub-villages.



PRIORITY 1 INTERVENTIONS OF THE NATIONAL NUTRITION STRATEGY

MULTI-SECTORAL

- 1 Provide System Capacity Building
- 2 Improve coordination and partnership among nutrition stakeholders
- 3 Improve information management (monitoring and evaluation; surveillance and research); and policy development
- 4 Increase communication, advocacy, and investment for nutrition

HEALTH SECTOR

- 5 Provide micronutrient supplements – activities include any micronutrients provided through supplementation or added to the diet (such as iron and folic acid, vitamin A, MNP, zinc, vitamin B1 and so forth)
- 6 Deworming
- 7 Food fortification including salt iodization
- 8 Promote Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and maternal nutrition
- 9 Provide food supplements for pregnancy and breastfeeding women
- 10 Provide food supplements for children aged 6-23 months
- 11 Improve food quality and safety
- 12 Management of acute malnutrition in health facilities and in communities
- 13 Nutrition education and communication for social behaviour change to promote good practices and healthy diet
- 14 Strengthen water sources and supply systems; and improve sanitation in households, communities, health facilities and schools.

AGRICULTURE SECTOR

- 15 Increase the production of nutritionally rich plant-based foods for household consumption
- 16 Increase the production of animal-based protein (for example meat, poultry, fish and other aquatic life) for household consumption
- 17 Support establishment of post-harvest facilities and apply technology to food processing, preservation and storage to ensure year-round availability of safe and nutritious food
- 18 Promoted agriculture-based and NTFP-based income generating activities, to increase household incomes, with emphasis on women

EDUCATION SECTOR

- 19 Provide nutritious food in schools
- 20 Promote and support vegetable gardens in schools
- 21 Integrate nutrition into curricula
- 22 Provide iron and folic acid supplements and deworming in schools

Source: Compiled from the Mid Term Review of the NNSPA 2016-2020, National Nutrition Secretariat, 2019.



SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES IN TARGET COMMUNITIES



HEALTH

- Strengthen small hospitals to carry out existing Mother and Child Health activities such as integrated outreach, Antenatal and Postnatal Care, growth monitoring, provision of vitamin A and deworming tablets.
- Re-invigorate Village Health Workers and incorporate nutrition messaging and cooking demonstrations in their duties (along with Lao Women's Union).
- Promote clean water and sanitation in homes and schools.



AGRICULTURE

- Focus on year-round (summer and winter) small-scale production of a diverse range of nutritious vegetables for home consumption.
- Support household-level chicken and duck production through strengthened Village Veterinary Worker services.
- Coordinate with the education sector to support school vegetable gardens as demonstration plots.



EDUCATION

- Provide nutritious school lunches in target area schools.
- Upgrade sanitation in schools.
- Integrate nutrition into school curricula.
- Promote and support school vegetable gardens.



LAO WOMEN'S UNION

- Social Behaviour Change Communication.
- Assist Village Health Workers with cooking demonstrations.
- Promote healthy village environments.



MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND INVESTMENT (MPI)

- Support Village Development Committees (VDCs) to undertake convergent planning
- Support VDCs to improve healthy village environments, for example by separating animal housing from human housing; installing latrines; etc.

ALL SECTORS

Jointly plan and monitor activities to ensure convergence and to identify and remove constraints.



TIMEFRAME

Resources and activities should be focussed on the target communities for a minimum of 3 years and until joint monitoring identifies significant improvement in nutrition status of children under 5. They should then be transferred to the area served by the small hospitals having highest malnutrition rates at that time.



NATIONAL LEVEL SUPPORT

MPI

- Promote nutritionally convergent planning and investment resource allocation at sub-national levels.
- Train Provincial, District and Village Development Planning Committee members in multisectoral nutrition planning and monitoring using the curriculum already developed by the National Nutrition Centre.



EDUCATION

- Develop nutrition modules for primary and secondary schools and incorporate in curricula.
- Incorporate multisectoral nutrition and the need for convergence in higher education curricula of all relevant sectors, including in agriculture colleges, medical schools, education colleges etc.



AGRICULTURE

- Ensure District Agriculture and Forestry Offices have staff trained in year-round homestead vegetable production.
- Ensure / facilitate seed supplies of appropriate nutritious vegetables.

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION (PIN) WAS AN EU-SUPPORTED PROGRAMME THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL NUTRITION STRATEGY.

The Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR project (FSN) contributed to the implementation of the PIN and was operational between January 2019 and August 2021. It was managed by a consortium of two International NGOs (Health Poverty Action and Fundación Pueblo a Pueblo) and the Provincial Health Office, in association with the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office and Lao Women's Union. The objective of the project was to improve nutritional status and food security in 100 villages of 6 districts of Khammouane Province with special focus on children under 5 and women of child-bearing age, including ethnic minority women. It had 3 expected results:

1

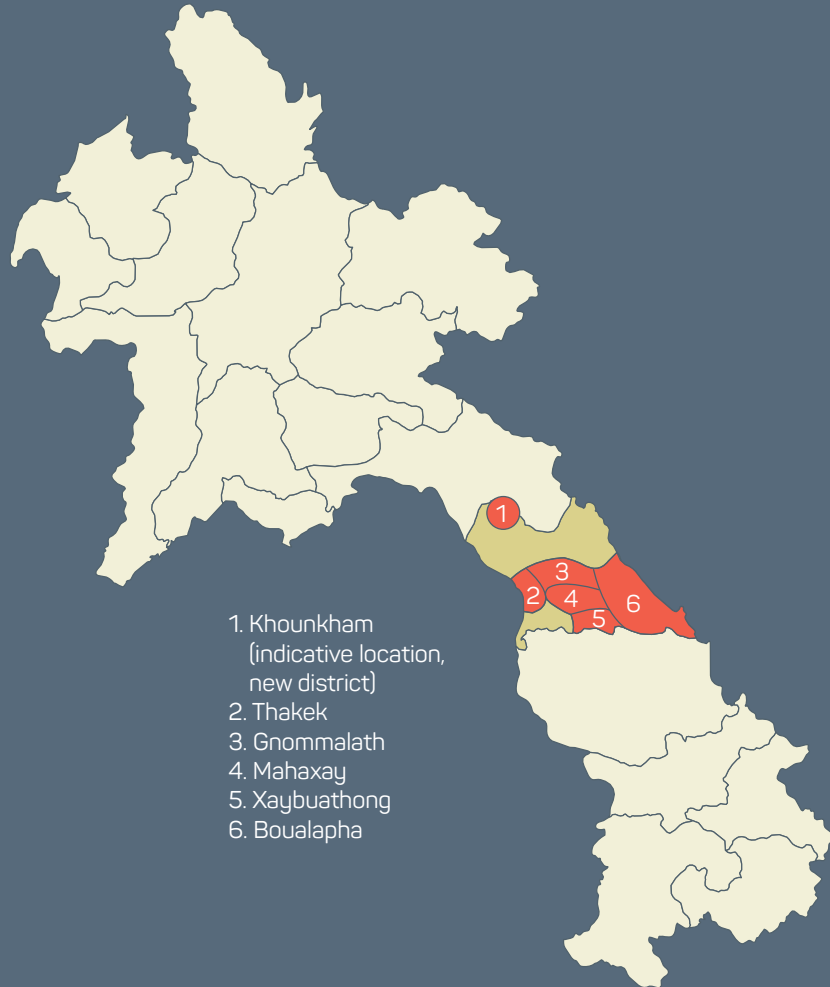
Strengthened food security, resilience and dietary diversification in vulnerable communities;

2

Increased community capacity to prevent, respond to and manage the wider determinants of malnutrition through improved nutrition, nutrition sensitive and hygiene knowledge and practices amongst target communities; and

3

Enhanced capacity of provincial and district level staff to lead multi-sectoral planning and improve coordination.



The Final Evaluation of FSN was an independent assessment of the performance of the project.

One of its primary objectives was to identify key lessons learnt to improve future interventions and the content of this brochure is built upon those lessons. The evaluation found that the project was relevant and coherent with national, provincial and district level development strategies, and that it resulted in target communities having improved awareness about nutrition, regularly consuming a more nutritious home-grown diet and receiving improved mother and child health services. Government services have an improved understanding about improving nutrition and the need for a multisectoral approach, but lack a mechanism to incorporate nutrition in routine programming. Levels of chronic and acute CU5 (children under five years) malnutrition were lower at the end of the project and there are indications that some of the key activities, particularly involving diversified nutritious vegetable production and village level health services provided through small hospitals and village health workers, are sustainable.

It should be noted that this leaflet addresses rural areas with high CU5 malnutrition. It does not address CU5 malnutrition in urban/periurban areas where CU5 malnutrition rates are lower, but (because of higher population density) the actual number of cases is higher. That situation needs to be addressed separately.



This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the ICE EEIG and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union. It was produced by the Evaluation Team responsible for the independent final evaluation of the Food Security and Nutrition in Lao PDR project.

Annex 16: Evaluation Brief (LA)



ແນວທາງໃນການປັບປຸງ ສະຖານະພາບດ້ານໄພຊະນາການ

ຢູ່ໃນ ສປປ ລາວ ໂດຍຜ່ານ ການວາງແຜນແບບແປງຂັ້ນປະສານງານ

ປະມານ 1 ໃນ 3 ຂອງເດກນອຍອາຍຸຕໍ່າກວ່າ 5 ປ ໃນ ສປປ ລາວ ແມ່ນຢູ່ໃນພາວະຂາດສານອາຫານ, ໂດຍທອດຕາດຽງກວາຍງສູງຂຶ້ນໄປອກໃນເຂດຊຸມນະບົດຫ່າງໄກສອກຫຼັງ ແລະ ໃນກມຊຸມເຜາ. ເປັນທຽບກັບວ່າ ເດກນອຍທຸກໆຂາດສານອາຫານຫ່າງຈາກເກດມາໄດ້ 5 ປ ຈະໄດ້ຮັບຜົນກະທົບໄປຕະຫຼອດຊີວິດ, ສຽງຕກການເຈັບປ່ວຍ, ບໍ່ສາມາດຮຽນໄດ້ດີເທົ່າທຽມ, ໄດ້ຮັບຄາຈາງຕາກວ່າ ແລະ ມີຊີວິດການເປັນຢູ່ທີ່ລຳບາກກວ່າເດັກທີ່ມີອາຫານການກນສົມບູນ. ການຂາດສານອາຫານສາມາດເລ່ມຕົນກອນກຳເນີດໄດ້ຖ້າຜູ້ເປັນແມ່ຂາດສານອາຫານ. ຫ່ຽງໃນເປົ້າໝາຍຂອງການພັດທະນາແບບຍືນຍົງ ແມ່ນການຍົດຕົທຽບແບບຂອງການຂາດສານອາຫານໃນເດກນອຍອາຍຸຕໍ່າກວ່າ 5 ປ ແລະ ແກ້ໄຂຄວາມຕ້ອງການດ້ານໄພຊະນາການຂອງເດກຍັງໄວລນ, ພອມທັງແມ່ຍັງຖືພາ ແລະ ແມ່ຍັງທຳລາງໃຫນມລກ.

ການຂາດສານອາຫານເກດມາຈາກຫາຍໆປັດໄຈລວມກັນ ບວາຈະປັນອາຫານທບມຄນະພາບ, ສຂາພບານທບດ, ການຂາດນາສະອາດ, ແລະ ການເຂາເຖງການບລການສາທາລະນະສກທບພຽງພ. ແຕ່ລະປັດໄຈເຫານເກດໄດ້ຈາກຫາຍສາເຫດເຊນ: ເດກນອຍອາດຈະໄດ້ຮັບອາຫານທບມຄນະພາບ ຍອນວາບສາມາດເຂາເຖງອາຫານທມໄພຊະນາການສງທມລາຄາຖກໄດ້ຕະຫຼອດປ, ຫວ່າ ຍອນຜູ້ເປັນແມ່ບຽວທແຕ່ງກນໃຫ້ແຊບ ແລະ ມີໄພຊະນາການ. ການຂາດສານອາຫານຈະບຽກລບລາງໄດ້ໂດຍການແກ້ໄຂສາເຫດ ຫ

ປັດໄຈອນໃດອນຫ່ຽງຢາງດຽວ. ພວກມນຈຳເປນຕ້ອງໄດ້ຮັບການແກ້ໄຂພອມກນທງໝດ. ເນອງຈາກວາບນຫາຕາງໆແມ່ນຢພາຍໃຕ້ຄວາມຮັບຜິດຊອບຂອງຫາກຫາຍຂະແໜງການ, ທກພາກສວນທກຽວຂອງຕ້ອງໄດ້ປະສານງານກັນ ເພື່ອໃຫ້ພວກເຂາສາມາດໃຫບລການໃນຊມຊນດຽວກນໄດ້ ແທນທຈະເຮັດວຽກເປັນເອກະລາດໃນຊມຊນທແຕກຕາງກັນ. ອນນເອນວາວທການຫ່ຽງດຽວຫາຍຂະແໜງການ ແລະ ເປນວທການທໄດ້ຖກຮບຮອງເອາໂດຍລດຖະບານ ແຫ່ງສປປ ລາວ ເພື່ອນຳໃຊ້ໃນ ຍດທະສາດ ແຫ່ງຊາດ ດານໄພຊະນາການ. ຍດທະສາດໄພຊະນາການແຫ່ງຊາດ ຍັງໄດ້ບຽງຊໃຫ້ເຫນືອງບນດາກດຈະກຳບູລິມະສິດທີ່ຕ້ອງໄດ້ຮັບການດຳເນີນການເພື່ອເປັນການປ້ອງກນບນຫາການຂາດສານອາຫານ. ບນດາກດຈະກຳເຫານແມ່ນຈະໄດ້ສະແດງຢໃນຕາຕະລາງໃນໜາຕໄປ. ກດຈະກຳສວນໃຫຍບແມ່ນເລອງໃຫນສຳລບຂະແໜງການທຮບຜິດຊອບ; ຈດສາຄນແມ່ນວ່າ ກດຈະກຳເຫານຄວນຈະໄດ້ຮັບການປະຕບດແບບລວມເຂາກນ.

ເອກະສານສະບູນ ແມ່ນອງໃສບດຽວທຸກອດຖອນໄດ້ຈາກການປະເມີນຜົນຂັ້ນສູດທ້າຍທີ່ເປັນເອກະລາດຂອງໂຄງການຄຳປະກນສະບຽງອາຫານ ແລະ ໄພຊະນາການໃນ ສປປ ລາວ. ໂດຍມນໄດ້ສະເໜກນໄກທຄະນະກຳມະການການວາງແຜນພດທະນາຂນແຂວງ, ເມອງ ແລະ ບານ ສາມາດນຳໄປລເລມຈດຕງປະຕບດເພອໝນໃຊ້ ວທການໄພຊະນາການແບບຫ່ຽງດຽວຫາຍຂະແໜງການໃນແຜນງານປກກະຕຂອງພວກເຂາ.

ບຸກຄະກຳທຸກຄົນໄດ້



ການປົກຄອງ

ບຸກຄະກຳທຸກຄົນໄດ້ ທີ່ສາຍຄະນະກຳມະການພັດທະນາແກ່ໄຂບັນຫາການຂາດສານອາຫານ, ການຂາດສານອາຫານຄວນຈະເປັນບັນຫາຕົ້ນຕໍພາຍໃນໂຄງການພັດທະນາຂອງແຂວງ, ເມອງ ແລະ ບານ. ມັນຈະປະສົບຜົນສໍາເລັດໄດ້ກາຍເປັນອະນາຄົດນະກຳມະການການວາງແຜນພັດທະນາໃນແຕ່ລະຂັ້ນໄດ້ນໍາໃຊ້ ວຽກງານໜັງສືວ່າຍຂະແໜງການ. ເວລາອື່ນໆໜັງສື ຂະແໜງການທຸກຮູບຂອງບຸກຄະກຳມະການຈະເປັນຂະແໜງກະສິກໍາ, ການສຶກສາ, ສາທາລະນະສຸກ, ແຜນການ ແລະ ການລົງທຶນ, ທີ່ໄດ້ຮວມກັນກັບສະໜັບສະໜູນແມ່ຍິງລາວ ແລະ ຂະແໜງການອື່ນໆຕາມຄວາມຈໍາເປັນຕ້ອງໄດ້ມາການປະສານງານເພື່ອສົມໃສ່ກາຍເປັນບລັກມະສັດຂອງເຂົາເຈົ້າຕາມບຸກຄະກຳມະການຄວາມສູງສຸດຕາມການຂາດສານອາຫານ.



ການຄັດເລືອກຜູ້ທີ່ເປົ້າໝາຍ

ມັນເປັນການຍາກທີ່ຈະເລືອກເອົາບ້ານໂດຍອີງໃສ່ສະຖານະໄພຊຸມນາການ ເພາະວ່າຂອງເຂດທຸກໆພື້ນທີ່ໄພຊຸມນາການຕໍ່າທຸກໆພື້ນທີ່ມາຍຸງກັນກຽວກັບໄພຊຸມນາການໃນ ສປປ ລາວ ແມ່ນຂອງເຂດທຸກໆໂຮງໝໍ້ຂະໜາດນ້ອຍ. ສະນັ້ນ, ບັນດາເມືອງຕ່າງໆຄວນຕັ້ງເປົ້າວ່າລະການພັດທະນາຂອງຕົນໃສ່ບັນດາຂອງເຂດທຸກໆໂຮງໝໍ້ຂະໜາດນ້ອຍ ທຸກໆພື້ນທີ່ການຂາດສານອາຫານໃນເດກນອຍອາຍຸຕໍ່າກວ່າ 5 ປີ ສູງສຸດ (ລວງສູງ ແລະ ນໍ້າໜັກບໍ່ໄດ້ມາດຕະຖານ). ຄວນຈະກວມເອົາຈໍານວນບ້ານໃຫ້ຫຼາຍທຸກໆພື້ນທີ່ທີ່ຈະເປັນໄປໄດ້ ໂດຍສະເພາະບ້ານທີ່ຢູ່ໄກສອກຫຼັກພາຍໃນຂົງເຂດທີ່ທຸກໆຂະແໜງການໄດ້ເຮັດວຽກຮ່ວມກັນຢູ່ໃນບັນດາບ້ານ ຫຼື ບ້ານຍອຍເຫຼາະນັ້ນ.



ມາດຕະການບລັກມະສັດທີ 1 ຂອງຍຸດທະສາດໄພຊຸມນາການແຫ່ງຊາດ

ຫຼາຍຂະແໜງການ	
1	ສະໜອງການສ້າງຄວາມອາດສາມາດຂອງລະບົບ
2	ປັບປຸງການປະສານງານ ແລະ ການຮວມມູນລະຫວ່າງພາກສ່ວນທຸກຮູບຂອງດາວໄພຊຸມນາການ
3	ປັບປຸງການຄຸ້ມຄອງຂະໜາດສານ (ການຕາມຕາມ ແລະ ປະເມນຜົນ; ການເຜົາລະວ່າງ ແລະ ການຄົນຄວາ); ແລະ ການພັດທະນານະໂຍບາຍ
4	ເພີ່ມທະວີການສຶກສາ, ການສະໜັບສະໜູນ, ແລະ ການລົງທຶນດາວໄພຊຸມນາການ
ຂະແໜງສາທາລະນະສຸກ	
5	ສະໜອງທາດອາຫານເສມ - ກາດຈະກາປະກອບມາດອາຫານທສະໜອງໃຫ້ໂດຍຜູ້ອາຫານເສມ ຫຼື ເພີ່ມເຂົ້າໃນອາຫານໂດຍກົງ (ເຊັ່ນ: ທາດເຫກ ແລະ ອາຊຸດໄຟລກ, ວຕາມນອ, ຜັງທາດອາຫານ, ສຽກະສ, ວຕາມນປ 1 ແລະ ອື່ນໆ)
6	ການຂາແມ່ທອງ
7	ການເສມອາຫານ ລວມທັງການເສມໄອໂອດນເກອ
8	ສູງເສມການໃຫ້ອາຫານເດກອນ ແລະ ເດກນອຍ (IYCF) ແລະ ໄພຊຸມນາການຂອງແມ່
9	ສະໜອງອາຫານເສມສາລະໂມຍຸດຖຸພາ ແລະ ຜັງໃຫນມລກ
10	ສະໜອງອາຫານໃຫ້ເດກອາຍ 6-23 ເດອນ
11	ປັບປຸງຄະນະພາບ ແລະ ຄວາມປອດໄພຂອງອາຫານ
12	ການຄຸ້ມຄອງການຂາດສານອາຫານຂະໜາດນ້ອຍໃນສຶກສາລາ ແລະ ໃນຊຸມຊົນ
13	ການໃຫ້ຄວາມຮຽກຮ້ອງກັບໄພຊຸມນາການ ແລະ ການສຶກສາໃນການປ່ຽນແປງພຶດຕະກຳທາງສູງຄຸນ ເພື່ອເປັນການສູງເສມການປະກອບທາດ ແລະ ອາຫານທຸກໆຄະນະພາບ
14	ເສມສາງແຫ່ງນໍ້າ ແລະ ລະບົບການສະໜອງນໍ້າ; ພອມທຸງປັບປຸງສຂາພບານໃນຄວເຮອນ, ຊຸມຊົນ, ສຶກສາລາ ແລະ ໂຮງຮຽນ.
ຂະແໜງການກະສິກໍາ	
15	ເພີ່ມທະວີການຜະລິດສະບຽງອາຫານປະເພດພຸດຜາທຸກໆຄວາມອດມສມບັນທາງດາວໄພຊຸມນາການ ເພື່ອການບລັກໄພກໃນຄວເຮອນ
16	ເພີ່ມການຜະລິດອາຫານທຸກໆທາດໄປຕາມຈາກສດ ເພື່ອການບລັກໄພກໃນຄວເຮອນ (ເຊັ່ນ: ຊຸນງວ, ສດປກ, ປ່າ ແລະ ສດນາອື່ນໆ)
17	ສະໜັບສະໜູນການສ້າງຕັ້ງສູງອໍານວຍຄວາມສະດວກພາຍທາງການເກບກຽວ ແລະ ນໍ້າໃຊ້ເຕກໂນໂລຊີເຂົ້າໃນການປັບປຸງແຕ່ງ, ການຖະໜອມ ແລະ ການເກບຮກສາອາຫານເພື່ອຮັບປະກັນການມອາຫານທຸກໆພື້ນທີ່ ແລະ ມາດຕະຖານໄວກນໄດ້ຕະຫອດປ.
18	ສູງເສມວຽກງານການກະສິກໍາ ແລະ ການເກບເຄອງປາຂອງດຸງທສາງລາຍຮັບເພີ່ມຂຶ້ນໃຫ້ແກ່ຄວເຮອນ, ໂດຍເນນໃສ່ແມ່ຍິງ.
ຂະແໜງການສຶກສາ	
19	ສະໜອງອາຫານທຸກໆທາດບໍາລຸງພາຍໃນໂຮງຮຽນ
20	ສູງເສມ ແລະ ສະໜັບສະໜູນການເຮດສວນປກຜກໃນໂຮງຮຽນ
21	ປະສົມປະສານຄວາມຮຽກຮ້ອງກັບໄພຊຸມນາການເຂົ້າໃນຫກສດ
22	ສະໜອງທາດເຫກ ແລະ ອາຊຸດໄຟລກເສມ, ແລະ ກໍາຈັດແມ່ທອງໃນໂຮງຮຽນ

ແຫຼ່ງຂໍ້ມູນ: ສູງລວມຈາກ ການທບທວນກາງສະໄໝຂອງຍຸດທະສາດ ແລະ ແຜນປະກອບດາວໄພຊຸມນາການແຫ່ງຊາດ 2016-2020, ກອງເລຂາໄພຊຸມນາການແຫ່ງຊາດ, 2019.



ຂອບເຂດຂອງກິດຈະກຳໃນຊຸມຊົນເປົ້າໝາຍ



ຂະແໜງສາທາລະນະສກ

- ສາຍຄວາມເຂັ້ມແຂງໃຫ້ແກ່ໂຮງໝໍຂະໜາດນ້ອຍເພື່ອໃຫ້ສາມາດປະຕິບັດວຽກງານສະໜອງແກ້ໄຂ ແລະ ເດກທຸມຢເຊນ: ການເຄື່ອນຍ້າຍຊອມສານໄພຊະນາການ, ການຝາກທອງ ແລະ ການເບິ່ງແຍງທຸກເກດ, ການຕັດຕາມການຈະເລນແຕບໂຕ, ການຈັດຫາວາດຕາມນອ ແລະ ຢາຂ້າແມ່ທອງ.
- ຝນຝັກຄະລາກອນສາທາລະນະສກບານ ພອມທຸງສມທບການສູງຕຂມນດານໄພຊະນາການ ແລະ ການສາທດການເຮດອາຫານໃຫ້ກາຍເປັນພາລະໜ້າທຂອງພວກເຂົາ (ພອມກນກບສະຫະພນແມຍງລາວ).
- ສຸງເສມການນຳໃຊ້ນຳສະອາດ ແລະ ສຂາພບານໃນບານ ແລະ ໂຮງຮຽນ.



ຂະແໜງກະສິກຳ

- ສມໃສການຜະລິດພດຜກ (ຂະໜາດນ້ອຍ) ທມທາດບາລງຫາກຫາຍຊະນດ ເພອບລໄພກໃນຄວເຮອນຕະຫອດປ (ທງລະດຮອນ ແລະ ລະດໜາວ).
- ສະໜບສະໜນການຜະລິດໄກ ແລະ ເປດໃນລະດບຄວເຮອນ ໂດຍຜານການບລການສດຕະວະແຜດຂນບານທໄດຮບການປບປງ.
- ປະສານສມທບກບຂະແໜງການສກສາ ເພອສະໜບສະໜນສວນປກຜກຂອງໂຮງຮຽນໃຫ້ກາຍເປັນສວນສາທດ.



ຂະແໜງການສຶກສາ

- ສະໜອງອາຫານທຽງທຸກຫກໄພຊະນາການໃຫ້ແກ່ໂຮງຮຽນໃນຂງເຂດເປົ້າໝາຍ.
- ຍກລະດບສຂາພບານໃນໂຮງຮຽນ.
- ຊອມສານວຽກງານໄພຊະນາການເຂົາໃນຫກສດຂອງໂຮງຮຽນ.
- ສຸງເສມ ແລະ ສະໜບສະໜນການເຮດສວນປກຜກໃນໂຮງຮຽນ.



ສະຫະພັນແມ່ຍິງລາວ

- ການສສານການປຽນແປງພດຕກາທາງສງຄມ.
- ຊວຍເຫອບກຄະລາກອນສາທາລະນະສກບານດວຍການສາທດການເຮດອາຫານ.
- ສຸງເສມສະພາບແວດລອມຂອງບານໃຫ້ສະອາດ ເພອໃຫມສຂະພາບດ.



ກະຊວງແຜນການ ແລະ ການລົງທຶນ

- ສະໜບສະໜນຄະນະກາມະການພດທະນາບານ (VDCs) ເພອດາເນນການວາງແຜນທກຽວພນຫາຍຂະແໜງການ
- ສະໜບສະໜນຄະນະກາມະການພດທະນາບານ ເພອປບປງສະພາບແວດລອມຂອງບານໃຫ້ສະອາດ ເພອໃຫມສຂະພາບດ, ຕວຢາງເຊນ ການແຍກທຢອາໄສສດອອກຈາກທຢອາໄສຂອງມະນດ; ການຕດຕງວດຖາຍ; ແລະ ອນງ.

ລວມທຸກຂະແໜງການ

ຮວມກນວາງແຜນ ແລະ ຕດຕາມກວດກາກດຈະກາເພອຮບປະກນການລວມສນຫາຍຂະແໜງການ, ແລະ ເພອການດໄດ ແລະ ລບລາງຂຈາກດຕາງງ.



ໄລຍະເວລາ

ຊຸບພະຍາກອນ ແລະ ກດຈະກາຕາງງ ຄວນຈະສມໃສຊຸມຊນເປົ້າໝາຍຢ່າງໜອຍ 3 ປ ແລະ ຈນກວາການຕດຕາມກວດກາຮວມຈະສາມາດບງຊໄດເຖງການປບປງສະຖານະພາບທາງໄພຊະນາການຂອງເດກນອຍອາຍຕຳກວາ 5 ປ. ຫງຈາກນນ, ບນດາຊຸບພະຍາກອນຕາງງຄວນຈະຖືກຍົກຍ້າຍໄປສູ່ຂງເຂດທີ່ມີໂຮງໝໍຂະໜາດນ້ອຍທີ່ມີອັດຕາການຂາດສານອາຫານສງສດໃນເວລານນ.



ການສະໜັບສະໜຸນລະດັບຊາດ

ກະຊວງແຜນການ ແລະ ການລົງທຶນ

- ສຸງເສມການວາງແຜນດານໄພຊະນາການທກຽວພນຫາຍຂະແໜງການ ແລະ ການຈດສນຊຸບພະຍາກອນການລງທນຢລະດບຍອຍຂອງຊາດ.
- ຝກອບຮມສະມາຊກຂອງຄະນະກາມະການການວາງແຜນພດທະນາຂນແຂວງ, ເມອງ ແລະ ບານໃນການວາງແຜນ ແລະ ຕດຕາມດານໄພຊະນາທກຽວພນກບຫາຍຂະແໜງການ ໂດຍນຳໃຊ້ຫກສດທໄດມການພດທະນາແລວໂດຍສນໄພຊະນາການແຫງຊາດ.



ຂະແໜງການສກສາ

- ພດທະນາໝວດວຊາຮຽນດານໄພຊະນາການສຳລບໂຮງຮຽນປະຖມ ແລະ ມດທະຍມ ພອມທງລວມເອາເຂົາໃນຫກສດ.
- ລວມເອາໄພຊະນາການທກຽວພນກບການຫາຍຂະແໜງການ ແລະ ຄວາມຈຳເປນໃນການລວມເຂາກນຂອງຫາຍຂະແໜງການ ເຂົາໃນຫກສດການສກສາຊນສງຂອງທກຂະແໜງການທກຽວຂອງລວມທງ ວທະຍາໄລກະສກຳ, ໂຮງຮຽນແຜດສາດ, ວທະຍາໄລການສກສາ ແລະ ອນງ.



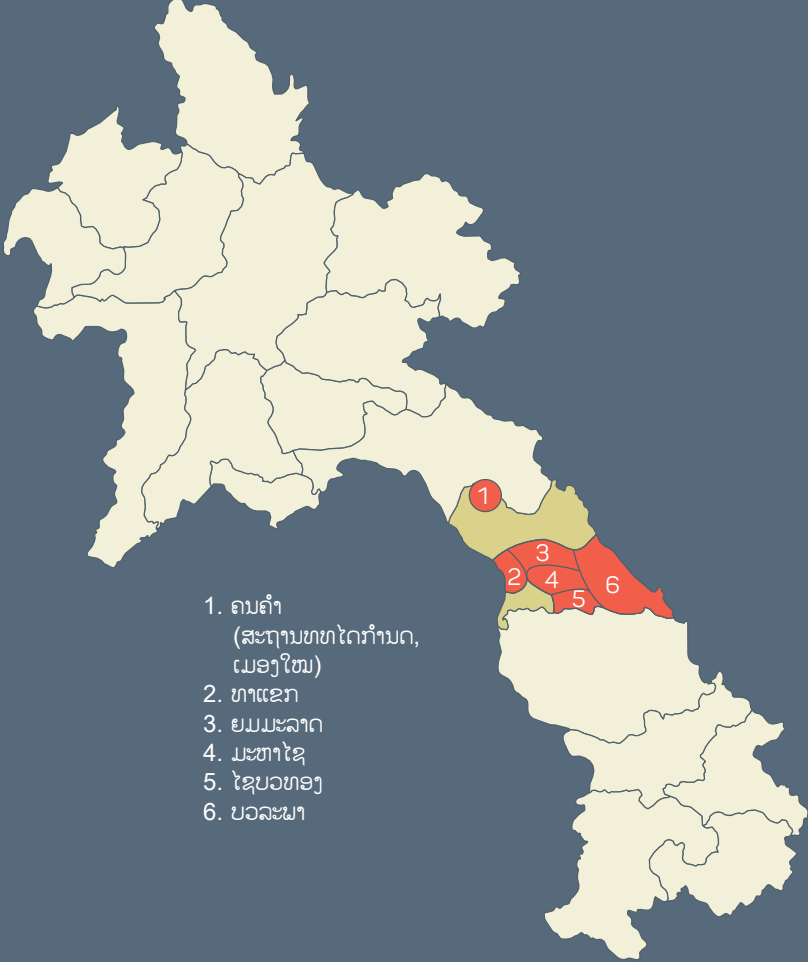
ຂະແໜງການກະສິກຳ

- ຮບປະກນໃຫ້ທອງການກະສກຳ ແລະ ປາໄມເມອງ ມພະນກງານທຜານການຝກອບຮມການຜະລິດພດຜກຢຄວເຮອນຕະຫອດປ.
- ຮບປະກນ / ອານວຍຄວາມສະດວກໃນການສະໜອງແນວພນພດທມທາດບາລງທໝະສມ.

**ຄູ່ຮ່ວມງານເພື່ອການປັບປຸງໂພຊະນາການ (PARTNERSHIP FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION)
ແມ່ນແຜນງານທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບການສະໜັບສະໜູນໂດຍ ສະຫະພາບເອີຣົບ ທີ່ໄດ້ປະກອບສ່ວນເຂົ້າໃນການປະຕິບັດ
ຍຸດທະສາດແຫ່ງຊາດ ດ້ານໂພຊະນາການ.**

ໂຄງການຄຳປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານ ແລະ ປັບປຸງໂພຊະນາການ ສປປ ລາວ (Food Security and Nutrition) ໄດ້ປະກອບສ່ວນເຂົ້າໃນການຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດແຜນງານ ຄຮວມງານເພື່ອການປັບປຸງໂພຊະນາການ (PIN) ແລະ ໄດ້ມາດຕະການດຳເນີນງານໃນລະຫວ່າງເດືອນມັງກອນ 2019 ຫາ ເດືອນສຸງຫາ 2021. ໂຄງການດັ່ງກ່າວແມ່ນໄດ້ຮັບການຄຸ້ມຄອງໂດຍການຮວມມະຫວາງອງການຈັດຕັ້ງທັບຂນກບລດຖະບານລະດບສາກນ 2 ແຫ່ງ (ອົງການສະຂະພາບ ແລະ ຫົວໜ້າຄວາມທກຍາກ, ແລະ ກອງທຶນ Pueblo a Pueblo) ແລະ ຫ້ອງການສາທາລະນະສກແຂວງ ໂດຍສມທບກບຫ້ອງການກະສກຳ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້ແຂວງ, ແລະ ສະຫະພັນແມ່ຍງລາວ. ຈັດປະສງຂອງໂຄງການແມ່ນເພື່ອປັບປຸງສະຖານະໂພຊະນາການ ແລະ ການຄຳປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານໃຫ້ແກ່ 100 ບານຈາກ 6 ຕວເມອງ ພາຍໃນແຂວງຄຳມວນ ໂດຍໄດ້ເອົາໃຈໃສ່ເປັນພິເສດໃນເດກນອຍອາຍຕຳກວ່າ 5 ປີ ແລະ ແມ່ຍງໃນໄວເກດລກ, ລວມທງແມ່ຍງຊນເຜາ. ເຊງປະກອບມ 3 ຜນໄດ້ຮບທຄາດຄະເນໄວ ໄດ້ແກ່:

1. ການສ້າງຄວາມເຂັ້ມແຂງໃຫ້ແກ່ ການຄຳປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານ, ການຍກລະດບຄວາມທນທານ ແລະ ການສງເສມການກນອາຫານແບບຫາກຫາຍ ໃຫ້ແກ່ຊມຊນທມຄວາມອອນໄຫວ;
2. ການເພມຂດຄວາມສາມາດ ຂອງ ຊມຊນເປ່າໝາຍ ໃນການສະກດກນ, ຮບມ, ແລະ ຄມຄອງບລຫານປດໄຈທຳໃຫມບ ນຫາການຂາດສານອາຫານແບບຊຳເຮອ ໂດຍຜານການປັບປຸງໂພຊະນາການ, ຄວາມຮ ແລະ ວທການດານ ສະອານະໄມ; ແລະ
3. ການສ້າງຄວາມເຂັ້ມແຂງ ແລະ ຍກລະດບຂດຄວາມສາມາດ ໃຫ້ແກ່ພະນກງານຂນແຂວງ ແລະ ເມອງ ໃນການນຳພາການວາງແຜນ ແລະ ການປະສານງານ ລະຫວ່າງ ບນດາຂະແຫງການກຽວຂອງ.



ການປະເມນໂຄງການຄຳປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານ ແລະ ປັບປຸງໂພຊະນາການຮອບສດທາຍ ແມ່ນການປະເມນປະສດທພາບໃນການປະຕິບັດໂຄງການທເປນເອກະລາດ. ຫງໃນຈດປະສງຕນຕກແມ່ນເພື່ອການດບດຮຽນສາຄນທຸດອດຖອນໄດ້ເພື່ອນຳໃຊ້ໃນການປັບປຸງກດຈະກຳໃນອະນາຄ ແລະ ເນອໃນຂອງແຜນພບນກແມ່ນໄດ້ອງໃສບດຮຽນທຜານມາເຫານນ. ການປະເມນຜນສະແດງໃຫ້ເຫນວ່າ ໂຄງການດັ່ງກ່າວມຄວາມກຽວຂອງ ແລະ ສອດຄອງກບຍດທະສາດການພດທະນາລະດບຊາດ, ແຂວງ ແລະ ເມອງ, ພອມທງໄດ້ສງຜນໃຫ້ຊມຊນເປ່າໝາຍ ມການເສມຂະຫຍາຍຄວາມຮບຮກຽວກບໂພຊະນາການ, ການບລໄພກອາຫານທປກເອງເປນ ທມໂພຊະນາການສງຢ່າງເປນປກກະຕ, ແລະ ການໄດ້ຮບການບລການສະຂະພາບແມ ແລະ ເດກທດຂນ. ການບລການຂອງລດໄດສະແດງໃຫ້ເຫນເຖງຄວາມເຂົາໃຈທດຂນກຽວກບການປັບປຸງໂພຊະນາການ ແລະ ຄວາມຈຳເປນຂອງແນວທາງທດພນກບຫາຍຂະແຫງການ, ແຕຂາດກນໄກສຳຄນໃນການລວມເອົາໂພຊະນາການເຂົາໃນໂຄງການປກກະຕ. ລະດບການຂາດສານອາຫານແບບຊຳເຮອ ແລະ ຮນແຮງໃນເດກນອຍອາຍຕຳກວ່າ 5 ປີ ແມ່ນຫດຕາລງໃນໄລຍະທາຍຂອງໂຄງການ ແລະ ມຂບຸຊວາບາງກດຈະກຳຫກແຫງ, ໂດຍສະເພາະທກຽວຂອງກບການຜະລດພດຜກທມສານອາຫານຫາກຫາຍ, ແລະ ການບລການສາທາລະນະສກຂນບານໂດຍຜານໂຮງໝະຂະຫນາດນອຍ ແລະ ບກຄະລາກອນທາງສາທາລະນະສກຂນບານ ແມ່ນມຄວາມຍນຍງ.

ສງທຄວນສງເກດແມ່ນ ເອກະສານສະບບນໄດ້ເວາເຖງບນດາຂງເຂດຊນນະບດທມການຂາດສານອາຫານຢ່າງຮນແຮງໃນເດກນອຍອາຍຕຳກວ່າ 5 ປີ. ແຕບໄດ້ເວາເຖງບນຫາການຂາດສານອາຫານໃນເດກນອຍອາຍຕຳກວ່າ 5 ປີ ພາຍໃນເຂດຕວເມອງ/ນອກເມອງ ທອດຕາການຂາດສານອາຫານຕາ, ແຕຈານວນກລະນຕວຈງສງກວ່າ (ຍອນຄວາມໜາແໜນຂອງປະຊາກອນສງກວ່າ). ດງນນ, ກລະນເຫນຈຳເປນຕອງໄດ້ຮບການກາວເຖງເປນແຕລະກລະນງໄປ.



ສສງມສະບບນໄດ້ຮບການສ້າງຂນໂດຍຜານການຊວຍເຫອທາງການເງນຈາກສະຫະພາບເອຣບ. ເນອໃນຂອງມນແມ່ນຢພາຍໃຕ້ຄວາມຮບຮດຊອບຂອງ ICE EEIF ພຽງຜາງວ ແລະ ບໄດ້ສະໜອນເຖງທດສະນະຂອງສະຫະພາບເອຣບແຕ່ຢ່າງໃດ. ເຊງໄດ້ຮບການຜະລດໂດຍທມງານການປະເມນຜນ ທຮບຮດຊອບການປະເມນຜນສດທາຍທເປນເອກະລາດຂອງ ໂຄງການຄຳປະກັນສະບຽງອາຫານ ແລະ ໂພຊະນາການໃນ ສປປ ລາວ.