



Child using a tippy-tap in a UNICEF sponsored WASH in School facility. UNICEF/PITTENGER/2017

Lesotho

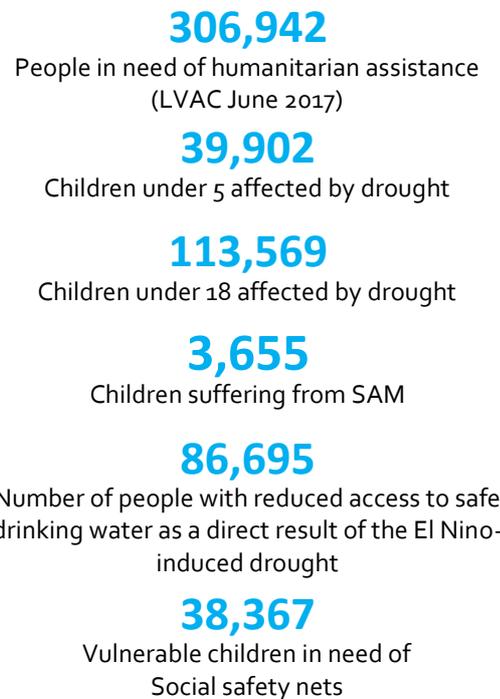
Year-end Humanitarian Situation Report

January - December 2017

Situation in Numbers

Highlights

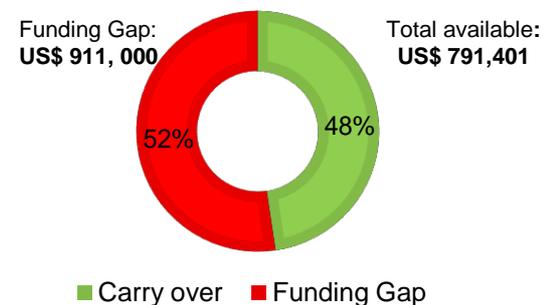
- With support from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), UNICEF provided safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene messages to 23,563 drought-affected people in five districts. Since the start of the DFID-funded programme in July 2016 and up to December 2017, a total of 131,267 people (51 per cent female) gained access to WASH services in 45 communities, 34 primary schools and 4 health centres in 5 districts (Berea, Mafeteng, Thaba Tseka, Quthing and Botha Bothe).
- Since January 2017, 1,750 children (911 boys and 839 girls) of an estimated SAM load of 2,500 (70 per cent) have been admitted and treated for severe acute malnutrition (SAM).
- A total of 540,017 children were vaccinated with the measles-rubella vaccine in a nationwide campaign conducted from February to April 2017. Furthermore, 165,747 children between the ages of 6-59 months received vitamin A supplementation.
- A total of 4,325 families, including 12,975 children (6,617 girls) in three community councils (Seate, Tenesolo, and Tosing) were provided with emergency cash top-ups through the Child Grant Programme.
- A multi-sectoral team of 55 participants—comprised of social workers, programme officers, police officers, NGO community officers, commodities officers, humanitarian accountability officers and the media were trained by an accredited Global Protection Cluster Facilitator on child protection in emergencies, including in psychosocial support (PSS).



UNICEF Appeal 2017

US\$ 1.66 million

2017 Funding Status



UNICEF Response with Partners	UNICEF	
	UNICEF Target	2017 Cumulative Results (#)
Nutrition: Number of children 6-59 months with SAM enrolled in TFP/community-based programmes/facilities	2,500	1,750
Health: Children in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles	52,000	540,017
WASH: Number of people with access to sufficient water and safe water for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene	17,000	5,388
Child Protection: # of chiefs in communities where on-going work aims to mobilize and strengthen social support networks to prevent and address violence, abuse and exploitation, including GBV	300	107
Education: Percentage of schools that are able to inform the Education in Emergencies working group on details of the impact of an emergency through EDUTRAC	1,177	0*
HIV/AIDS: Number of people reached with information on prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS**	13,107	36,755

*The implementation of the education OpenEMIS has just been initiated and will
** The figures reported are based on pregnant women who accessed HIV

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The 2017 integrated urban and rural vulnerability assessment results, released in June 2017, estimated that a total of 306,942 people would face food insecurity from September 2017 to March 2018 (224,664 rural and 82,278 urban). The report also indicated that, while acute food security needs are reducing due to improved harvest from 24,727 to 238,361 metric tons of cereal production, there has been an increase in chronic malnutrition (36 per cent). The findings further indicated that 68.1 per cent of households have an adequate water supply through communal taps, piped water, protected and unprotected springs, and other sources. However, 6 of the 10 districts reported a high percentage of households using unprotected water sources (10 – 17 per cent). About 80 per cent of households are using improved sanitation facilities, showing a 10 per cent increase from last year. Although, the 2017 Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC)¹ report shows a marked decrease in the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance, there is still a need to support over 300,000 people with food assistance until March 2018. The decrease is likely linked to the El Niño humanitarian response as well as improved rains which positively impacted on the harvest and food availability in 2017.

Estimated Population in Need of Humanitarian Assistance (Estimates calculated based on LVAC June 2017)			
Start of humanitarian response: December 2015			
	Total	Male	Female
Total Population in Need	306,942	150,402	156,540
Children (Under 18)	113,569	57,920	55,649
Children Under Five	39,902	19,951	19,951
Children 6 to 23 months	18,417	9,392	9,024
Pregnant and lactating women	9,208	-	9,208

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

An Inter-Ministerial Task Force, established by the Government, supports the coordination of the Disaster Management Authority (DMA). The Humanitarian Country Team, made up of UN agencies and NGOs, seeks to optimise the collective efforts of the humanitarian actors to strengthen the overall drought response. The United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDRMT) continues to support coordination with UN agencies, and to liaise with other partners in the humanitarian response. UN agency focal points continue to strengthen the DMA sector working groups, which coordinate response activities under the National Mitigation and Preparedness Plan. Additionally, the UN supports a national operation centre for the DMA. The Government-led WASH Sector Coordination Group, which was set up to coordinate developments within the sector, has emergency preparedness and response on its agenda. UN agencies (WFP and UNICEF in particular) provided support for the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) process. In Nutrition, UNICEF continues to work with the LVAC in planning, training and analysis of the data to ensure the integration of nutrition, HIV and gender dimension throughout the process.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy is closely aligned to its development programme to target those most affected by the drought, while also implementing specific humanitarian interventions to meet the urgent, critical needs of affected children and families. UNICEF continues to work for stronger, more resilient government systems through both humanitarian and development interventions. The Government of Lesotho used the national Child Grant Programme (CGP) as a means for reaching the most affected and vulnerable families with children during the emergency phase.

The Government used the Child Grant Programme (CGP) to mitigate the impact of the drought on vulnerable families with children. Working with partners, UNICEF is supporting the Government's humanitarian action to scale up life-saving health, WASH, nutrition, HIV and child protection interventions. Targeted interventions include protecting girls, boys and women against violence, abuse and exploitation; as well as preventing children from dropping out of school, poor attendance and low learning outcomes. UNICEF continues to work with the Ministry of Health to treat acutely malnourished children and children with diarrhoeal disease. UNICEF is also working with the health sector to support continued care and treatment for people on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) throughout the emergency response. In addition, UNICEF continues to provide support so that families in the most affected areas² have access to safe water and basic sanitation facilities.

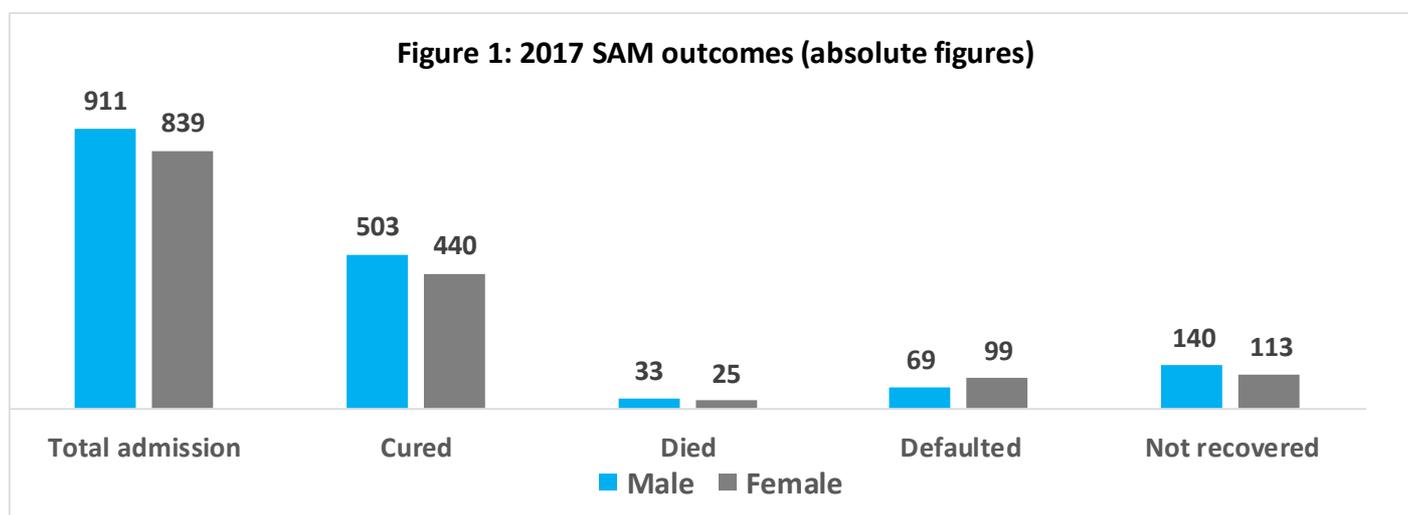
¹ Full LVAC report can be found on: <https://reliefweb.int/report/lesotho/lesotho-vulnerability-assessment-and-analysis-report-june-2017>

² Located in the districts of Berea, ButhaButhe, Mafeteng, Thaba Tseka and Quthing

Health and Nutrition

In 2017, UNICEF planned to provide Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), F75 and F100 to an estimated total of 2,500 under five children nationwide who suffer from SAM. A total of 1,750 children (911 males and 839 females) suffering from SAM were reached with therapeutic feeding representing 70 per cent of the 2017 target. Reporting rates have improved as nutritionists have resumed regular support and supervision rounds to health centres. As per national policy, all children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and SAM are offered an HIV test, however data on positivity is not available. A new monitoring tool has been developed and is currently being distributed to health facilities. The missing data elements for calculation of HIV positivity will be uploaded on the Health Information System dash board.

Out of 1,422 children who benefited from SAM treatment programme, 66 per cent were cured, 4 per cent died and 12 per cent were lost to follow up. A total of 253 children (18 per cent) exited the SAM treatment and were classified as "not recovered" by the time they were discharged. The cure rate of 66 per cent falls below the recommended minimum SPHERE threshold of 75 per cent due to low Health Worker capacity. UNICEF continues to improve capacity through ongoing training to improve performance. The percentage of deaths during SAM treatment for 2017 have been consistently within the recommended SPHERE standards of less than 10 per cent. Figure 1 shows SAM admission and outcomes by sex.



Capacity development on integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) for health service providers in primary health care facilities continues, with 300 out of a target of 250 trained to date. Since the beginning of the year, approximately 6,600 pregnant women attending antenatal clinic (ANC) were reached with infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling messages. In 2017 UNICEF also supported training of 36 Government counterparts on Nutrition in Emergencies to strengthen national nutrition emergency preparedness and response planning.

UNICEF supported the MoH to reach 540,017 children aged between 9 months and 14 years during the measles rubella campaign—achieving 80 per cent coverage and exceeding the target by 1038 per cent. As part of the integrated campaign, a mass deworming exercise was conducted for children under the age of 14 reaching 516,973 children.

HIV and AIDS

UNICEF is working with the MoH and development partners on HIV prevention, care and treatment in drought-affected communities to ensure that people living with HIV continue to receive comprehensive HIV related services. Specifically, UNICEF, alongside UNFPA, PACT and the MoH, has trained 264 health workers (200 female, 64 male) to provide adolescent sensitive health services in all 10 districts. The services provided included HIV prevention and sexual reproductive health (SRH) services. A total of 171,660 adolescents between the ages of 10-19 were tested for HIV and 1.2 per cent were infected. A total of 25,271 pregnant women attending ANC were tested for HIV and 19 per cent were infected. ART coverage is currently estimated at 56 per cent, with the Maseru district registering the highest, 68 per cent, coverage and the lowest coverage in Quthing (28 per cent). During the reporting period, the MoH initiated 1,561 adolescents aged 10-19 on ARVs—76 per cent of those who tested positive. Additionally, UNICEF supported the MOH in the development of the new Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV Strategy, which aims to eliminate HIV infection among infants. As of September 2017, the MOH estimated the coverage of early infant diagnosis of HIV within two months of life at 85 per cent (11,074 children), which is below the 95 per cent national target. The MoH has not released the data for quarter four of 2017. Preliminary results from the Lesotho Population HIV

Assessment (LePHIA) shows that prevalence among people aged 15-49 stands at 25.6 per cent (30.4 per cent female, 20.8 per cent male) and viral suppression among people aged 15-19 is 67.6 per cent (70.6 per cent female, 63.4 per cent male). Additionally, the LePHIA showed Lesotho to have made significant progress towards the Fast Track Targets: 77.2 per cent of all people aged 15-59 and living with HIV know their HIV status; 90.2 per cent of these are in treatment; and 88.2 per cent of those in treatment are virally suppressed. UNICEF continues to support the MoH in monitoring the HIV response progress—ensuring retention of people living with HIV across all districts—including those most affected by the drought. UNICEF promotes the use of Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) cascade for decision making to allow facilities to identify gaps in the response and identify women and adolescents lost to follow-up. Lack of humanitarian funding for HIV/AIDS, continues to constrain UNICEF’s response.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In 2017, UNICEF planned to provide safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene messages to 34,900 people, including 7,160 children (3,650 girls), in five most drought affected districts in Lesotho. The 2017 LVAC indicated that less than 15 per cent of the population in targeted communities were using unimproved water sources as a direct result of the El Niño-induced drought. With the construction of WASH facilities in 16 sites located in 12 communities and 9 schools in 2017, 5,388 people in drought-affected areas were reached with water supply services, 2,528 pupils with sanitation services and 23,563 people reached with hygiene messages through the WASH clubs in schools and community level hygiene promotion activities. In partnerships with the Department of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (DRWSS), for the construction components, and with World Vision Lesotho, 37 Village water committee members (53 per cent female) have been trained on operation and maintenance (O&M) aspects of the water facilities with an of ensuring continuous and sustained functionality. A total of 62 Primary school and 2 High School Teachers were trained on WASH in School/Child Friendly School Models and 51 ECCD teachers were trained on WASH in School/ Child Friendly School Models with focus on WASH indicators. Teachers then cascaded messages to students for greater reach of messaging. In addition, 271 Village Health Workers (VHW) from six health clinics were trained on hygiene promotion and behaviour change. Hygiene Materials (tooth brush, tooth paste and bath soap) and/or 600 water bottles were distributed to 968 pupils from 36 schools to promote personal hygiene and hand washing practices.

Social Protection

In 2017, as part of the 2016 El Niño humanitarian response, the Government of Lesotho with financial and technical support of DFID and UNICEF reached a total of 4,325 families, that include 12,975 children (6,617 girls) in three community councils (Seate, Tenesolo, and Tosing) with emergency support through cash top up³. Of the total, each of the 3,504 families were provided with Maloti 500; and each of 821 families (177 dropped out families in the first quarter and 644 additional families) were provided with Maloti 1,000 (sum of two quarters); Thus, the total number of families benefited in 2017 were 4,325 that included about 12,975 children. WFP provided humanitarian cash and food transfers to 181,000 acutely vulnerable people in areas not covered by NISSA. Both approaches were complemented with a 'Cash+' intervention that include home gardening kits and training by FAO.

UNICEF with the support of the EU supported the Ministry of Social Development to register 260,000 households in National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA). NISSA is a nationwide single integrated web-based database in which socio-economic information on all households is stored to identify vulnerable population, and target beneficiaries eligible for different social protection programmes. All the households of the country will be registered in NISSA by 2018 so that it can be used as a targeting tool during emergency.

Education

UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) to deploy the Open Education Management Information System (EMIS), through a consultant. The Open EMIS is a robust system with a mobile-based real-time monitoring functionality and will be used to track how emergencies impact individual learner’s performance. The Open MIS will also feed into NISSA to track the attendance rate and learning outcomes of children who are in the child grant programme during an emergency. This system, when fully deployed, will not only track attendance and performance in real time, but also other education indicators, such dropout rates for individual learners. During the height of the drought emergency in 2015/2016, it was observed that families moved out of the

³ During the 2016 El Nino, the Ministry of Social Development received CERF funds through UNICEF to provide 23,000 CGP beneficiary families with cash top-ups while there were 26,681 families in NISSA. Thus, to fill the gap, DFID supported to provide 3681 families with emergency cash top-ups in two quarters (August/Sept’16 and January/Feb’17), Maloti 500 per family per quarter. In the August 2016 quarter, 3,504 families out of 3,681 were provided with emergency cash top-ups because 177 families did not come to collect the cash. The January 2017 quarter, each of the 3,504 families were provided with Maloti 500; 177 drop out families with Maloti 1,000 (sum of two quarters); and 644 families with Maloti 1,000. Thus, the total number of families benefited in 2017 were 4,325 that included about 12,975 children.

most affected areas to other places as part of response/coping mechanisms. The Ministry of Education and Training did not observe an impact on school attendance although there were reports from partners working in the district that some schools closed early. UNICEF is working to provide latrines, handwashing facilities and messaging on clean water and hygiene, in schools and early childhood care and development centres to locations where drought affected people are settled. UNICEF has also supported the Ministry of Education and Training to compile communication trees, contact lists and 4Ws tools which link schools to Disaster Management Authority and other partners in the ten districts, so that communication channels are clear and effective during emergencies. The contact lists from all the ten districts are available however the compilation of communication tree for each district and sharing the communication trees with district focal persons is pending. This is expected to be completed by the end of January 2018.

Child Protection

The child protection rapid assessment in the 6 districts of Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Outhing, Qacha's Nek, Thaba Tseka identified main key priority Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) issues as, physical and sexual abuse, psychosocial distress, child labour, and separation of children from usual caregivers, child marriage and weak referral mechanisms. In order to effectively address these issues, thirty members of the interagency stakeholder group (government, civil society, and media), 420 community members (80 males, 120 females, 110 youth and 110 children) in two communities in Mohale's Hoek and Mafeteng districts were reached with Child Protection in Emergency (CPiE) messages through community drama. The messages include gender based violence (GBV). Twenty-four village chiefs, 1,060 community members and 83 chiefs from Maseru district were targeted with CPiE information through community gatherings/dialogues.

Additionally, UNICEF supported the training of 55 government and CSO members (32 females and 23 males) in CPiE and psychosocial support (PSSiE) in emergencies. The certified CPiE trainees were further provided with revised CPiE multi-media Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to support their community sensitisations and advocacy on CPiE and PSSiE. So far, 385 children (300 girls and 85 boys) received PSSiE-related services.

Communications for Development (C4D)

As part of hygiene promotion, a total of 115 teachers have been trained on management of menstrual hygiene and on general Water Sanitation and Hygiene and disability. The trained teachers facilitated the establishment of WASH clubs in their respective schools, reaching 6,801 pupils with WASH messages in the drought affected districts. 271 Village Health Workers (248 females, 23 males) have been trained on how to conduct community sensitization on hygiene and have undertaken various outreach activities reaching 7,772 community members with key hygiene promotion messages.

Media and External Communication

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Office of the Resident Coordinator, continues to highlight the UN's humanitarian efforts in the country, as well as UNICEF's response to the El Niño induced drought phenomena through various media platforms. UNICEF supported field missions for a joint UN video to highlight the DFID funded response to the El Niño drought.

Funding

As part of the regional Southern Africa El Niño/La Niña Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC), the requirements for Lesotho were US\$1.66 million to meet the humanitarian needs of women and children in the country. To date, UNICEF has US\$791,401 as funds carried forward from 2016, and is 48 per cent funded. No humanitarian funding has been received by UNICEF Lesotho against the HAC in 2017. Unmet financing needs continue to pose a risk to vulnerable children and women, in relation to the on-going effects of El Niño. UNICEF continues to fundraise for joint humanitarian actions, leveraging on social protection platforms.

UNICEF Lesotho 2017 Funding Requirements				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds Available*	Funding gap	
			US\$	%
Health	536,000	0	536,000	100%
HIV/AIDS	300,000	310,020	0	0%
Nutrition				
Education	280,000	0	280,000	100%

Child Protection	145,000	50,000	95,000	66%
WASH	400,000	431,381	0	0%
TOTAL	1,661,000	791,401	911, 000	52%

**Funds available include the carry-forward from the previous year.*

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Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcuKXhhMZUNen mmUgXGqw>

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Annex 1 Summary of 2017 Programme Results

	UNICEF 2017 Target	UNICEF 2017 Results	Change since last report ▲ ▼
NUTRITION			
Number of children 6-59 months with SAM enrolled in TFP/community-based programmes/facilities	2,500	1,750	▲ 678
Caregivers of children in humanitarian situations accessing infant and young child feeding counselling	56,000	6,600	0
HEALTH			
Children in humanitarian situations vaccinated against measles	52,000	540,017**	0
# of children 6-59 months in the affected areas receiving vitamin A supplement in the past 6 months	104,000	165,747	0
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE			
Number of people with access to sufficient water and safe water for drinking, cooking and maintaining personal hygiene	17,000	5,388	▲ 2,315
People in humanitarian situations received critical WASH-related information to prevent child illness	34,900	23,563	▲ 7,666
CHILD PROTECTION			
# chiefs in communities where on-going work aims to mobilize and strengthen social support networks to prevent and address violence, abuse and exploitation, including GBV	300	107	0
EDUCATION			
Percentage of schools that are able to inform the Education in Emergencies working group on details of the impact of an emergency through EDUTRAC	1,177	0***	0
HIV/AIDS*			
Number of people reached with information on prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS***	13,107	36,755****	▲ 13,833

**Measles rubella vaccination and Vitamin A were administered during the supplementary immunization campaign, conducted in February-March 2017;

***The implementation of the education EDUTRAC has just been initiated; hence, results reported are zero.

**** The figures reported are based on pregnant women who accessed HIV counselling and testing services through the ANC platform