



UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT GROUP

**LESOTHO HUMANITARIAN JOINT PROGRAMME
PRELIMINARY FINAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JULY 2016 – 31 AUGUST 2017**

<p>Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Title: Support to the Humanitarian Response following El Niño 2015/6 in Lesotho • Programme Number (<i>if applicable</i>) • MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 00101636 	<p>Country/ Strategic Results²</p> <p><i>Lesotho</i></p> <p><i>Priority area/ strategic results</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Improving food security and resilience of vulnerable households through sustainable livelihood support whilst complementing agricultural production</i> • <i>Increasing access to potable water and rehabilitation of water sources to vulnerable communities and in doing so reduce exposure of women and girls</i> • <i>Proving an emergency cash top up to alleviate the impacts of the food price shock so that household budget allocated for health and education are not comprised.</i> • <i>Improving prevention, response and coordination of drought-linked GBV mechanisms at National, District and Community levels</i> • <i>Improving the coordination of the humanitarian response in Lesotho</i>
<p>Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFP • FAO • UNICEF • UNFPA • UNDP/RCO 	<p>Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others) and other International Organizations • Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security • Ministry of Education and Training • Ministry of Social Development • Ministry of Water Affairs (Department of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation) • Disaster Management Authority • Ministry of Health • Ministry of Gender & Youth, Sports and Recreation • Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document.

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

Programme/Project Cost (US\$)	
Total approved budget as per project document:	US\$ 6,236,625
MPTF/JP Contribution ⁴ :	
• <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i>	
Agency Contribution	
• <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i>	
Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i>	
TOTAL:	US\$ 6,299,622 ⁸
Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.	
Assessment/Review - conducted	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date: December 2017	
Mid-Term Evaluation Report	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Bank Lesotho • World Vision Lesotho • Catholic Relief Services • Help Lesotho • National University of Lesotho • Gender Links Lesotho • G4S Security 	
Programme Duration	
Overall Duration	14 months
Start Date ⁵	14.09.2016
Original End Date ⁶	31.08.2017
Actual End date ⁷	31.08.2017
Report Submitted By	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Asel Abdurahmanova ○ Title: UN Coordination Specialist ○ Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP/RCO ○ Email address: asel.abdurahmanova@one.un.org 	

⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF/JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

⁸ Includes Administrative Agent's fee of US\$ 62,996 from DFID's contribution.

(DELETE BEFORE SUBMISSION)

Guidelines:

The Final Programme Report template is based on the UNDG 2003 template, which is currently under review and is in line with the [UNDG Results Based Management Handbook \(October 2011\)](#). The Final Programme Report should be provided after the completion of the activities in the approved programmatic document and provide information on the overall results of the programme including the final year of the activities.

Building on continued efforts made in the UN system to produce results-based reports, the report should demonstrate how the outputs collectively **contributed to the achievement of the agreed upon outcomes** of the applicable Strategic (UN) Planning Framework guiding the operations of the Fund.

In support of the individual programme reports, please attach any additional relevant information and photographs, assessments, evaluations and studies undertaken or published.

Where available, the information contained in the Programme Summaries, Quarterly and/or Semi-Annual Updates and Annual Progress Reports prepared by the Participating Organizations may be useful in the preparation of the Final Narrative Programme Report. These Summaries, Updates and Reports where applicable, are available in the respective Fund sections of the MPTF Office GATEWAY (<http://mptf.undp.org/>).

Formatting Instructions:

- The report should be between 10-15 pages. Include a list of the main abbreviations and acronyms that are used in the report.
- Number all pages, sections and paragraphs as indicated below.
- Format the entire document using the following font: 12point _ Times New Roman and do not use colours.
- The report should be submitted in one single Word or PDF file.
- Annexes can be added to the report but need to be clearly referenced, using footnotes or endnotes within the body of the narrative.
- Do not change the Names and Numbers of the Sections below.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CA: Conservation Agriculture
CGP: Child Grant Programme
CMR: Clinical Management of Rape
CRS: Catholic Relief Services
CSA: Climate Smart Agricultural
DMA: national Disaster Management Authority
DRMT: Disaster Risk Management Team
DRWSS: Department of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GBV: Gender-Based Violence
GoL: Government of Lesotho
HCT: Humanitarian Country Team
HG: Home Gardening
IEC: Information Education and Communications
LCBD: Lesotho Land Cover Database
LVAC: Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee
MAFS: Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
MET: Ministry of Education and Training
MFRSC: Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation
MGYSR: Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sport and Recreation
MoET: Ministry of Education and Training
MoH: Ministry of Health
MoSD: Ministry of Social Development
NISSA: National Information for Social Assistance
O&M: Operational and maintenance
ODI: Overseas Development Institute
OPM: Oxford Policy Management
PDM: Post Distribution Monitoring
PRRO: WFP Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations
PUNOs: Participating United Nations Organisations
RIASCO: Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee
SADC: Southern African Development Community
SARCOF: Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum
SLM: Sustainable Land Management
SOPs: Standard Operating Procedures
SRH: Sexual and Reproductive Health
UN RC/HC: UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator
UN RCO: UN Resident Coordinator's Office
UNDP: UN Development Programme
UNFPA: UN Population Fund
UNICEF: UN Children's Fund
WFP: UN World Food Programme
WVL: World Vision Lesotho

Executive Summary

(In ¼ to ½ a page, summarise the most important achievements of Programme during the reporting period and key elements from your detailed report below. Highlight in the summary, the elements of the main report that you consider to be the most critical to be included).

The humanitarian Joint Programme “Support to the Humanitarian Response following El Niño 2015/6 in Lesotho” addressed humanitarian needs in five different sectors of the drought response and played an instrumental role during the various peaks of the lean seasons. The Joint Programme, implemented by four Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) – UNICEF, FAO, WFP, UNFPA and the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office – encompassed a holistic package of interventions with complementarities and a wide synergy among PUNOs in supporting people affected by the El Niño-induced drought in the country. The programme response followed a rights-based approach that considered the rights and needs of the population in a comprehensive way to cover multiple aspects of the drought’s impact. The programme successfully assisted a total of 396,436 beneficiaries in the most affected districts of Lesotho. In particular, under livelihood: WFP - 42,250 people and FAO - 27,120 people; under Social Protection FAO - 95,000 people and UNICEF WASH: 131,267 people, UNFPA - 100,529 people. UNICEF interventions under SP: 18,405 people have been included in FAO SP as the beneficiaries were the same.

In this context, WFP addressed the immediate food insecurity needs of 42,520 people that were adversely affected by the drought in Butha-Buthe, Maseru, Quthing, Mafteng, Mohale’s Hoek and Berea district. The assistance exceeded the original target of 28,000 people (5,600 households) due to the revision of the cash transfer value by the Government of Lesotho, the national Disaster Management Authority (DMA) and partners; as well as WFP scaling up assistance to three additional districts.

According to the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report published in July 2017, the project came at the time when the majority of the households had a food survival deficit. Therefore, the project successfully closed the aforesaid food gap by increasing the overall food consumption frequency from 80% of households that had poor and borderline food consumption at baseline to 58% at close-out. Moreover, the PDM’s findings showed that the diet diversity score improved in at least two food groups compared to their status before the interventions. To achieve this, WFP aligned its activities with the national priorities envisaged in the National Drought Response Plan, productively collaborating with the Government of Lesotho (GoL), UN agencies, NGOs, academia (National University of Lesotho) private sector (in particular, the Standard Lesotho Bank) and other humanitarian actors in the country during the implementation of the emergency response.

FAO, under the livelihood protection component, reached a total of 5,424 households in Butha-Buthe, Berea and Leribe districts, exceeding the original target of 3,500 households. In close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), FAO supported the protection and improving of livelihoods through the distribution of Recovery Livelihood Packages that consisted of seeds of staple crops (maize and beans), vegetable seeds (six different varieties), fertilizer and seeds of grazing vetch. In addition, livelihood equipments were also distributed at community level (these included ox-drawn planters and/or fruit driers).

With regards to the component promoting complementarities between Agriculture production and Social Protection, FAO reached 19,000 households in Butha-Buthe, Berea and Leribe districts, exceeding the initial target of 15,000 households. In partnership with the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) which was responsible for facilitating the identification of eligible beneficiaries through the National Information for Social Assistance (NISSA) tool, FAO supported

the productive capacity of the poorest of the poor, distributing Home Gardening and Nutrition kits. In fact, a combined total of 19,000 families who were also receiving cash grants were supported by FAO with vegetable kits comprised of 6 different types of seeds, shade-nets, and training materials on integrated sustainable farming techniques articulated in the local language.

UNICEF component on Social Protection focused on building resilience of vulnerable households in three community councils (Seate in Mokhotlong district, Tenesolo in Thaba-Tseka district and Tosing in Quthing district) that were already enrolled in the Child Grant Programme (CGP) but were not receiving any additional top-up support from other humanitarian programmes. Through an emergency cash top-up programme, the project assisted a total of 3,681 households that included over 11,043 (51% girls) vulnerable children from the poorest of the poor segments of the population in the affected areas, improving their access to adequate food.

UNICEF component on WASH aimed at increasing safe and secure access to the national specified minimum quantities of potable water (30 liters/person/day), to meet the basic needs for rural households in the five most drought-affected districts in Lesotho – i.e. Berea, Mafeteng, Thaba Tseka, Quthing and Butha-Buthe. In addition, the project aimed at providing access to safe sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools and health clinics, including raising awareness on safe hygiene practices in the same districts. The project was initially expected to assist 46,000 (50% female) targeted beneficiaries by the end of August 2017. Nonetheless, given timely and strategic planning and implementation through local contractors and the GoL, UNICEF was able to reach a total of 131,267 beneficiaries (51% female) with improved access to WASH services in 33 communities, 25 primary schools and 4 health centres in the above-mentioned 5 districts. Thirty-seven WASH committee members (53% female) were also trained on the operational and maintenance (O&M) aspects of the water facilities for continuous and sustained functionality. This was effected through partnerships with the Department of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (DRWSS) for the construction components and World Vision Lesotho (WVL) for the hygiene promotion and construction activities.

UNFPA focused its intervention on reducing the vulnerability of women and adolescent girls to drought-linked gender-based violence (GBV) in four districts of Lesotho, i.e. Mafeteng, Maseru, Mohales' Hoek and Butha Buthe. UNFPA concentrated its efforts on strengthening coordinated efforts in addressing GBV, securing their safety and dignity through access to protection, health services and hygiene supplies. Specific actions focused on strengthening the capacity of health workers to provide clinical management of rape (CMR) to enable them to provide emergency response to GBV survivors; empower community leaders with knowledge and skill in leadership, human rights and GBV; reinforce community based protection through establishing functional GBV coordination structures; build linkages between communities to enhance the referral system and increase uptake of GBV services. A total of 100,529 people were reached through the GBV programme component. Through a preliminary GBV Baseline Study on El Niño-linked GBV conducted in the ten districts of Lesotho, 148 medical and psychosocial staff received training in clinical management of rape to ensure an appropriate response to GBV survivors, 200 community group leaders were empowered with knowledge and skills in GBV basics, survivor centered approach and referral pathways, 160 GBV survivors received training in GBV basics, life skills and economic empowerment, while 5,000 community members received knowledge and information through dialogue on GBV and sexual and reproductive health (SRH). The project also

supported 8,000 vulnerable women and adolescent girls of reproductive age with dignity kits for their hygiene needs. Moreover, 100 staff from the Government of Lesotho and NGOs were trained on GBV and male engagement. At national level, the GBV Task Force was re-activated as a GBV coordination body, and was responsible for the development of the GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The GBV coordination body also developed a GBV Referral Pathway for Maseru District. Ultimately, efforts towards strengthening GBV data management led to the development of a national GBV incidence form.

The UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UN RCO) strengthened the humanitarian response through the provision of inter-sectoral, sectoral and inter-agency coordination support to the Joint Programme, to the mandated role of the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator (UN RC/HC) as well as to the work of the Disaster Risk Management Team (DRMT) and the newly established Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). It resulted in the timely delivery, reporting and monitoring of humanitarian activities and increased visibility of humanitarian programmes and projects. Furthermore, the UN RCO provided internal and external communication support on the overall humanitarian response, informing donors, government and humanitarian/development partners about the humanitarian situation in the country and the related emergency response. Ultimately, the UN RCO ensured that the UN initiatives "Delivering as One" and "Communicating as One" were adequately upheld and implemented during the response, facilitating inter-sector coherence and collaboration.

I. Purpose and Objectives of the interventions

(Provide the main objectives and expected outcomes of the programme in relation to the Humanitarian Response Plan and project document/Annual Work Plan).

World Food Programme

The Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) in June 2016 found more than 679,000 people to be acutely food insecure across Lesotho until the end of the lean season in May 2017. In the context of the Joint Programme, **WFP intervention was intended to address the immediate food needs of 28,000 people (5,600 households) affected by the El Niño drought, and supports the protection and rebuilding of their livelihoods to improve their ability to withstand climate-induced shocks.** Moreover, the project aimed at attaining sufficient food consumption and acceptable dietary diversity as well as maintaining created assets in targeted households.

FAO

The objective of FAO's programme component was to **contribute to improved food security and resilience of drought-affected vulnerable households in Lesotho through sustainable livelihood support and a promoted complementarity between Social protection and Agriculture production.** Capacities among key stakeholders at national, district and community level was also intended to be developed through Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) topics for further replication and adoption. Furthermore, the project was intended to contribute to the improvement of information, coordination and analysis within the Agriculture and Food Security sector.

UNICEF Social Protection

The objective of this programme component was to **assist chronically vulnerable households that benefited from the Child Grant Programme (CGP) to better absorb the shock induced by the drought**. The expected outcome was to improve access to adequate food for approximately 3,681 households, covering over 18,405 people including 11,043 (51% female) vulnerable children from the poorest of the poor segment of the population in the affected areas through top-up cash transfers.

UNICEF WASH

This programme component was aimed at **increasing safe access to minimum quantities of potable water to meet the basic needs of drought-affected households in 5 drought affected districts** in Lesotho as per the standards of GoL (30 liters/person/day). In addition, the project aimed at **providing access to safe sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools and health clinics** and in raising awareness on safe hygiene practices in the same 5 targeted districts. The programme expected to assist 46,000 targeted beneficiaries in rural areas in the 5 drought affected districts (most affected comparatively) to be able to meet minimum needs of potable water (up to 30 liters by 31 August 2017).

UNFPA

UNFPA's intervention was designed to **reduce the vulnerability of women and adolescent girls to drought-linked GBV in four districts of Lesotho**, i.e. Mafeteng, Maseru, Mophale's Hoek and Buthe-Buthe. In total, 70,000 beneficiaries were targeted by the project (the initial target was 126,486 – for further information, please refer to the *Programmatic Revisions* section). In addition, 120 health practitioners were expected to be trained in clinical management of GBV, 720 leaders of community protection structures empowered with knowledge and skills in leadership, human rights and GBV, and 1,920 women and girls at risk of GBV and survivors were to benefit from GBV-related services. Community capacity was expected to be built to take charge of GBV detection, prevention, response and coordination. In addition, UNFPA's intervention was meant to build linkage of communities to services to enhance the referral system, coordination for GBV survivors and build trust amongst community members, GBV survivors and service providers.

UNDP/RCO

The RCO was expected to **strengthen the inter-sectoral and sectoral humanitarian coordination in Lesotho to respond to the El Niño-related drought through timely reporting and monitoring of activities in order to avoid duplication in the humanitarian response** as well as **support the development of assessment and response planning activities**. Moreover, the RCO was expected to provide effective and adequate internal and external communication on the humanitarian situation and response, by tracking and mapping humanitarian interventions.

II. Assessment of Programme Results

This section presents the results achieved by the Joint Programme from 1 July 2016 to 31 August 2017. It provides an overview of the results and changes achieved at outcome (a), output (b) level and gives a qualitative assessment of the achieved results (c). In this regard, the results are presented at indicator level against the initial logistical framework.

(i) Narrative reporting on results *Table 1: Overview on Joint Programme components.*

Agency	Sector	Time frame	Beneficiaries Reached (Beneficiaries Planned)	Core Activities
WFP	Food Security	1 October 2016 - 30 June 2017	42,250 beneficiaries reached , after a revised lower value of the cash transfers (from LSL120 to LSL100 per person per month) 28,000 beneficiaries planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeting the beneficiaries and conducting the distributions Monitoring the distributions Conducting the Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Providing technical support to the communities
FAO	Agriculture	1 July 2016 - 31 August 2017	i) Agricultural livelihood protection: 5,424 households reached (27,120 people) - 3,500 households planned ii) Social Protection-Agriculture: 19,000 households reached (95,000 people) - 15,000 households planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livelihood protection component: identification of beneficiaries, procurement and distribution of inputs and training. Social Protection-Agriculture component: coordination with SP actors, procurement and distribution of inputs.
UNICEF Social Protection	Social Protection and Food Security	1 August 2016 - 31 March 2017	3,681 households reached that covered 18,405 drought affected people including 11,043 (51% girls) children. 3,681 households planned (18,405 people including 11,043 children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community mobilization through 22 sensitization sessions on child protection issues during payment days; 70 community leaders and 3,681 households reached with emergency messages. Payment of households in the three community councils Payment of payment agencies Monitoring of project activities and recruitment of project staff
UNICEF WASH	WASH	1 July 2016 - 31 August 2017	(i) Water supply: 39,348 beneficiaries reached (ii) Sanitation: 4,476 beneficiaries reached (iii) Hygiene: 87,443 beneficiaries reached A total of 131,267 beneficiaries reached (51% female, 49% male) 46,000 beneficiaries planned	<p>Water supply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction and rehabilitation of spring boxes; drilling of boreholes; construction and rehabilitation of water schemes; installation of new hand-pumps; new connections/pipe networks to existing water sources. <p>Sanitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of latrines (with handwashing facilities) in 19 schools. <p>Hygiene:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of handwashing facilities in 19 schools and 4 health centers Training of 131 village health workers (92% female) and 50 teachers (85% female) on hygiene promotion Training of 37 village water committee (61% female) and health facility representatives on operation and maintenance Training of 131 village health workers (92% female) and 50 teachers (85% female) on hygiene promotion Formation and training of WASH clubs in schools and sensitization and hygiene promotion in communities
UNFPA	Protection (GBV)	1 July 2016 - 31 August 2017	100,529 beneficiaries reached 70,000 beneficiaries planned (the initial target was 126,486 – for further information, please refer to the <i>Programmatic Revisions</i> section).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of GBV in drought through a Baseline Study in the 10 districts of Lesotho; mapping of GBV service providers and assessment of Women and Girls Safe Spaces. Sensitization of community through advocacy and outreach activities. Capacity Building on GBV through training and stakeholder meetings. Strengthening of GBV coordination, data management and information sharing at National, District and community level; Development of GBV SOPs and Referral Pathways. Procurement and distribution of dignity kits and development of IEC materials.

UNDP/RCO	Coordination	1 July 2016 - 31 August 2017	PUNOs, Humanitarian Partners, donors and MPTF Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance and advice to the UN RC/HC and the humanitarian coordination forums (HCT, DRMT). • Development of information and outreach material for Joint Programme as well as the overall humanitarian response. • Provision of inter-sectoral and sector coordination support. • Ensure engagement with donor and MPTF Office.
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(a) Outcomes

(Outcomes are the strategic, higher level of change that your Programme is aiming to contribute towards. Provide a summary of progress made by the Programme in relation to planned outcomes from the Project Document / AWP, with reference to the relevant indicator(s) in these documents. Describe if any targets were achieved, or explain any variance in achieved versus planned results during the reporting period. Explain who the main beneficiaries were.)

WFP

The results of the Baseline Survey conducted in November 2016 indicated that 17% of the households in Quthing, 15% in Maseru and 18% in Butha-Buthe had a poor food consumption score. The PDM undertaken in May 2017 showed a significant improvement in the food consumption score in the aforesaid districts. In fact, in Quthing district, households with poor food consumption score reduced from 17% to 10%; in Maseru district, these households reduced from 15% to 7%; while in Butha-Buthe district, they reduced from 18% to 7%. Therefore, a significant portion of households with poor food consumption reduced significantly, although the initial targeted range (3-5%) was not fully achieved due to the fact that the majority of the targeted beneficiaries did not only buy food with the received cash transfers. The variances seen in the planned targets (from 28,000 to 42,520 beneficiaries and the partial improvement in the poor food consumption score) can be attributed to: (i) the revision of the transfer value (from LSL120 to LSL100 per person per month) which affected small households as the received transfers only covered the basic food commodities; (ii) the beneficiaries shared their transfer between food and non-food commitments like transport, health and education, payment for burial services, clothing, etc.

Furthermore, WFP provided assistance that covered 103% food needs of the beneficiary households. Cash provided to these households was calculated to meet the food gaps which were based on an average of 29% food deficit. The cash transfer value was determined by the Government of Lesotho at LSL100 per household member per month which covered 40% of the cost of the food basket. Based on this, the transfer given was 40% versus the cost of the basket although the food gaps were met.

Analysis of dietary diversity score indicated that the assistance provided enabled the beneficiary households to diversify their diets. Dietary diversity score was targeted at >4.1 in Quthing district, >4.3 in Maseru district and >4.4 in Butha-Buthe district. The PDM's results demonstrated that in Quthing the targeted households consumed >5.9 food groups, in Maseru >5.0 food groups and in Butha-Buthe >5.6 food groups. An improvement of at least 2 food groups was achieved compared to the situation before the assistance.

Ultimately, the percentage of households that use more than 50% of cash transfers for food increased from a baseline of 69% to 88%.

FAO

FAO's interventions were focused on the support to production, food availability and improved utilization of food in a sustainable manner through (i) the distribution of recovery productive packages; (ii) complementary production support to Social Protection beneficiaries; (iii) improved vegetable gardening in schools and communities.

Protection and restoration of livelihoods was achieved through integrated sustainable production methods. The Project reached a total of 5,424 households out of the planned 3,500 households. The support was provided through agricultural inputs and technical support on integrated sustainable farming including Conservation Agriculture (CA), Home Gardening (HG); Nutrition and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) awareness. The agricultural inputs consisted of seeds of staple crops (maize and beans), shading nets, vegetable seeds comprised of six different types, fertilizer and seeds of grazing vetch. Grazing vetch seeds were distributed as one way of increasing soil fertility (nitrogen fixing), provide soil cover against high temperatures and improve water infiltration and moisture retention as well as soil erosion control apart from improving availability of biomass for animal feeds. In addition, the project distributed livelihoods equipment at community level. These included 500 units of CA ox-drawn planters and/or solar fruit driers, at least one per every 10 beneficiary households approximately.

A total of 19,000 households that were receiving CGP transfers and WFP cash/food transfer programmes in Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek districts also benefited from Home Gardening and Nutrition Kits as well as nutrition awareness support. These households supported under the social protection and agricultural complementarities intervention were identified by MoSD through the adoption of the NISSA tool with the assistance of UNICEF. The vegetable kits was comprised of 6 different types of seeds (300g), 4x4m shade-net for protection of vegetables against extreme heat, hail, frost as well as the home gardening and nutrition training materials articulated in their local language. Key topics were covered including food preservation techniques, pest and disease control methods, post-harvest storage techniques, keyhole plots construction etc.

In support of the sustainable use of food, FAO stressed the need for key stakeholders at national, district and community level to be familiar with Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices and SLM topics. The promotion, effective replication and adoption of CSA and SLM practices by key stakeholders as well as the improved Information, Coordination and Analysis in emergency decision making processes increased the sustainability of FAO's interventions. The extension services staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) and the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC) were trained on CSA techniques and SLM topics and had access to high quality communication and training materials adapted to local conditions for effective promotion.

The project also extended the training on Sustainable agricultural methods and practices to over 314 schools in the country. The purpose of this intervention was to introduce these agricultural techniques to the school children at an early and also incorporate them in the school curriculum. The schools were also able to produce their own vegetable gardens and harvest the vegetables to supplement the school feeding programme. In addition to the seed packages (i.e. cereal and legume seeds and vegetables), all the schools were supported with garden tools (i.e. spade, rake, wheelbarrow and 5 liter watering can). Following a series of CSA trainings conducted for the teachers, at least up to 92,493 pupils were introduced to CSA concepts at classroom level and that they had the opportunity to practice them through the school gardens.

In an effort to improve information collection and analysis in the agriculture and natural resources sectors with spatial data for evidence based decision making, FAO in collaboration with Lesotho Government Institutions developed a high resolution Lesotho Land Cover Database (LCBD). The

Land Cover Database (LCDB) initiated in 2015 was launched in May 2017. The LCDB provides baseline information and evidence for decision making in natural resources management and resilience building initiatives. The LCDB lays a foundation of a good tool for the development and/or improvement of agriculture production systems based on geospatial technology in Lesotho. The LCDB and geospatial technology has been supporting the development of the techniques, policy and investment conditions to achieve sustainable agricultural development and natural resources management under climate change and different environmental conditions.

FAO in collaboration with MAFS also generated the Agriculture Crop Portal (ACP) which serves as a web-based data dissemination platform for crop production statistics and crop conditions in the country. This will enable management and dissemination of satellite images, thematic layers and data at different administrative levels (such as crop, climatic and hydrologic data), which national or sub-national institutions generate or collect; thus improving information tools and analysis in the agriculture and natural resources sectors with spatial data for evidence based decision making.

UNICEF Social Protection

The social protection intervention reduced food insecurity for 3,681 households that covered 18,405 drought affected people, including 11,043 vulnerable children (51% female) from the poorest segment of the population in three affected districts – i.e. Mokhotlong, Thaba-Tseka and Quthing. The households were provided with cash top-ups to the CGP during two quarters (LSL 500 in each quarter) to improve their resilience and access to food. Discussions with beneficiaries at the distribution points indicated improved access to food and increased school attendance. Moreover, 70 community leaders (47% female) and 3,681 households were reached with emergency transfer messages; 22 sensitization sessions on child protection in emergencies were conducted during the payment days; ultimately, a total of 14 field monitoring and spot check visits were also organized.

UNICEF WASH

A total of 131,267 beneficiaries (51% female) was reached in 5 districts – i.e. Berea, Mafeteng, Thaba-Tseka, Quthing and Butha-Buthe with improved access to WASH services in 33 communities, 25 primary schools and 4 health centers, exceeding the initial target of 46,000 beneficiaries. The achieved result was possible after a re-assessment of the situation, and thereby re-designing the specified types of facilities to reach more beneficiaries. Therefore, 54.9% (768,948 people) of rural households in the targeted communities got access to more than 30 liters of potable water per day per person using bores, springs, public tap, standpipe, etc., from a baseline of 52.1% (729,600 people). The initial target was set at 53.9% (754,600 people). Moreover, 36.7% (514,652 people) of rural households are now using unimproved water sources, from a baseline of 39.6% (554,000). The initial target was set at 37.8% (529,000people).

UNFPA

UNFPA intervention outcome was to reduce the vulnerability for women and adolescent girls to El Niño drought-linked GBV in four districts, i.e. Mafeteng, Maseru, Mohales' Hoek and Butha-Buthe. The first ever Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in emergencies baseline study in Lesotho was conducted and completed a number of outreach activities to strengthen prevention, response and coordination of GBV cases whereby 1,084 households were reached. The baseline study represented the first study examining the status of GBV among women, adolescent girls and other

vulnerable groups in Lesotho. A total of 100,529 beneficiaries were reached through the interventions, against an initial target of 126,468 beneficiaries, subsequently revised to 70,000 beneficiaries (13,580 direct beneficiaries and 56,420 indirect beneficiaries).

In detail, 10,326 women and girls were reached with knowledge and skills about prevention and protection against GBV of which 8,000 received GBV knowledge and skills on prevention & response in addition to dignity kits; 24 women leaders “Pitiki” were trained in GBV, 87 safe spaces assessment and GBV sessions were conducted; 160 GBV survivors were trained in GBV basics, life skills and economic empowerment. Furthermore, 2,055 women and girls were reached during the district and community dialogues/meetings/outreach sessions. One national GBV coordination structure was established and made functional linked to community, district and national levels which consequently drafted and developed the GBV Standard Operating Procedures and the referral pathway for Maseru District. 148 health service providers were trained in clinical management of rape in which 37 health service providers attended a training of trainers in clinical management of rape and 111 health service providers trained in step down training. In an effort to strengthen GBV data management, a national GBV incidence form was also developed. Two mobile clinics were supported where an estimated 300 women were reached with counselling and information on GBV, family planning services, referral services and legal information on women rights and information. In addition to this, 20 editors sensitized on GBV in emergencies and 25 journalists were trained on reporting on GBV. Community dialogues reached 5,000 community members, 200 community leaders and 100 staff from Government and NGOs.

UNDP/RCO

UN RCO ensured an effective delivery of the Joint Programme through coordinated interventions that minimized the risk of duplications and gaps amongst the various components. In this regard, UN RCO strategically guided the implementation of the Joint Programme, supporting PUNOs through the establishment of appropriate coordination structures as well as coordinating the dialogue amongst PUNOs, the donor and the Administrative Agent (MTPF Office). Moreover, as Convening Agent, UN RCO ensured the necessary reporting and monitoring materials to the donor and the Administrative Agent, providing secretariat support to the established Joint Programme Steering Committee and Joint Programme Coordination Team. The coordination component of the Joint Programme through the UN RCO also supported the UN RC/HC, the recently established HCT as well as the UN DRMT. In this context, UN RCO ensured an effective coordination of the HCT’s planned humanitarian response to the El Niño-induced drought.

Furthermore, the supported coordination improved the access to data and information for donors, Government and other humanitarian/development partners, ensuring the timely delivery of reports regarding the implementation of humanitarian interventions and in particular those included in the Joint Programme. Moreover, the communication of needs, planned response and financial gaps to donors and other humanitarian partners helped in fostering transparency, mobilise resources, reduce transaction costs and it allowed for an effective humanitarian spending. Ultimately, the UN RCO ensured that the UN initiatives “Delivering as One” and “Communicating as One” were adequately upheld and implemented during the emergency response, facilitating inter-sector coherence and collaboration.

b) Outputs

*(Outputs are the more immediate results that your Programme is responsible for achieving. Report on the key outputs achieved in the reporting period, in relation to **planned outputs from the Project Document**, with reference to the relevant indicator(s) in these documents. Describe if any targets were achieved, or explain any variance in achieved versus planned results during the reporting period. If possible, include the percentage of completion of the outputs and the type and number of beneficiaries (**disaggregated by gender**)).*

WFP

The project assisted 42,250 beneficiaries (17,322m and 24,928f), exceeding the initial target of 28,000 food insecure people, representing 5,600 households. The project achieved its main objective to meet the immediate food needs of the food insecure worst drought-affected households in Quthing, Maseru and Butha-Buthe districts as per LVAC findings (May 2016). A monthly household cash ration of LSL100 was provided to 42,250 beneficiaries, to ensure access to minimum food needs and an improved dietary diversity during the annual lean seasons. The initial target was exceeded due to the revision of the transfer guidelines. In fact, the latest DMA's guidelines required partners to provide assistance based on the actual number of the people in a household as opposed to the method of national average (5 people/HH). As a result, the value transfer was amended (from LSL120 to LSL100), enabling WFP to reach more food insecure people than originally planned.

FAO

FAO reached and saved the lives of 5,424 vulnerable farming households under the livelihood protection component, exceeding the original target of 3,500 families by 1,924 families. This represents a total of 21.8% of all families assisted with livelihood protection activities by FAO since the inception of the project in 2016 (total of 24,856 families). As for the mountainous districts, the distributions of cereal seeds such as legumes, maize, vegetable seeds and fertilizer were completed in early December 2016 within the planting window. The last distributions took place in the southern lowland areas where rains were received at a later stage. In order to catch-up with the planting season, fast maturing yellow maize seed was furnished. The distribution of shade-nets and another leguminous seed (i.e. grazing vetch) envisioned to be planted between February and April in the lowlands districts was distributed early 2017. The vetch was meant to serve as a cover crop that would conserve moisture in the soil, improve the quality and structure of the soil, and suppress weeds and also as fodder to livestock. Services on Climate Smart Agriculture techniques are planned to continue.

With regard to the complementary production support to the Social Protection beneficiaries, 19,000 vulnerable households benefiting from Social Protection cash grants had improved their homestead food production capacity and diversify their diets through complementary kits of Home Gardening and Nutrition. FAO was responsible for procurement and on time delivery all items for Social Protection and Agriculture integration to various distribution points.

Moreover, extension services (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation) were trained and updated on CSA techniques and technologies, SLM topics, getting access to high-quality communication and training materials adapted to local conditions for effective promotion. With the support of MoET, up to 628 teachers (178f; 450m) who teach agriculture and school principals from 314 primary schools across the country were

trained on CSA, CA and home gardening and nutrition awareness. In addition to seed packages (i.e. cereal and legume seeds and vegetables); all the schools were furnished with garden tools (i.e. spade, rake, wheelbarrow and 5 liter watering can). Following a series of CSA trainings conducted for the teachers, it is therefore safe to report that at least up to 92,493 pupils were introduced to CSA concepts at classroom level and that they had the opportunity to practice them.

Furthermore, at least 3,150 households were trained by extension services on the adoption of CSA technologies and SLM topics. The project included capacity building component that targeted district staff on the Ministry of Forestry Range and Conservation. This training was to equip the field staff in key areas of Sustainable Land and water management for both crop and livestock sectors. Training of Rangeland department covered over 120 staff members) completed in Oct and Dec 2016. Training of Water Conservation staff (60 staff members) was completed - Jan 2017. The trained staff have gone ahead to conduct community training and supported the rehabilitation of water structures.

UNICEF Social Protection

An emergency cash transfer for the drought affected population in Lesotho was received for two quarters (LSL500 in each quarter) to improve families' access to food, the first quarter in September 2016 and the second in January 2017. A total of 3,681 households (18,405 people, including 11,043 vulnerable children) was reached in three councils in three districts, i.e. Seate in Mokhotlong district, Tenesolo in Thaba-Tseka district and Tosing in Quthing district.

A total of 177 households which were left out in the first quarter were covered in the second quarter. The disbursement was made by using the existing NISSA tool under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD). A partnership was established with the security company G4S to distribute the money among the beneficiaries. Through focus group discussions with beneficiaries, it was found that due to emergency cash transfer, families' affordability to buy more food increased and no children were sent to schools hungry.

UNICEF WASH

The project targeted 20 new water points to be established (public taps, hand pumps, boreholes) and 24 new spring boxes to protect viable natural springs. The targets were exceeded by establishing 11 additional spring boxes, and 20 additional water points, covering additional communities and schools, in order to reach more beneficiaries. The main beneficiaries for the water facilities were 10,178 community members (5,191f, 4,987m) in 33 communities; 5,170 pupils (2,637f, 2,533m) in 16 schools and 24,000 persons (12,480f, 11,520m) through 4 health centers, totaling 39,348 persons. The main beneficiaries for sanitation were 4,476 pupils (2,059f, 2,417m) in 19 schools. The main beneficiaries for hygiene promotion were 63,443 community members and 24,000 persons (12,480f, 11,520m) through 4 health facilities. The total beneficiaries reached were 131,267 beneficiaries' persons, exceeding the target of 46,000 by 85,267 persons.

UNFPA

The GBV component had 3 specific outcomes to deliver, i.e. (i) *Prevention*: improved prevention measures by the communities against drought-linked GBV in Butha-Buthe, Maseru, Mafeteng and Mhales' Hoek districts; (ii) *Response*: improved response for survivors of GBV resulting from drought crisis; (iii) *Coordination*: improved coordination of GBV actors at national, district and community levels. The 3 outcomes were achieved through the following outputs and activities:

i. Prevention

- 160 female GBV survivors were trained for 5 days on key gender and GBV concepts, but also growing agency, business basics, markets and money and basics of business planning.
- 100 leaders of community groups including leaders from women, youth and community police groups were trained on gender, power, human rights and GBV including on the referral pathway.
- 33 men who included 9 church leaders, 9 initiation school's instructors, 6 Khotla Lesotho and 8 Ministry of Gender staff were trained on male engagement to prevent and respond to GBV.
- 23 women leaders from 4 "Pitiki" groups (traditional celebration exclusively for women to educate and empower) were trained on GBV and skills for supporting women experiencing violence.
- 2 GBV committees were established in each district to lead the various community groups in preventing and responding to GBV.
- 2,500 community members including young people, women, girls, herders, men, village health workers and community police in the 4 districts were reached with GBV prevention and response messages.
- 7,500 Information Education and Communications (IEC) materials including 5,000 leaflets, 2,000 GBV posters, 500 community conversation guides and banners with GBV information were developed and disseminated.
- 8,000 dignity kits were procured and distributed to women and girls of reproductive age.

ii. Response

- 37 medical and psychosocial staff (33f; 4m) received a training of trainers on clinical management of rape (CMR).
- 111 health workers were trained through the step down training on CMR in the 4 project districts.
- Handbook on Health care for women subjected to intimate partner violence or sexual violence was revised.
- 25 technical gender officers of the Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sport and Recreation (MGYSR) trained as trainers in GBV basics, survivor centered approach and referral pathways.
- 10 technical officers from the Ministry of Gender participated in the training on engaging men and boys to prevent and respond to GBV.
- 30 staff from Ministry of Gender participated in Workshop to develop SOPs and referral pathway.
- 17 staff from Ministry of Gender, judiciary, NGOs, Police participated on training on GBV data management.

iii. Coordination

- Baseline Assessment Study conducted and disseminated as to the drought-linked GBV in the 10 districts of Lesotho.

- Developed GBV service mapping with 3W information – who is doing what where in the 4 project districts.
- Developed GBV Referral pathway for Maseru.
- Developed National GBV SOPs for Lesotho.
- GBV Coordination body chaired by MGYRS/UNFPA was put in place. 4 monthly GBV coordination meetings that have been regularized into quarterly meetings held (36f, 12m).

UNDP/RCO

UN RCO strengthened the humanitarian response to the El Niño-induced drought through the provision of inter-sectoral and sectoral coordination support to the Joint Programme as well as to the work of the HCT and DRMT. Through reinforced staff capacities (three consultants were hired to implement the coordination component, i.e. one Humanitarian Coordinator Consultant, one Humanitarian Affairs Consultant and one Information Management Consultant), the UN RCO assisted PUNOs and HCT/DRMT partners in effectively coordinating and implementing the Joint Programme and the overall HCT's response. In this regard, UN RCO assisted the establishment and strengthening of the required coordination bodies, i.e. the Joint Programme Steering Committee and Joint Programme Coordination Team, regularly assuring their secretariat support. During the implementation of the Joint Programme, UN RCO organised a total of 5 HCT meetings, 5 Joint Programme Coordination Team Meetings, 3 Joint Programme Steering Committee meetings and 4 DRMT meetings. All coordination meetings were prepared, reported and follow-up actions implemented. Moreover, UN RCO supported the sectors and sector coordinators in mapping, monitoring and reporting the activities included in the Joint Programme and HCT response, accomplishing with the reporting requirements set by the donors.

In addition, UN RCO improved the internal and external communication and visibility of the humanitarian situation and response in the country with donors, partners and other key audiences. In this regard, 4 situation updates, 5 programme activities maps and 4 humanitarian overviews were produced, published and shared through different channels including mailing lists, ReliefWeb, Humanitarianresponse.org, social media, etc. A breakfast meeting and field visit with local and international media was also organised for media coverage, together with a final video/documentary that featured the outcomes and human interest stories of the Joint Programme and overall HCT's response.

Furthermore, UN RCO strengthened the overall Information Management system in Lesotho, by improving existing tools (e.g. 3W, 4W, COD) and developing new tools and products (e.g. GIS, online Lesotho IM platform, HDX for data repository, online Lesotho Information Platform, humanitarian funding and reporting database, etc.). Moreover, UN RCO enhanced the overall Information Knowledge Management capacities of national humanitarian and development partners through a series of "IM Learning Hour" sessions. Ultimately, UN RCO supported and facilitated a *DFID Joint Programme Final Review on Programme Delivery and Activities*, with the aim of assess if the expected Joint Programme's components were timely and effectively achieved (for more information, please refer to Section III).

c) Qualitative assessment

Provide a qualitative assessment of the level of overall achievement of the Programme. Highlight key partnerships and explain how such relationships impacted on the achievement of results.

Explain cross-cutting issues pertinent to the results being reported on. For Joint Programmes, highlight how UN coordination has been affected in support of achievement of results.

WFP

The project was successfully implemented and the objectives achieved through community targeting and an effective collaboration and partnerships with UN agencies, NGOs (i.e. World Vision Lesotho and Catholic Relief Services) and private sector. In fact, WFP and UNICEF worked together to support a transparent targeting process through regular reconciliation of updated NISSA data with the beneficiary master lists generated from the community based participatory targeting process by the Disaster Management Authority (DMA). It was agreed that in future, where NISSA lists are up to date, all the humanitarian partners will use such for identification of people that are eligible for assistance after validation and based on the recommendations from the emergency assessments. In addition, FAO and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provided complementary activities to WFP beneficiaries to support sustainable crop production at household level.

Ultimately, WFP piloted the e-Card solution (people assisted access money through Automated Teller Machine) in partnership with Lesotho Standard Bank. The objective was to enhance the security of cash based transfer activities and enabled people being assisted to plan and receive their entitlements at any bank outlet rather than on prescribed days, saving time and money.

These partnerships and synergies enhanced successful implementation of the relief activities to address the immediate food insecurity challenges as a result of the El Niño drought situation.

FAO

FAO was not a direct implementer of its own component's activities. Therefore, some partnerships and collaborations with pertinent line Ministries and NGOs were established, to allow for timely and cost effective distributions with the view of building synergies amongst implementing partners. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) was involved on livelihood protection and recovery activities. In view of eliminating the error of exclusion and inclusion, a joint beneficiary selection process amongst the local authorities, i.e. key informants, chiefs, councilors and MAFS extension was highly advocated for. However, the process was duly led and guided by MAFS staff since they are deemed experts on farming related activities and that they had been trained on the selection criterion ahead of the process. The selection criterion that was divided into two categories had the following key elements a) farming background of the eligible households, and b) vulnerability aspects were also considered. In view of demonstrating transparency; the selection processes were conducted on public gatherings where the communities were accorded equal opportunities to partake in the programme and/or embark on frank deliberations on who is and/or not eligible for the support.

Moreover, FAO was responsible for procurement of all the inputs and delivery to project beneficiaries across the country. The distribution of inputs to beneficiaries was done jointly by FAO representatives and those of MAFS. On the other hand, FAO collaborated with Action Aid Lesotho in identifying vulnerable active farmers from cash transfer programme in Thaba-Tseka and Mokhotlong Districts. The Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) was also involved in Social Protection and Agriculture complementarity activities. MoSD adopted the NISSA tool to identify ultra-poor and poor families. The Ministry was responsible for facilitation and organization of input distributions at the community council level. In most cases, joint distribution of inputs by MoSD and FAO representatives were conducted concurrently with cash pay days in

a common place. Home Gardening and Nutrition kits were provided to these beneficiaries. FAO coordinated closely with WFP to provide Home Gardening and Nutrition kits to all WFP beneficiaries of emergency cash grants and food packages in Mohale's Hoek and Mafeteng Districts. Up to 4,000 beneficiaries receiving cash were supported.

UNICEF Social Protection

The planned results for the Social Protection component were fully achieved. The cash was disbursed through the existing Government system, NISSA, under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD). The partnerships demonstrated the potential of the NISSA to effectively reach populations to address the vulnerabilities induced by the drought.

UNICEF WASH

The planned results for the WASH component were achieved and exceeded in terms of total beneficiaries reached with interventions and services. The main beneficiaries for the water facilities were 10,178 community members (5,191f, 4,987m) in 33 communities; 5,170 pupils (2,637f, 2,533m) in 16 schools and 24,000 persons (12,480f, 11,520m) through 4 health centers, totaling 39,348 persons. The main beneficiaries for sanitation were 4,476 pupils (2,059f, 2,417m) in 19 schools. The main beneficiaries for hygiene promotion were 63,443 community members and 24,000 persons (12,480f, 11,520m) through 4 health facilities. A WASH monitoring tool was developed to capture the intervention data in the 5 districts. Partnerships with Government departments and NGOs e.g. the Department for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (DRWSS), World Vision Lesotho and CRS positively impacted on the achievements of the planned results. The joint programming with other UN agencies and programmes such as FAO, WFP, UNFPA and UNDP/RCO enabled linkages and integrated interventions for improved overall results.

UNFPA

The planned targets were successfully achieved through the implemented interventions and a set of effective partnerships and collaborations with Ministries, NGOs and local associations. For instance, UNFPA and the Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sport and Recreation (MGYSR) conducted community sensitization meeting/dialogues to raise awareness on El Niño drought-linked GBV through a series of community dialogues, meetings and outreach activities. Furthermore, UNFPA and MGYSR embarked on strengthening the capacity of the strategic community groups and network who in turn trained and guided on GBV prevention and response. Moreover, UNFPA and MGYSR conducted various training on men engagement, gender and sex, notions of masculinity and femininity, GBV basics, developing positive gender attitudes, expressing anger, preventing others from committing violence, and supporting women to end violence and working with role models. Additionally, UNFPA and the Ministry of Health (MoH) provided training for health worker in clinical management of rape.

Ultimately, in partnership with SolidarMed, MGYSR and the Ministry of Education and Training (MET), UNFPA procured and distributed 8,000 dignity kits to women and girls of reproductive age in the 4 project districts. Distribution of dignity kits provided an entry point for community sensitization and awareness raising on GBV linked to El Niño, hygiene and sexual and reproductive health education. These kits were distributed at health facilities, in schools, at chief's offices and at different public gatherings.

UNDP/RCO

UN RCO successfully strengthened the humanitarian response to the El Niño-induced drought through the provision of inter-sectoral and sectoral coordination support to the Joint Programme as well as to the work of the HCT and DRMT. In this effort, UN RCO also supported the national Disaster Management Authority (DMA) and other national partners in the conduction of yearly multi-sectoral assessments, allowing for evidence-based planning and a more targeted and efficient response. In addition, UN RCO supported the HCT partners in mobilising resources for the humanitarian response. Under the leadership of the UN RC/HC, the HCT sourced a total of USD 40.7 million up to August 2017 (77% of required funding). In the Southern African region, Lesotho was amongst the countries that reached the highest funding against the requirements. Ultimately, the liaison and close collaboration with regional and international humanitarian partners and donors (such as UNOCHA Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa - ROSEA, Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee - RIASCO, Southern African Development Community - SADC, the Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum - SARCOF, etc.) was also crucial for the effective delivery of the programme.

(The following sections may not apply for all outcomes. Where applicable mention the thematic sensitive components of the programme. A special focus on gender which was mentioned as a key objective for the joint programme).

- **For nutrition SDR:** Number of ‘women of childbearing age (15 to 49 years), children <5 years and adolescent girls (10 to 19 years)’ reached with DFID-funded FAO activities - reported as nutrition sensitive activities. Disaggregated by socio-economic quintile, although we recognize this is not likely to be available annually. It could possibly be built into baseline and end-line surveys.’
- **For WASH SDR:** Number of people reached with DFID-funded UNICEF WASH activities. Disaggregation by gender, disability, urban/rural, income. For meaningful disaggregation, collection of this data should be on a sample basis of the users of WASH, rather than based on numbers of facilities provided.’

The project targeted 20 new water points to be established (public taps, hand pumps, boreholes) and 24 new spring boxes to protect viable natural springs. The targets were exceeded by establishing 11 additional spring boxes, and 20 additional water points, covering additional communities and schools, in order to reach more beneficiaries. The main beneficiaries for the water facilities were 10,178 community members (5,191f, 4,987m) in 33 communities; 5,170 pupils (2,637f, 2,533m) in 16 schools and 24,000 persons (12,480f, 11,520m) through 4 health centers totaling 39,348 persons. The main beneficiaries for sanitation are 4,476 pupils (2,059f, 2,417m) in 19 schools. The main beneficiaries for hygiene promotion are 63,443 community members and 24,000 persons (12,480f, 11,520m) through 4 health facilities. Total beneficiaries reached are 131,267 beneficiaries’ persons exceeding the target of 46,000 by 85,267 persons.

- **For humanitarian programmes SDR:** Number people reached through DFID funds under the WFP and UNICEF cash programmes. Disaggregated by gender, disability, age and geography.

UNICEF under its Social Protection component assisted a total of 3,681 households (18,405 people, including 11,043 vulnerable children) in three councils in three districts, i.e. Seate in Mokhotlong, Tenesolo in Thaba-Tseka and Tosing in Quthing. An emergency cash transfer for the drought affected population in Lesotho was received for two quarters (LSL500 in each quarter) to improve families' access to food, the first quarter in September 2016 and the second in January 2017. Differently, the WFP component assisted 42,250 beneficiaries (17,322m and 24,928f), exceeding the initial target of 28,000 food insecure people representing 5,600 households. A monthly household cash ration of LSL100 was provided to 42,250 beneficiaries, to ensure access to minimum food needs and an improved dietary diversity during the annual lean seasons. The initial target was exceeded due to the revision of the transfer guidelines. In fact, the latest guidelines required partners to provide assistance based on the actual number of the people in a households as opposed to the method of national average (5 people/HH). As a result, the value transfer was amended (from LSL120 to LSL100), enabling WFP to reach more food insecure people than originally planned.

- **Gender:** reporting on the gender sensitive elements of programmes, as consideration of gender was highlighted as important in the design of this programme.

The Joint Programme as a whole, as well as its individual components, was gender sensitive and based on a sound gender analysis. Reducing gender-based disparities and potential harm arising out of these was a crucial dimension of all the programme components. Gender based indicators were included in a number of assessments, and allowed for gender inclusive humanitarian programming. The Joint Programme saw sensitization and gender sensitive targeting of beneficiaries. Moreover, it addressed the root causes and consequences of a number of gender based challenges in communities and therefore reduced gender-based disparities. Ultimately, it responded to a number of negative coping mechanisms that were identified by the Joint Rapid Assessment and the LVAC in 2016, relating to gender and protection.

Table n. 2: Total number (planned and actually reached) of individuals directly reached through DFID funding (breakdown by gender).

<u>Direct Beneficiaries</u>	Planned			Reached		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
WFP	16,800	11,200	28,000	24,928	17,322	42,520
FAO	52,673	52,748	105,421	19, 841	19, 491	39, 332
UNICEF Social Protection	9,387	9,018	18,405	9,387	9,018	18,405
UNICEF WASH	23,460	22,540	46,000	66,946	64,321	131,267
Protection/GBV	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>	13,580	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>	19,503
<u>TOTAL</u>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>	<i>tbc</i>	333,815

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document/AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

(Please update the log frame where appropriate. Progress should explain what indicators have been monitored and can be reported on. In the case where data is no available, field monitoring reports should be summarized. Actions going forward should clearly demonstrate how agencies plan to meet the programmatic requirements given the set of challenges identified. Where possible, actions going forward should include time-frames and accountability measures).

	Mid-Term Achieved indicator Targets	Final Achieved Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<p>WFP - Outcome 1a - Adequate food consumption reached or maintained over assistance period for targeted households.</p> <p>Indicator 1a.1: Poor food consumption Score Baseline: Quthing (17%) Maseru (15%) Butha-Buthe (18%) Planned Target: Quthing (3%) Maseru (3%) Butha-Buthe (4%)</p>	<p>Baseline data was collected prior to the support, following the targeting exercise that was led by the Government. The baseline results indicated that 17% of households in Quthing, 15% in Maseru and 18% in Butha-Buthe had poor food consumption score. This means that these households did not have adequate food to meet their daily consumption needs.</p>	<p>The Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) indicated an improvement in the food consumption of the beneficiary households, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quthing 10% • Maseru 7% • Butha-Buthe 7% <p>The proportion of households with poor food consumption reduced significantly, although the target of 3-5% was not fully achieved. This was mainly due to the fact that the majority of the beneficiary households did</p>	<p>The variances seen in the planned targets and post-distribution monitoring results for poor food consumption scores can be attributed to:</p> <p>i) Revision of transfer value from LSL120 to LSL100.00 per person. This affected mostly small households as the transfer received could on cover only the basic food commodities.</p> <p>ii) Beneficiaries shared their transfer money between food and other non-food commitments like transport, payment for burial services, etc.</p> <p>The beneficiaries' diet remained mostly undiversified due to emergency situation. In</p>	<p>LVAC reports, Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations (PRRO) Baseline Report (Nov. 2016), monitoring and PRRO follow-up Report (May 2017).</p>

<p>Indicator 1a.2: Cost of food basket versus value of cash transfer Baseline: 100% Planned Target: 100%</p> <p>Indicator 1a.3: Dietary diversity score Baseline: Quthing (4.1) Maseru (4.3) Butha-Buthe (4.4) Planned Target: Quthing (>4.1) Maseru (>4.3) Butha-Buthe (>4.4)</p>		<p>not buy only food with cash transfers.</p> <p>WFP provided assistance that covered 103% food needs of the beneficiary households. Cash provided to these households was calculated to meet the food gaps which were based on an average of 29% food deficit. The cash transfer value was determined by the Government at LSL100.00 per household member per month which covered 40% of the cost of the food basket. Based on this, the transfer given was 40% versus the cost of the basket although the food gaps were met.</p> <p>Analysis of dietary diversity score indicated that the assistance provided enabled the beneficiary households to diversify their diets. The PDM demonstrated the following results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quthing >5.9 • Maseru >5.0 • Butha-Buthe >5.6 <p>There was an improvement of at least 2 food groups as compared to the status before assistance.</p>	<p>fact, beneficiaries were concerned with meeting basic consumption needs and not necessarily diet diversification as seen in their food expenditure where the main food commodities bought were cereal, vegetable oil, salt and sugar.</p>	
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<p>Indicator 1a.4: % of households that use more than 50% of cash transfers for food. Baseline: 69% Planned Target: 80%</p>		<p>88% of the households used more than 50% of cash transfers for food.</p>		
<p>Output 1a.1 - 5,000 targeted HHs received timely cash transfer and feedbacks have been acted upon.</p> <p>Indicator 1a.1 - No. of households/people reached with cash transfer Baseline: 5,000 HH in Quthing Planned Target: 25,000 people receive emergency cash assistance.</p>	<p>42,520 beneficiaries reached.</p>	<p>42,520 beneficiaries reached (70% above the planned target).</p>	<p>The actual beneficiaries reached is above the planned target as a result of the change in the transfer value which reduced from LSL120 to LSL100 due to new transfer guidelines implemented by the Government and DMA.</p>	<p>WFP Output reports.</p>
<p>UNICEF Social Protection – OUTCOME 1b – 3,681 households in 3 affected community councils receive cash transfers reaching a minimum of 11,043 vulnerable children.</p> <p>Indicator 1b.1 - Number of households receiving emergency cash transfer top ups in the 3 community councils Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 3,681</p>	<p>A total of 3,504 households (covering 10,512 children) in 3 affected community councils received emergency cash in the first payment.</p> <p>70 community leaders and 3,622 households</p>	<p>A total of 3,681 households, covering 18,405 drought affected and 11,043 children in 3 affected community councils received emergency cash in the first payment.</p> <p>70 community leaders (47% female) and 3,681</p>	<p>No variance compared with the planned targets.</p>	<p>Report from Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) and Consultant, Post Distribution Monitoring Report & Evaluation Report</p>

<p>Indicator 1b.2 - Number of community leaders and beneficiary households reached with emergency transfer message Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 3, 500 households and 70 community leaders</p> <p>Indicator 1.b.3 - Number of sensitization sessions on child protection in emergencies conducted during payment days Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 12 sessions</p> <p>Indicator 1b.4: Number of field monitoring and spot check visits Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 9 visits</p>	<p>12 sessions</p> <p>12 visits were made</p>	<p>households reached with emergency transfer message.</p> <p>22 sensitization sessions and 3,681 HH reached on child protection in emergencies conducted during payment days</p> <p>14 visits were made</p>		
<p>Output 1.b - Indicator 1b.1 - Number of TWG Meetings organized by MOSD with other stakeholders Baseline: 1 per month Planned Target: 1 per 2 weeks</p> <p>Indicator 1b.2 - Number of reports shared with partners Baseline: 0 Planned Target: End of Project Report</p>	<p>10 TWG meetings in five months</p> <p>Project was still in progress.</p>	<p>12 meetings</p> <p>End of project report shared with MoSD.</p>	<p>No variance compared with the planned targets</p>	<p>TWG reports</p>

<p>FAO - Outcome 2 - Nutritional status of targeted food insecure HH improved</p> <p>Indicator 2.1: Number of HHs reporting increase in vegetable consumption and diversity of consumption from their own production (FAO) - Percentage of HHs reporting an increase of vegetable food groups in their diet (FAO) Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 12,950 HHs</p>	<p>The Baseline information for both livelihood and social protection-agriculture beneficiaries were collected and analyzed.</p>	<p>12,205 households reported increase in vegetable consumption and diversity of consumption from their own production.</p>	<p>FAO partnerships with other humanitarian aid organizations and/or agencies such as Action Aid Lesotho and WFP resulted in variance with planned targets. Up to 1,924 households were supported under livelihood recovery intervention through Action Aid while additional 4,000 also benefited from Home Gardening and Nutrition kits under the auspices of WFP.</p>	<p>Baseline and Post-Harvest reports (FAO)</p>
<p>Output 2.1 - Community or livelihood assets built, restored or maintained by targeted households and communities</p> <p>Indicator 2.1 - Percentage increase in crop production reported by beneficiary HHs (FAO) Baseline: 3500 Planned Target: 180%</p>	<p>Until December 2016, the project had supported 4,066 families with a livelihood protection package of maize seeds, bean seeds, vegetable seeds, fertilizer and training materials. Additional grazing vetch seeds and shade nets were planned to be distributed in Feb 2017. Activities supporting community livelihood assets were meant to be implemented from February 2017 until August 2017.</p>	<p>233% of increase in crop production reported by beneficiary households out of a target of 180%</p>		<p>Baseline and Post-Harvest reports (FAO)</p>

<p>UNICEF WASH – Outcome 3 - 46,000 targeted beneficiaries of the total Basotho Rural population (1,400,000) who are able to meet minimum needs of potable water (up to 30 liters by end of August 2017)</p> <p>Indicator 3 - Percentage of (Rural) HHs in targeted communities have access to more than 30 liters of potable water per day/ per person using Bores/springs/public tap/standpipe, etc. Baseline: 52.1% (729,600 people) Planned Target: 53.9% (754,600 people)</p> <p>OUTCOME 3.1 - 25,000 targeted beneficiaries of the total rural population (1,400,000) - who will no longer access unprotected water sources</p> <p>Indicator 3.1 - Percentage/# of HHs in targeted communities using unimproved water source Baseline: 39.6% (554,000 people) Planned Target: 37.8% (529,000 people)</p>	<p>Approximately 52.7% (737,609 people) of rural HHs having improved access.</p> <p>36.9% (516,726 people) of HHs using unimproved water source.</p>	<p>54.9% (768,948 people) with access to more than 30 liters of potable water supply per day.</p> <p>36.7% (514,652 people) of HHs using unimproved water sources.</p>	<p>Selection of additional communities and schools for intervention. Redesigning of Water supply facilities to reach more beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Partners reports, WASH monitoring tools, community/schools data sheets.</p>
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<p>Output 3.1 - Community or livelihood assets built, restored or maintained by targeted households and communities</p> <p>Indicator 3.1 - Number of new Water points established (Public taps, Hand Pumps, Boreholes) Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 20</p> <p>Indicator 3.2 - Number of new Established spring boxes to protect un protected viable natural springs Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 24</p>	<p>9 spring boxes constructed and 5 rehabilitated in communities; 2 water systems constructed and 3 rehabilitated in communities; 7 boreholes drilled and fitted with hand-pumps in communities; 2 boreholes drilled and fitted with hand-pumps in schools; 5 new connections/pipe networks to schools; 4 new water systems constructed in health centers.</p>	<p>A total of 35 water systems constructed/rehabilitated; Rehabilitation of 11 boreholes; Drilling of 9 boreholes fitted with hand pumps Provision of water supply to 16 schools; New water systems completed in 4 health centers.</p>	<p>Variance of 11 additional spring water supply systems and 20 additional water points established. Changes due to the inclusion of Berea district into the targeted locations. Therefore, the implementation encompassed additional communities and schools to reach more beneficiaries, measurement of works/detailed designs and costing of required work. This resulted in changing needs and having to prioritize based on cost estimates of individual sites versus available funding.</p>	<p>Partner reports, WASH monitoring tools, signed contract awards, job completion certificates.</p>
<p>FAO – OUTCOME 4 - Targeted households are more resilient</p> <p>Indicator 4.1 - Percentage of beneficiary HHs reporting an increase in area planted with crops (FAO) Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 60%</p> <p>Indicator 4.2 - yield per hectare / number of months of HH food security produced Baseline: 270kg Planned Target: 750kg</p>	<p>Until December 2016, the project had supported 4,066 families with a livelihood protection package of maize seeds, bean seeds, vegetable seeds, fertilizer and training materials. Additional grazing vetch seeds and shade nets were planned to be distributed in Feb 2017. Activities supporting community livelihood assets were meant to be implemented from February 2017 until August 2017.</p>	<p>70% of beneficiary HHs reporting an increase in area planted with crops (FAO) - Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 60% Achieved: 70%</p> <p>Indicator 4.2 - yield per hectare / number of months of HH food security produced Baseline: 270kg Planned Target: 750kg Achieved: 1,100kg</p>		<p>LVAC reports, Post-harvest report, Partner Reports</p>

<p>Indicator 4.3 - Increase of consumption of staple food from own production in number of months per HH Baseline: 2 months Planned Target: 4 months</p> <p>Indicator 4.4 - Percentage of HHs reporting an increase in amounts of agriculture produce being sold/intended for selling for income generation Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 20%</p> <p>Indicator 4.5 - Percentage of beneficiary HHs adopting CSA technologies for household production Baseline: 29% Planned Target: 40%</p>		<p>Indicator 4.3 - Increase of consumption of staple food from own production in number of months per HH Baseline: 2 months Planned Target: 4 months Achieved: 5 months</p> <p>Indicator 4.4 - Percentage of HHs reporting an increase in amounts of agriculture produce being sold/intended for selling for income generation Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 20% Achieved: 30%</p> <p>Indicator 4.5 - Percentage of beneficiary HHs adopting CSA technologies for household production Baseline: 29% Planned Target: 40% Achieved: 33%</p>		
<p>Output 4 - Households receive seed packs, climate smart agriculture kits and training on climate smart farming initiatives</p> <p>Indicator 4.1 - Percentage Households that received FAO seed packs Baseline: 0% Planned Target: 100% Actual: 116%</p>	<p>Until December 2016, the project had supported 4,066 families with a livelihood protection package of maize seeds, bean seeds, vegetable seeds, fertilizer and training materials. Additional grazing vetch seeds and shade nets were planned to be distributed in Feb 2017. Activities supporting community livelihood assets were meant to be implemented from February 2017 until August 2017.</p>	<p>Indicator 4.1 - Percentage Households that received FAO seed packs Baseline: 0% Planned Target: 100% Actual: 155%</p> <p>Indicator 4.2 - Percentage of beneficiary HHs trained</p>		<p>Activity reports Attendance lists Photo and story gallery.</p>

<p>Indicator 4.2 - Percentage of beneficiary HHs trained on Climate Smart Agriculture Baseline: 0% Planned Target: 70%</p>		<p>on Climate Smart Agriculture Baseline: 0% Planned Target: 100% Achieved: 80%</p>		
<p>UNICEF WASH/UNFPA – OUTCOME 5 - Reduce vulnerability for women and adolescent girls to El Niño linked GBV</p> <p>Indicator 5.1 - Percentage of HH with water more than 30 minutes away (round trip) Baseline: 36.6% (pre-emergency 2014) Planned Target: 36.6%</p> <p>Indicator 5.2 - Number of women and girls with knowledge and skills about prevention and protection against GBV Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 8,000 (subsequently reduced to 5,000)</p> <p>Indicator 5.3 - Number of reported cases of GBV in communities and district level Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 0</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>Baseline Study conducted; IT equipment procured; 7 coordination structures identified; 201 out of 1,084 women and girls with knowledge about GBV (18.5%); process of review of Clinical Management of sexual violence underway; stakeholder Meetings in 4 Districts, action plan developed; IEC material procured.</p>	<p>33.7% (473,052)</p> <p>10,326 women and girls reached with GBV prevention and response and sexual reproductive health information. 8,000 received GBV knowledge and skills on prevention & response- in addition to dignity kits. 24 women leaders “Pitiki” trained in GBV; 87 safe spaces assessment and GBV sessions; 160 GBV survivors trained in GBV basics, life skills and economic empowerment. 2,055 women and girls reached during the district and community dialogues.</p>	<p>Selection of additional communities and schools for intervention. Redesigning of Water supply facilities to reach more beneficiaries.</p> <p>The baseline assessment, identified a great need for dignity kits for vulnerable adolescent girls and adolescent mothers. Therefore the need to deliver more dignity kits under the project as an entry point to engaging community in GBV dialogue.</p> <p>The baseline study established that the level of GBV linked with El Nino was relatively low. Respondents were inadequately knowledgeable on the link between GBV and El Nino. The increase in the budget for the IEC materials in one of the strategy in raising awareness on GBV and how it links with emergency situations such as El Nino.</p>	<p>Activity reports, attendance lists, photo and story gallery, training reports.</p>

<p>Indicator 5.4 - National GBV coordination structures established and functional Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 4 (subsequently reduced to 1)</p> <p>Indicator 5.5 - Number of health service providers trained in clinical management of GBV Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 120</p>		<p>1 national GBV coordination structure was established and made functional linked to community, district and national levels.</p> <p>148 health service providers were trained in clinical management of GBV.</p>		
<p>Output 5 - Water sources are established closer to HH.</p> <p>Indicator 5.1 – See Output Indicator 3.1 and 3.2 Baseline: 41% (574,000 people) Planned Target: 42% (588,142)</p> <p>Indicator 5.2 - Referral mechanisms against GBV are established in targeted districts and communities Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 4 (subsequently reduced to 1)</p> <p>Indicator 5.3 - Number of GBV workshops for prevention and advocacy</p>	<p>10 new water systems constructed in communities; 7 boreholes drilled and installed with hand pumps; Boreholes drilled and hand pumps installed in 2 primary schools; New water systems constructed in 2 primary schools.</p>	<p>43.8% (613,348)</p> <p>1 referral mechanism against GBV established in targeted districts and communities.</p> <p>21 GBV workshops organized for prevention and advocacy undertaken</p>	<p>Selection of additional communities and schools for intervention. Redesigning of Water supply facilities to reach more beneficiaries.</p>	<p>GBV Baseline Study, Project verification visits, WASH monitoring tool, monthly reports and partner reports indicates 39,348 beneficiaries served.</p>

<p>undertaken at national and district level Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 18 (subsequently reduced to 10)</p>		<p>at national and district level.</p>		
<p>UNDP/RCO – OUTCOME 6 - Improved coordination of the joint humanitarian response</p> <p>Indicator 6.1 - Effective delivery of the Joint Program Baseline: - Planned Target: Yes</p> <p>Indicator 6.2 - Effective humanitarian response coordination Baseline: - Planned Target: Yes</p>	<p>UN RCO delivered coordination support to the HCT partners to ensure the delivery of an effective humanitarian response. UN RCO created visibility of the humanitarian Joint Programme and reported on the humanitarian situation and the ongoing humanitarian response to donors, the government and humanitarian partners.</p> <p>UN RCO assisted in coordinating the food security sector concerning geographic and beneficiary targeting to increase cost efficiency and the caseload of humanitarian actors. Further, the UN RCO contributed to the development of shock responsive social protection schemes.</p> <p>The coordination support was extended throughout the revision of the humanitarian response plan.</p>	<p>UN RCO ensured an effective delivery of the Joint Programme through coordinated interventions that minimised the risk of duplications and gaps amongst the various components.</p> <p>Moreover, UN RCO strategically guided the implementation of the Joint Programme, supporting PUNOs through the establishment of appropriate coordination structures as well as coordinating the dialogue amongst the donor and the Administrative Agent.</p> <p>Furthermore, UN RCO ensured the necessary reporting and monitoring materials to the donor and the Administrative Agent, providing secretariat support to the Joint Programme Steering</p>	<p>The hiring of staff was delayed to the second half of the programme implementation to timely and adequately support the implementation of the humanitarian response plan, planned assessments, programme visibility and final reporting to donors.</p>	<p>Minutes, TORs, Action Plans, (see output indicators 6.1 - 6.4)</p>

		<p>Committee and Joint Programme Coordination Team.</p> <p>In addition, the coordination component of the Joint Programme through the UN RCO supported the UN RC/HC, the recently established HCT as well as the UN DRMT. In this context, the UN RCO ensured an effective coordination of the HCT's planned humanitarian response to the El Niño-induced drought.</p> <p>The supported coordination improved the access to data and information for donors, Government and other humanitarian/development partners, ensuring the timely delivery of reports regarding the implementation of humanitarian interventions and in particular those included in the Joint Programme. Ultimately, UN RCO ensured that the UN initiatives "Delivering as One" and "Communicating as One" were adequately upheld and implemented during the emergency response,</p>		
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		facilitating inter-sector coherence and collaboration.		
<p>Output 6 - Establishment of documents that improve coordination</p> <p>Indicator 6.1 - Establishment of Terms of Reference Baseline: - Planned Target: Yes</p> <p>Indicator 6.2 - Establishment of Technical Working Group Baseline: - Planned Target: Yes</p> <p>Indicator 6.3 - Establishment of Action Plan Baseline: - Planned Target: Yes</p>	<p>The RCO assisted the establishment of the required coordination bodies, ensuring their secretariat support. Particularly the Joint Programme Coordination Team, comprising the technical leads of all agencies is being chaired by the UN RC/HC and is being advised by the RCO. All coordination meetings have been prepared, accompanied and follow-up actions been implemented.</p>	<p>Drafter and approved TORs for: Humanitarian Affairs Consultant; Humanitarian Coordination Officer; Humanitarian Information Management; Joint Programme Final Review on Programme Delivery and Activities; Final video on the Joint Programme and HCT's response.</p> <p>Established the Joint Programme Steering Committee and Joint Programme Coordination Team. Strengthening of the newly established UN HCT and UN DRMT.</p> <p>Establishment of the HCT Action Plan and DRMT Annual Work Plan.</p>	<p>The hiring of staff was delayed to the second half of the programme implementation to timely and adequately support the implementation of the humanitarian response plan, planned assessments, programme visibility and final reporting to donors.</p>	<p>Terms of Reference and Action Plans adopted, meeting minutes.</p>

Indicator 6.4 - Minutes Taken Baseline: - Planned Target: Yes		Minutes taken for the following meetings: Joint Programme Steering Committee; Joint Programme Coordination Team; HCT; DRMT meeting.		
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III. Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

(Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies (a) undertaken relating to the programme and how they were used during implementation. Has there been a final project evaluation (b) and what are the key findings? Provide reasons if no programme evaluation have been done yet?)

(Explain challenges (c) such as delays in programme implementation, and the nature of the constraints such as management arrangements, human resources etc. What actions were taken to mitigate these challenges? How did such challenges and actions impact on the overall achievement of results? Have any of the risks identified during the project design materialized or were there unidentified risks that came up?)

(Report key lessons learned and best practices (d) that would facilitate future programme design and implementation, including issues related to management arrangements, human resources, resources, etc. Please also include experiences of failure, which often are the richest source of lessons learned).

a) Assessments and studies

A series of multi-sectoral assessments were conducted before and during the period of implementation of the Joint Programme, including the yearly LVAC Annual Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis, the IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Classification, the Crop Assessment and Forecast, the Seed Security and Post-Harvest Assessment. The results of these assessments played a vital role for planning, budgeting and decision-making before and during the implementation of the overall HCT's emergency response to the El Niño-induced drought, including the DFID-funded Joint Programme.

Moreover, in the period November 2016-January 2017, a GBV Baseline Study was conducted by UNFPA in ten districts of Lesotho, on a sample of 1,084 households. The study was aimed at assessing (i) the occurrence and magnitude of GBV; (ii) the availability, access and quality of services for women, adolescent girls and children; (iii) the contribution of El Niño drought impact to GBV among different categories of women, and adolescent girls; (iiii) the role of different institutions in ensuring safety of women and girls against GBV. Moreover, through the study it was possible to (i) map the existing community protection structures to be strengthened to prevent GBV; (ii) map the GBV hot spots where GBV was common to enhance community protection of girls and women; (iii) establish the most common forms of violence that women and girls face in their communities; (iiii) review available GBV policies to determine the gaps and opportunities and make recommendations. The final report highlighted that GBV episodes notably increased during the El Niño-induced drought, despite the existence of GBV actors, structures and legislations at various levels. The report's findings were used to structure an adequate and effective implementation of the GBV component within the Joint Programme., strategically informing some of the GBV components' indicators.

Ultimately, a “*Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems Research – Case study: Lesotho*” was also conducted during the implementation of the Joint Programme. It was led by the Oxford Policy Management (OPM) in consortium with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and INASP. The research was funded by DFID, Humanitarian Innovation and Evidence Programme. The case study analyzed the extent to which social protection interventions and systems formed part of the response by the Government of Lesotho and its development partners to the El Niño-induced drought. The case study also provided recommendations on the potential use of the aforesaid programmes and systems to possibly address future shocks.

b) Final Programme evaluation

In the period October-December 2017, PUNOs through an independent international consultant conducted a *Final Review on the Joint Programme as to its Delivery and Activities*, in line with Section V and VI of the Memorandum of Understanding between PUNOs and the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office and with Section VI and VII of the Standard Administrative Arrangement between DFID and Administrative Agent.

The specific objectives of the Joint Review were:

- To examine, assess and report if the expected Joint Programme and component outcomes included in the Results Framework of the Joint Programme Document were timely and effectively achieved;
- To assess to what extent the objectives of the Joint Programme were consistent with humanitarian needs and the humanitarian response plan;
- To establish if the programme activities were implemented in accordance with:
 - the Joint Programme Document and any subsequent modifications approved by the Joint Programme Steering Committee and DFID;
 - the Memorandum of Understanding between PUNOs and the Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Office regarding the Operational Aspects of Joint Programme;
 - the Standard Administrative Arrangement between DFID and the Administrative Agent;
 - any further guidance provided by DFID;
- To assess the level of complementarity among the different Joint Programme components for an overall assessment of the positive impact of the Joint Programme;
- To assess the contribution of the Joint Programme to resilience-building agenda;
- To assess the different methodologies used to target and enroll beneficiaries, their strengths and weaknesses and how they added value relating to timeliness of delivery of activities;
- To assess value for money focusing on equitable distribution of benefits to vulnerable communities;
- To determine the adequacy and effectiveness of the Joint Programme coordination structure (Steering Committee, Coordination structures, secretariat support etc.).

A final report with findings and recommendations will be finalized within January 2018 and it will be subsequently shared with DFID through MPTF Office.

c) Challenges and constraints in the implementation

PUNOs	Challenges	Mitigation actions
WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays in completing the beneficiary targeting and selection exercise. • Distributions started late due to delayed completion of the targeting and selection of food insecure people to be assisted. The National Information System on Social Assistance (NISSA) was outdated and therefore unreliable and not to be used for humanitarian targeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFP and other development partners provided funding to help the government to undertake targeting process. Furthermore, WFP provided technical assistance in the undertaking of vulnerability assessments and the establishment of the National Response Plan to facilitate timely targeting and implementation processes for the emergency response activities.
FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the time of planting, the soil moisture content was poor due to irregular rainfall patterns; eventually, the germination percentage was compromised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On homestead vegetable production, farmers were strongly advised to use grey water from the kitchen to have their small plots irrigated. For cereal production, conservation agriculture (CA) farming technology was encouraged since it conserves moisture if properly executed.
UNICEF Social Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 177 households missed the first quarter payment due to the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - some households forgot to bring their identity documents; - some households were not in the country by the time of payments; - some households did not get the information on the date of disbursement. • [...] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

UNICEF WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent or unavailable data at national level. • Delays in construction of WASH facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of WASH monitoring tools to capture data real time, partners reports tailored to reflect relevant WASH data developed and shared. • UNICEF provided more funds to the contractors to engage additional manpower to expedite the work.
UNFPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Releasing of funds slightly delayed the implementation of the project. • The design of the GBV Baseline Study was to cover the four districts but was later needed to stretch to 10 district after stakeholder consensus the review of previous studies regarding the magnitudes of GBV and the requirement make the study more representative and therefore stretched the duration of the study. • The Guidelines of Clinical Management of Rape guidelines were outdated and required review and adaptation to WHO standards. • Unavailable data at national and community level on reported GBV cases. • Engagement of GBV in emergency specialist contract required multi sectoral expertise which took time to get one that fit criteria. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Support from Regional Office Humanitarian Specialist in reviewing CMR guidelines and conducting TOT on CMR • Timeframe for implementation of activities extended to 31st August.6
UNDP/RCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays in the hiring of the necessary support staff, i.e. one Humanitarian Affairs Consultant and one Information Management Consultant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timeframe for further coordination support was pushed to the period January-August 2017, in order to timely and adequately support the implementation of the humanitarian response plan, planned assessments, programme visibility and final reporting to donors.

The reported mitigation actions allowed for an adequate implementation the Joint Programme which finally reached and exceeded its initial targets.

d) Lessons learned and recommendations

Category	Lesson learned	Recommendation
Policy	High-level government commitment and buy-in are required for humanitarian programmes to be effective.	The engagement of Ministers and Principle Secretaries is needed to allow for efficient implementation of programmes and to avoid delays in programme delivery.
Operational	Effective information and education campaigns are required to accompany cash assistance programmes in order to avoid harm within families and communities.	Engagement with beneficiaries and communities to provide education on the purpose and use of funding, considering different material and outreach by gender.
Operational	Need for close collaboration with mobile payment and bank providers to ensure adequate reach and proximity to cash recipients.	Further engagement with mobile service providers to discuss different solutions for mobile cash payments, e.g. extending the reach.
Policy/ Operational	Need for extensive assistance to government bodies to ensure timely targeting.	Provide coordination support to DMA through resources (human and material) and high-level support to allow for programmes to be effective.
Policy/ Operational	Need for continuous development of scalable social protection schemes to improve the pace and impact in humanitarian contexts.	Analysis of potential for wide-scale scalable social protection schemes in Lesotho and continuous strengthening of current systems to allow for a rapid, well targeted response in case of humanitarian crisis.
Operational	Need for surveillance data management to inform programming.	Tracking of indicators and milestones to be able to react better to changes and to propose programme solutions accordingly.

Operational	Analysis of operational strength and weaknesses of implementing partners to allow for timely programme implementation.	Better analysis of capacities of implementing partners. Inclusion of different partners with different strengths.
Operational	Undertake procurement directly and do not delegate procurement to implementing partners, in case their capacity is low.	To allow for timely implementation, keep procurement process in-house.

IV. Value for Money

(DFID has a particular focus on economy, efficiency and effectiveness, and equity. In case there are findings that could be highlighted please highlight them in this section (e.g. cash transfers having a multiplier effect on the local economy by stimulating local markets? Findings in delivery through social protection systems – comments on efficiency/effectiveness/economy? Have any agencies gone out of their way to deliver efficiency (e.g. through nimble approaches to procurement)? This section is not about economy i.e. cheapest inputs, etc. but learning around effectiveness, as well).

The Joint Programme was able to make a considerable difference in terms of value for money. While the use of evidence was able to improve the delivery of programmes, different types of cost efficiencies were critical to reduce programme costs and allow for higher outreach and delivery of the Joint Programme.

WFP

Several factors can affect the cost of a cash transfer programme and its efficiency compared to other modalities. For this Joint programme, the main cost drivers were the transfer itself, staffing and expenses associated with the delivery mechanism. Other factors that influenced cash transfer efficiency included scale, the size of the transfer and the additional time requirements associated with the programme (e.g. intensive monitoring, etc.) compared to programmes using in-kind aid. WFP planned to undertake a detailed cost efficiency and effectiveness analysis comparing the cash and in-kind transfer modalities that were used during the El Niño response intervention before the end of December 2017.

As part of innovation towards efficiency of the cash based transfers, the e-Card modality was piloted by WFP in partnership with Standard Lesotho Bank, serving a total of 4,265 beneficiaries who mostly appreciated the ability to create savings, choose when to travel to towns for grocery shopping and avoid the waiting lines at the Bank.

FAO

FAO implemented the El Niño response following a Programme approach. The programme had 5 components all complementing each other. The funds from DFID were part of this large programme and complemented the efforts of other donors. There was value for money in using the pooled resources in project administration, in M&E and in other common services. The project made great savings in personnel and these savings were ploughed back into community assets and training. There were other savings from conducting joint review missions and field visits with other FAO donor funded projects.

UNICEF Social Protection

Working through an established social protection system contributed to reduced transactional costs and allowed for timely response through the use of the existing beneficiary lists. The system used a combination of Proxy-Means Test (PMT) and community-based targeting to minimize on inclusion and exclusion errors, while improving on the delivery of cash to beneficiaries. Results from the UNICEF social protection top-up programme showed that cash transfers have a multiplier effect on the local economy, increasing purchasing power of beneficiaries' families. This strengthened local markets/businesses owned by non-beneficiaries. Focus group discussions during payments showed that beneficiaries of the cash transfers were less likely to adopt negative coping mechanism such as reducing frequency of meals, begging from neighbors; and engaging children in work and withdrawing them from school. As the disbursements was made through the existing

National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA) of the Ministry of Social Development, the costs for targeting were eliminated and efficiency gains were recorded.

UNICEF WASH

The project achievements surpassed the targets attesting to a strong positive implementation performance and good value for money. The direct intervention of UNICEF in partnership with the DRWS to implement the construction phase of the project contributed to the reduction in transactional costs and enhanced timely response. The contracted firms were selected through an open competitive bidding process in line with UNICEF procedures. Achievements showed a marked improvement in access to WASH facilities with a catalytic effect on reducing incidents of gender-based violence (GBV) and improved school retention especially for girls who were challenged by the lack of adequate/appropriate latrines before the intervention. Communities supported schools with the provision of soap enabling adolescent girls to maintain hygienic practises during their menstrual cycles. Community involvement helped to initiate community ownership and promote sustainability, as community members in water committees were involved in the operation and maintenance of the WASH facilities. The hygiene promotion and formation of WASH clubs in schools by trained health workers and teachers also improved hygiene practices in schools and in households with the introduction of tippy-taps for handwashing in household constructed latrines

UNFPA

The project trained traditional governance structures such as chiefs, women focus groups and male groups to reach out to larger sectors of the society on GBV. This saved time since actual project implementation was behind schedule. To develop economic capacity of women in targeted districts, UNFPA partnered with Gender Links to train survivors of GBV on entrepreneurial skills. Moreover, 8,000 dignity were provided to the most vulnerable girls and women of reproductive age identified by school principals and chiefs. UNFPA also partnered with Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation which had existing structurers at district level. This maximized the coverage in terms of reaching affected communities. The expected results of the programme's component on GBV justified the costs of the programme.

Moreover, the project was mainly executed under a DEX modality where UNFPA implemented most of the activities directly. While this cut down on the time lost in disbursing funds through partners, it did not offer UNFPA the advantage to leverage the comparative advantage that comes with working with IPs like faster implementation and procurement processes. The project approach of strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Gender and using community mechanisms to prevent and respond to GBV came out strongly. In fact, the programme contributed to building the capacity of Gender Officers on GBV case management and coordination and established committees at the village level who were trained on GBV basics, awareness raising and referral pathway.

UNDP/RCO

Through the supported coordination of the RCO, the Joint Programme achieved the most effective, efficient and timely implementation of the humanitarian interventions, avoiding wasteful duplications. The joint delivery of humanitarian programmes reduced transaction costs for national partners, donors and the PUNOs, while at the same time establishing complementarity and coherence amongst the different interventions.

V. Programmatic Revisions

(This section should speak to the identified challenges in the logframe and briefly outline the most pertinent revisions. Once more, these should include detailed timelines and monitoring plans. Indicate any major adjustments in strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs that took place).

WFP

- DMA and partners, including WFP revised the transfer value, originally set at USD 65 flat rate per household to approximately USD 15 a rate per person. Hence, the revision of the transfer value enabled DFID assistance, initially planned to support 28,000 food insecure people to reach an additional 17,520 affected people.
- DFID assistance enabled WFP to provide cash based transfer assistance to 42,520 food insecure people in six districts (Butha-Buthe, Maseru, Quthing, Mafteng, Mohale's Hoek and Berea) for nine months (October 2016 to June 2017) as opposed to three districts originally planned (Butha-Buthe, Maseru, Quthing).
- The period of implementation was revised from July-December 2016 to October 2016-June 2017 due to delays in the completion of the targeting and beneficiary selection exercise. Overall, DFID assistance contributed to 47% of the planned cash distributions for the period October 2016-June 2017.

FAO

There were no revisions made to the original proposal. The outputs and outcomes were maintained throughout the project life.

UNICEF Social Protection

There were no revisions made to the original proposal. The outputs and outcomes were maintained throughout the project life.

UNICEF Social Protection

- Berea district was added to the targeted districts for a total of 5 districts (Butha-Buthe, Mafeteng, Quthing, Thaba-Tseka and Berea).
- The intervention strategy was revised with the streamlining of hygiene promotion activities to be implemented by World Vision Lesotho.

The Department for Rural Water Supply (DRWSS) was involved in the procurement process for the construction of WASH facilities as the government agency responsible for provision of WASH services in rural areas.

UNFPA

- The timeline for the implementation of the activities was extended from 30 June 2017 to 31 August 2017. With regard to the number of beneficiaries targeted, there was a need to revise the number downwards in consultation with DFID because it was necessitated by the project starting late. Furthermore, the implementing partners selected declined due to limited capacity, which also resulted in reducing number of beneficiaries from 126,468 to 70,000 (13,580 direct beneficiaries, 56,420 indirect beneficiaries).
- The GBV Baseline Study was extended from 4 to 10 districts.
- As the progress in the first 8 months of the programme was off track, UNFPA developed an *acceleration plan*, in order to refocus the component and its targets, boost internal staff capacity and sustain a more regular monitoring of the implemented activities. In this context, UNFPA took the following actions:
 - Recruitment of two consultants (1 international and 1 national) to support the analysis and implementation of the programme. Further support was also obtained from the UNFPA Regional Office through a Humanitarian Specialist who trained 37 ToTs on CMR. With his additional support support, key activities including training of trainer son GBV and Male Engagement, development of SOPs and referral pathway and training on GBV data management were implemented.
 - Gender Links was included as implementing partner. This local NGO supported the training of survivors on GBV and empowerment.

- The Ministry of Gender, and Youth, Sport and Recreation (MGYSR) was supported to implement the activities on GBV dialogues and step down GBV trainings for GBV committees and community leaders.
- As per initial logframe, targets for Outcome Indicators 5.2 and 5.4 were revised, as follows:

Outcome Indicator 5.2 Number of women and girls with knowledge about prevention and protection against GBV	Baseline: 0	Initial target: 8,000	Revised target: 5,000
Outcome Indicator 5.4 National GBV coordination structures established and functional	Baseline: 0	Initial target: 4	Revised Target: 1

- Similarly, targets for Output Indicators 5.2 and 5.3 were also amended, as follows:

Output Indicator 5.2 Referral mechanisms against GBV are established in targeted districts and communities	Baseline: 0	Initial target: 4	Revised target: 1
Output Indicator 5.3 Number of GBV workshops for prevention and response conducted at national and district levels	Baseline: 0	Initial target: 18	Revised Target: 10

- Subsequent to consultations with the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNFPA was advised that the Ministry had sufficient PEP supplies in all Health Facilities and did not require additional support in the procurement of Kit 5. Therefore, UNFPA proposed the allocated funds to be utilized in supporting pre-training for health professionals in Clinical Management of Rape and additional procurement of dignity kits.

UNDP/UN RCO

The hiring of staff was delayed to the second half of the programme implementation to timely and adequately support the implementation of the humanitarian response plan, planned assessments, programme visibility and final reporting to donors.

Annexes

(a) Overviews and Programme Intervention Maps

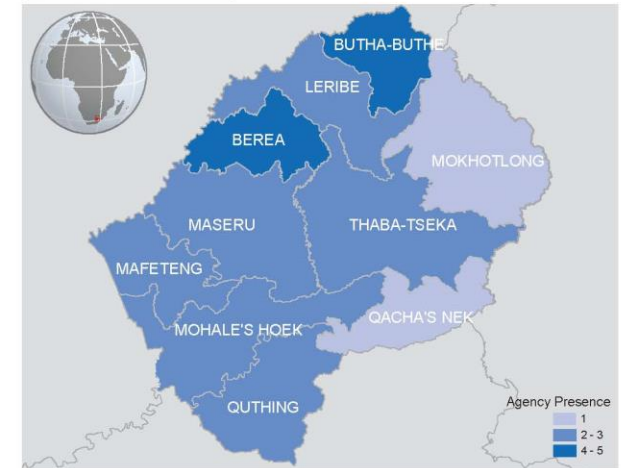
Overview 1: DFID Humanitarian Joint Programme (as of 31 August 2017)

Lesotho: Humanitarian Overview - DFID Humanitarian Joint Programme (as of 31 August 2017)



In 2015/16, Lesotho was severely affected by a El Niño-induced drought, leaving more than 60% of the rural population at risk of food insecurity. Humanitarian partners were able to secure more than USD 40 million for the relief response. The DFID-funded Joint Programme addressed urgent humanitarian needs in five different sectors of the drought response and played an instrumental role during the peaks of the lean seasons. The programme, implemented by UNICEF, FAO, WFP, UNFPA and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, encompassed a holistic package of complementary interventions and a wide synergy amongst agencies in supporting people affected by the drought. More than 390,000 people were successfully assisted by the programme in the most affected districts of Lesotho.

Operational Presence



TOTAL FUND (US\$)



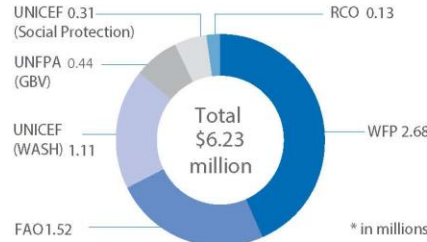
Funding received by HCT partners

DFID JOINT PROGRAMME FUND (US\$)

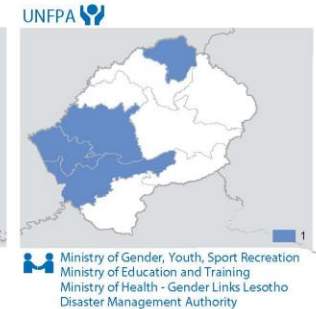
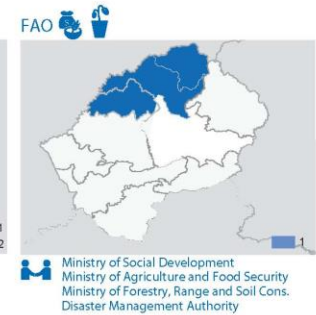
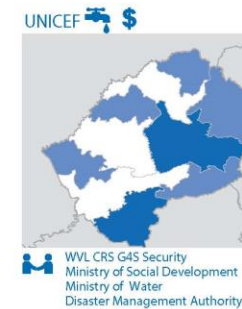
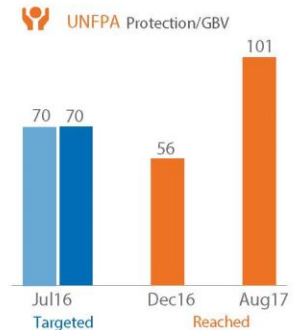
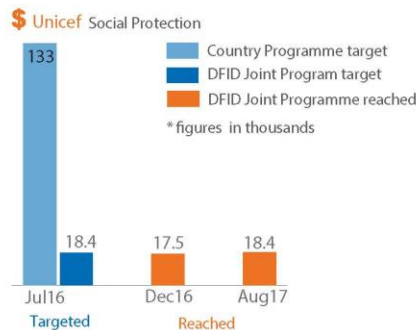
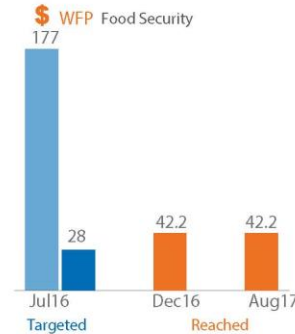
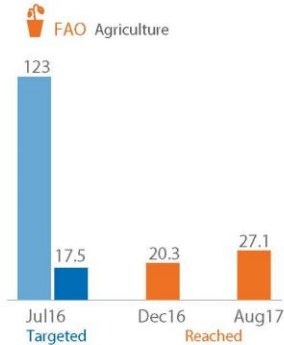
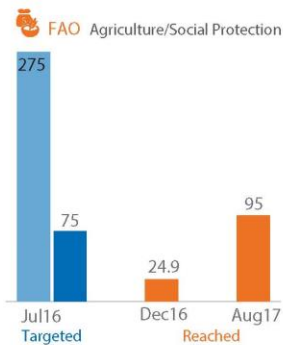


* includes program support cost

of total fund



TARGETED POPULATION vs. REACHED

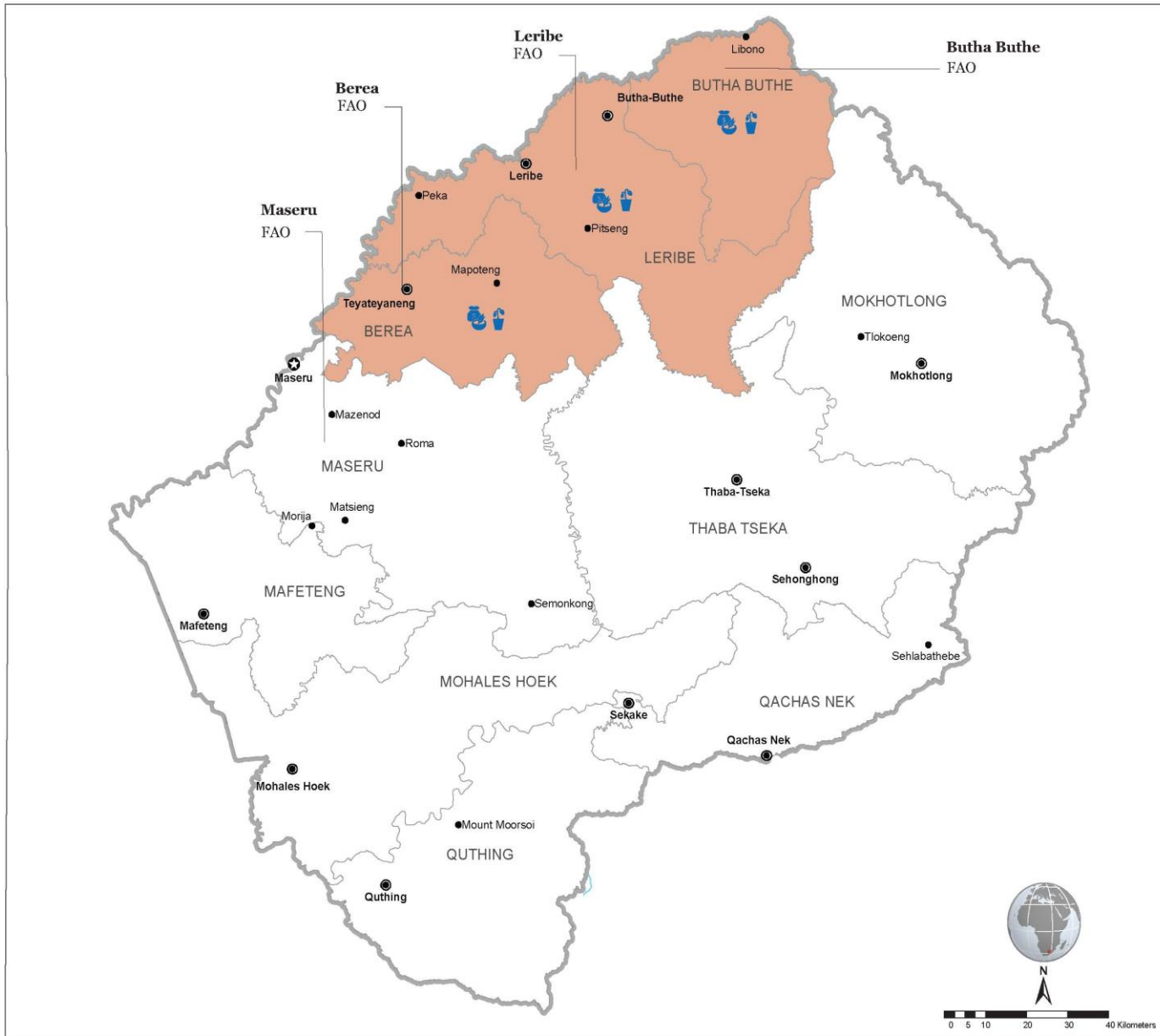


Creation date: 31 October 2017 Doc.Name: DFID_2017Overview_240417 Sources: UN Humanitarian Country Team & Partners, Disaster Management Authority To send feedback & receive more humanitarian updates: <https://goo.gl/WmhAk0>
 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. <http://ls.one.un.org/content/unct/lesotho/en/home/humanitarian-efforts.html> - For more info contact: sergio.dinoi@one.un.org, narayan.maharjan@one.un.org

Map 2: DFID Joint Programme – Interventions in Agriculture (as of 31 August 2017)



Lesotho: DFID Joint Programme Interventions in Agriculture (as of 31 August 2017)



★ Country capital
● District capital
— International Boundary
— District boundary

Number of programme activities

2

Key Figures

6.23 M <small>DFID Joint Programme Fund (US\$)</small>	1.52 M <small>Funding allocated to sector</small>
92,500 <small>People Targeted</small>	122,120 <small>People Reached</small>

UN Agencies / INGOs Involved

FAO UN Food and Agriculture Organization

Sectoral programme interventions

- Provision of agricultural input kits for livelihood recovery
- Provision of home gardening and nutrition kits complementing social protection cash top-ups

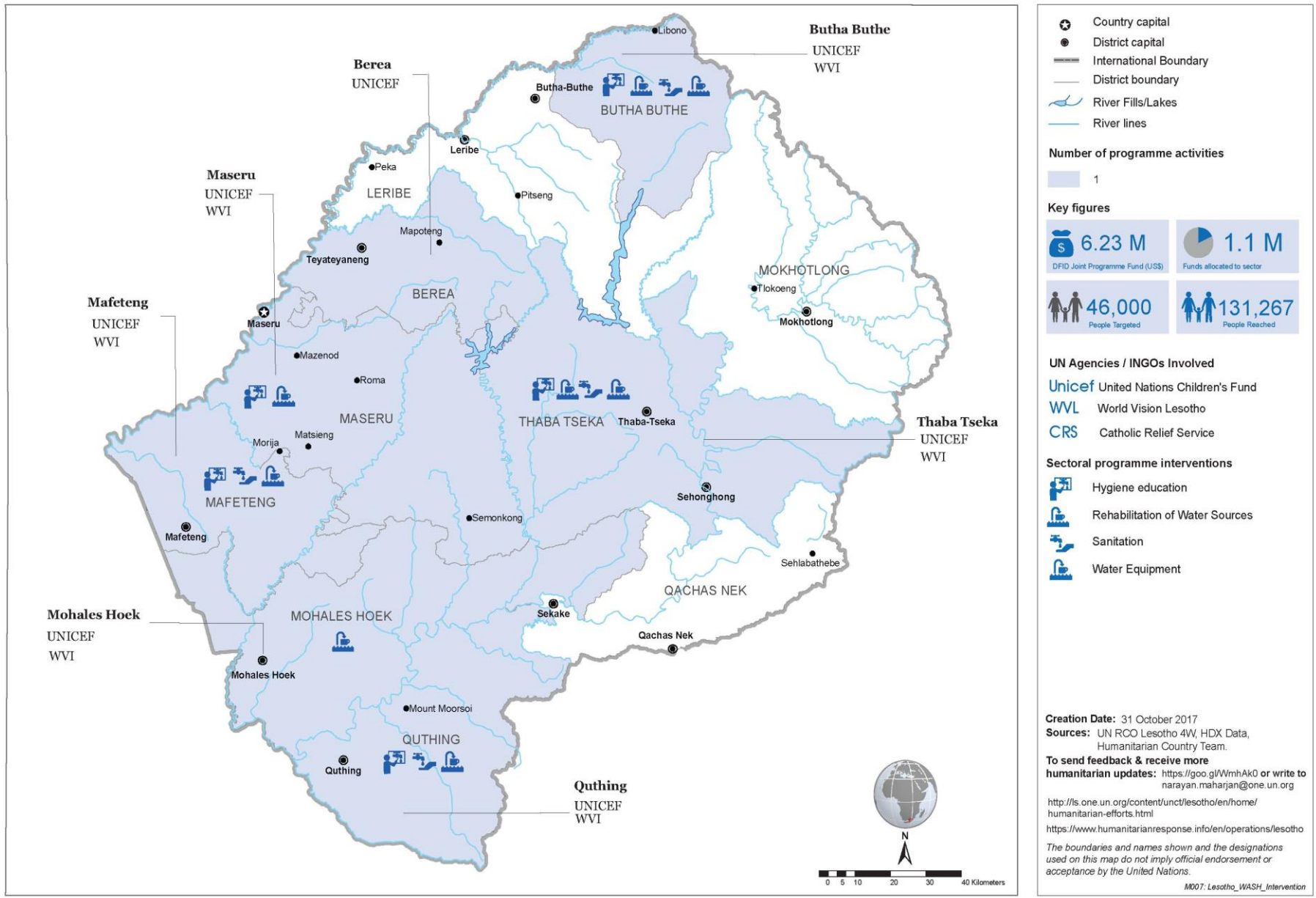
Creation Date: 31 October 2017
Sources: UN RCO Lesotho 4W, HDX Data, Humanitarian Country Team.
To send feedback & receive more humanitarian updates: <https://goo.gl/WmhAk0> or write to narayan.maharjan@one.un.org
<http://ls.one.un.org/content/unct/lesotho/en/home/humanitarian-efforts.html>
<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/lesotho>

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

M006: Lesotho_Agri_Intervention

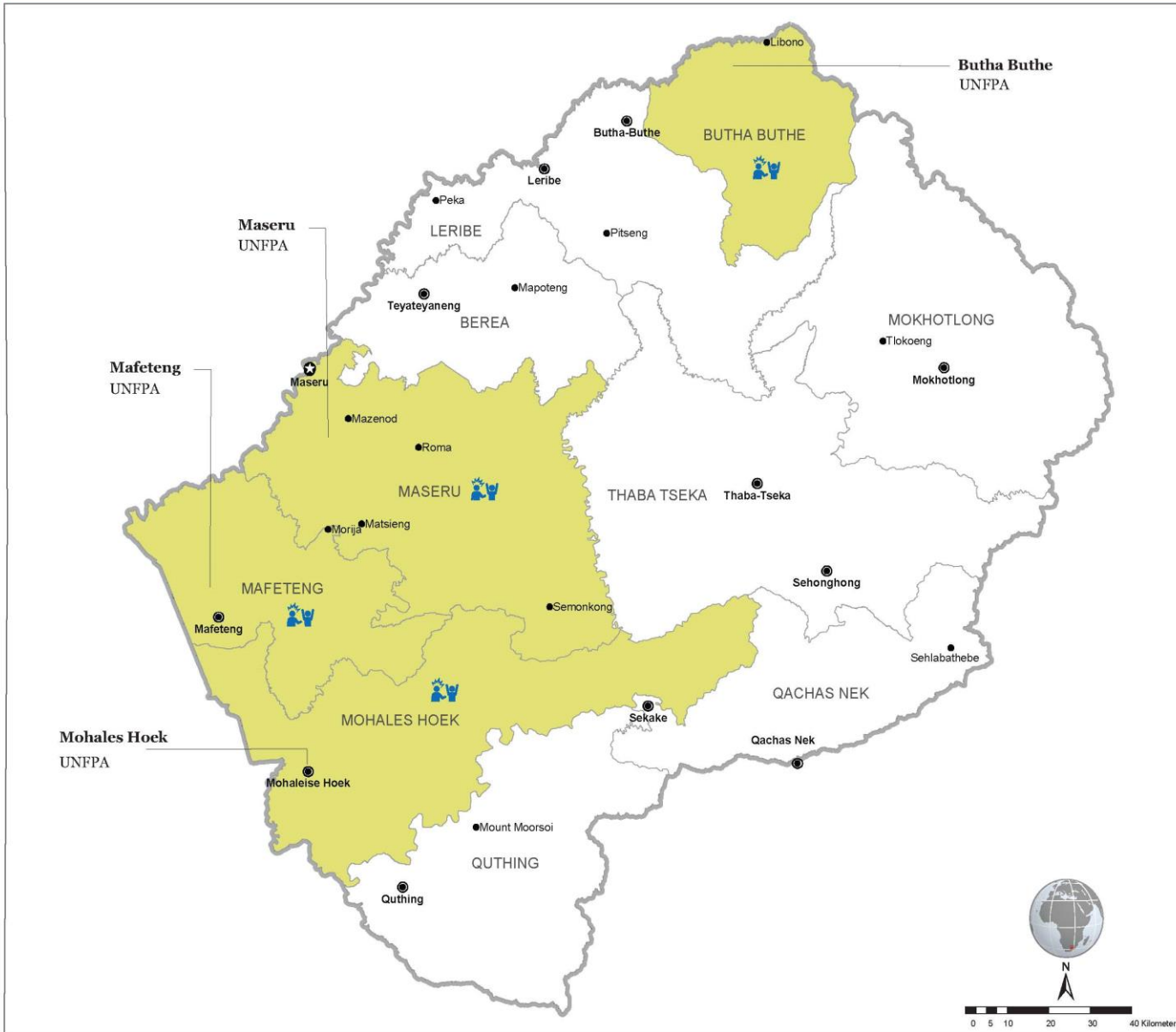
Map 3: DFID Joint Programme – Interventions in Water, Sanitation and Hiygene (as of 31 August 2017)

Lesotho: DFID Joint Programme Interventions in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (as of 31 August 2017)



Map 4: DFID Joint Programme – Interventions in Protection/GBV (as of 31 August 2017)

Lesotho: DFID Joint Programme Interventions in Protection/GBV (as of 31 August 2017)



- ★ Country capital
- District capital
- International Boundary
- District boundary

Number of programme activities

1

Key Figures

6.23 M DFID Joint Programme Fund (US\$)	0.44 M Funds allocated to sector
70,000 People Targeted	100,529 People Reached

UN Agencies / INGOs involved

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

Sectoral programme interventions

- GBV Response, Prevention and Coordination

Creation Date: 31 October 2017
Sources: UN RCO Lesotho 4W, HDX Data, Humanitarian Country Team.
To send feedback & receive more humanitarian updates: <https://goo.gl/WmhAk0> or write to narayan.maharjan@un.org
<http://ls.one.un.org/content/unct/lesotho/en/home/humanitarian-efforts.html>
<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/lesotho>

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

M009: Lesotho_Protection_Intervention

(b) Human Interest Stories

(This could be a success or human story. The point is to highlight a concrete example with a story that has been important to your Programme in the reporting period. In ¼ to ½ a page, provide details on a specific achievement or lesson learned of the Programme. Attachment of supporting documents, including photos with captions, news items etc, is strongly encouraged).

Grandmother and sole supporter of 8 grandchildren expresses her gratitude to WFP and DFID

Mrs. Mamofumotse Tsoekere (88) lives in Serutle village in Butha-Buthe District with her eight grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was identified as one of many vulnerable families affected by the El Niño drought, as she relies on the meagre old age pension from the government to take care of her family. Her community deemed it necessary to include her family on the beneficiary list of cash transfers during the identification process organised by the district disaster management authorities. At that time, Mrs. Mamofumotse had been forced to reduce the number of daily meals to only one, as the family did not have access to fields except a small garden where she usually plants some maize.



Mrs. Mamofumotse Tsoekere (on the right side) with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Photo: WFP

“To some, the canned fruits are a snack but for my family it is a main course” says Mrs. Mamofumotse with a sobbing voice. She is very thankful to WFP and DFID because: “I was able to buy 80kgs of maize meal and other needs for my family, my children are happily going to school having eaten their breakfast at home unlike before where they had to wait for the school meal. My family life has really improved” concludes Mrs. Mamofumotse.

Effects of Conservation Agriculture and Home Gardening in Mafeteng District

The sun is out in Masemousu, in Mafeteng district. Yet, a cool breeze can be felt sweeping through the air. Mrs. ‘Malerato Makoe, at 64 years of age has an indefatigable love for Conservation Agriculture (CA), and the evidence can be seen in her maize fields and three key hole gardens where a variety of vegetables are thriving. Mrs. ‘Malerato is one of the 24,856 participating beneficiaries of the Protection and Restoration of Livelihoods programme, a collaboration between FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS). Beneficiaries under this programme across the country were assisted with agricultural inputs such as: 10kg of Open Pollinated Seed Varieties (OPV) maize seeds, 5Kg of OVP bean seeds, 5kg of grazing vetch seeds, fertilizer/peas seeds and 300g of 6 varieties of vegetable seeds, Home Gardening and Nutrition handouts and a 4x4m shade net to protect crops against extreme weather conditions.

The inputs were distributed by FAO together with MAFS staff with funding from the Netherlands Government.



Mrs. 'Malerato Makoae beside her keyhole gardens. Photo: FAO

“I love CA, I will never let it go because it has made life easy for me as it is a type of farming that allows me to do everything with my own hands”, she beams.

Conservation Agriculture is a farming technology guided by three basic principles; continuous minimum soil disturbance, permanent soil cover and crop rotation and intercropping.

“From the last harvesting season, I could get two bags of 50kg maize because of CA, the yields are much higher as I got only one bag of 25kg when I used traditional farming methods.”

Mrs. 'Malerato explains that the training materials which were a part of the agricultural inputs, have helped her immeasurably as those materials have a wealth of information on the farming of CA.

“The training booklets have great tips on how to prepare the planting basins and how much fertilizer to add, I find them very useful.”

She is a single mother, a sole provider for her children, with farming as her only source of income.

“All my four children help me out when farming, I am glad about this because I know children nowadays do not enjoy farming,” she says. The eldest of her two sons are both herd boys, aged 22 and 17 respectively, followed by a daughter who is in high school, and the last member of the family is her 4-year-old granddaughter.



Mrs. Malerato's maize fields, after harvesting, stalks are left standing, some are spread between rows. Photo: FAO

“In my keyhole gardens, I decided to plant cabbage, my children are able to eat, and I can provide other household needs for my family as I manage to sell some of the cabbage.”

Home gardening techniques such as key hole and trench gardening allow optimizing scarce water resources, including water used for dish washing and other household uses. Business is looking good lately as she is now selling large numbers of cabbage to the neighbouring 'Masemousu Primary School. *“So far, I have made about US\$ 80, I sometimes also dry the vegetables, and people then buy to make soup”*. The effects of CA can indeed be seen and the impact will go a long way. FAO remains committed to strengthening the livelihoods of vulnerable people across Lesotho.

"On the day help comes, I will dance so low that you will think I am a grain of rice": how Lesotho's Groundbreaking National Database (NISSA) is helping UNICEF and the government reach the poor and vulnerable with lifesaving assistance.

Ha Tšepo, Lesotho. A cloud of gritty yellow dust blows up into the air over the crowd sitting on the ground at the center of the village. Toddlers run, legs wobbly, to bury their faces in the open arms of a mother or grandmother. Shepherds lift wool blankets from their shoulders to cover their heads. Women pull turquoise and bright pink kerchiefs down to protect their eyes. But community mobiliser Tlaleng Maimane keeps talking.

"You are saying you're all poor here. But some can make ends meet. Some can't. You are all struggling, but the level of struggle is different." "Yes. Today it may be me struggling." A man in a threadbare white polo shirt covers his eyes against the dust as he stands to speak. "Tomorrow it may be someone else."

"This is why we are here to do the categorization," says Maimane. "You who are gathered here will tell us how you live in your village, based on five categories: money, food, cultivated fields, herd animals and education."

In tiny villages like this one all across southern Africa's remote Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho, UNICEF and the government have taken on a massive task, with EU funding. They aim to reach every single poor and vulnerable household in the country by mid-2018.

To add each child, woman and man to a database called NISSA (National Information System for Social Assistance). And to determine—through a rigorous series of steps that includes community-based classification like the one being carried out here today—which households are most in need of lifesaving support.

Aiming to reach every single person, in every single poor and vulnerable household, in every single remote village in the country, is unprecedented. But the benefits that NISSA is already bringing to the children and families of Lesotho—especially to the poorest of the poor and the remotest of the remote—are still more unprecedented.

"NISSA is so vital because it allows us to work to cushion the living standards of the poorest of the poor, in the remotest corners of Lesotho. Unlike in many other parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, even the poorest citizen of Lesotho has one or two meals a day to eat. This is in large part due to social protection institutions that work," says UNICEF's NISSA Specialist, Godfrey Kyama.

"But this only works if we can locate and identify the poorest of the poor. NISSA is helping us find those remaining children, families and elderly people who live in remote, poor and vulnerable conditions—and who are still in danger of falling through the cracks. We are already finding tiny villages, in remote areas, that had never before been documented. About 2-3% of the poorest of the poor that we are finding had never been found before."



A toddler looks back at the crowd of villagers as NISSA mobiliser Tlaleng Maimane leads a community-based classification of the poorest of the poor at Ha Tšepo. Photo: Pittenger/UNICEF Lesotho 2017

By reaching and categorizing every poor and vulnerable household and individual in Lesotho, NISSA allows them access to various kinds of critical support. These include the country's Child Grants Programme, special assistance provided to orphans and vulnerable children, general public assistance and old age pensions. The NISSA database will also allow beneficiaries to receive mobile payments. This will cut down on the monthly two-day journeys that some of the sickest, poorest and most vulnerable are now forced to endure, in order to receive government assistance. Mobile messaging will also be provided to beneficiaries in the remotest of Lesotho's mountain villages, on topics like HIV and AIDS prevention and care. This is particularly crucial in a country with the second-highest HIV infection rate on earth, where one in every four people lives with HIV.



"In this country, we know almost all cannot make ends meet," says NISSA mobiliser Tlaleng Maimane to the crowd of villagers. "It's not that everyone has what they need. But we're going to see how you live, and who needs help the most."
 Photo: Pittenger/UNICEF Lesotho 2017



"Do they have fields?" Maimane asks.
 "Yes, M'me," the crowd answers. Yes, Ma'am.
 "Cultivated?"
 "Yes."
 "Livestock?"
 "Yes."
 "How many? Less than ten?"

And NISSA has already proven itself vital in emergencies. When Lesotho declared a state of emergency in 2015, due to a massive ongoing drought, NISSA had so far covered just 25% of the country's population. Still, NISSA was instrumental to UNICEF in determining the need for cash grants and targeting them to the poorest of the poor. It was used by FAO (Food and Agricultural Organisation) to provide agricultural kits for poor and vulnerable families, allowing them to create small food gardens. And WFP (World Food Programme) used NISSA to identify families in need of food parcels. Once the EU-funded NISSA has reached every single poor and vulnerable household in Lesotho in mid-2018, it will be even more valuable—in emergencies and non-emergencies alike.

Now, in Ha Tšepo, the dust storm has died down. The villagers are absorbed as Maimane, the community mobilizer, leads them through the steps of classifying the poorest of the poor. In a village this small, the crowd has a very clear sense of how poor and vulnerable their neighbors may be.

"In this country, we know almost all cannot make ends meet," says Maimane. "It's not that everyone has what they need. But we're going to see how you live, and who needs help the most." She calls out the surname of one family living in the village.

"You should see me dance," says 51-year-old 'Malekaota Maanela, whose family the villagers have classified as ultra-poor. "On the day help comes, I will dance so low that you will think I'm a grain of rice." Photo: Pittenger/UNICEF Lesotho 2017

The crowd knows the herd animals owned by their neighbors, right down to the last goat and the last chicken. This family has a small number of livestock, which Kyama describes as a sign of the "rural rich."

When the next surname is called, there is a very different response. The crowd lets out a deflated "Aooo, M'me." "That family has nothing. They are ultra-poor," explains one woman. "A shame, that family. Poor things." No crops, no animals, no children in school. The woman who heads the household earns the little she can by hiring herself out as a day laborer in the fields, doing "piece work."

Later, sitting in the shade of a pine tree, 'Malekaota Maanela, the 51-year-old woman whose family has been categorized as ultra-poor, speaks. Her voice is strained:

"I am not happy that my family is ultra-poor, but I am okay with what the community said. It's because, as we speak, my husband is ill and bedridden. I have to stay home and care for him. I also have one child and two grandchildren who live with me. I hope to get any support possible. My husband has to use adult nappies now." "I was also called 'ultra-poor,'" says another woman. "I'm happy with it. The villagers know I'm struggling. I have two daughters and one grandchild who are all mentally disabled. My hope, as a result of today, is to have any form of help. I will receive it with both hands, knowing it comes from love."

Maanela chimes in, her voice no longer so tight in her throat: "You should see me dance," she says. "On the day help comes, I will dance so low that you will think I'm a grain of rice."

A few minutes later, the village women cluster around the departing NISSA car. As the car pulls away, headed for another remote village, the women ululate and Maanela starts to dance. A smile creeps onto her face—a smile that's missing a few teeth, but a smile nonetheless. A small, gap-toothed smile

Positive Overflow: Lifesaving School WASH Initiatives Spill Over to Impact Communities in Lesotho.

The road to Qholaqhoe High School, perched on an isolated mountaintop in northern Lesotho, is long and rocky. Here and there, a peach tree blossoms pink or white against the drought-parched yellow hills. Here and there you see an aluminum-sided shack with a backyard gravestone.

"Most of the children at this school don't have parents. Either they're orphans due to the AIDS epidemic, or their parents have gone to work in South Africa." Deputy Principal Lebohang Khakhane points to a far mountain range, where the neighboring country of South Africa is visible from the school.

"So the students come to school if they want to. It's their own decision. Some students walk 5-10 kilometers to get here every day. And sometimes they say, 'we don't have any food to eat. How can we come to school?'"



Sixteen-year-old Selina Mokoena washes her hands before lunch at Qholaqhoe High School. Photo: UNICEF Lesotho/Pittenger

In Lesotho, a country with the world's second-highest HIV rate, the virus affects every part of life and is necessarily interwoven into every part of UNICEF's action on behalf of children and families. But there is also a more silent killer at work. Lesotho has the seventh-highest rate of child death by diarrhea-related disease on earth. Nearly one in five children dies of diarrhea-related causes here, before reaching their fifth birthday. To help combat this, UNICEF with funding from DFID and the government of Lesotho through the Department of Rural Water Supply (DRWS) are supporting water and sanitation initiatives at 20 schools like this one across the country. Here, students are provided with clean, safe water and toilets. They learn lifesaving hygiene skills that can turn them into vital "agents of change" - both now and into the future, as they become parents themselves. And whole communities are being transformed as a result.



The new water system now delivers clean water from a mountain spring directly to the school grounds. Photo: UNICEF Lesotho/Ekanem



Lipuo Thabo with her grandmother, Mapoballo Thabo, at their home near Qholaqhoe High School. Photo: UNICEF Lesotho/Pittenger

Qholaqhoe High School is abuzz with activity. From the classroom windows, the school's 400 students shout out answers in subjects ranging from English to Math to Agriculture. As a part of their studies, students grow maize and vegetables. They also raise pigs. Up to now, the students had to walk as far as a kilometer down the mountain - and then back up - to carry water for the pigs and the fields. This was not to mention the clean water they needed to wash their own hands, or to use the toilet. A new DFID/UNICEF-supported water tank with a 10,000-liter capacity, which is fed by a mountain spring, is changing all that. So are the new toilets at the school, and the waterspouts that bring clean water directly to the school and the nearby community.

"Before now, we girls didn't feel safe going to search for water. We might be bitten by a dog," says 16-year-old Selina Mokoena. Her eyes go wide as she continues: "Or we might be chased by a shepherd."

Around her, the other members of the school's Girls' Club go silent. Selina is speaking of a very real danger that girls and women face, when they must venture out alone in search of water: Rape.

Another girl looks down at the table, embarrassed: "Also, before we had water and toilets at the school, there was no way

for girls to be alone. Especially when we are menstruating."

These are the kinds of WASH challenges that can keep girls out of school. And at a high school like this one—where 268 of the 400 students are girls and the surrounding community relies on them more and more for their leadership - keeping girls in school is more vital than ever. At the primary school level, UNICEF's interventions are also accompanied by WASH clubs, which promote learning about positive hygiene and sanitation. These clubs have proven effects, such as improved health and lower absenteeism among students.

Here in Qholaqhoe, the nearby community is already seeing the impact. Fifteen-year-old Lipuo Thabo, another member of the Girls' Club, leads the way to a thatched-roof house in the valley below the school, where she lives with her grandmother. On the way, she passes women collecting clean water from standpipes - also linked to the school's new water system - to carry to their homes nearby.

"Lipuo, she has taught us so many things already," says Lipuo's grandmother, 63-year-old Mapoballo Thabo. *"Her nine-year-old sister Portia also lives with me, and her five-year-old nephew, Khotso. We are all much more healthy now, since Lipuo taught us what she has learned at school: to wash our hands after going to the latrine and before cooking and eating. Little Khotso is growing up strong. He no longer gets diarrhea the way he used to."* So enthusiastic are the villagers, that some are even adopting WASH innovations that not been officially introduced at the school. At a nearby miner's house, two sheep wander past a Tippy Tap hanging next to the family's outdoor latrine. Tippy Taps are a simple, low-cost handwashing tool that UNICEF most often provides in primary schools where running water is either unavailable or unreliable.

"It's heartening to see how powerfully the local community is embracing the water and sanitation systems provided through DFID funding," says Nadi Albino, UNICEF Lesotho Country Representative. *"But it's even more inspiring to see how students—and especially girls—are the real change agents here, as they pass on lifesaving hygiene skills to their families and communities."*

And that's not the only way these students are acting as agents of change.

"The very best thing we've done so far, in the Girls' Club? We found out that one of the girl's parents couldn't pay for her new school shoes. She needed shoes to be able to stay in school. So we all sold candy until we could buy her a pair ourselves." Lipuo's eyes shine as she looks up toward the sky, where pale grey clouds hint at the possibility of much-needed rain.

The sky itself seems close enough to touch, this high up in the mountains. And when it comes to lifesaving WASH initiatives - given this level of dedication and initiative from schoolchildren and the community alike - the sky might just be the limit.

How a young woman found hope despite being raped by her father as a child

She was traumatized by her father raping her from the age of 13 until he was caught when she was 15 years old. At school she had to repeat Form B three times – not because she was not smart, but because she was barred from sitting exams due to unpaid school fees. It is not hard to see why Lerato, now 22, believed her future was gloomy. A single mother of two, she lives with her father. He served one year in jail for sexually assaulting her. Her mother had died when she was nine years old. Despite such difficult odds, her outlook has now changed for the better. He never ceases to remind me how I have brought two fatherless children into our home. Lerato, speaking of her father, who served time in jail for raping her repeatedly in her teens.



Lerato, GBV survivor. Photo: UNFPA

Lerato was invited to take part in a workshop on GBV and economic empowerment, held in Maseru district with support from UNFPA. “I needed the counselling,” she says. “My father supports me and my children as I am not employed, but he never ceases to remind me how I have brought two fatherless children into our home.”

Since attending the workshop, Lerato is able to envision a brighter future for herself. She feels she acquired sufficient skills to be able to start a small business of selling secondhand clothes – if she is able to raise enough funds to purchase the stock, that is. The training Lerato received not only helped her identify a market for goods to sell. It also empowered her with valuable information on the different forms of GBV, and provided her with counselling, something that she realizes she greatly needed.

Once her business is up and running, she believes she will be able to take care of her children and her siblings. The training she attended forms part of activities under the DFID-funded Joint Programme that supported the survivors of gender-based violence, following the El Niño-induced drought in 2015-2016.

Married off at age 15 because of an incorrect rumor

Survivors can endure gender-based violence in various forms, including economic, emotional and physical abuse. Mpho, 17, was married at the age of 15, not because she was in love with her husband but because the community alleged that she was pregnant.

“My husband was a herder for our neighbor and just because he used to visit our home, community members started a rumor that he had made me pregnant. Of course I was not pregnant but because of the pressure, he married me,” she says.

In Lesotho, the adolescent birth rate is relatively high, at 94 live births per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19 years. She is now able to identify various forms of gender-based violence, and understands that it includes economic, emotional or physical abuse – thanks to the training she received at the workshop.

“It is very painful for me to see my peers going to school while I (stay at home) to look after a child and husband”. With the skills she acquired from the training, Mpho hopes to start generating an income for her family. She plans to sell sweets and snacks. She advises others never to take a decision based on rumors. “It is very painful for me to see my peers going to school while I now have to look after a child and husband.” It was not



Mpho, GBV survivor. Photo: UNFPA

only young women who benefited from the training.