Lesotho

FOOD SYSTEMS OVERVIEW

- Agriculture sector on a gradual decline, at **6.24% of GDP** by 2022
- **Low agricultural productivity**, with value added per worker at around USD 400 annually.
- Despite low GDP share, agriculture occupies 78% of the productive land area and engages 40% of population.
- **Women constitute a majority**, at 57% of agri-work force.
- The agriculture sector is highly **dependent on rain-fed practices** and limited resources for adaptation.
- Lesotho relies heavily on South Africa, **importing nearly 70% of its food**.
- **Double burden of mal- and overnutrition** is estimated to cost the economy $200 million annually.

IDENTIFIED **GAPS & CHALLENGES**

- Multiple climate and disaster risks necessitate a **comprehensive, multi-risk approach**, requiring better integration and coordination.
- Scaling up **Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems** is essential
- **Data and analytics gaps** in agriculture and FS resilience hinder effective planning; investing in data collection infrastructure and local knowledge networks is key.
- Adoption of **climate-smart agricultural practices**, including drought-resistant crops and agroforestry, faces challenges and requires scaling up through training and partnerships.
- **Rural safety nets and social protection programs** need expansion to safeguard vulnerable populations
- Strengthening **youth engagement in agriculture** through education &training for modern and climate-resilient farming practices.
- **Access to finance** remains a challenge for smallholder farmers, requiring scaling up through mechanisms such as microloans and subsidies in collaboration with IFIs & partners.

CLIMATE RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS **PRIORITIES**

Strengthening Multi-Risk Approaches	Scaling Up Early Warning Systems	Strengthening Data & Analytics
Scaling up Climate Smart Agricultural Practices	Promoting knowledge & innovation for resilient FS	Strengthening stakeholder coordination