

Lesotho



Lesotho joined the Coalition in July 2023 and submitted its [commitment](#) through the Ministry of Education and Training in August 2023 around Policy, Financing, Institutional framework, Programme design and coverage, Evidence and data generation, Advocacy and Partnerships.

Achievements

Lesotho is a pilot country for GPE's School Health & Nutrition Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) project with 5 areas of focus: sustainable financing; design of a costed school feeding Policy Implementation Plan; support for institutional & multisectoral coordination; national standards for menus, and design of a school feeding food supply and demand mapping.

Progress for each of Lesotho's National Commitments:

- Policy provisions requiring procurement of 80% commodities sourced locally, in line with the 2024 National School Feeding Policy: currently, 100% eggs, vegetables, and maize meal, 60% samp, 30% beans.
- Cabinet directive to protect and increase school feeding budget ensured adequate budget provisions for school meals.
- Budget for school meals increased by 57% (cost per meal) in 2024-2025 due to strong political commitment as follows:
 - » 2023-2024: ≈USD 8.1 million (LSL 146 million)
 - » 2024-2025: ≈USD 11.9 million (LSL 230 million)
 - » 2025-2026: ≈USD 15.7 million (LSL 301 million)
- School Feeding Advisory Board is in place. The Technical Assistance Facility is capacitating the Board's multi-sectoral role towards the implementation of Home-Grown School Feeding.
- A WFP-supported pilot is working with farmers to supply commodities for schools in 2 of the 10 districts of Lesotho, with funding from Monaco. School gardens are being encouraged in primary schools with some farmers supplying vegetables through the National Management Agents, the school feeding implementing agencies.
- A value-for-money case study is also underway.

Next steps

- While the current fiscal climate has prevented further increase in the school feeding daily rate per child, Lesotho commits to maintaining the current rate.
- The five (5) areas supported under the Technical Assistance Facility: 1. Development of immediate-term activities supporting the National School Feeding Programme's sustainable financing; 2. Design, endorsement and costing of the National School Feeding Programme's Implementation Plan; 3. Support strengthening institutional & multi-sectoral coordination; 4. Update national standards for menus/recipes; 5. Design of a food supply-and-demand mapping.

Highlights

- With strong political commitment, the school meals budget almost doubled from the 2023-2024 school year to the 2025-2026 school year.
- 2024 National School Feeding Policy provisions require procurement of 80% of commodities from local smallholder farmers. In 2025, 100% of eggs, vegetables and maize meal were procured locally.
- Home-Grown School Feeding through the Monaco funded pilot in 2 districts out of 10, has stimulated an increase in production of eggs and vegetables in the rest of the country.