

Existing rates of: **Wasting: 3.9%** **Stunting: 39%** **Proportion of population underweight: 13.5%**

Source: Gov. of Lesotho (DHS, 2009)





















Strong Performance

- Relative to other HANCI countries, Lesotho's medium/long term national development policy (PRSP) assigns strong importance to nutrition.
- Lesotho has devised a National Nutrition Policy/Strategy.
- The Government of Lesotho promotes complementary feeding practices.
- In Lesotho 91.8% of women aged 15-49 were visited at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel in 2009.

Areas for improvement

- Spending on agriculture (1.72% of public spending in 2013), does not meet government commitments set out in the African Union's Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- Lesotho's spending in its health sector (14.5% of public spending in 2012) is close to, yet not fully meeting government commitments set out in the African Union's Abuja Declaration (15% of public spending).
- In Lesotho, the law gives women and men equal economic rights and equal legal access to agricultural land. However, these laws are not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- Lesotho does not have a separate budget line for nutrition; this prevents transparency and accountability for spending.
- Even though Lesotho has developed a National Nutrition Policy/Strategy, clear time-bound nutrition targets and a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism are still lacking.
- Policymakers in Lesotho do not benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2009.
- The Government of Lesotho has not enshrined the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes into domestic law.
- The Government of Lesotho has only achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for 66% of children in 2013.
- Weak access to improved sanitation facilities (29.6% in 2012) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.
- In Lesotho, constitutional protection of the right to social security is weak.

Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

























Public spending	Score*	Year	HRCI Rank of 45
 Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending ¹	 1.72%	2013	40th
 Public spending on health as share of total public spending ¹	 14.5%	2012	7th
Policies			
 Access to land (security of tenure) ²	 Moderate	2013	Joint 15th
 Access to agricultural research and extension services ²	 Moderate	2013	Joint 21st
 Civil registration system — coverage of live births	 45.1%	2009	35th
 Functioning of social protection systems ²	 Weak	2014	Joint 20th
Laws			
 Level of constitutional protection of the right to food ²	 Moderate	2011	Joint 7th
 Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) ³	 In Law, not in Practice	2014	Joint 1st
 Equality of women's economic rights ³	 In Law, not in Practice	2011	Joint 1st
 Constitution recognises the right to social security (yes/no)	 No	2006	Joint 27th

¹ Possible scores are:  <75% of agriculture (Maputo) and health (Abuja) spending pledges  >=75 % and <100%  >=100%



² Possible scores are:  Weak  Moderate  Strong

⁴ Possible scores are:  Not in Law  In Law Not in Practice  In Law & Practice

Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	NCI Rank of 45
 Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)	 No	2012	Joint 28th
Policies			
 Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children	 66%	2013	31st
 Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	 Yes	2012	Joint 1st
 Population with access to an improved water source	 81.3%	2012	16th
 Population with access to improved sanitation	 29.6%	2012	Joint 24th
 Health care visits for pregnant women	 91.8%	2009	23rd
 Nutrition features in national development policy ¹	 Strong	2013-2017	15th
 National Nutrition Policy/Strategy (yes/no)	 Yes	2014	Joint 1st
 Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)	 No	2014	Joint 34th
 Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	 No	2012	Joint 32nd
 National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	 No	2009	Joint 37th
Laws			
 ICMSB [^] Enshrined in domestic law ²	 Not Enshrined in Law	2014	Joint 35th

¹ Possible scores are:  Weak  Moderate  Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).

² Possible scores are:  Not Enshrined in Law  Voluntary Adoption  Fully enshrined.

[^] International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes