

## LESOTHO

A series of climatic shocks, declining economic growth and COVID-19 lockdown measures cause deterioration in food security situation for rural households.

## IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

JULY 2020- MARCH 2021

Issued August 2020

CURRENT JULY- SEPTEMBER 2020		
<b>380,000</b> <b>26% of the population analysed</b> People facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	000,000 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	33,000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	350,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	560,000 People Stressed
	Phase 1	534,000 People in food security

PROJECTED OCTOBER 2020 – MARCH 2021		
<b>582,000</b> <b>40% of the population analysed</b> People facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	000,000 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	100,000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	482,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	480,000 People Stressed
	Phase 1	405,000 People in food security

### Overview

According to the results of the IPC, around 26% of Lesotho's population (380,000 people) are facing high food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) and above from July to September 2020 and require urgent humanitarian action. This includes around 33,000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 350,000 people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). In the current period, seven districts are classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3) with the exception of Butha-Buthe, Leribe and Berea, where around 560,000 people are classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and require support to maintain their livelihoods.

From October 2020 to March 2021, around 40% of the population (582,000 people) are projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse. All 10 districts will likely experience high acute food insecurity with pockets of highly vulnerable populations in Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

The Government of Lesotho declared a national emergency on 18 March 2020 followed by a compulsory lockdown for all non-essential services from 29 March 2020. The lockdown was relaxed on 19 May 2020, to be reviewed on a fortnightly basis. Even before the lockdown, Lesotho already had serious macroeconomic and social challenges exacerbated by climatic shocks, political instability and decelerated economic growth. COVID-19 has already had and will likely continue to have devastating economic impacts on the country, such as increases in unemployment, and reductions in income and purchasing power.

### Key Drivers



#### Economic decline

The country's growth projection was revised downwards in May 2020 to -5.1%, for 2020/21 due to the impact of COVID-19.



#### Drought and below average cereal production

Food production has declined again in 2020 for a third consecutive year.



#### High food prices

Food prices have increased due to COVID-19 lockdown measures. Prices of maize meal have gone up by an average of 12% and wheat flour by 16% since March 2020.



**Impact of COVID-19** South Africa's lockdown and border closures have caused a severe reduction in remittances, reducing the incomes and purchasing power of remittance-dependent-households.

### Current Situation July - September 2020



### Projected Situation October 2020 - March 2021



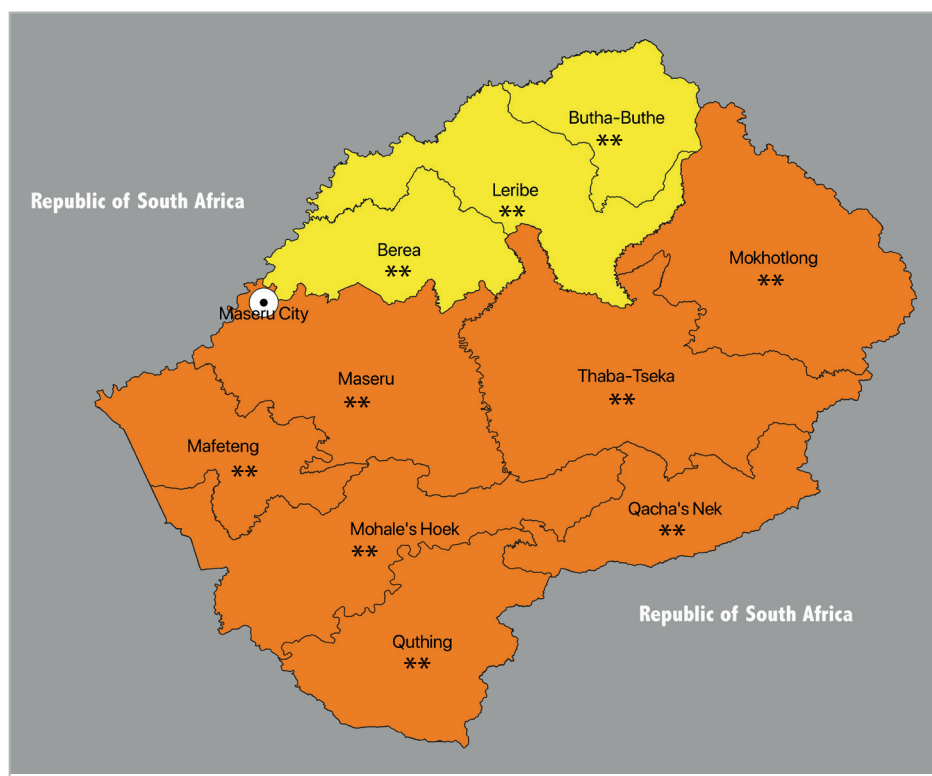
### Key for the Map

#### IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

1 - Minimal	Areas with inadequate evidence	Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance (accounted for in Phase classification)
2 - Stressed	Areas not analysed	
3 - Crisis	Map Symbols	> 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance
4 - Emergency	Urban settlement classification	
5 - Famine	IDPs/other settlements classification	

## CURRENT SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (July- September 2020)



### Key for the Map IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas with inadequate evidence
- Areas not analysed

### Map Symbols

- Urban settlement classification
- IDPs/other settlements classification

### Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance (accounted for in Phase classification)

- > 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance
- > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

### Evidence Level

- \* Acceptable
- \*\* Medium
- \*\*\* High
- Scarce evidence due to limited or no humanitarian access

Region	Total Population	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Berea	180,502	63,176	35	90,251	50	27,075	15	0	0	0	0	2	27,075	15
Butha-buthe	86,201	25,860	30	47,411	55	12,930	15	0	0	0	0	2	12,930	15
Leribe	257,661	103,064	40	115,947	45	38,649	15	0	0	0	0	2	38,649	15
Mafeteng	154,951	61,980	40	38,738	25	46,485	30	7,748	5	0	0	3	54,233	35
Maseru	230,844	69,253	30	80,795	35	69,253	30	11,542	5	0	0	3	80,795	35
Mohales hoek	157,973	63,189	40	39,493	25	47,392	30	7,899	5	0	0	3	55,291	35
Mokhotlong	98,048	44,122	45	34,317	35	19,610	20	0	0	0	0	3	19,610	20
Qachas nek	55,221	16,566	30	19,327	35	19,327	35	0	0	0	0	3	19,327	35
Quthing	116,900	29,225	25	46,760	40	40,915	35	5,845	0	0	0	3	46,760	35
Thaba tseka	126,849	57,082	45	44,397	35	25,370	20	0	0	0	0	3	25,370	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,465,150</b>	<b>533,517</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>557,436</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>347,006</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33,034</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>380,040</b>	<b>26</b>

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action.

## CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW (July - September 2020)

Despite May to September being the harvest period, when households are expected to harvest cereals for consumption and sale, the percentage of people facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) or worse in 2020 has increased compared to previous years: in 2018, 11% of the population were highly food insecure. This increased to 24% in 2019 and is expected to increase to 26% by September 2020. Overall, the population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or higher has increased by 15 percentage points between 2018 and 2020. In the current period, nearly 26% of the rural population (380,000 people) is estimated to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or higher. This includes around 33,000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), and nearly 350,000 people in seven districts in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The incremental increase is due to various key drivers including declining economic growth, three consecutive seasons of drought, cumulative climatic shocks, and the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been multiple negative ripple effects of COVID-19, which include the return of migrants from South Africa, a reduction in remittances (from 35% to 15% of total annual contributions); and knock-on effects on various sectors of the economy.

**The country has been experiencing declining economic growth.** The Government of Lesotho is the main driver of economic activities in Lesotho as reflected in public spending estimated at around 60% of GDP. However, the government has been facing reduced revenue sources in the current period. Revenue from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), which constitutes almost 40% of government revenue, has been very unstable, mainly due to the stagnant growth in South Africa. Lesotho depends on South Africa for more than 90% of its consumer goods and services. The country's growth rate in 2019/20 was estimated at 1.4% as of February 2020, before the COVID-19 crisis. This sluggish growth is attributed to poor performance in every sector of the economy, but particularly in manufacturing which recorded a growth rate of 7.6% compared to the growth rate of 12.4% in 2018/19. Textile production has reduced owing to the reduction in orders from the United States and South Africa (the major sources for Lesotho's exports). Prior to COVID-19, the GDP growth rate was projected to decelerate from 1.4% in 2019/20 to 0.4% in 2020/21. In May, 2020 the growth projection was revised downwards to -5.1%, in 2020/21 due to the impact of COVID-19. According to 2019 figures, unemployment stands at 24% of the population. The exchange rate, which is pegged to the South African Rand, depreciated to 17.04 Maloti<sup>1</sup> in June 2020 from M15.04 in February 2020.

**Three consecutive years of drought and below average cereal production.** 2019/20 marked a third year of poor crop production. It was preceded by an 80% decline for all cereal crops in 2018/19 (maize dropped by 70%, sorghum by 98% and wheat by 75%) and a 36% reduction in maize crop in 2017/18. Based on the perceptions of key informants during focus group discussions during the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) rapid assessment, production of all main cereal crops was estimated to have reduced by 30% in the current period.

The below average production is mainly due to erratic rainfall, above average temperatures, late planting and early harvesting by some farmers to prevent frost damage, late onset of conducive seasonal rains, and limited access to agricultural inputs. For mountainous districts (Mokhotlong, Thaba Tseka, and Qacha's Nek), poor germination due to low moisture content led to reduced harvests. Limited inputs affected some farmers' ability to expand the area planted; hence, the area planted for cereals is estimated to be just below the five-year average. Maize production for 2019/20 is estimated at 24,314 tonnes, sorghum 710 mt and wheat at 1,248 mt. During the 2009/10 reference year, production of maize was estimated at 141,607 mt, sorghum at 19,090 mt and wheat at 21,499 mt. Due to COVID-19, winter cropping was almost non-existent because of poor access to inputs and machinery, thus further undermining the performance of the agricultural sector.

In the 2020/21 marketing year (April/March), cereal imports are estimated at an above-average level of 230,000 tonnes. The import requirement for maize is estimated at 120,000 tonnes, which is nearly 40% above the previous five-year average. The high volume reflects the country's need to boost supplies, following the reduced harvest in 2019 and a consequent reduction in stocks. Meanwhile, imports of wheat are expected to remain stable at an average level of 80,000 tonnes.

Since food production will remain below the five-year-average and food imports from South Africa will continue, albeit with delays at border control, food availability will be a minor limiting factor to food security in the country. However, food access is expected to be a major limiting factor in all 10 districts analysed due to reduced personal production, higher food prices and reduced purchasing power.

**Food prices have increased since COVID-19 lockdown measures were implemented and remain higher than the same period in 2019.** Prices of maize meal have increased by average of 12% and wheat flour by 16% since March 2020. Food inflation has increased from 7.5% in December 2019 to 8.9% in April 2020 – while overall inflation stood at 4.2%. Prices of food commodities are expected to increase further as households deplete their stocks. Since only larger, formal traders have been granted permits to import from South Africa, it is highly likely that prices will rise, owing to the monopoly by larger traders, especially since no regulating mechanism has been put in place. Informal traders are not allowed to import food from South Africa.

<sup>1</sup> Local currency Maloti written as Ma

## CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW CONT. (July - September 2020)

**Negative impact on migration and decrease in remittances** have reduced purchasing power and increased the burden on already overstressed households in the country. The LVAC (March/April 2020) indicated that 17% of households in Lesotho depend on remittances for income. In 2018, both formal and informal remittances from South Africa stood at \$440 million USD (equivalent to 15.5% of GDP). There are an estimated 420,000 Basotho working in South Africa which includes 97,000 in unskilled and semi-skilled workers category who hold Lesotho Special Permits, and an unknown number of irregular migrants (estimated at 100,000) working in the mining and corporate sectors (farms, domestic work and other informal sector jobs). There are an estimated 19,000 Basotho mineworkers in South Africa, however, around 15,000 returned home in March 2020. Seasonal work in the farms of South Africa provides an important source of employment to the communities in rural Lesotho with nearly 10,000 people employed annually in the farms in the Eastern Cape province.

Although it is difficult to quantify the impact of COVID-19 on migrant labour, an estimated 93,000 migrants have returned from South Africa, including mineworkers and contract workers. Remittances, mainly in the form of cash transfers, have declined with the Lesotho corridor accounting for a 38% drop in volume between March and April 2020. Data from Shoprite Money transfers reflects a decline of almost \$2 million USD in remittances sent to Lesotho in March and April 2020. Migrants returned for various reasons, but the majority, an estimated 81%, returned because of lockdown measures in South Africa; 62% returned because they had lost their jobs, 17% because of lockdown guidelines and 5% due to a lack of food. This has had an immediate impact on the food security of remittance-dependent-households. On average, the migrants who returned home were remitting 63% of their income (average of ZAR 2,044) to their families in Lesotho, 89% of which sent this on a monthly basis.

Migrants who have returned from South Africa are typically household heads who support about five dependents on average - compared to the national average of four. Upon their return to Lesotho their largest challenges included: lack of food (63%), loss of jobs (61%), lack of income for survival (42%), and poor health conditions (17%). Returned migrants remain a source of concern for district authorities. When asked what assistance they needed, food was the top priority for most of them (56%).

**Impact of COVID-19 on travel and tourism:** In 2018, Lesotho received more than 1 million international tourists, with total receipts estimated at \$24 million USD. According to the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation, no revenues were generated in the sector during the months of March and April 2020 due to COVID-19 mitigation measures. The transport and logistics sector suffered a huge setback due to the lockdown and stay-at-home measures. Due to reduced operating capacities and economic activity, public transport operators lost an average revenue of \$1,000 USD per month per taxi, affecting the livelihoods of those dependent on the sector.

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

At the time of the analysis, humanitarian partners in Lesotho were implementing a crisis response programme, Food Security Drought Response, Food Security Covid-19 Response and Resilience Programmes. Programmes were concentrated in seven districts, including Maseru, Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Qacha's Nek, Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka in both urban and rural areas. Most of the assistance started in April 2020, and was planned to continue into the current period. All programmes provided an unconditional cash transfer of between M831 to M1200 per household. Food security drought response provided M151 per person per household for up to five household members. (Although the assistance will serve as a mitigating factor to alleviate food insecurity, it did not meet the IPC criteria for mapping. See Annex A for a detailed description of the assistance provided.)

WFP's Crisis Response Program targeted urban areas from the beginning of August 2020, and will last for six months. Up to 8,500 households (34,000 people) in urban areas vulnerable to food insecurity were targeted through cash transfers using mobile money in Maseru, Mohale's Hoek, Mafeteng, Quthing, and Qacha's Nek districts. Currently, the number of urban food insecure populations is estimated to be unusually higher than usual, particularly in Maseru. It is the main center of business in the country where households are generally more reliant on salaries and daily wages for food purchases.

The government of Lesotho is implementing the Child Grant Programme (CGP), under the Department of Social Development. Beneficiaries are estimated at 38,122 people (11,436 from urban areas and 26,685 from rural) in the beneficiary districts and will receive M350.00 (\$25.00 USD) per quarter. The government also implemented an economic mitigation package, which includes \$58 million USD for emergency assistance and the expansion of social protection programmes, such as the Child Grant Programme.

## PROJECTED SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (October 2020 - March 2021)



### Key for the Map

#### IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

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- 5 - Famine
- Areas with inadequate evidence
- Areas not analysed

#### Map Symbols

- Urban settlement classification
- IDPs/other settlements classification

#### Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance (accounted for in Phase classification)

- > 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance
- > 25% of households meet > 50% of caloric needs through assistance

#### Evidence Level

- \* Acceptable
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Region	Total Population	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
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Berea	180,502	54,151	30	54,151	30	63,176	35	9,025	5	0	0	3	72,201	40
Butha-buthe	86,201	25,860	30	30,170	35	25,860	30	4,310	5	0	0	3	30,170	35
Leribe	257,661	77,298	30	90,181	35	77,298	30	12,883	5	0	0	3	90,181	35
Mafeteng	154,951	46,485	30	38,738	25	54,233	35	15,495	10	0	0	3	69,728	45
Maseru	230,844	57,711	25	69,253	30	80,795	35	23,084	10	0	0	3	103,879	45
Mohales hoek	157,973	47,392	30	39,493	25	55,291	35	15,797	10	0	0	3	71,088	45
Mokhotlong	98,048	29,414	30	39,219	40	24,512	25	4,902	5	0	0	3	29,414	30
Qachas nek	55,221	11,044	20	19,327	35	22,088	40	2,761	5	0	0	3	24,849	45
Quthing	116,900	23,380	20	40,915	35	46,760	40	5,845	5	0	0	3	52,605	45
Thaba tseka	126,849	31,712	25	57,082	45	31,712	25	6,342	5	0	0	3	38,054	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,465,150</b>	<b>404,447</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>478,529</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>481,725</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100,444</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>582,169</b>	<b>40</b>

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action.

## PROJECTED SITUATION OVERVIEW (October 2020 - March 2021)

In Lesotho, the period from October to March corresponds to the lean or 'hungry season' for rural households. The population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or higher) shows a similar trend as seen in the current period. During 2020/21, the total population who will likely experience high acute food insecurity is expected to increase by 10 percentage compared to the same time last year. Overall, the increase of populations in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3) and above increased by 22 percentage points between 2018/19 and 2020/21.

From October 2020 to March 2021, about 40% of the population (582,000 people) are projected to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3) or higher and will likely face high acute food insecurity. All 10 districts in the country are projected to be in Crisis, with pockets of highly vulnerable populations in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Quthing, Mphahle's Hoek and Mafeteng are expected to have populations in Emergency because more than 50% of the households in these areas depend on informal labour opportunities in South Africa. Seasonal migration to South African farms (for the harvest) during May/June is a typical livelihood strategy for people in the southern and eastern part of the country (especially Quthing and Qacha's Nek). Movement restrictions have reduced seasonal incomes from 35% to 15% of the contribution towards household total income as reflected in LIAS.

Food availability is expected to remain a minor limiting factor since food will be available through imports from South Africa, however, border delays could mean food supplies may take slightly longer to reach markets throughout the country. Rural households are expected to only have food stocks for the next three months, until the end of September 2020, ushering in an early lean season. Dependence on income from off-farm labour is increasing as agricultural labour opportunities are decreasing following the 2020 harvest. Labour opportunities remain below typical levels due to the below-average 2020 harvest, border closures that are limiting migration, and the general slowdown of the economy following COVID-19 control measures in Lesotho and South Africa. Poor and very poor households will likely be unable to sufficiently purchase basic non-food items due to lower incomes.

Markets are expected to remain functional, although small retailers and individuals are not permitted to import food from outside the country. Prices for food commodities are expected to increase as is typical for the lean season. According to World Food Programme Alert Price Spike (ALPS), maize meal prices are likely to remain high until December 2020 with some districts, such as Leribe, Berea, Mokhotlong and Quthing, experiencing price increases of above normal (stress and crisis price increases). Maize meal prices are likely to be 20-30% higher than the five-year average, while wheat flour prices are likely to be 30-40% higher than the five-year-average.

According to the Lesotho Meteorological Services, rainfall is expected to be normal to below normal in the projected period. Based on this forecast, income from agricultural labour will decrease due to the late onset of rain. Income from remittances is not expected to recover quickly, as migrants may choose to stay in the country and seek alternative livelihoods and social protection grants. Expected loss of income from remittances, loss of employment in the textile industry; and other sectors is anticipated since cases of COVID-19 still persist and restriction measures could be further strengthened.

Wool and mohair farmers are likely to lose income from their produce as, to date, only around half of the farmers have received income from sales. This is mainly due to restricted movements and unsteady markets for the products this year. A higher proportion of households are expected to borrow and buy food on credit. Some households are expected to sell more livestock at a lower price in order to meet their food and non-food requirements. With regards to nutritional status, typically, wasting and mortality rates in Lesotho have been within acceptable levels (less than 5%). The expectation is that malnutrition rates will likely increase slightly but remain within acceptable levels. Ultimately, considering these factors, household food security is expected to deteriorate.

### Assumptions for Projection

- **Climate outlook:** The Lesotho Meteorological Services has predicted normal to below normal rainfall for July to October 2020.
- **Agricultural labour:** Due to the anticipated delayed start of the harvest season, there will be limited opportunities for agricultural labour. The income and food supply that poor households depend on will likely decrease. Wage rates will likely remain normal, as they typically do not fluctuate.
- **Rangelands and livestock conditions:** Due to the expected late onset and normal-to-below-normal rainfall, rangelands and livestock conditions are likely to be affected negatively. Livestock diseases are anticipated to increase because of dry conditions and low levels of water for drinking. Income for households who depend on livestock sales will likely decrease.
- **Remittances:** Remittances are not expected to recover and could further reduce due to a high rate of returnees from South Africa due to COVID-19, adding to the already high unemployment rate in the country. Remittances from migrants who remained in South Africa may decrease owing to the reduction in formal and informal work in the country and lead to a reduction in purchasing power.
- **Water shortages:** Typically, Lesotho faces water shortages from the spring to the beginning of the summer season and the forecast indicates normal-to-below-normal rainfall for the same period. This will likely have a negative impact on water availability for human and animal consumption. More households are likely to use unimproved water sources and travel for longer distances in order to get water for their livestock.
- **Staple prices:** Current prices of maize meal have increased by more than 10% compared to the 5-year-average and by 16% compared to 2019. Projected prices of maize meal in Lesotho (WFP VAM) show, that maize meal prices are likely to remain high and, in some districts, higher than the normal increase until December 2020. Wheat flour prices are likely to remain high and, in some districts, are likely to remain above the normal increase.
- **Markets and imports:** Lesotho markets are well-integrated and have been operational even in bad years. Markets have contributed more than 70% of annual requirements of food needs in most years, and Lesotho imports most of its foods from South Africa. A few interruptions in the supply chain are expected, owing to restrictions in cross-border movements, resulting in shortages of some food commodities.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

### Response Priorities for the current period (July to September 2020)

- Urgent action is required to save lives, reduce food consumption gaps and protect livelihoods of all vulnerable people in the country. The following response priorities are proposed for the current period:
- Immediate humanitarian assistance for all households in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3) or higher to protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps.
- Provision of agricultural inputs to farming households that cannot afford access to inputs.
- Establishment of a market system that provides opportunities for local producers (e.g. LDF, LCS, humanitarian agencies etc.) to procure from farmers.
- Reduction of food consumption gaps by improving access to food, through appropriate modalities.
- Protection of livelihood assets and production systems through livestock vaccination campaigns and fodder production interventions.
- Promotion of resilience building initiatives, such as climate-smart agriculture.
- Returnee migrants should be prioritized for support to establish alternative livelihoods and should be included in social relief programmes.

### Response Priorities for the projected period (October 2020 – March 2021)

The following response priorities are proposed for the projected period:

- Livelihood recovery programmes (i.e. agricultural inputs) for populations in Stressed (IPC Phase 2).
- Development of complementarity programmes (i.e. backyard gardening inputs for poor and very poor households).
- Capacity building programmes for populations in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and higher.

### Situation Monitoring and Update

Risk factors that need to be monitored include:

- Prices for staple food and agricultural inputs
- Winter cropping
- Prices of livestock feeds and drugs
- Rainfall patterns
- Water sources levels
- Conditions of rangelands
- Livestock and human diseases, especially the spread of COVID- 19
- Income levels and food sources

### Update of Activities

Owing to the economic and social volatility caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, the LVAC should undertake a rapid assessment to support an update of the IPC acute analysis early in the projected period. This is needed especially if the assumptions, which are the basis of the food security analysis, change. Regular monitoring of prices, rainfall, indicators of economic recovery and food availability is needed given that a deterioration is expected in the projected period.

## PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

### Process and Methodology

- The IPC TWG conducted a face-to-face workshop, observing COVID-19 mitigation protocols, to analyze data from different sources. The IPC Global Support Unit (GSU) provided virtual technical assistance.
- Primary data was used for the following food security indicators such as FCS, HDDS, HHS, LC from the LVAC Rapid Lean Season Assessment conducted in March 2020, with complementary data on prices from WFP monitoring and the Lesotho Bureau of Statistics.
- Trend analysis from the four previous years VAA and rapid assessments and analyses (2016-2020) was undertaken.
- HEA was also used to analyse data collected from key informants. Only the following key parameters were monitored: Price of staples, price of food for work, remittances, beer brewing, agricultural labour, crop production estimates, livestock numbers, livestock and livestock products prices.
- IPC AFI analysis was conducted to classify the severity of food insecurity in 10 rural districts.

### Sources

- Rapid Assessment conducted by the LVAC in March 2020.
- HEA Outcome Analysis, June 2020.
- Trend analysis derived from both the VAA and rapid assessments conducted by the LVAC since 2016.
- COVID19\_Lesotho Socio Economic Assessment published by the UNDP; July, 2020.
- Liquor Industry Joint Statement on Alcohol Ban released by the Maluti Mountain Brewery.
- GIEWS Lesotho Country Brief, July 2020.
- WFP Data Viz for price projections.
- Lesotho Bureau of Statistics price monitoring bulletins.
- Lesotho Met Services Climate Outlook.

### Limitations of the Analysis

The LVAC could not undertake a post-harvest assessment owing to COVID-19 movement restrictions. However, lean season data was used with contributing evidence from the post-harvest period to undertake the acute analysis. Owing to time constraints, only rural areas were analysed. However, since urban vulnerability is a growing concern in Lesotho, urban data collection and urban IPC analysis should be prioritised for the near future.

### Acute Food Insecurity Phase name and description

Phase 1 None/Minimal	Phase 2 Stressed	Phase 3 Crisis	Phase 4 Emergency	Phase 5 Catastrophe/ Famine
Households are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical and unsustainable strategies to access food and income.	Households have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies.	Households either: • have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition; <b>or</b> • are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.	Households either: • have large food consumption gaps that are reflected in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; <b>or</b> • are able to mitigate large food consumption gaps but only by employing emergency livelihood strategies and asset liquidation.	Households have an extreme lack of food and/or other basic needs even after full employment of coping strategies. Starvation, death, destitution and extremely critical acute malnutrition levels are evident.  For famine classification, area needs to have extreme critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality.)

### What is the IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity?

The IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity and characteristics of acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic food insecurity based on international standards. The IPC consists of four mutually reinforcing functions, each with a set of specific protocols (tools and procedures). The core IPC parameters include consensus building, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency and comparability. The IPC analysis aims at informing emergency response as well as medium and long-term food security policy and programming.

For the IPC, Acute Food Insecurity is defined as any manifestation of food insecurity found in a specified area at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. It is highly susceptible to change and can occur and manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

### Contact for further Information

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### IPC Analysis Partners:

## ANNEX A: PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN LESOTHO

District	Rural or Urban	Organisation	Beneficiaries	Activity	Cash value	Duration	Last distribution month
Butha-Buthe	Rural	LRCS	555			9 months	September
Maseru	Urban	WFP	16,000 (4,000 HHs)	Crisis response	M831	6 months	January 2021
Mafeteng	Urban	WFP	3,944 (986 HHs)	Crisis response	M831	6 months from August	January 2021
Mafeteng	Rural	WFP	27,420 (5,484 HHs)	Crisis response	M831	4 months from April	July 2021
Mafeteng	Rural	WFP	5484 hhs	Crisis Reponse	M831	3 months	July 2021
Mafeteng	Rural	WFP	800	Resilience	M1200	Since 2019	July 2020
Mafeteng	Rural	WFP	2,000 (500 HHs)	Resilience	M1200	From August for 4 years	2024
Mohale's Hoek	Rural	WFP	10,734 (1,789 HHs)	Crisis response	M831	4 months from April	July 2021
Mohale's Hoek	Urban	WFP	3,940 (985 HHs)	Crisis response	M831	6 months	January 2021
Mohale's Hoek	Rural	WFP	873	Resilience	M1200	Since 2019	July 2020
Mohale's Hoek	Rural	WFP	2,000 (500 HHs)	Resilience	M1200	From August for 4 years	2024
Quthing	Rural	WFP	5,280 (1,056 HHs)	Crisis response	M831	4 months from April	July 2021
Quthing	Urban	WFP	3892 (973 HHs)	Crisis response	M831	6 months	January 2021
Quthing	Rural	WFP	800	Resilience	M1200	Since 2019	July 2020
Quthing	Rural	WFP	2,000 (500 HHs)	Resilience	M1200	From August for 4 years	2024
Qacha's Nek	Rural	WFP	20,725 (4,145 HHs)	Crisis response	M831	4 months from April	July 2021
Qacha's Nek	Urban	WFP	4,800 (1,200 HHs)	Crisis response	M831	6 months	January 2021
Mokhotlong	Rural	LRCS	660	Food Security-Drought Response	M151 / person up to 5 people at HH	9 months	September
Thaba-Tseka	Rural	LRCS	790	Food security – drought response	M151 / person up to 5 people at HH	9 months	September
	Rural	LRSC	130	Food security – COVID 19 response	M151 / person up to 5 people at HH	2 months	July
	Rural	WFP	16,000 (4,000 HHs)	Crisis response	M831	6 months	January 2021