



Lesotho

Humanitarian Situation Report January – June 2017

Situation in Numbers

Highlights

- UNICEF, with support from the UK’s Department for International Development (DFID), continues to provide safe drinking water to drought-affected populations. Construction work and mobilization has commenced in four drought-affected districts to provide safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene messages to targeted 17,000 people including 7,160 children (3,650 girls);
- Since January 2017, 685 children (375 boys and 310 girls) have been admitted and treated for severe acute malnutrition (SAM);
- A total of 4,105 people including 2,463 children (1,256 girls) in three community councils Qhoasing, Qobong; and Mtjanyane (Likhohlong) were provided with cash and seed packages—each family receiving M1,000 (US\$ 76) for two quarters;
- To date, 30 members of the interagency (government, CSOs, and media), and 420 community members (80 males, 120 females, 110 youth and 110 children) in two communities in Mohale’s Hoek and Mafeteng districts were reached with Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) sensitisation messages. An additional 500,000 people (25,500 females) were reached with a radio drama through the national radio station.

310,015
Children affected by drought

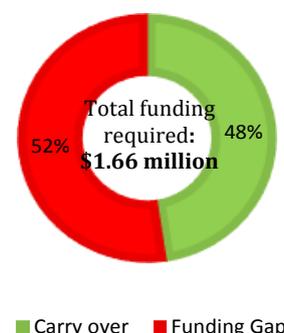
64,141
Children under 5 affected by drought

69,000
Vulnerable children in need of social safety nets

306,942
People in need of humanitarian assistance (LVAC June 2017)

2017 Funding Status

Funds received:
\$0 million



**Funds available includes funding received for the current appeal year as well as the carry-forward from the previous year.*

UNICEF Response with partners	UNICEF	
	UNICEF Target	2017 Cumulative results (#)
Nutrition: Number of children 6-59 months with SAM enrolled in TFP/community-based programmes/facilities	2,500	685*
Health: Children in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles	52,000	540,017
WASH: Number of people with access to sufficient water and safe water for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene	17,000	201
Child Protection: # of chiefs in communities where ongoing work to mobilize and strengthen social support networks to prevent and address violence, abuse and exploitation, including GBV	300	24
Education: % of schools that are able to inform the Education in Emergencies working group on details of the impact of an emergency through EDUTRAC	1,177	0
HIV/AIDS: Number of people reached with information on prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS	310,000	3,200

**the reported data is from 90 health facilities out of the 175.*

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The preliminary results of the first integrated urban and rural vulnerability assessment undertaken in June 2017 projects a total of 306,942 people food insecure from September 2017 to March 2018 (224,664 rural and 82,278 urban). The report also indicates that while acute food security needs are reducing, there has been a slight increase in chronic malnutrition (36%). The findings further indicated that 68.1% of households have an adequate water supply through communal taps, piped water, protected and unprotected springs, and other sources. However 6 of the 10 districts reported a high percentage of households using unprotected water sources (10 – 17%). About 80% of households are using improved sanitation facilities, showing a 10% increase from last year.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

An Inter-Ministerial Task Force, established by the Government supports the coordination of the Disaster Management Authority (DMA). The Humanitarian Country Team, made up of UN agencies and NGOs, seeks to optimise the collective efforts of the humanitarian actors to strengthen the overall drought response. The United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDRMT) continues to support coordination with UN agencies, and liaise with other partners in the humanitarian response. UN agency focal points continue to strengthen the DMA sector working groups which coordinate response activities under the National Mitigation and Preparedness Plan. Additionally, the UN also supports a national operation centre for the DMA. The Government-led WASH sector coordination group, which was set up to coordinate developments within the sector, has emergency preparedness and response on its agenda. UN agencies (WFP and UNICEF in particular) provided support for the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) process. In Nutrition, UNICEF continues to work with LVAC in planning, training and analysing data to ensure the integration of nutrition, HIV and gender dimension throughout the process.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy is closely aligned to its development programme to target those most affected by the drought, while also implementing specific humanitarian interventions to meet critical and urgent needs of affected children and families. UNICEF continues to work for stronger, more resilient government systems through both humanitarian and development interventions. The Government of Lesotho is using the national Child Grant Programme (CGP) as a mechanism for reaching the most affected and vulnerable families with children during an emergency. During El Niño the Government, with the support of UNICEF, EU and World Bank, reached a total of 27,325 families (including 644 in 2017) with emergency support using the CGP to mitigate the impact of drought on vulnerable families with children.

Working with partners, UNICEF is supporting the Government's humanitarian action to scale up life-saving health, WASH, nutrition, HIV and child protection interventions. Targeted interventions include protecting girls, boys and women against violence, abuse, exploitation, and preventing children from dropping out of school, poor attendance and low learning outcomes. UNICEF continues ongoing work with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to treat acutely malnourished children and children with diarrhoeal diseases and is also working with the health sector to support people on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) to continue to receive care and treatment throughout the emergency response. In addition, UNICEF continues to provide support so that families in the most affected areas have access to safe water and basic sanitation facilities.

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF plans to reach a projected 2,500 children under five suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) nationwide with therapeutic feeding, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health during 2017. Reporting rates are improving as nutritionists have resumed regular support and supervision rounds to health centres—currently, the country is at 50 per cent reporting rate. Between Jan-June 2017, 685 children (375 males and 310 females) suffering from SAM were reached with therapeutic feeding.¹ As per national policy, all children suffering from MAM and SAM are tested for HIV—data on positivity is unknown. Out of 403 children who exited from SAM treatment: 336 (83 per cent) were cured (184 males and 152 females); 41 (10 per cent) died (25 males and 16 females); 2 (1 male and 1 female) defaulted. A remaining 6 per cent of exits (17 males and 7 females) were classified as not recovered by the time they were discharged from treatment for SAM. Although the cure rate of 83 per cent is above the recommended minimum SPHERE threshold of 75 per cent, the percentage of deaths during SAM treatment is at 10 per cent—indicating a slight improvement in the quality of SAM treatment in children under the age of five years. The Government completed a mass vaccination campaign targeting children 14 years and younger, reaching 540,017 (80 per cent of target) against measles rubella and 516,973 (81 per cent of target) with deworming. In the same campaign, 165,747 (63 per cent) children under five received Vitamin A. The results from the post-campaign coverage survey conducted in July were being finalized at time of this report. UNICEF provided technical assistance and procurement services to support vitamin A supplementation and the measles and rubella vaccination campaigns. During the reporting period, approximately 6,600 women were reached with IYCF counselling messages through antenatal clinic attendance.

HIV and AIDS

¹ Data is from 90 health facilities out of the 175 that are providing therapeutic feeding services. Reporting rates are improving as nutritionists have resumed regular support and supervision rounds to health centres.

UNICEF Lesotho Mid-Year Situation Report – January – June 2017

To ensure that people living with HIV continue to receive comprehensive services, UNICEF is working with the MoH and development partners on HIV prevention, care and treatment in drought affected communities. Specifically, UNICEF, alongside UNFPA and the MoH, trained 100 health workers (80 female, 20 male) to provide adolescent friendly health services—including HIV and SRH services in 5 districts. From October 2016 until March 2017, 61,736 adolescents 15-19 accessed HIV testing services—with a 3 per cent positivity rate. UNICEF continues to support the ART programme to increase ART coverage for adults and children—currently estimated at 55 per cent with the highest coverage in Maseru district (68 per cent) and the lowest coverage in Quthing (28 per cent). During the reporting period, the MoH initiated 3,200 people on ART. Additionally, UNICEF supported the MOH in the development of the new Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV Strategy which aims to eliminate HIV infection among infants. As of March 2017, the MOH estimates the coverage of early infant diagnosis within two months of birth at 79 per cent which is below the 95 per cent national target. The Government of Lesotho includes people living with HIV in food schemes to mitigate the impact of the drought. From October 2016 to March 2017, only 21 per cent of undernourished people living with HIV received nutritious food supplements. UNICEF worked with the Government of Lesotho, development partners, and the Global Fund team in early 2017 to submit a grant continuation request for 2018-2021 in line with the Global Fund Strategy 2017–2022, “Investing to End Epidemics.” The funding request will intensify efforts to reach the Fast Track targets—especially among adolescent girls and young women. No humanitarian funding has yet been received for HIV/AIDS which is constraining UNICEF’s programmatic response.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In 2017, UNICEF plans to provide safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene messages to 17,000 people including 7,160 children (3,650 girls) in four districts affected by the drought. Technical assessment of water sources that require rehabilitation and communities that need new water sources has been completed, with construction work and mobilization recently commenced in the four districts. The programme experienced some delays in the contracting and mobilization of contractors due to the political developments in the country – with absence of key operatives of government institutions vital to the implementation as well as compliance with government directives on halting field activities around the elections period. Given these delays, only 201 people have been reached in the reporting period. With resumption and ongoing implementation, all projects would be completed by October ensuring achievement of the 2017 targets before the end of the year.

On the hygiene promotion component, a total of 40 pre-school teachers have been trained so far in the four districts, who would subsequently empower the hygiene clubs in the schools. Key topics covered for school teachers include menstrual hygiene management, WASH and disability, and the establishment of wash clubs. To date, 201 people have been reached with hygiene promotion key messages however in line with water source rehabilitation, the number of people reached with messages will also be accelerated in the second half of the year to reach the target population.

Social Protection

UNICEF’s cash-top ups for families affected by the drought ended in December 2016. However, there were 177 families which were not reached during emergency cash top-ups. During the first six months of 2017, a total of 821 families (4,105 people including 2,463 children and 1,256 girls) in three community councils Qhoasing, Qobong; and Mtjanyane (Likhohlong) were provided with cash, each family receiving with M 1,000 (US\$76) for two quarters, in addition to seed packets from FAO. The families reached also included 644 families who were targeted using the National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA) which serves as a registry for identifying poor families that need social assistance. From January-May 2017, the Ministry of Social Development enrolled about 60,000 new households in NISSA of which 18,000 families qualify for child grant programme.

Education

No results are reported for the first half of the year as the system for relaying the emergency data is in the process of being installed. UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) to deploy Open Education Management Information System (EMIS), a robust system which has the mobile-based real-time monitoring functionality to track how emergencies impact individual learner’s performance. Edutrac was initially the system to be employed for real time monitoring but the MOET opted for the OpenEMIS which produces EMIS data and reports. It will also feed into NISSA to track the attendance rate and learning outcomes of children who are in the child grant programme during an emergency. This system, when fully deployed, will not only track attendance and performance in real time, but also other education indicators such dropout rates for individual learners—including adolescent girls. UNICEF is also working to strengthen the provision of latrines, handwashing facilities, and messaging on clean water and hygiene in schools and early childhood care and development centres. UNICEF is also supporting the Ministry of Education and Training to compile communication trees, contact lists and 4Ws tools that link schools to Disaster Management Authority and other partners in the ten districts so that communication channels are clear and effective during emergencies.

Child Protection

The child protection rapid assessment in the six districts of Mafeteng, Mohale’s Hoek, Quthing, Qacha’s Nek, Thaba Tseka and Mokhotlong identified key priority Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) issues as physical and sexual abuse, psychosocial distress, child labour, and separation of children from usual caregivers, child marriage and weak referral mechanisms. Relevant multi-media materials have been produced to sensitise chiefs, teachers, parents, the media, and children on prevention of and response to child protection violations during the El Niño induced drought. To date, 30 members of the interagency (government, civil society, and

media), 420 community members (80 males, 120 females, 110 youth and 110 children) in two communities in Maseru district were reached with Child Protection in Emergency (CPiE) sensitisation messages—including gender based violence (GBV) through community drama. Twenty-four village chiefs and 1,060 community members from within the Maseru district were targeted with CPiE information through community gatherings/dialogues between April and June 2017. An additional 500,000 were reached with a radio drama through the national radio station. Printed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials will be used for the planned joint and cost-shared training with World Vision on CPiE/Psycho Social Support in Emergencies (PSSiE) scheduled for the week of 21 August 2017.

Communications for Development (C4D)

A post distribution monitoring (PDM) of water purifications reagents and hygiene messaging exercise was undertaken by UNICEF’s implementing partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) involving 826 (653 females and 173 males) in the four intervention districts of Maseru, Botha-Bothe, Thaba-Tseka and Leribe to understand use and acceptability of the products. A total of 826 (653 females and 173 males) beneficiaries were assessed.

The exercise provided insights into community use and acceptability of the water treatment products. Among the 826 survey respondents, 89 per cent had participated in water treatment demonstrations and also received hygiene promotion messages including IEC materials to reinforce the messages and act as visual reminders about household hygiene practices. Absence of health personnel at distribution points and unpleasant smell of the products were commonly cited as the main reasons for non-use of the products. A majority of the survey participants (76.27 per cent) recalled 1-5 hygiene promotion messages, about washing hands with soap after toilet use, washing hands with soap before handling food, boiling water before consumption, keeping household and the surroundings clean, and proper water use. These and other findings will be used to inform future messaging.

Media and External Communication

UNICEF, in collaboration with the office of the Resident Coordinator, organised a media visit aimed at highlighting the UN’s humanitarian efforts in the country as well as UNICEF’s response to the recent El Niño induced drought phenomena. A DFID mission also took place in May 2017 to assess WASH and Social Protection projects as part of the response to the El Niño drought.

Funding

As part of the regional Southern Africa El Niño/La Niña Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC), the requirements for Lesotho are US\$1.66 million to meet the humanitarian needs of women and children in the country. To date, UNICEF has US\$ 791,401 as carried forward funds from 2016 and is 48 per cent funded. No humanitarian funding has been received by UNICEF Lesotho against the HAC in 2017. Unmet financing needs continue to pose a risk to vulnerable children and women in relation to the ongoing effects of El Niño.

UNICEF Lesotho 2017 Funding Requirements				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds Available*	Funding gap	
			US\$	%
Health	536,000	0	536,000	100%
HIV/AIDS	300,000	250,000	50,000	17%
Nutrition				
Education	280,000	100,000	180,000	36%
Child Protection	145,000	110,020	34,980	24%
WASH	400,000	431,381	0	0%
TOTAL	1,661,000	791,401	869,599	52%

*Funds available includes the carry-forward from the previous year.

Next SitRep: 30 September 2017

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**Who to
contact for
further
information:**

Nadi Albino
Representative
Lesotho
Tel: +266 22 315801
Fax: +266 22 310 248
Email: nalbino@unicef.org

Victor Ankrh
Deputy Representative
Lesotho
Tel: +266 22 315801
Fax: +266 22 310 248
Email: vankrah@unicef.org

Malume Mohale
Communication Specialist
Lesotho
Tel: +266 22315801
Fax: +266 22310248
Email : mmohale@unicef.org

Annex 1

Summary of 2017 Programme Results

	UNICEF 2017 Target	UNICEF 2017 Results
NUTRITION		
Number of children 6-59 months with SAM enrolled in TFP/community-based programmes/facilities	2,500	685*
Caregivers of children in humanitarian situations accessing infant and young child feeding counselling	56,000	6,600
HEALTH		
Children in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles	52,000	540,017**
# of children 6-59 months in the affected areas receiving vitamin A supplement in the past 6 months	104,000	165,747**
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE		
Number of people with access to sufficient water and safe water for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene	17,000	201***
People in humanitarian situations received critical WASH-related information to prevent child illness	34,900	201***
CHILD PROTECTION		
# chiefs in communities where ongoing work to mobilize and strengthen social support networks to prevent and address violence, abuse and exploitation, including GBV	300	24
EDUCATION		
The percentage of schools that are able to inform the Education in Emergencies working group on details of the impact of an emergency through EDUTRAC	1,177	0****
HIV/AIDS*		
HIV/AIDS: Number of people reached with information on prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS	310,000	3,200

*Data is from 90 health facilities out of the 175 that are providing therapeutic feeding services. Reporting rates are improving as nutritionists have resumed regular support and supervision rounds to health centres.

**Measles rubella vaccination and Vitamin A were administered during the supplementary immunization campaign conducted in February March 2017

***WASH preliminary activities are underway and are on track for full implementation by the end of 2017.

****The implementation of the education EDUTRAC has just been initiated hence results reported are zero.