





IPC in Lesotho



CURRENT AND PROJECTED ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION

April-June 2016 ; July–October 2016; November 2016 - March 2017

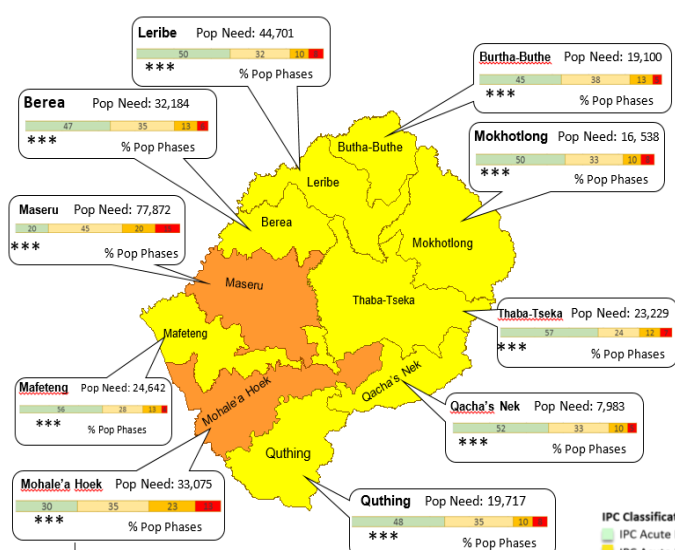
KEY FIGURES	Apr. – Jun. 2016		Jul. – Oct. 2016		Nov.16 - Mar.17	
 people in IPC Phase 3 and IPC Phase 4	Almost 315,000 22% of the population		Over 510,000 36 % of the population		Over 345, 000 25% of the population	
 HHs within the districts in need of urgent action to protect and save their livelihoods and lives	Maseru 77,872 Mohale'sHoek 53,290 Mafeteng 24,642 Quthing 19,717 Butha Buthe 14,539	Leribe 44,701 Berea 32,184 Thaba-Tseka 23,229 Mokhotlong 16,538 Qacha's Nek 7,983	Berea 88,725 Mafeteng 67,204 Thaba-Tseka 48,903 Mohale'sHoek 50,245 Mokhotlong 23,625	Leribe 86,918 Maseru 55,623 Quthing 48,448 Qacha's Nek 23,950 Butha Buthe 16,616	Maseru 48,948 Quthing 47,321 Thaba-Tseka 36,677 Mohale'sHoek 35,019 Mokhotlong 17,483	Leribe 47,184 Berea 46,972 Mafeteng 34,349 Butha Buthe 19,109 Qacha's Nek 12,507

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

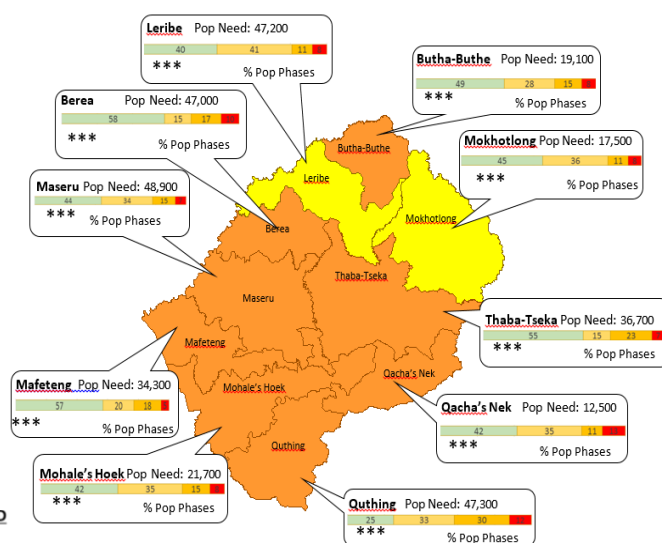
- The level of food insecurity is alarming in Lesotho, and is expected to deteriorate from July to October 2016, due to devastating effects of successive crop failures, compounded by socio-economic adversities.
- Despite a slight improvement over the peak of the lean season (November 2016 – March 2017), the situation indicates that still **24% of the population across the country are expected to be in IPC Phase 3 and 4.**
- Acute food insecurity in Lesotho mainly results from the effects of El Niño phenomenon, which has led to poor food production and high prices resulting from the late onset of rains and subsequent poor rainfall.
- Assisting the most vulnerable people and increasing households' resilience to food security threats will contribute to saving many lives.

INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION (IPC) MAPs

IPC Current Acute Analysis Situation (May– June 2016)



IPC Projected Acute Analysis Situation (Oct. 2016 – Feb.2017)



PC Partners in Lesotho



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Save the Children



OVERVIEW

As for April – June 2016, 14% of the rural population are classified in “Crisis” (IPC Phase 3), and another 8% is in “Emergency” (IPC Phase 4) and require humanitarian assistance. The districts with the highest proportions of food insecure people are Maseru and Mphahlele, where 35% of the population is experiencing “Crisis” or “Emergency” conditions respectively.

The situation is expected to **deteriorate between July and October with all districts of Lesotho expected to experience a “Crisis” situation**. In addition, it is estimated that between 20 and 40% of the rural population will experience no or minimal acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 1), 33% will be in Phase 2 (‘Stressed’).

At the peak of the **lean season (November 2016 – March 2017)**, the situation is expected to slightly improve in Leribe and Mphahlele owing to improved farming activities, and income from wool and mohair. Nevertheless, during this period, **approximately 24% of the population across the country are still expected to be in IPC Phase 3 and 4**. From those, 8% of the population will experience large food gaps characteristic of emergency situation and will require interventions to save their livelihoods and lives.

The worst affected households, classified in IPC Phases 3 and 4, are typically the poor and very poor, who lack sufficient income to purchase food at higher food prices, as well as those who have already depleted or will deplete their main livelihood assets, such as livestock, in order to cover their food and non-food needs.

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CONDITIONS

The effects of El Niño have significantly affected households’ availability and access to food, especially due to the widespread damage to agricultural production and livestock. The rainy season from September 2015 to May 2016 was one of the lowest recorded. This has resulted in a reduced maize production decreased by 89%, wheat by 96%, and sorghum by 93% in 2016 compared to the reference year of 2009. Due to decreased availability of food in the markets, prices have risen for basic food products thus affecting the purchasing power of the population.

High levels of vulnerability and limited resilience to climate shocks, caused by chronically inadequate staple food production, limited income sources are also concurrent factors deteriorating the situation and affecting households’ capacity to meet their basic food and non-food need.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

The Government and partners are recommended to upscale on-going efforts and prioritize the most affected populations between the period April-June 2016 and the end of the projections, March 2017, by:

- Providing humanitarian aid to estimated 8 to 11% of people in IPC Phase 4 to avoid detrimental food consumption gaps and loss of livelihoods and livelihood assets, and in order to prevent acute malnutrition rates from deteriorating;
- Providing humanitarian aid also to estimated 14-30% of people in IPC Phase 3 to protect households’ livelihoods and prevent loss of assets through unsustainable coping, and to reduce gaps in food consumption. In all IPC Phase 3 areas, interventions focused on reducing malnutrition and increasing resilience are also needed.

The Government and partners are also recommended to increase interventions aimed at improving the resilience and productivity of the agricultural sector of the estimated 30-34% of people in IPC Phase 2 in the different analysis periods.

METHODS AND PROCESSES

The IPC Acute Analysis was conducted in May 2016 by the IPC National Multi-stakeholder Working Group coordinated by the National LVAC and composed of representatives from several Government agencies, UN agencies (WFP, FAO and UNICEF), Lesotho Red Cross, and FEWS NET (Zimbabwe). Major sources of information for the analyses included various reports and data from the Government of Lesotho, WFP, FAO, FEWSNET and periodic reports and data.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MONITORING

The IPC National Multi-stakeholder Working Group is recommended to update the IPC Acute Food Insecurity projections based on more accurate information on the conditions at the time. A close monitoring of the potential occurrence of La Niña in 2016/17 is also needed as it may significantly exacerbate the severity of the acute food insecurity situation projected from November 2016 to March 2017.

IPC Global Partners



*The EC in the global partnership is represented by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

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