

INTEGRATING AGAINST DROUGHT

Southern Africa Drought Resilience Initiative

LESOTHO



INCIDENCE OF DROUGHT | 1970-2020



IMPACT OF DROUGHT



POPULATION

2.2 million affected

Over a quarter of the population (2.2 million) faced severe food insecurity during the 2019/2020 drought.



COST

US\$82 million

Total funding mobilised to respond to the 2015/16 drought was US\$82 million (M 1.25 billion), or 3.6% of GDP in 2016.



HUNGER

Over 300,000 food insecure

About 328,000 people in 2022 are food-insecure and require assistance to reduce food gaps and prevent acute malnutrition.



WATER ACCESS

90% of water dries up

In November 2019, the Katse dam was at 13%, while the Mphahle dam was at 32%. 90% of rural water sources dried up including along the Senqu, Mphahle and Makhaleng rivers. Up to 12% of households used unprotected water sources.

Vulnerability and Impact Assessment (Medium)

42% of the agricultural areas in the regions of Leribe, Mafeteng, Mphahle's Hoek, Berea and Quthing are amongst the most drought-prone areas in Lesotho. Despite adequate institutional arrangements, as well as the support from institutions such as the FAO and WFP on vulnerability and impact assessments, there is a lack of consistent information, awareness and sufficient networks. The gaps in coordination and information exchange result in information that is often not adequately shared between government departments.

Monitoring and Early Warning (Low)

● Yes ● Limited ● No

- Official definition of drought
- Drought indicators used
- Existence of a DEWS
- Capacity to tailor EWS messages to end-user needs
- Early warnings with built-in feedback mechanisms
- Communication channels to reach all
- Use of community relays, extensions services, local media to communicate EWS and reach at risk communities promptly
- Official definition of drought

Mitigation Preparedness / Response (Medium)

While Lesotho has in place legal and policy frameworks for disaster risk management that encompass drought, it lacks a dedicated drought policy and a Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) strategy. This not only results in a reactive approach to drought response, mitigation and preparedness, but also perpetuates inherent vulnerabilities and the dependence on external aid.

Drought Resilience Funding Gap in Lesotho

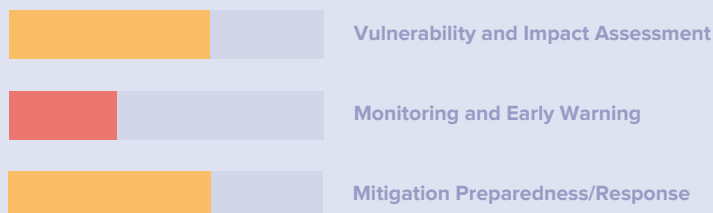


12.5 million

US\$ Million Annual Average

STATE OF DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS

● High ● Medium ● Low



Lesotho can improve on its drought resilience measures.

INTEGRATING AGAINST DROUGHT

SADRI output relevant for gascar's drought resilience

LESOTHO



SADRI generated 11 drought resilience knowledge outputs



Umbrella Pillar

- Drought Resilience Country Profiles
- Regional Drought Profile
- Knowledge Hub on Drought Resilience



Cities Pillar

- City Drought Resilience Toolkit
- Regional Guidance Note for Water Systems



Energy Pillar

- Drought Sensitivity Assessment for SAPP



Livelihood and food security pillar

- Technical Note on Homestead Farm-ponds for Micro-scale Irrigation in the Eastern Cape of South Africa
- Review of Strategic Food Reserves Policies for Improving Resilience to Drought
- Water Production, Use, and Governance in the Pafuri Sengwe node of the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area

Lesotho Drought Profile, SADC Regional Drought Profile and Drought Knowledge Hub

The drought profile of Lesotho provides an in-depth overview of the state of drought resilience in Lesotho.

- Drought vulnerability and assessment
- Early warning systems and
- Drought preparedness and mitigation

provides an entry point to understand where there are gaps in drought resilience and areas for improvement.

Urban Drought Risk Management Toolkit

Developed under the Cities pillar of SADRI, the toolkit will be useful for Lesotho in providing direction for cities, national and regional institutions on proactive drought management and mitigation. Building on international best practice, it can be used to improve understanding of the scale and causes of urban drought vulnerability in SADC cities and address growing urban drought challenges through integrated, proactive, comprehensive, and people-centered risk management,

Drought Regional Guidance Note for clients

The note targets all SADC countries and cities using 8 case studies (Blantyre, Bulawayo, Cape Town, Dar es Salaam, Gaborone, Lilongwe Toliara, Windhoek.) developed interactively with the city authorities, some ministries, and Bank staff. The cases show an holistic approached to addressing drought resilience in the region by taking advantage of existing regional institutions and infrastructure.

Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP): Drought sensitivity and resilience assessment

Delivered future hydrometeorological scenarios for the SAPP and an assessment of the potential impacts of future climate change and irrigation development on the water resources and present and future hydro-energy generation potential of the SAPP.

Lesotho can use the assessment when planning power pool investments at both regional and national levels.

Strategic Grain Reserves Report for Zimbabwe and Zambia

The report informed major reforms of the strategic grain reserves by Zimbabwean authorities in 2021 including: (i) a reduction in the role of the state in procurement and creating space for the private sector to respond to market deficits; and (ii) development of a warehouse receipts system so that small farmers can store grain and use it as collateral. These reforms have the potential to reduce fiscal costs, increase private sector responsiveness to market deficits, and reduce market instability. The report and experiences of Zimbabwe could be used by Lesotho to review its own Strategic Grain Reserve policy.

Agribusiness Partnerships Initiative (Irrigated Horticulture) – Eastern Cape Province

SADRI produced a land use suitability assessment, hydrological assessment, technical note on rainwater harvesting pilot design, and watershed management scoping study for Eastern Cape Province, as well as a watershed management investment needs study for the Umzimvubu Water Catchment.

Eastern Provincial Government has proposed to repurpose part of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DRDAR) grants (typically inefficient grants for inputs to farmers) into investments in rainwater harvesting for homesteads.

Lesotho can benefit from a similar intervention to improve the sustainability and commercial viability of small scale production of high-value agricultural products.

Analytical Work to Fill Knowledge Gaps in Water Production, Use, and Governance in the Pafuri-Sengwe Node to mitigate drought risk

- Mapping / land capability assessments and master development and implementation
- Investment needs for sustainable management of natural resources at country and transboundary level
- Sustainable use of shared groundwater resources and aquifers
- Supporting common approaches to nature-based solutions, natural capital accounting, and ecosystem services valuation (in support of rural livelihoods)

Similar analytical works in Lesotho will be key to improving water governance, production and use.