







## Currency Equivalents

Currency Unit	=	Lao Kip (LAK)
US\$1.0	=	17,184 (on 11/04/2023)

## Weights and measures

1 kilogram	=	1000 g
1 000 kg	=	2.204 lb.
1 kilometre (km)	=	0.62 mile
1 metre	=	1.09 yards
1 square metre	=	10.76 square feet
1 acre	=	0.405 hectare
1 hectare	=	2.47 acres

## **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>ADS</b>	Agriculture Development Strategy
<b>AF</b>	Additional Financing
<b>AFN</b>	Agriculture for Nutrition Project
<b>AOS</b>	Annual Outcome Survey
<b>APG</b>	Agriculture Production Group
<b>AWPB</b>	Annual Wor



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	Indigenous people: <b>147 940</b>
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**Project Objectives**

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The Agriculture for Nutrition (AFN) Project<sup>134</sup> [1] was financed by the Global Agriculture & Food Security Program (GAFSP) through an Investment Grant of USD 24 million administered by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) of the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic (GoL) through its Department) a

Component 2 established a best-practice model for nutrition action in poor, remote communities. For Outcome 3, the target outcome 3





		<i>After MTR</i>	<i>With AF</i>
Agriculture Production Groups (APG) formed	# of APGs	800	800
Number of members of Agriculture Production Groups (APG) - up to 20 members/APG	# of APG member	12,000	14,000
Lead Farmers selected and trained - crop and livestock	# of lead farmers	800	800
APG grants disbursed	# of APG grants	800	800
Number of on-farm demonstrations (villages and number of demos)	# of villages	200	200
	# of demos	500	600
Garden Grants disbursed	# of grants	15,000	25,000
Participants of Farmer Nutrition School	# of participants	28,000	30,000
Number of Village Nutrition Facilitators trained and active	# of VNF	1,200	1,200
Number of Village Nutrition Centers constructed / rehabilitated / upgraded and cooking utensils distributed	# of VNCs	400	400
Number of Technical Service Centers (TSC) supported / rehabilitated and operating sustainable	# of TSC	14	14
Tons of forage seed produced and disseminated - 15 tons per year	tons of seed	120	90
Number of beneficiary households participating in VDP preparation	# of households	34,000	28,000
Number of simple Village Plans developed	# of plans	300	300
Number of Small Village Infrastructures constructed	# of sub projects	400	424
Number of beneficiary households of Small Village Infrastructure activities	# of beneficiaries	30,000	30,000
Area and beneficiaries of irrigated land established (new and rehabilitated irrigation schemes)	# of ha	300	450
	# of HHs	3,000	6,500
Kilometre of rural road constructed / rehabilitated	km of road	400	400

		<i>After MTR</i>	<i>With AF</i>
Number of Water Supply beneficiaries	# of HH	7,500	7,500
Number of PPCP established and farmers benefitting	# of PPCP	7	7
	# of beneficiaries	2,000	2,000

AFN Components 1 and 3 were implemented through the existing GoL structures from central to local levels. MAF delegated implementing responsibilities to district administrations and to the NCPO in Vientiane. The NPCO was led by a National Project Coordinator (NPC) and includes Project-financed financial and procurement management and monitoring and evaluation and t ¼

Womens Anion (LWA), and Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment (PoN ). At the district level, the Project













meetings of the DNC; (iii) reduced emphasis on market-driven partnerships, and agreement not to increase the number of PPCP beyond the 7 already achieved; and (iv) dropping of two activities which had made little progress by ~~MMMA~~

- Selection, training and certification of 884 LF (of whom 127 are women), ex 34;

specific detail needed to replace project M&E systems. It is not clear that the system is fully operational as yet, and it is noted that support for further development is proposed under AFN-II.

- 69. The Completion Report notes the following physical achievements associated with Output 2.1 Planning for improved nutritional outcomes: 12 DNC holding at least 2 meetings per year (100% of target); 365 Village Development Committees (VDCs) with a basic convergence plan on food and nutrition (target 300); and 33,095 households participating in Village Development Plan (VDP) preparation (target 28,000).
- 70. DNC were formally established under the NNSPA before inception of AFN, but the project has succeeded in effecting a substantial improvement in the functioning of these committees. Meetings of the full DNC are held twice yearly and "secretariat-level" meetings are held between two and four times yearly. District stakeholders reported some ongoing challenges in coordination between agencies. There are significant differences between Districts, particularly in relation to coordination and reporting. Some District DNCs told the Mission they lack adequate resources (budget and access to vehicles) to carry out their role effectively.

VDPs were updated in 2017-18 for all 400 villages. Most villages had an existing village plan but preparation of these plans (before AFN) appears to have been mainly through consultation between District and Village authorities. The Mission was able to help that there was widespread participation in the AFN-supported planning, and participants recalled discussion of alternative investment proposals, selection by voting and (in some cases at least) separate prioritization by women and men. Plans are updated through participatory processes, though it appears that this is not done consistently in all 400





proposed sub-projects were subject to review and approval at District, Provincial and NPCO levels. Design responsibilities were assigned to the appropriate District technical offices (e.g. Public Works for roads, Health for water supplies). Schemes were subject to a simple checklist-based environmental and social screening process. Procurement was through a community procurement process (though in practice procurement was too complex for the villages to handle without assistance from DAFO). Implementation was mainly through local contractors who were paid through village bank accounts. IFAD finance contributed 70% of the cost of the schemes, with 15% paid by GoL and 15% contributed (in-kind) by beneficiaries.

Paddy field development	3	37 hh
Warehouse	3	121 hh
Community Market	2	
Erosion Control Measures	2	
Cardamom Drying Facility	1	43 hh

87. Proposed sub-projects were subject to review and approval at District, Provincial and NPCO levels. Design responsibilities were assigned to the appropriate District technical offices (e.g. Public Works for roads, Health for water supplies). Schemes were subject to a simple checklist-based environmental and social screening process. Procurement was through a community procurement process (though in practice procurement was too complex for the villages to handle without assistance from DAFO). Implementation was mainly through local contractors who were paid through village bank accounts. IFAD finance contributed 70% of the cost of the schemes, with 15% paid by GoL and 15% contributed (in-kind) by beneficiaries.

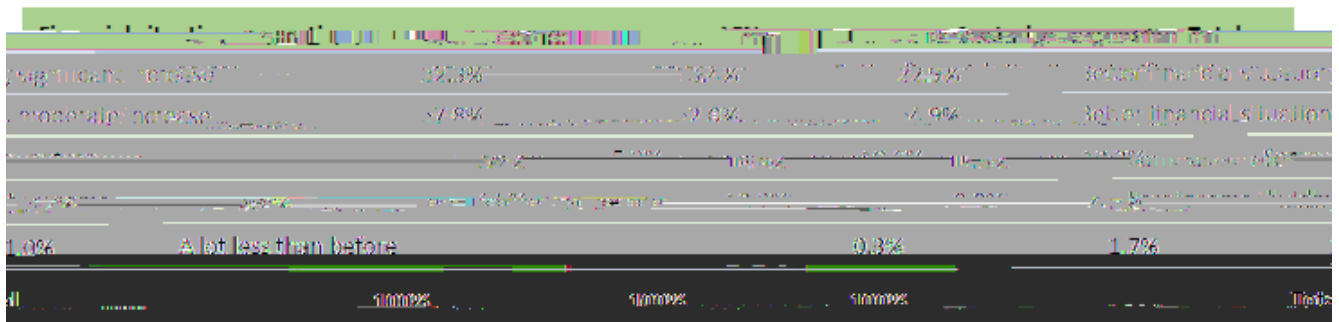
In most cases, operation and maintenance committees were established for each scheme, though this does not seem to have been applied everywhere (or some committees were established elsewhere).



98. Members' assessments of their APG activities were generally very positive. Within the project, livestock raising activities, particularly cattle and goats, were identified as among the most successful. APGs supported group marketing activities to varying extents. Some groups were active in making connections with potential buyers, while others relied on the increased volume of production resulting from the group activity to attract buyers to the village and still other groups focused primarily on production activities. Some, but not all APGs collect member contributions and manage their bank accounts as revolving credit funds – the MTR was cautious about this activity but some successful examples were seen by the PCR mission.

The project assessed the institutional strength of APGs in 2021, with 111 groups (13.8%) assessed to be "strong", 452 groups "medium", 223 at "initial stage of development" and 19 groups "inactive". This finding is consistent with observations by the Mission and it must be expected that a substantial proportion of APGs will be in the latter

The project is assessed as having made a Satisfactory (5) contribution to Household Inh





Cardamom	149	272	83%
Garden Vegetables	87	231	165%
All Crops	215	417	94%
Cattle (Fattening)	730	1496	105%
Chicken	55	100	83%
All livestock	381	775	104%

126. Project impact on Institutions and Policies is rated as Moderately Satisfactory (4). Grassroots organizations (FNS and APGs) have made good progress to sustainability overall but (except the strongest) will still require support and it cannot be guaranteed that this support will be provided post-project. Institutional capacities of implementing agencies, particularly at District level, have been significantly improved, as has the capacity and functioning of the DNC. The overall policy and institutional framework has not been significantly altered by the project, but capacity and commitment to implementation of existing and appropriate policy and programme, particularly for nutrition, has been enhanced.

127. Access to Markets is rated as Moderately Satisfactory (4). There is evidence that some, though not all, APGs were able to improve their market access through (mostly informal) arrangements with buyers and through the advantage of production at increased scale making it more worthwhile for buyers to visit these remote communities. Road investments also increased farmers' access to markets and facilitated buyers' travel to villages and production areas. However, the SIPs had little impact. The PPCs succeeded in improving market access but the total beneficiaries of these arrangements (2,832 farmers) was small compared to the total village population.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is rated as Satisfactory (5). Beneficiaries: 50% of total project outreach beneficiaries were women; in addition, women represented 91% of FNS participants and 100% of garden grants beneficiaries (22,970 women); women constitute 79% of the Village Nutrition Facilitator group.

130. Overall, all dimensions of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) have improved; it has observed an increase in nutrition knowledge for women, but also indirectly for men; this knowledge refers to the topic of the training, namely, food hygiene and safe water, Infant and Young Child Feeding, Diet diversity, reproductive health and family planning. It was also observed a stronger economic empowerment and decision-making, time-saving, increased leadership and decision-making roles for women in the communities, and women having increased access to information and training. In particular, concerning i)

85% of pregnant women interviewed stated that they worked less since joining FNS; according to the 90% of those women, the reason is that the husband helps out more during the pregnancy. Furthermore, 96% female participants indicated that they have received more support from their families since attending FNS, particularly with cooking (87%), caring for other household members (85%) and cleaning (72%). Men's groups mentioned that the water assets supported by the project reduced the heavy work and time of women spent on water collection from distant sources.

131. On respect to ii) processes, the majority of women agree that husbands and wives had more discussions on sharing chores and on livelihood activities, and that men had more respect for the opinions of their wives than before. In 55% of households, both women and men decide on what food to buy, whereas in 24% only women decide and in 17% only men decide. The majority of women indicated that they can make their own decisions on seeking healthcare (64%), spending time with relatives and friends (69%), and 34% cannot visit the district center without permission. Furthermore, 57% of women indicated that they are not able to make their own choice about their sexual and reproductive care. 89% of women reported being more involved in decision-making within the village after the AFN project started. This was confirmed by women in FGDs, who also noted that they were able to attend more meetings together with men after the project started. This was confirmed by the majority of men who agreed that collaboration between women and men was enhanced and that women were more confident to communicate their knowledge to the household.

With regard to the dimension of GEWE on i)

AFN activities were selected before MTR, and a top-down imposition of the suggested CCA interventions would not have been compatible with the AFN approach. CCA should be more rigorously addressed in AFN-II. This could be achieved through (i) analysis of specific CCA vulnerabilities at village level; (ii) ensuring that vulnerabilities are considered in village planning and in selection of agricultural (APG) activities; and (iii) promoting specific adaptive technologies through dissemination and demonstration.

138. Environment and Natural Resource Management is rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory (3). High pressure on the natural resource base linked to harmful agricultural practices, primarily uncontrolled clearing of forest on steep slope areas for cultivation, was evident throughout the project target districts from mission observations and discussions with project beneficiaries. Communities commented on increasing problems with water supplies which are likely to be linked to clearing of watershed areas for production. Soil erosion, siltation of watercourses and slope instability are likely consequences of excessive land clearing. Throughout the field mission the project area was under cover of smoke haze caused at least in part by the annual burning of ground in preparation for cultivation (shifting cultivation). If this continues it is likely to have significant effects on human health.
139. Large-scale land clearing is driven by factors outside the influence of AFN, which is not considered to have contributed significantly. However, when operating in this context, any expansion of agriculture production, for example increases in cattle herd numbers, carries the risk of increasing pressure on finite resources. Agriculture production roads supported by AFN may have facilitated cultivation of land that was not previously under cultivation (the mission observed one example of cultivation on a steep and potentially unstable hillside adjacent to an AFN road). In AFN-II, greater attention should be given to identifying and mitigating these potential risks.

The project supported a number of interventions with potential to improve natural resource management and the environment. As discussed above, the pilot participatory land use planning and land management (PLUP) attention refinement, the



145. The FNS represents a novel solution within the context and the project area. The FNS methodology was improved over the project implementation period based on lessons learned, including a reduction from ten modules initially to four simplified modules, combining cooking demonstration sessions with behavior change toward more balanced and healthy food preparation and feeding. Thanks to these, women and their families have greater incentive to apply grant for crop and livestock diversification in their home gardens and farms through the Garden Grant and APG. The process became more inclusive as the FNS sessions are open for all villagers after the MTR. Nutrition awareness has improved in the whole community, not just pregnant and lactating women. Through the FNS women are empowered to take part in different project activities, and their workloads have been reduced as result. The FNS methodology has been documented through guidelines and training materials and is being replicated (see Scaling Up).
146. The Village Nutrition Plans (VNP) represent a further innovation based on the observation that general village development plans remained dominated by proposed infrastructure investments even when prepared by participatory methods with project facilitation. The project responded by introducing the VNP which assists villagers, led by the VNFs, to identify and address specific constraints and opportunities for improving nutrition. Therefore, the VNP is novel in the context and is new in the project area. As the VNP was introduced after project MTR, there has been less time to evaluate the effectiveness of the approach, but VNP will be adopted in the methodology of AFN-II and other WFP-supported initiatives (see Scaling Up).
147. While not strictly a technical innovation, the project led the way in committing to support the convergence approach and strengthening the DNC, and took a decentralized implementation approach in line with the GoL "Sam Sang" policy. The project has made notable efforts to document and disseminate lessons learned.
148. Scaling Up is rated as Satisfactory (5), meaning that "Development partners have shown strong interest in certain elements of the project implementation strategy and good potential for scaling-up and replication exists[26]."
149. Support to the convergence approach and the DNCs has already been replicated by other agencies. Funds have been committed by government and development partners to scale up FNS through two World Bank supported projects (PRF-III and CLEAR). and WFP plans to replicate important elements of AFN in its own programmes, funded separately by ADB/EU and GAFSP. In addition, GoL, with GAFSP finance and support from IFAD and WFP, will scale up the AFN approach as a whole through AFN-II. Elements of the AFN approach are also replicated in the IFAD-financed PICSA. PRF-III extends the FNS methodology to additional target areas and beneficiaries within northern Laos. Through PRF-III, CLEAR and AFN-II, the FNS approach will be replicated in new target areas in southern Laos.
150. The PAR models and extension materials have achieved good uptake by other projects including PICSA and by NGOs working with smallholder farmers. Interested farmers in villages neighbouring the AFN villages have replicated PAR models such as poultry and pig raising, plastic house for vegetables, tilapia fish rearing, forage production and cattle raising.
151. Project efficiency is rated as Satisfactory (5). Project implementation was efficient and output delivery largely problem-free despite some challenges, including staff and consultant recruitment, COVID-19 and additional financing, that caused slow progress and disbursement in 2017-2019 and 2021, especially Component 2.
152. The VDP process and community contribution (labour, local materials) for construction of small-scaled infrastructure helped to (i) increase participation and ownership; (ii) strengthen local empowerment and community cohesiveness; and (iii) enhance maintenance capacity. Limited interest of contractors for small-scaled infrastructures in remote location of villages resulted in low competition and marginal cost-saving through procurement. Procedures for APG grant transaction and procurement of production inputs are still complicated and could be simplified. For example, APG could purchase its all-staff canteen and office furniture through a simplified procurement process.



management by NPCO with support from WFP technical assistance. Project management capacity was more uneven at Provincial and District levels which were key to project delivery under the decentralized structure of AFN.

160. The PSC met regularly throughout the project period and provided effective oversight of the project.
161. SM in the early years of the project noted challenges including inadequate coordination between different agencies and the need to strengthen work planning. Initial capacity at DAFO was weak and work was needed to achieve timely and efficient implementation of the project. Management costs significantly exceeded the budget allocation; this reflects, in part, the difficulties and high costs of working in remote areas but also the large number of agencies with a role in implementation, particularly at District level. The CTA position was vacant for a period in 2018-19. Issues were noted with over-ambitious financial targets set in the AWPB (particularly for Component 1 which spent only about 50% of its budget for several years pre-MTR).
162. Post-MTR, and with an effective CTA in place, project management performance improved and no major issues were noted in Supervision Reports, although coordination between agencies at sub-national levels remained troublesome.
163. Procurement was undertaken by the NPCO, WFP (Component 2) as well as multiple implementing agencies including NAFRI, PAFOs, DAFOs and Village Nutrition Committees (VNCs) in four project provinces. The procurement team at NPCO include a procurement officer, a procurement assistant and a part-time procurement specialist. Project procurement activities include mainly goods (vehicles, IT equipment, office facilities, agriculture equipment, agriculture inputs for on-farm demonstrations, and agriculture production inputs using APG grants [27]), works (TSC office buildings upgradation, VDF infrastructure investments [28]) and consulting services (specialists at NPCO, PAFO/DAFO contracted project staffs, service providers). The procurement of VDF infrastructure schemes and agriculture inputs using APG grants were carried out by VNCs with DAFO/DST supports. PAFOs/DAFOs carried out procurements related to office renovation and purchasing office furniture, and contracted project staff at PAFOs/DAFOs. NAFRI/DAFO carried out procurements of agriculture inputs for the on-farm demonstrations. NPCO carried out procurement of service providers and specialists, and some good contracts, such as procurement of vehicles, IT equipment, office facilities, agriculture machinery.
164. The Law on Public Procurement No. 30/NA, 2017 and national procurement instructions/regulations to the extent such are consistent with the IFAD Project Procurement Guidelines were applied for project procurement activities. Harmonized standard bidding documents are available in both English and Lao languages, and used for works, goods, and non-consulting services. IFAD's templates (REoI, RFP) are used for consulting services. Procurement planning, procurement documents were assessed at moderate quality. The procurement ratings by supervision missions had some improvement over time. Guidelines for implementation of VDF investments (village infrastructure, APG grants, garden grants) including procurement procedures was developed in the first years of project implementation. Limited interest of contractors for small-scaled infrastructures in remote location of villages resulted in low competition and marginal cost-saving through procurement of VDF activities. Procedures for APG grant transaction and procurement of production inputs are still complicated and could be simplified. For example, APGs could purchase inputs directly from local suppliers with receipt records.
165. IFAD No Objection Tracking Utilities System (NOTUS) was launched for Laos program in early 2019, followed by the ICP Contract Monitoring Tool. A procurement training workshop for project procurement staff was conducted by IFAD in Beijing in December 2019, and an on-line training workshop on NOTUS and ICP - Contract Monitoring Tool was conducted by IFAD in 2021. The project procurement staffs have got used to NOTUS and ICP - Contract Monitoring Tool. However, data and information of a number of contracts (goods, works, services) managed by implementing agencies and grants were not updated regularly and sufficiently in the ICP Contract Monitoring Tool.
166. The setup of decentralized project implementation system from national to village level, remote location and poor access roads of targeting villages, and lack of familiarization with IFAD project procurement framework generated many challenges. Delays were experienced, due to main reasons: (i) the complex set-up resulted in the multiplication of layers of approval; (ii) late development of project guidelines/manuals and trainings to project staff and implementing agencies; (iii) shortcomings in preparation and finalization of the AWPBs, Procurement Plans, bidding documents that required time-consuming revisions during review and approval process; and (iv) the COVID-19 pandemic hampered implementation progress of procurement activities planned for 2020 and 2021.

At the first years of project implementation, there were challenges faced by VNCs for selecting contractors and suppliers for VDF infrastructure investments and by DAFOs for village houses (Difficulties in procurement of VDF activities of an supplier; (ii) Procurement



	Unit	Original	Realization	Benchmark (FNML Laos)		Performance
		commitment	In % original	Value	%	
IR Project costs per beneficiary HI grant (**)	USD/HH	99%	1.063	7%	1.337	6.70 FNML_Lao PI
IR Project costs per beneficiary HI total (**)	USD/HH	1.255	1.371	9%	1.332	3.70 FNML_Lao PI
Per beneficiary HI grant (*)	USD/HH	269	1.0307	-	-	Administrative costs
Per beneficiary HI total	USD/HH	428	1.0307	85%	1.332	Administrative costs
Per grant (GAFSP)	USD/HH	37%	1.0307	-	-	Administrative costs
Per beneficiary (GAFSP)	USD/HH	29%	1.0307	-	-	Administrative costs

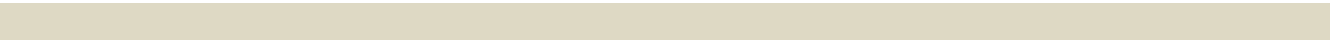
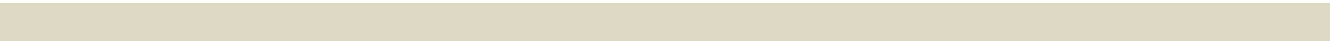
\* GAFSP-IFAD and GAFSP-WEP

\*\* Whole Project

different consultants mobilized;

- SM recommendations had at times budge

- Ensuring that an adequate budget is provided to DNC to support ongoing operations, including field support by convergence



Partnerships (PPCP) in AFN requires considerable effort and resources and may not be successful if adopted as a secondary approach in a project primarily focused on agriculture livelihoods and nutrition, as was the case with AFN. A more successful approach may be to expand the size and scope of informal / semi-formal farmer groups like the APGs, integrating training in business, financial literacy and marketing, and facilitating networking with local agri-entrepreneurs and other value chain actors (this is the basis of the "business cluster" approach adopted in Cambodia).



In order to achieve more effective and sustainable agricultural extension services reaching out to the target upland and remote villages, high commitment from the GOL (through MAF and PAFO) in decentralizing staffing and budget allocation to local extension system is extremely important. Agriculture extension should be decentralized, demand-led, and directly connected to production activities or value chains that a significant number of farmers already engage in or are ready to begin. Extension methodology should focus on village-based F2F and E2F training using lead farmers, facilitators and veterinaries. DAFO and / or TSC extension staff should see demand-led and village-based work as their primary role. Outcome-based contracts are a possible model to be explored further but these did not succeed in AFN and there are major challenges to this model in poor, remote communities with weak market links. In order to roll out successful climate smart, high nutritional and economic value of technical packages relevant to the needs and conditions of the poor households in different agro-ecological zones, the district extensions services should be technically supported by the AFN in strategic PAR designing, on-farm demonstration, evaluation, and documentation activities. To improve effectiveness of vaccination supported by DAFO for livestock in target remote villages, the project might need to support a refrigerator for each village to store the vaccines and provide good capacity building for village veterinaries to use these properly. In addition, DEAC, NAFRI, PAFO, DAFO together with NPCO should ensure (i) timely preparation of technical guidelines and communication materials right at initial years of project implementation; (ii) greater coordination and synergy between replication of successfully tested models and AFN investments (GG and APG grants, PPCP and infrastructure); (iii) promotion of on-farm demonstration and learning through Farmer Field Schools F2F and E2F training using village lead farmers and enterprises; and (iv) close M&E and learning to assess results and adjust the designed approach and models.



Farmer Nutrition Schools linked to homestead agriculture production (the Garden Grants) have proved a highly successful model for addressing the problem of persistently lagging nutrition indicators in poor and remote communities. Progress has already been made in replicating and upscaling this model and it should be adopted and promoted as best practice within the NNSPA.

204. There has been good and productive overall cooperation between the IFAD-administered investment project of AFN and the WFP-administered and implemented technical assistance (TA) project. Staff and consultants employed by MAF under the investing WFP/AFN have strong offices and worked closely with WFP contracted staff at all levels. The project has benefited greatly from the quality of TA mobilized by WFP. (ma salaries) or facil well nrtmentationeresnoee success

205. Some concerns were expressed during Supervision Missions that WFP TA at District level focused primarily on Component 2 (implemented directly by WFP) rather than provide assistance to all components as agreed. There were also dissatisfactions about project access to WFP vehicles (through UN operating rules).

WFP role in AFN went beyond technical assistance as WFP were fully responsible for implementation of Component 2. The underlying logic of this is not very clear: in principle, the capacities required for facilitating village planning and farmer nutrition schools (WFP responsibilities) are not different from those needed for facilitation of farmer groups (DAFO responsibilities). Implementation of Component 2 by WFP was of high quality. Costs were prongt





- Rice irrigation schemes should be funded only where it can be verified that (i) the scheme will cost-effectively benefit a high proportion of households including the poor (ii) that the scheme is not highly vulnerable to natural disasters; and (iii) that sustainable operation and maintenance provisions can be made;
- Community fishponds should be dropped as an eligible expenditure of infrastructure grants;

[21] The endline survey report states the increase as 207% but does not indicate whether inflation has been taken into account. Here, the endline figure has been inflated by a factor of 1.4 obtained from World Bank WDI data on CPI index for Lao PDR.

[22] Obtained by recalculating data presented in Tables 58 – 60 of Endline Report. Figures in the text of the endline report are for all households so vary slightly from these figures for households receiving production support.

[23] The strengths include  
- Mengthong, Khmu and Lao Loum.

[24] The Project Design Report states, “While AFN-II is not designed as a climate-focused project, it includes several elements to strengthen environmental sustainability and climate resilience...”

[25] IE the project exceeded the level of achievement required to justify a rating of 5 according to the PCR guidelines, and arguably could be considered close to a 6 for this aspect.

[26] PCR Guidelines

[27] Total 802 Agriculture Production Groups have received APG grants of around LAK 35,77 million per group excluding 15% contribution from the APG members. The total support from the project is LAK 28,686,989,500 (equivalent USD 3,37 million at p5



**Lao People's Democratic Republic**

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**Strategic Support for Food Security and Nutrition Project - GAFSP funds**

**Project Completion Report**

**Appendix 1: Project logical framework**

Mission Dates: 27 March - 11 April 2023

Document Date: 27/06/2023

Project No. 2000001131

Report No. 6522-LA

Asia and the Pacific Division  
Programme Management Department

This document will be publicly disclosed unless there is written dissent on its disclosure by the Borrower at the time of this document submission to IFAD or no later than the project closing date.



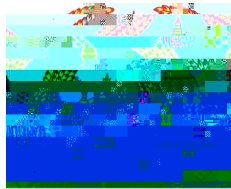




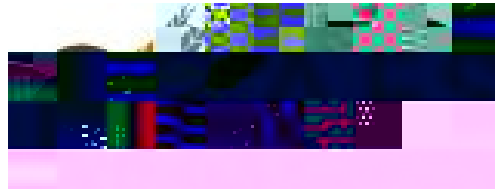
<b>Outcome</b> 2. Community-driven agriculture-based nutrition interventions established	300 Village Development Committees have a basic convergence plan on food and nutrition							Project M&E	Annual	WFP	VDPs are prepared and implemented at field level; d l; 641





**World Food  
Programme**



**Lao People's Democratic Republic**

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**Strategic Support for Food Security and Nutrition Project - GAFSP funds  
Project Completion Report**

**Appendix 2: Summary of amendments to the financing agreement**

Mission Dates: 27 March - 11 April 2023  
Document Date: 27/06/2023  
Project No. 2000001131  
Report No. 6522-LA

Asia and the Pacific Division  
Programme Management Department

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**Appendix 2: Summary of amendments to the financing agreement**

The following summary details the amendments issued for the Grant No. 2000001548 and Additional Grant No. 2000003685:

**Amendment dated 27 April 2020**

Request for reallocation grant proceeds (Grant No. 2000001548) approved as follows:

Category	Original Allocation (USD)	
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1	Civil work	290,000.00	150,000.00	-	- 2,078.36	147,921.64
2	Good & service & inputs	3,830,000.00	1,820,000.00	-	- 378,578.42	1,441,421.58

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### Appendix 3: Actual project costs

Table 1A: Disbursement by financier\*  
(USD)

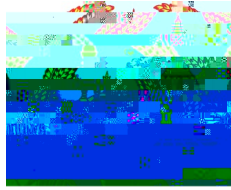
Financier	Appraisal	Actual									%
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023(est.)	Total	

GAFSP IFAD

*Table 1C: Financial performance per activities, GAFSP WFP [1]*  
(estimate, WFP will send a separate financial report after June 2023 as agreed with GAFSP)

(USD)





**World Food Programme**



Mission Dates: 27 March - 11 April 2023  
Document Date: 27/06/2023  
Project No. 2000001131  
Report No. 6522-LA

Asia and the Pacific Division  
Programme Management Department

This document is a



## Appendix 4: Project internal rate of return (detailed analysis)

### 15. EFA summary tables

(iv) **Table A1: Beneficiaries and phasing<sup>1a</sup>**

	TOTAL	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
		PY 1	PY 2	PY 3	PY 4	PY 5	PY 6	PY 7
Total beneficiary HH	31,557	2,604	5,836	7,258	6,661	5307	3406	485
Beneficiary HH phasing in by intervention								
Garden grants	22,970	-	2,667	4,927	7,315	4,083	3,978	-
APG grants/ Total HH	13,915	19	766	4,368	6,748	1,268	746	-

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100

**(v) Table A2: Project Cost and Indicators for Log Frame**

*(actual achievement based on AFN final revised logframe)*

<b>Total Project Total Costs (USD m): 38.78</b>		Grant: <b>33.8</b>	PCO 1
<b>Beneficiaries <sup>v1</sup></b>	People <b>210,684</b>	Households <b>31,557</b>	Villages <b>400</b>
<b>Cost per beneficiary</b>	USD <b>205</b> x person	USD <b>1,371</b> x HH	Participation rate: <b>95%</b>
<b>Components and Cost (USD M)</b>			

**(vi) Table A3: Main Assumptions of Illustrative Farm Models**

(financial terms)

Model/ Key parameters	Unit	Price (LAK)	Scenario	
			WOP	WP
<b>1. Integrated home garden (represented by vegetables and poultry)</b>				
<i>Vegetable: 0.02 ha, 2 crop cycles per year</i>				
<i>Poultry: 2 cycles per year, 30% mortality rate, broiler and egg production</i>				
Main production				
Adult chickens/ducks sales	hd	70,000	15	20
Adult chickens/ducks consumed	hd	70,000	5	10
Eggs consumed	pc	1,200	50	100
Eggs sales	pc	1,200	-	20
Fresh vegetable sale	l.sum/yr	-	400,000	1,000,000
Fresh vegetable Consumed	l.sum/yr	-	1,500,000	2,500,000
Investment costs				
Poultry house improvement	l.sum/yr	-	100,000	500,000
Land preparation	l.sum/yr	-	25,000	100,000
Parent chicken/ ducks <sup>11</sup>	hd	100,000	15	20
Operating inputs				
Feed (rice bran, broken rice)	kg	2,500	-	100
Veterinary service	visit	160,000	-	-
Seeds	bag	50,000	2	3
Fertilizer (manure)	l.sum/yr	100,000	-	1
Chemicals application	l.sum	1	-	-
Family labour (poultry)	wd/yr	48,000	15	25
Family labour (vegetables)	wd/yr	48,000	20	30
<sup>11</sup> Only first year. Farmers produce own parent chickens/ ducks from eggs in subsequent years.				
<b>2. Poultry raising</b>				
<i>3 cycles per years, 30% mortality rate, broiler and egg production</i>				
Main production				
Adult Chickens sales	kg	55,000	180	350
Adult Chickens consumed	kg	55,000	72	100
Eggs consumed	pc	1,500	168	200
Eggs sales	pc	1,500	-	220
Investment on infrastructure				
Chicken house improvement	l.sum/4yrs	-	-	3,000,000
Parent chicken <sup>12</sup>	hd	100,000	20	50
Operating inputs				
Feed (rice bran)	kg	2,000	140	350
Animal Feed	kg	7,500	50	125
Corn	kg	1,500	136	340
Feed (foraging and HH waste)	kg	100	100	250
vacinneted chicks	hd	2,000	-	770
Veterinary Service	visit	50,000	-	2
Skilled (paid) labour	wd/yr	80,000	-	-
Family labour	wd/yr	48,000	90	150
<sup>12</sup> Only first year. Farmers produce own parent chickens from eggs in subsequent years.				
<b>3. Pig raising</b>				

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Family labour	prs.day	48,000	50	50
<b>7. Forage production</b>				
<i>0.2 ha, 1 cycle per year</i>				
Main production				
Fresh grass sales	kg	1,000	-	-
Fresh grass Consumed	kg	1,000	700	1,500
Fresh grass seeds sales	kg	30,000	25	50
Investment on infrastructure				
Land preparation	l.sum/yr	1	100,000	100,000
Fence <sup>∇</sup>	l.sum/yr	1	-	3,000,000
Operating inputs				
Seeds	kg	30,000	20	40
Fertilizer	l.sum/yr	1	-	-
Chemicals application	l.sum/yr	1	-	-
Logistic and packaging	l.sum/yr	1	-	-
Skilled (paid) labour	prs.day	80,000	-	-
Family labour	prs.day	48,000	15	15
<sup>∇</sup> Only first year				
<b>8. Fish raising</b>				
<i>1 cycle per year, 20% mortality rate</i>				
Main production				
Fish sales (tilapia)	kg	25,000	150	300
Consumed (40%)	kg	30,000	50	150
Investment on infrastructure				
Land preparation	l.sum/yr	1	100,000	500,000
Operating inputs				
Feed (rice bran)	kg	2,000	300	600
Feed (foraging and HH waste)	kg	100	100	300
Animal feed	kg	9,000	-	200
Fingerling	hd	500	1,000	2,000
Skilled (paid) labour	prs.day	80,000	-	-
Family labour	prs.day	48,000	90	90
<b>9. Vegetable production (under transparent transparent plastic house)</b>				
<i>0.2ha, 2 cycles per year</i>				
Main production				
Fresh vegetable sale	kg	6,000	1,000	2,300
Consumed	kg	6,000	80	200
Investment on infrastructure				
Land preparation	time	1	500,000	1,500,000
Equipment	time	1	100,000	200,000
Operating inputs				
Seeds	kg	25,000	5	10
Manure	kg	1,000	250	500
Fertilizer	kg	50,000	-	15
Skilled (paid) labour	prs.day	80,000	-	-
Family labour	prs.day	48,000	50	100

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**(viii) Table A5: Farm Model – Integrated home garden**

(in financial terms)

Currency: LAK

YIELDS AND INPUTS (Per Year)

ITEMS	UNIT	PRICE	WOP 1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Main production</b>													
Adult chickens/ducks sales	Head	70,000	15	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Adult chickens/ducks consumed	Head	70,000	5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Eggs consumed	Number												

Select appropriate title from list

**(ix) Table A6: Farm Model – Poultry raising**

(in financial terms)

Currency: LAK

**YIELDS AND INPUTS (Per Year)**

<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>UNIT</b>	<b>PRICE</b>	<b>WOP 1-10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Main production</b>													
Adult Chickens sales	kg	55,000	180	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
Adult Chickens consumed	kg	55,000	72	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Eggs consumed	Number	1,500	168	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Eggs sales	Number	1,500	0	220	220	220	220	220	220	220	220	220	220
<b>Investment on infrastructure</b>													
Chicken house improvement	lumpsum	1	0	1,500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	1,500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
<b>Operating inputs</b>													
Feed (rice bran)	kg	2,000	140	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
Animal Feed	kg	7,500	50	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
Corn	kg	1,500	136	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	340	340
Feed (foraging and HH waste)	kg	100	100	250	250	250							

**(x) Table A7: Farm Model – Pig raising**

(in financial terms)

Currency: LAK

YIELDS AND INPUTS (Per Year)			WOP										
ITEMS	UNIT	PRICE	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Main production</b>													
Adult pig (40kg) sales	Kg	35,000	100	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Piglet sales	Kg	100,000	100	200	360	360	360	360	360	360	360	360	360
<b>Investment on infrastructure</b>													
Pig pen improvement (local material)	lumpsum	1	1,000,000	3,000,000	100,000	100,000	500,000	100,000	100,000	500,000	100,000	100,000	500,000
<b>Operating inputs</b>													
Feed (rice bran)	kg	2,000	500	1,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Corn/Casava	Kg	1,500	500	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Feed (foraging and HH waste)	kg	100	100	3,000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000	6000
Animal Feed	kg	10,000	0	200	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Piglet	Head	1,000,000	2	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Veterinary expense	lumpsum	1	100,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Skilled (paid) labour	person-day	80,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Family labour	person-day	48,000	90	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
<b>Financial Analysis</b>			<b>WOP</b>										
<b>ITEMS</b>			<b>1-10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Total revenue			13,500,000	27,000,000	43,000,000	43,000,000	43,000,000	43,000,000	43,000,000	43,000,000	43,000,000	43,000,000	43,000,000
Total costs			9,180,000	24,060,000	32,960,000	32,960,000	33,360,000	32,960,000	32,960,000	33,360,000	32,960,000	32,960,000	33,360,000
<b>Net income</b>				2,940,000	10,040,000	10,040,000	9,640,000	10,040,000	10,040,000	9,640,000	10,040,000	10,040,000	9,640,000
<b>Income (before family labour costs)</b>				8,700,000	15,800,000	15,800,000	15,400,000	15,800,000	15,800,000	15,400,000	15,800,000	15,800,000	15,400,000
<b>Average Income (before family labour costs)</b>				<b>14,970,000</b>									
<b>Return to family labour</b>				<b>72,500</b>	<b>131,667</b>	<b>131,667</b>	<b>128,333</b>	<b>131,667</b>	<b>131,667</b>	<b>128,333</b>	<b>131,667</b>	<b>131,667</b>	<b>128,333</b>

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Appendix 13: Contents of the Project Life File

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**(xii) Table A9: Farm Model – Cardamom production**

(in financial terms)

Currency: LAK

YIELDS AND INPUTS (Per Year)			WOP										
ITEMS	UNIT	PRICE	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Main production</b>													
Fresh Cardamon sale	kg	40,000	200	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
<b>Investment on infrastructure</b>													
Land preparation	lumpsum	1	100,000	500,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Cardamon young plant	plant	50,000	1,000	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Operating inputs</b>													
Skilled (paid) labour	person-day	80,000	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Family labour	person-day	48,000	50	100	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
<b>Financial Analysis</b>			<b>WOP</b>										
<b>ITEMS</b>			<b>1-10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Total revenue			8,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
Total costs			52,500,000	106,100,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
<b>Net income</b>				(86,100,000)	17,500,000	17,500,000	17,500,000	17,500,000	17,500,000	17,500,000	17,500,000	17,500,000	17,500,000
<b>Income (before family labour costs)</b>				(81,300,000)	19,900,000	19,900,000	19,900,000	19,900,000	19,900,000	19,900,000	19,900,000	19,900,000	19,900,000

**(xiii) Table A10: Farm Model – Galangal production**

(in financial terms)

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**(xiv) Table A11: Farm Model – Forage production**

(in financial terms)

Currency: LAK													
YIELDS AND INPUTS (Per Year)				WOP									
ITEMS	UNIT	PRICE	1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Main production</b>													
Fresh grass sales	kg	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fresh grass Consumed	kg	1,000	700	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Fresh grass seeds sales	kg	30,000	25	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
<b>Investment on infrastructure</b>													
Land preparation	lumpsum	1	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Fence	lumpsum	1	0	3,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Operating inputs</b>													
Seeds	kg	30,000	20	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fertilizer	lumpsum	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chemicals application	lumpsum	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Logistic and packaging	lumpsum	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skilled (paid) labour	person-day	80,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Family labour	person-day	48,000	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
<b>Financial Analysis</b>				WOP									
ITEMS			1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total revenue			1,450,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Total costs			1,420,000	5,020,000	820,000	820,000	820,000	820,000	820,000	820,000	820,000	820,000	820,000
<b>Net income</b>				(2,020,000)	2,180,000	2,180,000	2,180,000	2,180,000	2,180,000	2,180,000	2,180,000	2,180,000	2,180,000
<b>Income (before family labour costs)</b>				(1,300,000)	2,900,000	2,900,000	2,900,000	2,900,000	2,900,000	2,900,000	2,900,000	2,900,000	2,900,000
<b>Average Income (before family labour costs)</b>				<b>2,480,000</b>									
<b>Return to family labour</b>				<b>(86,667)</b>	<b>193,333</b>	<b>193,333</b>	<b>193,333</b>	<b>193,333</b>	<b>193,333</b>	<b>193,333</b>	<b>193,333</b>	<b>193,333</b>	<b>193,333</b>
<b>Return to family labour (average)</b>				<b>165,333</b>									
Incremental revenue				1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000	1,550,000
Incremental cost				3,600,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Incremental net income</b>				<b>(2,050,000)</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>
Discount rate			10.0%										
NPVb			9,524,079										
NPVc			3,272,727										
B/C ratio			2.91										
Incremental NPV			6,251,352										

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12345678910Kg300Kg150

**(xvi) Table A13: Farm Model – Vegetable production under transparent transparent plastic house**

(in financial terms)

Currency: LAK

YIELDS AND INPUTS (Per Year)		UNIT	PRICE	WOP 1-10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Main production</b>														
Fresh vegetable sale	kg	6,000	1,000	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300
Consumed	kg	6,000	80	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
<b>Investment on infrastructure</b>														
Land preparation	time	1	500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Equipment	time	1	100,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
<b>Operating inputs</b>														
Seeds	kg	25,000	5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Manure	kg	1,000	250	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
												500	805,000	



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**(xix) Table A16: Key parameters of AFN nutrition model**

GDP per capita (current USD)	USD	1920	World Development Indicators
GDP per capita growth		5.3%	World Development Indicators
Employment to population ratio, 15+, modeled ILO estimate		77.84%	World Development Indicators
Share of population 15+		66.50%	Inside Lao Social Indicator Book
Share of population of working age and working		52%	Computed
GDP per employed person	USD	3709	Computed
Official Exchange rate		15,033	Ministry of Finance
SCF		0.9852	Computed
GDP per employed person	LAK	54,930,562	Computed
Total percentage loss of adult yearly income		19.80%	Economic consequences
Out of pocket expenditures (OOP)			
Average, per child under 2	410,000		World Bank (2016), "Maternal and Child Health Out-of-Pocket Expenditure and Service Readiness in Lao PDR"
Assumed, for stunted children	488,016		Assumption
Assumed, for healthy children	331,984		Assumption
Project area			
Project target: village	village	400.00	
Benefited households per eUSD			



**(xx) Table A17: AFN nutrition benefit model**

(in economic terms)  
 (extract)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Project target: village				400									
Benefited households per village				79									
Participating households				31,557									
Average household size	Rural areas	6											
Population at project time				189,342									
Population growth	1.46			1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46
Population				189,342	192,106	194,911	197,757	200,644	203,574	206,546	209,561	212,621	215,725
Crude Birth Rate (CBR) <sup>11</sup>	Rural areas	23											
Birth				4,355	4,418	4,483	4,548	4,615	4,682	4,751	4,820	4,890	4,962
Birth mortality rate per 1000		46											

<sup>11</sup> CBR: number of births in the last 3 years, divided by the total population, per 1000 population





**(xxi) Table A18: AFN nutrition benefit model - Key assumption comparison between design and PCR**

Parameter	Original assumptions (design)	Updated assumption (PCR)
Persons per household	6.7	6
Number of households per village	85	83
Population growth rate	2.1 per cent per annum	1.46 per cent per annum
Crude birth rate	27 per 1,000 persons	23 per 1,000 persons
Infant mortality	Commences at 54 per 1,000 births	Commences at 46 per 1,000 births
WOP stunting rate	Baseline assumed at 60%	Actual baseline 47%
WP stunting rate	Reduction assumed at 2.5% per year, as result of AFN activities	Actual reduction at 0.55% per year, failing to meet logframe target
Income earning age	Age assumed at 15 years.	Age assumed at 15 years.
Working life	Assumed at 40 years.	Assumed at 40 years.
GDP per capita	USD 1,177	USD 1,920
GDP growth rate	3% – while current and forecast rates are higher, 3% is assumed as a better estimator for the timeframe concerned.	5.3%
Impact on annual earning	15% - This could be considered the impact of the combination of better cognitive function, school attendance, school completion and health.	15% - This could be considered the impact of the combination of better cognitive function, school attendance, school completion and health.
Expenditure on health care per capita	USD 32 per year. The proposition is the annual health care costs and less for non-stunted individuals from better development and immune systems and function.	USD410 per year, average per CU2
Proportion of per capita health expenditure saved	25%, consultant's estimate	25% - consultant's estimate
Discount rate	6%	10%

80 years – sufficient to capture the

Period of analysis



1. **Methodology:** The EFA at PCR tries, to the extent it is possible and appropriate, to comply with the same methodology used at the project design. It involves: (i) developing and updating illustrative production models and supportive infrastructure models; (ii) converting costs and benefits from financial to economic terms, using the standard conversion factor calculated at project design; (iii) aggregating the economic returns from the illustrative models according to the household participation sequence to establish the incremental net cashflow over the review period; (iii) revisiting the nutrition benefits model to re-examine the measure of incremental net nutrition benefits stream; and (iv) combining the nutrition benefits streams, the production net cashflow and the project costs to re-examine the measure of overall project impact.

2.

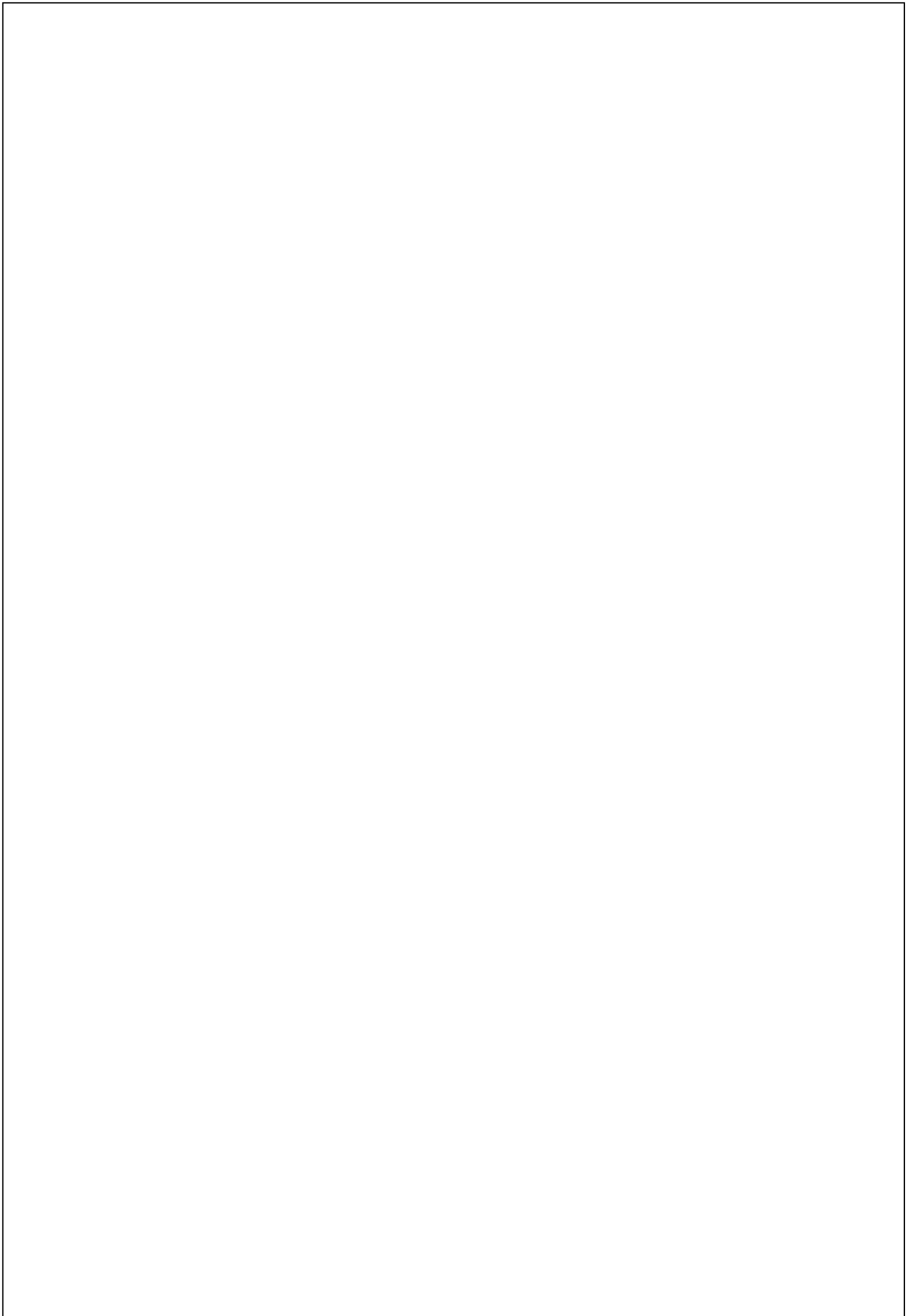
attributable to improved inputs, technical skills, processes and technologies gained through capacity building and investment support in the project.

Split of Valley Bottom and Upland farm models into more commodity-specific farm models: The original Valley Bottom model is based on the correlation between successful irrigation investment and improved production of rice paddy, rotating summer cash crops, home gardens, and subsequently pigs and cardamom. This in fact did not work out and the Valley Bottom household model has been cancelled. The original Upland household model combines home garden, upland rice, maize, forage, fish and bamboo shoot. In fact, this combination does not represent how the project has impact on nutrient-sensitive production. AFN actually supports single commodities through APG instead of a combination of products, and some commodities from the combination have not received any support (e.g. upland rice), or have insufficient data to quantify related costs and benefits (e.g. maize and bamboo shoot). By contrast, a few new commodities have emerged and produced by a significant number of beneficiary households in the project. Therefore, to better illustrate the actual achievements and long-term projections in production improvement, the single commodity production models have been developed. Some of them are split from the original Valley Bottom and Upland farm models, and some are based on new developments during the project life.

Update of rural road impact: In the original analysis, the impact of rural roads is considered in two scenarios (an upland model and "valley bottom" model) and two investments types (a new construction and a rehabilitation) over four activities: tea, maize, vegetable and NTFP (bamboo) production. In fact, this differentiation turns out too complicated and inappropriate. Instead, it is reported from implementation M&E and supported by data collection that the rural road investment benefits a wide range of commodities, including those produced from home gardens, APG, and other products not directly supported by the project. In order to avoid double counting, it is assumed that the benefits of rural road on home gardens and APGs have been blended in the related production models, and therefore are excluded from the road model. The analysis of rural road impact is done on another set of commodities, including sta51(i)-24(s)15(e127(i)-159

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AFN Project  
Final project design report





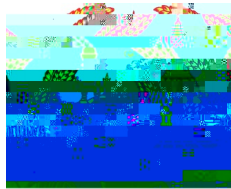




LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

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Strategic Support for Food Security and Nutrition Project  
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clearing of forest on steep slope areas for cultivation, was evident throughout the project target districts from mission observations and discussions with project beneficiaries. It is not considered that AFN has contributed significantly to this problem, though any expansion of agricultural production, for example increases in cattle herd numbers, must inevitably increase pressure on finite resources. Conversely, the project has not taken complementary measures to mitigate environmental degradation. Communities commented on increasing problems with water supplies which are likely to be linked to clearing of watershed areas for production. Soil erosion, siltation of watercourses and slope instability are likely



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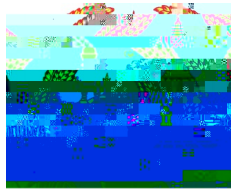
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Report No. 6522-LA

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Programme Management Department

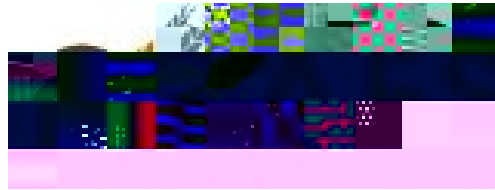
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**Strategic Support for Food Security and Nutrition Project - GAFSP funds**

**Project Completion Report**

**Appendix 7: Terms of Reference of the completions review mission**

Mission Dates: 27 March - 11 April 2023

Document Date: 27/06/2023

Project No. 2000001131

Report No. 6522-LA

Asia and the Pacific Division  
Programme Management Department

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5. **Implementing arrangements:** The Department of Planning and Cooperation (DoPC) of MAF is the AFN lead agency that has overall responsibility for Project implementation. IFAD administers and supervises the GAFSP financing and the main supervising entity of implementation while WFP is also lead technical agency.

(b)

6. **Budget and expenditures:** The total cost for the project is USD 38.8 million. The GAFSP approved a grant of USD 30 million (24 million to IFAD and USD 6 million to WFP) to finance the AFN, while Lao PDR government contributes about USD 5.4 million. Contributions from beneficiary groups and local private sector were estimated to total at about USD 3.4 million. By Jan 2021, the project received additional funding of USD 3.8 million from GAFSP (USD 1.5 million for MAF/IFAD and USD 2.3 million for WFP) to specifically respond to COVID-19 impacts and scale-up existing, successful project activities, specifically targeting women, poor households, and smallholder farmers in the 12 AFN districts. As at 31 December 2022, the project has disbursed 100% of the original allocation (24 USD million) and 80% of the additional financing (1.5 USD million).

(c)

### 7. Project milestones:

Project Concept Note Approval	05/05/2015
EB Approval	13/04/2016
Entry into Force	28/04/2016
First Disbursement	02/09/2016
Mid-term Review	18/02/2020
Original Completion	30/06/2022
Extension completion as the result of COVID-19 restructuring	31/12/2022

### 3. Detailed objectives

8. The overall objective of the completion review is to assess and document overall project implementation performance and the results achieved. This process calls for an informed reflection on the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of project interventions.

(d)

9. More precisely, the detailed objectives of the completion process include the following:

- € To assess the relevance of project interventions at the time of project design and in today's context.
- € To assess the effectiveness of project implementation, or the extent to which project objectives were met, and to document the immediate results and impacts of project interventions.
- € To review the project costs and benefits and the efficiency of the overall project implementation process, including IFAD's and partners' performance.
- € To assess the prospects of sustainability of project benefits beyond project completion.
- € To generate and document useful lessons from implementation that will help improve GAFSP, IFAD, WFP's or Borrower's future programming and designs.
- € To identify any potential for the replication or up-scaling of best project practices

10. While GAFSP follow the Supervising Entity's (SE, i.e. IFAD) official project completion report requirements, GAFSP requests the PCR mission to collect the following information:

- € Project outcome and impact data as per GAFSP M&E plan (e.g., household income, food security, agriculture productivity if applicable); whether intended targets were met. If there is an endline report/impact assessment, please share together with the complete PCR after internal clearance.
- € If applicable, how the Technical Assistance projects collaborated with the associated investment projects (i.e., Lao PDR)
- € What's the difference or value addition of GAFSP grants compared with SE's regular projects in the country (with similar financing terms); did it support to push the agenda to

investment on certain areas (e.g., thematic, geographic, innovative activities)? Did it help to unlock other sources of financing? Or has it been scaled up by additional funding?

- € If applicable, did the project coordinate/align the public sector investments supported under the project with any private sector investments supported by the SE or other development partners in the country? If not, do you see any opportunities/entry points to do so in the future?

#### **4. Methodology**

11. The mission will use a mix of quantitative and qualitative tools in order to form an informed judgement on overall project performance and results. For transparency and accuracy purposes, it is important that the consultation with project stakeholders should be as large and inclusive as possible and the list of persons to be met by the mission will require careful consideration.

(e)

12. Primary sources of information will include project reports and documents (supervision reports, MTR report, progress reports, AWPB, etc.), M&E and MIS data (including logframe data), any surveys

20. Towards the end of the in-country work, the mission will present its initial findings and conclusions during a wrap-up meeting to be hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). The mission will prepare a

- (ii) with support from MAF and WFP gender specialist, assess the overall performance of project performance in terms of targeting and gender, review the socio-economic impact and make an evaluation of realized implementation as compared to the expected results and objectives and identify lessons;
- (iii) assigning tasks/ sections of the report to be written to the team members;
- (iv) ensuring that all deliverables are met in a timely manner and comply with IFAD's required formats and quality standards;
- (v) in close co-ordination with the M&E specialist, engage with the relevant staff members in consolidating the data and information required to assess the Programme's effectiveness on target and output delivery, and targeting and outreach;
- (vi) identify the areas of policy implications emanating from the implementation of programme activities and the lessons learned from PCR;
- (vii) in close collaboration with IFAD, WFP and other mission members, lead drafting of the Aide Memoire for submission and agreement with government; and lead and coordinate drafting of the Project Completion Report which will be submitted to IFAD, WFP and GAFSP.

**Do Thanh Lam, Agronomist and M&E specialist ([dolam63@gmail.com](mailto:dolam63@gmail.com)).** In liaison with the team leader, the specialist will review the overall physical and financial progress for Outcome 1 in terms of effectiveness and achievements and assess project M&E and KM system. In particular,

- € Support in collaboration with other mission members Outcomes 2 and 3 for crop related technical issues;
- € Assess the effectiveness and results of the participatory research, agricultural technologies, forage development etc.
- € Assess the effectiveness and results of the extension approach;
- € Review the effectiveness of capacity building activities of government and service providers;
- € Produce 2-3 lessons learned that can be used in AFNII and other IFAD supported projects;
- € assess the M&E performance and quality of implementation in line with the defined result objectives;
- € summarize the overall programme implementation progress of the M&E aspects and make recommendations to ensure that by end of project there is proper turnover of the M&E data and lessons learning studies;
- € review and validate the data and information contained in the documentation submitted by the government; including linkages between quantitative and qualitative data; extract/obtain missing data from the project, if any, to adequately supply the required data and information for the PCR prepared by government;
- €

- € Assess the AFN progress and effectiveness in supporting the District/Provincial Multi-Sector Convergence Planning;
- € Assess the strategy and action plan for Village Nutrition Schools;
- € Assess how the identified agricultural commodities / models were relevant in promotion of nutrition;
- € Assess the nutrition aspects of (i) overall expenditure for nutrition (ii) the effectiveness of the setup for local implementation mechanism;
- € Liaise with the SECAP consultant to provide inputs on nutrition related issues;
- € Document lessons learned and case studies;
- € Draft all inputs to the Aide memoire and PCR related to nutrition impact as requested by the Team Leader;
- € Any other tasks as agreed with the Team Leader.

2. **Keo Duangchai, Safeguard specialist (SECAP) ([keoduangchai@gmail.com](mailto:keoduangchai@gmail.com))**. The Environment,

This analysis should be included in Appendix 5: Environmental, Social and Climate Impact Assessment. More specifically the consultant should:

Review the project's SECAP documentation (SECAP review note, Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), etc.) as applicable and required during the project's design.

Assess the quality of the implementation of SECAP plans (including ESMPs, stakeholder engagement plan, grievance redress mechanism) and gather/document evidence of their contribution to the project to address social, environmental, and climate risks and impacts and in producing benefits for project implementation and target groups;

Assess the project compliance with SECAP requirements and effectiveness in reducing the project's potential adverse environmental and social impacts.

Assess whether a Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM) was in place; and how complaints or grievances were managed/resolved by the project (if any).

Assess if FPIC agreements reached with the communities were respected (if applicable).

Assess the implementation of past mission recommendations and agreed actions on SECAP, ERNM and ACC.

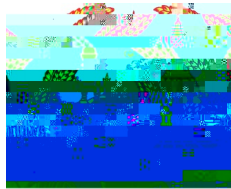
Document challenges faced by the PMU and best practices and lessons learned as well as any innovations concerning the implementation of SECAP plans.

The consultant will contribute to the preparation of mission deliverables as agreed with the Team Leader and the

Verify that all outstanding contractual payments can be settled and the corresponding contract files can be closed within the FA/Project Closure Date at the latest;



- € Coordinate review and comment among key stakeholders (MAF, IFAD, WFP and GAFSP) and submit the final PCR to the GAFSP Steering Committee through the Coordination Unit (CU) a full project closing report within 6 months following the project closing date.



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## Appendix 8: List of persons met and mission programme

No.	Name & Surname	Title	Agency
1.	Dr. Thathsaka SAPHOUNGTHONG	Director General	DOPC, MAF
2.	Mr Soppharthai Lingsone	Director of Division	DOPC, MAF
3.	Mr. Visavanh	Head of Section	DOPC, MAF
4.	Ms. Vanta	Head of Section	DOPC, MAF
5.	Mr. Sopha Siththison	Deputy- Director General	DAEC, MAF
6.	Ms. Sonthala	Technical Staff	DAEC, MAF
7.	Mr. Bounserd	Technical Staff	DAFO, Bountai District, Phonsaly Province
8.	Ms. Bouavone	M&E and Planning Officer	Bountai District, Phonsaly Province
9.	Mr. Tick Xayyaseang	Deputy Project Coordinator	DAFO, Bountai District, Phonsaly Province
10.	Mr. Oulaitham Lathsamima	Technical Coordinator	NAFRI, MAF
11.	Mr Sisovath PHANDANOUVONG	National Project Coordinator	NPCO, DOPC, MAF
12.	Mr. Kroungsivilay MALAYTHONG	Deputy National Project Coordinator	NPCO, DOPC, MAF
13.	Mr. Sisombath	Procurement Officer	NPCO, DOPC, MAF
14.	Ms. Chanthalai	Assistant Accountant	NPCO, DOPC, MAF
15.	Mr. Soulisone	Assistant M & E Officer	NPCO, DOPC, MAF
16.	Ms Chiengkham	Finance Officer	NPCO, DOPC, MAF
17.	Mr Khamtanh	M &E Adviser	NPCO, DOPC, MAF
18.	Mr Lathsamee	AFN Admin Staff	NPCO, DOPC, MAF
19.	Mr. Phonesavanh	Admin Staff	NPCO, DOPC, MAF
20.	Mr. Edwin de Korte	CTA of AFN	WFP
21.	Mr. Somphone Sidavong	Policy Officer	WFP
22.	Ms. Chintana Somkhane	Policy Program Officer Nutrition	WFP

23.

No.	Name & Surname	Title	Agency
29.	Mr. Khamxang Inthasone	Assistant M&E Officer	PAFO, Oudomxai Province

No.	Name & Surname	Title	Agency
55.	Ms. Thongsy Bounphachan	Technical staff	DAFO, Namor District, Oudomxai Province
56.	Mr. Phanmany	Technical staff	DAFO, Namor District, Oudomxai Province
57.	Ms. Southida Chanthavong	Program Assistant	WFP Namor District, Oudomxai Province
58.	Mr. Chantha Sengpanya	Program Assistant	WFP, Namor District, Oudomxai Province
59.	Mr. Syvongxai Sulivong	Program Assistant	WFP, Oudomxai Province
60.	Mr. Xaysawath	Deputy Head	DAFO, Namor District, Oudomxai Province
61.	Ms. Vinthaphone	President	LWU, Namor District, Oudomxai Province
62.	Mr. Bounpheang Laoly	Technical Officer	Bountai District, Phongsaly Province
63.	Mr. Somlid Xayyachid	Head Of Health Office	Mr.f Health Bountai District, Phongsaly Province

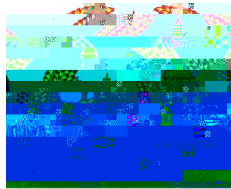
Bountai Distr

No.	Name & Surname	Title	Agency
80.	Mr. Phongphanh	Deputy of Planning & Investment Office	Khua District, Phongsaly Province
81.	Mr. Bounmexay	Deputy Director	DAFO, Khua District, Phongsaly Province
82.	Ms. Bounmala Maosyvong	AFN Coordinator	Khua District, Phongsaly Province
83.	Mr. Phonethavy	District Governor	Khua District, Phongsaly Province
84.	Mr. Vongdeun	Deputy District Governor	Khua District, Phongsaly Province
85.	Mr. Somneuk	Deputy District Governor	Khua District, Phongsaly Province
86.	Ms. Sykham	President	Khua District, Phongsaly Province
87.	Mr. Bounthong	Deputy Director	Public works and Transport Office, Khua District, Phongsaly Province
88.	Mr. Kongphet Phetsavong	Provincial Policy Officer	WFP, Phongsaly Province
89.	Mr. Seangphet Laopoaher	Program Assistant	WFP, Khua district
90.	Mr. Vanhxay Inpanya	Deputy District Governor	Mai District, Phongsaly Province
91.	Mr, Vienglakhone	AFN Coordinator	Mai District, Phongsaly Province
92.	Mr. Touvixay	M&E and Planning	Mai District, Phongsaly Province
93.	Mr. Thongsavanh	Head of DAFO	Mai District, Phongsaly Province
94.	Mr. Phainay	Education and sport	Mai District, Phongsaly Province
95.	Ms. Doungsy Veu	Deputy District Governor	Nonghead District, Xiengkhuang Province

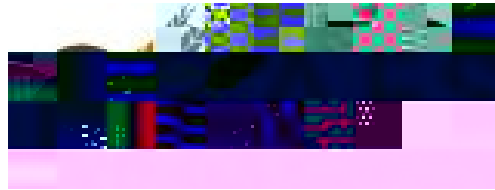
96. Mr. Thaiyang

No.	Name & Surname	Title	Agency
106.	Mr. Aome Soulinthone	Head of DAFO	DAFO, Houmoung District, Huaphanh Province
107.	Ms. Indavone Phetmexay	AFN Coordinator	DAFO, Houmoung District, Huaphanh Province
108.	Mr. Bounphone	Technical Officer	DAFO, Hoameung District, Huaphanh Province
109.	Mr. Son inthavong	M&E Officer	DAFO, Hoameung District, Huaphanh Province
110.	Ms. Phengphone	Vice-President	LWU, Hoameung District, Huaphanh Province
111.	Mr. Somhuk	Head Of Health Office	Hoameung District, Huaphanh Province
112.	Ms. Maiphone	Technical Officer	DAFO, Hoameung District, Huaphanh Province
113.	Mr. Vanhthamome	M&E Officer	PAFO, Hoameung District, Huaphanh Province
114.	Mr. Linkham	Technical Officer	PAFO, Hoameung District, Huaphanh Province
115.	Mr. Phonesavanh	Technical Officer	Public works and Transport Office, Hoameung District, Huaphanh Province
116.	Mr. Pheang Xaydongvanh		





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**Strategic Support for Food Security and Nutrition Project - GAFSP funds  
Project Completion Report**

**Appendix 9: Final wrap-up/stakeholder workshop findings**

Mission Dates: 27 March - 11 April 2023  
Document Date: 27/06/2023  
Project No. 2000001131  
Report No. 6522-LA

Asia and the Pacific Division  
Programme Management Department

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## **Appendix 9: Final wrap-up/stakeholder workshop findings**

### **Agriculture for Nutrition – Project Completion Review Mission | Aide-Memoire**

#### **A. Mission Objectives and Key Conclusions**

##### **A1. Background and main objective of the mission**

1. The Agriculture for Nutrition (AFN) project is financed by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) through its Department of Planning and Cooperation (DoPC). The project became effective on 28 April 2016, the revised completion date is 31 December 2022, and the closing date is 30 June 2023. The total cost for the project is USD 38.8 million, which consists of a GAFSP grant of USD 24 million administered by IFAD; a GAFSP grant of USD 6 million managed by the 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 are estimated as USD 3.3 million. Additional Financing of USD 3.8 million (GAFSP grant of USD 1.5 million administered by IFAD and GAFSP Grant of USD 2.3 million administered by WFP) was approved in 2020.

8. AFN substantially achieved its outreach target of 227,800 direct beneficiaries (reported outreach is 92.5% of target) who are mainly poor and near-poor residents of upland villages selected on the basis of priority need for nutrition and agriculture livelihoods support. Around 50% of direct beneficiaries are female and 78% belong to non-Lao ethnic groups.
9. AFN substantially achieved its Project Development Objective (PDO) of *Improved and Diversified climate resilient agricultural production and household nutrition enhance life prospects* despite the negative influence of the COVID-19 pandemic and increased input prices and disruption to product markets caused by the Ukraine conflict. The PDO indicator based on households achieving income above poverty level was 85% achieved and the indicator based on improved food security was fully achieved.
10. Project Relevance, Effectiveness and Efficiency are rated as Satisfactory (5). Project Sustainability is rated as Moderately Satisfactory (4). Environmental sustainability is a concern in the context of increasing pressure on land and natural resources in the project areas.
11. The following recommendations are offered for consideration in developing implementation guidelines for AFN Phase II and for design of future projects:
  - a. Agriculture extension should be decentralised and demand-led, based on supporting farmer-to-farmer learning on topics directly connected to production activities or value chains supported by the project, e.g. to Agricultural Production Group (APG) activities;
  - b. Adopt a stronger focus on water for domestic use and homestead agriculture, including (i) a logframe target; (ii) conservation and management of watersheds; (iii) water, sanitation and hygiene education integrated with nutrition learning content; (iv) prioritise investments in water supply systems where needed;
  - c. Clarify the different purposes of garden grants and APG grants to beneficiaries;
  - d. Strengthen the targeting of APG grants to (i) ensure no household can benefit from individual grant finance from more than one APG; and (ii) additional measures to assist poorer households to overcome barriers to their participation in APGs;



13. **Outreach:** Project reporting indicates that overall project outreach was 31,557 beneficiary households, which is 92.8% of the target. Reported female beneficiaries reached 105.6% of the target while reported male beneficiaries was 79.4% of the target. The Mission notes some inconsistencies in the reported figures, including (1) the implied household size of 6.68 persons (210,684 beneficiaries in 31,557 households) is larger than the actual average household size of 5.8 measured in the household survey; and (2) the implied gender imbalance (population 57% female) does not seem plausible and again is not consistent with the household survey (49.2% female).

## **C2. Project Performance**

14. **Project relevance is rated as satisfactory (5).** The overall design was consistent with the needs of the target groups and to key GoL policies and programmes for nutrition and smallholder agriculture development and remained so throughout the project period. The overall internal logic of the project design is coherent and sound at the strategic level. Project interventions as experienced by direct beneficiaries (nutrition schools, support for production of nutritious foods for home consumption and the market, public infrastructure, grassroots farmer organisations) were highly relevant to their needs. Less relevant activities (e.g. land use planning) were scaled down or dropped after MTR. Elements oriented to value chain development (SIPs and PPCPs) were relevant to the needs of the target groups but proved less relevant to the overall focus of the project activities. Technical Service Centres (TSC) with their current form, staffing and mandate do not have the potential to perform the outreach role that was envisaged in the project design. A more demand-led approach to agriculture extension could have been adopted at the design stage. There was insufficient differentiation between the purpose and eligible expenditures of the Garden Grants and the APG grants.
15. **Project effectiveness is rated as satisfactory (5).** The Project Development Objective of

8.65%. Costs per beneficiary and management costs are much higher than the design

supported the participatory development of nutrition plans. Beneficiaries have been supported to form farmer nutrition schools and agriculture production groups, the best of which have an excellent chance to achieve sustainability. Capacity of village facilitators, predominantly women, as well as lead farmers has been enhanced. Farmers have gained knowledge and



29. As explained by all key informants another great result of AFN is the improved knowledge and awareness on nutrition of men and their enhanced interest on children care and prevention of malnutrition. Another significant result of AFN is the contribution provided on policy and governance with the operationalization of the District Nutrition Committees (DNCs) in all 12 districts covered by the project and the development of community driven Village Nutrition Plans (VNPs) integrated with the Village Development Plans (VDPs) process and highly representative of all village members, both men and women.
30. Concerning AFN project goal on **stunting reduction**, the mission observed that it was not very appropriate because: i) the objective of 10% decrease in rate over the project life cycle of 6 years is absolutely too ambitious, and even more important, because ii) the relevance of many other determinants in malnutrition (i.e. social justice, health equity, maternal education, human rights etc.etc.) indicate that they shall all coexist at regional, national, community and household level in order to produce an impact, whereas AFN only addressed some of them. Having said that, no anthropometric measurements were taken during the project period and data assessment relied on national surveys. According to the Logframe, project goal indicator of stunting was to be measured through the data from the Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS) provided by Ministry of Health. However, data from the third round is not yet available as data collection for LSIS III was delayed due to the COVID-19 from 2022 to 2023. Therefore, in order to estimate the progress achieved up to now, data at baseline from LSIS II were compared to other secondary data available at district level (from the Reducing Rural Poverty and

a shift from previous practices where men were often the target participants for village meetings, trainings, and information sessions because women were supposed to be busy with household chores and tasks. With AFN, women became more confident to participate in household and community discussions and more accepted by communities and household to do so. Garden grants were distributed to 22,970 women. Women constitute 79% of the VNFs. The project reports that 48% of APG members are women and out of seven PPCP entrepreneurs, two were women.

**All three dimensions**

replication exists. Support to the convergence approach and the District Nutrition Committees has already been replicated by other agencies. FNS are part of World Bank supported projects



Missions and Implementation Support Missions. At Provincial and District levels the WFP staff tended to focus primarily on Component 2. Supervision Missions identified a need for these staff to broaden their focus to provide consistent support across all components.

45. Direct implementation of activities at village level by WFP appears to incur a somewhat higher cost than would be the case with Government implementation, but WFP were able to recruit and deploy qualified and motivated staff whose assistance improved project delivery quality overall. GoL satisfaction with the value for money provided by WFP is indicated by the request for the same implementation arrangements in AFN-II.





## Appendix 1b: Additional Indicators Reported to GAFSP

### A: GAFSP Core Indicators

GAFSP Core Indicator		Baseline	End of Project Target at Design	Final Achievement
Number of beneficiaries reached <sup>29</sup>	Number	0	227,800 (34,000 HHs) 100% of population	210,684 (31,557 HHs)
	Gender (Male/ Female)	0	>50% female	57% female

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