WFP LESOTHO
Monthly Report
March 2014

RESULTS:
Total Beneficiaries Reached
234,708
Total Food Distributed
2,980 mt

HIGHLIGHTS

- DFID officials - Catherine Arnold, Lead Social Development Adviser and Lubna Ghneim, Deputy Programme Manager - visited Lesotho from 24 to 27 March. WFP Lesotho staff accompanied the delegation to the district of Mafeteng where they saw completed DFID funded Cash for Assets projects and interviewed beneficiaries.

- WFP continues to provide technical support to the Government of Lesotho to pilot local purchase for the School Meals programme. The pilot will begin with two commodities, maize grain and pulses, which will be purchased locally in areas with surpluses and distributed to the School Meals programme. A WFP P4P specialist is providing technical support to the Food Management Unit (FMU).

- On 27th March, President Jacob Zuma visited Mokhotlong District in the northern part of Lesotho, to officially launch phase two of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. President Zuma was hosted by King Letsie III and Prime Minister Thomas Thabane. During his visit, President Zuma mentioned the R180 million donation to Lesotho through WFP as one of the effective bilateral collaborations between the Governments of South Africa and Lesotho. The Republic of South Africa is partnering with WFP to mitigate the impact of food insecurity, and President Zuma expressed satisfaction with the progress made so far. Although plans were made for President Zuma to visit a nearby WFP supported school, the visit was cancelled due to time constraints. Ms. Mary Njoroge, WFP Lesotho Representative, attended the launch.

- The March 2014 Disaster Management Authority (DMA) Early Warning Bulletin reported that there will be normal to above normal rainfall in Lesotho until April 2014. The bulletin indicated that most maize crops are now between tussling and cob stage.

Overview

WFP is working in line with the Government of Lesotho's goal of improving national food security and reducing malnutrition through two programmes: the Country Programme and the School Meals Programme.

The Country Programme has been designed to enhance the resilience and responsiveness to food security shocks, and to enhance the nutritional and social wellbeing of vulnerable groups. This programme began in January 2013 and will continue until December 2017 and includes three components: Nutrition and HIV, Support to Education (pre-schools) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). WFP continues to seek funding partners for DRR activities. The Country Programme intends to reach 124,500 beneficiaries in 2013 and 447,600 people over the 5 year duration of this programme.

The purpose of the School Meals Programme is to assist the Government of Lesotho to integrate and scale up the delivery of “Education for All” interventions to the most vulnerable children in the mountainous areas of the country, and contributes to the second outcome of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) – “to achieve improved and expanded equitable access to quality basic health, education and social welfare services for all by 2012. This programme was originally designed to assist 110,000 children but due to the donation made by the Republic of South Africa, the programme has been scaled up. In mid-2013 the programme expanded to assist 125,000 children and in 2014 the programme will reach 150,000 children.
Main Food Commodities and Fuel Prices

- February 2014 prices of 12.5kg of maize meal remained unchanged compared to January 2014. There was a 2% drop when compared to February 2013.
- Prices of fuel have increased every month since the November 2013. Compared to February 2014, petrol prices increased by 3%, diesel and paraffin prices increased by 2%. When compared to March 2013 petrol prices increased by 10%, diesel by 14% and paraffin by 13%.

Support to Pre-Schools

- On March 27th, WFP carried out complementary activities by training 49 caregivers working in 45 pre-schools in the Khubetsoa area of Maseru on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). The training also included the identification of abused children. Through training, WFP is promoting a healthy lifestyle amongst pre-school students and their caregivers; training will continue from 7-18 April 2014 in the district of Mokhotlong and other areas of the Maseru district.

Enhancing Resilience and Responsiveness (Disaster Risk Reduction)

- Mr Billy Mwiinga, WFP Regional Specialist for Emergency Preparedness & Response (EPR), visited Lesotho during the week of March 10, 2014 to assist WFP Lesotho in rolling-out the EPR Plan and strengthen WFP’s capacity for future emergency preparedness activities.
- WFP is expecting its first consignment of food for the Food for Work project, funded by the Russian Federation, to arrive in June 2014. Distributions are planned to begin in July 2014.

Positive Deviance

- WFP continues to implement Positive Deviance (PD) in 30 villages in the districts of Thaba Tseka, Mokhotlong, Qacha’s Nek and Berea. PD involves community engagement in identifying strategies to address social problems faced by the communities. PD encourages healthy families to teach good practices to their neighbours to tackle issues of stunting and malnutrition.

Construction of School Kitchens and Store Rooms

The WFP is in the process of implementing the construction of 23 School Kitchens and storerooms project in Lesotho. The project is financed by the Ministry of Education and Training of the Government of Lesotho. The Schools are located in the remote highlands area of the Lesotho namely Se-mongkong and Maliba-matsa areas.

School Meals

In March 2014, WFP Lesotho received 265mt of beans which were expected to arrive between January and February 2014 but were delayed due to delayed lab results and suppliers who had challenges in sourcing bags. This delay resulted in pulses which were not available during the first 73 percent of the 2014 first quarter, representing 49 days of the total 67 feedings days. In March, 81mt of beans were distributed to schools to cover the remaining 18 feeding days of the first quarter. Also 62mt of beans were delivered to pre-schools for first quarter distribution.

March Output Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Beneficiaries Reached (individuals)</th>
<th>Food / Cash Delivered (USD$ / metric tons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country Programme (CP 200369)</td>
<td>Nutrition and HIV**</td>
<td>37,795</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enhancing Resilience and Responsiveness (DRR)</td>
<td>Food for Work activities are scheduled to begin in July</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support to Education (ECCD/Pre-Schools)*</td>
<td>51,068</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Meals Programme (200199)</td>
<td>School Meals*</td>
<td>148,845</td>
<td>1,974</td>
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</tbody>
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*School Meals and Pre-School figures are consolidated quarterly due to the remote locations of supported schools. Therefore planning figures are reflected in the above table. **The nutrition output report was not available at the time of releasing this report, therefore planning figures are provided.

Nutrition

- At the time of releasing this report the output report was not available, however in March, WFP planned to reached 37,795 people through nutrition interventions with 256 mt of food commodities.

2014 Allocated Funding Per Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Programme</th>
<th>Total (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Africa DIRCO</td>
<td>5,664,057.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1,881,188.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1,000,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>490,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Received</td>
<td>9,035,245.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shortfall</td>
<td>60.1%</td>
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Produced by WFP Lesotho
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