



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



Lesotho is a lower-middle-income country with a population size of about 2 million. Lesotho remains one of the most unequal countries in the world. Poverty is widespread, persistent, and deep, especially in rural areas. Almost half of the population of Lesotho suffers from poverty (50 percent) and almost one quarter (24 percent) suffers from extreme poverty, living below the food poverty line.

Lesotho struggles with **chronic malnutrition**, particularly among children aged 2-3, where stunting (impaired growth due to malnutrition) rates are as high as 36 percent. Micronutrient deficiencies (mainly iron and vitamin A) also remain a challenge, affecting more than half of children under 5.

A map of Lesotho, a landlocked country in Southern Africa, bordered by South Africa. The map shows the following locations:

- Country Office:** Indicated by a blue square icon with a building symbol, located in Maseru.
- Field Office:** Indicated by a blue triangle icon, located in Maseru, Makhotlong, and Maba-Tseka.
- Other locations marked with black dots:** Leribe, Mohales Hoek, and Gacha's Nek.

The map also labels the neighboring countries: SOUTH AFRICA and LESOTHO.

2021 Human Development Index:
168 out of 193

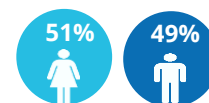
Stunting: **36 % of children between 6-59 months**

Photo: WFP Rapid Rural Transformation Hub at Mohlakoana project site in Quthing. Photo: ©WFP/Malehloa Letsie

In Numbers

USD 7 million six months (Jun – Nov 2025) net funding requirements, representing 85 percent of total requirement for 2025.

50,000 learners supported in May 2025



Operational Updates

Activity 1: Lean season support

Currently there are no ongoing initiatives under this activity, however, WFP plans to provide food and cash assistance to vulnerable food insecure people from October 2025-March 2026.

Activity 2: Emergency preparedness

WFP conducted the 'seven colors' post nutrition campaign monitoring exercise in collaboration with Economic Planners from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition and the Food and Nutrition Coordination Office, at both national and district levels. The main objective of the monitoring exercise was to assess the effectiveness of the nutrition campaign in promoting knowledge, influencing attitudes, and fostering early adoption of healthy dietary behaviors among target populations. The findings will be release in July.

The Regional Urban Preparedness project expanded to an additional sixth district (Berea) under which, through technical support of WFP and other partners, DMA undertook the vulnerability hotspot mapping to understand the vulnerabilities within the urban setting of the district. The mapping was done through use of three tools namely; the Participatory Mapping and Hotspot Identification; Community Based Expenditure – MEB; and Vulnerability Profiling and Eligibility Criteria elaboration.

Activity 3: School feeding

WFP continues to provide school meals to over 50, 000 pre-primary school learners across the 10 districts of the country. As part of the ongoing school feeding support, WFP worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Training to deliver 400 mt of food commodities to over 2,400 pre-primary schools. The commodities delivered include maize meal, beans and canned fish and these food items are expected to benefit over 48. 000 learners.

In addition, WFP through collaboration with the local retailers provided locally source nutritious meals to 605 learners from 41 pre-primary schools as part of the ongoing home-grown school feeding project being piloted in Quthing and Mohale's hoek districts through funding support from the Government of Monaco.

Country Strategic Plan (July 2024-June 2029)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
94.8 m	5.2 m	8.5 m

Strategic Result 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure and crisis-affected people in Lesotho are able to meet their essential needs before, during and after crises, including through anticipatory actions and shock-responsive national social protection programmes.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Activity 1:** Provide crisis- and shock-affected people and people at risk with packages of assistance that improve their access to safe food and nutrition and/or their ability to meet their own essential needs.
- Activity 2:** Support the Government in implementing effective, targeted and inclusive early warning systems, anticipatory action, disaster risk reduction, crisis response interventions and shock-responsive social protection.

Strategic Result 2: People have better nutrition, health, and education outcomes.

Strategic Outcome 2: By 2029, national systems and programmes for nutrition security and school-based programming in Lesotho are strengthened.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Activity 3:** Provide and support inclusive nutritious school meals in pre-primary and primary schools through school-based programming.
- Activity 4:** Assist the Government in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies and strategies that strengthen nutrition programmes.

Strategic Result 3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods.

Strategic Outcome 3: By 2029, populations at risk in Lesotho benefit from strengthened, climate-resilient food systems and sustainable livelihoods.

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Activity 5:** Assist the Government in the design and implementation of diverse livelihood and natural resource management programmes using ecosystem-based and climate change adaptive approaches.
- Activity 6:** Provide support to value chain and market actors, including the Government, to enable communities at risk to aggregate, add value, access markets, reduce food losses and consume safe and healthy foods.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable Food Systems

Strategic Outcome 4: The Government, development partners, civil society and private sector organizations in Lesotho have improved access to innovative, effective and cost-efficient on-demand WFP services by 2029

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Activity 7:** Provide the Government, development partners, civil society and private sector organizations with on-demand services that promote innovation and expertise in supply chains and other areas.

To ensure effective implementation of the project, WFP and MoET undertook an oversight mission to the schools participating in the project to assess implementation progress, challenges and areas that can be improved to ensure effective implementation of the project.

Activity 4: End malnutrition

WFP, in collaboration with UNICEF, supported the Food and Nutrition Coordination Office to host a two-day workshop for principal chiefs to provide tailored capacity building on the technical aspects of nutrition as well as leadership and advocacy skills. Keynote for the workshop was His Majesty's address to principal chiefs for their involvement in actively guiding, advocating, and safeguarding nutrition interventions within their jurisdictions. In attendance were 30 Principal Chiefs who committed to championing breastfeeding and nutrition campaigns within their districts.

Activity 5-Resilience building

WFP distributed shade nets to 29 households and 3 schools in Mhales'hoek district and 50 households in Quthing district to support regenerative farming for improved vegetable production and dietary diversity. This was complemented by the installation of the irrigation system to ensure water availability for the crops.

WFP held positive discussions with two Private Sector entities (Lesotho Highlands Development Authority and Lets'eng Mine) in Mokhotlong district for strategic collaboration in supporting communities within the working catchments of these two entities and beyond to improve their livelihoods and build resilience against prevailing climatic shocks through assets building and income generation projects. WFP and LHDA are in the process of developing a Memorandum of Understanding that will guide on the key areas of collaboration.

Activity 6: Smallholder support

WFP held a strategic meeting with the Department of Marketing to establish projects for joint resource mobilization initiatives in support of transformative, productive, inclusive and sustainable food systems in Lesotho.

Donors:

ECHO, Japan, Lesotho, Monaco,
(in alphabetical order).