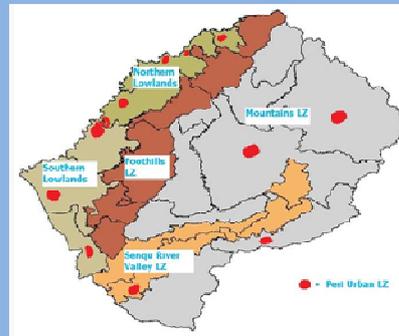


Lesotho 2012 Facts and Figures



Floods affected beneficiaries

- Estimated population: 1,8 million
- Life expectancy at birth: 41.2 years
- Under 5 mortality rate: 117/1,000 live births
- Under 5 stunting: 39%
- Adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate: 24 %
- Number of orphans: 222,000
- People living on less than US\$1.25 per day: 57 %
- People living below the national poverty line: 43.2 %
- GDP per capita: 1,214 US\$
- Global Acute Malnutrition rate: 39 %
- Chronically food insecure households: 20 %
- National Primary school enrollment rate: 89.8 %
- 2011 Human Development Index rating: 160/187

Food Security Overview

Lesotho is a lower middle-income, food-deficit and landlocked country that occupies an area of 30,000 km² and is ranked 160th out of 187 countries according to the 2011 UNDP Human Development Index. One quarter of the country's 1.8 million people (source Census 2006) live in mountainous districts and some 67 percent are considered poor. Chronic malnutrition (stunting) of children under 5 remains one of the most serious long-term problems of the country with rates between 32 and 52 percent. Micronutrient deficiencies such as anaemia range from 39 to 65 percent, with an average for the whole country of 44 percent. Both the levels of anaemia and stunting are considered well above emergency international thresholds. The HIV/AIDS prevalence in Lesotho ranges from 24 percent in rural areas to 33 percent in urban areas. HIV/AIDS mainly affects individuals in their economically productive and family-rearing years. Grandparents often need to provide and care for orphans whose parents have died from AIDS-related illnesses and there are about 222,000 orphans in Lesotho.

The country experienced its heaviest rainfall in the last ten years between December 2010 and February 2011, resulting in major floods which inundated much of the country. The farming sector suffered heavy losses, including crops and seasonal employment opportunities. The 2011 Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee findings indicated that a total of 514,000 people have survival (food) and livelihood protection (expenditure) deficits.

Although 82 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture and informal sector activities in rural areas, this only contributes to about 10 percent of the GDP (down from more than 25 percent in the 1980s). A large proportion of poor rural households do not have access to agricultural land and many of those who own land do not have the necessary agricultural inputs. Maize remains the country's staple food. Lesotho's "Education Sector Strategic Plan 2005–2015" aims to expand access to basic education for all and improve the quality and efficiency of the education system by providing free school meals. Enrolment and attendance in lower grades increased significantly in the wake of the Government's introduction of free primary education, however, drop-out rates are high in the upper grades. Even with free education, many poor households cannot meet associated education costs. General elections are planned to take place in May 2012.

SOUTHERN AFRICA'S TRIPLE THREAT is a lethal combination of chronic food insecurity, the world's highest rates of HIV/AIDS and the weakening capacity of governments to meet social needs. Ending chronic hunger in the region is not simply a matter of food assistance: long-term solutions that address education, life & job skills and community development are needed.

WFP Operations at a glance

Nutrition Support to Malnourished Children and other Vulnerable Groups in Lesotho (DEV 200169) is WFP's first development project in the country to focus exclusively on combating chronic malnutrition. The project adopts a comprehensive food-based approach, including curative and preventive interventions to address the nutritional challenges facing children and adults, while mobilizing households and communities around healthy nutrition practices. Given the profound impact of HIV and TB on maternal, child and adult nutritional well-being, the activities are linked to general disease awareness, testing and positive living education, where possible. The aim is to prevent and reduce malnutrition among vulnerable groups in the four districts most affected by chronic malnutrition through the following activities: i) improving management of acute malnutrition; ii) improving child growth and development, with particular attention to reducing stunting and micronutrient deficiencies; iii) improving nutrition and health practices; and iv) enhancing capacity to inform and manage national nutrition improvement programmes.

This project is part of the first Joint United Nations Nutrition Programme, which will support outcomes 1, 2 and 3 of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2008–2012. The project duration is from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2012; it is valued at US \$ 11,053,663 supports a total of 214,180 beneficiaries and delivers a total of 12,515 metric tons of food.

School Feeding Expansion Development Project in Lesotho (DEV 200199) is for the continued provision of food assistance to primary and pre-primary school children living in the remote and economically-disadvantaged mountainous regions. The Government of Lesotho is committed, as part of its long-term education strategy, to provide free and compulsory primary education, and has therefore introduced a School Meals Programme in its education programme. The Government provides school meals to two-thirds of the schools in the country, while WFP covers the remaining one-third, exclusively located in remote mountainous regions. Lesotho has been deeply affected by the global financial crisis, and consequently the Government has requested WFP to continue providing assistance to these schools for two years from January 2011 to December 2012. The Government will take over the entire school meals programme by the end of December 2012. This two-year period will also be used to fine-tune the national school feeding approach that will cover all primary schools in the country. Therefore the current project duration is from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2012; it is valued at US \$ 5,811,867, supports a total of 129,778 beneficiaries and delivers food commodities amounting to 7,524 metric tons of food.

Emergency Assistance in Response to Crop Failure in Lesotho (EMOP 200367) was designed to assist households whose food security declined due to the heavy rains in 2010-2011. Through this project, WFP aims to protect livelihoods and enhance resilience of households living in areas identified with high levels of food insecurity, mainly the Senqu River Valley. The project provides food support in the form of direct food distributions and through food for work schemes. The project will run from 1 November 2011 to 31 May 2012; it is valued at 3,136,439, will support a total of 40,000 beneficiaries, and is planned to deliver a total of 3,456 metric tons of food.

2012 Planned beneficiaries and food by operation

OPERATION	BENEFICIARIES	MT
DEV 200169	122,900	6,258
DEV 200199	110,000	3,762
EMOP 200367	40,000	2,304

Planned beneficiaries by category for duration of project cycle

CATEGORY	BENEFICIARIES
Supplementary feeding (children < 5 years) (DEV 200169)	2,800
Supplementary feed (Pregnant and Lactating Women) (DEV 200169)	1,400
Supplementary feeding - (ART/TB - DOTS patients) (DEV 200169)	12,800
Blanket Food Supplements: children < 2 (DEV 200169)	58,500
Blanket Food Supplements: Pregnant & Lactating Women (DEV 200169)	45,000
Early Childhood Nutrition: Children 2-5 (DEV 200169)	30,600
Village Health Workers (DEV 200169)	2,800
Community Health Gardens (DEV 200169)	9,080
ART/TB-DOTS Family Support (DEV 200169)	64,000
Primary Schools (DEV 200199)	30,000
Pre-primary Schools (DEV 200199)	80,000
Food for Work (EMOP 200367)	20,000
Direct Food Assistance (EMOP 200367)	20,000

Lesotho top donors: Switzerland, Yum! Brands Inc., Luxembourg, UN CERF, Faroe Islands, Lesotho, San Marino, Japan, China, Ireland, Germany, EU-ECHO

Last updated on 20 March 2012

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