

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Agriculture for Nutrition (AFN)

Implementation Support Mission, September 2020

Mission Report

Type of mission	Implementation Support Mission
Project Name	Agriculture for Nutrition
Country	Lao PDR
Country Director	Kaushik Barua
Name of Project Director	Mr. Sisovath Phandanouvong (ssfsn.project@gmail.com)
Date of mission (month/year)	09/2020
Project Area:	400 villages of 12 districts in four Lao PDR Northern provinces: Oudomxai, Phongsaly, Xieng Khouang and Houaphan
Days in the field	n/a
Field sites visited	n/a
Mission composition	Julian Abrams, Rural Development Specialist / Team Leader, Sakphouseth Meng, Project Management Specialist; Soulivanh Pattivong IFAD CPO / Partnerships and Institutions Specialist

Abbreviations and acronyms

AFN	Agriculture for Nutrition Project
APG	Agriculture Production Group
AWPB	Annual work plan and budget
CDD	Community driven development
CF	Community facilitator
DAEC	Department of Agricultural Extension and Cooperative
DAFO	District Agriculture and Forestry Office
DPC	Department of Planning and Cooperation
DPIO	District Planning and Investment Office
DHO	District Health Office
DNC	District Nutrition Committee
DONRE	District Office of Natural Resource and Environment
DoPF	Department of Planning and Finance
DRDO	District Rural Development Office
DTEAP	Department of Technical Extension and Agricultural Processing
ECU	Extension and cooperative unit
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FNS	Farmer nutrition school
GAFFSP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
GALS	Gender action learning system
GIS	Geographic information system
GOL	Government of Laos
GST	Group support team
HGNPD	Health Governance and Nutrition Development Project
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
KDP	Kum Ban Development Plan
KM	Knowledge management
LWU	Lao women union
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MIS	Management information system
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MOH	Ministry of Health
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
NAFRI	National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute
NNC	National Nutrition Committee
NNSPA	National Nutrition Strategy to 2025 and Plan of Action 2016 – 2020
NPCO	National Project Coordination Office
NPSC	National Project Steering Committee
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PAFO	Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office
PAR	Participatory action research
PHO	Provincial Health Office
PIM	Project implementation manual
PoNRE	Provincial Office of Natural Resource and Environment
PPCP	Public Private Community Partnership
PPSC	Provincial Project Steering Committee
PRF	Poverty reduction fund
RIMS	Results and Impact Management System
SEDP	Social economic development plan
SIP	Strategic investment plan
SSFSNP	Strategic Support for Food Security and Nutrition Project
SSWGU	Sub Sector Working Group Uplands
TA	Technical assistance
TOT	Training of trainer
TSC	Technical Service Center
VDP	Village development plan
VF	Village Facilitator
VIP	Village Infrastructure Plan
VIT	Village Implementation Teams
WASH	Water, sanitation and health
WFP	World Food Program

A. Background and Objectives

1. The Agriculture for Nutrition (AFN) project is financed by Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) through its Department of Planning and Finance (DoPF). The project became effective on 28 April 2016 and the planned completion date is 30 June 2022. The project addresses chronic malnutrition and food insecurity in Lao PDR upland areas, through support of the National Nutrition Strategy 2016-25 and Plan of Action 2016 – 20 (NNSPA), and through piloting new development approaches and technologies in this framework. The total cost for the project is USD 38.8 million, which consists of a GAFSP grant of USD 24 million to IFAD, a GAFSP grant of USD 6 million to World Food Programme (WFP), Government of Lao PDR (GoL) contribution of about USD 5.4 million and contributions from beneficiary groups and local private sector estimated as USD 3.3 million.

2. The AFN Goal is to “contribute to reduced extreme poverty and malnutrition in poorest communities”. The Development Objective is “improved and diversified agricultural production and household nutrition enhance life prospects”. The project is implemented in 400 villages of 12 districts in four Northern provinces: Oudomxai, Phongsaly, Xieng Khouang and Houaphan. The project is implemented through three technical components: (1) Strengthened public services; (2) Community-driven agriculture-based nutrition interventions; and (3) Sustainable and inclusive market-driven partnerships. The GAFSP grant to IFAD finances Components 1, 3 and project management costs, while the GAFSP grant to WFP finances Component 2.

3. IFAD, in partnership with the GoL, conducted the AFN Mid-Term Review Mission in February and March 2020. Key findings of the MTR were that while project implementation was proceeding at an impressive pace, improvements in sequencing and coordination of activities were needed. The project Logical Framework (logframe) was revised to improve clarity and set achievable targets. The project agreed to develop a revised AWPB for 2020 and an indicative AWPB for 2021. Unallocated funds were re-allocated to priority expenditure categories. The Project agreed to prepare a revised draft of the Exit Strategy.

4. Following the MTR mission, the project areas, and project operations, have been severely affected by restrictions in place to control the global COVID-19 epidemic and by associated impacts on the economy of Lao PDR. Accordingly, the project has prepared a proposal for additional financing from GAFSP Public Sector Window: COVID-19 Response facility. The additional financing request comprises an additional \$US 3,156,000 for the investment project (i.e. funds managed by MAF) and an additional \$US 2,500,000 for the TA project (i.e. funds managed by WFP). A decision on approval of the additional financing request is expected by end September 2020.

5. IFAD, MAF and WFP jointly conducted an Implementation Support Mission from 7th September to 15th September 2020. The objectives of the Mission were to: (1) follow up physical and financial achievements; (2) review status of other agreed actions from the last MTR Mission; (3) identify possible constraints and discuss practical solutions; and (4) jointly prepare for GAFSP additional funding.

6. Because of travel restrictions in force in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic the Mission was conducted without international or domestic travel. The Mission Leader and the Programme Management Specialist joined mission meetings by teleconference link from their home bases. The IFAD Country Director, Kaushik Barua, joined mission kick-off and wrap-up meetings from IFAD regional office in Hanoi.

7. The mission kick-off meeting on 7th September 2020 was co-chaired by Mr. Somxay Sisanonh , Director General of the Department of Planning and Finance of MAF, and Mr. Jan Delbaere, WFP Country Director. The mission wrap-up meeting on 15th September 2020 was co- chaired by Dr. Phommy Intichack, Deputy Director General of Department of Planning and Finance, MAF, and by Mr Jan Delbaere, WFP Country Director. Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning, Investment, and key stakeholders (FAO, Lao Farmer Network, etc.,) also participated in the meeting.

8. The mission would like to express its appreciation to the GoL, MAF, and other related ministries and departments, NPCO and all stakeholders who participated in meetings of the mission for their cooperation and support extended to the mission.

B. Project Implementation Progress

Overall Progress

9. Despite operational difficulties and delays caused by the COVID-19 crisis, the Project has continued to make good progress since the MTR. Agreements made as a result of the MTR have been implemented or are in process of implementation. Key achievements since the MTR include roll-out of the Participatory Action Research (PAR) extension training for key commodities, finalisation of the Farmer to Farmer extension guideline, roll-out of on-farm extension demonstrations, piloting of an improved village nutrition plan and strengthening of the Farmer

Nutrition Schools (FNS), provision of additional Garden Grants to FNS participants. The project is on track to reach its targets for Agriculture Production Groups (APG) and associated APG grants disbursed and to complete the programme of Village Infrastructure Grants. Six Public, Private, Community Partnership (PPCP) agreements have been signed and the seventh is awaiting approval, thus achieving the final number of PPCP agreed at MTR. An improved project M&E system has been introduced and a detailed Exit Strategy has been prepared in draft.

10. There are two scenarios for the remaining project period, depending on the decision on approval of the additional financing which is expected shortly. If no additional financing is available, the project will complete most planned field activities, fully disburse investment funds and expend most operational funding by end 2021, six months ahead of the Project Completion Date (30 June 2022). If the additional financing is approved in full, the Project will need to further scale up activities in the final 18 months (January 2021 – June 2022) in order to disburse the additional financing and achieve the revised targets. As discussed below, in this scenario, the possibility of an extension of the project period may need to be considered. In either scenario, the project will need to focus on key measures to achieve sustainability, in accordance with the Exit Strategy, during the remaining implementation period.

Component 1: Strengthened Public Services

11. Key outputs of Component 1 include upgrading and improved capacity of 14 Technical Service Centres; development of guidelines and delivery of training for government staff; development of extension materials and support to extension activities at village level. The component supports technical cooperation of FAO for development of a Project Management Information System (ProMIS) for MAF.

12. Upgrading of the TSC is almost complete and will be completed by end 2020. Different TSC have differing levels of capacity. Some TSC are providing valuable support to the project through production of forage seed, demonstration activities, serving as training centres and outreach to nearby villages. In general, however, the potential of the TSC to provide cost-effective extension services to farmers in poor and remote villages seems to be rather limited as was also observed in previous missions.

13. Of 29 PAR developed, the project has prioritised 19 (this is rather more than the 10 suggested by the MTR) in response to demand from Provincial and District Agriculture and Forestry Offices (PAFO / DAFO). Extension materials including posters have been developed and procurement action is in progress for a contract to print the materials in bulk. The posters still make use of considerable amounts of text which will be inaccessible to many project farmers who are not literate in Lao language. For roll-out of the PAR a training-of-trainers (ToT) approach is being used with the PAR trained to Lead Farmers in the first instance and then rolled out to the farmer groups. **The project should experiment with developing more visual training materials suitable to be provided to Lead Farmers for use without extensive classroom training. Introduction of simple digital dissemination of extension messages (for example, PDF formats that can be loaded on smartphones or tablets) could be considered. Priority should be given to PAR that match the most common APG activities or that are shown to have a high rate of adoption / replication by APG members and other farmers.**

14. A total of 583 Lead Farmers have been selected and trained (86 female) and the project is on course to achieve the target of 800. Lead Farmers will be certified as Village Agriculture Technicians (VAT) with specific skills (crop farmer, livestock specialist etc); this will qualify them for limited ongoing support from DAFO after the project ends. The Farmer to Farmer Extension Strategy document has been approved and 99 on-farm demonstrations are under way in 46 villages; the target is to conduct demonstrations in at least 200 villages by the end of the project. The project is not certain that this target can be achieved: there have been some budget over-runs and limited capacity of DAFO to support the on-farm demonstrations and associated farmer-trainings is also a constraint.

15. **Wherever possible, the PAR activities and on-farm demonstrations should be aligned with ongoing APG grant activities.** In practice, this may mean prioritising villages where APG have not yet received / spent their grant funds. **In any case where PAR or on-farm demonstration activities introduce a commodity which is not already produced in the village, the activity should include links to potential collectors / buyers or other value chain actors** so that farmers are informed about the market for the commodity.

16. **Farmer-to-Farmer extension should be understood as facilitating local information networks and sharing of knowledge and skills that already exist at local level, as well as an avenue for dissemination of new technology and skills.** In this regard, the project may need to focus more on sharing and scale-up of existing skills at community level (for example through continuous capacity building of Lead Farmers and Village Facilitators), as more cost-effective given time and budget constraints in the remaining project period.

17. Production of forage is seasonal and will resume during the coming months. To date, the project has produced 44 tonnes of forage seed. Sixty-seven (67) households are growing forage seed and planting material

on 141 ha, while 294 households are growing forage for feeding on 638 ha. To date the main purchaser for forage seed and planting materials is the project. The project has started exploring links with potential commercial buyers of forage seed. **Sustainability may be achieved through links to (1) livestock raising farmers; (2) seed buyers; or (3) integrating support to forage seed production at village level in the role of the Lead Farmers.**

18. The Mission was briefed by FAO on progress of the ProMIS. The system is near completion and data entry is under way on a pilot basis. The indicator set is determined by MAF planning indicators. The potential value of ProMIS is primarily as a cross-project MIS system for MAF, it will not replace project monitoring systems (which will inevitably include larger and more varied indicator sets). Success of the system will depend on encouraging project staff to enter data and there is a risk that this task could be seen as duplicating data entry which is already undertaken for project systems. For better understanding of the potential of ProMIS and its integration in IFAD projects in future, **AFN should prepare a summary analysis of project information captured in ProMIS** (i.e. overlaps and gaps compared to project monitoring and reporting). The value of ProMIS to external partners would be greatly enhanced if it had the capability to report activities, aggregated across projects, at village level. **This decision depends on MAF and AFN should discuss with MAF whether this functionality should be added to the system.**

Component 2: Nutrition-Sensitive Planning

19. Key outputs of Component 2 include support to convergence planning through District Nutrition Committees (DNC) in 12 Districts; preparation of nutrition-sensitive integrated development plans in 300 villages, establishment of 400 Farmer Nutrition Schools (FNS) and training of 15,000 individuals in nutrition-enhanced behavior and preparation for informed household investment to fill household food and nutrition gaps.; and provision of 1,440 Garden Grants to women farmers to support production of nutritious foods (in addition to the 15,000 Garden Grants under Component 3).

20. A number of achievements and actions have been made, namely the support to strengthened PNC and DNC structures and coordination with systemic working arrangements at provincial and district levels, to come up with joint District Multi-Sectoral Convergence Plans; development of FNS with comprehensive training packages for women and pregnant women and villagers. The Programme interventions have directly focused on the implementation of the four nutrition-sensitive agricultural activities within the 22 priority interventions under the National Nutrition Strategy and Plans of Actions (NNSPA). Women have been empowered to sustainably achieve better family nutrition outcomes, through implementation of the NNSPA nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions. In addition, the Programme has developed and applied a number of new approaches and technology and scaled up existing successful technologies and systems that apply a convergence approach. This has accelerated GoL achievement of national food security and improved nutrition, namely the empowerment of women to improve family diets in particular during the 1,000 day window as well as the development of farmers' organizations linking men and women farmers to markets.

21. Even with the achievements, there are some priority issues related to sustainability of FNS and continuation and functionality of the supported PNC and DNC without further AFN support. **In this regard, it is suggested that consultations should be held with key convergence agencies at different levels on sustainability of FNS and proactively promote takeover of FNS by other projects and DPs.**

22. Since the MTR the project has developed an improved format for Village Plans, moving away from a sole focus on infrastructure to integrate priority agriculture and nutrition activities in the village. The new format was developed in July 2020 and successfully piloted in Xieng Khouang province. The new format was appreciated by the village authorities for the broader perspective it provides them on the range of priorities and activities in the village. **Roll-out of the improved planning format to at least 300 villages should be included in the 2021 AWPB.**

23. The project has supported one round of district multi-sector planning meetings in 6 Districts in 2020. DNC are now formed in all 12 Districts. However, capacity and commitment of the DNC is still weak. **The project should develop a detailed action plan for support to DNC, including TORs, regular meetings and joint planning, for the remaining project period.**

24. The FNS curriculum has been revised from 10 modules to 4 with more focus on priority agriculture interventions. The new curriculum will be rolled out to all villages by September 2020. There are 1,213 active Village Facilitators providing the FNS training which has now reached 24,065 participants (90% women). Participation in FNS has been broadened to include all women and interested men in 36 villages, in line with MTR recommendations. The project has supported construction of 363 Village Nutrition Centres and is now providing improved water supplies to these buildings.

25. Following the MTR agreements, the project has allocated budget from Component 2 for an additional 1,440 Garden Grants which will be disbursed in 36 villages, bringing the expected total achievement to 16,440 grants.

26. Sustainability of FNS beyond the project period is a priority issue. In the present model FNS depend on project support for allowances for Village Facilitators and for materials for cooking demonstrations, while it is accepted that a major incentive for participation in FNS is access to the Garden Grants. It is not realistic to expect the same level of activity to continue without external support. Other donors are considering support to nutrition activities in the project target area and **the project should be proactive in proposing that these donors consider continuity of support to the FNS**, thus building on the achievements of AFN. Some Village Facilitators are being trained as Lead Farmers and will be certified as Village Agriculture Technicians, thus accessing a basic level of support from DAFO. **The project should explore with MAF the possibility that the role of farmer nutrition school facilitator / agriculture and nutrition specialist in the village could be recognised as a specific role within the Village Agriculture Technician system**, potentially allowing the Village Facilitators to be certified and to receive ongoing support in their core role.

27. Following the positive results on the ground, with support from WFP and other donors, the project nutrition activities could be up-scaled into the NNSPA. **To facilitate this the project should invest more in knowledge products to raise awareness and disseminate information about the project achievements, particularly at the policy and donor coordination level.** This may include high quality photo book formats and short video documentaries. This is discussed further under Knowledge Management below.

Component 3: Profitable Investment in Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture

28. Key outputs of Component 3 are preparation of Strategic Investment Plans (SIP) for 12 commodities, village grants for infrastructure development in 400 villages, Garden Grants to 15,000 women farmers (now increased to 16,440 with funds allocated under Component 2); formation of 800 Agriculture Production Groups (APG) which receive group grants to support their investment plans, and 7 Public, Private, Community Partnership agreements with value chain entrepreneurs who receive grants to support their activities.

29. The SIPs were completed in 2019 with technical assistance from FAO, however it is not clear that they have been effectively integrated in project investment activities as most of the SIPs do not align with the project supported PPCPs, except in the case of Cardamom.

30. Infrastructure projects have been completed in almost all 400 villages, reaching the project target, with a further 41 Village Infrastructure Plans (VIP) in planning and approval phase and two VIP in the pre-planning phase. It is expected that all 443 VIP will be completed by first quarter 2021. Rural roads, drinking water supplies and irrigation comprise about 75% of the projects, but other types include livestock fencing, fishponds, markets, warehouses and a cardamom drying facility.

31. To date, 815 APG have been formed (exceeding the target of 800) and 542 APG have received grants. In line with MTR recommendations, all APG will receive grants by the end of the project.

32. The MTR agreed to limit the final number of PPCP to seven. Six of these are now approved with implementation in progress, while the seventh is awaiting approval. Of the seven PPCP, five relate to storage and processing of cardamom for export. One PPCP is for improvement of chicken production for the domestic market and export and one is for construction of a slaughterhouse for pig production.

33. **Village infrastructure funds not yet committed (including funds that may become available under additional financing) should be used for projects that directly support APG activities** in the villages.

34. **The project should ensure that there is a clear plan for the remaining APG activities including training, alignment of Component 1 on-farm demonstrations, and disbursement of APG grants**, to ensure timely completion and maximise sustainability during the remaining project period.

Monitoring and Evaluation

35. Since the MTR the project has developed a monitoring database based on MS Excel spreadsheets with capability to import and consolidate data entered at District level. This system is now being rolled out and appears to have good potential to improve data collection, consolidation and analysis.

36. Final results of the Mid-Line Survey have now been documented. Most key nutrition indicators show signs of positive progress, with generally better values in the project villages compared to control villages. The survey also found encouraging increases in production and sale of agriculture commodities in the target villages, with the exception of pig production which was affected by the Asian Swine Flu outbreak.

37. The project is developing a Household Diary format to be introduced for farmers to record cash spending, labour inputs, outputs and sales and track profitability after adoption of specific technology. The Household Diary will be tested in the final quarter of 2020 and rolled out to selected farmers in 2021. Based on experience elsewhere, **it is recommended to keep the format as simple as possible (possibly a wall chart rather than a book) and include only information of direct relevance and interest to the farmer** (i.e. the household diary is unlikely to be a successful means of collecting M&E data that are not of direct interest to the farmer).

38. A further Impact Survey will be conducted in December 2020. **In particular, the impact survey should measure adoption of PAR techniques by non-demonstration farmers.** The purpose of this is not only for overall project results measurement, but to identify the most effective PAR to prioritise for future trainings and demonstrations.

39. The project has requested IFAD assistance to develop the methodology for a Value for Money study of the project. **IFAD will seek to identify a suitable expert to be mobilised for a mission early in 2021.**

40. Knowledge Management: Building on the project achievements including production of key technical tools and guides on agriculture production techniques, farmer-to-farmer extension trainings and study tours organized within and outside project districts/provinces and effective communication instrument among project staff at all levels via different ways, **AFN is suggested to continue to:**

- a. **Document key success and lessons learnt from project interventions to share with stakeholders at key events (country programme workshop, key government events, etc);**
- b. **Increased sharing of success stories through mass media (e.g., TV, Newspapers, radios, Facebook, etc); and**
- c. **Develop short videos on APGs, FNS, water infrastructure, nutrition related activities, PPCP, etc, from project support itself in view of replication or scaling up;**
- d. **Consider organising awareness-raising visits to project outputs for key decision-makers including Ministry of Finance and major donor representatives (World Bank, ADB etc).**

Impact of COVID-19

41. During the period since the MTR, economic activities and movement of people in Lao PDR have been affected by the efforts of GoL to prevent transmission of COVID-19 virus within the country. To date these efforts have been largely successful (Laos has reported only 23 confirmed cases and no deaths).

42. COVID-19 restrictions had a direct impact on project activities, with no travel to villages possible during April and May (some villages erected barriers to exclude all outsiders). Internal travel restrictions were lifted on 1st June. In these circumstances, the achievement of the project in ensuring continuity of implementation is commendable. However, the project estimates that progress was delayed by about 3 months overall.

43. AFN worked with WFP to conduct a survey of the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis in the project villages. A broader survey was conducted later by FAO. Impacts arose largely from the slowdown in important sectors of the economy, particularly out-migration of labour, manufacturing tourism. The overall effect was to amplify existing challenges and stresses including an ongoing rice and water crisis in some areas.

44. MAF, with FAO and WFP, has prepared a “Response plan for ensuring food security and nutrition mitigating impacts of COVID-19 containment measures in Lao PDR” (June 2020). **AFN activities are well aligned with this plan, but there is limited scope for adjustment within the remaining AFN budget. This is the context for preparation of the proposal for additional financing, which is currently under review by GAFSP.** The additional funds are specifically for scaling-up smallholder grants, strengthening the local extension service provision and construction of targeted small infrastructures such as irrigation, water supply, fishponds and market infrastructure.

Exit Strategy

45. The project has prepared a draft Exit Strategy which has been shared with the Mission. The project plans to finalise the Exit Strategy and submit to IFAD for No Objection in Q4 2020.

46. Considering the impact that additional financing, if approved, will have on operations in the remaining project period (see below), **it may be appropriate to delay finalising the Exit Strategy until the outcome of the additional financing application is known.**

47. The draft Exit Strategy is detailed and covers phase out and post-project sustainability arrangements for all aspects of the project. Within the Exit Strategy, particular attention should be paid to:

- a. Ensuring that key guidelines and materials developed by the project, particularly the PAR and the Farmer to Farmer Extension Strategy, remain in use under DTEAP ownership;
- b. Strengthening the DNC so that it can continue to operate;
- c. **Sustainability of the FNS: this may require further support. Recognition and certification of the Village Facilitators as Lead Farmers / Village Agriculture Technicians with a specific agriculture and nutrition focus could provide a framework for DAFO to continue a basic level of support;**
- d. **Sustainability of the Lead Farmers, Farmer-to-Farmer extension activities and support to the APG: the programme of certification of the Lead Farmers is of central importance;**
- e. **Sustainability of infrastructure: as detailed in the Exit Strategy, ownership and maintenance responsibilities for infrastructure will vary according to the type, but all infrastructure outputs should be handed over with a maintenance plan, wherever possible, arrangements for funding of maintenance;**
- f. Sustainability of the PPCP, ensuring continuity of benefits to the project farmers.

Additional Financing Proposal

48. A decision from GAFSP on approval of the proposal for additional financing is expected by the end of September 2020.

49. If the additional financing is approved in full, it will increase the funds available to the project by \$US 5.3 million. The additional financing would become effective around the beginning of 2021 (after amendment of the Financing Agreement between IFAD and GoL) and is planned to be disbursed by the project completion date (30th June 2022). The initial GAFSP financing remaining for 2021-22 (assuming full disbursement of the 2020 AWPB amount) is \$US 1.7 million of the investment project (grant to IFAD) and \$US 1.4 million of the TA project (grant to WFP). Therefore, approval of additional financing will result in a significant scale-up and acceleration of project activities during the final 18 months of the project. The project will need to initiate new investments while also implementing steps to ensure sustainability of the existing investments under the Exit Strategy. For some types of investment, including infrastructure but also FNS, APG and farmer grants, the time available to complete the investment and achieve sustainability will be rather short.

50. Once the decision on additional financing is known, the project should urgently prepare a detailed workplan for the remaining project period, integrating the additional financing with the already planned activities. This workplan should be shared with IFAD for comment by end October 2020. If, as a result of preparation of the workplan, it becomes clear that more time will be needed to complete all activities while maintaining quality and maximising sustainability, a proposal for a no-cost extension of the project period, perhaps to end 2022, could be considered.

51. The NPCO will meet with WFP and IFAD to discuss the work plan for implementation of Additional Financing activities. The meeting is provisionally scheduled for the third week of October 2020.

Project Management

52. AFN has clear structure at central and local levels in project management and implementation. District government agencies, coordinated by DAFO, play key roles in supporting and implementation of AFN activities. A number of technical tools and guides have been developed and training provided for project staff. However, difficulties have been encountered which include over-spending of budgets at District level (some Districts have requested additional funds for operations in the remaining part of 2020). The NPCO is challenged to maintain effective management over decentralised activities due to the distance to the target Districts and to the project villages, as well as limited management capacity at District level. These problems have been increased due to difficulty of travelling during the COVID crisis. **NPCO should have a detailed plan to provide selected coaching / technical support to district counterparts with field work report on key deliverables, issues and future plans. In addition, with limited project funds, as per approved AWPB, all investment and operational plans of DAFOs and PAFOs have to be approved by NPCO with clear target and deliverables shared on a timely and regular basis with NPCO and among district implementing partners.**

Financial Progress

53. The project reports that as of 31st August 2020 overall disbursement reached 71.3% of the estimated project cost. Disbursement of the GAFSP grant to IFAD (executed by the NPCO and financing Component 1, Component 3 and management costs) reached 82.7% while the GAFSP grant to WFP (Component 2) reached 61.7%. The table from the project report is reproduced below.

Summary of expenditure in USD by financiers – as of 31 August 2020

	Commitment (USD)	Disbursed as of December 31, 2019	Planned AWPB 2020	Actual Disbursed 1 Jan to 31 Aug 2020	Actual Disbursed 2016 to 31 Aug 2020	Disbursed Jan-Aug 2020 as % AWPB 2020	Total disbursed to 31 Aug 2020 as % of total commitment
1	2	3	4	5	6=3+5	7=5/4	8=6/2
Total Project	38,820,000	21,318,072	10,767,584	6,341,227	27,659,300	58.9%	71.3%
GAFSP IFAD	24,000,000	15,345,998	6,981,457	4,498,091	19,844,089	64.4%	82.7%
GAFSP WFP	6,000,000	2,909,000	1,672,768	794,307	3,703,307	47.5%	61.7%
Govt of Lao	5,420,000	2,509,938	960,059	249,798	2,759,736	26.0%	50.9%
Beneficiaries	2,900,000	553,137	1,153,300	799,031	1,352,168	69.3%	46.6%
Private Sector	500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0

C. Recommendations

The following list of recommendations have been discussed with the Project team and have been adjusted in line with Project comments.

Actions	Responsibility	Deadline	Status
Component 1			
<p>ProMIS</p> <p>Prepare summary analysis of information on AFN actually captured / to be captured by ProMIS (mainly for better understanding of value of ProMIS particularly for future projects)</p> <p>Discuss with MAF to request FAO to add functionality to identify activity locations and report aggregate activities by village</p>	NPCO / MAF	November 2020	Agreed
<p>PAR</p> <p>Prioritise developing simple visual materials for highest priority commodities. Aim is to be able to disseminate through Lead Farmers without extensive training. Consider possibility to use electronic dissemination (through smartphones or tablets)</p>	NPCO/DTEAP / NAFRI	Ongoing	Agreed

<p>PAR</p> <p>Highest priority should be given to PARs that (1) match the most common APG activities; or (2) are shown to result in high adoption / replication by non-demonstration farmers</p>	<p>NPCO/DTEAP /NAFRI / DAFO</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>PAR and On-Farm Demos</p> <p>In any case where training / demonstration introduces a commodity that is not already produced in the village, link to a buyer/collector should always be included.</p>	<p>NPCO/DTEAP /NAFRI/ DAFO</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p>On-Farm Demonstrations</p> <p>Give priority to demonstrations that directly support ongoing APG investments (i.e. APG where grants have not been fully disbursed yet)</p>	<p>NPCO/DTEAP / DAFO</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>Forage</p> <p>Continue to strengthen sustainability of forage activities through (1) linkage to livestock raising farmers; (2) linkage to potential buyers of forage seed; and (3) integrate in skills / responsibilities of Lead Farmers</p>	<p>NPCO/DTEAP / DAFO</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>Farmer-to-Farmer</p> <p>Emphasize that farmer-to-farmer extension is about sharing of skills already present in the community, as well as dissemination of training materials developed centrally</p>	<p>NPCO/DTEAP / DAFO</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>Farmer-to-Farmer</p> <p>Prioritize continuous training and capacity building of Lead Farmers and official certification by the end of the project, to improve sustainability.</p>	<p>NPCO/DTEAP / DAFO</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>Component 2</p>			
<p>Improved Village Nutrition Plans</p> <p>Continue roll-out of simple improved village nutrition plan format</p>	<p>NPCO/WFP</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>Integration of Village Facilitator in Lead Farmer system</p> <p>Discuss with MAF (PAFO-DAFO) whether the FNS Village Facilitator could be recognised within the Village Agriculture Technician / Lead Farmer framework and as</p>	<p>NPCO/WFP/ MAF</p>	<p>December 2020</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

such receive certification. (i.e. VF would continue to receive DAFO support as Lead Farmers)			
Proactively promote takeover of FNS by other donors / projects Approach donors/projects who are known to be considering nutrition activities in the project target area to explore whether they can integrate AFN VF / FNS network into their activities	NPCO/WFP/ MAF	December 2020	Agreed
District Multi-Sectoral NUT Plan Develop detailed action plan to support DNC – including TORs, regular meeting and joint planning for 2020/21.	NPCO/WFP/ MAF	December 2020	Agreed
Sustainability of FNS (exit strategy) Consultation with convergence agencies at central and local level on sustainability of AFS, to be included in the project exit strategy.	NPCO/WFP/ MAF	October 2020	Agreed
Component 3			
Infrastructure to support APG activities Encourage villages to use infrastructure grants to directly support APG priority activities, e.g. small-scale irrigation / water management. Range of investment types can be extended. (this will mainly apply if additional financing is approved).	NPCO / DAFO	Ongoing	Agreed
Quantity and quality of APG Clear action plan to support remaining APGs to be receive investment funds and associated trainings.	NPCO / DAFO	November 2020	Agreed
Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management			
Farmer Diary Use very simple format for Farmer Diary, consider using a wall chart format rather than a notebook. Only include information of direct interest / use to farmers	NPCO / DTEAP	October 2020	Agreed
Monitoring of Adoption / Replication End of year survey should include measuring adoption of PAR / demonstration techniques by non-demonstration farmers (such as APG members and others)	NPCO	December 2020	Agreed
Value for Money	IFAD / NPCO	February 2021	Agreed

<p>IFAD to mobilise an economist (possibly as part of 2021 supervision mission) to make recommendations on methodology for end-of project value for money / cost-benefit analysis approach and train project staff.</p>			
<p>Raise Awareness with a view to mobilising funds for scale-up</p> <p>a. Document key success and lessons learnt from project interventions to share with stakeholders at key events (country programme workshop, key government events, etc);</p> <p>b. Increased sharing of success stories through mass media (e.g., TV, Newspapers, radios, Facebook, etc);</p> <p>c. Develop short videos on APGs, FNS, water infrastructure, nutrition related activities, PPCP, etc, from project support itself in view of replication or scaling up; and</p> <p>d. Consider organising awareness-raising visits to project outputs for key decision-makers including Ministry of Finance and major donor representatives (World Bank, ADB etc).</p>	<p>NPCO / MAF</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>Management</p>			
<p>Work Plan for Additional Financing</p> <p>If Additional Financing is approved, prepare implementation work plan as basis for drafting AWPB 2021. Assess whether project time extension will be necessary to complete AFN activities. Share with IFAD at earliest possible date.</p> <p>NPCO, WFP and IFAD will meet to discuss the AFN work plan, provisionally in 3rd week October 2020</p>	<p>NPCO / WFP</p>	<p>October 2020</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>Monthly Plan and follow up of the Plan:</p> <p>District Monthly plans approved by NPCO with clear target and report sharing</p> <p>Close follow up / monitoring of physical and financial implementation VS approved Plan</p>	<p>NPCO / DAFO</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>Exit Strategy</p> <p>Finalise exit strategy taking into account mission recommendations / agreements and submit to IFAD for NOL. Highest priority for (1) sustainability of FNS activities at village level; (2) establish sustainable F2F extension capacity at village level with DAFO support; (3) sustainability of infrastructure investments</p>	<p>NPCO / WFP</p>	<p>October 2020 (after decision on additional financing)</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

ANNEX: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MTR AGREEMENTS

Actions	Responsibility	Deadline	Status
Component 1			
Share ProMIS Indicator Set The PROMIS indicator set should be shared with IFAD and other development partners of MAF for comment and early alignment with future project design. PROMIS to track outputs at village level.	MAF	03/2020	Completed, MAF/ProMIS Indicator set is available
Prioritise Roll-Out of Selected PAR Models Select 10 PAR models of highest value to APG farmers. Develop visual learning materials, print and distribute for use	NPCO/NAFRI	03/2020	19 priority PAR models have been selected and documented in Lao language, additional extension materials are under development.
TSC to Focus on Direct Services to Farmers No further demonstration activities or expansion of fodder seed production on TSC sites. No new TSC to be supported (final number 14). TSC to conduct high-quality on-farm demonstrations of priority PAR models as learning opportunities for DAFO as well as farmers.	TSC	Ongoing	Ongoing
Sustainable Supply of Forage Planting Materials Review sustainability of forage planting material supply chain and propose actions to ensure supply post-project	NPCO/DTEAP	06/ 2020	Forage database is being updated Draft action plan completed by DTEAP, to be reviewed and finalized (Q3/4-2020) Linkages with private forage seed producers for possible partnerships to be developed
Finalise F2F Strategy Finalise, approve and disseminate farmer-to-farmer extension strategy as a matter of urgency. The strategy should cover both technical training (production and post-harvest) and capacity development for group administration, business skills and market connections, and group monitoring and evaluation	NPCO/DTEAP	03/ 2020	F2F strategy has been approved by IFAD and implementation has started.
On-Farm Demonstrations Using PAR models conduct on-farm demonstrations with Lead Farmers and APG. By end of project all APG and FNS farmers to have opportunity to participate in (1) demonstration of garden crop activity; (2) demonstration of livestock activity; and (3) demonstration of cash crop activity.	DAFO and TSC	Ongoing	Following the implementation of the F2F strategy, the first 25 villages have started to implement 53 on-farm demos with support of NAFRI. Associated farmer trainings and lead farmer involvement will be rolled out during Q3 and Q4. Progress monitoring will be done in Q3-4
Strengthen APG Capacity Train APG in group administration, business skills and market connections, and group monitoring and evaluation	DAFO	Ongoing	Ongoing
Component 2			
Improve coordination of District Nutrition Committee (DNC)	NPCO/WFP	Ongoing	AFN is working with NNC/PAFO/DAFO on the coaching of existing DNCs. The capacities of DNCs

Provide coaching and facilitation support to build a collaborative working culture of the DNC while implementing their existing convergence plans, supported by the district leadership			differ considerably between districts and progress is still slow.
Develop capacity of District Nutrition Committee Provide training to DNC members on functional competencies such as leadership, advocacy, partnerships, planning, coordination, basic nutrition knowledge and awareness etc	NPCOWFP	06/2020	AFN is working with NNC/PAFO/DAFO on the capacity building of existing DNCs
Annual Progress Monitoring Meeting DNC to conduct joint meeting with PNC one time per year for progress monitoring, knowledge sharing and learning. Farmers should also be invited to share their experiences	NPCOWFP	12/2020	Not yet conducted
Improved Nutrition Sensitive Village Development Plans Prepare annual village development plans for funded activities and develop capacity of the chief and other local committees to monitor and ensure coordination at implementation	NPCOWFP	06/2020	Strategy has been developed, pilot has been conducted in XKH province and this activity will be rolled out further in Q3 and Q4 of 2020
Broaden Participation in FNS Participation in future FNS should include all women of reproductive age, adolescent girls and care givers such as grandmothers and fathers. Also ensure awareness raising reaches whole population of village.	NPCOWFP	Ongoing	Strategy has been developed, rolling out from Q3-2020 onwards in 36 pilot villages.
Update IEC Materials Update the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to ensure (i) relevance to the wider audience (ii) building on the rich local knowledge and cultural practices that promote nutrition (iii) expand the scope based on learners needs e.g. on post-harvest handling and food processing	NPCOWFP	06/2020	Ongoing updating, food processing module finalized. Two local food and recipe manuals developed and in the process of printing. Nutrient dense food list developed, to be translated and printed.
Focus on Locally Available Foods Prioritise diversity of production and locally available foods that are adapted to the environment in home garden activities for greater sustainability and scalability	NPCOWFP	Ongoing	Local food list has been developed and will be incorporated in training modules. Late August 2020, WFP-Laos has applied for a SDC grant in the amount of 2,7 million USD for a 4 year project on "Agro-biodiversity for improved food security and nutrition" to be implemented in AFN districts, focussing on locally available nutrient-dense foods, FNS, seed supply chain development and nutrition.
Support Additional Garden Grants Component 2 funds will be used to support additional Garden Grants to FNS participants to enable them to replicate demonstrations of nutrition-relevant production technologies, post-harvest, food processing etc.	NPCOWFP	Ongoing	In the AWPB-2020 a total of 1,440 extra garden grants have been budgeted, they will be disbursed in 36 villages that have broadened the FNS participation. Disbursement is planned for Q4-2020 in the 36 pilot villages.
Component 3			
Broaden scope of home garden grant and link to planning	NPCO, DAFO, WFP	Ongoing	Ongoing, food processing module has been developed. Linked to the Village Planning activities.

The scope of activities under the home garden grants should be expanded e.g. to include post-harvest processing. Training should help grantees to choose activities linked to nutrition planning at District and village level.			
Poverty focus and targeting of APGs Strengthen poverty reduction effectiveness of APGs through: (i) assessing the quality of the existing APG investment models, (ii) modifying or ceasing investing in models that do not have sufficient poverty reduction impact and/or do not reach vulnerable groups, (iii) expanding successful models, and (iv) including new on farm models that show high potential.	NPCO/PAFOs/DAFOs	Ongoing	Ongoing, detailed assessment will take place in the planned AFN project survey in Q4-2020. Concept for poor APG member grant (USD 100) developed and under discussion.
Quantity and quality of APG Final number of APG will be 800. All APG will receive grants. Improve quality and performance of APG through: (i) Group size to be maximum 20 members, (ii) training on group management, and use of fund; and (iii) strengthening M&E to ensure vertical and horizontal flow of information as well as results and impacts.	NPCO/ DAFOs	Ongoing	Ongoing, HH diary to be introduced in Q3 to strengthen the M&E system
PPCP Acceleration Final number of PPCP will be 7. Accelerate PPCP implementation and disbursement by: (i) Deliver intensive hands-on technical support to enterprises/farms for full-fledged proposal development, and financial and procurement management of the co-investments; (ii) Translate the submitted PPCP proposals into English and submit to IFAD for review; (iii) Transfer the payment to enterprises/farms if they have fulfilled all their commitments as per proposal and procurement plan; No further PPCP to be initiated	NPCO	12/2020	6 PPCPs proposals have been approved by IFAD. 1 PPCP has been identified and IFAD approval is pending. A total of USD 50,000 has been disbursed.
Ensure Cost-Effectiveness of Infrastructure Appraise VIP infrastructure proposals for investment approval to ensure effectiveness and efficiency of investment. Set maximum cost per hectare and cost per benefiting household for irrigation, cost per kilometer for access road, cost per people for water supply. Reject proposals exceeding maximum.	DAFO/PAFO/NPCO	Ongoing	An assessment has been started provincial levels to upgrade VIP implementation standards to ensure cost-effectiveness, strengthen quality of construction and comply with environmental standards. It is planned that this will be ready to roll out in Q4-2020.
Strengthen Quality of Infrastructure Construction Strengthen supervision VIP infrastructure construction to ensure construction quality in line with designs and technical specifications.	DAFO/PAFO/Project Engineers	Ongoing	See above
Compliance with Environmental Standards Ensure compliance with environmental standards, particularly for road design and construction. If the budget for a road sub-project is not enough for technical and environmental sustainability, the sub-project should be cancelled	DAFO/PAFO/Project Engineers	Ongoing	See above
Cancel Agriculture Cooperatives activity It is agreed that this activity is dropped from the project	NPCO	03/2020	Done
Targeting and Gender			

Targeting Upgrade the TOR of the Nutrition Specialist to a Social Inclusion Focal Point who will take care all core mainstreaming activities including targeting, gender and nutrition.	NPCO	03/ 2020	Done
Gender Training for APG Incorporate a training on nutrition and gender empowerment into the training of APG members	NPCO/WFP		Not yet, specific training module to be developed
Project Management			
Strengthen Component 1 Performance Review AWPB 2020 allocation for Component 1 to ensure it is achievable and fully aligned with project logframe targets. Management to then focus on ensuring full implementation in coordination with Components 2 and 3.	NPCO/NAFRI/DTEA P	Ongoing	Completed. AWPB-2021 needs to be carefully developed, some budget lines are depleted by Q4.
Value for Money A value for money should be commissioned	NPCO	10/2020	Pending IFAD support is needed to conduct CBA exercises for VIP investments.
Monitoring and Evaluation			
Revised Project logframe Translate the revised logframe agreed with the Mission into local language. Disseminate to project staff. Ensure project staff understand how to use the logframe to set planning targets in AWPB	NPCO	03/2020	Completed
Update project logframe Collect all information needed to report against all indicators in the revised project logframe.	NPCO, WFP	Ongoing	Ongoing M&E database system has been improved, 2 provincial trainings with all M&E staff have been conducted. New database system will be rolled out from Q3-2020 Impact survey to be conducted December 2020
Track Youth Participation In future monitoring activities the project should track and record participation of youth in project activities (GoL definition of youth to be applied).	NPCO	Ongoing	Youth indicator has been included in the updated M&E database system and previous records will be updated gradually.
HH Diary Introduce recording book at the HH level to for farmers to record cash spending, labour inputs, outputs and sales and track the profitability after adoption of specific technology	NPCO/DAFO/WFP	06/2020	Draft HH diary is under development and will be rolled out in Q3-2020 for APG, Village Facilitators and demo-farmers
Sustainability and Exit Strategy			
Sustainability of FNS Address the sustainability of the FNS at the policy level especially the National Nutrition Committee and the Sector Working Group on Agriculture and Rural Development.	NPCO/WFP	06/2020	Ongoing as part of the Exit Strategy development
Revise Exit Strategy and Submit for NOL Review the draft Exit Strategy in the light of the Mission recommendations and with a focus on ensuring sustainability of the FNS and APG.	NPCO/WFP	06/2020	Ongoing, to be send to IFAD for NOL in Q4-2020

Financial Management			
The project to follow the templates provided during the training of August 2018 to comply with IPSAS Cash Basis of accounting	NPCO	Ongoing	Ongoing
The contribution of GoL in terms of salaries should only be to the extent of persons working for the project on a pro-rata basis	NPCO	Ongoing	Ongoing
Procurement			
Update Procurement Plan Update and submit the procurement plan for 2020 (using IFAD's template) in consistence with revisions of the AWPB after the MTR for IFAD review and no objection.	NPCO	03/2020	Completed and approved by IFAD
Self-Certification with IFAD Policy Compliance Sign self-certification forms as a part of bids and contract documents in compliance with IFAD policies on anticorruption, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse.	NPCO: Bidders/ Consultants/ Suppliers/ Contractors	Ongoing	Ongoing

ANNEX: LOGFRAME UPDATED 30TH JUNE 2020

Results Hierarchy	Indicators				Means of Verification			Assumptions	Project Yr 4 (2019)			Project Yr 5 (2020)			
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Source	Frequency	Responsibility		Year Targets	Year Results	Cumulative	Year Targets	Results Q1-Q2	Cumulative	
Outreach	1.a Corresponding number of households reached				Project Report	Annual	Project management								
	Women-headed households - Number									406	549	NA	8	557	
	Non-women-headed households - Number									7,742	27,158	1,500	52	27,210	
	Households - Number			34,000						10,000	8,148	27,707	1,500	60	27,767
	1 Persons receiving services promoted or supported by the project				Project Report	Annual	Project management								
	Females - Number			113,900						11,551	87,858	5,000	NA	135,808	
	Males - Number			113,900						47,872	52,971	5,000	NA	50,231	
	Indigenous people - Number			159,460						43,141	102,242	7,500	NA	135,065	
	Youth - Number	NA	NA							New	NA	NA	New	NA	NA
	Total number of persons receiving services - Number of people			227,800						156,494	59,423	140,829	10,000	NA	186,039
	1.b Estimated corresponding total number of households members						Project management								
	Household members - Number of people			227,800	227,800					156,494	59,423	140,829	NA	NA	186,039
	Project Goal Contribute to reduced extreme poverty and malnutrition	Incidence malnutrition (height for age) among two year old children reduced from 60% at present to 50% by project completion				LAOS Social Indicator Survey (LSIS)	every 5 years (2022)		Ministry of Health						
malnutrition - Percentage (%)				50%				NA		NA	45.9%	45	NA	45.9%	
Development Objective Improved and diversified climate resilient agricultural production and household nutrition enhance life prospects	21,000 HH out of poverty by increasing per capita income from the current level to more than \$270/yr by Project-end.				Baseline Survey	Mid line and end line	Project management	Continued government commitment to multi-sectoral approaches to improved food security and nutrition; Resource access and land security of poor communities is supported and expanded.							
	Households - Number		8,000	21,000						NA	NA	12,052	15,000	NA	12,052
	Women Headed HH - Number									NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Indigenous people - Number									NA	NA	7,805	11,000	NA	7,805
	At least 21,000 households with improved food security (measured as a MAHFP score of 7.0 or lower).				Baseline Survey using score of 11 MAHFP	Project start, mid- term and end- project	Project management								
	Households - Number		8,000	21,000						NA	NA	25,019	25,000	NA	25,019
	Women Headed HH - Number									NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Indigenous people - Number									NA	NA	NA	18,000	NA	NA

Outcome Strengthened public services	14 Technical Service Centers improved capacity and support to target farmers.				Project M&E	Annual	Project management	DTEAP, NAFRI and TSC collaboration for technology testing and dissemination;						
	service centres - Number	0		14										
	At least 10,000 HHs have adopted at least one improved technology on production or food processing introduced by the project. Adoption of one improved technology is a set of key practices in the technical guideline of the demonstration of specific technology to be defined by technical specialist. Farmer adoption is defined by adopting at least 2/3 of the key practices for specific production or food processing.				Project M&E	Annual	Project management	Comprehensive mapping and use of proven/tested tools within country and Asian region; TSCs incentivised to operate sustainably Programme financing is disbursed in time to support field implementation.						
	HH	0		10,000					New	NA	NA	8,000	NA	NA
Output Build government staff capacities and procedures and technical packages to support and converge community implementation of selected National Nutrition Strategy interventions	At least 9 guidelines and tools developed and implemented on a project-wide level: Finance, procurement, planning M&E, PPCP, APG, Garden Grant, Infrastructure, PAR, and F2F.				Project M&E records	Annual	Project management	Technical coordination is responsive to the grassroots level needs. Effective mobilization of service providers and experts within govt. and non-state actors						
	guidelines/tools - Number			9					New	NA	8	1	1	9
Outcome Community-driven agriculture-based nutrition interventions established	300 Village Development Committees have a basic convergence plan on food and nutrition.				Project M&E	Annual	WFP	VDPs are prepared and implemented at field level; Programme financing is disbursed in time to support field implementation; Convergence with other programmes and nutrition initiatives						
	Basic convergence plans - number			300					New	NA	NA	50	0	0
	28,000 women in project area of 15-49 years of age, consume at least 5 out of 10 defined food groups daily.				Baseline Survey	Project start, mid-term and end-project	Project management							
	Females - Number		10,000	28,000					NA	NA	22,320	28,000	NA	22,320
Indigenous people - Number				NA	NA	15,890	20,000	NA	15,890					
Output Planning for improved nutritional outcomes	12 District Nutrition Committees hold at least two meetings per year to develop, coordinate and implement a convergence plan on food and nutrition.				Project M&E	Annual	WFP							
	District - Number			12					New	NA	NA	6	0	0
	28,000 beneficiary households participate in VDP preparation				Project M&E	Annual	WFP							
	Households - Number		20,000	28,000					10,000	7,898	27,457	1,000	0	27,457
	Males - Number									1,449	13,883	500	0	13,883
	Females - Number									6,449	13,574	500	0	13,574
Indigenous people - Number						20,043	750	0	20,043					

