



**“Emergency response to the El Niño-induced drought in Lesotho”**

**Project code:** UTF/LES/054/LES

**Resource partner:** The World Bank through the Government of Lesotho

**Contribution:** USD 1.1 million

**Implementation:** 18/11/2016 – 30/06/2018

**Target areas:** countrywide



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- Objective:** Improve the food security and resilience of vulnerable households in Lesotho through sustainable livelihood support and complementarities between social protection and agriculture production.
- Key partners:** The Ministries of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC) and of Social Development (MoSD).
- Beneficiaries reached:** 10 957 households.
- Activities implemented:**
- Distributed livelihood kits composed of crop seeds (open pollinated varieties [OPV] and vegetable seeds, as well as other inputs (grazing vetch and shade-nets).
  - Trained 4 500 vulnerable households on climate-smart farming techniques, including conservation agriculture and vegetable production (using trench and keyhole plots, intercropping, rotation and cover crops practices).
  - Trained extension officers of MAFS on key agronomic practises, including plant protection, management and control of pests and crop diseases and conservation agriculture; and technical officers of MFRSC on rangeland management.
  - Distributed 103 veterinary kits (automatic and manual syringes, thermometer, scissors, etc.) and 35 sterilizers, to support the MAFS’ Department of Livestock Services field staff in controlling livestock disease outbreaks.
  - Vaccinated 377 673 animals (cats, cattle, dogs, donkeys, goats, horses and sheep) against zoonotic diseases.
- Impact:**
- Increased the crop production and productivity of 2 075 households through seed distribution and allowed farmers to use part of the seed produced during the following three growing season, through the provision of OPV seeds.
  - Increased yields in vegetable production and contributed to the diversification of diets and incomes, through the sale of the surplus of production.
  - Supported 8 882 households across ten districts under social protection-related activities, in collaboration with MoSD (promoting and diversifying home gardening techniques, climate-smart farming techniques and nutrition awareness among the poorest farming households).
  - Strengthened the capacities of technical officers (MAFS, MRFSC and other departments) on various aspects, such as Integrated Pest and Crop Management and Sustainable Land Management practices.
  - Strengthened the capacities of the veterinary field staff to diagnose and treat common diseases that affects the productivity and value of the livestock.
  - Reduced livestock mortality through vaccination.