

Executive Board Second Regular Session

Rome, 9-13 November 2009

EVALUATION REPORTS

Agenda item 6

For consideration



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MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUMMARY EVALUATION REPORT LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC COUNTRY PORTFOLIO

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for consideration.

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms C. Panlilio, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).



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BACKGROUND

1. This report presents the Secretariat's response to the evaluation recommendations for improving WFP's strategic position in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

- 2. The Secretariat appreciates the evaluation recommendations and recognizes the importance of needs-based, results-oriented programming, grounded in solid analytical work and monitoring systems.
- 3. The Secretariat's responses to the recommendations, and implementation timelines, are provided in the attached matrix.



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Recommendations	Action by	Management response and action taken	Implementation deadline
Recommendation 1: The country office should continue to undertake analytical work that informs the choice of hunger solutions that are most relevant to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.	Country office	The unifying goal will provide the country office with the reference for determining the analytical work to be carried out, with the aim of continuously examining the relevance and effectiveness of WFP's presence in the country and its contribution to the eradication of hunger. Any new operation or activity in the Lao People's Democratic Republic will also be based on such analysis.	December 2010
	Operations Department /Grants Management Unit	Country offices are informed as and when grants are negotiated. The country office can send proposals for access to grants, especially those from donors such as Germany with focus areas in studies, research and hunger analysis.	Ongoing
	Food Security Analysis Service	At the country office's request, the Food Security Analysis Service is ready to assist, using available expertise from the vulnerability analysis and mapping to continue developing expertise in food security analysis.	December 2010
		The Food Security Analysis Service will work with the country office to develop a strategy that provides a bottom-up approach to developing analytical capacity. To ensure that these skills are developed and retained in the country, the Food Security Analysis Service and the country office will collaborate on strategy efforts to target – to the extent possible – national WFP and partner staff for food security-related training.	December 2010
Recommendation 2: In developing its country strategy, the country office should define clearly a unifying goal for its portfolio in the country.	Country office	On the basis of the country portfolio evaluation, the country office has already begun internal and external consultations to develop its unifying goal and related strategic focus. These will be incorporated into development of a country strategy and all the country office's activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.	November 2009
Recommendation 3: The country office, its partners and other stakeholders should determine ways of improving participation and increasing local ownership.	Country office	Meetings and consultations with partners will be held to determine ways of improving participation and increasing local ownership. This effort has already been initiated in the country office and will be mainstreamed into regular country office planning and implementation of activities. It will also be incorporated into the design of new projects or project phases.	September 2010



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Recommendation 4: At the corporate level, discussions of WFP's funding model should take into account how WFP's comparative advantage is affected by high-tonnage choices to generate funding.	Budget and Programming Division	WFP's funding arrangements, including application of the tonnage-based funding model, are being examined as part of the ongoing financial framework review. The review is being undertaken to continue WFP's efforts to align its financial policies with its strategic and planning processes and to ensure WFP's transition from a food aid agency to a food assistance agency. As such a shift will require a more flexible and sustained funding and costing structure, the review aims to identify alternative quality-based and quantity-based approaches to improving the calculation and funding of project-associated costs such as direct support costs, other direct operational costs and landside transport, storage and handling. Regarding cost structure, this might include introduction of a new activity-based costing model to allow project-associated costs to be calculated on the basis of value rather than tonnage or number of beneficiaries.	It is anticipated that the final draft proposal will be presented to the Executive Board for approval during its First Regular Session in February 2010.
Recommendation 5: The country office, with the support of the regional bureau and/or Headquarters, should design a monitoring system that informs decision-making at various levels.	Country office	A computerized system has been developed under the school meals programme; government counterparts at the national and local levels have been trained, and are expected to take over this function as their capacity grows.	December 2010
		A similar approach will be undertaken for all WFP activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. With earmarked support from one donor, the country office has hired a monitoring and evaluation expert to focus on this undertaking.	
	Regional bureau	The regional bureau will provide technical support to the country office for the development of an improved monitoring and evaluation system. The regional bureau will also seek additional grant funding to pilot an enhanced and more systematized monitoring and evaluation approach within the region.	December 2010
	Programme Design Service	Headquarters can provide the regional bureau or the country office with any additional support required to ensure that the monitoring and evaluation system is designed to inform decision-makers.	December 2010



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	Food Security Analysis Service	There have been discussions with the country office regarding support to the development of a food security monitoring system. Funds permitting, and at the request of the country office, this support will be forthcoming from the Food Security Analysis Service.		

