


Acute food insecurity forecast, 2022

 **0.34M people**

were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in January–March 2022

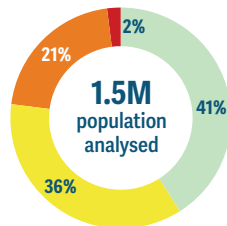
 **0.31M people**
in Crisis
(IPC Phase 3)


 **0.03M people**
in Emergency
(IPC Phase 4)


 The acute food insecurity situation in early 2022 is expected to improve considerably, with around 270 000 fewer people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) relative to early 2021. A small number of people is still forecast to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) though fewer than last year.

23% of the population analysed was forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

- 1 - None
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Catastrophe



 **0.53 people** were forecast to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2)

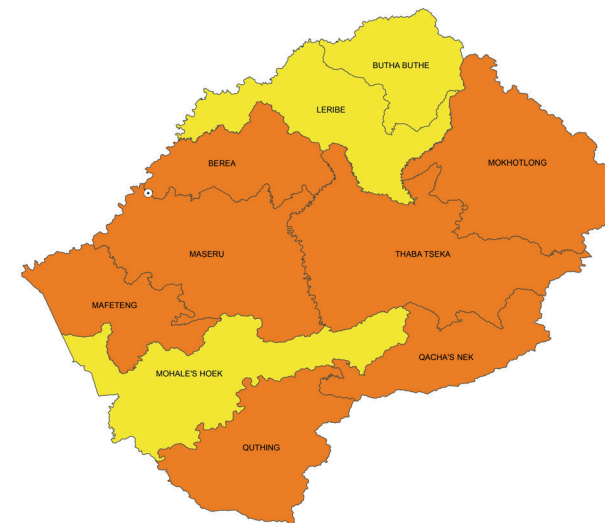
 The analysis covers all rural areas, home to **70%** of the country's total population of **2.1 million** people.

Source: IPC, January 2022

MAP 3.36

IPC acute food insecurity situation, January–March 2022

Out of the ten areas analysed, seven are forecast to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and three in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). The highest numbers of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) are in Berea (55 000) and Maseru (70 000).



- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Inadequate evidence
- Not analysed
- Urban settlement classification

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

Source: Lesotho IPC Technical Working Group, January 2022.

Above-average rainfall bodes well for cereal production, but price shocks, reduced household income and heavy rains are expected to drive high levels of acute food insecurity, with close to a quarter of the analysed population in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above).

Economic shocks, including COVID-19

The lean season lasts through to early April 2022 and households are expected to be increasingly reliant on markets for food during this period (FEWS NET October 2021).

Although overall production expectations are favourable, higher prices for fertilisers as well as other agricultural inputs could limit their use and curb crop yields. In addition, these higher prices are expected to exert upward pressure on production costs, which could in turn drive grain price increases in 2022 (FEWS NET, November 2021).

Income from non-agricultural activities was expected to increase compared to 2021, but to remain slightly below normal due to limited job opportunities inside the country and South Africa as a result of COVID-19 economic impacts, which are also expected to reduce remittances (IPC, January 2022).

Incomes for livestock farmers were expected to be above average thanks to better rangeland and improved livestock conditions. Crop production is expected to boost the economy to a moderate growth of 2.6 percent (IPC, January 2022).

Weather extremes

After a delayed start of about 20–30 days, Lesotho's 2021/2022 rainy season advanced well with average or above-average rainfall at the end of 2021. Heavy rains destroyed some crops in January 2022, causing waterlogging in some parts of the country. Favourable rainfall was expected during the outlook period with an average 2022 harvest anticipated (IPC, January 2022 and FEWS NET, January 2022).