WFP LESOTHO
Monthly Report
April 2014

RESULTS:
Total Beneficiaries Reached
238,409

Total Food Distributed
1,243 mt

HIGHLIGHTS

- In April, WFP reached more than 39,000 beneficiaries with 257mt of food commodities through the Nutrition and HIV component of the Country Programme.

- In the first quarter of 2014, WFP reached 148,345 primary school children with 1809mt of food commodities, and 50,848 pre-school children with 609mt of food commodities. Due to the challenging locations in which many supported schools are located, output figures are collected on a quarterly basis.

- WFP continued to provide technical support to the Government of Lesotho to pilot local purchase for the School Meals programme. In April, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between WFP, Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Marketing and Cooperatives.

- According to the Ministry of Energy, Meteorology and Water Affairs Lesotho Meteorological Services April report, the coming winter season is expected to be colder than normal, and there is a high likelihood of snowfall occurrences over the high lying areas. Temperatures dropped significantly in the highlands on 29 March 2014, where -0.2 degrees Celsius was observed in the northern district of Butha Buthe. This marked the end of the summer period (October 2013 to March 2014) which had enjoyed higher than normal temperatures and good rains. Between April and July 2014, average to below average rainfall is expected countrywide.

- El Nino conditions are expected to result in dry conditions. Maize and sorghum in the highlands were adversely affected by frost. Some crops have been affected by delayed planting due to late onset of rains during the planting season. Maize production is anticipated to be lower than expected.

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 132,000 beneficiaries in 2014 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 in the first six months, and 200,000 children in the final six months of 2014.
Main Food Commodities and Fuel Prices

- March 2014 prices of 12.5kg of maize meal increased by 3 percent when compared to February 2014. Prices remained unchanged when compared to March 2013.
- Prices of fuel have increased every month since November 2013. When comparing April to March 2014 prices, petrol remained unchanged, while diesel and paraffin prices increased by 2 percent. When comparing April 2014 to December 2013 prices, petrol has increased by 10 percent, diesel by 7 percent and paraffin by 6 percent.

Support to Pre-Schools

- Between April 8-11, WFP carried out complementary activities to its ongoing programmes by training 50 caregivers working in 45 pre-schools in the district of Mokhotlong on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). The training also included the identification of abused and malnourished children, and methods to increase vegetable production at school gardens. Technical support was provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Heath, Ministry of Education and Training and the Child and Gender Protection Unit of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- A complete food basket was delivered to pre-schools during the 2014 second quarter distribution cycle. Second quarter distributions took place in two phases, maize meal and pulses were delivered in April, and Super Cereal and vegetable oil were delivered at the beginning of May 2014 due to late arrival of these two commodities.

Enhancing Resilience and Responsiveness (Disaster Risk Reduction)

- WFP, with support from the World Bank, is assisting the Lesotho Disaster Management Authority (DMA) in establishing an effective Early Warning and Information Management System to enhance timely access to information on both preparedness and response. In April, WFP along with UN agencies finalized the development of the Lesotho Resilience Building Framework. This framework was developed with support from the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC). The programme will facilitate the United Nation's support to the Government of Lesotho in addressing the root causes of vulnerability.

School Meals

- The Ministry of Education and Training has reconfirmed financial commitment to fund the School Meals programme from 2015 and onwards. A Trust Fund is being created for the implementation of the government-funded programme.
- All food commodities are now available for primary school feeding with the exception of salt, which did not meet food quality standards. The WFP Lesotho Country Office and Regional Bureau are working together to expedite delivery.

Nutrition

- From April 9-17, WFP continued to build the capacity of the Ministry of Health through job coaching of nurses and monitoring of programme implementation. More than 40 nurses in 20 clinics throughout the districts of Quthing, Mohale’s Hoek and Mafeteng received coaching on the identification and exit criteria pregnant and lactating women under the targeted Supplementary Feeding intervention. Nurses received training to improve the quality of nutrition data management, and on food commodity storage and handling.

April Output Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Beneficiaries Reached (individuals)</th>
<th>Food Delivered (metric tons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country Programme (CP 200369)</td>
<td>Nutrition and HIV</td>
<td>39,216</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enhancing Resilience and Responsiveness (DRR)</td>
<td>Food for Work activities are scheduled to begin in June</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to Education (ECCD/Pre-Schools)*</td>
<td></td>
<td>50,848</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Meals Programme (200199)</td>
<td>School Meals*</td>
<td>148,345</td>
<td>718</td>
</tr>
</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.

2014 Allocated Funding Per Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Programme</th>
<th>Total (USD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Africa DIRCO</td>
<td>5,664,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1,881,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>490,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Received</td>
<td>9,035,000</td>
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<td>Shortfall</td>
<td>60.1%</td>
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Produced by WFP Lesotho
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