



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.

The map shows Lesotho with its borders with South Africa. The locations are marked as follows:

- Country Office:** Maseru (indicated by a blue square with a building icon).
- Field Office:** Mokhotlong (indicated by a blue triangle).

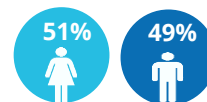
Other locations marked on the map include Leribe, Maseru, Makhabela-Tseka, Mohale's Hoek, and Gacha's Nek. The map also shows the borders with South Africa and the location of the Country Office in Maseru.

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

Photo: ©WFP/Rorisang Kurubally

USD 10.1 million six months (Sep 2025– Feb 2026) net funding requirements, representing 90 percent of total funding requirement.

50,528 leaners received meals in August 2025



Activity 1: Lean season support

- Currently there are no ongoing initiatives under this activity. WFP plans to provide food and cash assistance to 48,000 vulnerable food insecure people from October 2025-March 2026 when the need for support is at the highest peak, however WFP is currently facing a funding gap of USD 5.4 million to support emergency response activities in Lesotho.

- WFP through the Regional Urban Preparedness Project funded by ECHO, provided financially and technically supported Disaster Management Authority to enhance the urban disaster preparedness capabilities of the Leribe district by developing a comprehensive urban disaster preparedness plan, creating simulation tools, and conducting Table-Top and Functional Simulation exercises. This initiative not only empower the Leribe district to manage its specific urban risks like floods but will also serve as a learning point for other urban areas in the country. This is part of WFP's initiatives in supporting the Government in Early Warning and Anticipatory Action capacity strengthening.

- WFP provided financial support for training of 40 school board members (all women) from Maseru district on good hygiene, storage and nutrition practises. The participants were also trained on early detection of disability in children, caring practices and linking them to services including social development. The training was coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Training in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.
- Provision of school meals to over 50,000 learners (25,785 girls) continued across the 10 districts of the country through funding support from the Government of Japan. In addition, WFP provided locally sourced meals to over 500 learners in Quthing and Mohale's hoek districts, working with smallholder farmers to provide fresh food to schools.

- WFP in collaboration with Nutrition International provided financial and technical support for the finale review of the National Food and nutrition strategy. The strategy review focused on 1) assessing the effectiveness, contributions, and impact of the Lesotho Food and Nutrition Strategy and Costed Action Plan (2019–2023) as a national framework for multi-sectoral, multi-level (national and sub-national) action against food insecurity and all major forms of

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	1.7 m	10.1 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.

Activity 4 cont..

- malnutrition, 2) providing clear, specific, evidence-based lessons learned and recommendations and to 3) identify and suggest options for best frameworks and approaches for multi-sectoral visioning, strategic planning, and coordination for food security and nutrition in Lesotho.
- WFP jointly with Food and Nutrition Coordinating Office, Department of Standards in the Ministry of Trade and Ministry of Health facilitated training of ten District Health Inspectors (8 women) on food safety issues. The training focused on strengthening participants' understanding on food fortification, clarity on roles regarding food fortification – inspections, market surveillance, monitoring of fortified foods across the country for regulatory compliance.

Activity 5-Resilience building

- In efforts to improve the livelihoods of people supported under the resilience and assets creation activities, WFP provided two shade nets to communities in Mohale's hoek and Quthing districts as part of climate smart agricultural initiative to support production and productivity for improved household food and nutrition security and protect crops from adverse weather conditions.
- Additionally, WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security trained 300 smallholder farmers on land preparation for production of beans, wheat and potatoes as part of the initiative to improve quality for improved marketable production.

Activity 6: Smallholder support

- WFP WFP in collaboration with Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II (SADP II) and the Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Nutrition (MAFSN) conducted essential activities to facilitate implementation of the smart-subsidy pilot program. One of the activities include the Environmental and Social Safeguards screening in resource centres within Quthing, Mohale's Hoek and Mafeteng districts where the pilot program will be implemented. This ensures that the program avoids, reduces and mitigate any adverse environmental and social impacts on time.
- Furthermore, a series of sensitization meetings were undertaken in the project pilot areas to ensure that communities are aware of the project and their roles in the programme. The smart subsidy program is a joint programme by WFP, SADP II and MAFSN through which WFP is providing technical support to promote smart subsidies and agricultural insurance for agricultural investment. LNIG Hollard (an insurance company) has been engaged to provide agriculture insurance services to farmers under the smart subsidy pilot program.

Donors

ECHO, Japan, Government of Lesotho, Monaco,