



WFP Lesotho Country Brief

Highlights

- USAID/PEPFAR food support for 36,500 people receiving antiretroviral therapy or treatment for tuberculosis and orphans and vulnerable children in Leribe, Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek continued in September.
- Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme supported by Japan assisted 11,166 children aged 06-23 months in Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka, and Mohale's Hoek with super cereal plus.
- WFP participated in the United Nations Country Team retreat aimed to discuss how to prioritize SDGs in Lesotho context.

WFP Assistance

Country Programme Lesotho	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	4 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200369 (2013-2017)	41.5 m	23 m (56%)	0.8 m

*September - December 2017

The Country Programme (CP) comprises two components: Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and Nutrition 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 through school feeding. The CP also tackles malnutrition with strategies that improve the socio-economic status of communities including supplementary feeding programmes, advocacy for an increased national budget for nutrition across multiple sectors, strengthening community linkages, implementing sustainable livelihood interventions, scaling up research and information sharing as well as building strong partnerships.

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

Through the National 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 improve the learning environment, increasing enrolment and attendance and reducing dropout rates. In the aftermath of the El Niño-induced drought, the meals serve 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 opulation	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	4 Month Net Funding Requirements (In USD)*
PRRO 200980 (June 2016-Dec 2017)	26.7 m	13.2 m (49%)	2.7 m

* September - December 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A  PRRO 200980

The annual Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee report (June 2016) projects that 709,000 will be food insecure at the height of the 2016/17 lean season. Of these, **491,000** people are in urgent need of emergency assistance.

The 2017 LVAC results were presented through the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and two periods have been used to estimate population in need. Current period (July 2017 to September 2017) – food insecure population is estimated at **179,043** people. Projected period (October 2017 to March 2018) – Food insecure population is estimated at **224,664** people. Leribe and Butha-Butha districts are in Phase 1, while the rest of the districts are in Phase 2 with the exception of Mohale's Hoek district that is in phase 3.

In Numbers (2017)

179,043 food insecure people (IPC phase 3) (July 2017 to September 2017)

56,155 people assisted in September

People Assisted in September 2017

55%



45%



Operational Updates

- To prevent stunting and micronutrient deficiencies, WFP Lesotho assisted 11,166 children aged 6 to 23 months in the districts of Maseru's Hoek, Thaba Tseka and Mokhotlong. The evaluation of this Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme in these three districts by Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) continued during September 2017.
- During the month of September 2017, USAID/PEPFAR supported programme reached 25,000 OVC beneficiaries and 11,500 Safety Net beneficiaries with 307 metric tonnes of the family ration (maize meal, pulses and oil) in the districts of Leribe, Berea, Maseru, Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek.
- WFP and Ministry of Education and Training are undertaking an impact evaluation of the national school feeding programme as per the recommendations of the Mid-Term Review of the Trust Fund last year. During this reporting period, the evaluation team from JaRCO – an Ethiopian based consulting firm conducted a stakeholders scoping session for the evaluation.
- United Nations Country Team and the Government Ministers and Principal Secretaries met to discuss how to prioritize the Sustainable Development Goals in the Lesotho context and start drafting the new United Nations Development Action Framework to start in 2019.

Challenges

- Recovery activities that were planned to continue to the end of the year face funding shortfall of USD 2.7 million.
- USD 800,000 is required from September to December 2017 to cover the Care and Treatment and Supplementary Feeding components of the Country Programme.

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