



WFP Lesotho Country Brief

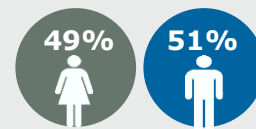
MAY 2018

In Numbers

US\$0.8 m cash based transfers made

US\$6.6 m six months (May - October 2018) net funding requirements, representing 33% of total

3,237 people assisted in May 2018



Operational Context

More than half (57 percent) of Lesotho's people live on less than one dollar per day. Lesotho's GDP stands at USD 2.3 billion while its national gross income per capita is USD 1,270 (World Bank). Revenue from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) contributes a significant proportion to Lesotho's national budget. The Government allocates seven percent of its national budget to social protection programmes such as school feeding, pension for the elderly, child grants and public works.

The population's high vulnerability is exacerbated by recurring climatic hazards, including droughts, early frost and a low performing economy. Thus, 29 percent of people below the age of 35 years are unemployed. The country is also characterized by an extremely high HIV prevalence rate (24.6 percent) and should provide care for more than 250,000 orphaned children, most of whom lost their parents to AIDS. Life expectancy stands at 49 years.

Agriculture, which contributes seven percent to the GDP, is a major source of livelihood for 80 percent of the population living in rural areas.

WFP supports the Government's efforts to build the resilience of communities frequently affected by climatic hazards, with the view to stimulate agricultural production.

WFP has been present in Lesotho since 1962.



Population: **2.1 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **160 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **33% of children between 6-59 months**

Operational Updates

- Following the launch of the Zero Hunger Strategic Review in March 2018 by His Majesty King Letsie III, WFP hosted a consultative workshop on 03 and 04 May to develop the Zero Hunger Road Map. The workshop was attended by various technical stakeholders from government, UN agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations, civil society and the private sector with a total of 89 participants.
- On 09 May, WFP together with the Ministry of Education and Training celebrated the third African Day of School Feeding with the theme "Realizing the African Child's Full Potential through Effective Home-Grown School Feeding" at Bocheletsane Primary School in Thaba Tseka District.
- WFP Lesotho has embarked on formulating and developing a 5-year (July 2019 – June 2024) Country Strategic plan (CSP) in alignment with the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) and Lesotho UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). WFP held a consultative meeting with government counterparts, UN agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). This sensitization meeting envisaged to facilitate ownership of the activities by the different stakeholders, especially government ministries on which WFP is intending to anchor its activities.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Matlotliso Masenyetse
Caption: Thaba Tseka, Lesotho. Primary school pupils during the African Day of School Feeding celebrations.

Contact info: Matlotliso Masenyetse
(Matlotliso.masenyetse@wfp.org)

Country Director: Mary Njoroge

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/lesotho

WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Interim Country Strategic Plan (January 2018-June 2019)		
19.9 m	7.3 m	6.6 m
Strategic Result 1: Access to food		
Strategic Outcome 1: Households in chronically food insecure areas can meet their basic food and nutrition requirements throughout the year, including in times of shock		
3.9 m	0.9 m	1.3 m
Strategic Result 1: Access to food		
Strategic Outcome 2: Children in food insecure areas have access to nutritious food throughout the year		
13.2 m	6.4 m	4.4 m
Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted populations in prioritized districts have improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2023		
2.8 m	0.0 m	0.9 m

Monitoring

- The Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) which targets children aged 6 to 23 months and pregnant and lactating women, with a view of addressing stunting, was put on hold in March 2018 due to funding challenges. In May 2018, WFP conducted a post BSFP monitoring exercise to establish the impact of the discontinuation. The results will be published in June.
- Together with WFP, the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) conducted a vulnerability assessment survey and data analysis on food security, nutrition and vulnerability of the population of Lesotho. Data collection was carried out between 11 to 25 May and the results will be published in June 2018. The LVAC is a government led committee within the Prime Minister's office that is mandated to carry out livelihood vulnerability analysis and aims to provide timely analysis for emergency interventions as well as medium and long-term programming.
- To improve the monitoring capacity of government and partners, WFP's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) team was invited to facilitate a workshop for school feeding stakeholders on monitoring and evaluation concepts and school feeding M&E frameworks, and to review school feeding M&E checklists (questionnaires). The workshop was held on 16 and 17 May.

Challenges

- There is no funding to support implementation of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) SO1 activities in the two districts (Mohale's Hoek and Quthing) identified by the Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) as experiencing chronic food insecurity and to be prioritized in 2018.

Partnerships

Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), in partnership with WFP, is assisting with pre-primary school feeding. KFC will continue to assist seven schools until 2019.

WFP held a meeting with Technologies for Economic Development (TED) and it was agreed to prepare for trainings of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) caregivers on Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). The trainings are planned for June.

To commemorate Menstrual Hygiene Day on 28 May, WFP and TED provided girls in Quthing district with sanitary towels and education on their use.

GENDER MARKER 

WFP Country Activities

- SO 1** Strengthen the resilience of communities in shock-prone areas.
- SO 2** Provide capacity strengthening and implementation support to government bodies responsible for the national school feeding programme.
- SO 3** Provide chronic malnutrition prevention services to at risk populations in targeted areas.
- SO 3** Provide cash and/or food transfers to households of malnourished ART and TB DOT clients.