

# OPERATION UPDATE

## Lesotho | Droughts



*Beneficiary sensitization and registration for cash at Ha Motlohelea.*

<p><b>Emergency appeal №: MDRLS008</b>  <b>Emergency appeal launched: 06/09/2024</b>  <b>Operational Strategy published: 30/10/2024</b></p>	<p><b>Glide №:</b>  <b>DR-2024-000071-LSO</b></p>
<p><b>Operation Update #1</b>  <b>Date of issue: 18/02/2025</b></p>	<p><b>Timeframe covered by this update:</b>          From 06/09/2024 to 30/10/2024</p>
<p><b>Operation timeframe:</b>12 months  <b>06/09/2024 - 31/08/2025</b></p>	<p><b>Number of people being assisted:</b> 87,381</p>
<p><b>Funding requirements (CHF):</b>          CHF 5 million through the Secretariat          CHF 7 million Federation-wide</p>	<p><b>DREF Loan:</b>          CHF 750,000</p>

## A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

### Description of the crisis

Lesotho is experiencing severe food insecurity due to consecutive La Niña and El Niño phenomena from 2021 through 2023. The 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 rainfall seasons, marked by mild to moderate La Niña events, led to excessive rainfall and below-average crop production. The 2023/2024 El Niño further exacerbated the situation with dry conditions and heatwaves, significantly impacting crop yields. Despite increased planting efforts in 2023/2024, harvests were still below normal, causing maize prices to rise and increasing market reliance. The national crop performance for maize decreased by about 52% from the previous year, with current yields expected to last only three months in most regions. This decline led to increased food prices, and worsened food access for vulnerable households. Additionally, substitute food commodities like sorghum production also declined by over 86% in the 2023/24 period, further intensifying food insecurity and making it harder for households to find an alternative.

According to the LVAC report, 2024,<sup>1</sup> as of June 2024, half of Lesotho's ten districts were in crisis (IPC Phase 3) for food security, while the other five were classified as stressed (IPC Phase 2). The entire country is expected to reach crisis level (IPC Phase 3) by October 2024, highlighting the urgent need for action to save lives and protect livelihoods. According to the latest reports, an estimated 699,049 individuals in both urban and rural areas are facing food insecurity, highlighting the widespread food needs across Lesotho. An estimated 699,049 people facing food insecurity and requiring 59,549 tons of food, valued at M1,149,302,744. Furthermore, the food insecurity negatively impacted the already fragile household with chronic malnutrition, with a stunting rate of 33.2% among children under five and widespread micronutrient deficiencies, including high anemia rates.<sup>2</sup> The situation led to an outbreak of livestock diseases, crop failures, significant increases in the prices of staple foods and further worsened the country's food insecurity situation. The southern districts of Mafeteng and Molepolole recorded cases of blue tongue disease outbreak which resulted in death of over 300 sheep and approximately 1,810 livestock.

The Government of Lesotho took action by declaring a state of emergency and appealed to local and international development partners for immediate assistance. In response, a National Drought Response Plan was issued in July 2024, which identified both short-term and long-term humanitarian requirements to alleviate the effects of the drought. The Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) has been on the front lines, working to ensure effective aid distribution and strengthen community resilience.

The ongoing food insecurity crisis forced many families to resort to negative coping mechanisms for their survival. According to recent reports, at least 51% of households managed to keep their food consumption patterns stable, while 49% engaged negative coping strategies in response to food shortages. This negative coping mechanism were mostly adopted in rural households where many

---

<sup>1</sup> Government of Lesotho, Nation warned of recent animal disease, March 2024, [Link](#)

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF, Lesotho: The Cost of Hunger in Africa, 2020, [Link](#)

households reduced the frequency of their meals per day, opted for less expensive brands and decreased the portion sizes of their meals in order to meet their family's nutritional needs.

Furthermore, in terms of livelihood coping mechanisms, the data reveals that 42% resorted to stress coping strategies, while 7% found themselves in crisis situations, and 4% took emergency measures. Among the most prevalent stress coping strategies were borrowing money to purchase food or acquiring food on credit, while other families withdrew their children from school, prioritizing immediate food needs over education and certain households consumed their seed stocks, which jeopardizes their future agricultural productivity. Still other households reported selling their last female livestock, a critical resource that poses a significant threat to the sustainability of their livelihoods.

**To date, the Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS), with the support of IFRC and other partners contributed to the drought response by:**

- LRCS officially launched the drought operation in June present were IFRC delegates, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, DMA executive and representatives of key stakeholders (District Administrator, Local government, Forestry, Agriculture, Social Development, DMA and Media houses) from the five districts.
- As part of technical support, LRCS conducted 10 internal meetings within the 5 districts to support project roll out, supervision and planning. This also formed part of providing information and their roles about the project to the District Disaster Management teams.
- As of end October 2024, a total of 1,685 households (67%) received cash assistance out of 2,500. Follow up visits were done to ensure all that targeted households receive their cash in the districts
- Promoted dissemination of cross cutting issues in areas of CEA, PGI and climate adaptation covering 2,500 households due to limited funding however more people will be reached as the operation scales up.
- The LRCS SG and the Disaster Manager participate in Humanitarian Coordination Team (HCTs) meetings both strategic and technical respectively.

**Weather Forecast and its impact for the next three months**

According to the [Lesotho Meteorological Services](#) Rainfall and Temperature Outlook for October 2024 to March 2025, Lesotho is likely to receive below normal rainfall for the season October to December 2024 except for the southwestern and extreme northern parts where normal to above normal rains are expected during the same period. The forecast for the period November 2024 to January 2025 will be dominated by above normal rainfall conditions and few areas are expected to receive normal to above normal rainfall. The January to March 2025 outlook showed a likelihood of normal to above normal rainfall except for the eastern parts which are likely to receive normal to below normal rainfall. Temperature outlook for the entire 2024/25 rainfall season is expected to be mostly above long term averages. This means that some areas especially on the Eastern are going to experience challenges insufficient rains which may not be enough for rain-fed agriculture and reduced capacity of the available water sources.

## Summary of response

LRCS has total of 62 staff members across various departments and over 200 volunteers with extensive experience in managing disaster management, food security and livelihoods, health care, WASH, PMER and coordination. LRCS has permanent District representatives in all the 10 Districts who implement and oversee all the response operations with technical support from the LRCS HQ. The LRCS, with the support of IFRC has been contributing to the government's response operations with emergency relief through multi-purpose cash grants, livelihood support through smart agriculture initiatives, promotion of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and health.

### Overview of the host National Society and ongoing response

LRCS has total of 62 staff members across various departments, including Finance and Administration, Disaster Management, First Aid, Communications, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER), Health and Social Services and Senior Management to support implementation and provide technical assistance. Furthermore, each district has one branch manager with over 200 volunteers with extensive experience in managing disaster management. LRCS is well represented at national and district level as part of disaster management teams responsible for overseeing and implementing DRR interventions.

To date, the LRCS, with the support of IFRC has been contributing to the government's response operations as follows: In May 2024, the IFRC released CHF 711,203 from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to support 12,500 people with emergency relief through multi-purpose cash grants, livelihood support through smart agriculture initiatives, promotion of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and health. This was later scaled-up to an Emergency Appeal worthy CHF 5 million.

The LRCS conducted the identification, validation and registration of 2,500 beneficiaries in Quthing, Maseru, Mafeteng, Qacha's Nek, and Mohale's Hoek districts using the government enumerated list of people affected by the drought. The LRCS District Secretaries continued to facilitate dissemination of information about the drought response activities such as provision of cash assistance, farm inputs, WASH rehabilitation/ construction, health promotion and integration of PGI and CEA.

LRCS initiated the sim card registration for beneficiaries to receive mobile money using the pre-qualified Finance Service Providers (FSP) namely VODACOM and ECONET. LRCS will continue to work with the FSP to deliver cash to beneficiaries and engage regularly to iron out challenges that may arise while distributing cash. LRCS officially launched the drought operation in June where key stakeholders were represented like IFRC delegates, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, DMA executive and representatives of key stakeholders (District Administrator, Local government, Forestry, Agriculture, Social Development, DMA and Media houses) from the five districts. As part of technical support, LRCS conducted 10 internal meetings within the 5 districts to support project roll out, supervision and planning. This also formed part of providing information and their roles about the project to the District Disaster Management teams. The LRCS SG and the Disaster Manager participate in Humanitarian Coordination Team (HCTs) meetings both strategic and technical respectively.

LRCS with technical support from the IFRC, continues to undertake resource mobilization targeting both internal and external donors. For instance, in July, LRCS hosted the USAID Delegate who visited Quthing to appreciate the drought situation. In addition, the UN Secretariat also visited Qachas Nek to monitor LRCS activities. LRCS also submitted concept notes to USAID, Japanese Embassy, WFP (Lesotho) and Turkish Embassy as part of covering the gaps in the operation.

## **Needs analysis**

The country faces one of the worst droughts in decades, exacerbated by El Niño weather conditions during the 2023/2024 rainy season. The situation has come at a time when 2.04 million people across the country are already facing food insecurity as revealed by the IPC Report 2023. Some of the drivers of food insecurity include poor agricultural practices in the face of climate change, floods, high food prices, fall armyworms, and cassava brown streak disease. For the 2023/2024 season, the prolonged dry spells have been heavily impacting the food security situation in the country. The drought has not only affected the availability of food for humans but also livestock, and this calls for immediate support.

## **Food Security and Livelihoods.**

Cumulative effect of drought weakened the agricultural capacity and worsened the access for staple foods for the already food insecure people. The agricultural production decreased over the years due to drought effect on agricultural land. This situation worsened for the harvest of early 2024.

*Agricultural production:* The 2023/24, Summer cropping season was characterized by erratic rainfall and recurrent heat waves. Lesotho experienced delayed rainfalls which did not only negatively impact livelihoods and water sector but also household economic stability. The situation was exacerbated by the above normal temperature and recurrent heat waves that caused prolonged dryness of crops hence reducing the expected green harvest in March. The staple food prices increased putting most vulnerable households at risk. In addition, the anticipated weather condition also threatens the upcoming Winter cropping as above normal temperatures are expected. The Lesotho Meteorological Service reported that the situation worsened due to persistent heat waves and dry weather, causing premature drying of crops. Many households will likely continue relying heavily on food purchases at local markets to access food and other household needs. Despite sufficiently stocked markets, the communities are struggling due to low/ lack of income hence weak purchasing power.

In addition, livestock farmers faced challenges due to an El Niño-induced outbreak of animal diseases in mid-March. The Government of Lesotho issued an alert about the occurrence of Bluetongue disease in Maseru and Mafeteng, where at least 1,880 sheep were affected, resulting in 300 deaths. This situation significantly impacted families reliant on livestock production as a primary source of income, compelling them to adopt negative coping strategies to survive. The food security and livelihood situation led to food insecure and limited access to income hence need for humanitarian assistance to help the affected families with their immediate household needs by saving lives and protecting their livelihoods.

**Health:** Lesotho struggle with persistent malnutrition issues, especially prevalent among children aged 2-3, with stunting affecting nearly 34.5 percent. Based on World Health Organization (WHO) criteria, approximately 40% of children under five years old in Lesotho experience chronic malnutrition or stunting. These concerning rates are particularly pronounced in the mountainous regions of Thaba Tseka, Mokhotlong and Qacha's Nek. The ramifications of malnutrition are multifaceted, encompassing hindered mental and physical development, weakened immune systems and perpetuating a cycle of intergenerational malnutrition. There is need for urgent and targeted interventions to break this cycle and safeguard the health and well-being of Lesotho's youngest citizens.

Additionally, deficiencies in essential micronutrients such as iron and vitamin A pose significant challenges impacting over half of children under the age of 5. This underscores the need for targeted interventions to address malnutrition comprehensively and improve the health outcomes of Lesotho's young population. Food preparation and handling is usually a problem especially in families that have children below age of 5.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** The drought situation had significant impact hence disrupted water sources capacity and limiting access to clean water, both in rural and urban areas. However, the repercussions were particularly acute in rural regions, where communities heavily rely on unprotected water sources like springs and wells. Many water sources in targeted districts require rehabilitation, while in other areas need a pressing need of construction of water infrastructure to facilitate other services like homestead gardening. Moreover, the water scarcity experienced from January to March was linked to the El Niño phenomenon. These events not only hindered households' access to clean water but also had detrimental effects on agriculture, particularly rain-fed farming and small-scale irrigation reliant on disrupted water sources. Hence, there's a critical need to rehabilitate existing water sources and construct new ones to enhance preparedness for similar future shocks. In rural areas of Lesotho, diarrheal cases pose significant public health concerns and are a leading cause of morbidity and mortality among infants and young children. These illnesses often coincide with periods of water scarcity like droughts. Therefore, disseminating information on sanitation and hygiene practices will be crucial in preventing diseases that could affect these vulnerable communities.

**Protection, Gender, and Inclusion:** Farmers predominantly rely on rain-fed agriculture and small livestock, leaving them particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate-induced shocks. In times of crises and emergencies, vulnerable demographics, including women, girls, children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities, face heightened risks and endure severe hardships. Women and girls confront significant obstacles such as sexual exploitation and gender-based violence, exacerbating their vulnerability. Meanwhile, individuals living with disabilities and the elderly often encounter challenges accessing timely information, compounding their difficulties during emergencies. The interventions will incorporate marginalized populations, such as children, women, vulnerable adults, and people living with disabilities, who are more likely to experience adverse outcomes during drought emergencies.

Relative to other segments of society, vulnerable groups often lack adequate resources, leaving them exposed to various forms of abuse and exploitation. Addressing this vulnerability requires prioritizing the needs of these marginalized populations and bolstering community awareness to mitigate the situation. By elevating awareness and prioritizing support for vulnerable groups, we can reduce the burden of vulnerability and foster more inclusive and resilient communities. It is imperative to prioritize addressing the escalating safeguarding issues that are emerging due to drought. These encompass not only traditional concerns but also newer, pressing issues like child safeguarding and gender-based violence. These issues demand urgent attention and comprehensive strategies to ensure the safety and well-being of vulnerable individuals.

**Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery:** The country faces recurrent climatic hazards that significantly impact household food security, livelihoods and overall economic development. According to the Lesotho Meteorological Service, the situation has been exacerbated by persistent heat waves and dry weather, resulting in premature crop drying and posing a threat to the upcoming dry harvest scheduled for May 2024. Lesotho operates with two distinct planting seasons: Winter and Summer and any planning involving farming have to consider those elements for appropriate community-based solutions. The Winter planting season commences in June, while the summer planting starts in August.

The anticipated winter conditions (May, June, July) suggest that the country may experience below-normal precipitation (including snow), leading to potential adversely effects on winter crops and subsequently income derived from crop sales. This could impede farmers' ability to procure seeds for the upcoming summer planting season. Consequently, a pre-seasonal cropping assessment is necessary to evaluate ground conditions and assess farmers' readiness for the summer season. It's crucial to consider both seasons when providing support to affected communities, given that 80% of rural communities depend on rain-fed agriculture as their primary livelihood activity. The lack of climate-smart agriculture practices and food preservation skills further inhibits communities' productivity. Unlike commercial farmers, most subsistence farmers heavily rely on rain-fed agriculture, often utilizing low-quality seeds and limited access to other to farm inputs, resulting in reduced harvest yields.

Moreover, limited understanding and access to early warning messages hinder communities' ability to prepare and respond to disasters proactively. Disseminating early warning information is particularly critical for farmers, schools, and the wider community, yet vulnerable groups such as the elderly, people living with disabilities, herders, and farmers are often marginalized in this process. Efforts to bridge this gap in information dissemination are essential for enhancing community resilience with effective disaster preparedness initiatives.

**Community Engagement and Accountability:** The operation will ensure that community engagement and accountability is at the centre of the operation. In order to uphold these, LRCS will employ Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) tools to identify needs and guide the targeting process. Public gatherings overseen by local authorities, will be convened to pinpoint vulnerable individuals based on pre-established selection and targeting criteria.

Moreover, the operation will facilitate two-way communication approach and gather community feedback through use of suggestion boxes and help desks during all forms of interactions with the communities. This approach aims to ensure transparency, inclusivity, and responsiveness in the delivery of assistance and services.

### Operational risk assessment

This operation has aligned itself with the IFRC Risk Management Framework where risks are identified, analyzed, monitored and managed to mitigate their associated impacts. The NS and IFRC Surge teams will be conducting monthly meetings to review and monitor the identified risks and discuss mitigation measures. The National Society has the Finance Director as Risk Management Focal person who coordinates issues related to risk management. However, the rollout of risk mitigation measures is under the responsibility of the Secretary General in liaison with the Head of Cluster Delegation in Pretoria.

The NS already developed a risk management register in line the IFRC Risk Management Framework which will be reviewed and regularly updated. The table below provides a summary on some of the risks identified and their mitigation measures:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
<b>Security Risk</b>	Low	High	LRCS will use the mobile FSPs for cash transfers.
<b>Inadequate Targeting and duplication of effort</b>	Medium	High	The intense verification exercise will be conducted working closely with relevant stakeholders.
<b>Inflation and Market</b>	Low	Medium	Conduct market assessment to monitor the situation.
<b>Fraud and Corruption:</b>	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LRCS will put measures in place to allow transparency in all its procurement process.</li> <li>- LRCS will continuously review the suppliers register and conduct background checks to suppliers and service contractors.</li> </ul>
<b>Limited funding</b>	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review the available resource mobilization strategy and plans</li> <li>- Hire a resource mobilization person to focus on fund raising</li> <li>- Prioritize activity implementation</li> </ul>

## B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

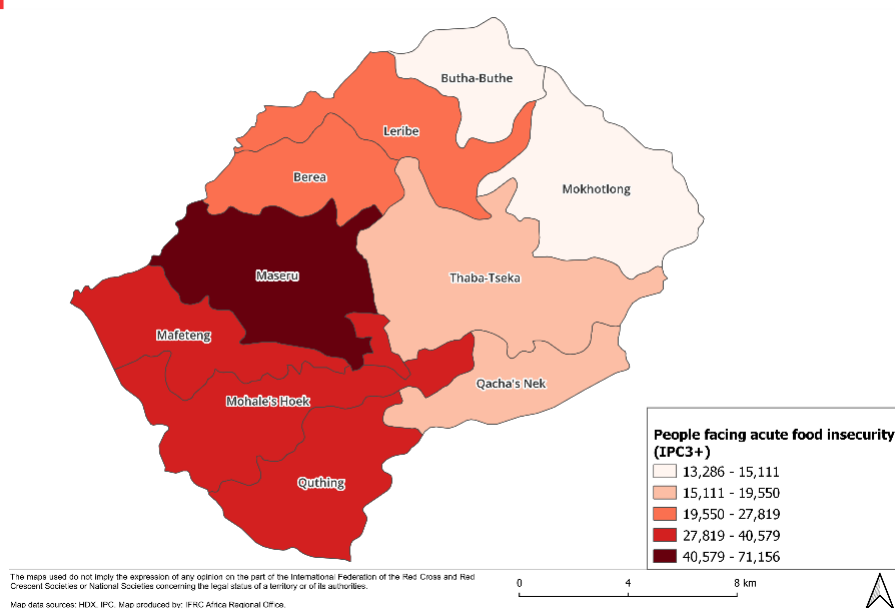
### Update on the strategy

The Operation was scaled up from the DREF to this emergency appeal, increasing the coverage from five to 10 districts and the target population from 12,500 to 87,381<sup>3</sup> individuals (17,473 households) in the districts of Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Qacha's Nek, and Thaba Tseka, with an expansion to five additional districts projected to be in IPC Phase 3 by the end of September 2024 (Berea, Leribe, Thaba Tseka, Mokhotlong and Botha-Bothe).

The LRCS is committed to delivering vital support to communities to help sustain their livelihoods and build resilience during this challenging time, with a particular focus on populations facing the most severe levels of food insecurity, prioritizing the most vulnerable groups to alleviate their immediate needs and help them withstand and recover from the ongoing food crises. Additionally, the strategy has integrated community engagement and accountability including enhanced Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) across all sectors. The operational timeframe of 12 months will support the needs of the drought affected people in the targeted districts by providing support on Food Security and Livelihoods, Health, and WASH interventions.

LRCS will ensure optimization of the available human resource in the implementation and use of coordination mechanism to ensure effectiveness in the operation. Through participation in the DMA coordination meetings, the operation will avoid duplication of efforts. The NS will focus on complementing actions already provided by the Lesotho Government and its partners by delivering the required humanitarian and development assistance.

### Lesotho - Acute food insecurity




Above: The map above shows the affected districts


<sup>3</sup> Increase from 12,500 people originally being targeted by the [DREF](#).


## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

LRCS led implementation of key interventions and an analysis of performance in the targeted communities has been highlighted in different sectors aimed at mitigating the drought impacts. The operation integrated CEA approach to ensure community involvement, ownership and accountability. The detailed operational plan and key achievements made in the operation on intervention includes livelihood with multi-purpose cash, climate smart agriculture, WASH, Health and cross sectors like PGI, CEA including Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery.


### STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION


 <b>Food Security and Livelihoods</b>	Female > 18: <b>2,300</b>	Female < 18: <b>3,100</b>
	Male > 18: <b>1,700</b>	Male < 18: <b>2,900</b> <b>Total target:</b> 50,000 (10,000 Households)
<b>Objective:</b>	Affected communities restore and improve their livelihoods	
<b>Key Indicators:</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of beneficiaries identified to received farm inputs	5,000	2,500
# of families who received seeds (maize and beans)	5,000	0
# of households who receive trainings on agricultural practices and homestead gardening	5,000	0
# of households who received homestead gardening seeds (vegetables)	5,000	0
# of households who received fruit trees seedlings (apples and peaches)	5,000	0
# of post distribution conducted and reported	3	0
# of lead farmers trained to facilitate agricultural training sessions	40	0
<b>Priority Actions</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working closely DMA and District Disaster Management Teams, LRCS facilitated sensitization, identification and registration of 2,500 households to receive farm inputs (vegetable seeds and fruit trees) in districts of Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Qacha's Nek, and Thaba Tseka.</li> <li>Total of 2,500 were reached out of 5,000 targeted households due to limited funds.</li> <li>Through the technical expertise from the Ministry of Agriculture and Department of Forestry, LRCS identified relevant seeds and fruit tree suitable in the districts.</li> <li>LRCS started procurement of farm inputs and vegetables.</li> </ul>		

 <b>Multi-purpose cash assistance</b>	Female > 18: 2,300	Female < 18: <b>3,100</b>
	Male > 18: 1,700	Male < 18: <b>2,900</b> <b>Total target:</b> 50,000 (10,000 Households)
<b>Objective:</b>	To improve household food security and provision of immediate relief to affected families	
<b>Key Indicators:</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of households of beneficiaries to receive cash assistance	5,000	2,500
# of households who received cash	5,000	1,685 (34%)
# of post distribution monitoring (PDM) conducted and reported	3	0
# of monitoring visits and engagement of communities that are documented on the use of cash	3	1
<b>Priority Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LRCS with support of the support of Ministry of Local Government and District Disaster Management team conducted verification and registration of eligible households to receive support of cash in 5 of districts in Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Qacha's Nek, and Thaba Tseka.</li> <li>• Total of 2,500 were registered to receive cash in targeted 5 districts. As of end October 2024, a total of 1,685 households (34%) received cash assistance out of 2,500.</li> <li>• Follow up visits to ensure all that targeted households receive their cash is still on-going in the districts.</li> <li>• LRCS worked in collaboration with the DMA and Department of Social Development to ensure that the required standards of cash are adhered.</li> <li>• PDM and monitoring of cash activities are yet to be conducted in November.</li> </ul>	


	<b>Health and Care</b>	Female > 18: <b>0</b>	Female < 18: <b>0</b>
		Male > 18: <b>0</b>	Male < 18: <b>0</b> <b>Total target:</b> 87,381 (17,473 Households)
<b>Objective:</b>	To improve household dietary diversity while also improving behavioral WASH practices.		
<b>Key Indicators:</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actual</b>	
# of nutrition campaigns conducted (2 per district)	10	2	
# of people reached with health prevention activities	87,381	0	


#of groups engaged on the health discussion, training or consultations (4 per district)	20	0
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		
Nutrition campaigns were mainstreamed into the government Nutrition, Food security and Breast-feeding campaigns in two districts namely Qacha's Nek (500) and Quthing (500), in total 1,000 people were reached with the campaigns.		

	<b>Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene</b>	Female > 18: <b>0</b>	Female < 18: <b>0</b>
		Male > 18: <b>0</b>	Male < 18: <b>0</b> <b>Total target:</b> 87,381 (17,473 Households)
<b>Objective:</b>		Promote community managed WASH services for the targeted populations to reduce health risks.	
<b>Key Indicators:</b>		<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of rehabilitated and constructed water sources		6	0
# of people reached through WASH campaigns		87,381	0
<b>Priority Activities:</b>			
As of October, no major WASH activities were done.			

	<b>Protection, Gender and Inclusion</b>	Female < 18: <b>3,100</b>	Female < 18: <b>3,100</b>
		Male < 18: <b>2,900</b> <b>Total target:</b> 50,000 (10,000 Households)	Male < 18: <b>2,900</b> <b>Total target:</b> 50,000 (10,000 Households)
<b>Objective:</b>		Promote equitable access by all to quality basic services by considering basic needs based on gender and other diversity factors	
<b>Key Indicators:</b>		<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Percentage of identified and registered beneficiaries representing vulnerable groups		5,000	0
# of community members reached through gender-based violence and child protection awareness campaigns, disaggregated by gender and age.		87,381	2,500HHs (10,000 people)


<b>Priority Actions:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted community validation meetings to ensure transparency and address grievances regarding the identified beneficiaries. This was key in ensuring that indeed the vulnerable groups, including chronically ill, physically challenged, orphan-headed households, elderly and large households are considered.</li> <li>PGI messaging and awareness was disseminated during registering of households targeted for cash and farm inputs. This covered an estimate of over 2,500 households were reached with PGI messages however more people will be reached as the operation scale up the activities. PGI initiatives were done during the verification, registration and CEA activities.</li> </ul>		

	<b>Community Engagement and Accountability</b>	Female < 18: <b>3,100</b>	Female < 18: <b>3,100</b>
		Male < 18: <b>2,900</b> <b>Total target:</b> 50,000 (10,000 Households)	Male < 18: <b>2,900</b> <b>Total target:</b> 50,000 (10,000 Households)
<b>Objective:</b>	Promote a community-centred approach and meaningful participation to address the diverse needs, priorities, and preferences of the affected population.		
<b>Key Indicators:</b>		<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of people engaged and reached with CEA activities		87,381	10, 000
# of established CEA Feedback approaches (using toll free line)		1	1
# of group discussions conducted (6 per district)		60	10
% of feedback collected that are successfully treated or responded to		100	0
<b>Priority Actions:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapped the existing community-based CEA mechanism to help track information flow and feedback collection, this include using local leaders, auxiliary social workers and volunteers.</li> <li>Currently, the operation is covering 2,500 households due to limited funding however more people will be reached as the operation scales up. All the 2,500HHS (10,000) people were reached through CEA activities through social workers and volunteers.</li> <li>Disseminated to beneficiaries and communities on use of LRCS Toll free number as a channel of reporting grievances and any issues related to drought operation.</li> <li>Feedback mechanisms and referral pathways will be strengthened in the operation.</li> </ul>			

	<b>Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and</b>	Female < 18: <b>3,100</b>	Female < 18: <b>3,100</b>
		Male < 18: <b>2,900</b> <b>Total target:</b> 50,000 (10,000 Households)	Male < 18: <b>2,900</b> <b>Total target:</b> 50,000 (10,000 Households)

<b>Recovery</b>			
<b>Objective:</b>	Capacitating communities to prepare for future shocks.		
<b>Key Indicators:</b>		<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of participants trained on climate-smart agriculture techniques and food preservation methods, disaggregated by gender and age.		7,000	0
# of targeted communities receiving early warning messages based on the upcoming seasonal outlook.		20,000	10,000
# of Community-Based Response Teams (CBRTs) revived and trained, disaggregated by geographic area (7 groups with 20 members each).		140	0
<b>Priority Actions:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, the operation has supported 2,500 households (10,000 people) due to limited funding however more people will be reached as the operation scales up.</li> <li>• LRCS consulted with Ministry of forestry to guide with the procurement of fruit trees suitable for the targeted areas. Distribution and planting is scheduled for November.</li> <li>• More activities on risk reduction, climate adaptation and early warning will be reported in the next reporting cycle.</li> </ul>			

## Enabling approaches

	<b>National Society Strengthening</b>		
<b>Objective:</b>	Strengthen the National Society's capacity to deliver humanitarian Objective:		
<b>Key Indicators:</b>		<b>Targets</b>	<b>Actual</b>
# of technical volunteers recruited (Comms and DM)		2	2
# of volunteers insured		80	80
# of Branding and Visibility materials procured - banners (3), T-shirts (40) and Caps (40)		Banners (3) T-shirts (40) Cap (40)	Banners (0) T-shirts (0) Cap (0)
Lessons learnt Workshop		1	0
<b>Priority Actions:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LRCS District Secretaries identified and recruited 80 volunteers to support the drought activities.</li> <li>• Procurement of visibility materials will be done in November including volunteer insurance.</li> </ul>			




## Coordination and Partnerships

Objective:

Enhance coordination and partnerships among Movement and non-Movement partners to support stronger and more localized implementation approaches and effective response delivery

Key Indicators:	Targets	Actual
# of project launch and introductory meeting targeting key stakeholders conducted	1	1
# of regular internal coordination meetings conducted involving partners (weekly, monthly)	28	10
# of external coordination meetings with DMA and other national actors (HCT, Inter-agency and cluster meetings)	12	4
# of market assessments conducted	1	0
# of assessment reports submitted	1	0
# of monitoring visits	28	10
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LRCS officially launched the drought operation in June present were IFRC delegates, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, DMA executive and representatives of key stakeholders (District Administrator, Local government, Forestry, Agriculture, Social Development, DMA and Media houses) from the five districts.</li> <li>As part of technical support, LRCS conducted 10 internal meetings within the 5 districts to support project roll out, supervision and planning. This also formed part of providing information and their roles about the project to the District Disaster Management teams.</li> <li>In addition, routine coordination and planning meetings have been conducted on weekly basis to update on progress, plan and monitor the drought situation.</li> <li>LRCS Disaster Manager and IFRC Ops Manager has been participating in clusters coordination meetings led by DMA and other various humanitarian agencies to share plans and updates including mapping of stakeholders' activities.</li> </ul> <p>The LRCS SG and the Disaster Manager participate in Humanitarian Coordination Team (HCTs) meetings both strategic and technical respectively.</p> <p><b>Membership Coordination:</b> The LRCS is currently cooperating and working with IFRC in the drought response to provide resources and technical support in programme operation and financial management through the Surge Ops Manager and Surge Finance respectively.</p> <p><b>Engagement with External Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LRCS in coordination with the IFRC continues to participate in DMA led drought coordination meetings (Cash, Health, WASH, Food Security and Livelihoods) in order to share updates and progress in the operation.</li> <li>The LRCS is also continuously engaging with government line departments such as DMA, Rural</li> </ul>		

Water Supply (WASH), Ministry of Health-on-health care promotion, Ministry of Agriculture on food security and livelihoods, Department of Social Development and coordinate with Meteorological department on weather forecast.

	<b>IFRC Secretariat Services</b>		
<b>Objective:</b>		Provide leadership and policy guidance to the National Society, donors, and partners on programme operations.	
<b>Key Indicators:</b>		Targets	Actual
# of regional surge deployed (Ops Manager and Finance)		2	2
Risk registers are set up, mitigation measures identified and monitored once per month.		12	1
IFRC Monitoring and supervision		20	12
<b>Priority Actions:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the IFRC surge system, Surge Operations Manager and Finance were deployed to provide technical support beginning October 2024.</li> <li>• The Pretoria Cluster Delegation continues to provide support across operations, coordination, resource mobilization, food and livelihoods, WASH, health, Finance, PMER and other technical sectors.</li> <li>• IFRC continues to provide support to LRCS through physical and remote coordination meetings.</li> <li>• The resource mobilization and Comms Intern were trained on resource and profiling of the activities under the operation.</li> <li>• In accordance with the IFRC Risk Management Framework, the operation is committed to identifying and analyzing risks associated with activities and operations on monthly basis. Risks will be monitored and the register updates on regular basis for informed decision-making.</li> <li>• Security: Currently, there are no security concerns in the country, but the situation is continuously being monitored.</li> </ul>			

## D. FUNDING

To date, LRCS has received 4% of the total funding requested for the Federation Wide Appeal. This funding will significantly contribute to meeting the needs of the drought affected population. However, mobilization of more funds is underway.

## Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation, please contact:

### Lesotho Red Cross Society:

- **Secretary General** (or equivalent); Sechaba Mokhameleli, smokhameleli@redcross.org.ls, +266 58861206
- **Operational coordination:** Sebongile Hlubi, Acting- Disaster Management Coordinator, shlubi@redcross.org.ls, +26658014081

### At the IFRC:

- **IFRC Country Cluster Delegation:** Mr Kopano Masilo, Head of the Delegation; email: [kopano.masilo@ifrc.org](mailto:kopano.masilo@ifrc.org), phone: +27 66 3203886
- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa:** Rui Alberto Oliveira, Regional Operations Lead; email: [rui.oliveira@ifrc.org](mailto:rui.oliveira@ifrc.org), phone: +254 780 422276
- **IFRC Geneva:** Santiago Luengo, Senior Officer, Operations Coordination; email: [santiago.luengo@ifrc.org](mailto:santiago.luengo@ifrc.org), phone: 41 (0) 79 124 4052

### For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Regional Office for Africa:** Louise Daintrey, Head of Strategic Engagement and Partnerships; email: [louise.daintrey@ifrc.org](mailto:louise.daintrey@ifrc.org), phone: +254 110 843 978

### For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- **IFRC Africa Regional Office for Logistics Unit:** Allan Kilaka Masavah, Head, Global Humanitarian Services & Supply Chain Management, Africa; email: [allan.masavah@ifrc.org](mailto:allan.masavah@ifrc.org)

### For Performance and Accountability support:

#### Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, And Reporting enquiries IFRC Regional Office for Africa:

Beatrice Okeyo, [beatrice.okeyo@ifrc.org](mailto:beatrice.okeyo@ifrc.org) PMER Manager Phone: +254 732 203 081

## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to Principles of Humanitarian Action and IFRC policies and procedures. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.