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Lesotho VAC

Profiling Chronically Vulnerable Populations in Lesotho

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RVAC AOM, November 2007

Introduction: Lesotho Livelihood Baseline Profiles

- Baseline Development in 2006, done by Livelihood Zone and Wealth Group
- 4 Wealth groups identified: 'Very Poor' 'Poor' 'Middle' & 'Better – Off'
- Baseline data on access to food, cash income and expenditure patterns. In addition, data captured on options for expanding access to cash
- Baseline profiles allow for modelling impacts of shocks e.g. production failure, failure on household access to food & income

Profiling Chronically Vulnerable Populations

- **This is work in progress**...to be finalised in next 2 months
- Overall aim is to package the LVAC data in a way that can inform Social Protection Programming by:
 - Comparing LVAC data to official poverty thresholds (poverty line and ultra poverty line)
 - Mapping the location of vulnerable households to indicate areas that may require closer attention
- The final product is intended to inform the development of a national social protection framework in Lesotho

Methods

- Reviewed background material on poverty trends & nationally specific definitions of poverty
- Revised the LVAC livelihood zone and wealth group population estimates in light of new population figures
- Converted HEA household data into per capita values to enable comparison with official poverty data sets
- Tabulated & compared total per capita values with national per capita poverty lines
- Grouped the derived HEA per capita values for each livelihood into 'ultra poor' 'poor' 'at risk of becoming poor' & 'relatively secure'

Lesotho's poverty line

- Establishing the poverty line involved converting expenditure on 30 items of food & 10 own produced consumption items into quantities & calories
- Minimum expenditure on food necessary to meet the 2100Kcals was then calculated based on cost per Kcal actually incurred by poor households in Lesotho
- Typical poor household basic expenditure on non food items was added to the cost of minimum food basket
- This was used to calculate a per capita 'poverty line' of M146 per person per month or M1752/yr
- Half this level was defined as 'ultra poverty' or M876/yr

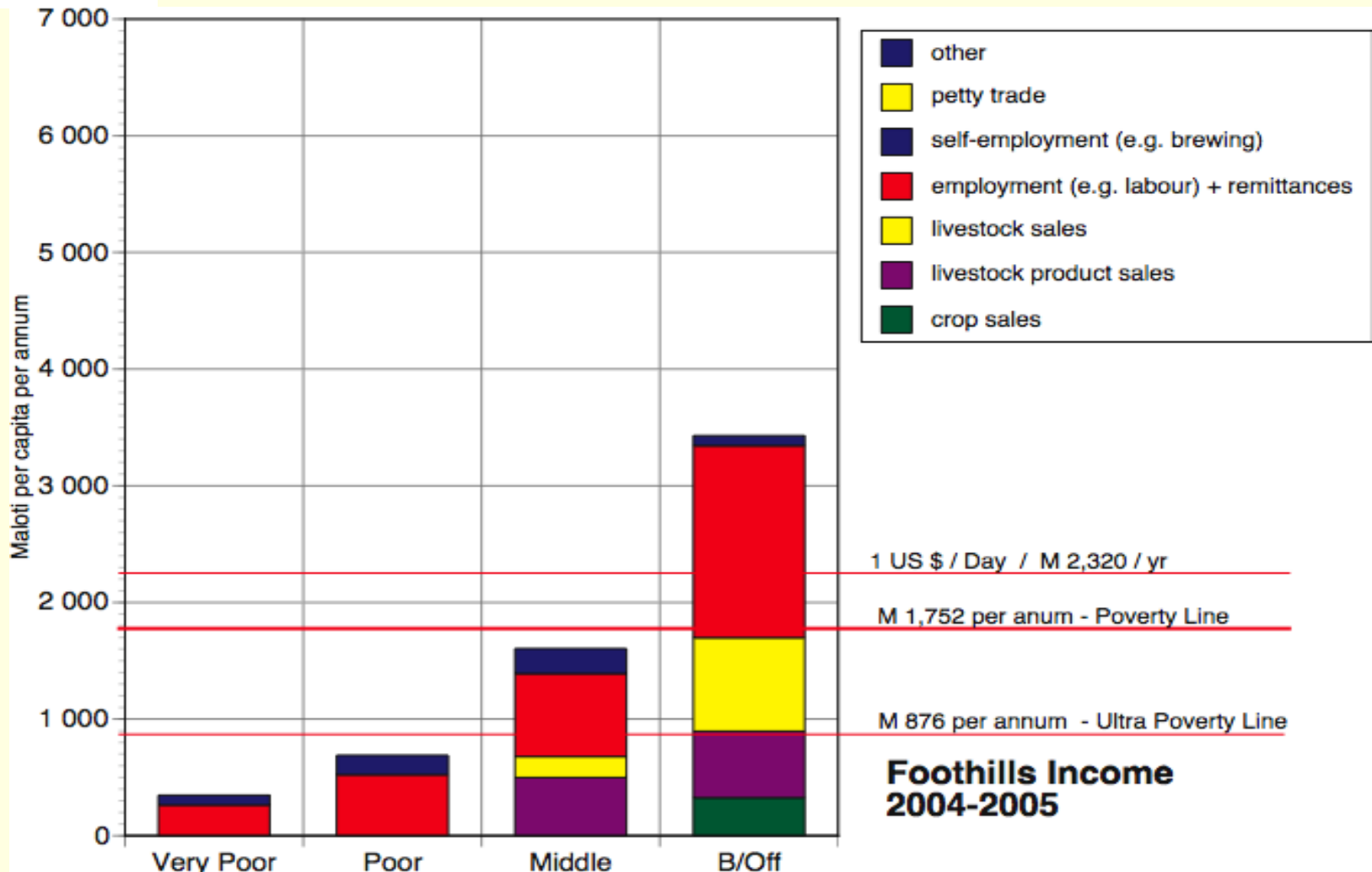


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Comparison of HEA household data to official poverty lines (Example of Foothills pattern of income)



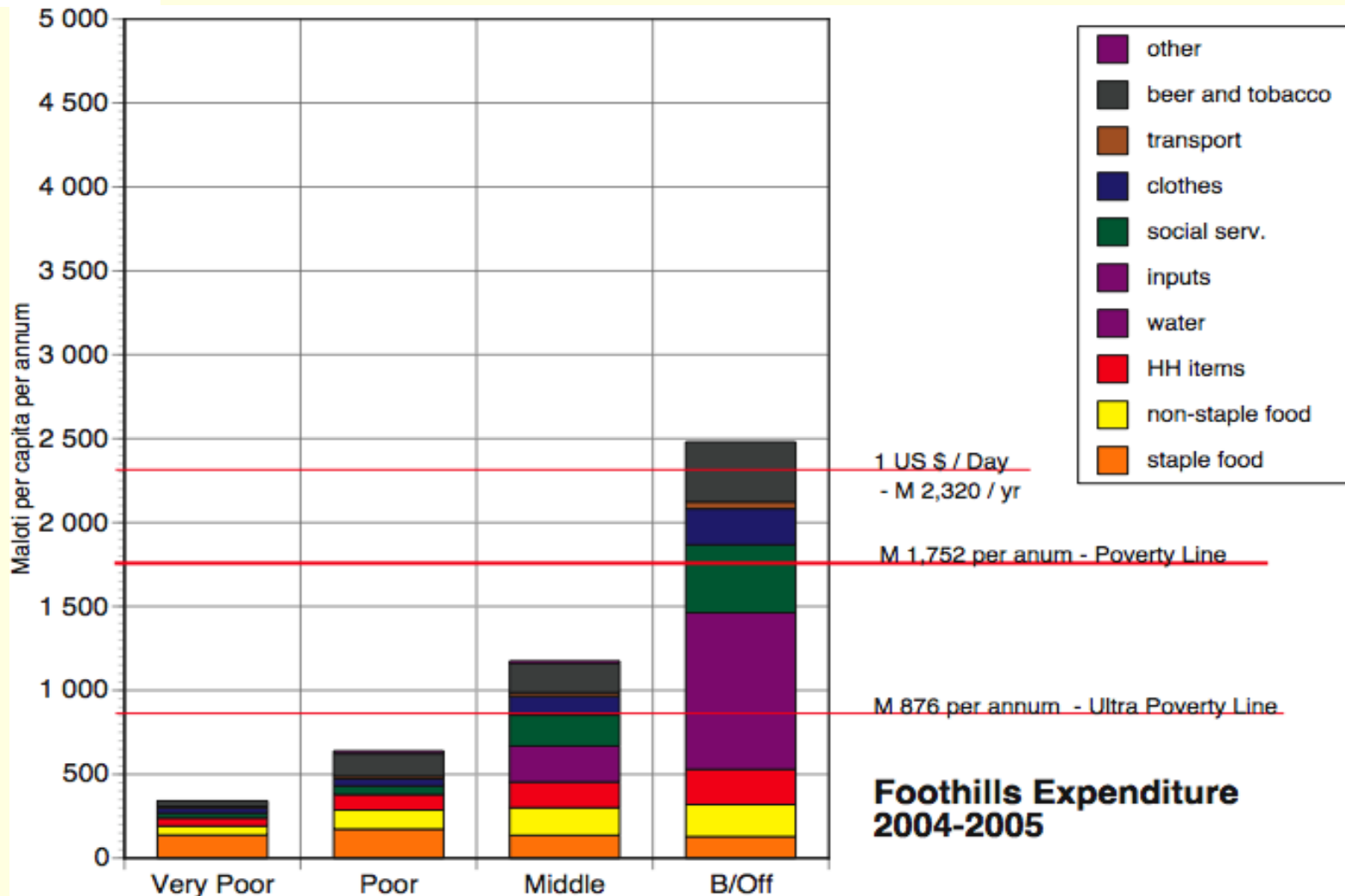


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Comparison continued (Example of Foothills pattern of expenditure)



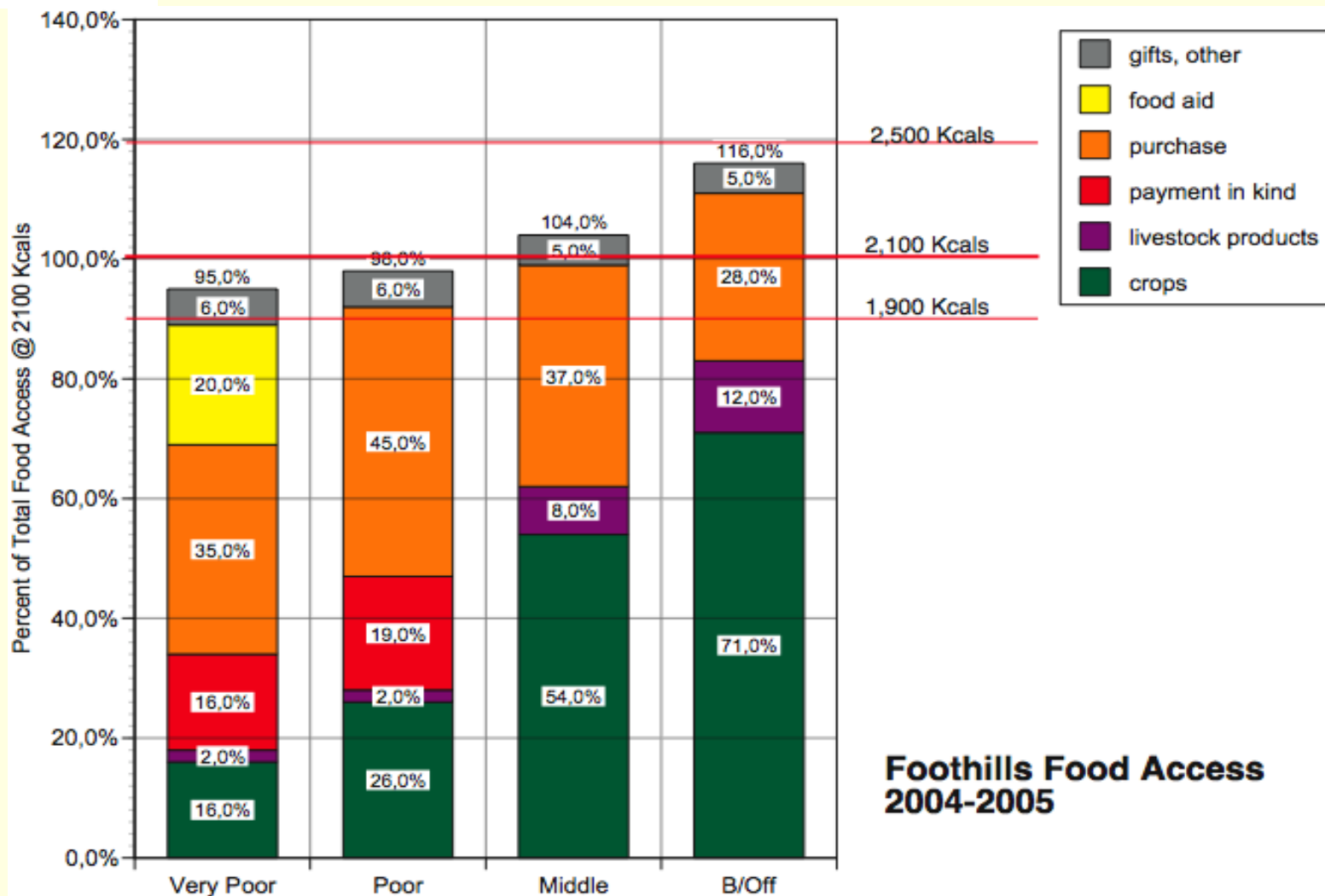


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Comparison continued (Example of Foothills pattern of food access)



**Foothills Food Access
2004-2005**

Comparison of populations in ‘poor’ and ‘ultra poor’ thresholds

Comparison of HBS 1986/87 and 1994/96 and LVAC 2006 Rural Poor and Ultra Poor estimates

	HBS 1986/87 National	HBS 1994/95 National	LVAC 2006 Rural/PU
% Ultra Poor	35,0%	38,0%	49,3%
% Poor	23,0%	20,0%	5,7%
% Poor + Ultra Poor	58,0%	58,0%	55,0%
No. Ultra Poor	500 000	600 000	717 743
No. Poor	350 000	350 000	82 468
No. Poor + Ultra Poor	850 000	950 000	800 211

Note: HBS Figures reflect a national picture while LVAC figures are for the rural & peri urban populations only

HBS data for 2002/03 now available and will be compared with the above data sets



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Comparison of populations in ‘poor’ and ‘ultra poor’ thresholds continued

- Data on the previous slide triangulates results from HBS poverty trend analysis and the LVAC estimates.
- The LVAC estimate at 55% for poor and ultra poor largely confirms the poverty expectations in the PRS of 58%
- The higher estimated prevalence of ultra poor by LVAC could be a reflection of increasing levels of chronic poverty
- Congruence with earlier HBS estimates adds weight to the credibility of LVAC baselines



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How do we use this information?

- The LVAC livelihood profiles generate per capita income results for the 'poor' and 'very poor' that are more or less congruent with HBS monetary definitions of 'poor' & 'ultra poor'
- The LVAC baselines therefore provide a solid answer to the question – who needs assistance
- The profiles can therefore be used in developing household based targeting for both humanitarian and social protection programme.



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How we use the information (continued)

- Currently the national picture is one of 76.2% rural and 23.8% urban.
- This suggests a breakdown of the total population into 1,433,064 rural dwellers and 447,597 urban inhabitants and a national total of 1,880,661.
- NB. There are 28 peri-urban settlements that fall within the rural population. These are incorporated as a distinct livelihood profile within the LVAC baseline)
- Given the substantial variations between earlier population projections and the preliminary 2006 population results, the LVAC has adjusted its estimates of livelihood zone populations

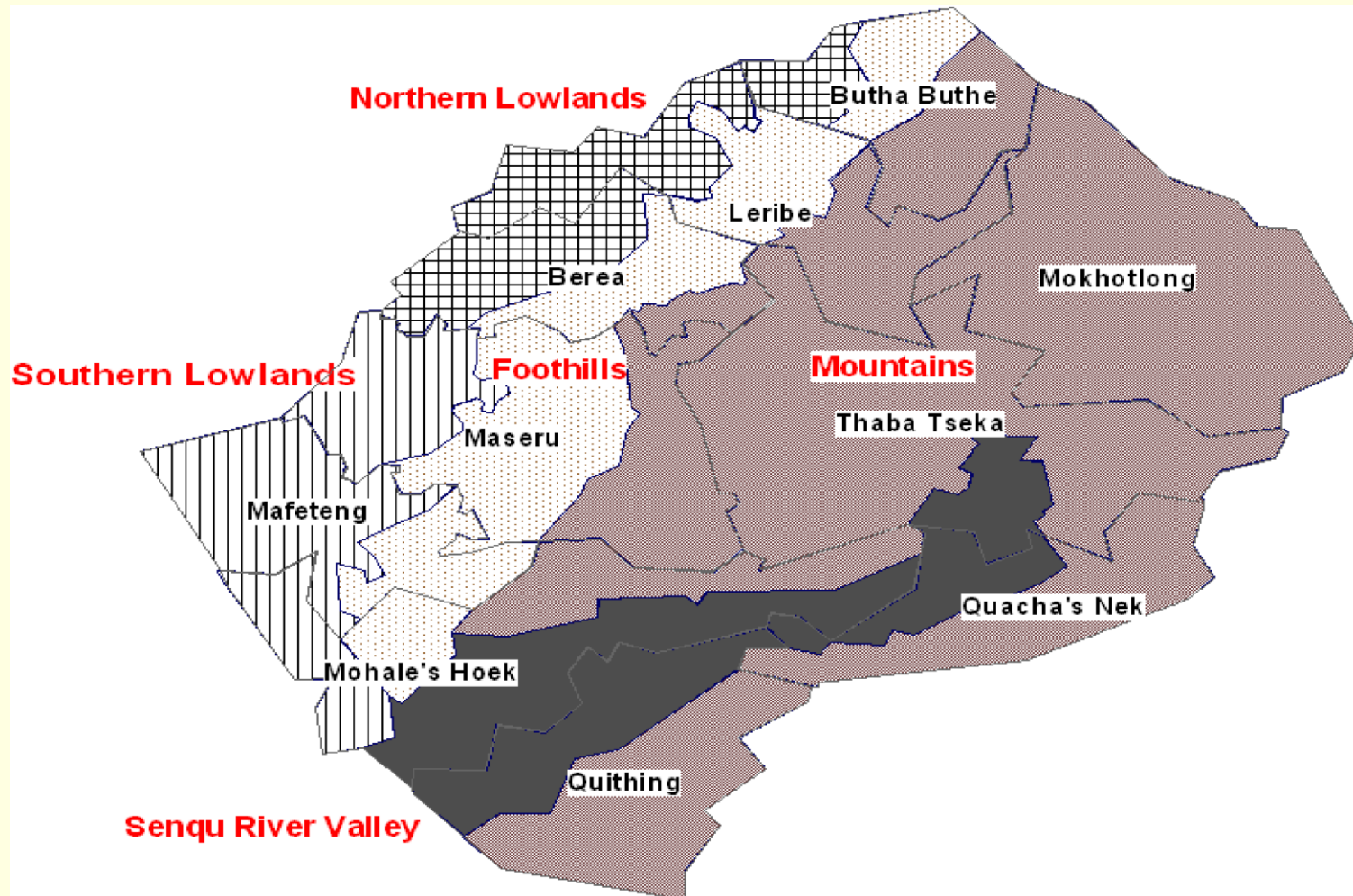


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Lesotho Livelihood Zones excluding the Peri Urban LZ



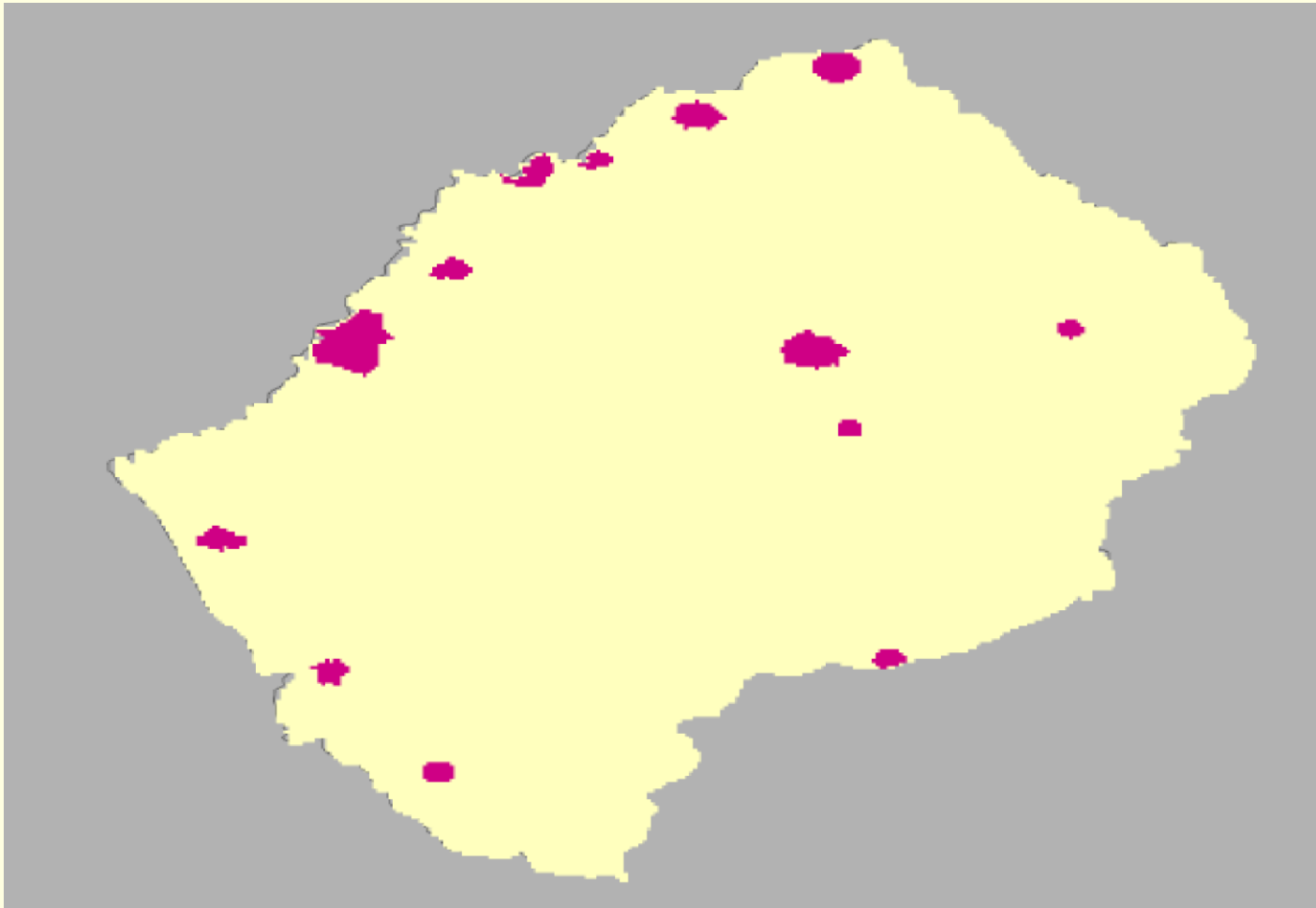


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The Peri Urban Livelihood Zone



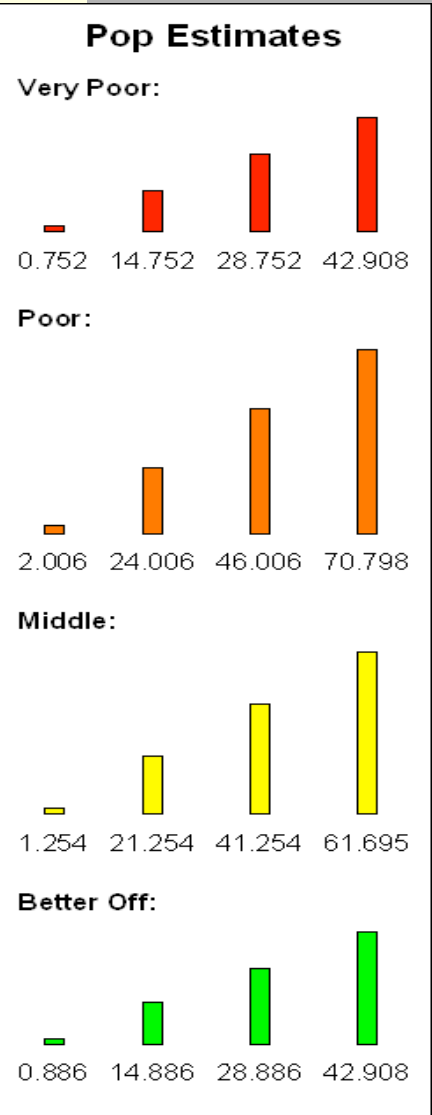
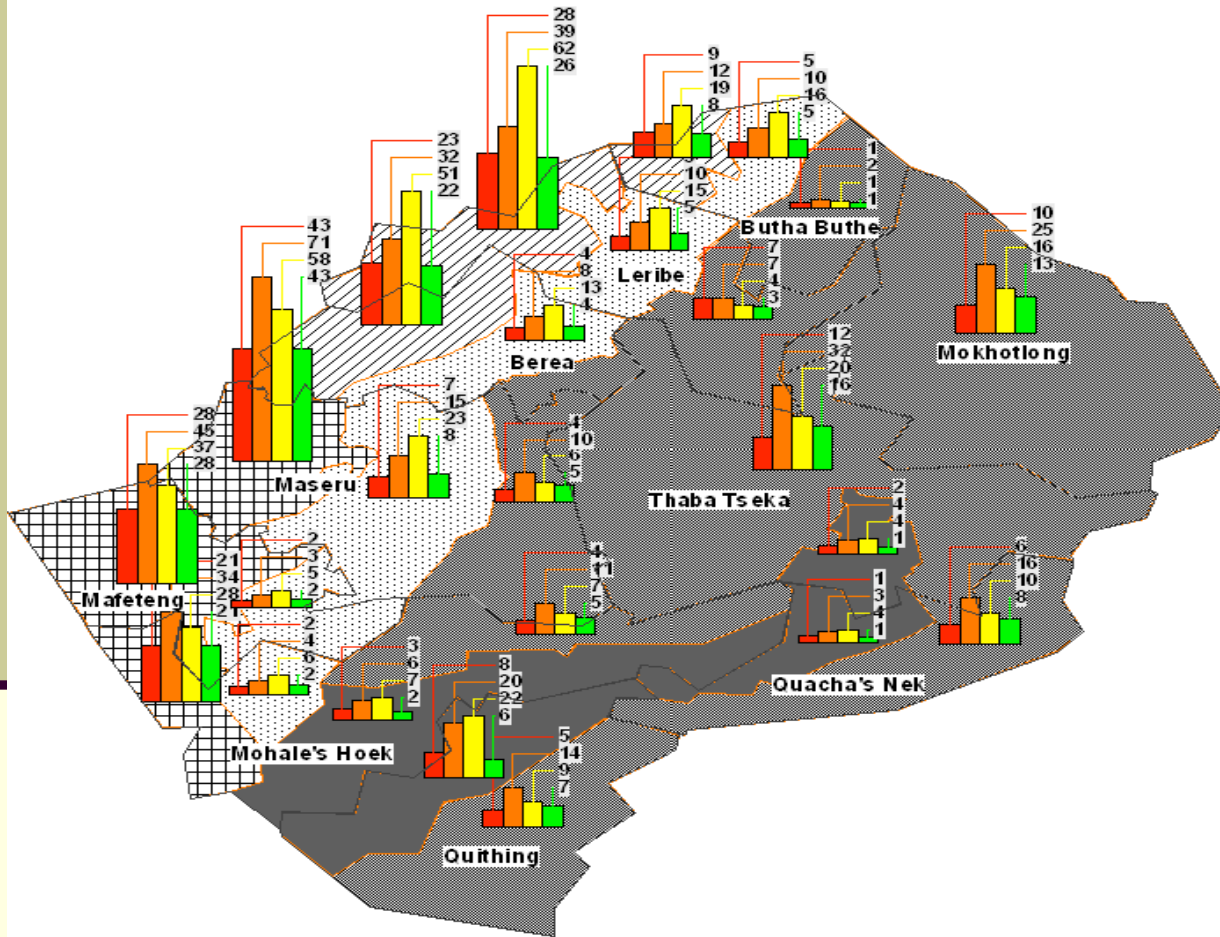


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Lesotho Population Breakdown by Livelihood Zone and by District





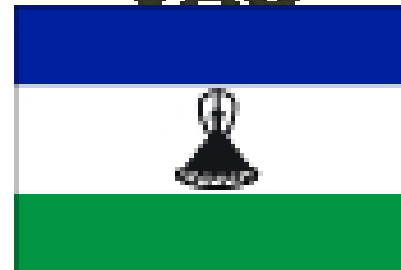
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Where is the assistance required?

- The LVAC information therefore also provides a fairly reliable answer to the question above
- The high degree of inequalities associated with the livelihoods within each livelihood zone means that the 'ultra poor' and 'poor' are present in each sub location.
- However, their incidence and absolute numbers vary in relation to livelihoods and rural population density



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Rea Leboha!
Thank You!