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COUNTRY PROGRAMME—LESOTHO (2000–2002)

ABSTRACT

Lesotho is classified as a least-developed and low-income, food-deficit country (LDC/LIFD). It ranks 134th out of 174 countries in the UNDP Human Development Report for 1998. The population is estimated at 2 million, with a growth rate of 2.6 percent in 1998. The under-5 mortality rate is 39 per 1,000, the gross national product (GNP) is US\$770 and the gross domestic product (GDP) is US\$354. The country is completely surrounded by South Africa, on which it largely depends in terms of import and export of food, goods and services, and remittances from mine workers. The FAO Aggregate Household Food Security Index is 74.1 (1993–95). Eighty percent of the population live in rural areas, but agriculture contributes only 11 percent to GDP (1996). Poverty and chronic undernourishment of children under 5 and primary schoolchildren are particularly pronounced in the mountainous areas. The strategic focus of the Country Programme will therefore be on the rural poor in these areas.

The Country Programme has a duration of three years, matching the programming cycles of the other United Nations agencies in Lesotho, and follows the national triennial development plan. In accordance with decision 1999/EB.A/2 of the Executive Board, WFP focuses its development activities on five objectives. This Country Programme addresses human resource development, particularly objectives one, two and four (enable young children and expectant and nursing mothers to meet their special nutritional and nutrition-related health needs; enable poor households to invest in human capital through education and training; and mitigate the effects of natural disasters, in areas vulnerable to recurring crises of this kind).

The primary school feeding project (No. 3853) has been operating since 1965. Evaluation missions fielded during each project phase have determined that the project successfully meets its objectives of increasing school attendance and improving concentration and learning. In the Country Programme, this component has been refocused on the rural mountainous areas, as schools in the lowlands and foothills have become self-reliant and could be phased out. The Country Programme also includes three new activities: support to early childhood development (ECD) centres; non-formal education; and disaster preparedness and mitigation.

Over the three-year period, the Country Programme will require 12,700 tons of food, representing US\$5.5 million in direct operational costs for assistance to 138,600 beneficiaries, of whom more than 90 percent are women and children. The Government envisages contributing US\$2.1 million towards the implementation of the Country Programme in addition to its share of the costs for internal transport, storage and handling of commodities.

The guidance provided by the Board when it examined the CSO in January 1999 has been taken into consideration. The country office is participating in the preparation of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Lesotho. It chairs the task force on collaboration with NGOs. Contacts with the World Bank and IFAD have been established for possible cooperation and mutual support in the new activities of non-formal education, vocational training of the rural poor, and disaster preparedness and mitigation.

The Executive Director recommends approval by the Board of this Country Programme. The total direct operational costs are approximately US\$5.5 million. The related direct support costs (DOC) are estimated at US\$600,000. Of the total resources required (US\$6.1 million) about US\$700,000 has already been committed under ongoing projects. The balance of US\$5.4 million will be committed upon approval of this Country Programme. The indirect support costs will be calculated on the basis of the standard rate determined by the Executive Board.

NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for approval by the Executive Board.

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documentation and Meetings Clerk (tel.: 066513-2641).



LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

AEE0	Area Education Extension Officer	ILO	International Labour Organization
AHFSI	Aggregate Household Food Security Index	LANFE	Lesotho Association for Non-formal Education
ART	Area Resource Teacher	LDC	Least developed country
CCA	Common Country Assessment	LDTC	Lesotho Distance Teaching Centre
CPC	Country Programme Committee	LIFDC	Low-income, food-deficit country
CSB	Corn-soya blend	LPA	Learning Post Administrator
CSN	Country Strategy Note	MOE	Ministry of Education
CWS	Civil Works Section	NFE	Non-formal education
DDMT	District Disaster Management Team	NTT	National Teacher Trainer
DEEO	District Education Extension Officer	PSLE	Primary school leaving education
DMA	Disaster Management Authority	SCF	Save the Children Fund
DMP	Disaster Management Plan	SSRFU	School Self-Reliance and Feeding Unit
DOC	Direct operational costs	UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
ECD	Early childhood development	UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
FMU	Food Management Unit	UNV	United Nations Volunteer
GDP	Gross domestic product	VAG	Vulnerability Analysis Group
GNP	Gross national product	VDMT	Village Disaster Management Team



STRATEGIC FOCUS: FOOD INSECURITY AND THE HUNGRY POOR

1. The Country Programme for WFP activities in Lesotho covers a three-year period, from January 2000 to December 2002. It is based on the CSO for Lesotho, considered by the Board in January 1999 (document WFP/EB.1/99/5), and on wide consultations with development partners. These include government departments, United Nations agencies, NGOs, and donor representatives in Lesotho.

THE HUNGRY POOR: PRIORITIES IN ADDRESSING THEIR NEEDS

Food Insecurity, Poverty and Vulnerability at the National and Household Level

2. Lesotho is classified as a least developed, low-income, food-deficit country (LDC/LIFDC), with an Aggregate Household Food Security Index (AHFSI) of 74.1 (1993–95). It has a population estimated at 2 million in 1998, a per capita gross national product (GNP) of US\$770, and a gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$354 (Human Development Report, 1998). In 1998, the UNDP Human Development Index ranked Lesotho 134th out of 174 countries.
3. Poverty is disproportionately high in nearly 40 percent of Basotho households that rely on farming, herding, informal business or casual labour for most of their income, and among the roughly 7 percent of people living in households headed by unemployed adults. In rural areas, where over 80 percent of households live, an estimated 54 percent of households are poor; of these households, 24 percent are extremely poor. Poverty is much more pronounced in the rural areas of the mountains and Senqu River Valley than in the foothills and lowlands.
4. While agriculture provides employment for about 50 percent of the domestic labour force, its share of GDP fell from 50 percent in 1973 to 11 percent in 1996. In normal years, Lesotho relies on imports for about 25 percent of its basic food needs. The scarcity of arable land has led to overcultivation of the available land and further degradation. Over 30 percent of the Basotho are landless, and most of those with land have only one field of on average one hectare.
5. An IFAD socio-economic and production systems study from 1998 in the rural mountains showed that only 7 percent of households are self-sufficient in food. Of those interviewed, 80 percent maintain that home production accounts for less than 60 percent of the household's food requirements. The larger proportion of households without cash income acquire cereals through payment for casual work (mainly weeding) or from households that are better off. Over 60 percent of the assistance provided in this way is in the form of food. Households headed by women frequently engage in arrangements such as sharecropping with neighbours. About 40 percent of the households are indebted. Households borrow for a variety of reasons, but chiefly to buy food (31 percent) and clothing (16 percent), and to pay school fees (14 percent).
6. The World Bank poverty assessment of 1995 concludes that *de facto* women-headed households (29 percent of the 54 percent of households headed by women) are far better off than *de jure* households headed by women. Slightly more *de jure* women-headed



households are ultra poor than male-headed households (35 percent compared to 29 percent).

7. Chronic malnutrition is the most prevalent form of malnutrition in the country. A national survey (1992) showed stunting for 33 percent of the under-5 age group, with the highest prevalence in the mountains, ranging from 36 percent in Thaba Tseka to 40 percent in Quachas Nek. Current conditions have not improved. In the mountains, for all measures of malnutrition, boys under 5, who often accompany their older brothers as herd boys, fare substantially worse than girls in the same age group.
8. South Africa's preferential employment policy for South African nationals caused a decrease in the Basotho male labour force employed in South Africa (currently 40 percent). Remittances have decreased over the years, from 48 percent of GNP in 1980–85 to 36 percent in the period 1991–95. The WFP-supported Civil Works Feeder Roads project in Lesotho saw an increase of 27 percent in male participation. The position of women, particularly within the family, has been seriously affected by the increased retrenchment. Domestic disputes and violence are rising as a result of the changed balance in contributions to household income and decision-making. A gender perspective needs to be applied in targeting men and/or women from all families, including ex-mineworker families, for skills development programmes.
9. School performance has improved to the extent that the proportion of pupils entering Standard One who pass Primary School Leaving Education (PSLE) has increased from 51 percent in 1990 to 68 percent in 1994. Repetition rates for the lower standards have shown a steady drop from 30 percent in 1990 to 24 percent by 1995 (Ministry of Education (MOE), 1998).
10. However, primary schools, particularly in the mountains, suffer from acute problems: average drop-out rates for classes 1 to 7 are 11.2 percent for boys and 7.2 percent for girls. In times of stress, boys from poor families are more likely to drop out, as hiring boys for herding is a common survival mechanism among resource-poor households; or they go to initiation school (traditional tribal school) at puberty. Boys are also expected to find work as unskilled labourers in South Africa.
11. Despite the fact that women are more educated, bear most of the responsibilities for the household and represent the majority of the domestic labour force, their social status is low. Under customary law, all women are considered perpetual minors whose guardianship is passed from fathers to husband, or to a male relative. Under general law, single women attain majority at the age of 21. The status of married women varies with their marital contract.

Government Strategies for Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and Disaster Mitigation

12. The priority of the Government is poverty reduction, with a focus on the mountains and the Senqu Valley, by extending education and training opportunities in order to increase the skills and employability of the Basotho, and by managing poverty related to environmental degradation.
13. The Government allocates the largest share of the budget to education, about 29 percent of the total recurrent budget, according to the Planning Unit of MOE (1998). Vocational and non-formal education is being extended by, among others, constructing additional classrooms, and using existing primary and secondary schools for evening classes for drop-outs, herd boys and unemployed miners. The Government's poverty reduction



strategy aims at strengthening the capacity of local institutions that are represented or work in the target areas.

14. Lesotho is prone to man-made and natural shocks such as drought, heavy snowfall, hailstorms, tornadoes and localized floods. The Disaster Management Authority (DMA) established in 1993 developed Disaster Management Plans (DMPs), which are partly integrated with national development plans and are financed by an ad hoc Disaster Management Fund maintained by the Ministry of Finance. DMA coordinates relief assistance and undertakes mitigation and preparedness activities. A multisectoral group was recently established for vulnerability assessment in Lesotho, led by DMA. Large local milling firms hold a national strategic food reserve, currently at 7,000 tons of grain.

Government Food Aid Policies

15. The quantities of food aid reaching Lesotho are relatively small compared with the amount that is commercially imported every year. In 1997, food aid represented only 5.2 percent of commercial imports (National Early Warning Unit). The Ministry of Economic Planning is initiating a comprehensive national food aid policy to ensure harmonization with national food security and poverty reduction strategies.

Cooperation with the United Nations System, Donors and NGOs

16. The Government of Lesotho has decided not to develop a Country Strategy Note (CSN). However, the United Nations agencies, in close cooperation with the Government, donors and NGOs are preparing a Common Country Assessment (CCA), leading to a United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).
17. WFP continues to collaborate with other United Nations agencies and NGOs already active in areas targeted by WFP Country Programme activities. The consultative process will be further intensified through the CCA and UNDAF, to ensure better coordination of international development cooperation at the country level. In view of the proposed concentration of WFP resources in the education sector, the Ministry of Planning has designated the MOE as the main implementing partner of WFP projects.

ASSESSMENT OF WFP ASSISTANCE TO DATE

18. As indicated in the CSO for Lesotho, total cumulative WFP food aid from 1964 up to 1999 is valued at US\$222 million. Such assistance had a positive impact on infrastructure development, especially in providing access roads to isolated rural areas, and improving primary education. Results have been good enough to permit a progressive phasing out of a great number of schools, and a planned total phasing out of road construction activities (project 352.08) during 2000. Difficulties experienced during the implementation of WFP activities in Lesotho are similar to those experienced in other LDCs; they have been and continue to be addressed in a pragmatic way, as summarized in paragraphs 19 to 21 below.
19. **Project 3853.01—Food assistance to primary schools.** During the first project extension from 1995 to 1999, WFP and the Government of Lesotho provided technical training, tools and agricultural packages for productive activities, enabling 299 schools with 104,018 pupils in the foothills to be phased out. This self-reliance approach for schools began in the first phase, from 1990 to 1994, in the lowlands, when 30 percent of schools receiving food, with 171,000 pupils, became self-reliant. The approach will be



continued in the mountains. A participatory learning exercise in 13 phased-out schools found that children continued to receive a meal every day, although fuel and water shortages continued to be a challenge. This also constrains continuing assistance to schools in areas characterized by degraded natural resources. WFP and United States Peace Corps support continues to enable the Government to monitor both phased-out and aided schools.

20. **Project 352.08—Construction, upgrading and maintenance of rural access roads.** In the food-for-work project, support to the Civil Works Section (CWS) and the employment-generation programme will be phased out in 2000. This programme supported the priority area, “Improving Employment and Income Opportunities for the Poor”, under the Lesotho Poverty Reduction Programme. The Government’s Lesotho Highland Revenue Fund and the Roads Fund will promote cash-for-work programmes for rural infrastructure development.
21. The roads project made a considerable contribution by temporarily reducing unemployment and addressing food shortages. A beneficiary survey (1998) found that 90 percent of workers, the majority women, had no other source of income or food; they reported low levels of food stocks and poor crop production in the project areas visited. Some 12,600 workers were employed for 16 months during the four years. While outputs were high, targets were not always met due to climatic conditions, absenteeism and the limited capacity of CWS—factors that were underestimated in the design stage. Efforts are being made to organize experienced workers into groups to be drawn upon by local governments for continuation of the maintenance work.
22. The focus on self-reliance will not be restricted to education. Future food-for-work activities will focus more on community and household capacity-building for longer-term food security, through training and support to disaster preparedness and mitigation activities.

COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Resources and Country Programme Preparation Process

23. WFP’s contribution under the present Country Programme amounts to about US\$6.1 million for three years. This amount includes: approximately US\$5.5 million for direct operational costs, i.e. the value of 12,700 tons of food commodities, related transportation costs and the value of other project inputs; and about US\$600,000 for direct support costs to ensure local supervision and monitoring. Out of the total resources (US\$6.1 million) required, about US\$700,000 has already been committed under ongoing projects 352.08—Infrastructure Development, and 3853.01—Primary School Feeding. The balance of about US\$5.4 million will be committed upon the Executive Board’s approval of the present Country Programme. Details of WFP cost estimates per activity are shown in Annex I.
24. The Government’s contribution to the implementation of the present Country Programme is estimated at US\$2.1 million. This estimate refers to costs directly related to personnel and facilities to manage, store and distribute food to the ultimate beneficiaries, and to account for commodities and non-food items received. The major part of this contribution will be devoted to self-reliance activities in schools.
25. The Executive Board’s guidance when examining the CSO in January 1999 has been followed. The four activities outlined below have been developed through consultation



workshops and individual meetings with representatives of the Government of Lesotho, other United Nations system organizations (in particular FAO, UNDP and UNICEF) resident donor representatives and NGOs. The Country Programme Committee (CPC), co-chaired by the Ministry of Economic Planning and WFP, has given general direction and advice. The Government will make the necessary budgetary allocations for all departments responsible for the implementation of WFP-assisted activities.

26. The recently established Vulnerability Analysis Group (VAG) will help identify and target food-insecure communities. The group will produce a biannual vulnerability assessment update, that will be reviewed by WFP and implementing partners. The group is comprised of the following governmental ministries: Agriculture (Nutrition, Crops and Livestock Departments), Health (Nutrition and Disease Control Departments), Economic Planning (Bureau of Statistics), Natural Resources (Hydrology and Agrometeorology Departments), Local Government and Food and Nutrition Coordinating Office. WFP will also solicit the participation of FAO and UNICEF, and NGOs such as the Rural Self-help Development Association, World Vision International, and Lesotho Red Cross to enhance food security and nutrition aspects.

Strategic Focus of the Country Programme

27. In line with the Government's policy on poverty reduction, WFP activities will centre on enabling poor households to invest in human capital through education and training. Pre-schoolers and primary schoolchildren will receive food assistance, as will voluntary helpers in non-formal education (particularly for herd boys in the food-insecure mountain districts) and communities at risk of natural disasters.
28. This assistance aims to increase learning opportunities for at-risk groups in order to strengthen their capacity to survive a rapidly degrading environment and changing regional economy. Therefore, the focus will be on poor and marginal mountain districts of the country. The implementation strategies will foster Early Childhood Development (ECD), primary and non-formal education and training programmes, and develop ways to reach food-insecure people.
29. In support of the draft national policy on gender and development, the Country Programme investments in human capital will be targeted to people and activities that reduce the disadvantages of poor herd boys, and the low social status of Basotho women and of the families of returned mine workers.

Basic Activity 1—Food Assistance to Primary Schools

30. **Strategic focus.** The strategic focus of the activity is to support the Government's strategic priority for the development of human resources, particularly the MOE policy of "Education with Production".
31. **Problem analysis.** WFP has a long-standing commitment to support the Government's initiatives in primary education. WFP assistance to the school feeding project began in 1965. In view of the country's limited natural resources, the development of human resources has remained a strategic focus in the poverty reduction strategy. In 1991 the Government introduced the policy of "Education with Production", which aims at strengthening the teaching of practical skills at schools, and to enable schools and communities to provide school meals from their own resources. WFP has been providing food assistance for the development of education and complementary non-food items to self-reliance of the schools assisted. The mid-term evaluation (October 1997) concluded



that the school feeding project had been successful, in terms of the low level of absenteeism (drop-out rates were below 5 percent), and in that phased-out schools continued to provide daily school meals.

32. Future WFP support will focus on the mountain areas. The main constraints to enrolment and reasons for dropping out of school in these areas are difficult access to schools because of the difficult terrain, together with economic constraints. Many children walk very long distances to school without eating breakfast; in general food consumption is inadequate in the mountain areas targeted by this activity. Drop-out rates remain high in the mountain areas, particularly in Quachas Nek at 14.4 percent for boys (who often return to work as herd boys) and 5.5 percent for girls (1996).
33. School fees still contribute significantly to drop-out rates for both boys and girls. The average primary school fees doubled between 1991 and 1996, reflecting economic inflation. The Government intends to introduce cost-free education, phased in from the year 2000, and beginning with Standard One. Higher attendance rates are expected, including an increased repetition of the first grade by marginal performers. Free education will also have an impact on self-reliance and will require an expansion of the food production programme.
34. Poor families cannot afford protein-rich commodities in their diets. Iodine deficiency disorders are a serious problem affecting many school-age children in Lesotho. A national survey in 1993 indicated that just over 40 percent of school-age children had goitre. The incidence of goitre seems to show a decline in mountain schools, following some government interventions, beginning in 1998 and supported by WFP, to fortify maize meal with iodine.
35. School feeding in mountain areas is often constrained by a lack of kitchen and storage facilities. Most mountain schools need new kitchens that conserve fuel and eliminate smoke, but only 15 percent of the schools have such units. MOE has requested that the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) continue funding the construction and/or refurbishing of kitchens and that the Ministry of Agriculture (Division of Forestry) provide seedlings for trees, including fruit trees for school gardens. The possibilities of changing the food basket from three commodities to one of corn-soya blend (CSB) will be considered during the programme cycle, as it requires less fuel for cooking.
36. **Objectives and intended outcomes.** The long-term objective is to support the development of human resources in Lesotho through the implementation of the Government's education policy of "Education with Production". The immediate objectives are to provide dietary support to primary school children in the mountains so as to alleviate short-term hunger, thereby improving attention span, stabilizing attendance and reducing drop-out rates. An early morning drink and one cooked meal will be provided during 180 days a year for approximately 98,200 primary schoolchildren in 562 schools.
37. **Role and modalities of food aid.** In marginal mountain districts, households count on the school feeding programme to meet family food needs. Food assistance to primary schools in the mountain areas continues to attract more children and reduces the problem of high drop-out rates. Savings to household budgets contribute towards the payment of school fees. The daily ration of 150 g of maize meal, 40 of pulses, 10 of vegetable oil and 3 of iodized salt for 180 days a year has a nutritive value of 763 Kcal of energy, 23 g of protein and 16 g of fat per day. This ration provides 36 percent of the 2,100 Kcal recommended daily energy intake. Following the recommendation of the mid-term review mission, schools have been instructed to prepare an early morning drink (traditionally



referred to as *motoho*—liquid porridge), using 30 g of the 150 g maize meal. This will curb short-term hunger and increase the children's attention span.

38. **Implementation strategy.** The proposed approach to school feeding under the Country Programme will refocus in the mountain districts implemented by the MOE, specifically the School Self-Reliance and Feeding Unit (SSRFU), which provides the project manager, nutrition officers and school extension officers. In response to mid-term review recommendations,¹ WFP will hire four extension officers, who will be employed by MOE in the second year. Additionally, WFP will provide one United Nations Volunteer (UNV) to support more regular extension supervision of school feeding activities.
39. The Food Management Unit (FMU), in liaison with MOE, is responsible for the delivery of food to the schools. In order to avoid overstocking and spoilage in schools with poor storage facilities, the policy of delivering food in four quarters, instead of two, will be implemented.
40. **Participants and intended benefits.** In rural areas, where 59 percent of households are headed by women and poor, a lunch meal for their children relieves the burden of preparing a principal meal. MOE has proposed phasing out 80 schools and approximately 24,600 of the 98,200 pupils within the mountains for the project's duration. These schools are near the main road or within the vicinity of the towns. MOE believes that these schools have a higher potential for self-reliance activities. WFP school feeding is bridging the period until the schools become self-reliant.
41. The Government and WFP will conduct a targeting exercise during the first year of the project to identify indicators for determining criteria for phasing out. These include the strength of the community organization, unavailability of the land for agricultural production, and water, fuel and marketing outlets. Results from this exercise will determine the phasing-out strategy.
42. As in the previous phase, WFP will provide non-food items in the form of garden and fencing materials to all the schools ready for self-reliance activities. This input will be coordinated with the UNDP project "Africa 2000", which provides fencing and garden equipment and materials to rural schools. The Government will provide the schools with an income-generating agriculture package of seeds, poultry, pigs, etc. Through information campaigns, SSRFU will sensitize communities to the effects of the withdrawal of food aid, and encourage their support in taking over school feeding on a sustainable basis.
43. **Support, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation arrangements.** MOE will continue to carry out monitoring and evaluation with the help of District and Area Education Extension Officers (DEEOs and AEEOs), which will include the extension officers formerly hired by WFP. Resource persons from SSRFU, FMU and WFP will train the DEEOs and AEEOs, who will subsequently act as trainers for all mountain area school feeding managers. Future cooperation with FAO for skills training and self-reliance activities is also contemplated.
44. Six United States Peace Corps volunteers have been requested, four of whom will continue working with self-reliance schools in the foothills. The remaining two will assist

¹ The evaluation mission (October 1997) recommended that the district education officers and the district resource teachers who are overburdened by academic responsibilities should be assisted by the school extension officers, whose role is specifically that of school feeding management and follow-up of self-reliance activities.



school authorities in food management activities, monitoring of food quality, record-keeping, marketing and long-term sustainability of self-reliance projects. In the short and medium term, possibilities for the use of bio-gas and solar panels in substitution of fuelwood will be explored in collaboration with other organizations such as FAO. The current MOE monitoring system will be assessed to ensure improvements in record-keeping and regular reporting from schools. The effectiveness of extension officers in promoting and holding schools accountable for the provision of an early morning drink will also be regularly reviewed.

45. The Country Programme evaluation will assess the effectiveness of the WFP investment in meeting the activity's objectives. Key indicators to measure the effectiveness of food aid will be as follows:
- a) timely provision of early morning drinks as per the plan;
 - b) drop-out rates by class and gender;
 - c) number of schools engaged in agricultural production for sustainable school feeding; and
 - d) degree of community involvement and support towards a school feeding programme during and after WFP support.
46. **Cost estimate.** The total quantity of food required over the three years is 10,800 tons. The total direct operational costs (DOC) are US\$4,442,335. From this amount, a total of 1,100 tons at a total DOC of US\$527,000 is already committed in the year 2000, under the ongoing school feeding project 3853.01. Government costs for the ongoing phase (three months in 2000) will amount to US\$96,000, and US\$1.4 million for Basic Activity 1, excluding its ITSH contribution.

Basic Activity 2—Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres

47. The strategic focus of the activity is to support the Government's initiative to increase: the development of ECD centres in rural mountainous areas; the number of children attending ECD centres; and the children's nutritional intake.
48. **Problem analysis.** ECD centres play a crucial role in reducing the number of young Basotho children affected by poor health and nutritional status, and better preparing these children for entry into primary school.
49. The Bureau of Statistics carried out a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in 1996 to measure progress towards the World Summit Goals for Children. Achievement rates declined from lowlands to foothills to mountain areas. Nutritional status is worse in the districts of Mokhotlong, Thaba Tseka and Mhales Hoek, with malnutrition levels at 17 to 18 percent. By comparison, lowland areas in Butha Buthe had already attained 75 percent of the target of nutritional improvement for 2000. In terms of education, of the 1,000 children entering Standard One, less than half eventually graduate from Standard Seven, according to the 1996 census results. By intervening early in childhood, it is anticipated that these conditions will eventually improve.
50. Pre-primary school attendance is low. In 1995, approximately 13 percent of children under the age of 6 attended ECD centres. A draft directory of ECD centres "by district" is currently being prepared by the University of Rome. In addition to MOE-registered centres, there are unregistered ECD centres, the number of which is not known at present.



51. During an evaluation of the WFP ECD emergency feeding programme (from November 1998 to April 1999), officials at the ECD unit noted that many unregistered ECD centres were now enquiring about registration from the targeted districts. The ECD unit has been able to register these centres using available support in the relevant districts from National Teacher Trainers (NTTs) and Area Resource Teachers (ARTs). The proposed ECD feeding project would achieve similar results in the mountain districts.
52. The majority of ECD centres in the mountains are community initiatives. Parents pay fees for their children, and the principal, and in some cases the assistant teachers are paid a nominal wage from these resources. Many of the buildings used for ECD centres are privately owned and a monthly rent is paid. If any surplus funds remain, they are invested in materials for the ECD centre or to purchase a site or building in the future. Parents are also expected to provide a daily lunchbox for their children.
53. MOE wishes to encourage the development of ECD centres in villages throughout Lesotho over the coming years. The proposed feeding project would help this process in targeted areas, first by unifying standards in ECD centres already in existence; and secondly, by encouraging the establishment of new ECD centres. UNICEF support also focuses on increasing the number and quality of community-based ECD centres through the training of teachers and assistance to systematic coordination, monitoring and support of ECD activities in order to meet the required standards.
54. **Objectives and intended outcomes.** The long-term objectives of the activity are to promote the creation and use of ECD centres, which contribute to young children's overall development (health, education, nutrition and stimulation). It is anticipated that success at this level could reduce subsequent drop-out rates or repeater grades at the primary level.
55. The short-term objectives are to:
- a) contribute to the nutrient intake of young children in mountainous areas of the country;
 - b) increase the number of children attending ECD centres; and
 - c) encourage the identification of existing, and the development of new, ECD centres in food-insecure areas.
56. The intention is to provide an estimated 10,700 children attending ECDs with a nutritionally balanced and appropriate meal for the duration of the project. Feeding is projected for 180 days, in line with the school year, but a contingency will be built in should certain ECD centres be kept open for considerably longer periods.
57. **Role and modalities of food aid.** The provision of food aid would increase the access of children to food and ECD centres, especially important for parents who cannot afford the attendance fees and daily lunchbox. Average monthly fees are 25 Maloti,¹ representing 7.8 percent of the average monthly household income of 322 Maloti in the mountainous areas.²
58. WFP feeding projects in Lesotho have normally used a combination of maize meal, pulses and vegetable oil. The use of three different commodities increases the storage area and the quantity of fuel required to prepare the food. The use of fortified food like CSB greatly reduces both problems and provides major vitamins and nutrients that address

¹ All monetary values are in United States dollars, unless otherwise stated. One United States dollar equalled 6.060 Maloti in July 1999.

² Source: 1999 Global Human Development Report.



nutritional deficiencies such as Vitamin A deficiency in Mokhotlong, Quachas Nek and Mohales Hoek. A daily ration of 150 g (570 Kcal with 27 g protein and 9 g fat) will be provided for children attending these community-based ECD centres. This will correspond to 36 percent of the child's daily energy and over 75 percent of protein needs.

59. **Implementation strategy.** Due to the difficulties associated with distributing food in mountain areas, WFP proposes to introduce the activity on a phased basis. A distribution and support network, district by district, will be established in targeted areas. This focused approach will assist stakeholders in addressing problems as they arise in a timely and efficient manner. Priority will initially be given to districts where children's nutritional levels are currently low and where community-based initiatives exist.
60. Distribution of food will begin from April 2000. By the end of the year, nearly 6,000 beneficiaries will have received food. At the end of 2001, the phasing-in process will have been completed, allowing full coverage of ECD centres in mountain areas during 2002. There will be flexibility in food allocations between years within the total allocation, to provide for the necessary contingencies during the phasing in of this activity. Long-term sustainability will require a systematic decentralization of support structures to the district and village level. The cooperation of the Ministry of Local Government will be required.
61. **Participants and intended outcomes.** The feeding project has targeted 472 ECD Centres with 10,700 children in food-insecure mountainous districts. MOE registration criteria for ECD centres require that the latter have a qualified principal to implement a prescribed curriculum aimed at encouraging the child's overall development, and where the quality of interest in young children's development can be assured.
62. Over the duration of the project, stronger links between ECD centres and nearby primary schools will be encouraged (e.g. school garden enterprises), in an effort to promote continuity and self-reliance at both the pre-primary and primary levels. Successful examples of self-reliant ECD centres already exist. Greater parental involvement in the running of ECD centres will be encouraged (as was the case in the recent emergency feeding programme), which is essential in strengthening the resource base at the community level. MOE, with the Ministry of Agriculture, will help communities to grow their own high-protein food; they will also have vegetable gardens as a transition to a mixed diet for the small children when this support programme is phased out.
63. **Support, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation arrangements.** In the absence of any increased resources, NTTs, ARTs and the United States Peace Corps will assist the ECD unit in the monitoring and evaluation process. Monitoring and evaluation indicators to be used include:
- a) increase in enrolment and attendance by gender;
 - b) community contributions for facility improvements and broader development initiatives; and
 - c) increase in number of newly registered ECD centres.
64. **Cost estimate to WFP.** The total quantity of food required over the activity's duration is 645 tons at a total DOC of US\$425,800. Government costs, over and above its ITSH contribution, will amount to US\$163,000.



Basic Activity 3—Food for Capacity-building

65. **Strategic focus.** The strategic focus of this activity is to support the Government's policy of providing vocational training in food-insecure mountainous areas, which aims to increase the practical skills of poor women and men.
66. As households in the mountains have to cover their food deficiencies increasingly with off-farm activities, the opportunities to obtain practical skills to help diversify coping strategies and create income opportunities are limited. The Technical and Vocational Training Department of MOE is developing a policy for vocational training. WFP has engaged an International Labour Organization (ILO) consultant for a pre-appraisal study of using food in support of vocational training for the rural poor. The study concludes that food-for-skills can play an important role when combined with other inputs and development processes such as needs assessment, curriculum development, credit schemes, monitoring and marketing support. But potential implementing partners do not yet have the necessary infrastructure for a food support scheme, particularly in the mountainous areas. WFP will continue to investigate opportunities that may arise, and encourage the development of relevant new structures.
67. A new activity is proposed on a pilot basis to provide food aid in support of non-formal education (NFE) for poor women and men, particularly herd boys in food-insecure mountain areas.
68. **Problem analysis.** Despite the achievements of the Government of Lesotho in formal education, almost 23 percent of the country's population has never entered school and 26.1 percent has dropped out (two out of three drop-outs are male). In the mountainous districts, up to 50.2 percent of children 6 to 15 years old were not in school. Only 1.3 percent were attending non-formal education. Access to formal education has historically been easier for girls. There is a pronounced disadvantage for boys of poor families in the mountains, who are hired out to herd cattle, especially in times of food shortages. Literacy and numeracy skills are essential tools for these boys; it will give them the opportunity to pursue further training.
69. It is not the motivation of herd boys or other food-insecure people that requires attention, but rather the strengthening of the education opportunities provided. Instructors ("helpers") in the mountains, holding literacy classes in their communities, are often unable to cover their own food needs.
70. **Objectives and intended outputs.** The long-term objective of the activity is to target food-insecure households for both non-formal education and vocational training opportunities. Food aid will address a specific problem, which is expected to be resolved when the Government has integrated support to these groups in the non-formal education system.
71. Immediate objectives are to: a) supplement the household budget of Learning Post Administrators (LPAs) and animators in food-insecure mountain areas to allow them to increase the number of non-formal education initiatives; and b) increase access for training opportunities in technical and general skills for the rural mountain population, particularly women.
72. It is anticipated that these pilot activities will provide food to 350 volunteer LPAs/animators per year. More regular classes and shorter courses will increase the number of successful "literacy graduates". This will also reduce the number of classes being cancelled. The second objective will materialize when relevant partner structures are in place.



73. **Roles and Modalities of Food Aid.** Helpers working under the auspices of the Lesotho Distance Teaching Centre (LDTC) receive a monthly payment of 100 Maloti (salaries for primary school teachers are about 1,000 Maloti per month), whereas no payment is given to the LPAs by the Lesotho Association for Non-formal Education (LANFE). Helpers come from food-deficient communities in the mountain areas, and face food shortages to meet their own consumption needs.
74. In consultation with LDTC and LANFE, WFP will provide two tins of vegetable oil a month for each helper, LPA and animator, and establish a monitoring system. It will test whether this effectively contributes to their household food expenditures, and whether they dedicate more time to help learners stay in the programme. WFP food assistance is expected to improve access to food by the beneficiaries, and thus enable them to participate in this activity.
75. **Implementation strategy.** Two main agencies are active in the field of literacy/numeracy training. Under the responsibility of the Chief Education Officer (Curriculum), LDTC is concerned with basic education. More recently, it is represented in several districts by an officer responsible for non-formal education. LANFE is active in all mountain area districts and relies on the cooperation of local communities. Other organizations are also active in literacy training.
76. At the district level, LDTC and LANFE representatives will provide lists from established learning posts of LPAs that will be active in each quarter for subsequent food distribution by FMU. LDTC and LANFE will supervise and report on the implementation of activities. Agreements will be established with MOE (LDTC), LANFE and other cooperating agencies and organizations.
77. The World Bank will shortly assist the Non-formal Education Unit in MOE with a related capacity-building and institutional support initiative.
78. **Participants and intended benefits.** The beneficiaries of food incentives will be 350 volunteers associated with LDTC and LANFE in food-insecure mountain areas. Currently 95 percent of volunteers are women. Participants in literacy and numeracy training, for both boys and girls, vary between 3,500 and 6,500 in 300 communities.
79. **Support, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation arrangements.** LDTC and LANFE representatives supervise the work of volunteers and provide reports to MOE and WFP. Indicators of success will include the percentage increase in the number of learning posts, successful “literacy graduates” and the extent of the decrease in classes cancelled due to the absence of “helpers”. As a pilot activity, qualitative monitoring is required during the selection of participants and to determine the quality and relevance of the food assistance to helpers and initiated activities. Other indicators include planned versus actual teaching days for the food-insecure in remote learning posts, and vocational training classes by gender. The Non-formal Education Unit office in MOE will coordinate this task.
80. **Cost estimate.** The food requirement for this experimental activity from 2000 to 2002 is 130 tons, at a total estimated DOC of US\$143,700 for the three years. Government costs, excluding its ITSH contribution, will amount to US\$100,000.

Basic Activity 4—Support to Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Initiatives

81. **Strategic focus.** The strategic focus of this activity is to support disaster preparedness and mitigation initiatives through education and training.



82. **Problem analysis.** Households in the mountainous districts of Mokhotlong, Quachas Nek, Thaba Tseka and Quthing are hardest hit by the effects of drought recurring once every three years, and problems resulting from soil erosion and poor farming practices. Food crops, employment and remittances and livestock are the most important aspects of family coping strategies. None of the households surveyed in 1998 by Save the Children Fund (SCF) had any food stocks during normal years. Rather than adopting new strategies in times of stress, households tend to intensify existing strategies. The Senqu river basin is periodically at risk of flooding.
83. The local government has formed Village and District Disaster Management Teams (VDMT/DDMT). DMA has personnel at the district level whose task is to train teams and develop village action plans. There are as yet few activities in place, given the lack of resources at the district level within DMA, and inadequate coordination between sector ministries on issues of disaster preparedness, mitigation and response.
84. Recently, groups both within the Government and the UNDAF structure, were created to address these problems. The intergovernmental Vulnerability Assessment Group, which was recently established at the initiative of WFP, will provide biannual reports on the origins of community food insecurity, different coping strategies and household responses to hazards.
85. **Objectives.** The objectives are to:
- a) enable poor households in disaster-prone areas to invest in training on community initiatives for disaster preparedness and mitigation; and
 - b) enhance the disaster response capacity of DMA at the national and local levels with greater participation of communities and other relevant stakeholders.
86. **Roles and modalities of food aid.** Food assistance will enable communities at risk, that is those normally only able to meet their immediate food needs, to invest in disaster preparedness and mitigation training and demonstration activities through pilot food-for-training and food-for-work activities.
87. The proposed food basket (63 kg of maize meal, 7 of pulses and 2.1 of vegetable oil) meets the monthly food needs of participants in training and demonstration activities. The exact food requirements will be appraised when preparing the activity summary.

Implementation Strategy

88. The District Officers of DMA will revive the DDMTs in selected districts, and at least five VDMTs in each of those districts will identify relevant disaster preparedness and mitigation activities.
89. The training and demonstration activities will identify and plan disaster preparedness measures to reduce and alleviate the impact of disasters before the latter can happen. Activities for disaster mitigation reduce the impact of a disaster. These may include water harvesting techniques, construction of water pumps, building of pitched roof houses, soil conservation measures, such as wind breaks and tree planting, construction of access roads crucial for food supply, and awareness and training in diversification of drought resistant crops.
90. DMA will provide non-food items (hand tools and materials) amounting to US\$200,000 over the three-year period, to be included in the national budget for 2000-2001.



91. WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit will collaborate with the National Early Warning Unit to provide information and analysis of risk at various levels. VAM activities will support programming efficiency in seasonal crop monitoring, contingency planning, targeting, household food security and vulnerability analysis and map production. A VAM database will be initiated for use by WFP and government staff. Targeted villages in mountain areas are also expected to benefit from an IFAD training programme in the agricultural sector that promotes sustainable risk reduction strategies.
92. In collaboration with DMA, WFP has established a disaster management consultation group that consists of DMA, the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Education, local government, UNICEF and NGOs. The group will be encouraged to serve as a platform for policy dialogue with various stakeholders and provide advice during implementation. The Ministry of Economic Planning coordinates the overall policy.
93. **Participants and intended benefits.** The activities will focus on disaster prone areas in mountainous districts and the Senqu river basin. In the first and second year, resources will be made available for 2080 beneficiaries (416 participants) in the four mountain districts. An increase to 3885 beneficiaries (777 participants) is envisaged for the third year, as it is expected that more remote villages will be included by then. It is anticipated that 55 percent of the participants will be women and 75 percent of the food beneficiaries will be women and children. Depending on community needs, the availability of the labour force and the type of assets created, a rotation scheme may be used to allow a larger number of beneficiaries to participate. Linkages in targeting villages for vocational and general skills training activities will be planned through the Village Development Committees and local government authorities.
94. The nature of activities will be identified using a combination of participatory needs, risk assessment techniques and VAM data. Communities and districts will have enhanced capacity for disaster management.
95. DMA will benefit from the WFP-assisted VAM initiative for timely identification of the location and condition of vulnerable populations and targeting strategies. WFP, together with governmental ministries and NGOs, will assist the DMA in developing a national food aid policy through the UNDAF framework.
96. **Support, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation arrangements.** DMA will coordinate the implementation of preparedness and mitigation action plans and identify pilot disaster mitigation activities at the community level. Monitoring and evaluation indicators to be used include:
- a) establishment of a multi-agency vulnerability analysis group;
 - b) number of functioning VDMT/DDMT groups and membership by gender;
 - c) number of local disaster management plans;
 - d) number of assets created for the purpose of disaster mitigation and preparedness; and
 - e) active community (women's) participation in food, activity management and maintenance arrangements.
97. **Cost estimate.** This activity requires 700 tons of food aid. The total DOC is estimated at US\$246,320 for the three years, in addition to project no. 352.08, which will phase out in the first quarter of 2000 (under which a commitment balance of 496 tons, with a total DOC of US\$198,850 is already available). Government costs towards the ongoing phase will



amount to US\$60,000, under Basic Activity 4, they will be US\$290,000, excluding the ITSH contribution.

CONTEXT OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Key Issues and Risks

98. Lesotho is a disaster-prone country and emergencies may need to be addressed at any time. Related food aid and non-food resources have not been included in this Country Programme.
99. The Government is expected to continue its poverty reduction policy and pursue the improvement of household food security in its basic development strategy with donor support through food aid.
100. The recurrence of recent political instability could affect activity implementation during the Country Programme.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Appraisal

101. For each basic activity, the WFP country office will prepare with the Government and implementing partners an Activity Summary that details the following budget: outputs, food requirements; counterpart activities; sources of governmental and external funding; a timetable for implementation; food and financial disbursement plans; and obligations for monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
102. UNESCO and WFP carried out a mid-term review of Basic Activity 1 in 1996. The recommendations were implemented and are again included in the current activity design. The Country Programme activity document is shared with the UNESCO/WFP liaison office. An appraisal of Basic Activity 2 will be undertaken with available regional expertise, taking into account the internal review of WFP emergency feeding of ECD centres during recent civil unrest. The UNESCO/ILO pre-appraisals for Basic Activity 3 outline key issues to be developed with local expertise. Basic Activity 4 will be appraised with regional expertise at the central, district and village levels.
103. Partnership with donors will be further explored in the organization of various appraisals. Consultations with United Nations specialized agency liaison offices will continue to take place for each of the activity documents.
104. The Ministry of Planning is the Country Programme coordinating agency. For each of the four proposed activities, a project document is being developed with all implementing partners as guided by the governmental institution concerned. Regional office advice will be sought on Country Programme activity documents. Country Programme activity budgets are transmitted to WFP headquarters for clearance. The Country Programme Committee (CPC) has assumed the role and responsibility of the Local Programme Review Committee. It will review and eventually endorse the appraisal findings and activity summaries for approval and signature by the WFP Representative.



105. The above process should be completed shortly after the Executive Board has approved the Country Programme. The Government of Lesotho and the WFP country office are expected to sign individual plans of operation in November 1999.

Programme Implementation

Capacity of the Country Office

106. Overall food aid resources to Lesotho were substantially reduced from 8,152 tons in 1998 to about 4,000 tons in each year from 2000 to 2002, the main reason being the phasing out of the public works roads project (4,051 tons in 1998). Technical input will improve the three new activities during the start-up phase. The operational focus on mountainous areas requires intense monitoring. VAM support is required to improve targeting and needs assessment of WFP-supported activities. Increasing field monitoring capacity is a primary focus in the current office reorganization.

Logistical Arrangements

107. The mountainous areas of Lesotho represent a particular challenge. A deep-field communication system is being installed. FMU remains the main partner for the distribution of commodities. Discussions with the Government to subcontract transport operations gradually to the private sector are under way. The use of ponies and mules in the remotest areas is being considered. Regional and local purchases will be increasingly utilized.

Participatory Management

108. Participation of beneficiaries will be made through local management committees, community councils and NGOs, who will be required to demonstrate adequate community involvement as a precondition for being included in Country Programme activities.

Programme Monitoring and Audit

109. The main monitoring report will be the annual CPC report, based on regular progress reports by the country office and basic activity management reviews. Vulnerability analysis reports will be updated as required. Donor reports and the annual country office report will be submitted. A local audit of all four basic activities is planned in the first half of 2002.

EVALUATION

110. An end-of-term evaluation of the Country Programme will provide lessons for any subsequent phase. The cost of US\$20,000 for this evaluation is included in the Direct Support Costs (DSC) budget.



ANNEX I

LESOTHO COUNTRY PROGRAMME BUDGET 2000–2002

Country Programme Activities	DOC				DSC ²	Total Operational Costs ³
	Food volume (tons)	Food costs (US\$)	Transport (US\$)	Other Doc ¹ (US\$)		
1. Food Assistance to Primary Schools	10 800	2 663 610	1 458 725	320 000	544 671	4 987 000
2. Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs)	645	212 850	73 450	139 500	32 040	457 840
3. Food for Capacity-building	130	109 200	18 500	16 000	6 407	150 100
4. Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation	700	147 320	69 000	30 000	32 040	278 360
5. Ongoing Activity in 2000 (352.08)	496	105 900	71 950	21 000	25 632	224 480
Total Basic (WFP)	12 771	3 238 880	1 691 625	526 500	640 790	6 097 795⁴
Total DOC			5 457 005			
Government						383 050
Grand total						6 480 840

¹ Other direct operation costs (DOC) include non-food items for allocation to Government Project management.

² Direct support costs are staff resources, non-food items and services required exclusively for use by WFP in direct support to the project.

³ Does not include indirect support costs to be calculated on the basis of the standard rate determined by the Executive Board.

⁴ Out of the US\$6,097,795 required, about US\$700,000 have already been committed under ongoing projects.

⁵ Represents the Government contribution directly related to food management and does not include other Government costs for implementation of the Country Programme (about US\$2.1 million).



ANNEX II







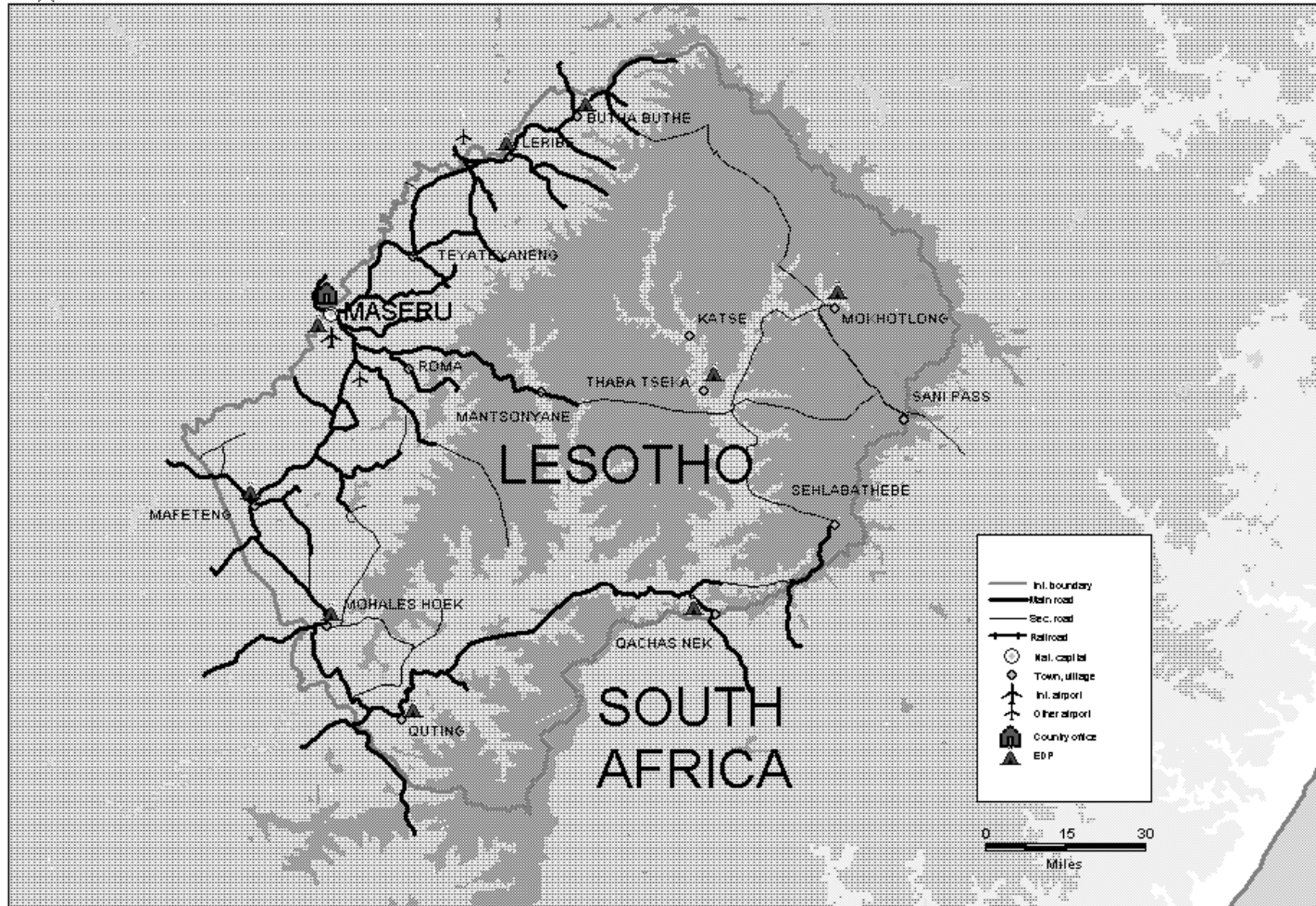


ANNEX III





Lesotho: Topography, Geography and Major Transport Corridors



The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Food Programme (WFP) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its frontiers or boundaries

KEY INDICATORS TO BE MONITORED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LESOTHO COUNTRY PROGRAMME (2000-2002)

Activities	Supervision and/or Implementation Body	Target Group	Objectives	Key Outcome Indicators
Basic Activity 1— Food Assistance to Primary Schools	MOE	Primary schoolchildren between 6 and 12 years in mountainous areas	Stabilizing attendance	Overall drop-out rate reduced to 7 percent from the present 11 percent for boys and 7.5 percent for girls
	SSRFU		Reducing drop-out rates	80 schools to be phased out in self-reliance activities for sustainable development.
	United States Peace Corps Volunteers		Dietary support to alleviate short-term hunger	Community support measured as a percentage of parents of enrolled students involved in school self-reliance-related activities (not less than 50 percent).
				Key Process Indicators
				Timely implementation of early morning drink in all schools receiving food assistance over the three years.
				Timely stocking of commodities at beneficiaries' sites.
Basic Activity 2— Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs)	MOE (ARTS and NTTS)	children attending community-based ECD centres in mountainous areas in Lesotho	increase the number of children attending ECD centres in targeted districts.	Key Outcome Indicators
	ECD Unit		contribute to the nutrient intakes of young children in mountainous areas.	Increase by at least 10 percent in number of children (by gender) attending centres one year after introduction of feeding.
	WFP			Increase in number of children, 10 to 20 percent of whom are malnourished, receiving food at registered ECD centres.

KEY INDICATORS TO BE MONITORED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LESOTHO COUNTRY PROGRAMME (2000-2002)

Activities	Supervision and/or Implementation Body	Target Group	Objectives	
Basic Activity 2 (cont.)	UNICEF		encourage the identification of existing and the development of new ECD centres in food-insecure areas.	Increase in the number of open and functioning centres by 2002 from 472 to 550.
	US Peace Corps			Increase in number of registered ECD centres (in existence already but unregistered) in food-insecure districts by 10 percent.
				Greater parental and community participation in the ECD centres, i.e. increase in number of parents (by gender) involved in day-to-day running of individual ECDs.
				Key Process Indicators
				Timely stocking of food at beneficiaries' sites.
				Key Outcome Indicators
Basic Activity 3— Food for Capacity-Building	MOE	Volunteer LPAs and helpers who provide literacy classes mainly for herd boys in mountainous areas.	Increasing the number and frequency of non-formal education initiatives, including literacy classes for food-insecure, particularly herd boys.	Increase in number of LPAs (by gender) from 340 to 400 over the duration of project.
	LDTC			Increase in number of literacy classes (from average of 30 to 40) conducted by LPAs in relevant districts.
	LANFE			Increase in number of food-insecure trainees (by gender) successfully completing these courses, of which at least five percent more are boys from herds.
	WFP			
	GROW			

KEY INDICATORS TO BE MONITORED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LESOTHO COUNTRY PROGRAMME (2000-2002)

Activities	Supervision and/or Implementation Body	Target Group	Objectives	
	Bethel Business and Community Development Centre		Increase access to training opportunities in technical and life skills for rural population in mountains, particularly women.	<p>Increase in number of training courses available to rural mountain population from the present per region per year.</p> <p>Increase in average number attending such courses from 30 to 40.</p> <p>Establishment of improved linkages between organizations involved in non-formal training.</p>
Basic Activity 4— Support to Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Initiatives	<p>Disaster Management Authority;</p> <p>National Early Warning System;</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture (departments of crops, livestock, conservation, forestry and land use planning);</p> <p>Ministry of Local Government;</p> <p>World Vision Lesotho;</p> <p>Rural Self-help Development Association;</p>	At least five villages per district from the rural populations in the mountain areas of all the country including localities that will be identified by VAM as vulnerable to disasters	Enable poor households in disaster prone areas to invest in training on community initiatives for disaster preparedness and mitigation.	<p>Key Outcome Indicators</p> <p>Establishment of multi-agency vulnerability analysis group;</p> <p>80% of trained VDMT/DDMT groups are functioning and have a gender balance in membership and management;</p> <p>80% have a local disaster management plan;</p> <p>80% have community initiatives creating assets to prepare for or reduce disasters as planned; and</p> <p>80% have active community (women's) participation in food, activity management and maintenance arrangements.</p>

KEY INDICATORS TO BE MONITORED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LESOTHO COUNTRY PROGRAMME (2000-2002)

Activities	Supervision and/or Implementation Body	Target Group	Objectives
	Lesotho Red Cross; Bethel Business and Community Development Centre.		Key Process Indicators Timely stocking of food at beneficiaries sites