

Lesotho | Drought-induced Food insecurity

<p>Emergency appeal №: MDRLS008 Emergency appeal launched: 06/09/2024 Operational Strategy published: 30/10/2024</p>	<p>Glide №: DR-2024-000071-LSO</p>
<p>Operation updates #4 Date of issue: 13/08/2025</p>	<p>Timeframe covered by this update: From: 06/09/2024- 31/07/2025</p>
<p>Operation timeframe: 15 months (06/09/2024 – 31/11/2025)</p>	<p>Number of people being assisted: 87,381</p>
<p>Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 5 million through the IFRC Secretariat ask CHF 7 million Federation-wide EA.</p>	<p>DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 750,000</p>



The picture above illustrates ongoing construction of a water source in Tebellong, Qacha's Nek, Lesotho

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

Lesotho is a mountainous country situated at an altitude of 3000-3600 meters above sea. Its unique topography not only shapes its temperate climate but also significantly increases the country's vulnerability to extreme climatic-weather events such as droughts, heatwaves, heavy rainfall leading to flash and riverine flooding, hailstorms, cold waves, and heavy snowfall. In recent years, Lesotho has experienced an increase in climate-related disasters, particularly driven by recurring El Niño and La Niña episodes. These extreme weather patterns have worsened the country's food insecurity, caused widespread infrastructure damage, and adversely affected public health and livelihoods.

During the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 rainy seasons, Lesotho recorded consecutive years of excessive rainfall, which severely impacted agricultural productivity leading to poor harvests across the country. The rain did not only impact on the crop's growth but also the overall household food security particularly in rural households where the stored food supplies were destroyed rendering them unsafe for consumption. Livestock farmers also experienced livestock disease outbreaks such as Blue Tongue. In Mafeteng district, according to the department of livestock, the loss of approximately 200 sheep and goats due to Blue Tongue, deepening the economic challenges of affected communities as most households rely on livestock for sale of wool and mohair. Livestock losses not only undermined rural incomes but also reduced the availability of essential food sources. The combined effects of these disasters forced many vulnerable households particularly those dependent on rain-fed agriculture, small-scale livestock rearing, and casual on-farm labor to resort to negative coping strategies. These included selling productive assets such as livestock and farming tools to repair damaged homes and meet basic needs.

As communities were still grappling with the aftermath of these events, Lesotho was struck by the effect of El Niño-leading to a severe drought and heatwaves during the 2023 to early 2025 period. According to the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Report (2024/25), the cumulative impacts of heavy rainfall, prolonged dry conditions, and worsening food insecurity led to a sharp increase in humanitarian needs. By early 2025, over 22% of the population, which is approximately 335,000 people, were reported to be in urgent need of food and livelihood assistance. In response to the deepening crisis, the Government of Lesotho declared a national emergency on food security in July 2024. Following this declaration, the Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS), in collaboration with RCRC and development partners, humanitarian organizations, and United Nations agencies, launched an emergency response. In September 2024, with the support of the IFRC, LRCS issued an Emergency Appeal aimed at combating the escalating food crisis caused by El Niño-related drought and weather anomalies.

Further compounding the situation, the Lesotho Meteorological Service (LMS) reported below-average rainfall in southern districts during the October–November–December (OND) 2024 season. LMS also noted that from October 2024 to mid-February 2025, Lesotho experienced adverse weather effects from tropical cyclones such as CHIDO and DIKELELI, which disrupted typical rainfall patterns and led to extended dry spells and intense heat. This critical period coincided with the planting and early harvest seasons, severely impacting agricultural productivity once again. Despite, communities' efforts to cope with the conditions, Lesotho experienced unseasonal cold waves and heavy snowfall during Spring (September and October 2024) just after the goats and sheep sheared their skin. These weather anomalies resulted in the deaths of approximately 120 sheep and goats in the highland districts of Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka, further intensifying food insecurity in those districts.

Most recently, during the early Winter period from May to July 2025, the country endured another series of severe cold waves and heavy snowfalls. These extreme conditions claimed human lives four individuals were reported to have perished after being trapped in snowbound areas in Mokhotlong, including those stranded at remote cattle

posts. Livestock losses (more than 120 goats and sheep) also as experienced compounding the already fragile food security situation and placing additional pressure on affected households.

Seasonal Observations and outlook May 2025 and its impact

From April to July 2025, as Lesotho entered its winter season, the country experienced a series of four significant cold waves on 23rd and 24th May 9th and 14th June, and 4th July along with unusually early and heavy snowfall starting as early as mid-April. According to the Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS), this period was marked by persistently cold and wet conditions, with repeated snowfall events severely impacting the country, particularly in remote and mountainous regions.

These extreme winter conditions led to several adverse effects. In hard-to-reach areas, the heavy snowfall and extremely low temperatures caused significant damage to crop, livestock losses, and human casualties. Poorly constructed housing structures collapsed under the weight of accumulated snow, exacerbating the vulnerability of affected households. One of the initial snowstorms resulted in the death of 124 sheep and goats and caused extensive damage to agricultural fields, as low temperatures inhibited crop development and drying processes. Snow accumulation was widespread and varied per region. On 9th June, Oxbow Station reported the deepest snow, measuring 27 cm, the highest during this winter period. Other notable measurements included 13 cm in Sehlabathebe, 10 cm in St. Martins, 8 cm in Malealea, 5.4 cm in Quthing, 5 cm in Mokhotlong, 4 cm in Thaba-Tseka, and 3.5 cm in Mohale's Hoek.

Throughout this time, temperatures remained well below average seasonal norms with daily maximum temperatures ranging from 6.5°C to 21.4°C, while minimum temperatures dropped to as low as 12.6°C. The weekly average temperatures fluctuated between 2°C and 10°C. These prolonged cold conditions, combined with widespread snow coverage, disrupted travel and transport particularly in highland and rural areas and further stressed local food systems and livelihoods.

Although the Lesotho Meteorological Services forecast normal to above-normal rainfall for the season, offering some hope for improved agricultural activity. However, the cumulative impact of recurring snowfall and low temperatures has raised significant concerns regarding livestock health, crop productivity, and the resilience of rural infrastructure. Throughout the winter period, more snow is anticipated in the upcoming winter months (August-September), and this situation may continue to pose challenges for communities already affected by earlier weather events.

Summary of response

Overview of the host National Society and ongoing response

The Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) is a key partner in the government's humanitarian response, supporting disaster management efforts through active participation in coordination meetings and by being a member of the National and district-based Drought Humanitarian Response Team. Both the LRCS Secretary General (SG) and Disaster Manager actively participate in Humanitarian Coordination Team (HCT) meetings, collaborating with other NGOs, UN agencies, and key stakeholders at both strategic and technical levels. LRCS has a Disaster Management department and over two hundred volunteers in five districts, trained on WASH, CEA, PGI and emergency response, who also play a vital role in implementing emergency response operations with technical support from LRCS headquarters. At the district level, LRCS plays a vital and active role as a key member of the District Disaster Management Team (DDMT). In this capacity, LRCS is responsible for representing the organization in all DDMT meetings, ensuring that its humanitarian mandate and perspectives are incorporated into local disaster preparedness, response, and recovery planning. The LRCS contributes technical expertise, supports coordination efforts, and helps strengthen community resilience by working closely with other stakeholders within the district.

Since launching the Drought Emergency Appeal in September 2024, LRCS, with support from the IFRC and partners, has led efforts to address the country's worsening drought crisis. In coordination with government and humanitarian actors, LRCS has implemented key interventions including multipurpose cash transfers, support for food security and livelihoods through the distribution of summer and winter cropping seeds, household homestead vegetable seeds and fruit trees. Additionally, LRCS has provided training on climate-smart agriculture and food preservation techniques to enhance the resilience of local communities. In addition to these efforts, LRCS has also supported nutrition and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) campaigns as well as rehabilitation of water sources in Maseru and Qacha's Nek in all the targeted districts, ensuring comprehensive support to vulnerable communities. Lastly, LRCS also supported the dissemination of early warning messages ahead of the snow episodes in May and June through public gatherings. It also supported the revival and training of local disaster response teams (CBDRTs and VDMTs) to improve preparedness and ensure timely community response to the extreme weather.

The following sections provide further information on the key actions of the National Society through this Emergency Appeal.

1. National Society Capacity Building, Strengthening and Monitoring

To enhance LRCS's ability to effectively respond to the ongoing Emergency Appeal, IFRC deployed surge personnel, specifically a Finance and Operations Manager, for a four-month period. This strategic deployment aimed at building LRCS's capacity to manage the appeal operations. Furthermore, IFRC conducted a monitoring visit to Lesotho to track the progress of the ongoing interventions and provide guidance to local teams in February 2025. The monitoring team visited three districts Mafeteng, Maseru, and Quthing engaging with key stakeholders such as the Department of Disaster Management (DMA), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS), the Ministry of Finance (MoF), and the Rural Water Supply division. These meetings ensured alignment with government efforts and provided valuable feedback on the current operations. The community monitoring visit in Dili-Dili, Mohlakeng and Thabana Morena revealed that apart from buying food and basic needs, beneficiaries also utilized the cash transfers to start some income-generating activities, such as starting small businesses, demonstrating the effectiveness of the support in fostering economic resilience.

2. Multipurpose Cash Transfers

As part of the Emergency Appeal, LRCS provided financial assistance to 2,500 vulnerable households over a three-month period, ending in December 2024. Each household received a total of three cash transfers, amounting to M1,500.00 (73.86CHF) per transfer, aimed at addressing urgent food security needs. Following updated guidance from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report and its projections, LRCS expanded the program to reach an additional 800 households across the most affected districts: Maseru, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, and Qacha's Nek. These newly added households received monthly cash assistance of M1,500.00 for two consecutive months, in alignment with the initial support model.

The distribution of funds was carried out using mobile financial service platforms, including Vodacom Mpesa, Econet Ecocash, and Chaperone C-pay, ensuring efficient delivery and ease of access for recipients in remote and underserved areas. To evaluate the effectiveness of the cash assistance and better understand its impact on household resilience and food security, LRCS conducted two Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) surveys with next scheduled to end of July to capture both cash transfers and non -food items such as training and distribution of seeds. The findings from the two surveys provided valuable insights that will guide and improve future humanitarian interventions.

3. Food Security and Livelihoods

Summer Cropping. To improve household food security and promote sustainable agriculture, the LRCS distributed vegetable seeds and shade nets to 2,500 households and provided field crop seeds such as maize and beans to 500 households in December 2024. However, 30% of the beneficiaries that received field crop seeds reported that they were unable to plant due to delayed distribution and the NS is intending to support

and assist the identified beneficiaries to plant during the start of the next summer planting season (August-September 2025) In addition, to build long-term resilience, LRCS trained 156 lead farmers as Training of Trainers on climate-smart agriculture and food preservation. These farmers are expected to share their knowledge with their communities, helping to improve drought-adapted farming practices and enhance food security.

Winter Cropping. To further strengthen food security and ensure year-round agricultural productivity, LRCS extended support to 1,500 households for winter cropping activities. Each household received seeds suitable for winter cultivation, including beans, peas, or wheat. This initiative aimed to provide households with an opportunity to continue agricultural production during the colder months, helping to bridge seasonal food gaps and promote a more stable and diversified food supply throughout the year.

In addition to seed distribution, LRCS also focused on building local capacity by training 256 lead farmers from the targeted communities. These farmers participated in comprehensive training sessions on climate-smart agriculture and food preservation techniques tailored to winter cropping conditions. The objective was to equip lead farmers with adaptive farming strategies that are resilient to climate variability, enabling them to implement and share best practices with their peers. This dual approach of providing inputs and enhancing skills contributes to the long-term sustainability and resilience of household farming systems across the region.

4. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

A total of 11,845 individuals were reached through targeted Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) campaigns, as well as Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) messaging. These awareness-raising efforts were integrated into key community activities, including climate-smart agriculture and food preservation training, as well as during the distribution of seeds and fruit trees. The combined approach ensured that critical messages on hygiene, gender equality, and protection were delivered alongside livelihood support, contributing to holistic community resilience.

Furthermore, to improve access to clean and reliable water sources in drought-affected areas, LRCS rehabilitated two water sources between May and July 2025. In Ha Ntlama, Maseru, the existing water pump was serviced and maintained to restore full functionality. Meanwhile, in Tebellong, Qacha's Nek, rehabilitation efforts focused on securing and covering the water source to protect it from contamination. These water infrastructure improvements were critical in enhancing water availability and sustainability for the affected communities, particularly during prolonged dry spells associated with the ongoing drought.

5. Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery

To strengthen community preparedness and enhance resilience to future shocks, LRCS, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, conducted a series of community training sessions focused on climate-smart agriculture. These trainings targeted a wide range of farming activities, including vegetable gardening, open-field summer cropping, and winter cultivation. The aim was to equip farmers with adaptive, sustainable agricultural practices that can withstand the increasing impacts of climate change, such as drought and unpredictable weather patterns.

In partnership with the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) and District Disaster Management Teams, LRCS also revived and trained 15 Village Disaster Management Teams (VDMTs) and 5 Community-Based Disaster Response Teams (CBDRTs) in Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing and Qacha's Nek. These teams received comprehensive training in disaster preparedness and response, with an added focus on first aid and emergency response skills.

Need analysis.

Lesotho is currently facing a severe food insecurity crisis, exacerbated by consecutive La Niña and El Niño-induced weather events over the past four years. During the 2023/24 period, an El Niño-driven drought has significantly worsened the country's food security situation, putting more than 22% of the population at risk of food insecurity between October 2024 and March 2025. According to the January 2025 IPC update report, the entire country is now classified as being in crisis as of January 2025. Key factors contributing to this emergency include a decline in income sources, poor agricultural practices, and other socio-economic factors such as increasing food prices, and poor green harvest. The prolonged dry spells and recurring heatwaves experienced from October to December 2024 have worsened the situation, severely impacting both human food availability and livestock health. All the ten districts are now in crisis and require immediate, humanitarian support to alleviate these critical food shortages and help the population recover from the ongoing disaster.

Food Security and Livelihoods: Lesotho is facing a severe food insecurity crisis exacerbated by ongoing drought and socio-economic challenges such as declining income sources and rising food prices. Agricultural production has decreased due to prolonged drought, and the 2023/24 summer cropping season has experienced variable rainfall and heatwaves, impacting livelihoods and food access. Rising temperatures and dry conditions have caused premature crop drying, reducing expected harvests, and increasing food prices, which puts vulnerable households at greater risk.

The upcoming winter cropping season is also threatened by above-normal temperatures and cold temperatures, further straining food availability, with many households relying heavily on local market food purchases despite low incomes and declining sources of income. Livestock farmers have faced setbacks due to an El Niño-induced outbreak of Bluetongue disease, affecting sheep in Maseru and Mafeteng, leading to significant losses. This has worsened the food security and livelihood situation, necessitating urgent humanitarian support.

Health challenges are also severe, with high rates of malnutrition and stunting, particularly among children aged 2-3. Around 40% of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition, with significant deficiencies in essential micronutrients like iron and vitamin A. These health challenges, combined with poor food handling in households, call for targeted interventions to improve nutrition and health outcomes for Lesotho's children. The latest IPC report confirms the country is in crisis and requires urgent humanitarian assistance.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:

The ongoing drought has had a profound impact on water sources across Lesotho, disrupting both rural and urban access to clean water. While this challenge is felt nationwide, the effects have been particularly severe in rural areas, where communities rely heavily on unprotected water sources such as springs and wells. In many of the targeted districts, numerous water sources are in dire need of rehabilitation, while other regions face an urgent need for new water infrastructure to support essential services, including homestead gardening. The water scarcity experienced between January and March was exacerbated by the El Niño phenomenon, further compounding the difficulties faced by households in accessing clean water. This prolonged dry period also had detrimental effects on both rain-fed and irrigated agricultural systems, which are critical to the livelihoods of many rural households. Consequently, there is a pressing need to rehabilitate existing water sources and build new ones to better prepare for future climate-related shocks and to mitigate the risk of water shortages.

In rural parts of Lesotho, water scarcity has also led to an increase in diarrheal diseases, which remain a significant public health concern. These diseases are particularly dangerous for infants and young children and are a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in these age groups. Such illnesses tend to peak during periods of water scarcity, like the current drought. To combat this, it is crucial to implement widespread sanitation and hygiene education to help prevent waterborne diseases and protect vulnerable populations from further health risks.

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion: Farmers in Lesotho, who rely on rain-fed agriculture and small livestock, are highly vulnerable to climate-induced shocks like droughts and erratic rainfall. During crises, vulnerable groups

such as women, girls, children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities face even greater risks, including heightened threats of sexual exploitation, gender-based violence, and difficulty accessing services and information. These groups are often isolated, increasing their vulnerability.

Interventions will focus on supporting these marginalized populations, who lack resources to cope with shocks and are more prone to abuse and neglect. Prioritizing their needs through increased community awareness and inclusive disaster response strategies can help reduce their exposure to risks and foster more resilient communities.

Urgent action is needed to address safeguarding issues, including child protection and gender-based violence, with comprehensive strategies to protect vulnerable individuals. Immediate action is needed to ensure the well-being of those most at risk during drought-related emergencies.

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 must consider those elements for appropriate community-based solutions. The Winter planting season commences in June, while the summer planting starts in August.

The forecast for the upcoming winter season (April to July) suggests that Lesotho will experience favorable rainfall, which is expected to benefit winter cropping. These rains will support agricultural activities and contribute to better crop yields during the season. However, along with the beneficial rainfall, the country is also anticipating lower temperatures typical of the winter season. These colder temperatures could pose challenges, particularly for livestock, which may struggle with the harsh conditions. Additionally, the cold weather could have negative impacts on human health, increasing the risk of illnesses related to low temperatures. While rainfall is a positive development for agriculture, it is crucial to prepare for and mitigate the health risks associated with the colder winter conditions.

Additionally, the lack of widespread understanding and limited access to early warning systems significantly impairs communities' capacity to proactively prepare for and respond to disasters. The timely distribution of early warning information is crucial for all sectors, including farmers, schools, and the broader community, as it enables them to take necessary precautions and safeguard lives and livelihoods. However, vulnerable groups such as the elderly, individuals with disabilities, herders, and farmers are often left out of these vital information-sharing processes, leaving them at greater risk. Closing this gap in communication is essential to ensure that everyone, especially marginalized populations, receives the information they need. By improving access to early warning systems and making them more inclusive, communities can strengthen their resilience and enhance their ability to respond effectively to potential disasters. Effective disaster preparedness initiatives must include mechanisms that ensure all members of the community, especially the most vulnerable, are well-informed and ready to act when needed.

Community Engagement and Accountability: This operation prioritized Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) as a core principle, ensuring that the needs and concerns of the community are central to all decision-making processes. To achieve this, the Lesotho Red Cross Society (LRCS) will utilize a range of CEA tools to effectively assess and understand the needs of the community, guiding the process of identifying and targeting vulnerable individuals. Public gatherings, facilitated by local authorities, will be organized to ensure that vulnerable populations are identified based on well-established and transparent selection criteria. Additionally, the operation will implement a two-way communication strategy, actively seeking and incorporating feedback from the community at every stage of the intervention. Methods such as suggestion boxes, help desks, and direct interactions will be used to gather insights and ensure that community members have a platform to voice their concerns, questions, and suggestions. This approach not only promotes transparency but also guarantees that

the assistance provided is both inclusive and responsive to the real needs of the affected populations. By prioritizing community involvement and feedback, the operation aims to foster trust, improve service delivery, and enhance the overall effectiveness of the humanitarian response.

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 LRCS and IFRC technical team will be conducting monthly meetings to review and monitor the identified risks and discuss mitigation measures. The National Society has the Finance Director as a 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 the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation in Pretoria. The LRCS has already developed a risk management register in line with the IFRC Risk Management Framework which will be reviewed and regularly updated. The table below provides a summary of some of the risks identified and their mitigation measures:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
High Staff turnover	high	high	Frequent training of volunteers and newly recruited district managers.
Security Risk	Low	High	LRCS will use mobile FSPs for cash transfers.
Inadequate targeting and duplication of effort	Medium	High	The intense verification exercise will be conducted working closely with relevant stakeholders.
Inflation and Market	Low	Medium	Conduct market assessment to monitor the situation.
Fraud and Corruption:	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LRCS will put measures in place to allow transparency in all its procurement process. - LRCS will continuously review the suppliers' register and conduct background checks to suppliers and service contractors.
Limited funding	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review the available resource mobilization strategy and plans. - Use the NS RM strategy to mobilize the resources locally.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

This Operational Update also aims to introduce the following updates and changes to the operational strategy of this emergency appeal:

- LRCS seeks to extend the Emergency Appeal for an additional **3 months until 30th November 2025**. This extension will provide the LRCS and IFRC adequate time to effectively implement the interventions following the delayed implementation of activities during the LRCS realignment process which contributed significantly to high staff turnover. This organizational transition disrupted operational continuity and led to the postponement of most activities originally scheduled for April and May.
- While notable progress has been made across all project activities, certain delays have been experienced, specifically in the rehabilitation of water sources and fencing of water sources. To date, two out of the six targeted water sources have been successfully rehabilitated; one located in Maseru and another in Qacha's

Nek, meaning that LRCS still needs to complete the outstanding four water sources. The two rehabilitated sources are currently awaiting the installation of protective fencing, as recommended by the Rural Water Supply Department (RWSD). Fencing is crucial to prevent contamination and damage caused by free-roaming animals and human activity, which could compromise both the structural integrity of the infrastructure and water quality. In addition to fencing, tap installations at the rehabilitated sites are also pending. The remaining four water sources are scheduled for rehabilitation between August and October, aligning with procurement timelines and contractor availability. Another critical component of the intervention is the formal handover of water sources to the respective communities. This handover process will take place after a period of intensified monitoring and quality assurance, to ensure that each water point is fully functional, meets safety and quality standards, and provides reliable access to clean water. The handover will include the establishment of community water management committees and user education to promote sustainability and responsible use.

- Secondly, the operation also experienced delays in the training and revitalization of Community Disaster Response Teams (CDRTs) as a key strategy to enhance local disaster preparedness and resilience. These efforts aim to build the capacity of both community volunteers and residents, empowering them to serve as frontline agents in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency response. Through targeted training sessions, community members are equipped with practical knowledge and skills to assess risks, respond to hazards, and coordinate during emergency situations. As part of a broader resilience-building strategy, the initiative also includes training of lead farmers and community members in food preservation, safe food handling, and storage techniques. These training courses are especially critical in reducing post-harvest losses and ensuring food availability during periods of scarcity, contributing to overall food security.
- Considering preliminary seasonal forecasts indicating potential climate-related risks, it is also essential to strengthen community structures for effective early warning dissemination. Enhancing the capacity of CDRTs and local leaders to communicate timely and accurate early warning messages will be vital in ensuring that communities are adequately informed and prepared ahead of the upcoming climate events. This includes reinforcing communication channels, integrating traditional knowledge, and coordinating closely with local authorities and meteorological services.
- Given the declining food insecurity (LVAC 2025), it is important for LRCS to also support and monitor summer cropping activities, which were delayed due to the late distribution of summer inputs in November 2024. Beneficiaries will now be able to actively participate in the upcoming summer planting season which starts in late August-September 2025. For a detailed explanation of the time frames kindly refer to Annexure 1 for the work plan.
- Lastly, LRCS will also scale up Health and nutrition through distribution of food packages to malnourished children and children on ART treatment. According to LVAC 2025 attached as Annexure A, malnutrition remains a concern in Lesotho, with a national Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 2.9%, rising to 3.9% in Maseru and Mohale's Hoek. The issue has worsened following the withdrawal of USAID funding, which supported clinical medications and fortified foods for children. In response, the Ministry of Health continues its Micro-nutrient Supplementation Programme for children aged 6–23 months, which has helped reduce acute malnutrition in that group. However, children under five, especially those with chronic illnesses like HIV, still lack adequate nutritional support. To improve household nutrition, the Ministry of Agriculture has formed Nutrition Clubs promoting homestead gardening. Meanwhile, as part of the Emergency Appeal LRCS will supply essential medicines to four under resource clinics it operates, ensuring better primary healthcare services. In addition, 200 households with malnourished and children on ART treatment will receive food packages as advised by LVAC 2025.

*For a comprehensive breakdown of the implementation timelines and activity scheduling, please refer to **Annexure B**, which contains the detailed work plan.*

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT


LRCS, under the coordination of DMA with technical guidance from IFRC, led Emergency Appeal implementation focusing on both immediate needs and long-term resilience. The operation was strategically designed around three main pillars, supported by additional cross-cutting sectors: Pillar 1 - Food Security and Livelihoods, Pillar 2 - Health and Nutrition, and Pillar 3 - WASH.

By addressing both short-term humanitarian priorities and long-range developmental goals, the operation sought to empower communities to better withstand future shocks and disruptions. In addition, a strong emphasis was placed on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), which was fully integrated across all aspects of the operation. This participatory approach ensured that community members were actively involved in decision-making processes, fostering a sense of ownership, trust, and transparency, while reinforcing accountability to those directly impacted by the intervention.


The EA interventions are also part of a broader sub-regional scale-up initiative planned by the IFRC in response to the deteriorating humanitarian conditions caused by the El Niño-induced drought in southern Africa. This comprehensive effort aims to tackle the escalating challenges by integrating sustainable practices and building community resilience. In doing so, it will significantly contribute to the IFRC's Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative, which is dedicated to eradicating hunger and ensuring food security across the continent through innovative and sustainable solutions.

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

RESPONSE PILLAR 1: FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

 Food Security and Livelihoods		Female > 18: 987	Female < 18: 9,646
		Male > 18: 679	Male < 18: 6,211
Objective:	Affected communities restore and improve their livelihoods		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual
	<i># of beneficiaries identified to receive farm inputs</i>	5000	3,300
	<i># of families who received seeds (maize, beans, peas, wheat)</i>	5000	2000
	<i># of households who received training in agricultural & homestead gardening</i>	500	1,965
	<i># of households who received vegetable seeds/homestead seeds</i>	5000	2500
	<i># of households who received fruit trees (apple /peach)</i>	5000	2500
	<i># of post distribution conducted</i>	3	2

	# of lead farmers trainings	40	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between November and December 2024, a total of 2,500 households received vegetable seed packages to promote homestead gardening and enhance household dietary diversity. The seed packages included nutrient rich vegetables such as rape, spinach, beetroot, and carrots. This intervention was specifically designed to empower households to grow their own nutritious food, thereby contributing to improved food security and nutrition at the household level. In addition to vegetable seeds, the same 2,500 households were also provided with fruit tree seedlings, including apple and peach trees. These fruit trees are expected to offer long-term food and nutrition benefits while supporting environmental sustainability through increased green cover. To facilitate summer cropping activities, 500 households received summer seed packages in November 2024. These included staple crops such as maize and beans, enabling farmers to cultivate their fields during the summer planting season. Furthermore, to strengthen winter cropping efforts, an additional 1,500 households were provided with winter seed packages. These included 4 kg each of wheat, peas, and beans. The selection of beneficiaries for both summer and winter seed distributions were carried out in collaboration with lead farmers and with technical support from the Ministry of Agriculture. This participatory approach ensured transparency and that the most vulnerable and capable farmers were reached. A total of 1,957 lead farmers were trained as Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) in climate-smart agriculture practices and food preservation techniques. The Ministry of Agriculture organized these trainings to promote sustainable and resilient farming practices among rural communities. The trained lead farmers are expected to play a pivotal role in cascading knowledge to other farmers within their communities. The focus on climate-smart techniques ensures that communities are better equipped to adapt to climate change and maintain productivity in the face of environmental challenges. 			

	Multi-purpose Cash	Female > 18: 987	Female < 18: 9,646
		Male > 18: 679	Male < 18: 6,211
Objective:	<i>To improve household food security and provision of immediate relief to affected families</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual
	<i># of households (beneficiaries) to receive cash assistance</i>	5000	3,267
	<i># of households who received cash</i>	5000	3,267
	<i># of post distribution monitoring (PDM) conducted and reported</i>	3	2

of monitoring visits and engagement of communities that are documented on the use of cash

3

3

LRCS engaged three Financial Service Providers (FSPs) during the Emergency Assistance program to facilitate the transfer of cash to 2,500 households across five targeted districts. For the first payment, each household received cash through one of the following FSP's platforms: Vodacom's Mpesa, Econet's Ecocash. Some delays in payments occurred due to updates in the Econet system. In response to these issues, LRCS also engaged assistance with Chaperone C-pay to ensure the continuation and completion of the payments.

The success rates for the cash payments were as follows:

- The first payment achieved a collection success rate of 94.8%, using Mpesa, Econet, and C-pay.
- The second payment saw a success rate of 94.7%.

The third payment had a success rate of 96.7%. Following the completion of the third tranche, volunteers were deployed to conduct follow-up visits with the remaining beneficiaries who had not yet received their cash assistance. As a result, 99.1% of the intended beneficiaries were reached. The remaining 0.9% could not be located, as they were reported to have migrated to other districts or to the Republic of South Africa, where they are staying with relatives or seeking employment opportunities.

Furthermore, as part of the scale-up, an additional 800 newly identified households were targeted at receiving assistance. Each of these households was provided with a monthly cash transfer of M1,500 for a period of two months. The disbursements were carried out through mobile money platforms, specifically Mpesa and Ecocash, to ensure efficient and secure delivery of funds. The first payment achieved a success rate of 82.8% while the second payment saw a success rate of 98.8%.


As part of the monitoring process, two Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) assessments were conducted. The first PDM took place in November, while the second one in February while the third one is expected to end on the 30th of August 2025. During the two monitoring, it was observed that in addition to using the cash for purchasing food and other essential household items, some beneficiaries reported using the funds to generate income through activities such as opening small scale poultry, piggery farming and other income-generating ventures.

It is important to note that the target of 5000HH was not reached due to limited funding covering the Emergency Appeal, hence only 3,300 HHs were prioritized and targeted with the available funding. LRCS managed to reach 3 267HHS and LRCS is still tracking the remaining 33 HH to ensure that they receive assistance. To determine the CVA distribution, the NS used the Cash tracker and not the PDM, this is a reconciliation tool which is updated after each payment. The remaining beneficiaries were delayed due to their lack of valid personal identification documents, which are mandatory for mobile money platforms such as M-Pesa and EcoCash registration.




Picture: Beneficiaries in Mtjanyane Quthing and Poultry Tebellong Qacha's Nek

RESPONSE PILLAR 2: HEALTH AND NUTRITION

	Health and Nutrition <i>(Mental Health and Psychosocial Support / Community Health / Medical Services)</i>	Female > 18: 1311	Female < 18: 5,680
		Male > 18: 473	Male < 18: 5,411
Objective:		<i>Strengthening holistic individual and community health of the population impacted through community level interventions and health system strengthening</i>	
Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual
	<i># of nutrition campaigns conducted (2 per district)</i>	4	10
	<i># of people reached with health prevention activities</i>	87,381	12,875
	<i># of groups engaged in the health discussion, training, or consultations (4 per district)</i>	5	20
<p>Four nutrition campaigns were conducted in Mafeteng, Qacha's Nek and Quthing, reaching 11,592 individuals with key messages on nutrition, food security, and breastfeeding, in collaboration with government-led initiatives. An additional 1283 people were also reached through health prevention messages delivered during lead farmer training and Community Based Disaster Response Teams training sessions. It is important to note that initially, the target was 5 groups with one group per district. However, during implementation more groups were identified, hence an increase in achievement.</p>			


RESPONSE PILLAR 3: WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Female > 18: 987	Female < 18: 9,623
		Male > 18: 679	Male < 18: 6,211
Objective:		<i>Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the Emergency Operation, through community and organizational interventions</i>	
Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual
	<i># of nutrition campaigns conducted (2 per district)</i>	6	2
	<i># of WASH campaigns</i>	5	6
	<i># of rehabilitated water sources</i>	6	2
	<i># of people Reached through WASH campaigns</i>	87,381	17500


- WASH campaigns were conducted alongside nutrition campaigns and integrated into lead farmer training sessions. These efforts emphasized safe food preparation and handling, the importance of protecting water sources, and practical demonstrations on home-based water purification methods.
- In addition to awareness campaigns, two key water sources were rehabilitated in the communities of Ha Ntlama and Tebellong. In Ha Ntlama, the village's water pumping system non-functional for several years due to lack of financial resources was successfully repaired, restoring access to clean water for the local population. In Tebellong, water access was improved by rehabilitating the water source and extending the existing water pipeline closer to residential areas and a neighbor community school (Tebellong LEC Primary School). This extension significantly reduced the distance that community members, particularly children and individuals with disabilities, had to travel to fetch water. Furthermore, the upgraded infrastructure now serves two additional villages that have been facing prolonged water scarcity.


CROSS-CUTTING SECTORS

PROTECTION, GENDER, AND INCLUSION (PGI), COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA), RISK REDUCTION, CLIMATE ADAPTATION, RESILIENCE, AND RECOVERY

	Protection, Gender, and Inclusion	Female > 18: 987	Female < 18: 9,646
		Male > 18: 679	Male < 18: 6,211
Objective:	<i>Promote equitable access by all to quality basic services by considering basic needs based on gender and other diversity factors</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual
	# of community members reached through gender-based violence and child protection awareness campaigns, disaggregated by gender and age.	87,381	17,523
	# of households identified and registered beneficiaries representing vulnerable groups 5,000	5000	3,300
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the registration process Community Engagement meetings in the form of public gatherings were held to ensure transparency and address grievances about beneficiary identification, with a focus on including vulnerable groups such as the chronically ill, physically challenged, orphan-headed households, the elderly, and large households. • Over 17,523 people received Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) messages during seeds, and trees distributions gatherings. PGI was further mainstreamed during the verification, registration, and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) activities through PGI campaigns that include Gender Based Violence and Child protection messaging and 		

campaigns. Additionally, 492 lead farmers were trained in the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and they will help spread PGI messages within their communities.

	Community Engagement and Accountability	Female > 18: 987	Female < 18: 9,646
		Male > 18: 679	Male < 18: 6,211
Objective: <i>Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster</i>			
Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual
	<i># of people engaged and reached with CEA activities</i>	87,381	17 523
	<i>. # of established CEA Feedback approaches (using toll free line, help desk & suggestion box))</i>	1	1
	<i>% of feedback collected that are successfully treated or responded to</i>	100	90
	<i># of group discussions conducted (5 per district)</i>	60	13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the targeting and registration phase, the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach was implemented to promote transparency and effectively address any concerns or grievances related to beneficiary selection. A range of feedback mechanisms were utilized to facilitate two-way communication and build trust with the community. These mechanisms included the deployment of trained volunteers, establishment of help desks, engagement of existing government structures, and placement of suggestion boxes at key locations. As part of the CEA activities, awareness campaigns, community meetings, and feedback sessions, over 17,523 individuals were reached. These efforts were integral to ensuring meaningful community participation and strengthening accountability throughout the LRCS drought response operation. 			

	Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery	Female > 18: 2,897	Female < 18: 9, 532
		Male > 18: 2, 350	Male < 18: 8, 642
Objective: <i>Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster</i>			

	Indicator	Target	Actual
Key indicators:	# of participants trained in climate-smart agriculture techniques and food preservation methods, disaggregated by gender and age.	7,000	1,965
	# of targeted communities receiving early warning messages based on the upcoming seasonal outlook.	20,000	21,456
	# of Community-Based Response Teams (CBRTs) revived and trained, disaggregated by geographic area (7 groups with 20 members each) (Number of each individual under each group is 20).	7	8

- A total of 1,957 lead farmers individuals were trained as Training of Trainers (ToT) on climate-smart agriculture techniques and food preservation methods through training sessions organized by the Ministry of Agriculture. The aim is for each farmer to train more people within their community.
- Additionally, through the LRCS volunteers and ongoing awareness-raising campaigns, a total of 21,456 individuals were reached with early warning messages (snow and cold waves alert) aimed at helping them prepare for the upcoming winter season. These messages provided vital information on how to mitigate risks associated with harsh weather conditions and protect their households and livelihoods. This initiative is set to expand further in the coming season, with plans to reach even more communities. The dissemination of early warning messages will also be supported by the national meteorological service, which will share the official six-month seasonal climate outlook to enhance community preparedness and resilience.
- A total of eight (168 individuals) Community Based Disaster Response Teams training sessions were conducted, equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to identify, analyze, and prioritize risks within their communities. These trainings aimed to strengthen local capacity in disaster risk reduction by involving community members in the development of localized preparedness and response strategies.

Enabling approaches

 National Society Strengthening			
Objective:		<i>Strengthening the National Society's capacity to deliver humanitarian</i>	
Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual
	# of technical volunteers recruited (Communications and DM)	2	2

#of volunteers insured	80	80
# of Lessons learnt Workshop 1	1	0
# of Branding and Visibility materials procured	Banners (3) T-shirts (40) Cap (40)	6 Gazebos; 6 pieces of Red Tablecloth
# of staff & Volunteers Supported	10	10

- The LRCS, through its branches, deployed 265 volunteers to assist with the drought response activities. Volunteers supported the registration, distribution of seeds, monitoring and conducting PDMs. In addition to these volunteers, two technical experts were brought on board to provide support for Disaster Management (DM) and Communications operations.
- To enhance visibility and promote LRCS and IFRC's profile, various visibility materials were procured. This included the purchase of six gazebos, each measuring 3x4.5 meters and accompanied by carry bags for easy transport. Additionally, six red tablecloths were acquired to further support the branding and visibility efforts during events and distributions.
- A total of 10 personnel including key staff such as the Disaster Management Manager, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) Officer, Accountant, five Project Officers (Divisional Secretaries), and two Disaster Management interns were supported through salary and contribution coverage from January to June 2025. This financial support ensured the continued implementation, coordination, and monitoring of project activities during the reporting period.



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

	Indicator	Target	Actual
Key indicators:	# of project launch and introductory meeting targeting key stakeholders conducted	1	1
	regular internal coordination meetings conducted involving partners (weekly, monthly)	28	20
	# of external coordination meetings with DMA and other national actors (HCT, Inter-agency and cluster meetings)	12	12
	# of market assessments conducted	1	0
	# of assessment reports submitted PDM	2	2
	# of monitoring visits	28	15

- As part of coordination and technical support, LRCS organized 18 internal coordination meetings across five districts, focusing on planning and monitoring the implementation of activities. Four stakeholder review meetings were held in each district, except Mohale's Hoek, to gather project feedback. Continuous multi-stakeholders and reflection meetings are held at both national and district on monthly basis.
- Routine weekly coordination and planning meetings have been held to evaluate progress, discuss future, and monitor the drought situation.
- The LRCS Disaster Manager and the IFRC Operations Manager actively participate in coordination meetings organized by the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) and other humanitarian agencies, where they share updates and discuss operational plans.
- Both the LRCS Secretary General (SG) and Disaster Manager attend strategic and technical meetings of the Humanitarian Coordination Team (HCTs), ensuring strong participation in high-level coordination.
- A total of 15 monitoring field visits has been conducted, involving both LRCS and government officers, to provide on-the-ground technical support for drought operations. These monitoring visits will continue to track the progress of ongoing implementation.
- **Membership Coordination:** LRCS is working closely with IFRC in the drought response, leveraging resources and technical expertise in program operations and finance management. This support was further strengthened by deployment of two surge personnels: the Surge Operations Manager and Surge Finance personnel.
- **Engagement with External Partners:** LRCS, in coordination with IFRC, remains actively involved in drought coordination meetings led by DMA, covering key sectors such as Cash, Health, WASH, Food Security, and Livelihoods. These meetings provide an opportunity to share operational updates and progress.
- LRCS continues to engage with key government departments, including the DMA, Rural Water Supply (WASH), Ministry of Health (for healthcare promotion), Ministry of Agriculture (focused on food security and livelihoods), and the Department of Social Development. LRCS also coordinates with the Meteorological Department to stay updated on weather forecasts, ensuring that operations align with current and upcoming conditions.



Secretariat Services

Objective:

Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster

Key indicators:

Indicator	Target	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	5
IFRC Monitoring and supervision	20	15

- The IFRC surge system deployed a Surge Operations Manager and Finance for technical support starting in October 2024.

- IFRC Surge Operations and Finance continue to provide technical support to LRCS team in implementation of the operation.
- 15 field monitoring were undertaken to the fields to deliver training support, deliver farm inputs and monitor the quality of activities being implemented. In accordance with the IFRC Risk Management Framework, the operation is committed to identifying and analyzing risks associated with activities and operations monthly through a risk register. Risks will be continuously monitored, and the register will be updated on a regular basis to ensure informed decision-making.
- There are no security concerns in the country, but the situation is continuously being monitored.

D. FUNDING

As of now, this Emergency Appeal has secured **CHF 1,331, 912** in financial contributions (**11,6%**) representing a portion of the total of CHF 5 million requested under the Secretariat's funding target. This amount includes the Loan provided through the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund, which was instrumental in enabling the timely launch and early implementation of Emergency Appeal activities.

The Appeal has garnered both confirmed and potential support from a number of valued partners, whose contributions are crucial to addressing the urgent humanitarian needs on the ground. These partners include:

- Japanese RC
- ECHO
- Red Cross of Monaco
- Netherlands RC



Contact information

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

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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

For Performance and Accountability support:

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, And Reporting enquiries IFRC Regional Office for Africa: Beatrice Okeyo, 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 always promote 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.



LVAC Presentation

VAA 2025 Results Consensus & Stakeholders Dissemination Forum

08 July 2025

Kick4Life, Maseru

1. Country Context

Socio-economic situation

- Total population is estimated at 2,077 million (LDS 2021)
- Life expectancy 61.6 (LDS 2021)-Males at 57.9 while females is at 65.3
- Poverty rate (BOS) reduced from 56.6% (2003/04) to 49.7% (2017/18) with 24.1% living in extreme poverty.
- Food poverty line (M252.39) & Poverty line (M648.88)
- Unemployment rate – 30.1% (LFS 2024), an increase from LFS 2019 (22.5%). **NB: Youth Unemployment rate at 39% declared a state of disaster (as of 07 July 2025 to 30th June 2027(2 years) on socio-economic effects on high rates of youth unemployment and job losses in Lesotho.**
- Overall Inflation rate – 4.4%(May 2025), compared to 6.3% (May 2024)
- Food Inflation-6.3% (May 2025), versus 8.3% (May 2024)
- GDP growth rate is 3.6% Q4 2024 compared in Q4 at -4.0% in 2023.
- Literate tested: 86.2%
- HIV Prevalence 18.5% (2023 Estimates by NAC)
- Maternal mortality 530/100 000 births
- Infant Mortality 39/1,000 live births (LDHS 2024)
- Under-fives Mortality 54/1,000 live births (LDHS 2024)
- Prevalence of GAM at 2.8% (LVAC 2025) & 2% (LDHS 2024)
- Prevalence of Stunting at 32% (LVAC 2025) & below 36% (LDHS2024)

2. Assessment Objectives and Thematic areas covered

The main objective:

- To analyse food and nutrition security, and vulnerability of the population of Lesotho in 2025/2026 consumption year and provide policy makers, government and other stakeholders with information for decision making and development programming.

Specific Objectives

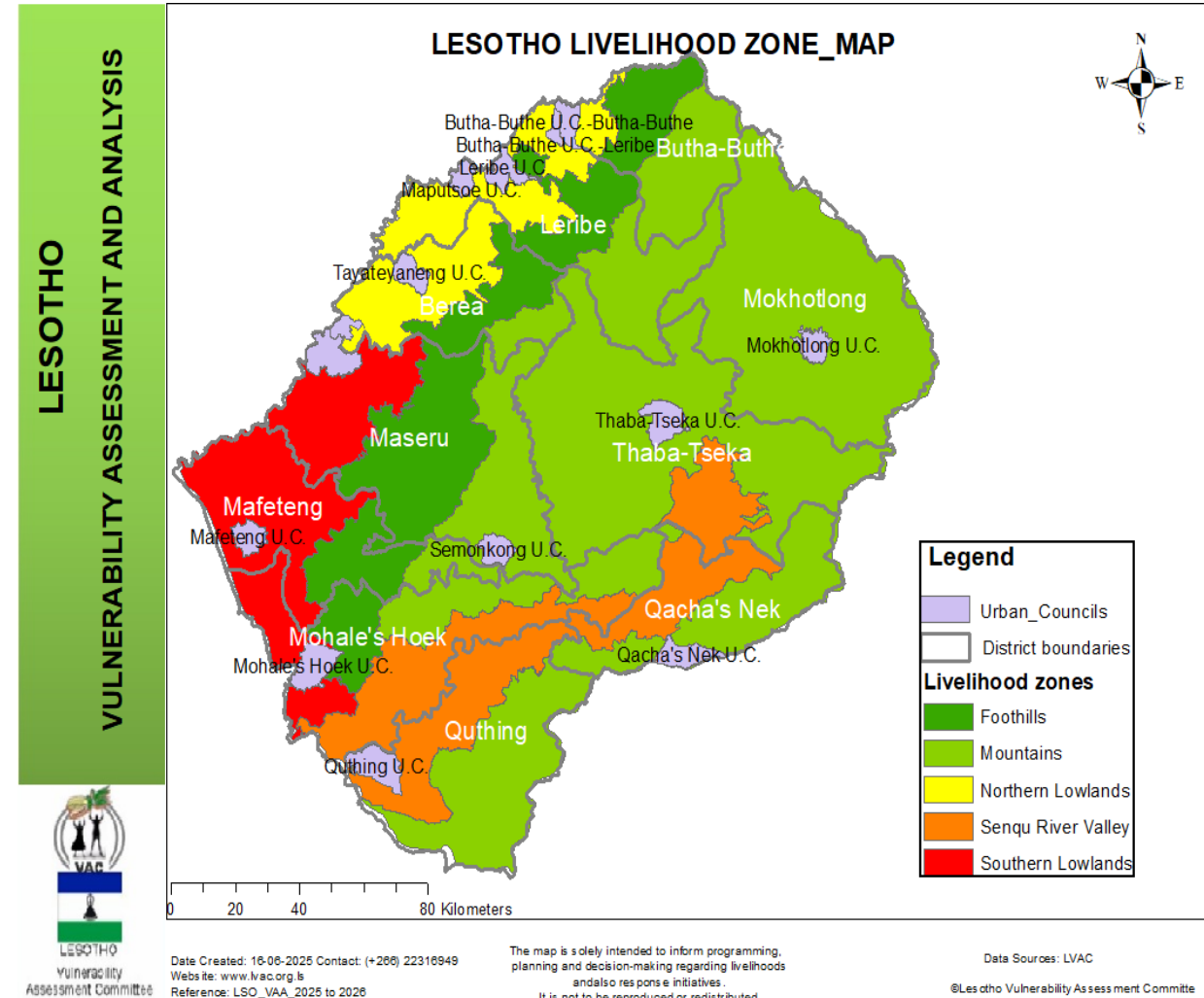
- To estimate the number of vulnerable population, their location and level of severity in Lesotho *for 2025/2026 Consumption year.*
- To identify the underlying and immediate causes of food and nutrition insecurity as well as vulnerabilities of the populations
- Provide recommendations intended to guide programming for interventions

Thematic Areas :

1. Hazards and shocks
2. Livelihoods sources (Food & Income Sources)
3. Agriculture and food security (Crop & livestock production, food security indicators)
4. Health and Nutrition: Child & maternal health, feeding practices inclusive of breastfeeding, vaccination coverage, Nutritional status
5. Water & Sanitation
6. Integrated issues: HIV, Gender, ECMEN, protection issues; Migration & markets (Market Functionality Index)

3. Assessment Methodology and Process

- ❖ Food and Nutrition conceptual frameworks were used to guide the assessment and analysis
- ❖ Two days face to face Pre assessment training for enumerators (May 2025)
- ❖ 13 days allocated for data collection (May/June 2025) & 20 days data analysis (June/July 2025) & IPC AFI analysis
- ❖ The VAA process covered both rural and urban settlements countrywide (In all ten districts).
- ❖ All five livelihood zones in the rural settlement (Foothills, Mountain, Northern Lowlands, Southern Lowlands & Senqu River Valley) were assessed & analysed.
- ❖ 300 Enumeration Areas (EAs) with a total of 3660 households were randomly sampled through Probability to proportion of size.



Assessment Methodology and Process (cont.)

- ❖ Secondary and primary data was used. Androids were used to collect data from household survey using ODK app.
- ❖ Drones were also used to complement data collection and enhanced analysis.
- ❖ Qualitative and Quantitative data collection approach (FGD & Household survey) & Anthropometric measurements were taken to monitor nutritional status for children under five years.
- ❖ Outcome Analysis using HEA (LIAS) while SPSS was used to analyse household data.
- ❖ ECMEN used to determine Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) Urban vulnerability
- ❖ IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis(Rural) was used to classify areas according to their level of severity.

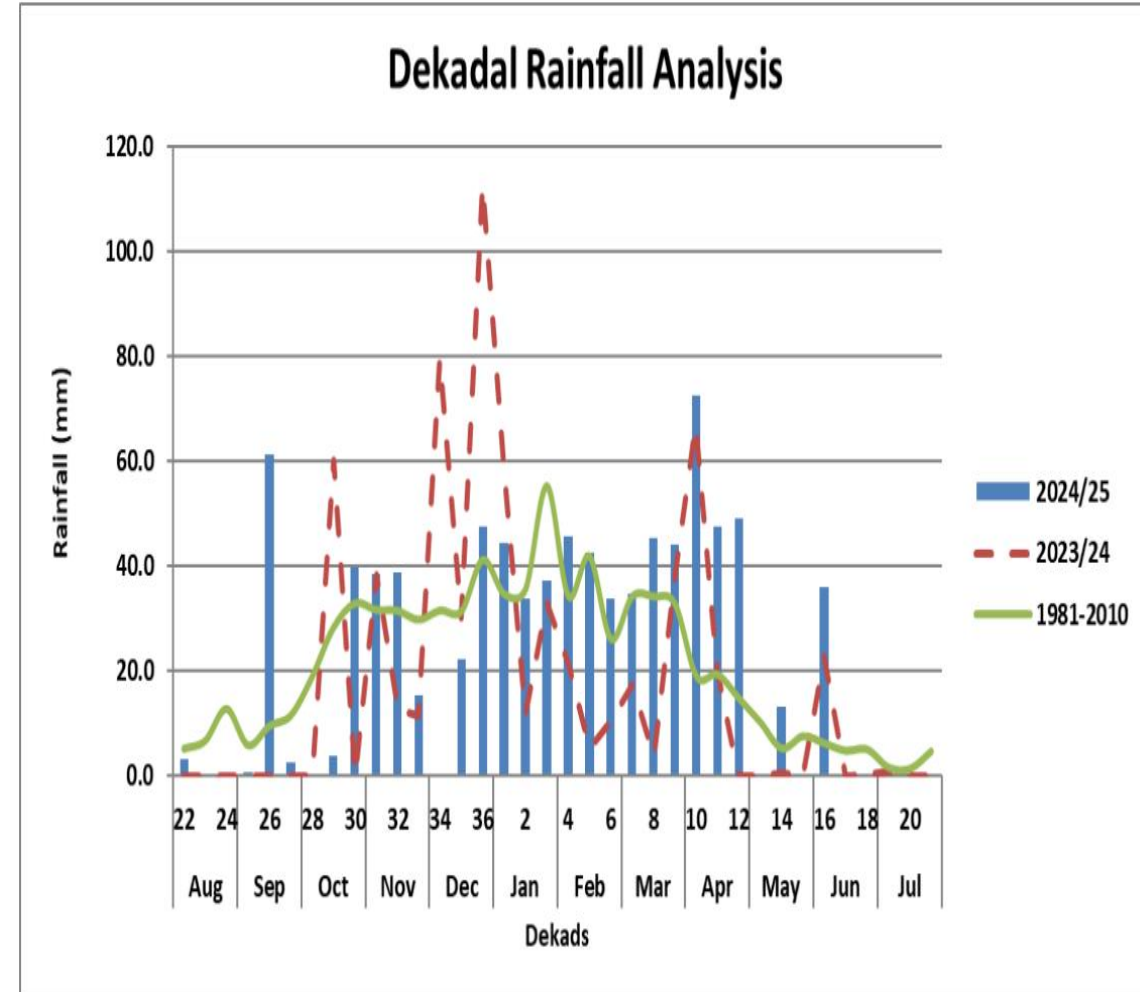
Reporting, dissemination and results use

- ❖ Powerpoint Presentations ; technical stakeholders for consensus, Cabinet-endorsement, UNDRMT-Resource mobilisation, SADC –Regional synthesis report
- ❖ Results will be used to inform short to long response, DRR and resilience building interventions

4. Seasonal Performance

- ❖ The onset of the 2024-2025 rainy season for most areas occurred between October 21 and November 11, 2024.
- ❖ The earliest onset occurred in Quthing, while the latest in Mafeteng.
- ❖ **First part of the season (October-December 2024):**
 - Cumulative rainfall was **below-average**
 - Vegetation cover was **average to slightly-above average**
- ❖ **Second part of the season (January-March 2025):**
 - January-February 2025; rainfall performance was average to slightly-below-average
 - Heavy rainfall received between March and beginning of April resulting in **average to above-average levels.**
 - Water from main rivers and reservoirs were at full capacity for most months in the current analysis period and indication

National Rainfall Performance ;LMS



5. Hazards and shocks

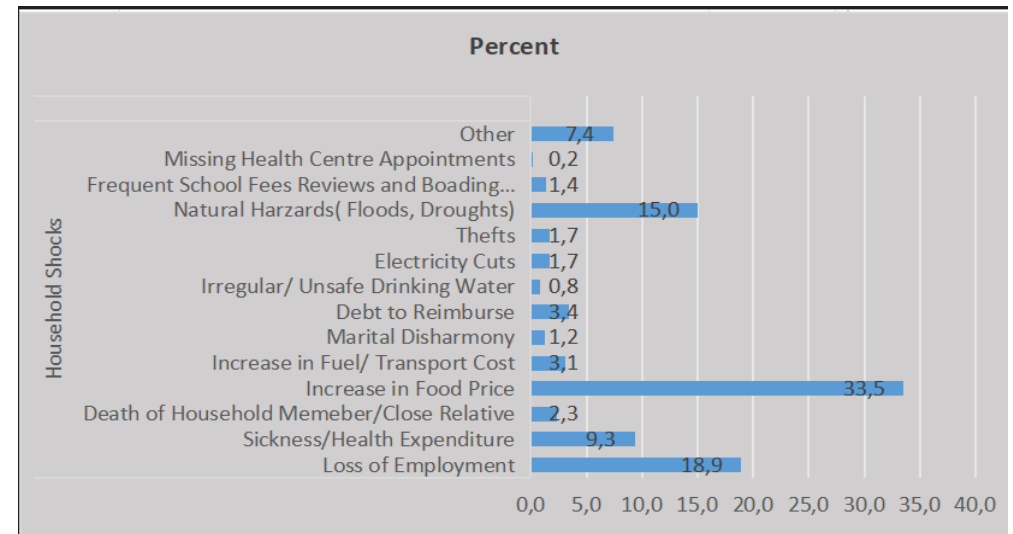
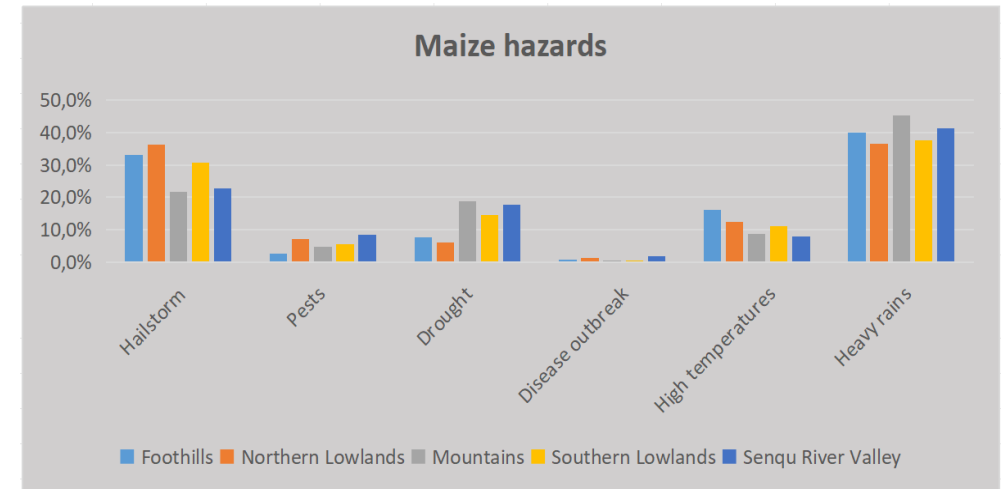
- **Hazards and Shocks that affected households and their crops**

- **Climate related :**

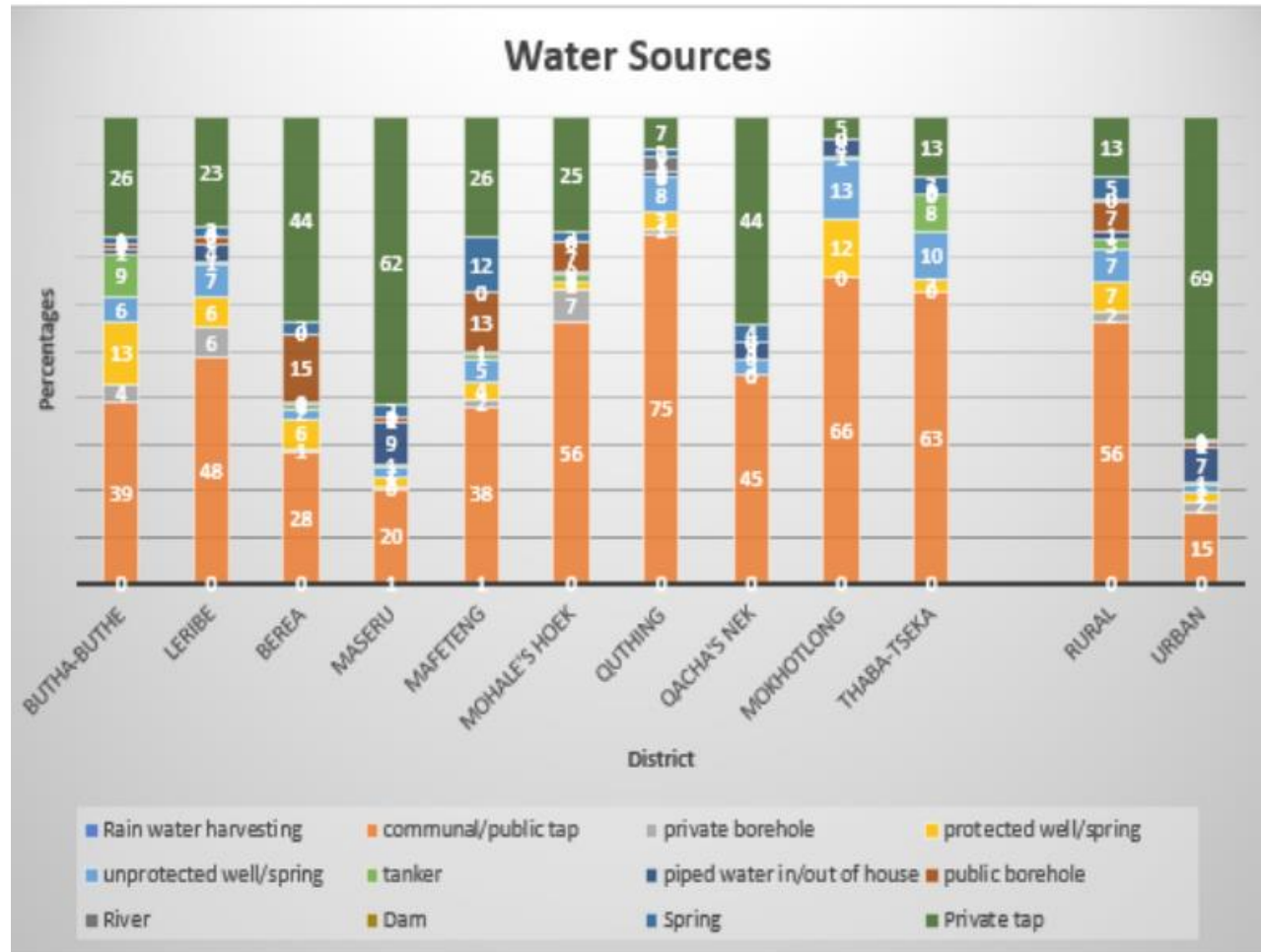
- Hailstorms & heavy rains damaging both crops & livestock
 - Dry spells at the start of the rainy season (OND 2024) couple with high temperatures
 - Pests with other areas experiencing armyworm but the Ministry controlled it on time
 - Livestock disease outbreaks

- **Socio Economic Shocks:**

- Price increase affecting at least 34% of households.
 - Loss of formal employment at 19%
 - Most households spend most of their income on food an indication of economic crisis.
 - Reduced income from main livelihood sources which are already volatile
 - Income from sales of Livestock products (wool & mohair) showing slight improvement in mountain areas while declining in other areas despite increasing cost of animals due to high competition in the market.



6. Water & Sanitation

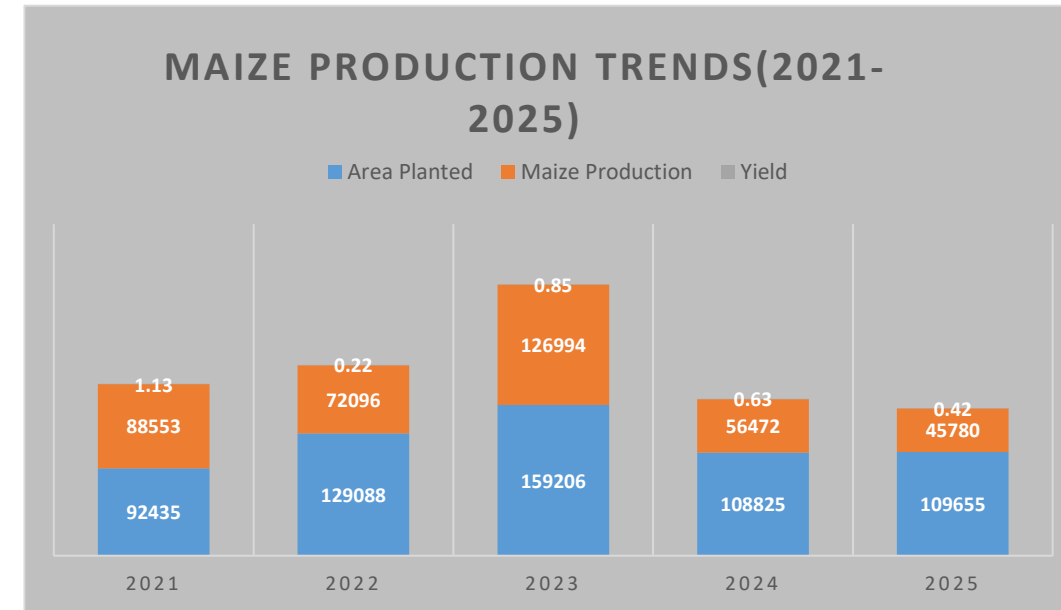


Water sources

- ❖ Most households across all districts have access to safe drinking water.
- ❖ At least more than 60% of houses indicated that water was meeting their demand.
- ❖ WASH Protocol observed in most households with only limitation of not having access to running water
- ❖ Water provision interventions should be prioritized at the areas using water from unprotected sources.

7. Food Availability

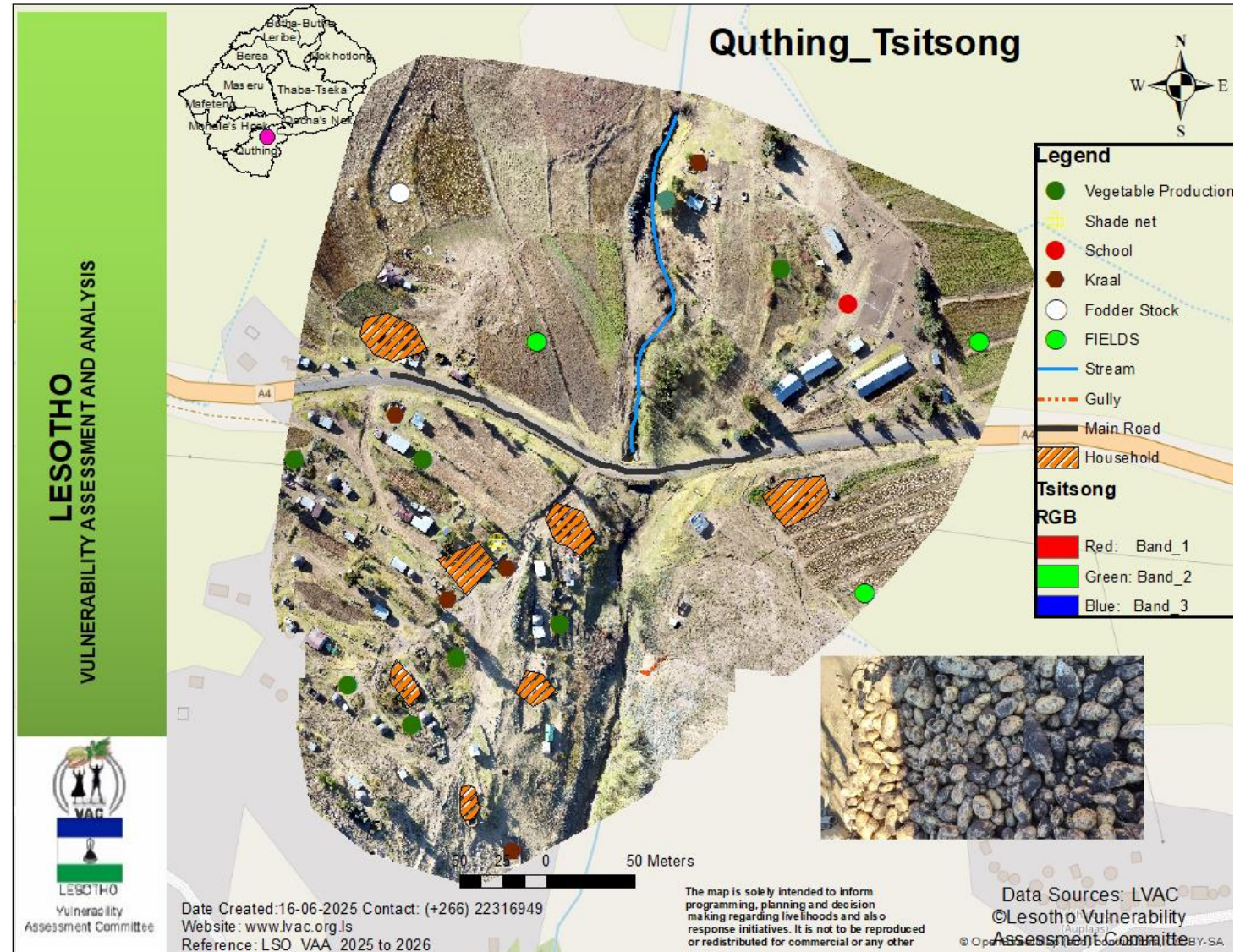
- National crop production estimates indicated that increase in area planted for all main cereal crops (Maize, sorghum & wheat)
- Yield per hectare declined compared to 2023/24 agricultural season for all cereals assessed.
- Current maize production is estimated at 45,780 mt compared to 56,472 mt actual total production in 2024. This indicates 19% decline in maize production.
- Sorghum production also declined by 43% with current production estimated at 3,616 mt compared to 6,300 mt in 2024.
- Wheat production estimates is showing 17% increase compared to 2023/24 season. Current wheat production estimated at 4,874 mt compared to 4,183 mt in 2024.
- The country will still meet its annual cereal requirements through imports from RSA which recorded improved maize production estimates.
- Supply chain for basic food and non-food items is still stable an indication that food availability is adequate.
- Operation times at main borders with RSA are normal for all traders.



NB: The forecasting estimates for maize production 2025 remain valid until October 2025, when actual harvest estimates from the comprehensive Annual Agricultural Production Survey will provide final production figures (statistical report No;14 of 2025)

- Food Availability cont...

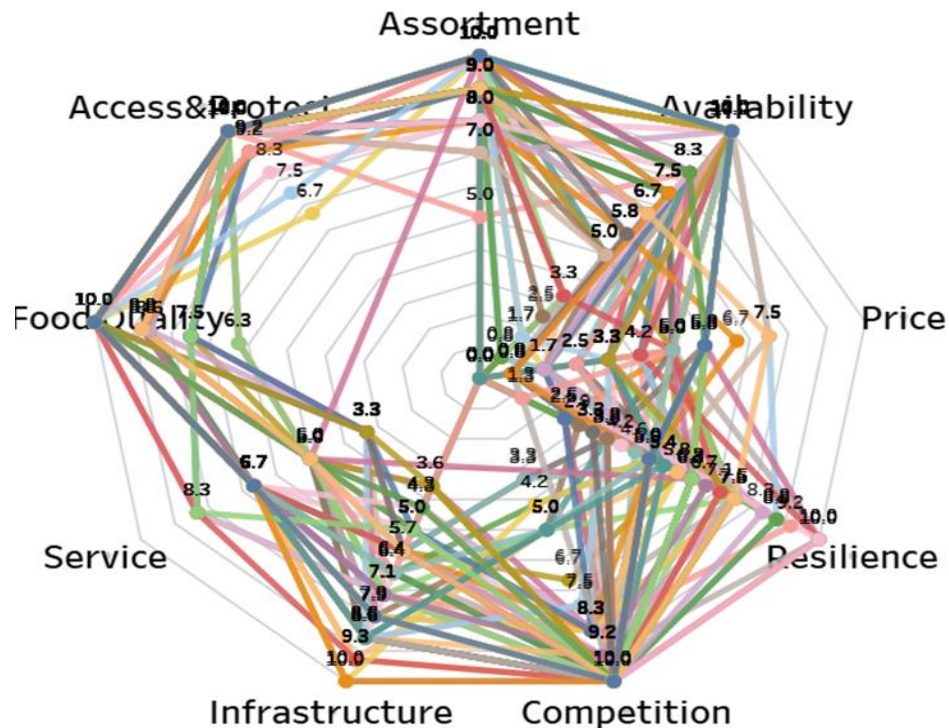
- Potatoes production was reported to be good across mountain livelihood zone and some households will have income from their sales.
- Vegetable production was also good in most areas in all 10 districts



Food availability cont...

Market Functionality Index

- A standardised market assessment approach, that aims to quantify the market functionality in a score per market-place where our markets were demarcated along with community councils was undertaken in May 2025
- The Methodology relies on a standard survey where questions are organised under nine dimensions deemed crucial to make a Judgement statement around market functionality.
- Dimensions include: Assortment, Availability, Price, Resilience of supply chain, Competition, Infrastructure, Service, Food quality and Access and Protection.



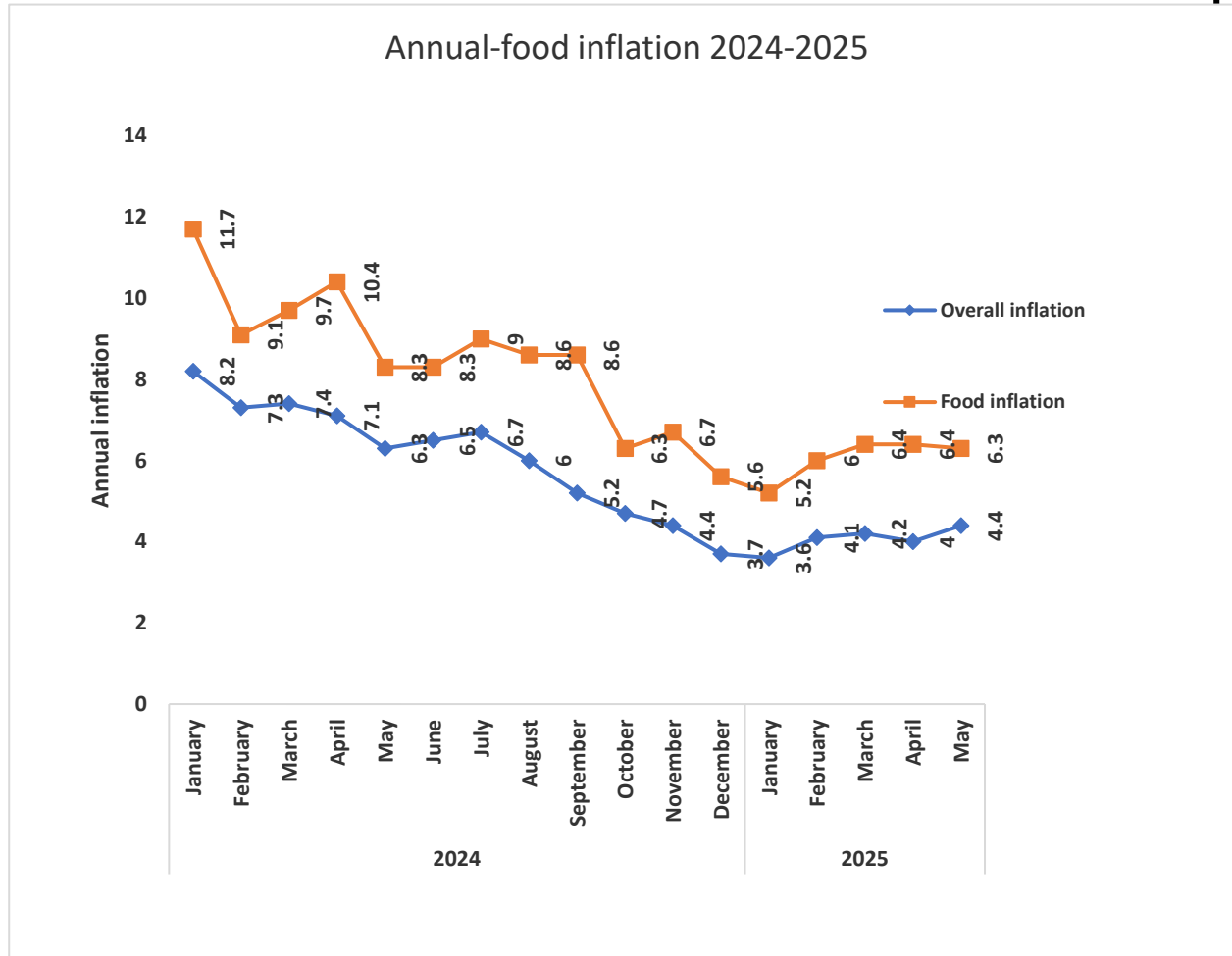
MFI considers three basic categories

- Cereals
- Food items other than cereals
- Non-food items

Proposed Sample size : A total of 72 markets were assessed reaching out 553 retailers of different sizes

- Markets expected to remain functional throughout the projected analysis period
- Food items expected to be available with adequate variety and competition
- Prices projected to be remain slightly high and projected be stable throughout the period under review.

8. Food Accessibility



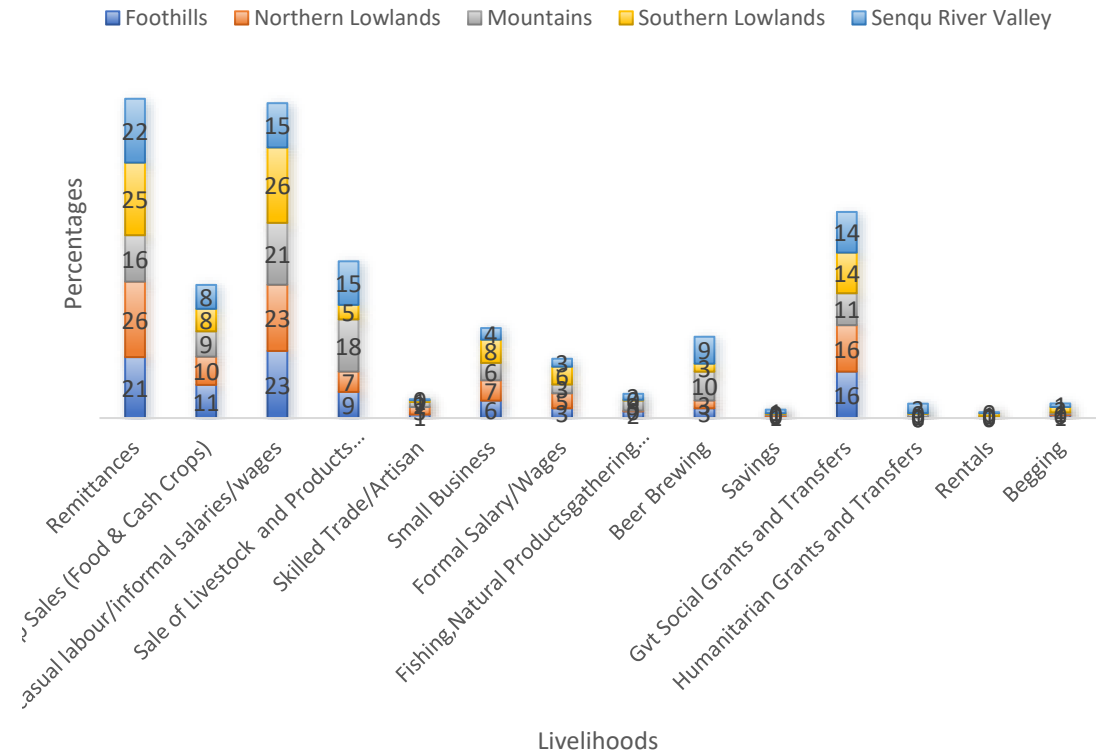
- The overall inflation as of **May 2025 is 4.4% compared to 6.3% in May 2024.**
- Food Inflation is 6.3% (May 2025) versus 8.3% same period in 2024.
- Maize(staple food) 12,5kg of maize meal costs at least M111 as of May 2025 compared to M99 in 2024 an increase of 11% and 19% increase compared to 5 years average price.
- Price of beans costs M21 (500g) in May 2025 showing a decrease of 4% compared to price in May 2024 but above 5 years average by 19%.
- Price of cooking oil is showing a 4% increase compared to previous year & 7% increase over 5 years average bean prices.
- Price of paraffin in May 2025 (M14.00) is below 2024(M17.60) and 5 years average (M16.09) respectively.

Food Accessibility Cont...

Food Access will be negatively affected by :

- Insufficient household food stocks estimated to meet household caloric needs of at least 1 to 2 months
- Household livelihood sources in order of priority: Casual labour, remittances, Social grants, livestock sales and crop sales with likelihood of crop sales not evident in the projected period ascribing to reduced crop production in some areas.
- Food purchases may be compromised in the lean season (aligned with projection period from October 2025 to March 2026) mainly for the poorer households.

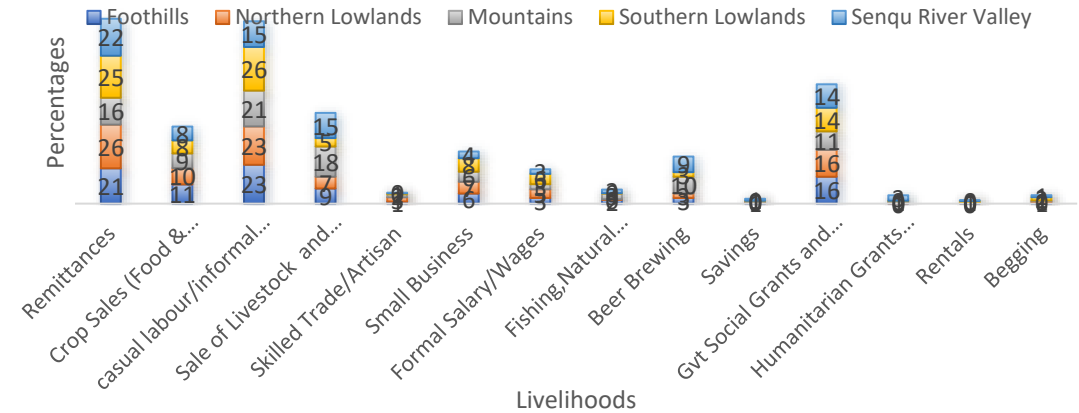
Livelihood Sources by livelihood zones 2025



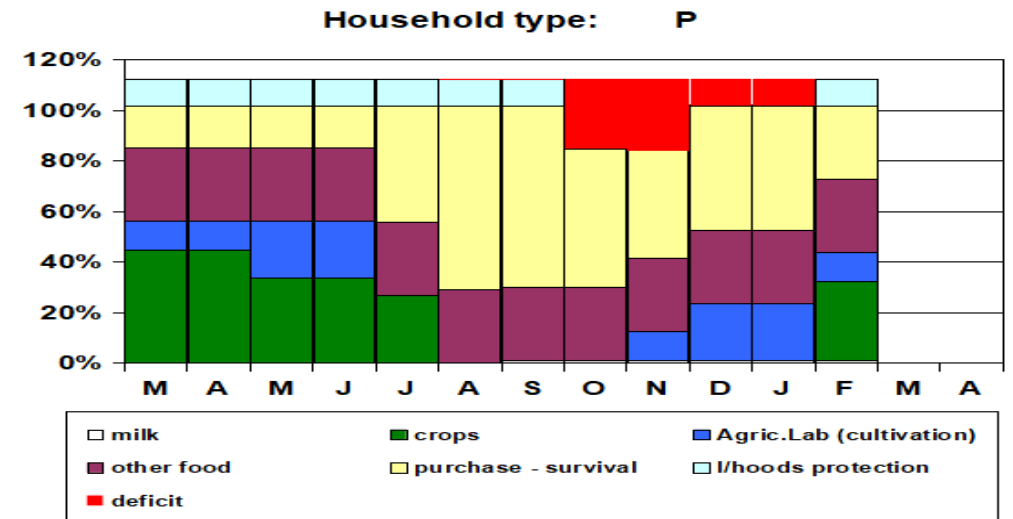
Food Accessibility Cont...

- Household livelihood sources in order of priority:
 - Casual labour, remittances, Social grants, livestock sales and crop sales with likelihood of crop sales not evident in the projected period ascribing to reduced crop production in some areas.
- Livestock sources declined by 34% that is an indication that households will meet food requirements for at least 8 months.
- Humanitarian Food Security Assistance will be required for at least 4 months from October 2025 to January 2026 when lean season will be at peak.

Livelihood Sources by livelihood zones 2025

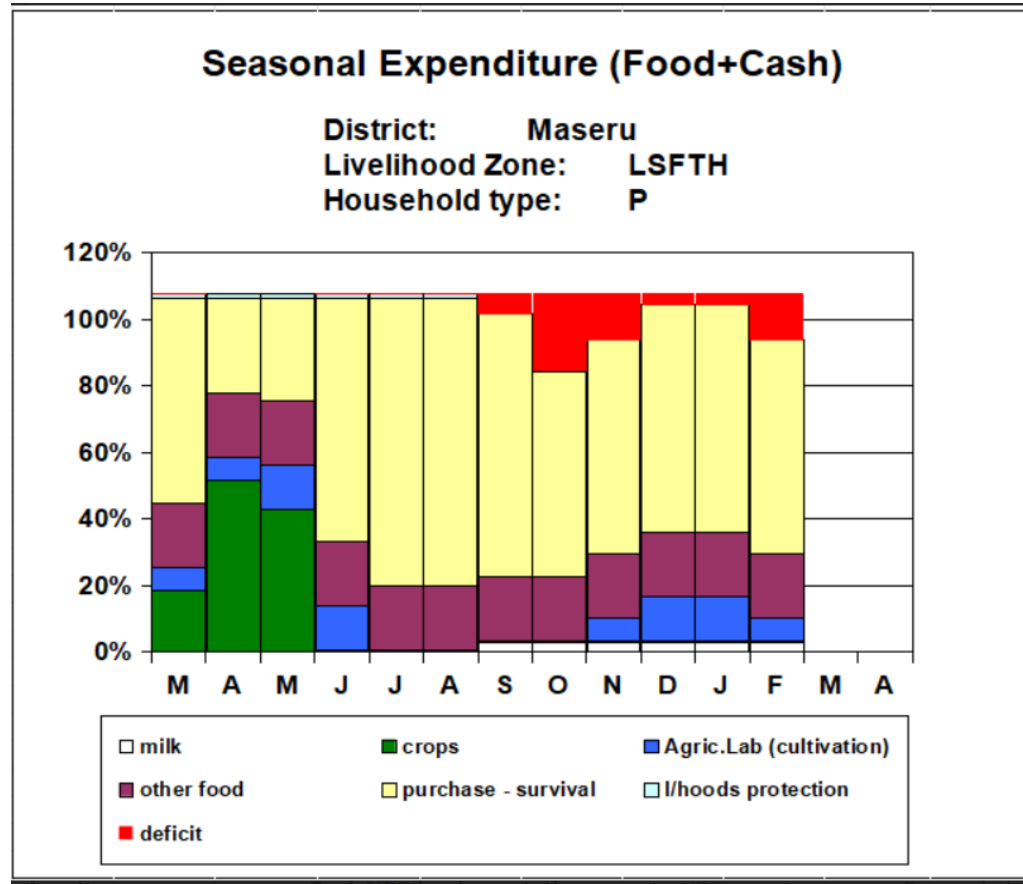


Seasonal Expenditure (Food+Cash)

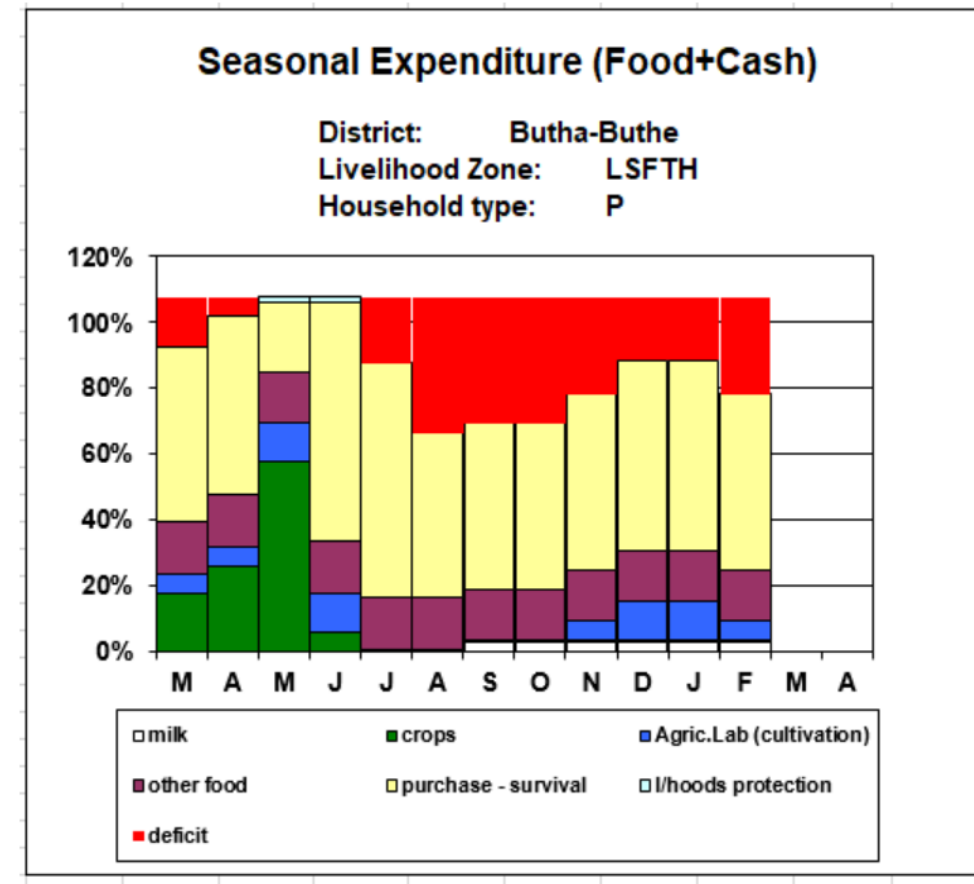


9. Seasonal Expenditure

Food gaps in 2025/26 season



Food gaps in 2024/25 season



10. Food Utilization

Will remain a minor limiting factor towards food security as majority of households had access to safe drinking water which meet their demands.

- Water supply was satisfactory as water levels were within acceptable levels. And water sources was within acceptable distance with most household travelling 30 minutes to and from water sources.
- On average 50% of women practiced exclusive breastfeeding same as in the previous year.
- Decreasing fuel(paraffin) prices benefits households who use it as source of energy for cooking especially households within rural settlement. With increase on electricity and gas price households within urban will be negatively affected.
- Ministry of Health continues to implement the Micro-nutrient Programme for all children from 6 to 23 months where all illegible children receive micro-nutrient powder during their visit at the health facility. The initiative is showing a positive result reflected on the notable reduced prevalence of acute malnutrition.
- Nutrition clubs formed under Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition to promote food production through homestead gardens to support child diet & other members of households.

11. Migration & Protection

Migration

- At least 5% (same as 2024) of sampled households experienced internal migration with their members migrating from rural to urban settlements
- About 10% has a member who migrated to RSA for job seeking (domestic work, shepherds, on farm related casual labourer) while some migrate to do some illegal jobs e.g. litotomeng.
- Of those who experienced external migration some were on ART treatment with *no guarantee they will still have access to their treatment while in RSA.*

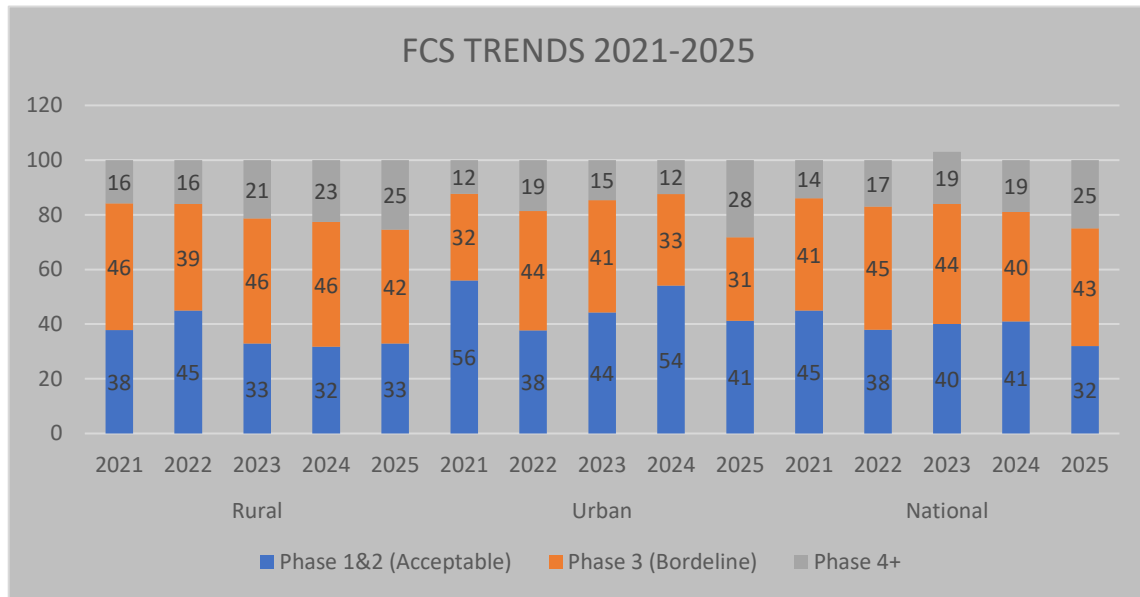
Protection

- Of the sampled households at least 1% experienced child marriage due to either pregnancy or peer pressure.
- Of 33% of households who indicated they have shepherds, Mokhotlong was highest with 39% of below 17 years old, followed by Thaba-Tseka (32%) & Qacha's Nek with 27%. This is a reflection of child labour which requires immediate attention.

12. Food Consumption Outcome Elements

Food Consumption Score (FCS) (7 Days)

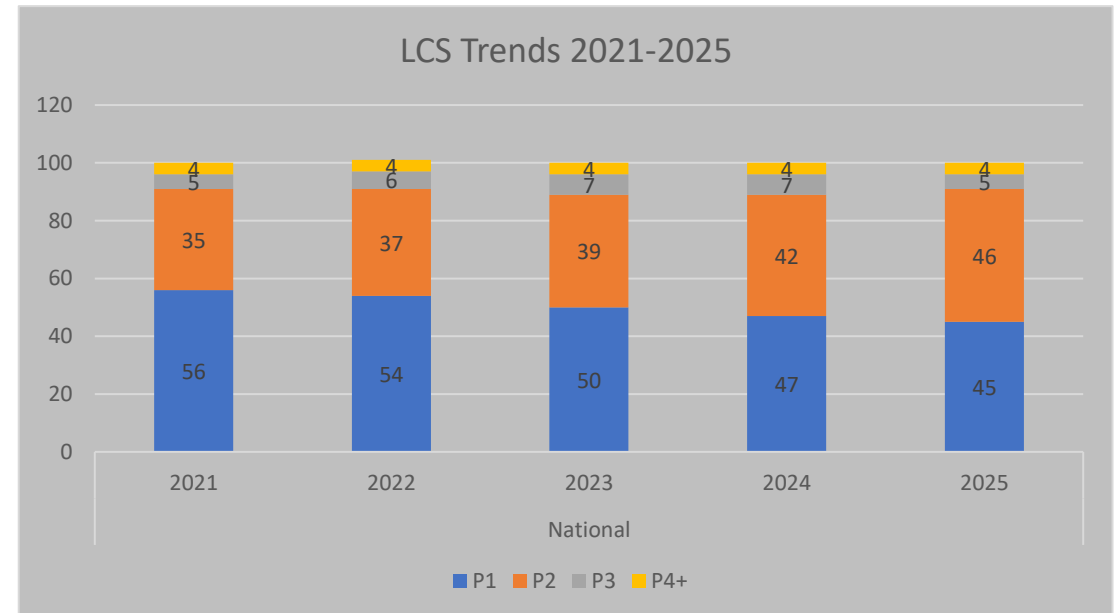
- Overall 25% households had poor consumption, 43% had borderline while only 32% had acceptable food consumption showing persistent poor dietary diversity since 2021.
- This is supported by HDDS (24 Hours) with 4% low diet diversity, 32 moderate (P3) and only 63% with acceptable diet.



Household Hunger Score :(30 days) at least 74% experienced no hunger, 9% moderate hunger with at least 17% severe hunger.

Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCS): (30 days)

At least 45 % of households did not employ any coping strategies, 46% stress coping strategies with 5% crisis & 4 % emergency coping strategies.



13. Health & Nutrition

Chronic Illness:

- Of the total sampled households, 34% had at least a member who was HIV Positive compared to 33% in 2024.
- The common **Child illnesses** assessed were : cough, fever and diarrhoea with more children having **cough** at the time of study compared to other illnesses and this was linked to cold temperature.
- Children from all wealth groups across all units of analysis were consuming mainly cereals (89%), followed by vegetables (45%), legumes (22%) and dairy products at 20% with only 10% consuming from meat groups or eggs.
- The wealthier households were also have larger proportion feeding their children from eggs, flesh foods & legumes.
- All wealth groups were feeding children less from vitamin rich fruits & vegetables.

Breastfeeding Practices:

- Of the household that had under-fives, 50% of breastfeeding mothers practiced exclusive breastfeeding same as in 2024
- Reasons stated for not practicing exclusive breastfeeding were: work related, followed by sickness, insufficient milk and because mother was HIV Positive.

Nutritional status

Prevalence of GAM at 2.9% (LVAC 2025) with at least 2 districts(Maseru and Mochale's Hoek) with 3.9% prevalence which calls for close monitoring.

Prevalence of Stunting at 32.9% (LVAC 2025) with highest at Mokhotlong 43.7%, Thaba-Tseka 40% & 39.2% in Qacha's Nek.

Health& Nutrition cont...

Immunization and Supplementation coverage

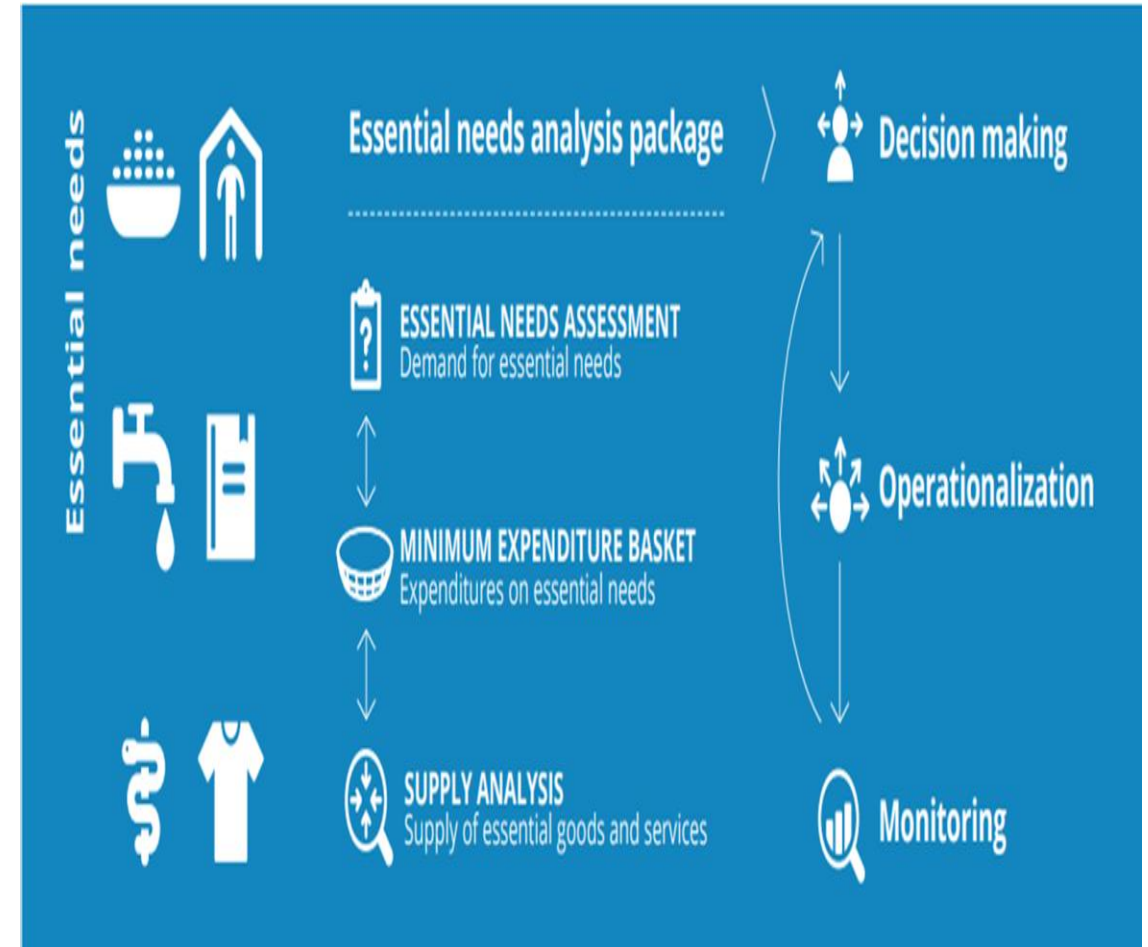
IMMUNIZATION AND SUPPLEMENTATION				
	PENTAVALENT	VITAMIN A	DEWORMING	RUBELLA
Butha Buthe	80.9%	83.0%	80.9%	85.1%
Leribe	84.4%	77.1%	67.7%	85.4%
Berea	82.8%	73.4%	70.3%	79.7%
Maseru	86.3%	83.6%	74.0%	83.6%
Mohale's Hoek	66.7%	92.3%	74.4%	79.5%
Mafeteng	80.3%	81.8%	78.8%	86.4%
Quthing	85.4%	95.1%	82.9%	82.9%
Qacha's Nek	93.5%	90.9%	81.8%	92.2%
Mokhotlong	85.2%	79.0%	74.1%	85.2%
Thaba-tseka	79.0%	76.5%	71.6%	79.0%

Summary coverage

- Overall 83% received Vitamin A same as previous year.
- About 73 % of children were reached with deworming tablets slightly below coverage compared to 75% in 2024 .
- Measles Rubella administered to at least above 80% across districts
- While 79% of children under-five years received Pentavalent below 88% in 2024.

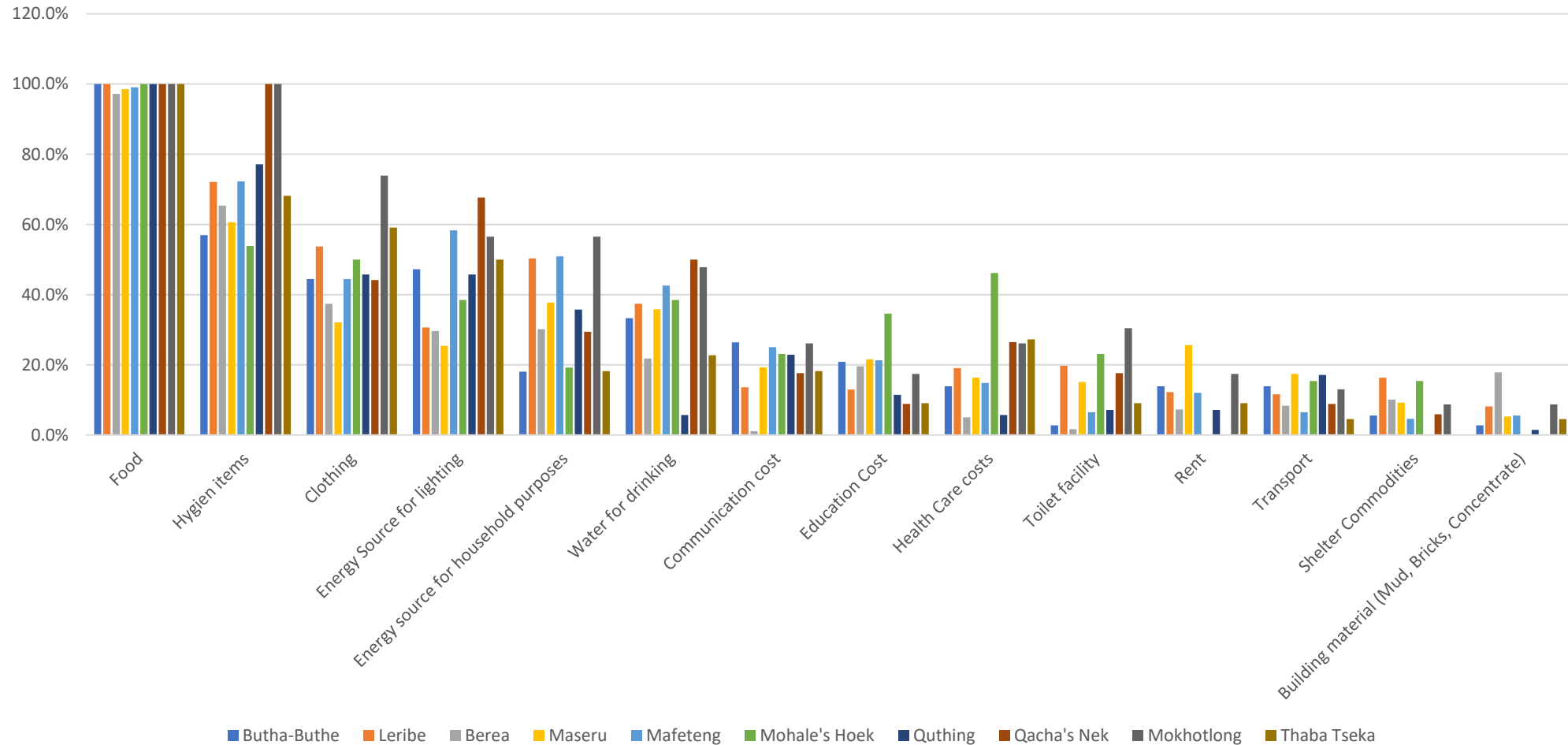
14. Integration of ENA into VAA

1. The Essential Needs Analysis was integrated into Annual VAA for the first time in 2023 to assess urban vulnerability. Was also integrated in 2024 and in the current analysis 2025.
2. Training on ENA indicators was also conducted to enhance in depth understanding for LVAC.
3. Conducting of household data collection for vulnerability analysis in Matukeng, which would enhance understanding of vulnerability issues in Matukeng, which is a pilot area for urban preparedness initiatives.
4. Essential Needs are defined as essential goods and services required on a regular or seasonal basis by households to ensure survival and minimum living standards, without resorting to negative coping mechanisms or compromising their health, dignity and essential livelihood assets.
5. The economic capacity to meet essential needs (ECMEN) is a measure of the economic vulnerability of a population which is defined as the percentage of households whose economic capacity is sufficient to meet their essential needs, as measured through the minimum expenditure basket (MEB).
6. Households are considered to have the economic capacity to meet their essential needs if their consumption expenditures exceed the minimum expenditure basket (MEB).



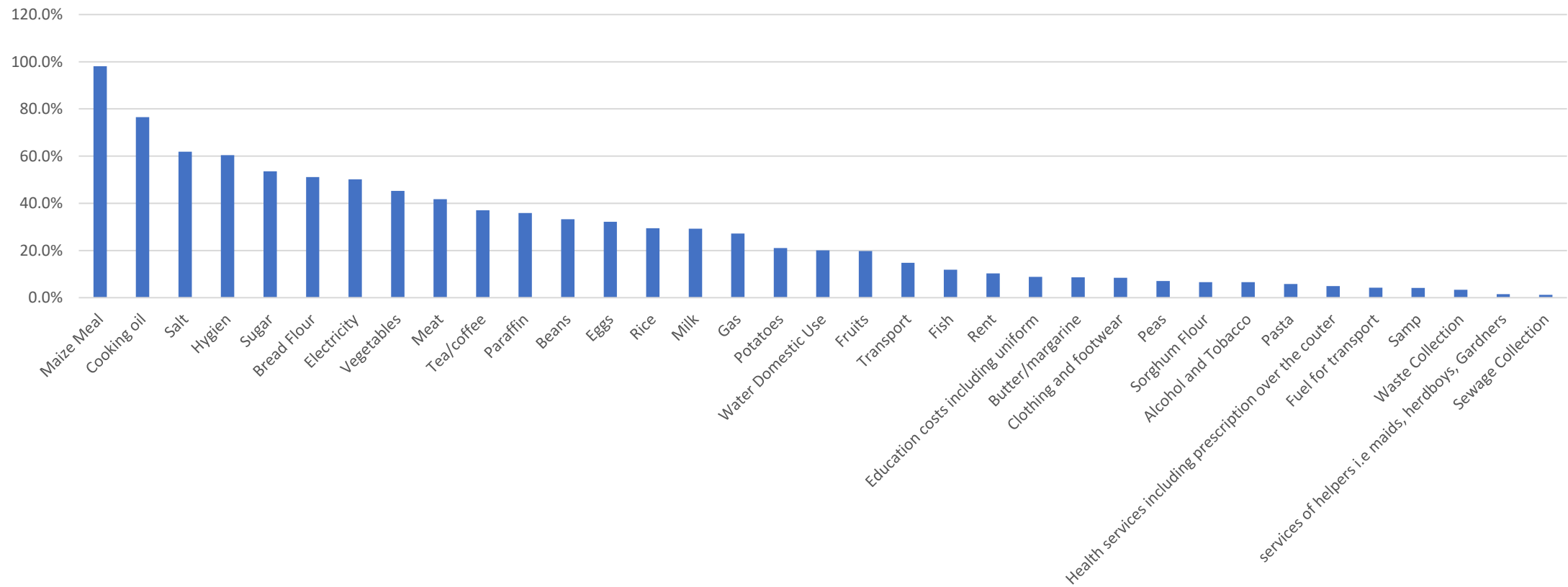
14.1. Economic Capacity to Meet Minimum Essential Needs

Household Essential Needs within Urban by districts



14.2. Economic Capacity to Meet Minimum Essential Needs

Urban HH Expenditure



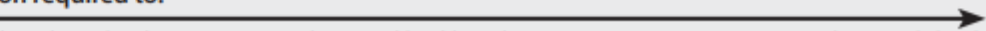
14.3.Survival Minimum Essential Basket (SMEB)

District	Commodity	Purchased Quantity Weight/Vol (Kg, L, g)	# of items purchased	Average price 2025	Number of times bought/month	Total monthly Cost 2025	Total Cost/Capita 2025
Butha-Buthe	Maize Meal	12.5 Kg	1	108	1	108	
	Cooking Oil	2 L	1	73	1	73	
	Salt	1 Kg	1	17	1	17	
	Washing powder soap	2kg	1	67	1	67	
	Roll on		1	24.67	1	24.67	
	Tooth paste	100ml	1	22.61	1	22.61	
	Vaseline	100ml	1	28.6	1	28.6	
	Body lotion		1	43.34	1	43.34	
	Sanitary towels	1 packet	1	20.64	1	20.64	
	Bathing soap bar (Aljara)	2 bars	2	20	1	40	
	Hygiene items (soap, vaseline, sanitary pads)	2 bars, 100ml, 1 packet	1		1	0	
	Sugar	2 Kg	1	43	1	43	
	Bread Flour	12.5 Kg	1	125	1	125	
	cabbage	1 head	1	17	4	68	
	Tomatoo	1 bundle	1	26.5	4	106	
	Vegetables (greens, tomatoe,onion)	Bundle	1		4	0	
	Paraffin	L	5	20	1	100	
	Beans	2 Kg pack	1	91	1	91	
	Eggs	1 tray (30 eggs)	1	61	1	61	
	Milk	L	1	22	4	88	
	Water Domestic Use	60 Lt & above	1	50	1	50	
	Fruits	1 Fruit	1	4	4	16	
	Fish	400g	1	32	4	128	
	Total					1320.86	330.215

❖ The total cost of SMEB slightly increased from M1320.86/Month for 4 people or M330 per Capita in 2024 to **M1220** for 4 or **M305** per Capita in 2025.

15. Food Insecure Population Estimates

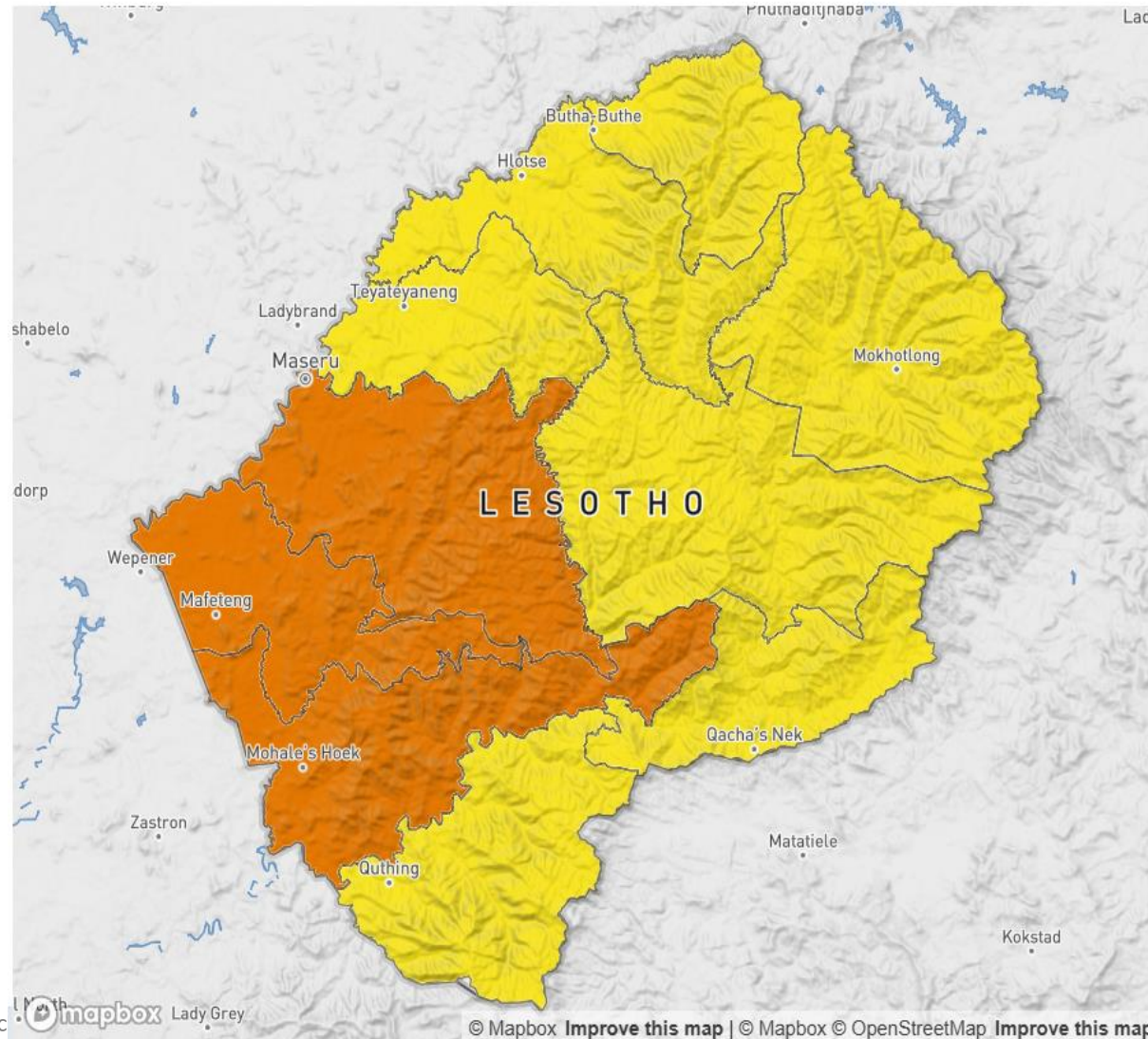
15.1. IPC AFI ANALYSIS Phase classification

Phase name and description	Phase 1 None/Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Phase 5 Catastrophe/ Famine
	Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.	Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies.	Households either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; or • Are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies. 	Households either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have large food consumption gaps which are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; or • Are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation. 	Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident. (For Famine Classification, an area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.)
Priority response objectives	Action required to build resilience and for disaster risk reduction	Action required for disaster risk reduction and to protect livelihoods	Urgent action required to: Protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps Save lives and livelihoods Revert/prevent widespread death and total collapse of livelihoods 		

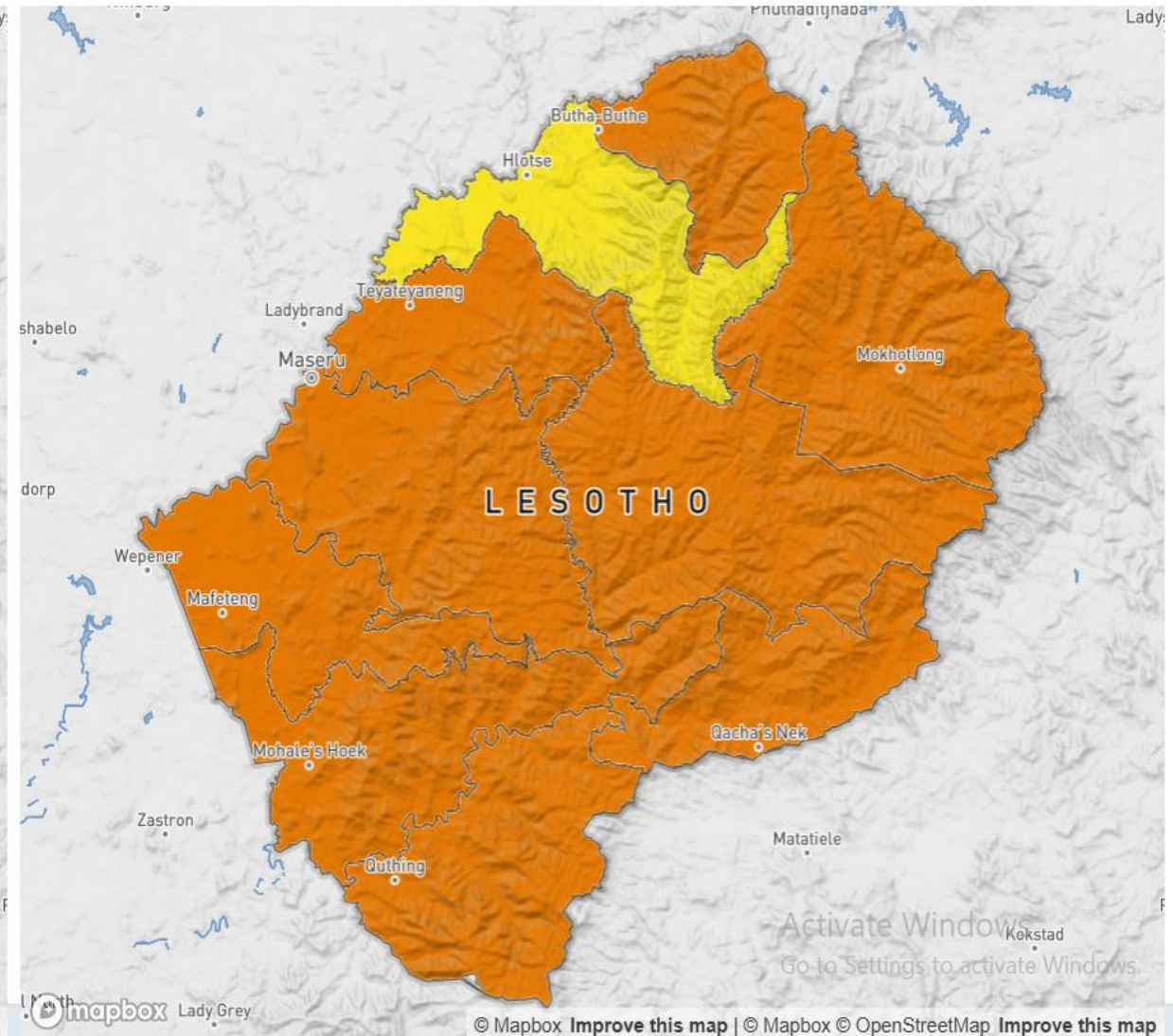
Classification of Acute Food Insecurity focuses on identifying areas with significant food gaps that require urgent action to save or protect lives and livelihoods.

15.2.IPC Food Insecure Population: 2025/26

Current: From 2025-06-01 - 2025-09-30 (September 2025)



Projected 1: From 2025-10-01 - 2026-03-31 (March 2026)



15.3. Population Estimates tables-current(May-September 2025)

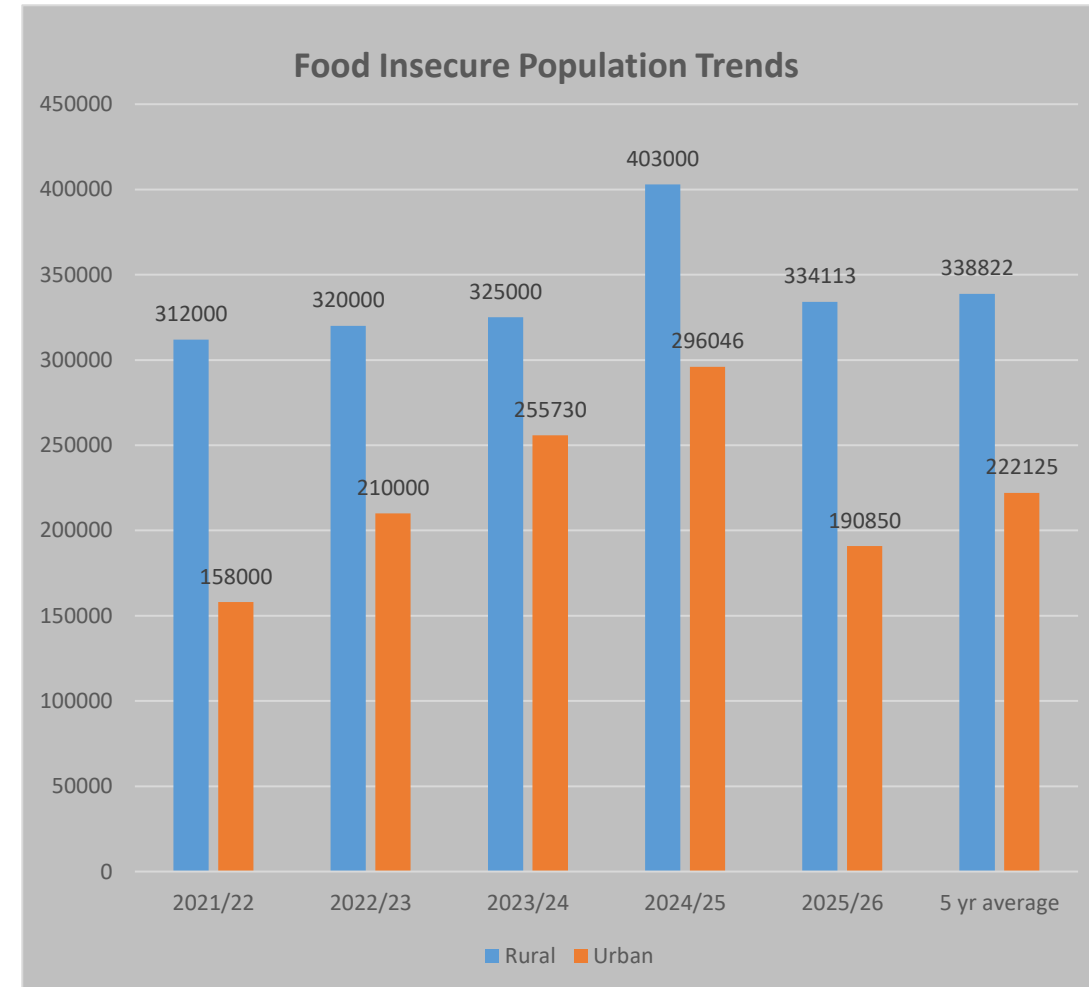
Unit	Unit Phase	Population Analyzed (#)	P1		P2		P3		P4		P5		P3+	
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Berea	P2	186,723	93,362	50	65,353	35	28,008	15	0	0	0	0	28,008	15
Butha-Buthe	P2	89,172	49,045	55	26,752	30	13,376	15	0	0	0	0	13,376	15
Leribe	P2	266,542	146,598	55	93,290	35	26,654	10	0	0	0	0	26,654	10
Mafeteng	P3	160,291	56,102	35	64,116	40	40,073	25	0	0	0	0	40,073	25
Maseru	P3	238,801	107,460	45	83,580	35	47,760	20	0	0	0	0	47,760	20
Mohale's Hoek	P3	163,418	65,367	40	57,196	35	40,855	25	0	0	0	0	40,855	25
Mokhotlong	P2	101,428	45,643	45	40,571	40	15,214	15	0	0	0	0	15,214	15
Qacha's Nek	P2	57,124	25,706	45	22,850	40	8,569	15	0	0	0	0	8,569	15
Quthing	P2	120,929	54,418	45	48,372	40	18,139	15	0	0	0	0	18,139	15
Thaba-Tseka	P2	131,220	52,488	40	59,049	45	19,683	15	0	0	0	0	19,683	15
Grand Totals		1,515,648	696,189	46	561,129	37	258,331	17	0	0	0	0	258,331	17

15.4. Population Estimates tables-Projection (October 2025 to March 2026)

Unit	Unit Phase	Population Analyzed (#)	P1		P2		P3		P4		P5		P3+	
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Berea	P3	186,723	74,689	40	74,689	40	37,345	20	0	0	0	0	37,345	20
Butha-Buthe	P3	89,172	40,127	45	31,210	35	17,834	20	0	0	0	0	17,834	20
Leribe	P2	266,542	119,944	45	106,617	40	39,981	15	0	0	0	0	39,981	15
Mafeteng	P3	160,291	48,087	30	64,116	40	48,087	30	0	0	0	0	48,087	30
Maseru	P3	238,801	95,520	40	83,580	35	59,700	25	0	0	0	0	59,700	25
Mohale's Hoek	P3	163,418	57,196	35	57,196	35	49,025	30	0	0	0	0	49,025	30
Mokhotlong	P3	101,428	40,571	40	40,571	40	20,286	20	0	0	0	0	20,286	20
Qacha's Nek	P3	57,124	19,993	35	25,706	45	11,425	20	0	0	0	0	11,425	20
Quthing	P3	120,929	54,418	45	42,325	35	24,186	20	0	0	0	0	24,186	20
Thaba-Tseka	P3	131,220	39,366	30	65,610	50	26,244	20	0	0	0	0	26,244	20
Grand Totals		1,515,648	589,911	39	591,620	39	334,113	22	0	0	0	0	334,113	22

16. Conclusion

- Total Food insecure Population for the Consumption year 2025/26 is estimated at 524,963 (131,241 HHs), compared to 699,049 in 2024/25. Thus a decrease of 25% an indication of improvement in food security.
 - Rural individuals)334,113/ 83,528 HHs priority livelihood zones are mountains, foothills and Southern Lowlands. Food consumption gaps to be more evident from October 2025 to February 2025
 - Urban: 190,850 individuals)/ 47,713 HHs
- **Total requirements:**
 - Food Value (Staple in Metric Tonnes) estimated 36,537 mt compared to 59,549 mt in 2024/25 season
 - Cash equivalent of M787,446,000 Million compared to M1,149,302,744 Billion in 2024/25. A decline of 31%.
 - Period when assistance will be required: is average 4 months (October to January 2026) with an estimated transfer value of needs estimated at M1150 (below M1509 IN 2024) within rural settlement while within urban settlement gap value per household is estimated at M1848 slightly above 2024 gap value.



17. Progress on implementation of 2024 Recommendations

<p>Immediate conditional and unconditional humanitarian assistance for all households IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) within rural settlement and households with below Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) within Urban settlement. (Short term)</p>	<p>At least government and partners mobilized at least 30% of total requirements to assist vulnerable & food insecure population reaching out at least 98% (677,3208 of 699,049)</p>
<p>Government to continue with the initiative of local purchase of grains and beans from local producers to promote market opportunities for farmers who have surplus from own produce (Medium & Long term).</p>	<p>Government had at least spend M8,450,650.00 for purchasing locally produced grains and legumes from farmers who had surplus from own produce.</p>
<p>The government to continue implementing agricultural inputs subsidy which includes the short seasoned varieties, varieties that will withstand low soil moisture content and supply be on time to facilitate timely planting. However a special study is required to establish the impact of the programme (Medium to Long term).</p>	<p>Government budget used to subsidise seeds and fertilizers was M315,178,026.00</p>
<p>Government to intensify Integrated Catchment Management initiatives to improve rangelands and protect water sources. (Long term)</p>	<p>There are ongoing programmes under RENOKA project aimed at improving rangelands and protect water sources</p>
<p>The National Strategic Resilience framework should be fully operationalised to ensure that households diversify their livelihoods to withstand future shocks. Thus all interventions to address the prevailing food insecurity should aim at building resilience of Basotho Nation and such intervention should target relevant population groups. (Short, Medium & Long term)</p>	<p>LVAC conducted Integrated Context Analysis to inform programming for immediate needs, DRR and resilience building initiatives.</p>
<p>Vaccination Campaigns to prevent seasonal livestock diseases. (Short, Medium & Long term)</p>	<p>FAO continues to support (technically & financially) Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition to enhance vaccination campaigns.</p>

18. Risk factors to monitor in the Projection Period

- 1.Prices of staple food & fuel
- 2.Seasonal Rainfall performance (Rainfall, Temperatures, NDVI & WRSI)
- 3.Livestock and human diseases outbreaks
- 4.Humanitarian Food Security Assistance

Approach: Use the following secondary data sources/Reports

- 1.Monthly Price monitoring from BOS
2. Short and long term weather forecasts from Lesotho Meteorological Services
3. Monthly updates from Department of Livestock and Ministry of Health.
- 4.Africa Risk View Applications and ASAP on the updates on the performance of rainfall and vegetation cover

Responsible party

DMA through Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment and sectoral working group situational reports

19. Recommendations

1. Immediate conditional and unconditional humanitarian assistance for food insecure population in both rural & urban settlement.
2. Government to continue to design interventions intended to promote market opportunities for farmers who have surplus from own produce.
3. The government to implement programmes that will improve food production and nutrition security.
4. Government to intensify Integrated Catchment Management initiatives to improve rangelands and protect water sources.
5. Intensify livestock Vaccination campaigns to prevent seasonal livestock diseases.
6. Government to scale up anticipatory actions and community based early warning systems and IBF to mitigate impact of hazards and shocks on food and nutrition security.
7. Government to invest in risk financing to enhance early action to supporting food insecure populations.
8. Government to adopt recommended actions from the Integrated Context Analysis to fully operationalize the National Resilience Building Strategic Framework
9. Strengthen collaboration among all stakeholders to avoid duplications and promote effective response and complementation

20. Assessment Budget and Source of Funding

Source of Funding	Amount (USD)	% of Total
WFP	40,000	27%
FAO	11,000	8%
UNICEF	23,000	16%
LRCS	8,000	5%
WVI	12,900	9%
Government (DMA)	51,000	35%
Total USD/M	USD145,904/ (M2,6 Million)	100%

KEA LEBOHA

Three-Month Project Work Plan (September – November)

	Activity	Target	Responsible Person/Team
1	Finalize rehabilitation of 2 partially completed water sources	2 water sources in Thaba Bosiu , Ha Ntlama	Rural Water Supply and Project Officers
2	Begin construction of 4 new water sources	4 additional Water sources	Rural Water Supply and Project Officers
3	Install fencing and visibility boards at all water points	6 sources	Logistics & WASH Teams
4	Official handover of completed water sources to communities	6 communities	Project Manager
5	Monitoring of winter and summer cropping after distribution of	4 districts	Project officers Officer 7 Volunteers
6	Conduct training for new Lead Farmers and CDRTs	5 districts	Project Manager
7	On-site monitoring of planting activities and farmer support		project team
8	Conduct community feedback sessions (CEA integration)		CEA Officer / Field Facilitators
9	Prepare for evaluation: data tools, logistics, team orientation		Project Manager / PMER
10	Conduct final project evaluation (data collection & analysis)		PMER Team / External Evaluator
11	Organize and facilitate lessons learned workshop		Project Manager
12	Final project report writing and submission		Project Team

r)			
Timeframe			Status
September	October	November	
			Partial
			Not Started
			Not Started
			Not Started
			In Progress
			In Progress
			Ongoing
			Planned
			Not Started
			Pending
			Planned
			Planned