

**REVISED REPORTING FORMAT
FOR
THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
WORLD FOOD SUMMIT
PLAN OF ACTION**

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1. Country:** Kingdom of Lesotho

- 2. Reporting institution or unit:** Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

- 3. Contact person:** M. Motselebane (Mrs)
 - a) Name and Official Title:** Director – Department of Planning and Policy Analysis (DPPA)
 - b) Telephone:** +266 22316391

 - E-mail:** Motselebanem@agric.gov.ls

 - Fax:** +266 22310186

4. Institutional arrangements established for the follow-up of the WFS Plan of Action (if any):

Due to the importance and cross-cutting nature of the programme, it is coordinated by the Cabinet under the office of the Government Secretary, while the line Ministries in collaboration with their respective stakeholders, and implement activities related to their sectors. The committee meets half yearly to review progress and solve bottle necks.

SECTION II: PRIORITY FOOD SECURITY ISSUES AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION

Please provide a description (no more than 500 words) of the state of the country's food security situation, in terms of food availability, stability of supplies and access to food, providing relevant data on the indicators listed below. Please give an indication of the progress made in the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action and in reaching the WFS goal of reducing the number of undernourished by half by 2015. In the case of a lack of progress, please indicate the most pressing constraints the country faces. Countries are encouraged to use the attached list of statistical indicators¹.

Member countries wishing to provide information on their external assistance programmes, may wish to submit a separate statement providing a brief description of these programmes and their impact on hunger and lessons learned.

Lesotho is a mountainous, landlocked country with a population of about two million (2,157, 580) with a growth rate of about 1.5 percent per year. The total area of Lesotho is about 3,035 thousand hectares out of which 300 thousand hectares is arable. The rest of the country is foothill and or mountains rising steeply in the east to great altitudes, where crop production is difficult and is utilised for extensive animal production. The country comprises four distinct ecological zones: Lowland, Foothill, Mountain and Senqu (Orange) River Valley. These zones present marked climatological and ecological differences. It is further divided into ten administrative districts and each district has one or more of the four agro-ecological zones.

Real per capita GDP in 2001 is estimated at US\$421 per capita. The World Bank defines the poverty line as income equivalent to less than US\$470 per capita per year. Lesotho ranks 137nd out of 175 in the 2003 UNDP Human Development Report and 49.2% of the population is ranked as poor. The size of the Human Development Index in Lesotho has been fluctuating recently but is generally slightly higher than it was 20 years ago.

Most of the population of Lesotho is rural. 80% reside outside the main towns and those 55% rely on agriculture for a major part of their livelihoods. Agriculture is therefore fundamental not only to the availability of food supplies to the country as a whole, but to the achievement of food security in individual households as well as to the national economy. In the longer term an increase in the efficiency of the agricultural sector has the potential to make a much larger contribution to national income than is presently the case

In March, 2004, the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) undertook a vulnerability assessment in the country based on a secondary data. The assessment showed the worse off zones are; the Southern Lowland areas of the country are the most affected by

¹ Countries are encouraged to use information already generated by ongoing monitoring activities of UN and other agencies.

food insecurity and consequently high incidences of vulnerability. This zone is followed by the Senqu Valley and the Mountain area. For the population residing in these areas, the assessment has identified that they are poor by income and other structured indicators however their livelihoods coping measures are mainly agricultural Sector based. Against this background, the food situation or access to food in the country has become to be based largely on two factors, employment opportunities (cash income or purchasing power) and access to food (ability to reach markets).

About two thirds of the country's population is characterised as living below the poverty line and of this 50-60 percent as being the poorest of the poor. The historical trends show that the highlands people of the country rely mostly on the Republic of South Africa Mines remittances for cash income and against the declining job opportunities in this sector, more and more families have become desperately or increasingly food insecure. Exacerbated by this is the remoteness of most villages to the district town centre's markets. Also the drought situation that gripped the country up to the end of the trimester has notably contributed the sharp increase in basic food staffs. Taking into account the HIV/AIDS pandemic prevalence, estimated at 31%, all these factors have helped to push higher the percentage of the population living below the poverty line, significantly for those who have been struggling to make ends meet .

FOOD SECURITY AND RELATED INDICATORS²

INDICATORS	199 6	199 7	199 8	199 9	200 0	200 1	200 2	200 3	Source
1. Food security indicators									
• Availability									
Average per person dietary energy supply (kcal)									
Food production index									
Food self-sufficiency ratio									
Cereal supply per person									
Animal protein supply per person									
Value of food imports/export earnings									
Debt service ratio	42. 1	40. 0	53. 05	54. 58	67. 72	89. 56	65. 95		SADC statistics: facts & figures (SSFF)-2000 + Central Bank of Lesotho Annual Report 2002
Value of gross investment in agriculture (in USD)									
• Stability									
Food price index									
Index of variability of food production									
Ratio of national food reserves to domestic food consumption									
Export earnings instability									

² Please refer to explanatory notes of these indicators at the end of this document.

INDICATORS	199	199	199	199	200	200	200	200	Source
	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	
• Access									
Rate of growth in real GDP per person/per year (%)	10	5.7	-4	2.5	2	3.2	4.1		BOS-statistics report #17
Gini index of income distribution	0.66	0.66	.066	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	2	BOS
Percentage of population living below national poverty line (%)	58.3			51			38.4		CWIQ-2002:97
Percentage of population living on less than \$ 1 a day (%)									
Percentage of income spent on food (%)									
Consumer price index	92.6	100.6	108.5	117.8	125.1	133.7	149.3		Ministry of Finance - "background to the budget 2004/05"
Estimated number of undernourished people									
Percentage of population undernourished (%)					18		27		EMICS-2000
Percentage of children under 5 that are underweight (%)					17.8	18	15.4		End Decade Multiple Cluster Scores (EMICS-2000) National Nutritional & EPI Cluster Survey-2000 BOS-CWIQ-2000
Percentage of children under 5 that are stunted (%)					45.4	45.4	30.7		BOS-CWIQ-2000 BOS-EMICS-2000

INDICATORS	199 6	199 7	199 8	199 9	200 0	200 1	200 2	200 3	Source
Percentage of children under 5 that are wasted (%)					5.4	5.4	3.2		EMICS-2000-BOS BOS-CWIQ-2000
2. Social indicators									
Life expectancy at birth (age)	55.5	55.5	55.5	55.5		54.1			BOS-200 Lesotho population Data SheetSADC- SSFF-2000
Under-5 mortality rate (%)						113 per 100 0 births			
Net school enrolment in primary education of children aged 5-12 (%) (6-12 years for Lesotho)			63.5	60.2	80.2	82.7	84	85	Ministry of Education (MOE)- Planning Unit Reports
Ratio of girls to boys in primary education			52:48	52:48	51:49	50.2:49.8	50.1:49.9	50:50	EMICS,MOE Reports
Adult literacy rate					85.3	81?	82		BOS data sheet 2001,MOE- Planning Unit Reports
Total number of doctors, nurses and other health personnel per 100 000 people									
Infant mortality rate (%)	74/	79	81	81	79	81	80	81	EMICS-2000

INDICATORS	199 6	199 7	199 8	199 9	200 0	200 1	200 2	200 3	Source
(per 10000 births)									Lesotho Democ.Survey- 2001-Vol.#1 <i>SADC-SSFF- 200</i>
Maternal mortality rate (%)			2.5	0.3 3	1,2 4	0.6	0.7		Health Statistical Tables for respective years- Health Statistics Unit
Adult morbidity rate (%)									
Adult male mortality rate (%)									
Adult female mortality rate (%)									
3. Infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS indicators									
Death rate from infectious diseases (%)									
Death rate from HIV/AIDS (%)									
Percentage of population orphaned (%)					15. 5		6.3	7.3	EMICS-2000
Percentage of child-headed households (%)									
Average age of household head (age) (15-64 years)	54. 4	54. 4	53. 7	53. 2					SADC-SSFF- 2000
Rate of population with HIV/AIDS infection (%) (No. of people infected)	167 93	175 59	176 23	170 68	160 22		30	30	EMICS-2000 Lesotho Democ.Survey 2001:175

INDICATORS	199	199	199	199	200	200	200	200	Source
	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	
5. Sustainability of natural resources									
Proportion of land area under forest cover (%)									
Proportion of area protected to maintain biological diversity (%)								46.81	14209/30255KM ²

a/ Applicable to developed countries

b/ Applicable to developing countries

SECTION III: RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR EACH COMMITMENT AND MEASURES TAKEN

The WFS Plan of Action recommends a variety of actions that countries should undertake to meet the WFS target of reducing the number of undernourished by 2015.

Please elaborate policies pursued and/or action programmes implemented with respect to each commitment, demonstrating, where possible, their impact in terms of contributing to overall social and economic development, poverty alleviation and hunger reduction. Countries may focus on those commitments and themes that are most pertinent to them. Countries are also requested to report on what national and international civil society organizations in the private for-profit, academic and non-profit sectors, are doing to address food insecurity and poverty.

Developed countries and international agencies are requested to provide information on their support to developing countries to help them implement the WFS Plan of Action, and to reduce hunger and poverty, including information on how they are coordinating and harmonizing their assistance.

COMMITMENT I

Policies pursued to create an enabling political, social and economic environment. Please give details of strategies or initiatives undertaken by your country with respect to:

a) Strengthening democratic political systems and broad-based participation;

After weathering a generation of political instability that culminated in the turmoil of 1998 political unrest and subsequent introduction of a more inclusive, broad-based participatory political model (mixed member proportional system) in 2002, the country now enjoy a stable political environment. Thus the country is now able to focus on the many challenges that face its citizens. During the course of 2004/2005 financial year, local government elections will be held, based on homegrown model of decentralisation aimed at combining partnerships between all services providers to bring services closer to the people, particularly those who are in greatest need. Such process will ensure that plans and resource mobilisation are aimed at key priority areas emerging from the broad public consultations. In addition, an anti-corruption unit is operational that ensure that resources flow to n targeted activities.

(b) Improving human rights;

- A Human Rights Unit within the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Rehabilitation was established in 1995 with the mandate to protect, promote and monitor human rights in Lesotho. It is also to disseminate human rights messages, facilitate the launching of training programme for key role players in advancement of human rights, and prepare reports to be submitted to relevant treaty monitoring bodies. Having recognised that this, the Unit can no longer carry out single-handedly, it has now given the role of coordinating the Inter-sectoral Human Rights Committee. Some of its terms of reference include developing a human rights policy and national action plan involving all stakeholders; to launch an awareness and advocacy programme on human rights and to prepare sectoral promotion and protection plans.
- The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting a government project, Lesotho Justice Sector Development Programme

(LJSDP), to improve the justice sector by addressing the problems of the key players in the justice delivery system. There is a component of mainstreaming human rights in the justice system.

- Efforts are to be made to directly involve the Members of Parliament (MPs) in the forth-coming activities of the committee, as well as to furnish them with important documents such as Lesotho's Human Rights Report that were submitted to the treaty monitoring bodies. This is hoped will ensure their participation and ownership of the advancement of human rights in the country, so that they have a more fundamental role to play, in passing the Laws that conform to the obligations set out in human rights instruments.
- Some legislative reform is already underway through the drafting of the repealing Child Protection Bill and the Race Relations Bill, which seek to align existing laws with the spirit of the relevant international human rights instruments, being the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination. The Married Persons Bill will be tabled before Parliament very soon.

c) **Preventing conflict and creating a peaceful environment;**

- The Probation Unit is committed to the creation of a safe and peaceful community environment, *which is conducive to both social and economic development*, by controlling and preventing crime and delinquency at three levels, primary, secondary and tertiary levels; promotion and administration of community based rehabilitation and re-integration of both young and adult offenders as well as promotion of community justice options. The probation Unit engages the following Strategies;
 1. Recommendations for and administration of both Probation and Community Service Orders.
 2. Recommendations for and administration of pre-charge and pre-trial diversion deserving cases.
 3. Promotion of Restorative Justice and engagement of restorative resolutions during the supervision of community based sentences and diverted cases.
- **Community Development and Involvement:** Probation empowers communities so that they can fully participate and eventually lead process that are aimed at preventing and controlling crime and delinquency without resorting to formal criminal justice, and consequently establishing safe communities. They are sensitised and educated in possible causes of crime without resorting to the formal criminal justice process. Such sentences enable breadwinners to serve their sentences, through performance of developmental projects, while taking care of their family responsibilities thus saving members of the offender's family from both poverty and crime.
- **Restorative Resolutions:** addresses both crime and conflict in a holistic manner to ensure lasting peaceful co-existence is continuously receiving worldwide acknowledgement. Its success lies in the fact that it encourages dialogue, accountability in the perpetrator(s) of conflict, healing in the

victim(s). Restorative Resolutions, which Probation Officers engage on their daily intervention, facilitate restoration of relations destroyed by conflict, and prompts communities too take pre-emptive action, implementation of primary prevention measures by the communities. Such action include establishment of developmental projects. Interventions include restorative strategies such as Victim Offender Mediation, Family Group Conferences etc. these are applied in Probation Order, Community Service Order cases as well as in the few cases of pre-charge and pre-trial diversion. Traditional leaders and community development structures play a pivotal role in the supervision of the community sentences.

(d) Enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

The country is striving to fulfil a vision of an inclusive and participatory society that will motivate its people in all walks of live. In comparison to other African countries, Lesotho has unusual feature in that more girls are educated than boys thus enabling them to compete with their male counter-parts for employment in latter year. However, there are several concerns that the government seek to address such as land tenure, employment, non-optimisation of educational situation and violence against women. A number of strategies will be employed, some are already at their initial stages of implementation while others are still in the pipeline and this includes;

- Finalizing the national Gender and development Policy. The objective of this policy is to promote equal access and control over resources, conserving the positive, and litigating against negative aspects of the local culture in order to ensure and sustain equality, social stability and peaceful co-existence.
- Reviewing gender discriminative legislature. This is targeted at those parts of legislation that sidelines women from acting as independent economic agents and engaging actively in economic affairs. Removing such barriers will enable women to enter freely into contracts hence taking part into generation of economic activities.
- Establishing Gender Focal Points; aimed at enhancing adequate and systematic gender mainstreaming. All planning units at national and district levels will thus have gender focal points.

All these efforts will require capacity building and strong linkages with other stakeholders, private sector, civil societies and NGO through the existing National Steering Committee.

(Specify what has been or is expected to be the outcome of the strategies implemented.)

COMMITMENT II

Policies pursued and actions taken to eradicate poverty and inequality and to improve physical and economic access to food by all. Please give details of strategies or initiatives undertaken with respect to:

a) Specific policies and targeted interventions to generate income and employment for the urban poor;

Studies have repeatedly shown that the mountain areas of the country representing a one third of the population are significantly poorer on all but two out thirty indicators of poverty and this is expressed in absolute numbers and not as a proportion of the population. Therefore the government takes a holistic view in addressing poverty through income generation and employment strategies aimed at both rural and urban areas:

- *promoting access to education.* Studies show that in Lesotho wage employment is determined by education, age and technical training
- *attract foreign direct investment and domestic investment.* This is aimed at diversifying the industrial base and leading to increased opportunities for employment and the service provision sub-sector.
- *support local business.* This is aimed at enhancing the skills of the local entrepreneurs and productivity of workers, developing sustainable market opportunities and promotion of the adoption of appropriate technology.
- *facilitate access to credit for the poor.* This will help them to break out of the poverty cycle; through promotion of rural finance savings and credit schemes, savings and credit cooperative organisations.

b) Specific policies and targeted interventions to generate on-farm and off-farm income and employment for the rural poor, women and minority groups, including land reform, protection of property and use rights and other strategies to ensure access to land and water resources.

The country will make a concerted effort to develop on-farm and off-farm opportunities. Strategies used will be as follows:

- *development of agric-business.* The agricultural sector strategy has been recently completed and shows three potential areas on growth, shift to high value crops and appropriate water harvesting initiatives-already being implemented.
- *develop and diversify tourism product.* The country with its unique feature has the potential to attract more than the existing tourism rates. New tourists site and the associated activities will be developed through partnerships with the private sector and individuals/communities.
- *developing mining industries.* Mining (sandstones, diamonds and coal) initiatives that generate employment will be assisted to access credit and training.

Employment equity will be the standard in such initiatives. The land Reform initiative is at an advanced stage and if approved by Cabinet, it will ensure equal access to land and other natural resources including protection of user rights. Water user Associations are already operating but in small numbers and this will be enhanced.

c) Provisions made to develop social safety nets, if any, to meet the needs of the poor, including those affected by HIV/AIDS:

Lesotho has the fourth highest prevalence rate in the World, estimated at around 31%. Specific interventions, to both rural and urban areas by government include:

- A commitment of 2% of Government budget allocations towards HIV/AIDS prevention and impact mitigation programmes.

Strategies: mobilise financial and human resources to fight the epidemic

introduce core-streaming of HIV/AIDS in all civil services

establish clear linkages between government, civil societies and NGOs for combined fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS

- Establishment of various structures to manage the national response to the epidemic

Strategies: implement the prevention of mother to child transmission programme

establish voluntary counselling and testing sites-on going.

Conduct HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns aimed at changing local attitudes towards the disease and people affected by the disease.

- And development of the national Strategic Plan (2002/2003-2004/2005) to reduce the rate from 31% to 25% by 2007.

Strategies: develop and provide nutritional packages for vulnerable groups.

devising labour saving strategies for intensive and integrated agriculture focusing on homesteads (land immediately around houses)

orphans provided access to education, nutritional packages, health care, preferably through families and communities.

provide ARVs in accordance with the HIV/AIDS policy (on going)

d) Measures taken to ensure access to basic education and primary health care.

One of the pillars to the government education strategy has been the plan for free primary education, which became effective from January, 2000. In addition, a targeted equity-based programme to cater for disadvantaged groups at secondary and high school level is operational. Primary health care is given priority targeting the most vulnerable individuals in society, notably: family planning, ante-and post natal care, mother and child health immunisation campaigns and nutritional intervention targeted at the under-fives. Treatment for tuberculosis is free. Social safety nets will be implemented through increased funding and training. Notably, beginning 2004/2005 financial year ,M150.00 or US\$25.00 equivalent, will be provided for all persons over 70 years old. All these measures are aimed at reducing costs for vulnerable people to increase their purchasing power in order to meet their basic nutritional needs.

Specify what has been or is expected to be the impact on the food insecure.³

³ Examples might be social programmes addressed to meet food needs of poor people.

COMMITMENT III

Measures taken to pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices and to combat pests, drought and desertification. Please give details of strategies or initiatives undertaken with respect to:

a) **Policies and actions taken to intensify and diversify food production;**

Erratic climatic conditions, environmental and political and unfavourable economic factors have resulted in the country's production being below national requirements however stable. The operational Agricultural Sector Strategy identified the following key intervention areas:

- ***adoption of appropriate extension service, farming practices and timely access to inputs:*** Support through training and targeted subsidies, are being directed to the most needy people, using the local CBOs and NGOs including the private sector.
- ***development of appropriate irrigation technologies and high value crops.*** High value crops suitable for the country have been identified. Since the country has abundant water resources, appropriate irrigation technologies are being promoted including partnerships with the Republic of South Africa Farming Communities.
- ***ensuring an efficient and standardised land tenure system:*** this includes legislative amendments to address any gender inequality. Implementation of the revised Land Act and development of digitised land information system. These measures will ensure that all people are confident about their ownership of the land and subsequent developments.
- ***improving livestock and fodder production:*** Short cycle animals are being promoted to increase food security. While on marginal lands, fodder production is being promoted as a measure against loss of soil erosion and fertility and a possible cash crop.
- ***improving marketing mechanisms:*** promotion of village based marketing outlets is a priority while at the same time promotion of food preservation and storage technologies is gaining momentum.

b) **Actions taken to combat environmental threats to food security, in particular: drought and desertification, pests, erosion of biological diversity, and degradation of land and aquatic based natural resources;**

Due to the nature of the country, it is estimated that 39.6 million tonnes (0.25% of the total arable land) tonnes of soil is lost through soil erosion each year. Strategies to combat this threat on food security will focus on;

- ***conserving the environment for improved production:*** As a measure against increased soil loss, communities are being taught new methods of production particularly a method called “production through conservation”, that is communities are taught appropriate technology to harness water resources, plant tree, increase ground cover and incorporate conservation and agro-forestry techniques into production

- *strengthen capacity for education on environmental issues:* Overall, increased public awareness and environmental education will be promoted. The starting point will be schools. The school curriculum will be carefully re-oriented to include issues on the importance of proper “earth husbandry”.
- *reduce loss of bio-diversity:* the government will maintain the nature reserves already established. In terms of the number of poor households impacted, grazing associations will be established in close collaboration with the proposed new local government authorities.
- *strengthen the legal and policy framework:* with the envisaged implementation of the Environment Act of 2001, monitoring of EIA implementation will be strengthened, and environmental auditing of the existing infrastructure will be undertaken.

b) Transfer and use of agricultural technologies

There is a long tradition of farming and livestock production in the country but there has been poor transfer of knowledge about more advanced and productive crop and animal production techniques to farmers including pests control measures. Linkages will be developed with all interested groups and target groups and research will emphasis poverty reduction as well as improved technologies for commercial farming. Hence the research agenda will include adaptive experimentation on both traditional and imported technologies that will be carried out particularly with farmers on both research stations and as on-farm trials. The new approach to research will ensure that farmers are fully aware of various technologies that can be used to enhance food production all year around.

c) Formulation and implementation of integrated rural development.

Integrated development fall within the broader government strategies of deepening democracy and decentralisation framework aimed at freeing districts from centralised control constraints while ensuring accountability in resource allocation. Essentially, the following key strategies are pivotal to the integrated rural development process.

create and strengthen structures for public participation in governance: the government will develop and implement guiding principles and regulations for the distribution of powers between modern and traditional leadership to improve dispute prevention and settlements. Identify infrastructural and overall needs of the local communities and developing suitable implementation plans.

establish financial structure and build capacity for decentralisation: the country has, after much experimentation, come to a realisation that for the the local authorities to improve their respective areas,they must have direct access to real resources. In the past Village Development Councils had very few resources yet they were expected to implement complicated rural development plans.

Specify what has been or is expected to be the impact of each of these actions on income, food availability and food access.

COMMITMENT IV

Measures taken at national level to ensure that food and agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security. Please give details of strategies or initiatives undertaken with respect to this commitment. Countries may report on steps taken:

a) to establish well functioning internal marketing and transportation systems to facilitate better links within and between domestic and external markets;

Efforts have been made to provide market stalls and sites for street vendors, including district trade fairs and flea markets organised on a monthly basis. This has had limited impact since the majority of rural people could not access these facilities due to distance and cost of transporting their merchandise. The government views roads as being most critical in the struggle to alleviate poverty. Thus priority is being given to rural roads that are constructed and maintained with community involvement both as a source for income generation and access to basic necessities including as a window to marketing of their produce. Essentially activities include:

- provision of market shells, display areas, sanitation and water systems in market places and key areas where licensed street vendors operate in urban areas.
- piloting of rotational markets in the rural and peri-urban centres.
- construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of roads linking rural communities to basic services
- train local communities in road construction and maintenance to ensure sustainable rural road infrastructure.
- construction of footbridges and other river crossings in the rural areas.

In an effort to adopt and enforce measures necessary to protect human, animal and plant life, Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa, the only neighbour, have recently concluded an agreement on the **Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**. This agreement embodies the capacity building for their respective public institutions and private sectors taking into account the different levels of development that exist in such sectors.

b) to diversify trade:

The objective of the government is to reduce significantly its direct intervention. Instead, it will be essential to provide an effective institutional support that enables growth diversification through private investment with emphasis on small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs). The government in collaboration with relevant stakeholders is in the process of implementing the SMME policy. Thus, a concerted effort will be made to ensure:

- the development of sustainable SMMEs capable of providing goods and services in a competitive market environment.
- that government actively completes the deregulation policy to allow informal sector to flourish.

- an enabling information flow mechanisms that provide information to users about relevant regulations pertaining to local, regional and international market opportunities.
- a conducive environment for capital mobilisation exists.

The main aim will be to enhance private sector led economic growth.

c) to ensure national policies related to international and regional trade agreements do not have adverse impact on economic activities towards food security, especially women's activities.

Various international and regional trade agreements have a potential threat to the diversification and expansion of industrial growth in the country. In particular, the status of African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA), the multi-fibre Agreement, the EU-RSA Free Trade Agreement and others. Significant developments in any one of these could mean the advantages that the country has gained through AGOA could be drastically eroded. This would lead to loss of jobs and consequently increased food insecurity to many people employed in the manufacturing sector of which women are the majority. For this reason, the country will promote itself as an attractive investment destination for a wide variety of reasons and not simply because of its current access to the US markets. Hence, the country closely monitor these developments and device appropriate mitigation strategies, including diversification of exports.

Developed countries and International Organization may report on steps taken to:

- a) promote financial and technical assistance to improve agricultural productivity and infrastructure of developing countries, especially Low Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) in order to optimize opportunities arising from the international trade framework;
- b) reduce subsidies on food exports in conformity with the Uruguay Round Agreement in the context of the on-going process of reform in agriculture conducted in the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- c) implement the Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries through the WTO Committee on Agriculture.

COMMITMENT V

Measures taken to prevent and to be prepared for natural and man-made disasters. Please give details of strategies or initiatives undertaken with respect to:

a) Institutional arrangements for early warning and advance information on possible emergencies;

It is important for any country to develop rapid information mechanisms on possible impending disasters that may have a negative impact on food security initiatives. Under the Cabinet mandate, the office of the Disaster Management Authority was formed to deal with such issues. Within this office is housed the national Early Warning Unit which is charged with forecasting, prevention and mitigation of adverse

natural disasters. In collaboration with the Meteorology Division of the Ministry of natural resources, the two bodies are able to provide timeous information to decision makers on impending disasters. In 2002, the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC) was formed and has been instrumental in enabling a coordinated emergency mapping on vulnerability trends in the country. Thus the formation of LVAC has fostered an enabling environment for an integrated emergency intervention approach which is comprised of the various government ministries and United Nations Agencies, Community based Organisations and NGOs. Hence the country is implanting strategies aimed at:

- *Combating desertification.*
- *Improved water harvesting and management*
- *Improve capacity for forecasting and prevention.*

b) Mechanisms in place to combat disasters and to provide rehabilitation for people affected;

humanitarian and emergency assistance is being accorded every Mosotho facing serious economic and social difficulties of an exceptional nature resulting from natural disasters and local conflicts or extraordinary circumstances having comparable effects. This assistance is maintained for as long as humanely possible to deal with such emergency needs. For example, following the disappointing harvest in the last two crop harvests, 2001/2002 and 2002/2003, the United Nations Appeal was

made on behalf of the country and currently some donors have replied and with the assistance of the local Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) office, an emergency development programme is being implemented in the most food insecure villages of the country as mapped out by Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC), World Food Programme and Disaster Management Authority using CBOs, NGOs and government resources to deliver these initiatives. Hence the strategies are focusing on:

- *safe guarding human lives in emergencies and crises.*
- mitigation measures for rehabilitation of affected communities.
- financing and transparent delivery mechanisms that ensure that the emergency aid actually reach the affected beneficiaries.

c) Measures taken to link post-emergency relief operations to development programmes;

Historically, droughts occur three out of every ten years, heavy frosts are frequent and heavy unseasonable rains occur from time to time. As a result, periodic food security emergencies are becoming a regular occurrence. It is the intension of the government to create a food security policy that recognises that in such instances, emergency relief should be followed and complemented by developmental activities. This will wean people's dependence that the current trend of emergency relief is creating and

eventually eliminate the need for emergency relief in the future while creating sustainable food security parameters.

d) Watershed management strategies put in place.

The current government’s water management strategies are directly concerned with two of the most important areas of focus for policy on production activities. Mainly, soil erosion and fertility and effective water management and control. Historically, communities have relied on the collection of the surface water and the use of natural Springs but failure to manage these water resources adequately has led to the deterioration and drying up of many sources that used to be perennial, including bogs and streams. The policy will promote the use of the natural base sustainably and conserve it to maximise the potential for sustainable agricultural production using appropriate structural and biological practices through:

- a. *encouraging farmers to incorporate conservation techniques into everyday farming practices*; using farming systems that retain responsibility with the beneficiaries including appropriate reclamation and rehabilitation activities. This will improve soil cover while and ensuring sustainable food production.
- b. *developing water retention and management as a central part of the farming system*; potential water resources available will be assessed and harnessed to increase areas under appropriate irrigated production. Appropriate irrigation is pivotal to the current diversification efforts by the agricultural sector.

Specify what has been or is expected to be the impact of these actions on food availability and access to food.

COMMITMENT VI

Measures taken to promote optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fishery and forestry systems. Please give details on:

Indicative Incremental Cost for Resources Allocation (As per the Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme - PRSP)

Priority Area	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Total (Maloti) 1US\$=7Maloti	% Share
Employment creation & Income Generation	193,614,000	201,945,000	211,571,921	607,130,921	15.9 (A)
Agriculture & Food Security	24,527,000	28,097,000	28,847,000	81,471,000	2.1 (B)
Democracy, Governance, Safety & Security	9,482,000	8,898,000	6,468,233	24,848,233	0.7 (C)

Infrastructure Development	535,374,000	545,849,155	494,216,000	1,575,439,155	41.3 (D)
Essential Healthcare and Social Welfare	115,279,800	129,725,000	163,967,000	408,971,800	10.7 (E)
Increasing Human Resource Capacity	190,639,000	82,820,540	125,112,000	398,571,540	10.4 (F)
Management & Conserving Environment	24,679,000	41,956,700	45,079,000	111,714,700	2.9 (G)
Improving Public Service Delivery	193,814,000	201,945,000	211,572,000	607,331,000	15.9 (H)
Scaling up the fight against HIV	383,000	548,000	780,000	1,711,000	0.1 (I)
TOTAL	1,287,791,800	1,241,784,395	1,287,613,154	3,817,189,340	100

a) Share of national budget allocated for human resource development indicating its impact in terms of primary and secondary school and higher education development;

Human resource development is a cross-cutting issue; therefore, all sectors have some form of contribution to this important component. In relation to the education sector this incremental cost amounts to 10.4 percent over the next three years. The government views the investment in appropriate education as a means to an end to attain long-term socio-economic development in the country. By investing in free primary education, the government intends to afford every Mosotho a chance to proceed to secondary education. That is parents will be able to invest in secondary education while government assures their children's primary education. It also the government's intention to extent this programme to the first three years of secondary education programme. It is envisaged that this will increase the pupil's chances of reaching the tertiary education. Already the government spends about 30 times more per student at technical Institutes and 84 times at tertiary level than it spends on a primary pupil. Hence the more pupils completing the secondary education the more government resources will be spend at the other two stages of further education. Overall, statistics already show that primary enrolment has increased for both boys and girls (even higher)

b) Share of the national budget allocated to agriculture and fisheries and food security programmes;

Trend of Public Expenditure in the sector (Million Maloti)

(The combined Capital and Recurrent Budgets)

Sector (Ministries)	Budget										
	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05
Agriculture	113.1	143.5	105.6	164.0	151.6	169.6	164.9	190.4	118.0	116.5	141.1
All sectors	1547.3	1645. 6	1983. 7	2295. 9	2714. 7	2654. 4	2771. 3	3032. 4	2906. 5	3429. 1	3776.5
% share Agriculture	7.3	8.7	5.3	7.1	5.6	6.4	6.0	6.3	4.1	3.3	3.7

During the development process the PRSP, consultative forums with the communities reconfirmed that the majority of the population still view agriculture as the most critical intervention and more pertinent as more than two thirds of the population depend on agricultural and off-farm activities generated by agricultural spin-offs for their livelihoods. However, the Public and Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) expenditure trends show that less and less funds are being directed towards the agricultural and rural development sectors and the country is no exception in this regard. Lesotho's private sector investment is negligible as it also depends heavily on government assistance. However, the government has recognised that assisting the private sector initiatives is a critical contribution to stimulating economic growth and reducing poverty. In this regard some of the public funds are used to kick-start the private sector investments; infrastructure development (irrigation and watershed management), institutional capacity building (training and development) and policy changes (targeted subsidies, land reforms). Also, the government is using NGOs increasingly as partners in service provision, aid distribution and capacity building for CBOs)

c) Nature and extent of investment in infrastructure aimed at improving access to markets and food;

Comprehensive national infrastructure development currently enjoys high priority with government allocating significant resources to the wide variety of infrastructure programmes, which have had a positive impact on the poverty reduction. In rural roads construction programme, local people are employed in their own areas exclusively as labourers and also trained as contractors. This process has reduced rural-urban migration, which would have over-burdened social services available in peri-urban centres. In the process communities are brought closer to transport facilities, which enable them access to basic services including markets, as sellers or buyers hence improving food security measures.

d). Initiatives undertaken and resources allocated to promote technology development and transfers for improved production;

The government has approved a revised policy on subsidies in which it continues to maintain its commitment to the use of systematic subsidies as a policy tool to help to achieve poverty reduction and food security. This will be helpful in building a sound foundation for sustainable agriculture that will eventually be predominantly driven by

the private sector. Thus assistance will be provided primarily to encourage commercial production in activities where comparative advantage is felt to exist thus government research will be on public goods. Hence initiatives are now focused on:

- *incentives to diversify or switch to activities, which are agro-ecologically, appropriate.* Incentives for farmers to help in the transition from inefficient but traditional crops and livestock activities which are known to be appropriate for the areas in which they are produced.
 - *incentives to adopt efficient technologies to increase production.* Subsidies will be used to help farmers to overcome the transition to more appropriate and efficient production practices and technologies.
 - *incentives to develop appropriate traditional technologies or adaptation of modern technologies.* Special attention will also be given to researchers and organisations developing technologies that fit in with, and develop, traditional and indigenous practices and genetic materials, both at subsistence and commercial levels. And help farmers to adopt these technologies
 - *initiatives to promote agricultural investment and credit.* Lack of credit and capital is holding people to invest in the sector, hence government will facilitate investment promotion in the sector.
- e) **Strategies for sustainable watershed management and associated investments;** (As in Commitment V paragraph (d))

f) Measures taken to control deforestation and to enhance national forest cover.

The country faces serious environmental problems, which emanate primarily from poor management of its natural resources. Aiming to preserve arable land, in particular and biomass equilibrium in general, Lesotho has introduced a number of forestry, soil and water conservation and environmental rehabilitation programmes. In order to achieve this mandate, in October, 2003, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation was split into two independent Ministries, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Ministry of Forestry and Land Reclamation, exclusively to look into issues of land management and rehabilitation. Hence more resources have been allocated into forestry particularly to the expansion of private and public woodlots while at the same the same time promoting alternative energy source in the rural areas that are less demanding from both an environment and social perspective. In this regard, the government is already embarking on a rural electrification programme starting from the last financial year, 2003.

Specify what has been or is expected to be the impact of these actions.

Developed countries and international organizations are requested to report, as appropriate, on measures taken:

- a) towards the fulfilment of the agreed Official Development Assistance (ODA) target of 0.7% of Gross National Product (GNP), and to ensure that the flow of concessional funding is directed to economically and environmentally sustainable activities;
- b) to focus ODA towards countries that have a real need for it, especially low-income countries;

- c) to intensify the search for practical and effective solutions to debt problems and support the initiatives to reduce the total external debt of Heavily-indebted Poor countries (HIPC).

COMMITMENT VII

Steps taken to facilitate the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action. Please indicate the progress made in establishing:

a) Institutional arrangements at national and local levels to implement the Plan of Action and monitor the progress of implementation;

Due to the importance and cross-cutting nature of the programme, it is coordinated by the Cabinet under the office of the Government Secretary, while the line Ministries in collaboration with their respective stakeholders, implement activities related to their sectors. The committee meets half yearly to review progress and solve bottle necks. At the district level, the offices of the District Secretary and Disaster Management are pivotal in coordinating the implementation process while the actual day to day implementation of activities is done by various ministries and NGOs. At the local level, the chiefs, communities and village development councils set up priorities and areas of intervention with the support of various stakeholders.

Food for All campaigns to mobilize stakeholders and their resources at all levels of society in the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action;

Food for all campaigns is an essential component of the revamped agricultural sector policy being promoted and implemented through the agricultural sector strategy framework. The strategy recognises the need for the country to produce food production as per the potential of each ecological zone, while at the same time providing mechanisms to help people affected by disasters and how developmental activities could be linked with such interventions. Country wide, different sectors promote food security through many interventions. For example, some sectors have re-introduced labour intensive food-for-work programmes; these enable households to have access to food while engaged in developmental activities.

b) Mechanisms to ensure food security for every person in the country.

Poverty is multi-dimensional hence, the country is implementing a concerted effort with complementing activities that are multi-targeted and intended to yield wide and diversified results. This concerted effort covers different sectors and embodies political, economic, social and capacity building facets of the country. All interventions are aimed at reflecting the importance of access to food and or assist in the coping strategies of people in their endeavour to carry out their livelihoods; thus the country is already implementing policies that create an enabling environment in such areas as:

- Marketing and Appropriate Technological transfer
- Water harvesting and Management
- Land Policy Reforms
- Political stability and community participation
- Increased employment opportunities for all

International agencies and developed countries may report on steps taken to:

- a) Direct development assistance policies and resources towards sustainable development including agriculture for food security, and effectively contribute to the improved situation of food insecure households;
- b) Focus technical assistance more effectively on building-up and mobilizing national capacity, expertise and local institutions.

SECTION IV: LESSONS LEARNED
A REVIEW OF BEST PRACTICES OR CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED
IN REDUCING HUNGER

1. Countries that have succeeded in reducing the number of the undernourished are requested to highlight the policies and action programmes that have contributed to the improvement of food security at local and national levels and indicate the process of implementation that made it possible.

2. **Countries that have faced difficulties in implementing the WFS Plan of Action effectively and in reducing the number of the undernourished are requested to provide information on the constraints they face.**

Poverty is not an every day feature of people, but a product of livelihoods systems and socio-economic and political circumstances that prevail around them, especially for the majority of the country's population that makes its living in and around agriculture activities. Hence in order for any sustainable development initiatives to contribute meaningfully towards sustainable poverty reduction, there should be coherent and complimentary programme of action to address the people's needs, both by government, private sector, NGOs, UN Agencies and Donors. This means change in social and economic relations, usually involving institutional change. And these change processes have been slow in coming. However, a lesson drawn from various implementation experiences is that economic empowerment with strong community participatory mechanisms are creating an institutional framework in which the people can be able to influence resource allocation, both public and private, to work on their own behalf. However, casting a shadow on these development initiatives is the high HIV/AIDS prevalence, currently estimated at 31%. Thus, increasingly resources have been shifted to combat the spread of the pandemic. Also, the share of resources marked for agricultural production and rural development, both locally and international, is getting fewer and as a result inadequate to address poverty reduction programmes. Also, the country is still in the process of learning how to measure and target poverty effectively in order to monitor all indicators of incidences of food insecurity. In this regard, the country has recently finalised its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), and it envisaged that it will help to accelerate the reversal of the current negative trends in poverty and generate equitable economic growth for the people.

EXPLANATORY NOTES ABOUT THE INDICATORS

1. Food security indicators

Average per person dietary energy supply (kcal/p/day)

Food available for human consumption, expressed in kilocalories per person per day (kcal/person/day). At country level, it is calculated as the food remaining for human use after deduction of all non-food consumption (exports, animal feed, industrial use, seed and wastage).

Food production index

Food self-sufficiency ratio

Ratio of domestic production to domestic consumption. An indicator of the need for food imports.

Cereal supply per person

Kg per capita per year. Please indicate which cereals are included.

Animal protein supply per person.

Protein per capita per day in grams, estimated from food balance sheets.

Ratio of food imports/export earnings

Ratio of food imports value/exports of good and services.

Debt service ratio

Ratio of total debt service to exports of good and services.

Value of gross investment in agriculture

Outlays in addition to the fixed assets of the economy plus net changes in the level of inventories, also known as gross capital formation.

Food price index

Change in the cost to the average consumer of acquiring a fixed basket of food.

Index of variability of food production⁴

Magnitude of fluctuations in a production curve.

Ratio of national food reserves to domestic food consumption

Ratio of national food reserves to annual domestic food consumption. The ratio of national food reserves to annual domestic food consumption, maintained as a matter of policy for food security purposes, in the event of food emergency.

Export earning instability

The average percentage deviation of total exports of goods and services from their trend.

Rate of growth in real GDP per person/per year

Annual percentage growth rate of GDP per person at market prices, converted into real GDP per person by a price deflator.

Gini index of income distribution

Extent to which the distribution of income (or, in some cases, consumption expenditure) among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. A Lorenz curve plots the cumulative percentages of total income received against the cumulative number of recipients, starting with the poorest individual or

⁴ Existing methodologies are being reviewed by FAO to improve the measure of this index.

household. The Gini index measures the area between the Lorenz curve and a hypothetical line of absolute equality, expressed as a percentage of the maximum area under the line. Thus a Gini index of zero represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality.

Percentage of population living below national poverty line (%)

Share of population earning less than the nationally defined poverty line.

Percentage of population living on less than \$ 1 a day (%)

Share of population living on less than \$ 1 a day per person.

Percentage of household income spent on food

Share of total household income that is spent on food items.

Consumer Price Index

Change in cost to the average consumer of acquiring a fixed basket of goods and services.

Estimated number of undernourished people

Total number of people with dietary energy intake less than the nationally established dietary energy supply requirement (e.g. 2100 kcal/person/day).

Percentage of population undernourished

Share of population with dietary energy intake less than the nationally established dietary energy supply requirement (e.g. 2100 kcal/person/day).

Percentage of children under 5 that are underweight

Share of children aged under five years whose weight relative to their age is more than two standard deviations below the average for a reference population of well-nourished children.

Percentage of children under 5 that are stunted

Share of children aged under five years whose height relative to their age is more than two standard deviations below the average for a reference population of well-nourished children.

Percentage of children under 5 that are wasted

Share of children aged under five years whose weight relative to their height is more than two standard deviations below the average for a reference population of well-nourished children.

2. Social indicators

Life expectancy at birth

Number of years a newborn would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth stayed the same throughout its life.

Under-5 mortality rate

Probability that a newborn will die before reaching age 5, if subject to current age-specific mortality rates.

Net school enrolment in primary education of children aged 5-12

Number of students enrolled in primary school as a percent of the total number of children aged 5-12 years.

Ratio of girls to boys in primary education

Ratio between the numbers of girls aged 5-12 years to boys aged 5-12 years enrolled in primary education.

Adult literacy rate

The ratio of adult population (15 years of age and above) who can read and write to total adult population

Total number of doctors, nurses and other health personnel per 100 000

Number of doctors, nurses and other health personnel per 100 000 persons.

Infant mortality rate

Expected number of children who will die before reaching the age of one year, per 1 000 live births.

Adult morbidity rates

Number of people who are sick or have a disease compared with the number who are well, also known as sickness rate.

Adult male mortality rate (per 1,000 male adults)

Adult mortality rate (male) the probability of dying between the ages of 15 and 60 – that is, the population of 15-year olds who will die before their 60th birthday.

Adult female mortality rate (per 1,000 female adults)

Adult mortality rate (female) the probability of dying between the ages of 15 and 60 – that is, the population of 15-year olds who will die before their 60th birthday.

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births

The death of women while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental causes.

3. Infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS indicators**Rate of deaths by infectious diseases**

Number of people dying from infectious diseases per year per 100 000 people.

Rate of deaths from HIV/AIDS

Number of people dying from HIV/AIDS per year per 100 000 people.

Percentage of population orphaned

Share of orphans out of the total population.

Average age of household head

National average age of head of household.

Rate of population with HIV/AIDS infection

Share of total population infected by HIV/AIDS.

4. Economic and Trade**Terms of trade**

Ratio of import prices to export prices

External agricultural income terms of trade

The index of the value of agricultural exports deflated by import unit value index. A sectoral indicator of the purchasing power of the agricultural/rural sector vis-à-vis food from the world market.