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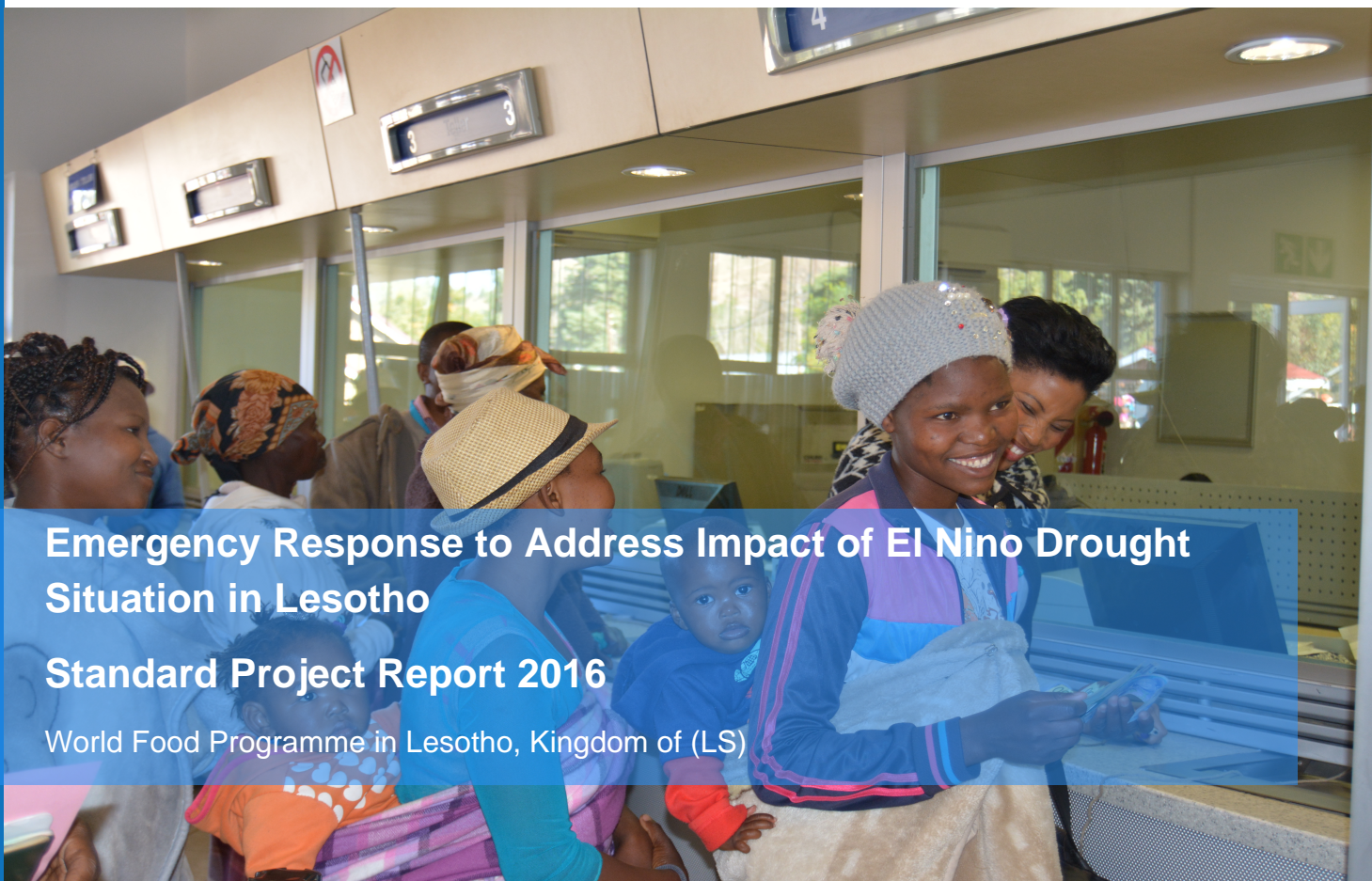
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**Further Information**

<http://www.wfp.org/countries>  
**SPR Reading Guidance**



**Emergency Response to Address Impact of El Nino Drought  
Situation in Lesotho**  
**Standard Project Report 2016**

World Food Programme in Lesotho, Kingdom of (LS)



**World Food Programme**

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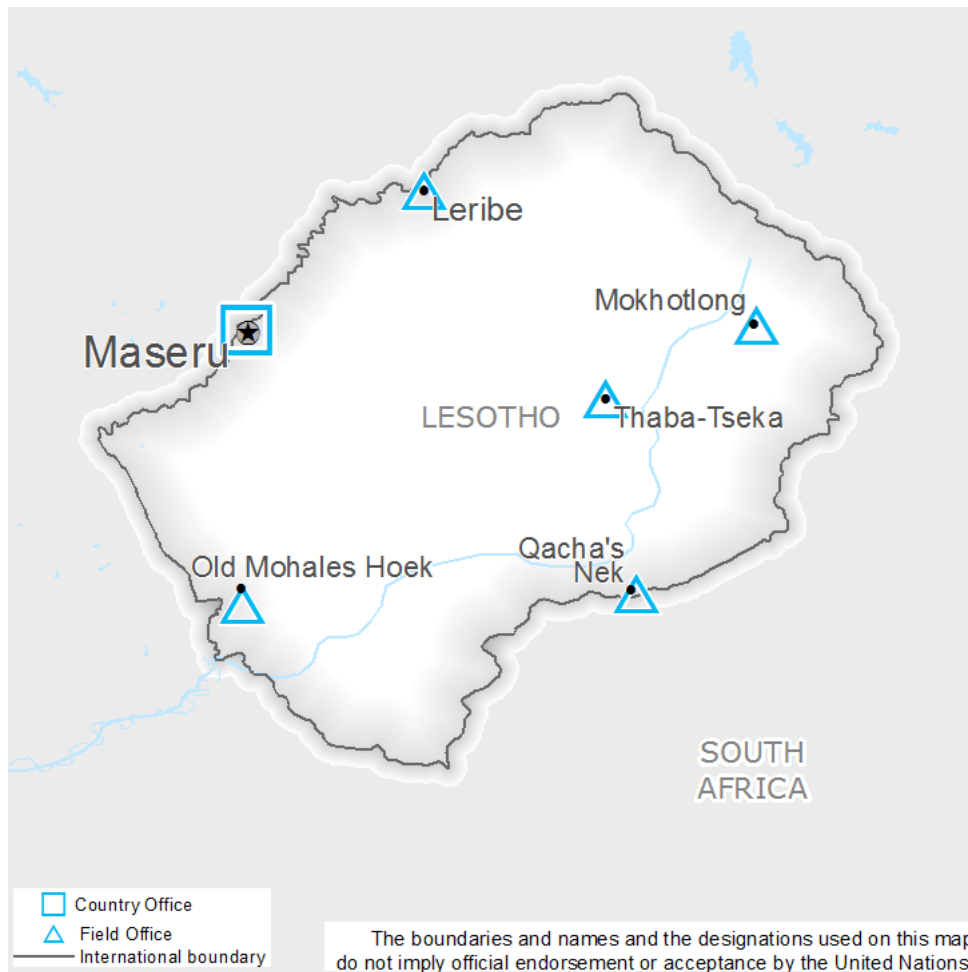
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# Country Context and WFP Objectives



## Country Context

Lesotho is a small, mountainous lower-middle income country with a population of 1.9 million people. The country ranks 161st of 188 assessed on the 2015 United Nations Development Programme Human Development Index.

Lesotho has made considerable strides in its efforts to attain gender equality and equity. A Southern African Development Community (SADC) member state, Lesotho has adopted a number of policies, frameworks and action plans to advance the economic and social position of women and girls to ensure equal opportunities for both men and women in the development process, address protection gaps, and promote better standards of living to achieve economic efficiency for all. The Global Gender Gap Index outlines national gender gaps on economic, political, education and health criteria and Lesotho ranks 65 out of 145 countries. Despite the number of educated girls in Lesotho, Gender Based Violence (GBV) is widespread. Along with entrenched patriarchy, GBV is manifested in a range of areas from transactional sex, human trafficking and harmful traditional practices. Early pregnancies are common and 49 percent girls marry before the age of 18.

More than half (57 percent) of the population lives on less than a dollar per day. Lesotho's GDP is USD 2.2 billion while its national gross income per capita is USD 1,500 (World Bank). The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenue contributes to a significant portion of the Lesotho's national budget, although this is projected to decline. The service industries are the largest contributor to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The main livelihood source for a majority of the country's rural population is agriculture although it contributes only seven percent of GDP, down from 20 percent in 1983. The decline of the agricultural sector results primarily from deteriorating weather conditions and related land degradation, reliance on cheap imports, and falling remittances from Basotho

employed in South Africa which has reduced purchasing power for agricultural inputs.

The country is subject to recurrent climatic shocks which compound vulnerabilities in affected areas. Recurring hazards include droughts and early frost. Households' access to food is challenged by low incomes, poor health, a low performing economy, highly variable food prices, lack of diversified income strategies, and weak social-support networks associated with the HIV pandemic. As a result, 29 percent of people below the age of 35 are unemployed. The country has the world's second highest HIV and AIDS prevalence at 25 percent, with women more severely affected (29.7 percent among 15 – 49 year olds) than men (19.6 percent in the same age group). The country has to provide care for more than 250,000 orphans, most of whom lost their parents to AIDS. The life expectancy is 49 years.

The 2015-2016 El Niño phenomenon resulted in the worst drought experienced across much of southern Africa in 35 years. Since the beginning of 2015, the country experienced one of its worst drought conditions in history. The 2015/16 cropping season was characterized by poor rainfall, late onset of rains which delayed by 20 to 40 days. Lack of diversified livelihood and high unemployment rate of 29 percent exacerbated the consequences of the drought on the food and nutrition security situation. According to the 2016 LVAC report, 709,000 persons have become food insecure due to the impact of the El Niño.

High levels of stunting (at 33 percent nationally) and micronutrient deficiencies among children aged 6 to 59 months (particularly iron deficiency anaemia at 51 percent) are adversely affecting social well-being of the people as well as the country's economy. Stunting is more prevalent in rural areas at 35 percent, compared to 27 percent in the urban areas; and boys are mostly affected at 39 percent compared to girls at 28 percent. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) remains low at 2.8 percent nationally. According to 2016 Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) report, there has been no changes in GAM levels, although anecdotes and field reports indicate increased cases of acute malnutrition among young children and persons living with HIV (PLHIV).

With the introduction of the free primary education policy in 2000, supported by the Education Act of 2010 which made primary education not only free but also compulsory, the majority of school age children go to school. However, there are still challenges of early marriages affecting girls, and dropout of boys in grades 4 to 7, who often leave school to look after animals and/or their siblings. Primary net enrolment ratios range from 79.6 percent for boys and 82.6 percent for girls. However, retention rates of primary school students have been falling over the years and scores an average 64 percent (Education Sector Study of Lesotho – A system at a cross roads).

Lesotho has very significant strengths in the area of social protection. The Government contributes seven percent of its national budget to safety nets such as school feeding, old age pension, child grants and cash for work. The Government has demonstrated clear commitment to a comprehensive, inclusive approach through the school feeding programme (linked to free primary education and health-care for all); old age pension is offered on a universal basis to all qualifying citizens; and Child Grant Programme for orphaned and vulnerable children. The National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA), which began as a tool of the child grant programme, has the potential to become a single registry for all social assistance (and social security) programmes.

[1]Demographic Health Survey 2009.

## Response of the Government and Strategic Coordination

The Government's 2012-2017 National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) elaborates a set of medium-term strategies to achieve "Vision 2020", including developing key infrastructure, creating employment opportunities, reversing environmental degradation and adapting to climate change. It recognises the food and nutrition security challenges faced by Lesotho and has developed a range of policy frameworks to address them. These include the Food Security Policy (2005), Food Security Action Plan (2007-2017) and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (2011). Together these focus on improving market infrastructure, remedying unsustainable land use practices, supporting smallholder farmers and improving the resilience of the rural poor.

In support of the objectives of the NSDP, the Government operates a range of safety net programmes addressing multiple social risks and vulnerabilities. There is increasing appetite for support to strengthen these programmes in ways that will allow the Government to respond better to both chronic and acute food insecurity and other needs in future.

Lesotho is a United Nations 'Delivering as One' (DaO) self-starter country. WFP was a key architect of the 2013-2017 Lesotho United Nations Development Assistance Plan (LUNDAP). WFP operations are aligned to LUNDAP outcomes concerning the delivery of basic services, reducing vulnerability to disasters and sustainably managing natural resources.

In light of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in drought-affected parts of the country, a United Nations Humanitarian Country Team, chaired by the Resident Coordinator, has been established to ensure an effective collective response. This forum includes all United Nations agencies and non-governmental organisation (NGO) partners. Located within the Prime Minister's Office, the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) is responsible for overall response coordination. This structure works closely with the United Nations Disaster Risk Management Team (UN-DRMT).

In accordance with the principles of the DaO approach, WFP prioritizes strategic partnerships and work with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Lesotho Red Cross, World Vision, Catholic Relief Services and others to maximise coordination and complementarities within and across sectoral responses.

## Summary of WFP Operational Objectives

WFP operations in Lesotho have been designed based on the two pillars of the Country strategy 2012-2017: i) strengthening resilience and responsiveness to food security shocks; and ii) enhancing the nutritional and social well-being of vulnerable groups. In 2016, WFP supported the Government of Lesotho to address hunger and nutrition issues through short to medium term projects, and continued to strengthen the capacity of the government in various areas. Partnerships were forged to enhance implementation of programmes and capacity strengthening of the government.

WFP was among the first development partners to respond to the adverse effects of the 2015/16 drought, by implementing the Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP) from March 2016 until May 2016. Following the end of the IR-EMOP, WFP implemented the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 200980) with an approved budget of USD 27 million for relief activities to cover 201,000 beneficiaries and to strengthen the resilience of 62,000 beneficiaries in the districts experiencing chronic food security challenges.

The Country Programme (CP 200369) enhanced the capacity of the government of Lesotho to respond to food security challenges by pursuing the following objectives: i) strengthen early warning system and information management to inform measures that reduce risks associated with disasters; ii) support human development and increase pre-primary school enrolment; and iii) improve socio-economic capacities by investing in people's physical well-being, reducing the care and economic burden associated with chronic illness and improving people's nutritional status.

The School Feeding Programme funded by the Government through a Trust Fund, contributed to access to education in support of free and compulsory primary education, as part of the transition process of the school feeding programme to national ownership. Through this programme, strengthening of national capacity to manage and coordinate the school feeding programme was undertaken through trainings and study tours.

# Country Resources and Results

## Resources for Results

Following the declaration of a state of emergency and the appeal launched by the Government of Lesotho in response to El Niño, the IR-EMOP started with 100% funding for cash based transfer relief activities in two districts. Timely allocation of resources by ECHO and CERF facilitated the implementation of the IR-EMOP in the two districts. Funds were available to start PRRO 200980 implementation in June 2016. However, implementation was gradual due to the slow targeting exercise (coordinated by the government) which took a considerable time to be completed. The Government of Lesotho funded the primary school feeding programme and also funded the construction of kitchens and storerooms through a Trust Fund.

Funding levels for Country Programme 200369 were generally constrained for the three components of the Country Programme such that adjustments had to be made. For component one (Disaster Risk Reduction), assets creation element was moved to PRRO 200980; for component two (preschool feeding) the ration size was modified by providing only super cereal in the first quarter in order to cover all planned beneficiaries.

## Achievements at Country Level

In close collaboration with other UN agencies (UNDP and FAO), WFP supported the government to develop a national resilience framework for effective planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction measures in Lesotho. In addition, WFP provided technical assistance to a joint multi-sectoral rapid assessment of the impact of El Niño in Lesotho in January 2016; rural vulnerability assessment in June 2016; and urban vulnerability assessment in December, 2016. WFP participated in the development of the national emergency response plan meant to help the government to address food insecurity and nutrition challenges resulting from El Niño phenomenon. With funding from the World Bank, WFP supported the Disaster Management Authority to establish an early warning system in order to enhance capacity to respond to shocks timely.

The Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) Lesotho study was one of the key achievements for WFP in 2016. The COHA study provided an opportunity to better understand the role child nutrition can play in the achievement of the Vision 2020, serving as an advocacy tool for the government to realise the importance of nutrition on the national economy, and the need to invest in and support nutrition related initiatives to address chronic malnutrition as a national priority. According to the report, Lesotho loses 1.9 billion Maloti (US\$200 million) a year due to the effects of child undernutrition.

Pre- and primary- school children received two meals a day for most of the school days to enhance their ability to learn, particularly during the drought at a time of high levels of food insecurity for those children coming from very poor families. The school feeding infrastructure improvement project ensured that food was stored, prepared, and served in a conducive and healthy environment for the well-being of the children. Study tours, workshops and capacity development activities undertaken in 2016 enhanced the capacity of the government to take over the school feeding programme from WFP. WFP provided technical support in identifying and assessing the capacity of the national management agents (entities to take over implementation of the school feeding programme from WFP).

WFP continued to support the education sector as part of the transition process of the school feeding programme to national ownership through a Trust Fund by undertaking capacity development activities. With technical support of WFP, a new government school feeding model will be piloted as of January 2017. WFP aims to complete hand over of the school meals programme to the government by 2018.

The WFP nutrition component made noteworthy achievements in 2016. WFP supported the Government of Lesotho in achieving their commitment to reducing food and nutrition insecurity and supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal, continental and national priorities. Working with partners, the government, Non-Governmental Organizations and WFP continued to improve access and provide nutrition services to vulnerable groups, especially children and women, adolescents and people living with HIV and TB in districts with high HIV and malnutrition prevalence. WFP's strategic focus is on enhancing nutrition interventions in both prevention and treatment programmes, generating evidence of effective nutrition actions and governance for nutrition, which is in line with the Vision 2020.

The national Food and Nutrition policy review process that started in 2012 was finalised and the policy launched in October 2016. WFP participated in the process through a collaborative effort with UNICEF and the government departments. The policy serves as an important framework for both food and nutrition security interventions and

thus helps the country to reinforce multi sectoral nutrition programming. WFP in collaboration with other UN agencies and the government participated in the final editing and reviewing of the national Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition guidelines which guides implementation of treatment of acute malnutrition at all levels.

Along with other partners, WFP provided technical and financial support for launching the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN) platform in October 2016. This will continue to support the commitment made by the government in 2014 that calls for a concerted and coordinated government led initiatives to harness the commitment and resources of multiple sectors to reduce malnutrition. The UN inter-agency partnership; REACH (Renewed Efforts against Child Hunger and Undernutrition) founded by FAO, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO; and chaired by WFP was established. Through this network a country-centred, multi-sectoral approach to help strengthen national capacities for nutrition governance and scale up of nutrition actions to reduce malnutrition will be enhanced. In 2017, WFP will facilitate recruitment of the REACH National Facilitator to support REACH activities for a period of one year.

WFP also collaborated with Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation Lesotho in the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition for people living with HIV and TB on treatment in the five high HIV burdened districts. This partnership brought significant technical and financial resources to strengthen delivery of nutrition services at the facilities. Support to HIV and TB clients helped with adherence to medication thus prolonging their lives and ensuring participation in the economic growth of the country. Furthermore, WFP in a collaborative effort mobilised resources to the tune of USD 800,000 from the Global Fund for continued nutrition support focusing on the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in the ten districts.

To build strong nutrition evidence-base for holistic policy, response, planning, prioritization and decision-making on food and nutrition security, WFP was instrumental in the integration of nutrition, HIV and gender in the vulnerability assessment and analysis (VAA). This made Lesotho to be among the first countries in the Southern Region to integrate nutrition, HIV and gender in VAA. The integration was able to demonstrate the adverse impact of food and nutrition insecurity on PLHIV and other vulnerable groups like orphaned and vulnerable children.

As part of the South to South cooperation and information-sharing platform to enhance the government officials on nutrition initiatives in the region, WFP supported six government officials from the ministries of Agriculture, Health, Development Planning and the Food and Nutrition Coordination Office to attend nutrition workshops in Maputo, Mozambique and Johannesburg, South Africa respectively.

With the implementation of IR-EMOP and PRRO, WFP contributed to saving lives of the vulnerable people who were at risk as a result of drought induced El Niño.

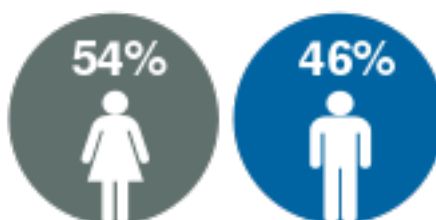
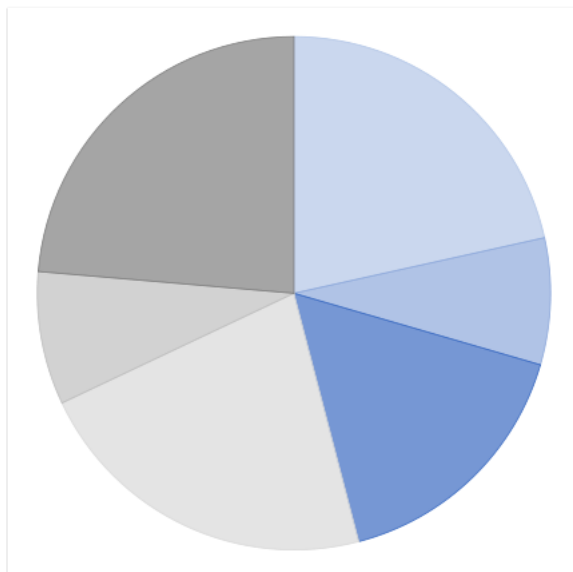


## Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	51,388	52,619	104,007
Children (5-18 years)	19,030	20,015	39,045
Adults (18 years plus)	39,236	56,459	95,695
<b>Total number of beneficiaries in 2016</b>	<b>109,654</b>	<b>129,093</b>	<b>238,747</b>

Country Beneficiaries by Gender and Age

- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)
- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)



## Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Country Programme	1,316	81	337	1,806	-	3,539
Single Country PRRO	916	71	338	-	-	1,325
<b>Total Food Distributed in 2016</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,864</b>





## Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Single Country IR-EMOP	869,378	-	-
Single Country PRRO	1,920,082	-	-
<b>Total Distributed in 2016</b>	<b>2,789,459</b>	-	-

## Supply Chain

WFP worked with the Government of Lesotho Food Management Unit (FMU) for all logistics matters. All commodities are stored in FMU warehouses which are located in all ten districts. WFP continued to procure food regionally following a resolution to suspend local purchases as they could not meet WFP specifications on quality. Most commodities were procured from the Global Commodity Managing Facility (GCMF) as it proved to cut costs and time compared to normal regional purchase systems. Savings gained from buying from the GCMF were used to procure additional food commodities. Although GCMF was considered due to its cost benefits, WFP experienced some transport delays in commodity transportation due to the limited availability of regional transporters. To counteract this challenge, WFP is lobbying with national transporters to be added on the roster.

To enhance proper storage, WFP provided FMU with a series of maintenance activities to renovate several warehouses and intensified warehouse inspections. Operational meetings were also held with FMU managers to ensure proper adherence to warehouse procedures. Where necessary, commodities were pre-positioned to ensure timely arrival of commodities at the final distribution points.

To ensure timely deliveries, WFP moved its Logistics Assistants to FMU warehouses on a full time basis to improve warehouse safety, capacity and efficiency. This resulted in minimising non-authorized commodity movements and unexpected spoilage. The secondment also offered FMU personnel a new perspective of learning new skills and boosted networking with WFP counterparts. Warehouse managers were also trained on good warehouse practices, which resulted in minimising post delivery losses (0.2 percent). Training was also offered to FMU staff on WFP's Logistics Execution Support System (LESS) to enhance their understanding on how the system works and the expected contribution in making the system more efficient.



## Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Corn Soya Blend	-	243	243
Maize Meal	-	529	529
Peas	-	56	56
Split Peas	-	72	72
Vegetable Oil	-	128	128
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>1,029</b>	<b>1,029</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	-	<b>100.0%</b>	

## Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

Commodity	Total
Corn Soya Blend	61
Maize	3,860
Peas	504
Vegetable Oil	175
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,600</b>

## Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

The design and implementation of the IR-EMOP built on findings and recommendations of the internal review of EMOP 200499 which was implemented in 2013. The recommendations of the ECHO commissioned evaluation by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) on WFP cash based transfer (CBT) activities were also adopted. The roles of the District Disaster Management Team, Lesotho Standard Bank, World Vision and FAO were clearly defined in the project document and in the operational plan to guide implementation processes of the IR-EMOP.

The current PRRO design acknowledges the recurrent nature of drought conditions in Lesotho, pursuing immediate food security, medium-term recovery and longer-term resilience and capacity strengthening outcomes. This approach was recommended by a 2015 mid-term evaluation of Country Programme 200369, which reiterated WFP's crucial role in emergency response, while emphasising longer-term vulnerabilities, and underscored the appropriateness of shifting from direct implementation over time.

As per the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation of CP 200369, pre-primary school feeding data collection tools were updated to make them more nutrition sensitive. District government staff were also trained on data collection to ensure ownership and continuity beyond WFP support. On the job training was provided by WFP to a school feeding officer to oversee monitoring in the school feeding unit and to a nutritionist from the Ministry of Education and Training preschool unit. Furthermore, the school feeding unit continued to engage the Ministry of Education and Training preschool unit in all its capacity strengthening activities including training. Mentoring and coaching of Ministry of Education and Training school feeding staff is ongoing.

Under the nutrition component, the distribution of nutrition commodities for the prevention of stunting was carried out at community level to increase participation and reduce the walking time and distance. The Nutritionist from the Ministry of Education and Training Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) unit was temporarily placed within the WFP for two months to oversee implementation of activities that will ensure that ECCD related activities become nutrition sensitive. In addition, through the Global Fund, the Ministry of Health with the help of WFP established a technical working group that brings all parties together to ensure a nutrition continuum of care in the management of acute malnutrition.

A Mid-term review of Trust Fund 200771 (school feeding programme) was undertaken towards the end of the year, the report will be finalised in 2017, and recommendations will be implemented in 2017 accordingly.

# Project Objectives and Results

## Project Objectives

The objective of the IR-EMOP was to address the immediate food needs of vulnerable households affected by the El Niño induced drought. The findings of the 2015 Integrated Context Analysis revealed that the districts of Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek are particularly exposed to repeated and protracted natural shocks that cause high levels of food insecurity. The majority of households living in these districts were at risk of becoming food insecure since they did not have the ability to cope with adverse shocks and stress. Given the gravity of the situation, on 22 December 2015, the Government of Lesotho declared a state of emergency and launched an appeal seeking the support of development partners and the broader international community to address the effects of the drought. The rapid food security assessment of January 2016 further indicated that the number of people in rural Lesotho who needed humanitarian assistance increased to 535,000 people, from 464,000 people in June 2015 (LVAC 2015).

With this intervention, WFP aimed to stabilise and improve the food consumption of people experiencing acute food insecurity in two of the hardest hit districts - Mohale's Hoek and Mafeteng. Through the IR-EMOP, beneficiaries received cash to access basic food from local markets and agricultural packages to improve crops and vegetable production at the household level. In collaboration with the Government, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), FAO and other NGOs, markets in the two districts had been assessed to be functioning through regular data collection and through a comprehensive market assessment in March 2016. This operation was fully funded through contributions from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).



## Approved Budget for Project Duration (USD)

Cost Category	
Direct Support Costs	54,280
Indirect Support Costs	65,421
Cash & Voucher and Related Costs	880,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>

## Project Activities

In alignment with WFP's Strategic Objective 1 (SO1), "save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies", this operation targeted vulnerable households that were adversely affected by drought, and not receiving assistance from existing national social protection programmes. With the devaluation of the South African Rand (to which the Maloti is pegged) to the US dollar, funds were saved allowing the operation to reach more beneficiaries than initially planned.

The beneficiary selection process was successfully coordinated and implemented by the Disaster Management Authority (DMA). A community based targeting methodology allowed community members to identify and prioritise eligible vulnerable households in the targeted villages in Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek districts. These two districts were prioritised based on preliminary findings of the joint rapid assessment conducted in January 2016 which found that the El Niño phenomenon had affected 535,000 people across the country, with Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek districts indicating the highest number of people affected at 95,000 and 102,000 respectively.

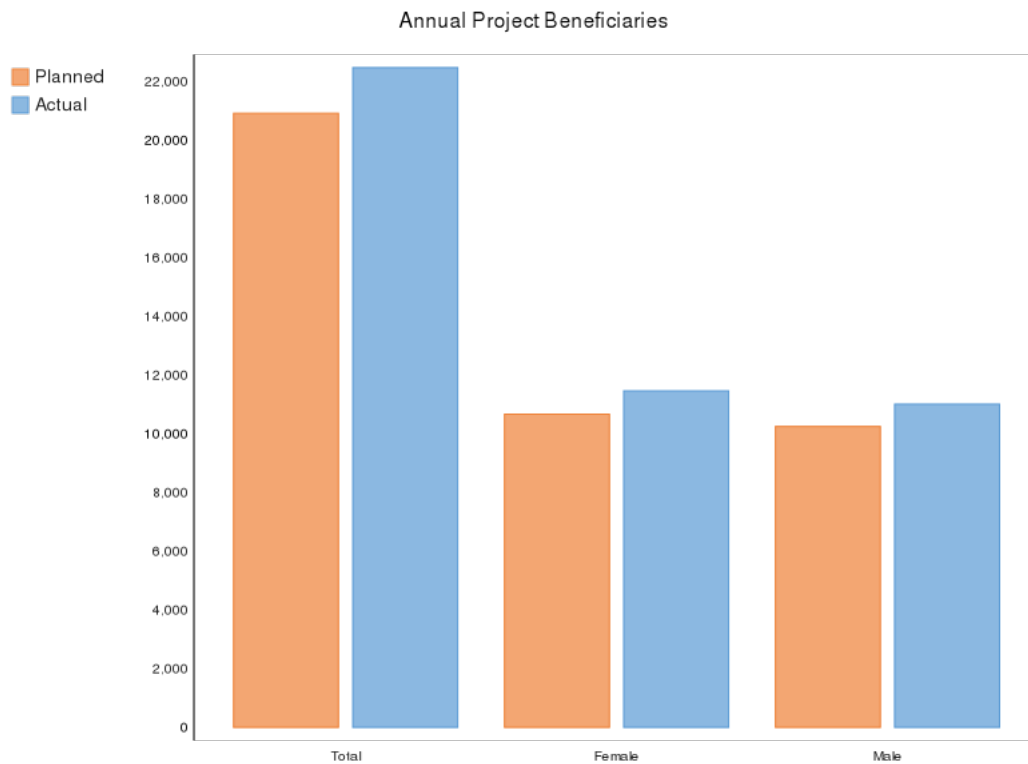
Priority was given to the most vulnerable households identified through wealth-ranking and the use of socio-economic indicators. Female and child-headed households and people affected by HIV and AIDS were also prioritised. Due to the stigma and discrimination attached to HIV and AIDS, chronic illness was used as a proxy during the selection exercise. Other vulnerability indicators included selecting households with no or limited access to land (less than 1 acre), and households with no or little income (approximately USD 20 or below per month).

Included were also households mainly relying on agriculture related casual labour negatively affected by the drought. Households without abled bodied persons or without productive livestock were also selected. Following the community identification process, the district disaster management multi-sectoral team under DMA’s guidance proceeded with a randomised house-to-house verification exercise.

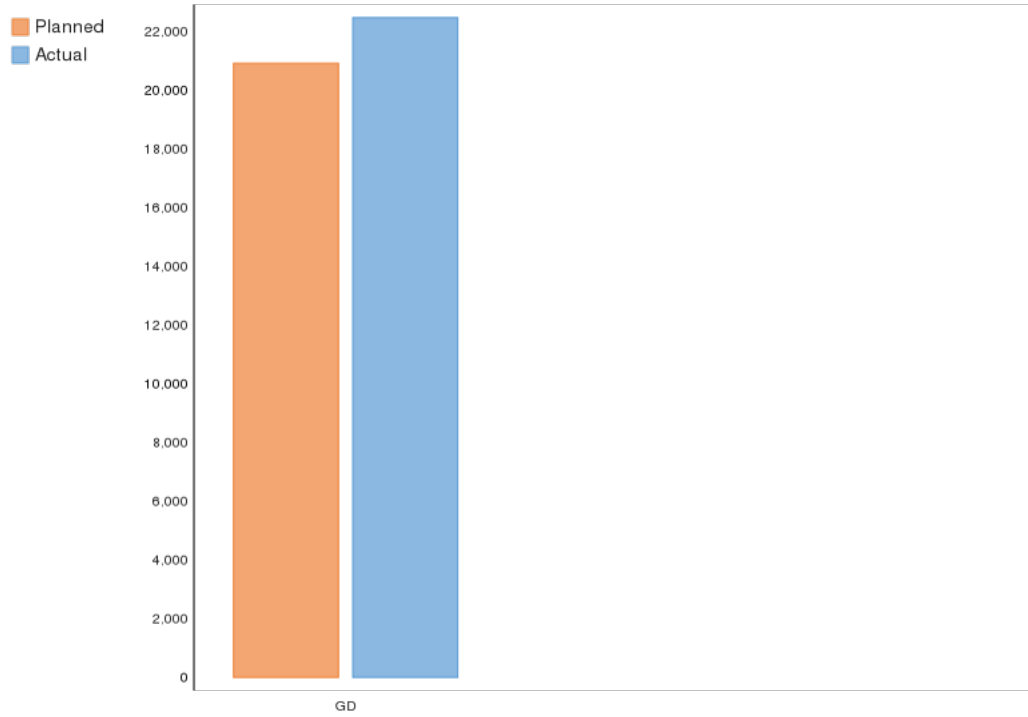
Considering the duration of the intervention and the lead-time (three months) to procure food commodities, WFP utilised cash-based transfers to meet the immediate food needs of the affected population. The transfer modality was also in alignment with the recommendations of the 2015 Overseas Development Institute (ODI) evaluation which found that most beneficiaries preferred cash rather than food. Targeted households received a monthly cash entitlement of USD 65 per household. The transfer value was calculated on the basis of the average retail price of a basic family food basket (consisting of 12 kg of maize meal, 1.8 kg of pulses and 600 g of vegetable oil per person per month) with the addition of a monthly USD 5 transport top-up to account for the costs involved in travelling to banks and markets which are primarily located in town centres.

In view of the strong correlation of GBV and food insecurity in the two operational areas, WFP mobilised the Ministry of Police, through the Child and Protection Unit, to undertake GBV sensitisation talks with beneficiaries as a mitigation strategy to ensure that the assistance would not cause any harm to assisted communities by distorting gender relations. The Ministry of Police also provided one-hour interactive sessions that were held prior to cash disbursements. These sessions also served as a feedback mechanism in addition to complaint committees managed by Village Management teams.

The provision of agricultural packages including seeds, garden hand forks, shade nets and associated trainings on conservation agricultural techniques supported crop production during the drought period and beyond the duration of the IR-EMOP. The agricultural inputs and trainings were provided to all cash beneficiaries by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) through the Ministry of Agriculture.

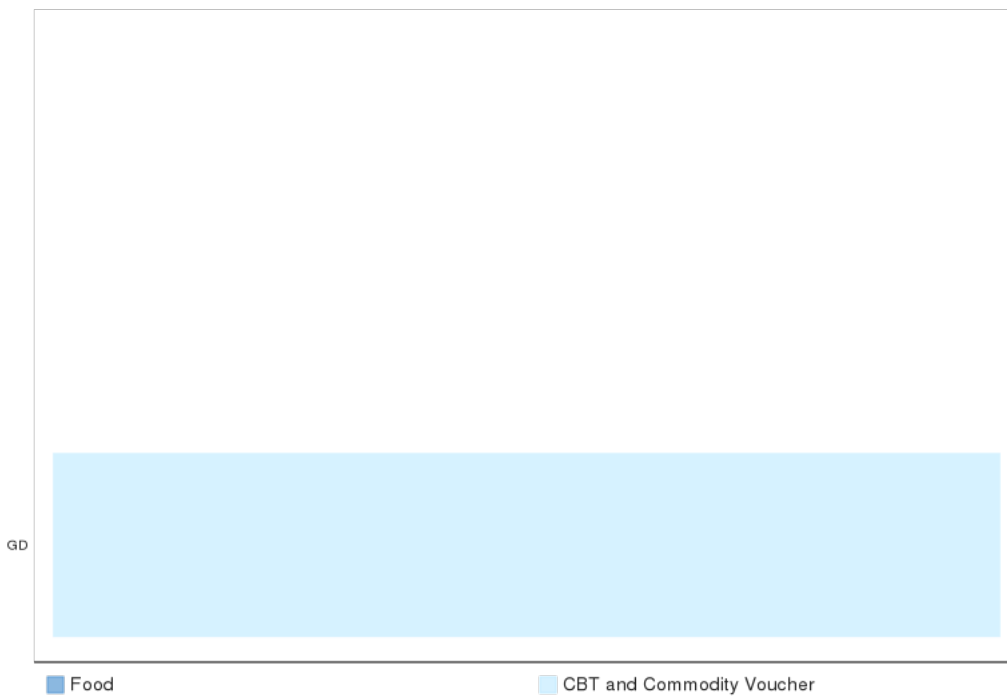


### Annual Project Beneficiaries by Activity



GD: General Distribution (GD)

### Modality of Transfer by Activity



GD: General Distribution (GD)

## **Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution for the Project (USD)**

Modality	Planned (USD)	Actual (USD)	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	816,000	869,378	106.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>816,000</b>	<b>869,378</b>	<b>106.5%</b>

## Operational Partnerships

WFP aligned its activities with the Government's national priority of addressing food insecurity as outlined in its "Vision 2020". WFP collaborated effectively with the Government, NGOs, UN agencies, the Standard Lesotho Bank and other humanitarian actors during the implementation of this operation. Considering the urgency and short duration of this intervention, WFP focused on establishing cooperation with partners that had complementary skills to ensure its success.

A multi-sectoral approach was used in the provision of complementary life-skills development trainings in the areas of nutrition, gender and conservation agriculture. The trainings aimed to enable the beneficiaries to effectively deal with food security challenges. Through the partnership with the departments of nutrition from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), WFP provided nutrition and health education and ensured that nutrition assessment, education and counselling were made available to targeted beneficiaries. Water-borne illnesses likely to be caused by water scarcity during the peak of El Niño were addressed through water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) awareness sessions, conducted by health and nutrition partners during the distribution of specialised nutritious commodities, enabling beneficiaries to make improved choices on safe hygiene and water practices.

The Ministry of Police played a key role in leading gender and GBV awareness sessions focusing mainly on intimate partner violence which often arises due to disagreements over the use of household resources. The sessions also aimed to ensure the safety and security of WFP beneficiaries at household and community level.

The collaboration between WFP, FAO, MAFS and CRS reinforced beneficiaries' knowledge on the choice and production of appropriate drought resistant crops. MAFS extension workers and CRS field workers facilitated community trainings, demonstrations and follow-ups to ensure that all targeted households utilised the provided seeds to establish backyard vegetable gardens.

## Performance Monitoring

Regular monitoring activities were conducted during the implementation of the programme. Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) was conducted after the first month of support. Multi-stage cluster sampling was used with focus on districts, councils and electoral divisions within which simple random sampling was utilised. A total of 370 households were interviewed in the two supported districts. Data was collected using a structured PDM questionnaire with a focus on household food security indicators, cash utilisation patterns, targeting criteria and protection issues.

Monitoring was conducted through mobile devices which were instrumental in minimizing errors when capturing the data and saving time during the data entry process. This, therefore, eased the data cleaning process and resulted in higher quality data analysis.

PDM data was collected in partnership with the District Disaster Management Teams (DDMT), which are made up of district level stakeholders under the leadership of the Disaster Management Authority. In preparation for the data collection, DDMT members were trained on the project's key performance indicators and the use of mobile devices for data collection. To enhance protection of supported beneficiaries, additional stakeholders were engaged to support the distribution process. For instance, the police were engaged to provide security during distribution days whilst the Ministry of Agriculture conducted demonstrations of vegetable production.

PDM measured household food consumption score (FCS) and dietary diversity score (DDS). FCS is a composite of dietary diversity and food frequency. Dietary diversity refers to the number of different foods or food groups consumed, while food frequency refers to the number of days different food types were consumed over a seven-day

period prior to the food distribution. Different foods and food groups were weighted based on their nutritional density. Households were classified as having either 'poor', 'borderline' or 'acceptable' consumption based on the set cut-off points.

## Results/Outcomes

PDM results indicated that the majority of households attained acceptable food consumption (75 percent) while 24 percent had borderline and one percent poor consumption. A higher proportion of female-headed households (78 percent) had acceptable food consumption than that of male-headed households (72 percent). This indicates that female-headed households prioritised buying adequate food items compared to male-headed households. Further analysis of the data indicated that households that reported poor food consumption had an average household size of nine members which could have affected the adequacy of food intake.

The dietary diversity score was found to be 5.47, which meant that households consumed at least five food groups. Female-headed households had a dietary diversity score of 5.53 whilst male-headed households had 5.38. This indicates that female-headed households made sure that their households acquired a slightly more variety in foods consumed than male-headed households.

## Progress Towards Gender Equality

Despite the lack of widespread community participatory processes to advance women's position on issues related to access and control over the use of cash, the proportion of women who, within this cash-based programme, had control over cash was remarkably high according to the PDM. In most households (60 percent), the decision on the use of cash was made by women. This can be seen as one of the positive outcomes of WFP and partners' engagement with the same communities over the past few years. The PDM also indicated a relatively high proportion of households who made collective decisions (23 percent), i.e. men and women agreeing on how the money should be spent, compared to previous years.

## Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Due to WFP having replicated successful protection practices that were tested in previous interventions, a low degree of protection concerns was reported during the implementation of this operation. This included dedicating a bank teller to serve WFP beneficiaries to reduce waiting times, especially in the case of the elderly, pregnant and lactating women, and people with special needs. This good practice also allowed beneficiaries to return home before nighttime. As a way of getting feedback from beneficiaries, pre-distribution talks were arranged at the banks. Further to this, beneficiaries were sensitised on the complaint channels which they can use. This included community leaders, offices of the disaster management authority and the village disaster management teams. Most beneficiaries remarked that, not only did they prefer the cash modality as it enabled access to other basic needs, but they also felt that it was dignifying to receive money from a bank for the first time.

Sensitisation activities on the cash entitlement were carried out during the targeting process and continued during distributions. During PDM, most beneficiaries (75 percent) were aware of their cash entitlement.

Some beneficiaries reported having experienced harassment by some community members who were not receiving the same support. Sensitisation efforts were carried out with community leaders to address this challenge.

# Figures and Indicators

## Data Notes

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WFP beneficiaries receiving cash at the bank

## Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

**Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information**

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Total Beneficiaries	10,251	10,669	20,920	11,013	11,462	22,475	107.4%	107.4%	107.4%
<b>By Age-group:</b>									
Children (under 5 years)	2,092	2,929	5,021	2,248	3,147	5,395	107.5%	107.4%	107.4%
Children (5-18 years)	3,975	4,184	8,159	4,270	4,494	8,764	107.4%	107.4%	107.4%
Adults (18 years plus)	4,184	3,556	7,740	4,495	3,821	8,316	107.4%	107.5%	107.4%
<b>By Residence status:</b>									
Residents	10,251	10,669	20,920	11,013	11,462	22,475	107.4%	107.4%	107.4%

## Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

**Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality**

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
General Distribution (GD)	-	20,920	20,920	-	22,475	22,475	-	107.4%	107.4%

## Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality



Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
General Distribution (GD)	-	4,184	4,184	-	4,495	4,495	-	107.4%	107.4%

## Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

**Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)**

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
<b>General Distribution (GD)</b>									
People participating in general distributions	2,050	2,134	4,184	2,203	2,292	4,495	107.5%	107.4%	107.4%
Total participants	2,050	2,134	4,184	2,203	2,292	4,495	107.5%	107.4%	107.4%
Total beneficiaries	10,251	10,669	20,920	11,013	11,462	22,475	107.4%	107.4%	107.4%

## Project Indicators

### Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
<b>SO1: General Distribution (GD)</b>				
Quantity of agricultural tools distributed	item	2,500	2,200	88.0%