



WFP Lesotho Country Brief

April 2018

Operational Context

More than half (57 percent) of Lesotho's people live on less than one dollar per day. Lesotho's GDP stands at USD 2.3 billion while its national gross income 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 seven percent of its national budget to social protection programmes such as school feeding, 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 percent of people below the age of 35 years are unemployed. The country is also characterized by an extremely high HIV prevalence rate (24.6 percent) 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 seven percent to the GDP, is a major source of livelihood for 80 percent 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.



Population: **2.1 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **160 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Neo Mokhothu
Caption: A team of researchers, government officials and UN agency representatives during the launch of the Zero Hunger Strategic Review report at Manthabiseng Convention Centre, Maseru.

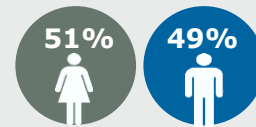
In Numbers

1,815 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$1.9 m cash based transfers made

US\$6.6 m six months (April - September 2018) net funding requirements, representing 33% of total

186,638 people assisted in April 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP provided technical support to the Ministry of Health's Nutrition Department to review and revise the dispensing tally sheet to include specialised nutritious foods for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition. The tally sheet will be printed and distributed to the health facilities in May. Furthermore, WFP procured 1,000 posters on the preparation of super cereal and super cereal plus and these will be distributed to the health facilities and pre-school centres to aid proper preparation of this nutrition product.
- WFP in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization plan for a two-day workshop in early May to develop Lesotho's Zero Hunger Road Map (ZHRM). The Zero Hunger Road Map will define the vision and set strategic actions needed to achieve SDG2. The workshop will serve as a platform for all stakeholders including government, UN agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations, Civil Society Organisations (CSO), the private sector and donors to achieve one vision towards Zero Hunger in Lesotho.
- WFP provided technical and financial support to the Government to validate the pre-primary nutrition sensitive manual. The manual will be printed and disseminated in May.
- WFP in collaboration with the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization, World Vision International, for the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Small Business, Marketing and Cooperatives, continued the value chain profiling exercise that started at the end of 2017. A consultant from WFP continued to support the profiling of the value chain of beans.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/lesotho

WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Interim Country Strategic Plan (January 2018-June 2019)		
19.9 m	7.3 m	6.6 m
Strategic Result 1: 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		
3.9 m	0.9 m	1.3 m
Strategic Result 1: Access to food		
Strategic Outcome 2: Children in food insecure areas have access to nutritious food throughout the year		
13.2 m	6.4 m	4.4 m
Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted populations in prioritized districts have improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2023		
2.8 m	0.0 m	0.9 m

WFP Country Activities

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|-------------|---|
| SO 1 | Strengthen the resilience of communities in shock-prone areas. |
| SO 2 | Provide capacity strengthening and implementation support to government bodies responsible for the national school feeding programme. |
| SO 3 | Provide chronic malnutrition prevention services to at risk populations in targeted areas. |
| SO 3 | Provide cash and/or food transfers to households of malnourished ART and TB DOT clients. |

Monitoring

- During the month of April, WFP commenced data analysis for post distribution monitoring for Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) and Resilience activities.
- Data analysis of a baseline assessment for local purchase also started in April and is in progress.
- A review of monitoring tools for school feeding was completed.
- WFP's monitoring and evaluation unit trained officials from the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation working on the public assistance programme known as Fato-Fato on monitoring and evaluation concepts, post distribution and community asset score monitoring tools.
- Two surveys on post distribution and community asset score were conducted in all three Fato-Fato sites: in Maseru, Berea and Botha Bothe.

Challenges

- Currently, WFP Lesotho has no funding to implement the BSFP and the safety net component. Plans are underway to intensify resource mobilization.
- WFP does not have funds for food commodities for the pre-primary school component.

Vulnerability Assessment

Above normal rains were received across the country, while some places like Berea received hail storms. Some crops (specifically beans) were affected by the hail storms and heavy rains. This implies further loss to what was predicted by the crop assessment done in February - March.

Donors

Government of Lesotho, ECHO

