



Standard Project Report 2015

World Food Programme in Lesotho, Kingdom of (LS)

School Meals Programme

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200199
Project Category	Development Project
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	190,000
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	190,000
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	190,000

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	December 31, 2010
Planned Start Date	January 01, 2011
Actual Start Date	January 01, 2011
Project End Date	April 30, 2015
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	15,318,201
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	N/A
Direct Support Costs	2,326,235
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	N/A
Indirect Support Costs	1,235,110
Total	18,879,546

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	1,849
Actual Commodities 2015	2,143
Total Approved Commodities	19,810

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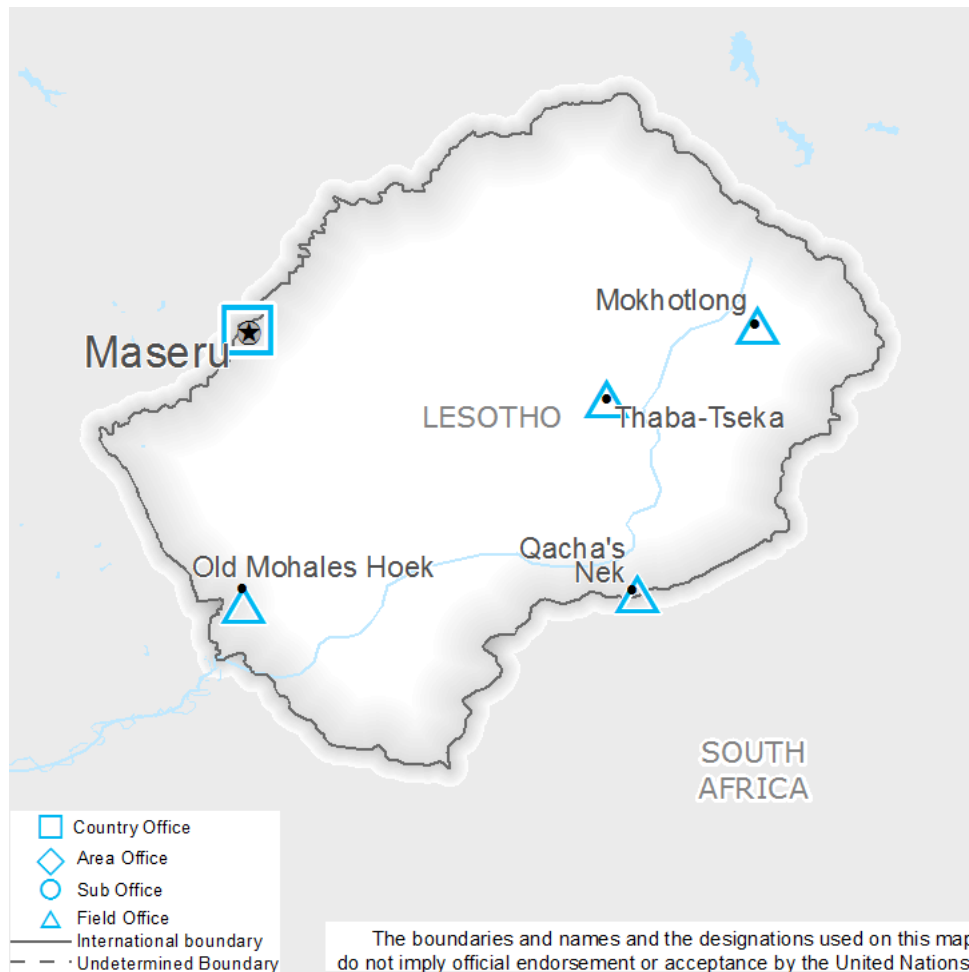
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COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Background

Lesotho is a mountainous lower middle income country with a 2015 Human Development Index position at 161 out of 188 countries. More than half of its 1.8 million people (57 percent) live below the poverty line. Lack of diversified livelihood base and an unemployment rate of 29 percent exacerbate food and nutrition insecurity and poverty. Lesotho's vulnerability to climate related disasters, such as drought, negatively impacts food and nutrition security as well as the economy. More than 70 percent of food is imported from neighbouring South Africa, pushing prices beyond the reach of vulnerable populations. The country is on track to achieving Millennium Development Goal (MDG2), universal primary education. Enrolment and attendance in lower grades increased significantly in the wake of the government's introduction of free primary education in 2000. However, repetition rates are still high at 19.4 percent, and net enrolment rate is 79.6 percent for boys and 82.6 percent for girls. MDG1 - eradicating extreme poverty and hunger - is off-track. Slow progress has also been observed on ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG 7). The health-related MDGs of child health (MDG 4), maternal health (MDG 5) and combating HIV and AIDS, TB and other diseases (MDG 6) are significantly off track.

Chronic under nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies present significant development challenges, with stunting affecting 33 percent of children under age five and anaemia affecting 51 percent of children. Anaemia is also high among women aged between 15 and 49 years and is responsible for a tenth of maternal deaths, which stand at 1,155 deaths per 100,000 live births, the highest in Southern Africa. The 23 percent HIV prevalence rate, which is the second highest in the world, accounts for fifty HIV-related deaths every day while the latest tuberculosis (TB) incidence is 630 per 100,000 people, far beyond the WHO TB emergency threshold. HIV and AIDS is also one of the main drivers of high vulnerability and contributes to the country's high levels of orphans, currently at 360,000.

The country is experiencing one of its worst drought conditions in history, leading to a 21 percent decrease in cereal production as compared to 2013/14 agricultural season and a 51 percent decrease compared to 2008/09 (which was considered a normal year by VAC). The combined temperature and rainfall indices show one of the worst situations of drought ever experienced in the country since 1982. The drought is most heightened in the lowlands and foothills, where the main cereal production areas are located. The general trend also reveals an erosion of farming capacity observed in declining planted areas over the past few years, mainly due to the uncertainties of agro-climatic conditions, shortage of farm labour and lack of cash-flow for inputs and investment. The Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee report (July 2015) estimated that between 180,000 and 463,936 people out of a population of 1.8 million will require immediate humanitarian assistance, with many households having already exhausted their coping mechanisms. The number of food insecure people is expected to increase to over 650,000 in 2016/17.

Summary Of WFP Assistance

WFP operations in Lesotho support the government's national priorities as outlined in the Vision 2020 document, the National Development Plan (2012-2017), the Education Sector Strategic Plan, the Lesotho United Nations Development Assistance Plan (LUNDAP), and are in line with WFP Strategic Objectives 3 and 4. The operations have been designed based on the two pillars of intervention under Country strategy 2012-2017, i.e. strengthening resilience and responsiveness to food security shocks and enhancing the nutritional and social well-being of vulnerable groups.

WFP is working with the Government of Lesotho and partners to address the underlying causes of vulnerability among communities prone to weather-related shocks and to target, with nutritional support, pre-and primary school children, pregnant and nursing mothers and food-insecure HIV and TB patients. To support the prevention of malnutrition in children under the age of five and malnourishment in pregnant and nursing mothers, TB and HIV patients, WFP is using targeted supplementary feeding and blanket supplementary feeding through pre-schools and health centres. Chronically vulnerable groups are assisted to create assets that will enhance their resiliency in the event of shocks.

Following the end of WFP-assisted school feeding programme in April 2015, WFP continues to support education as part of the transition process of school meals to national ownership through a Trust Fund. This is done to allow time for the development and strengthening of national capacity to manage and coordinate the school meals programme. WFP aims to complete hand over of the school meals programme to the MoET by 2018.

One of the main achievements in 2015 was the government's approval of the school feeding policy, whose development was technically and financially supported by WFP. WFP also raised funds to conduct the Cost of Hunger Study (COHA) in January 2016 as an advocacy tool to showcase social and economic impact of child under nutrition.

In 2015, and in particular during the last six months of the year, one of the key challenges has been the lack of funding for two components: Disaster Risk Reduction and nutrition and HIV support .

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	36,034	38,984	75,018
Children (5-18 years)	97,426	99,395	196,821
Adults (18 years plus)	8,682	22,771	31,453
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	142,142	161,150	303,292

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Country Programme	2,674	221	436	2,273	0	5,605
Development Project	1,427	86	204	0	426	2,143
Total Food Distributed in 2015	4,101	308	640	2,273	426	7,747

OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

The Government of Lesotho is committed to providing free and compulsory primary education to all, according to the Lesotho Education Sector Strategic Plan (2005 – 2015). In order to increase both enrolment and attendance, the government introduced a school meals programme in primary schools, which has been implemented with substantial support from WFP since 1965. WFP began gradually handing over increased management of the programme to the government in the 1990s, starting in the foothills and lowlands of the country while continuing implementation in the inaccessible highland areas.

In 2012, as part of the transition process of school meals to national ownership, the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) requested WFP to be the service provider for its national primary school meals programme in all regions of the country for a three-year period from 2015 until 2017 inclusive, on a full-cost recovery basis, to allow time for the finalization of the National School Feeding policy and the development of national capacity with WFP support. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in July 2014 between WFP and MoET for the implementation of school meals programme with full funding from the government for a period of three years, from 2015 to 2017.

DEV 200199 was due to end in December 2014; however, delays in the procurement process caused the late arrival of commodities, thus requiring food to still be distributed in 2015. DEV 200199 therefore came to an end on 30 April 2015 and all school meals activities were transferred to two Trust Funds: for school meals implementation, and for the construction of school kitchens. From January – April 2015, DEV 200199 continued to support the government national priorities as outlined in the Vision 2020 Policy, the National Development Plan (2012-2017) as well as the Education Sector Strategic Plan. The operation also contributes to the Lesotho United Nations Development Assistance Plan (LUNDAP) and is in line with WFP Strategic Objective 4. Through DEV 200199, WFP worked towards increased primary school enrolment, reduced drop-out rates, stabilized school attendance, and improved government capacity to manage and coordinate the school meals programme. These objectives will continue to be reached through the relevant Trust Funds. WFP aims to complete total hand over of the school meals programme to the MoET by 2018.

Results

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

In 2015, the WFP school meals programme targeted a total of 973 public primary schools located in all regions (the lowlands, foothills and highlands) of the country. This is out of a total of 1,445 (67 percent) primary schools in the country, the difference of which are assisted by the government school meals programme. During the reporting period, January until project closure in April 2015, WFP provided school meals to 190,000 primary school children. This is a decrease from the 200,000 school children assisted in 2014. The difference is due to the implementation of Trust Fund 200771, through which 60,000 children (including 10,000 previously covered by this Development Project) were reached as of January 2015. This Trust Fund will continue to be the vehicle through which WFP implements school meals until December 2017.

The number of girls reached by DEV 200199 in 2015 was 95,902, slightly higher than the 94,098 boys reached in the same period. This is due to the national proportion of females to males (as shown in the 2006 Bureau of Statistics Population Census). Lesotho has a HIV prevalence of 23 percent nationwide, which has resulted in a high number of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) who are also reached via WFP school meals.

All targeted primary school children received:

- A mid-morning snack of 30g of maize meal porridge with 10g of sugar;
- A lunch of 120g maize meal, 30g beans/peas with 10g of vegetable oil and 3g of iodised salt served three times a week, and 120g of maize meal with 53g of canned fish served twice a week. All commodities that were provided to the primary school children were fortified.

Through the school meals programme, 2,046 cooks (1,629 females and 417 males) were employed and provided with USD 0.125 per child per day by the government (slightly lower than USD 0.15 paid in 2014 due to inflation).

This translates into an estimated USD 263 per month and USD 2,250 per annum per cook. During the period under review, WFP saw an increase in the number of male cooks following the gender awareness activities that WFP held with MoET in the previous year. This is evidenced by an increase to 417 male cooks in 2015 as compared to 12 male cooks in the previous year.

Delays in the delivery of fish and sugar occurred during the reporting period. To minimize the impact of the delays on the distribution of school meals, WFP ensured schools were told in advance and recommended they use pulses in place of fish on the days affected. However, WFP could not source an alternative for sugar. In some schools, the mid-morning snack was provided without sugar while in others, sugar was contributed by parents in the community. However, overall, more food was distributed than planned. This was due to the project closing in April 2015, the corresponding need to clear all available stocks, and the implementation of loans and repayments against the planned tonnages.

In 2014, WFP provided technical assistance to the government for the implementation of a Local Purchase Pilot that linked the provision of school meals to local agricultural production. Linking the school meals programme to local agricultural production was identified among priority areas to ensure sustainability of the national programme. In 2015, a total of 9,233 children from 51 WFP-supported primary schools in the Makhalaneng area of Maseru district were provided with meals via local agricultural production as a result of this pilot. A total of 108mt of beans, 612mt of maize and 87mt of sorghum were sourced from the smallholder farmers from the districts of Berea and Maseru.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Total Beneficiaries	91,200	98,800	190,000	94,050	95,950	190,000	103.1%	97.1%	100.0%
By Age-group:									
Children (5-18 years)	91,200	98,800	190,000	94,050	95,950	190,000	103.1%	97.1%	100.0%
By Residence status:									
Residents	91,200	98,800	190,000	94,050	95,950	190,000	103.1%	97.1%	100.0%

Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
School Feeding (on-site)	190,000	-	190,000	190,000	-	190,000	100.0%	-	100.0%

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
School Feeding (on-site)									
Children receiving school meals in primary schools	91,200	98,800	190,000	94,050	95,950	190,000	103.1%	97.1%	100.0%
Total participants	91,200	98,800	190,000	94,050	95,950	190,000	103.1%	97.1%	100.0%
Total beneficiaries	91,200	98,800	190,000	94,050	95,950	190,000	103.1%	97.1%	100.0%

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food/cash/vouchers during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants.

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Beans	160	204	127.5%
Canned Fish	191	280	146.2%
Iodised Salt	16	19	116.1%
Maize Meal	1,340	1,427	106.5%
Sugar	89	128	143.0%
Vegetable Oil	53	86	162.6%
Total	1,849	2,143	115.9%

Story Worth Telling

In the remote Ha-Mosiua village in Qacha's Nek district, in the highlands of the country, many children now know they can go to school and beat hunger at the same time.

Situated about 350km from the capital Maseru, Motebong Primary School has been giving food to children from underprivileged homes for many years. WFP provides fortified food, including porridge for breakfast, and the staple food *papa* (made of maize meal and served with either pulses or fish) for lunch.

The high HIV prevalence in the country means there are a correspondingly high number of orphans and vulnerable children, which strengthens the need for the provision of food in schools. At Motebong Primary School the principal, Ms. Mantoa Nchochoba, says out of the 128 students at the school, 102 are either orphans or vulnerable children. Aware of the difficulties faced by some of her students, she visits different families in the area, searching for those who might need encouragement or help to enrol in school. Six-year-old Teboho Mahloane was one child found by Ms Nchochoba in 2014 when she visited the girl's family. Teboho was malnourished and kept at home in order to do household chores for her family and neighbours. The girl's mother is a widow who was struggling to care for and feed eight children.

Ms Nchochoba realised school was the best chance of saving the girl from malnourishment and child labour. She convinced Teboho's mother to allow her to attend school, where she would both receive nutritious food and be given the opportunity to learn. Teboho started school in January 2015 and since then, "her health has improved [and] she no longer has to do long hours of household chores," says Ms Nchochoba. Receiving food in school also eases the burden for Teboho's mother and family, who now have more food to go around. Teboho now wants to stay in school for as long as possible: "I am enjoying learning and I would like to be a nurse when I am older."

Progress Towards Gender Equality

In 2015, the school meals programme continued to act as an incentive for both boys and girls to enrol in schools. For the reporting period, the attendance of both boys and girls remained high, above 90 percent. In order to maintain high attendance rates and ensure low drop-out rates among both boys and girls, WFP engaged the Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC) through its Olympafrica Youth Ambassador Programme (OYAP), in five out of ten districts where OYAP already had programmes. Sports were used as a vehicle to deliver messages and motivate and inspire pupils in a way that promotes a positive outlook for the future. The programme targeted children from grades 4 to 7, reaching some 2,812 girls and 2,248 boys in 61 schools. The messages emphasized the importance of education and focused on self-esteem, goal setting, leadership, decision making, and highlighted gender dynamics. Gender-based violence awareness and issues surrounding as sexual reproductive health were conducted through homework sessions, study clubs and information sessions.

In addition, Help Lesotho, a local NGO, was engaged by WFP to facilitate the establishment of Life Skills Clubs in schools in Leribe, Butha-Buthe and Thaba-Tseka districts. These clubs were aimed at enhancing life skills, including leadership skills, of both boys and girls. The club sessions also focused on health issues, such as hand washing and good hygiene practices. As a result of this programme, both teachers and students reported increased interaction between boys and girls, more participation in classes, increased confidence among girls and increased tolerance between students for their peers. Goal setting and peer pressure sessions enabled boys and girls to discuss existing stereotypes and traditional roles that often lead to early marriages and drop-outs.

The majority of cooks involved in the school meals programme are women. However, during the period under review, WFP saw an increase in the number of male cooks following gender awareness activities that WFP held with MoET in the previous year. The advocacy and sensitisation carried out by WFP for MoET staff aimed to raise awareness that the role of cooks in school meals is not simply for women and that men can also play an important role. This message was then carried by MoET in their community sensitisation activities.

In the reporting period, WFP attempted to ensure that the role of cooks did not mean an additional burden of work for women. For example, to ease the manual labour required, rotating tin openers were provided to 98 schools for the opening of fish cans. WFP received positive feedback from the women, who confirmed that this made their work quicker and easier. Each cook is paid USD 0.125 per child per day by the government to ensure this activity also generates income. The amount paid to cooks is slightly lower when compared to USD 0.15 paid in 2014 due to inflation rate. This translates into USD 263.00 per month and USD 2,250 per annum per cook.

In the reporting period, WFP's partnership with the Government of Lesotho saw the completed construction of ten school kitchens and storerooms in the district of Leribe. Based on analysis of gender equality issues identified during the first phase of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) Gender Innovations in the Field Programme in 2014, WFP paid special attention to the recognition of the contribution of women throughout the construction of the kitchens. WFP advocated for the inclusion of women in less labour-intensive activities, such as the collection of small stones, collection of water, and painting of walls and frames for which they were provided with the same salary as their male counterparts. A further training was provided to district school feeding officers to improve their capacity on gender and age analysis and a total 5 males and 23 females were reached.

The local purchase guidelines developed following the 2014 Local Purchase Pilot have been finalised by WFP but are pending validation by the government. The guidelines incorporate a section on gender equality, highlighting the need to address underlying inequalities that inhibit women's participation in agricultural activities, and the need to empower women farmers socially and economically through facilitating access to agricultural markets in a sustainable manner.

Crosscutting gender indicators were not selected for this project at logframe design since they are measured at community and household level, while feeding is done at schools with no take-home rations. Therefore, these indicators could not be measured for this project.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

The construction of school kitchens and storerooms in the reporting period helped to alleviate potential environmental and health hazards in the preparation of school meals. For example, cooks previously had to prepare food in open spaces throughout the rainy season which constituted a health hazard and required increased amounts of firewood. Often, if rain was particularly heavy, it would halt the preparation of meals completely. The construction of kitchens and storerooms has helped to alleviate some of these risks. Additionally, the kitchens were constructed with fuel-efficient stoves which both reduced the amount of firewood needed and reduced the burden and protection risks faced by women having to walk long distances for collection.

Crosscutting protection and accountability indicators were not selected for this project at logframe design since all meals are given to children within school grounds with no take-home rations. This means that there were no protection risks associated with the food distributed and therefore these indicators could not be measured for this project.

Outputs

In the 2015 reporting period, WFP reached 190,000 primary school children in 973 schools in ten districts with two meals per day. The provision of meals was achieved despite delays in the delivery of commodities, particularly fish and sugar at the beginning of the quarter.

As stated, more food was distributed than planned due to the project closing in April 2015, the corresponding need to clear all available stocks, and the implementation of loans and repayments against the planned tonnages. The DEV project was then succeeded by the Trust Fund from May 2015. The figure of 190,000 beneficiaries is 10,000 lower than 2014, due to the implementation of the school meals Trust Fund as of January 2015, through which these 10,000 children were assisted.

WFP supported 62 schools in four districts of Mohale's Hoek, Berea, Leribe and Thaba Tseka districts in the establishment school gardens to ensure a source of fresh vegetables to complement WFP food. Gardening skills were also shared with children, teachers and parents, and aimed to help children understand the importance of a

healthy and balanced diet.

In the reporting period, WFP provided kitchen utensils and garden tools to 148 primary schools with already established school gardens. Kitchen utensils included spoons, calibrated buckets, tin openers and cast iron pots, and were provided in order to help the efficiency and accuracy of the work of the cooks. The garden tools provided included rakes, spades, digging forks, and watering cans, and were meant to encourage schools to diversify their food basket with fresh vegetables. Vegetable seeds and fertilizer were also provided to 53 schools at an amount of 80 kg (not reflected in output table due to rounding). Additionally, WFP's partnership with the government saw the completed construction of ten school kitchens and storerooms in the district of Leribe.

WFP also provided technical support to the MoET in the review of the Local Food Purchase Pilot project, which was launched by the government in February 2014 and aimed to link schools to local agricultural production. The review, which was carried out in February 2015, was a consultative process involving all stakeholders. The process resulted in Local Purchase Project guidelines and specific recommendations for the MoET in order to continue with the initiative. The guidelines are pending validation by stakeholders, including government.

In the reporting period, the National School Feeding Policy developed with WFP support was endorsed by the cabinet of the Government of Lesotho. To aid the transition of school meals to complete national ownership, WFP provided support to the MoET in undertaking a capacity needs assessment, which was completed in April 2015. This sought to identify gaps and develop an MoET capacity strengthening plan, to be in place for the implementation of the National School Feeding Policy. While this plan has been finalised by WFP, it is currently pending validation by the Government.

Government counterparts were trained in the areas of M&E and Gender analysis as part of capacity development for government counterparts to ensure the sustainability of school feeding activities. The target was to train at least 3 officers per district and 5 from the national level to a total of 35. Out of the 35, the plan was for 20 women and 15 men; however more females were trained since more females held the required positions for training. Overall, WFP managed to train more officers at the national level than planned as other key stakeholders were included during the trainings. These included the M&E officers and newly engaged nutritionists from the MoET.

In 2015, WFP, in collaboration with the Lesotho Red Cross Society, conducted a WASH training targeting primary school teachers. A total of 21 teachers (16 males and 5 females) from 4 primary schools in the district of Mokhotlong, where malnutrition rates are particularly high, were trained in order to become 'change agents' within their schools and to share information on hand washing, personal hygiene, and water and sanitation as a human right.

During the reporting period, nutrition education was conducted in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security for 1,390 pupils (608 boys and 782 girls) from 16 WFP-supported primary schools in two districts of Mokhotlong and Butha-Butha. The objective of the education sessions was to emphasise the importance of good nutrition as a means of preventing malnutrition. Key nutrients and micronutrients, the preparation of food, and the consequences of micronutrient deficiencies were discussed, along with the emphasis on the importance of clean drinking water. In the same schools, 37 cooks (all female) were provided with education on food handling, hygiene, and preparation. The target was to train at least 30 cooks based on the average number of cooks per school; however some of the schools selected had larger numbers which lead to a higher number of cooks being trained.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO4: School Feeding (on-site)				
Number of cooks trained in nutrition and healthy cooking	individual	30	37	123.3
Number of female government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	20	30	150.0
Number of government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	35	40	114.3
Number of male government/national partner staff receiving technical assistance and training	individual	15	10	66.7

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Number of school staff and school committee members trained by WFP in school feeding programme design, and implementation in model schools	individual	20	21	105.0
Number of technical assistance activities provided	activity	3	3	100.0
Quantity of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizer) distributed	Mt	0	0	100.0
Quantity of agricultural tools distributed	item	1,005	1,005	100.0
Quantity of kitchen utensils distributed (plates, spoons, cooking pots etc.)	tool	749	749	100.0

Outcomes

DEV 200199 started in 2011 and was extended until April 2015. The implementation of the school meals programme and construction of school kitchens in Lesotho now continues under two Trust Funds supported by the Government of Lesotho.

Monitoring of the project was done mainly through monthly reporting forms and onsite monitoring checklists. Schools were supplied with monthly reporting form booklets, which were completed daily with attendance and programme information. These forms also provided information on enrolment, number of teachers by sex, number of cooks and monthly stock levels at the school. The monthly school monitoring forms were submitted to district education offices and WFP field offices on a monthly basis. The collected forms were then captured and analysed quarterly at the Country Office level. Onsite monitoring checklists were administered to randomly sampled schools per district by WFP Field Monitors and District School Feeding Officers through the use of android devices and electronically sent to the Country Office for quarterly analysis. The checklists focused mainly on process and implementation monitoring but included enrolment and attendance data for triangulation purposes. Enrolment data for all primary schools were collected by the Ministry of Education and shared with WFP for WFP-supported schools during the first quarter of the year.

Many positive results have been observed throughout the implementation of this project. Through WFP, support schools have been able to maintain an attendance rate higher than ninety percent throughout the years of implementation. Gender ratios have also improved in favour of boys over the years from a ratio that highly favoured girls in 2011 (1.12) to a more balanced ratio at the end of the project in April 2015 (1.02). This means that the efforts of WFP and its partners to attract more boys to school have been successful. Process monitoring results have confirmed this as they have indicated that less boys now miss school because of herding or attendance at traditional schools. Enrolment rates have also maintained a positive trend since 2011 despite lower rates observed for girls in three years of the project implementation period, including the current reporting year. Based on process monitoring, the main reasons for girls dropping out of school included: parents' negative attitude towards education, early marriage and caring for sick relatives.

The National Capacity Index to implement the school meals programme slightly increased in 2015. The increase was mainly due to the endorsement of the National School Feeding Policy in 2015 by government, which was drafted and validated through WFP support in 2014. The endorsement of the policy, and the dissemination of the policy through a high-level Ministry task team which conducted public awareness raising discussions at district level, has shown a national willingness to take ownership of the school feeding policy. MoET and FMU staff were trained in different areas and quarterly stakeholder meetings were held as a follow-up to the gaps that were identified during the 2014 NCI stakeholder workshop. The trainings and meetings have resulted in joint district workplans and monitoring schedules, which have improved on programme implementation and monitoring.

This indicator was measured through a stakeholder workshop facilitated by WFP. This is not a new project and therefore a Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) exercise was not conducted.

Retention indicators could not be measured this year due to timing and funding constraints. Since the project ended in April, there was no funding to conduct a survey at the end of the year to collect drop-out data, as had been the case in previous years. Though the MoET collects drop-out rates, data is aggregated in the following year and therefore could not be accessed for this year's reporting.

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO4 Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Increased equitable access to and utilization of education				
Retention rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>LESOTHO , Project End Target: 2015.04 Monthly school reporting forms , Base value: 2014.11 WFP programme monitoring</i>	=85.00	96.00	-	-
Retention rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>LESOTHO , Project End Target: 2015.04 School reporting forms , Base value: 2014.11 WFP programme monitoring</i>	=85.00	93.00	-	-
Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>LESOTHO , Project End Target: 2015.04 , Base value: 2012.12 WFP programme monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2014.11 WFP programme monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP programme monitoring</i>	=6.00	-0.30	-1.30	-2.90
Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
<i>LESOTHO , Project End Target: 2015.04 , Base value: 2012.12 WFP programme monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2014.11 WFP programme monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11 WFP programme monitoring</i>	=6.00	4.00	0.30	3.30
Ownership and capacity strengthened to reduce undernutrition and increase access to education at regional, national and community levels				
NCI: School Feeding National Capacity Index				
<i>LESOTHO , Project End Target: 2015.04 Collected through stakeholders' workshop , Base value: 2012.12 WFP programme monitoring Stakeholder workshop , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Stakeholder Workshop , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Stakeholder Workshop</i>	>10.00	10.00	14.50	15.00

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

DEV 200199 closed in April 2015, at which point all school meals activities were transferred to two separate Trust Funds, for school meals implementation and for construction of kitchens and storerooms. Full financial ownership was also transferred to the government at this time, with WFP continuing to carry out implementation and capacity development activities.

The National School Feeding Policy, which was developed in 2014 with WFP support, was endorsed by the cabinet of the Government of Lesotho during the reporting period. Following this approval, policy guidelines are under development to provide guidance to MoET and stakeholders in policy implementation. The implementation of this policy will also rely heavily on continued MoET capacity development. WFP is aiming for full transition to national ownership of the school meals programme by December 2017.

In order to improve on the implementation of the 2014 Local Purchase Pilot, WFP engaged a consultant to review the project and document lessons learned in preparation for follow-up actions relating to local purchase to be taken over by the government. As part of this transition process, WFP procured 6 computers, 12 printers and a scanner to enhance the capacity of MoET school meals staff at both central and district level.

In March 2015, WFP conducted a Monitoring and Evaluation training for the MoET and the FMU. The training involved two males and 11 females and equipped participants with the skills to better conduct school feeding programme monitoring and data collection. During this training, the participants reviewed the tools used by WFP in school feeding monitoring for the adoption and use by government programme staff. Data flow has since improved following the training as data is being collected by both WFP and government staff. This is one of the important

steps in the handover process as it forms part of the basics in the development of government M&E systems.

Also in the reporting period, WFP conducted training for 12 ministry officials within the government school meals programme on how to carry out qualitative gender analysis for increased gender mainstreaming in school meals programmes, and how to advocate for greater participation from men volunteering as cooks.

Inputs

Resource Inputs

In 2013, the Government of South Africa contributed approximately USD 11,642,000 million towards the school meals programme. The amount allocated to the programme covered a two-year implementation period starting (2013-2014), and also covered the first four months of 2015. In addition, the Government of Lesotho paid the salaries of the cooks preparing the meals in the WFP-assisted schools.

The Government of Lesotho also funded the construction of kitchens and storerooms through a Trust Fund managed and supervised by WFP. A total of 10 school kitchens and storerooms were completed. Only schools lacking such facilities were targeted. The new establishments have provided quality storage and an ideal cooking environment, which is further enhanced by the user-friendly fuel efficient stoves. A total of 2, 401 (1238 girls and 1163 boys) children benefited from these kitchens and storerooms.

Donor	2015 Resourced (mt)		2015 Shipped/Purchased (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
South Africa	0	168	0
Total	0	168	0

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

Food Purchases and In-Kind Receipts

All food within the school feeding programme was procured from South Africa. This project was fully funded by the Government of the Republic of South Africa. The condition of the contribution was that all food items should be purchased and originate from South Africa with 40 percent of cereals purchased from South Africa's smallholder farmers. For the reporting period, procurement processes were initiated by August 2014 in preparation for 2015 deliveries (first quarter) to avoid the risks of late arrival of food as had occurred in 2014. Despite this planning, the project experienced delays in the delivery of canned fish and sugar in the first quarter of 2015.

Commodities	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Beans	0	83	0	0
Canned Fish	0	151	0	0
Maize	0	330	0	0
Maize Meal	0	442	0	0
Sugar	0	52	0	0
Total	0	1,057	0	0

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

All food items were received from South Africa and stored in two WFP warehouses in Maseru, from where they were transported to the government warehouses in the districts. The Food Management Unit (FMU) was responsible for the secondary transportation and deliveries to the primary schools. During this reporting period, WFP benefitted from the partnership with Environmental Health department of the Ministry of Health where training workshops of teachers were organised in all districts to address food safety issues particularly handling of canned fish to mitigate any potential risks associated with poor handling as experienced in the previous year. This partnership continued through a Trust Fund.

Post-Delivery Losses

No major post-delivery losses were encountered because of intensive warehouse inspections by WFP personnel during loading and off-loading. Food distributions and internal transfers were avoided during rainy days and transporters were charged for losses. The FMU was charged when food items were damaged during storage.

Management

Partnerships

WFP's primary partner in the implementation of DEV 200199 was the Government of Lesotho, particularly the MoET, the Ministry of Health, Agriculture and Food Security and the Food Management Unit. Three new partnerships were forged with local NGOs: Lesotho National Olympic Committee (LNOC), Help Lesotho and Lesotho Red Cross mainly for implementation of complimentary activities.

The new partnerships led to an overall increase in the number of partners achieved in 2015 compared to 2014, and the overall target which was based on past experience in partner's interest in school meals activities. Further to this, the new NGO partners committed funds towards the achievement of the agreed upon activities; this also led to more complimentary funds being used towards the project than initially targeted. The proportion of project activities implemented with the support of complementary partners remained stable compared to 2014 and continued to be higher than the target.

The MoET and WFP continued to work together in the construction of school kitchens and storerooms, with the government providing funding and WFP the technical support. The government has also continued to provide warehouse facilities and the delivery of food and non-food items to WFP-assisted schools. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security was WFP's primary partner in the provision of nutrition educational sessions to 16 primary schools in three districts. The FMU was responsible for the secondary transportation and deliveries to the primary schools. The Environmental Health Division of the Ministry of Health conducted trainings for teachers in all WFP-supported primary schools on food safety, in which some 730 male and 929 female teachers were trained.

In partnership with LNOC through its youth programme, WFP reached 2248 boys and 2812 girls with messaging on the importance of education, HIV and AIDS awareness, sexual reproductive health, gender dynamics, and gender-based violence.

Help Lesotho conducted trainings for both pupils and teachers in three districts on life skills, leadership, and good hygiene practices including WASH awareness to ensure a healthy physical learning environment. Some 506 boys, 644 girls, 21 male teachers and 63 female teachers were reached through this collaboration.

The Lesotho Red Cross, though a previous partner to WFP in nutrition activities, for the first time partnered in school meals complimentary activities through collaborations during planning and implementation of education and knowledge sharing sessions on WASH, which reached 21 teachers in 4 primary schools.

Partnership	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total	2		1	

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)		
<i>LESOTHO, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2015.04 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=11,400.00	76,625.00
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>LESOTHO, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2015.04 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11</i>	=2.00	8.00
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>LESOTHO, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.11</i>	=80.00	100.00

Lessons Learned

By end of April 2015, WFP had successfully transitioned full financial responsibility of the school meals programme to the Government of Lesotho, while WFP remained active as to the implementation of the school meals programme as well as to the capacity development process of MoET staff until the complete planned handover in January 2018.

The approval of the National School Feeding Policy by the government also marked a major milestone. All progress made in the transition to national ownership can be attributed to the commitment of the government to building a national school meals programme and consequently to the programme's handover process.

Following positive efforts under this project, WFP will continue to support schools in the establishment of school gardens, in order to further encourage the diversification of the food basket.

The capacity needs assessment process, initiated by WFP in the first quarter with the support of an external consultant, needs to be further refined and developed in order to inform the MoET capacity development plan. The capacity strengthening of MoET staff and stakeholders is vital for the successful government's takeover of the school meals programme by 2018. In the meantime, WFP should ensure the continuation mainly of joint planning and monitoring to enable the transfer of skills to the government.

From the local purchase pilot project, it was learnt that better coordination mechanisms are necessary and that different line ministries need to work together for the local purchase to be successful and relevant. In addition, during the pilot, the government had inflated food prices as an incentive for farmers to sell. However the approach was found not to be sustainable. A market-based price setting model should be developed instead. WFP will keep providing assistance for the government to move along more realistic lines. It was further observed that the sustainability of the local purchase model could be adversely affected by climate change and in particular by the effects of the current El Nino phenomenon.

Operational Statistics

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
School Feeding (on-site)	190,000	-	190,000	190,000	-	190,000	100.0%	-	100.0%

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
South Africa	SAF-C-00023-01	Beans	0	83	0
South Africa	SAF-C-00023-01	Canned Fish	0	55	0
South Africa	SAF-C-00023-01	Maize	0	0	0
South Africa	SAF-C-00023-01	Maize Meal	0	0	0
South Africa	SAF-C-00023-01	Sugar	0	30	0
Total			0	168	0