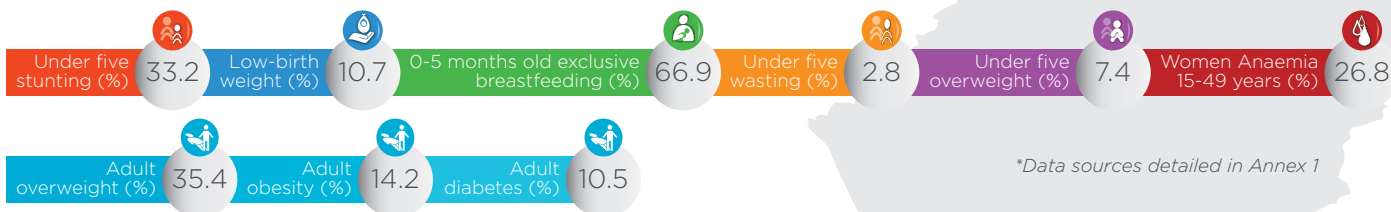




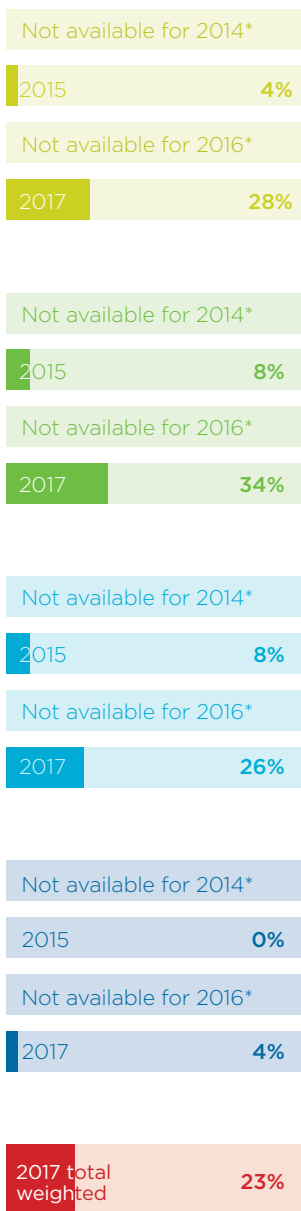
Joined: July 2014  
Population: 2.17 million

# Lesotho



\*Data sources detailed in Annex 1

## Institutional transformations in 2016-2017



### Bringing people together into a shared space for action

The launch of the National Nutrition Policy in October 2016 and the Cost of Hunger in Africa study helped unite stakeholders, including the private sector, in Lesotho. Recent collaboration with the Ministries of Finance and Development Planning, along with awareness-raising on the creation of SUN Networks with civil society, businesses, UN agencies, academia, and the media, is aiding their

future establishment, with the support of REACH. A key challenge is that many stakeholders within the realm of nutrition-sensitive actions are yet to fully take on board nutrition actions. Going forward, more national advocacy is proposed, in collaboration with His Majesty King Letsie III, and further political commitment encouraged to ensure coordination structures are funded and effective.

### Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The drafting, review and validation of the National Nutrition Policy required the intensive scrutiny of other relevant policies to make sure it was holistic and adequately focused on nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions. All relevant stakeholders were part of its creation and regular impact evaluation reports

are produced to inform policy decisions. Complementary to this, National Nutrition Week in October will bring public recognition of the issue by featuring street nutrition status assessments, counselling, a nutrition champion festival and a football tournament in honour of the King.

### Aligning actions around a common results framework

Lesotho does not yet have an official common results framework as yet, but its development is underway with the Food and Nutrition Coordination Office (FNCO) and REACH currently developing a National Nutrition Strategic Plan. Private sector partners are supporting nutrition-specific interventions such as fortification, and UN agencies along with

NGOs are also providing support for nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions - by supporting multiple ministries on various activities. In response to the 2016 drought, a national coordination forum was conducted and common plan with clearly defined responsibilities and budget was developed.

### Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

To date, there has not been systematic efforts to track finances and mobilise further resources for nutrition. Tracking financial investments, through the SUN 3-step approach, only captures nutrition-specific investments and due to the nature of Lesotho's budget, is very difficult to ascertain investments in nutrition-sensitive activities. In the future, the FNCO may become an independent Ministry and thereby be able to develop a common

financial reporting format and consolidate reports. Going forward, the African Union Nutrition Champion, King Letsie III, can help advocate for resources, the NEPAD nutrition fund can provide funding windows and more engagement is needed from the Ministry of Finance. One-off donations are sought from local businesses and civil society organisations for specific events, but more support can be identified and public-private partnerships fostered.

## 2017-2018 PRIORITIES

- Develop a functioning SUN multi-stakeholder platform;
- Strengthen the capacity for scaling up nutrition with clear financial frameworks;
- Prioritise nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions and their implementation (the 10 key nutrition interventions);
- Build an enabling environment through advocacy, communication and knowledge-sharing leading to strong legislation and coordination.