



WFP Lesotho Country Brief

Highlights

- USAID/PEPFAR funded distributions continued in the districts of Leribe, Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek covering a total of 36,500 people in July.
- The Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) currently faces a significant funding shortfall with recovery activities planned to continue until December 2017.
- Change in government and the appointment of new Principal Secretaries is likely to impact the implementation of WFP activities.

WFP Assistance

Country Programme Lesotho	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200369 (2013-2017)	41.5 m	23 m (56%)	1.1 m

*May - October 2017

The Country Programme (CP) comprises two components: Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and Nutrition support and HIV support. The CP supports preparedness for primary education among pre-school students and assists the Government's efforts in the prevention and treatment of undernutrition. The CP also tackles malnutrition with strategies that improve the socio-economic status of communities. The strategies include: implementing supplementary feeding programmes, advocacy for an increased national budget for nutrition, strengthening community linkages, implementing sustainable livelihood interventions, scaling up research and information sharing as well as building strong partnerships. To address food insecurity caused by the El Niño drought, WFP intensified its fundraising activities to continue the CP's long term objectives.

School Meals Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
Trust Fund (TF) 200771: (2015-2017)	15.5 m	8m (52%)

Through the School Meals Programme, which is fully funded by the Government, WFP provides 189,511 children in 921 primary schools with morning porridge and a lunch meal of maize with either beans or peas. The meals provide micronutrients and improves the learning environment, increasing enrolment and attendance and reducing dropout rates. With regard to the El Niño-induced drought, the meals served as an effective safety net for children from food insecure families. WFP also supports the Government's education strategy of free and compulsory primary education.

Support to Drought Affected population	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200980 (June 2016-Dec 2017)	26.7 m	13.2 m (49%)	6 m

* May - October 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200980

With 709,000 of the 1.5 million rural population in need of urgent food assistance, the Government of Lesotho declared a state of emergency in December 2015. (Relief assistance through WFP was concluded in June 2017) Through an Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP), March-May 2016, WFP reached 22,115. Under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), WFP has assisted more than 180,000 food insecure people since June 2016 through unconditional cash and food based transfers.

Although the relief component of Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation came to an end in June 2017, the recovery activities are planned to continue to the end of the year.

In Numbers

709,000 people affected by the El Niño
263,000 people targeted by the PRRO

8,500 People Assisted under the PRRO recovery component in July 2017



Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Kabelo Nkone
USAID/PEPFAR commodities in warehouse, ready to be dispatched to Final Distribution Points.
Credit: WFP/Kabelo Nkone



July 2017

Operational Updates

- The Early Childhood Care and Development manual on Nutrition, Health and Hygiene was finalized by stakeholders, translated into Sesotho and printed during July 2017.
- The Regional Nutrition Meeting was held in Johannesburg during the last week of July 2017. The meeting highlighted the role of WFP and GAIN as the convening agencies for the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network. Based on that WFP will have to assist the government to engage the private sector in nutrition.
- A gender responsive mission was undertaken by the Country Office to the districts of Mohale's Hoek and Quthing, where PRRO Resilience activities are ongoing. The mission went to assess the adoption of the gender transformative approaches in the established projects and to also assess whether the assets created and trainings conducted have the potential to build community resilience to shocks as part of empowering women.
- In July, 36,500 people received food assistance. 306.9 mt of maize meal, pulses and vegetable oil were distributed to mothers in prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, to support people receiving antiretroviral therapy or treatment for tuberculosis as well as Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVCs). The activity is funded by USAID/PEPFAR and is carried out in the districts of Leribe, Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek.

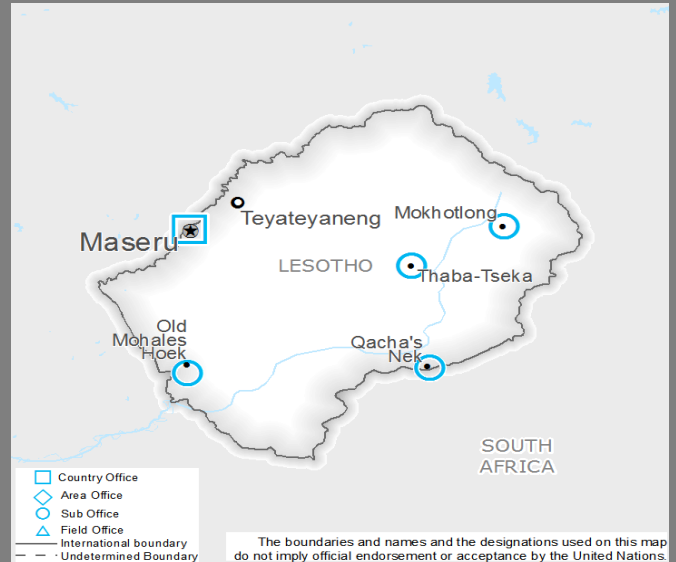
Challenges

- The Ministry of Education and Training has not yet released funds for school meals programme for the second half of 2017 due to delayed budget presentation by the Government.
- Although the relief component of Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation came to an end in June 2017, recovery activities are planned to continue to the end of 2017 and currently face a funding shortfall of USD4.3 million.
- WFP's work is likely to slow down due to the changes in the Government, especially the appointment of new Principal Secretaries.



Caption: Mohale's Hoek people engaged in land reclamation activities under the recovery component of the PRRO.

Country Background & Strategy



More than half (57 percent) of Lesotho's people live on less than one dollar per day. Lesotho's GDP stands at USD 2.2 billion while its national gross income per capita is USD 1,500 (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 safety nets such as school feeding, pension for the elderly, child grants and cash for work.

The population's high vulnerability is exacerbated by recurring climatic hazards, including droughts, early frost and a low performing economy. As a result, 29 percent of people below the age of 35 years are unemployed. The country is also characterized by an extremely high HIV prevalence rate (25 percent) and has to 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.

WFP has been present in Lesotho since 1965.

Population: **2.1 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
161 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

Donors

The Government of Lesotho, Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, CERF, ECHO, World Bank, GFDRR, WFP Multilateral and private donors

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