



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



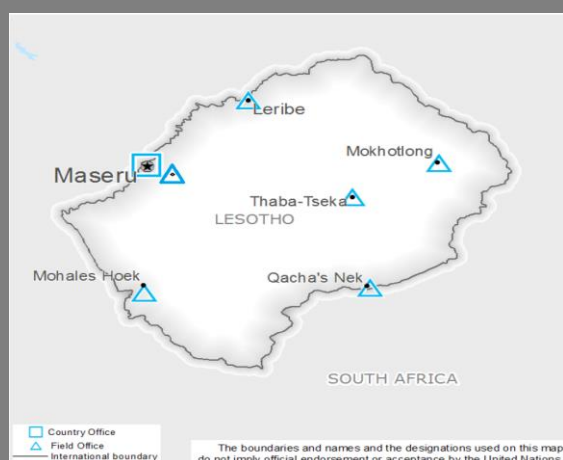
More than half (57%) of Lesotho population live on less than one dollar per day. Lesotho's GDP stands at USD 2.3 billion while its national GDI per capita is USD 1,270 (World Bank). Revenue from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) contributes a significant proportion to Lesotho's national budget. The Government allocates 7% of its national budget to social protection programmes such as school meals, 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% of people below the age of 35 years are unemployed. The country is also characterized by an extremely high HIV prevalence rate (24.6 %) 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 7% of GDP, is a major source of livelihood for 80% 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.



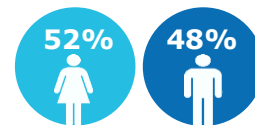
2015 Human Development Index: **160 out of 188**

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

729 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.7 m six months (October 2018 - March 2019) net funding requirements, representing 14% of total

276,250 people targeted
in 2018



- On 17 to 21 September, the Government of Lesotho, together with the Government of Eswatini, undertook a joint study tour of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) with the support of the World Food Programme and the World Bank. The objective of the trip was to learn how Ethiopia, through its food insecurity challenges in recent years, implemented PSNP for the improvement of resilience and sustainability against weather shocks of the most vulnerable communities. The study tour was attended by WFP, the World Bank, the Ministry of Forestry Range and Soil Conservation, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Social Development and the Disaster Management Authority. The findings of the mission will inform programming of resilience activities in Lesotho run by both WFP and the Government.
- Lesotho has embarked on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) census data collection where WFP is supporting the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) by providing resources and technical expertise. The MoET call for WFP support came as it was determined that available data is inadequate, affecting interventions and programming negatively. WFP uses the data for emergency preparedness and rapid programming. This verification exercise, which will target children under the age of five, will be carried out in September and October 2018.
- For the first time, WFP Lesotho procured beans directly from local farmers and not through the local aggregators. To mark this milestone, a handover ceremony was held on 17 September 2018 in Leribe district. A total of 76 mt of beans was purchased from two farmer organizations based in Leribe. The ceremony was graced by the Minister of Education Professor Ntoi Rapapa, Principal Secretary of Basic Education Mrs. Mamasiane Tieho and WFP Country Director Ms. Mary Njoroge.

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Interim Country Strategic Plan (Jan 2018- June 2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
19.9 m	0.5 m	2.7 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has 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.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Strengthen the resilience of communities in shock prone areas

Strategic Result 2: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Children in food insecure areas have access to nutritious food throughout the year

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening and implementation support to governmental bodies responsible for the national school meals programme

Strategic Result 3: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted populations in prioritized districts have improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2023

Focus area: Root causes

Activities:

- Provide chronic malnutrition prevention services to at risk populations in targeted areas
- Provide cash and/or food transfers to households of malnourished ART and TB DOT clients

Monitoring

- WFP's monitoring and evaluation team together with the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) have reviewed primary and pre-primary school meals monitoring tools. The main purpose of reviewing the tools was to include school feeding models other than WFP's, specifically the Government managed National Managing Agents (NMA) and catering models. The NMA model is run by private companies who are responsible for sourcing the food locally and hire cooks from local communities, whilst the catering model engages local communities who are unemployed and do not receive social grants, source food locally and provide lunch meal for the learners. The updated tools will be used for the fourth quarter 2018 distribution cycle which begins on 01 October. Monitoring is done collectively by WFP and MoET.

Challenges

- WFP Lesotho continues to face funding challenges, especially for SO 1, SO 3 and the pre-primary component of SO 2. Since May 2018, WFP has suspended cash transfers to a total of 8,000 beneficiaries targeted under resilience building due to a lack of funds. Operations under Activity 3 and 4 have also been suspended since March this year for the same reason. Activity 2, which comprise pre-primary and primary school children, is only funded for the latter, whilst school meals for pre-primary still face funding constraints leaving 50,000 children without meals at school.
- The food security situation has worsened among households participating in the now suspended Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activity. In 2017, the acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS) of beneficiaries rose by 24% for the time they took part in the FFA programme. Moreover, there has been an increasing number of children dropping out of school and some pre-primary centres have been forced to close. Efforts to combat dietary deficiencies have been disrupted and 89% of children under the age of five do not receive a minimum acceptable diet and 51% of children under five suffer from iron deficiency and anaemia, whilst stunting is at 33.2%. Given the ongoing challenges, HIV treatment uptake, adherence, care and treatment success and the survival of clients will be compromised.

Donors

- With the support of a contribution from European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), WFP is providing capacity building assistance in the form of technical expertise for the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation's feto-feto public works programme. On 27 to 28 September 2018, WFP hosted a mission from ECHO with the objective to assess the progress of the public works programme. Two of the Government's pilot sites supported by WFP were visited, Lekhobanyane site in Maseru district and Tlokoeng site in Buthat Buthe district. Another agreement has been signed by ECHO and WFP for further support to the public works programme. This agreement will enhance the capacity of the Government in early warning and early action and shock responsive social protection systems to mitigate and respond to disaster. The agreement is valid until 13 May 2020.
- WFP Lesotho received USD0.5million from WFP's Strategic Resource Allocation Committee (SRAC). The funds will be used for cash distributions to Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) beneficiaries during start the October 2018 to May 2019 lean season.