



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 and almost a quarter (24 percent) suffers from extreme poverty, living below the food poverty line.

Lesotho struggles with **chronic malnutrition**, particularly among children aged 2-3 years, 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 under-5 children.

The map shows the country of Lesotho, which is landlocked and surrounded by South Africa. The international boundary is indicated by a thick black line. Within Lesotho, the boundaries of the Maseru District and the Maseru City Local Municipality are shown with thinner lines. The Maseru City Local Municipality is highlighted with a blue square. The locations of the Country Office and Field Office are marked with blue triangles. The Country Office is located in Maseru, and the Field Office is located in Mokhotlong. Other locations marked with black dots include Leribe, Phaba-Tseka, Mophale's Hoek, and Qacha's Nek. The map also shows the location of the Maseru District and the Maseru City Local Municipality.

Country Office
Field Office
International boundary

The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

2025 Human Development
Index: **167 out of 193**

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

In Numbers

USD 10.1 million (six months Oct 2025– Mar 2026) net funding requirements, representing 85 percent of total funding requirements.

50,528 learners received meals in September 2025

- **Lean season support:** As part of preparedness and readiness measures for the lean season response, WFP conducted a resilience recovery exercise in Qacha's Nek district to assess the feasibility of implementing livelihoods activities in efforts to transition people who receive emergency support into resiliency building activities for livelihood sustainability. Along the recovery exercise, WFP conducted the Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) training for key stakeholders to ensure risk-informed programming and planning of activities.
- Amid WFP's plans to support food insecure people between October 2025- March 2026, funding remains a challenge as WFP needs US\$5.9 million to support 48,000 targeted people.
- **Emergency preparedness:** The Disaster Management Authority and the Department of Social Development, with technical and operational support from WFP and other partners, launched the registration of vulnerable people residing in urban areas into the National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA) platform. NISSA is a government-led platform for identifying and targeting vulnerable households for social protection, originally designed for households in rural areas and now is being adapted to address emerging vulnerabilities in urban areas. This activity is part of WFP's efforts to strengthen the Government's capacity to respond to urban vulnerabilities under Phase II of the ECHO-funded Regional Urban Preparedness Project.
- **School feeding:** WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Training, held sensitization meetings for key stakeholders in Maseru and Leribe districts to introduce a new initiative under school feeding, funded by the Government of Japan. This follows confirmation of USD 1.3 million from the Government of Japan in August for implementation of a project aimed at improving education and nutrition outcomes for children by working with smallholder farmers to supplement the ongoing school meals initiative through provision of locally sourced nutritious vegetables and other fresh food items.

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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.

- WFP financially supported participation of the Lesotho delegation in the second Global Summit of the School Meals Coalition held in Fortaleza, Brazil. The participants included the Lesotho Ambassador to Rome- Dr Lebeko, the Minister of Education and Training-Honorable Ntoi Rapapa and the Principal Secretary-Mr Ratsiu Majara from the Ministry of Education and Training. The two-day Summit aimed to showcase the progress made towards the Coalition objectives since the first Global Summit and underscore how governments and partners are investing in school meal programmes. The participation awarded Lesotho an opportunity to present progress report on enforcing its commitment of locally sourcing 80 percent of food for school meals from local smallholder farmers.
- **Nutrition:** WFP partnered with Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition- Department of Nutrition and Home Economics (DoNHE) to implement the nutrition component of Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II. A series of trainings and demonstrations were conducted across the country focusing on diversified homestead gardening and the construction of climate-smart plots. These activities aimed at enhancing dietary diversity among participating individuals and their households.
- WFP provided financial and technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition to conduct a 4-day co-learning training workshop for District Home Economics Officers from all ten districts. During the workshop, participants collaboratively developed a draft standardized 4 Homestead Gardening Manual. The training emphasized hands-on practical sessions, allowing district teams to learn by doing as they implemented various climate-smart plot innovations.
- **Resilience building:** WFP provided technical support to the Area Technical Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition to conduct trainings on soil preparation and climate-smart farming to 217 (98 women) farmers in Mokhotlong district. The purpose of the training was to equip farmers with skills that will contribute to sustainable agriculture to support broader goals related to food security and environmental sustainability.
- **Smallholder support:** WFP undertook the profiling exercise of 733 farmers in Mafeteng and Mphahle's hoek districts. These farmers will be engaged under the smart subsidy project that is implemented jointly with the Smallholder Agriculture Development Project II (SADP II) and the Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Nutrition. In addition to this, WFP contracted 8 agro dealers that will supply these farmers with agricultural inputs.

Donors

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