

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Lesotho

June-August 2010

Key Messages

- Cereal prices have remained stable during the first half of 2010.
- The bumper harvest of 2009/2010 agricultural season resulted in increasing food security levels among the population.
- While WFP assess lower hunger in the long term, the IFPRI Global Hunger Index projects a serious hunger problem.
- The Government Schemes, to improve agriculture through subsidies to farmers, have resulted in increased production.

Background

The total population was around 2 million with an annual growth rate equivalent to 0%. The undernourished population was estimated to be 15% while the prevalence of HIV among adults recorded 22%, with life expectancy at birth being 42 years for both sexes.

Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2008 (WB)	2.049
Population growth rate - 2008 (WB)	0%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2008 (WB)	1970
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2003 (MDGI)	43%
Rural population - 2008 (WB)	74%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2008 (WB)	7%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005/2007 (FAO)	14%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	78%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	4%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	29%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2008 (WHO)	47
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	85%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2007 (WHO)	23%

Prices

The bread and cereal sub-index of the national CPI has moved very slightly between June 2009 and June 2010, decreasing by 1 percent. Maize price have also remained relatively stable since the beginning of the year, in line with those in the South Africa market which supplies the bulk of maize imported by Lesotho. However, petrol and diesel prices rose by 4 and 9 percent respectively, over the same period, which could contribute to a rise in food prices.

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

Good rainfall was reported during the growing period despite a dry spell recorded in December. Semonkong and Butha Buthe regions received the highest rainfall. According to the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance has reduced: 200,000 in the 2010/11 marketing year (April/March) down from 450,000 last year.

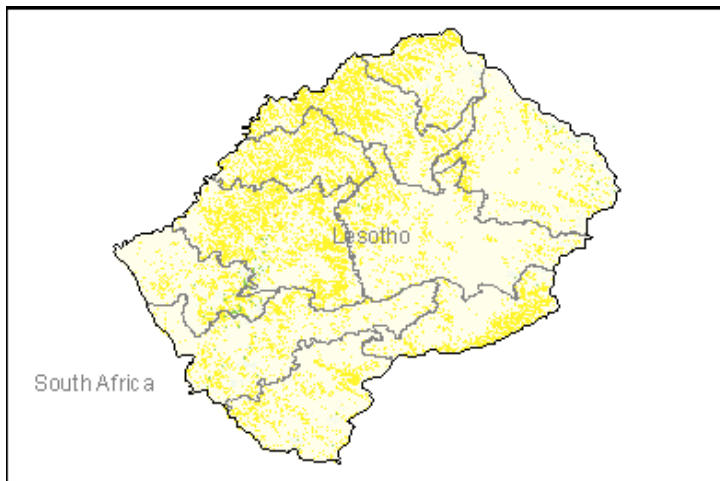
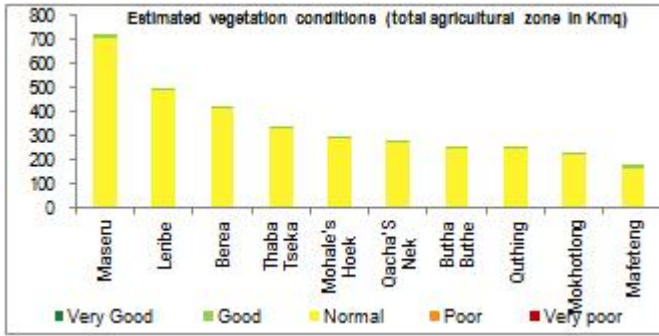
Refugees and IDPs	2007	2008	2009
Total in the country	n.a.	0	0
Total outside the country	20	25	14

Source: [UNHCR](#) Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 22/09/2010.

Information required to draw this chart is not available.

Vegetation Condition

At this stage of the dry season, normal vegetation conditions are observed throughout the country. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the relative difference between the NDVI for August 2010 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the GLOBCOVER land cover database (2005).

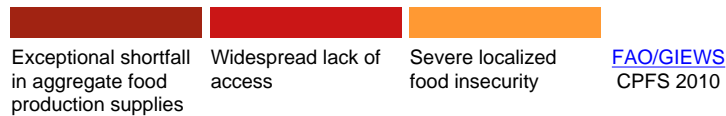


Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Food Security Situation Assessment

The LVAC 2010/11 assessment indicates that 200,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance, most of who live in the peri-urban areas. WFP estimates moderately low hunger, while IFPRI reports a serious hunger problem situation.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESMENT

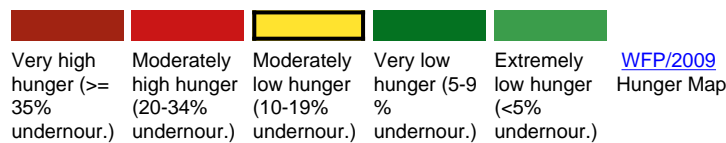


FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2010

Lesotho is not covered by FEWSNET.

FEWSNET

SCALE OF HUNGER



WFP/2009 Hunger Map



IFPRI/2009 GHI

Food Balance Sheet

Total cereal production for 2009/10 is estimated at approximately 137,000 tonnes, reflecting a 59% increase over the 2009 harvest of 86,000 tonnes. Maize production is estimated at 98,000 tonnes, which is above the 2009 harvest of 62,530 tonnes. Planned imports for the 2010/11 season is estimated at 230,170 MT.

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes		percent	
Maize	73	62	98	58
Sorghum	11	13	28	115
Wheat	11	10	11	10
Total	94	86	137	59

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Government Policies

The Government has increased its support to farmers through subsidy schemes and the assistance provided by FAO, through Input Trade Fairs, which have improved access to seeds, fertilisers and agricultural hardware.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	Subsidy schemes; FAO Input Trade Fairs.
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	n.a.

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

[LESOTHO-SWAZILAND: A customs union to prevent failed states](#)
[LESOTHO: Hard times delay MDGs](#)

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
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