



Supporting good governance, rule of law and human rights

Country context

SECURITY AND GOVERNANCE NEED TO BE IMPROVED

Lesotho has faced persistent political instability since the country gained independence in 1966. This has left the country with a weak state, and state institutions that are highly party-politicized. Frequent government changes – three in less than five years – reflect governance challenges. The involvement of the security sector in governance has also played a significant role in contributing to the current political upheaval. Women and young people need to be given a greater and more active role in the country's development process.

LIMITED CAPACITY TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS

The political crisis has led to an increase in human rights violations, with concerns around how suspects and inmates are treated by the police and correctional institutions. The human rights situation has also been negatively affected by a lack of capacity within existing institutions. Despite the adoption of legislation in 2016, the National Human Rights Commission has yet to become operational. High levels of gender-based violence, especially in rural and mountainous areas, as well as child labour, human trafficking and victimization of irregular migrants have to be addressed urgently.

POOR AVAILABILITY OF DATA AND LIMITED USE IN DECISION-MAKING

While the United Nations in Lesotho continues to support the Bureau of Statistics (BOS) to collect, analyze and disseminate data, the use of evidence in decision-making across government bodies must be strengthened. Data on important issues such as migration, environment, labour and disaggregated data by age, rural/urban location and disability remain scarce or obsolete and hinder progress in evidence-based policy-making.

WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION NEEDS STRENGTHENING

Given Lesotho's youthful population and the fact that more than 6 in 10 households are run by women, it is essential to give women, young people and other vulnerable groups the voice and means to influence decisions and policies that affect their lives. Currently, female representation in parliament is only 25 per cent, and 1 in 4 women is unemployed. Women and youths in rural areas bear the brunt of poverty and lack of opportunity.





The Government of Lesotho's commitment to far-reaching reforms presents a chance to increase vulnerable groups' participation in politics, society and the economy, but more effort is needed to ensure that voices are heard and taken into account in policy development.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE IS POOR

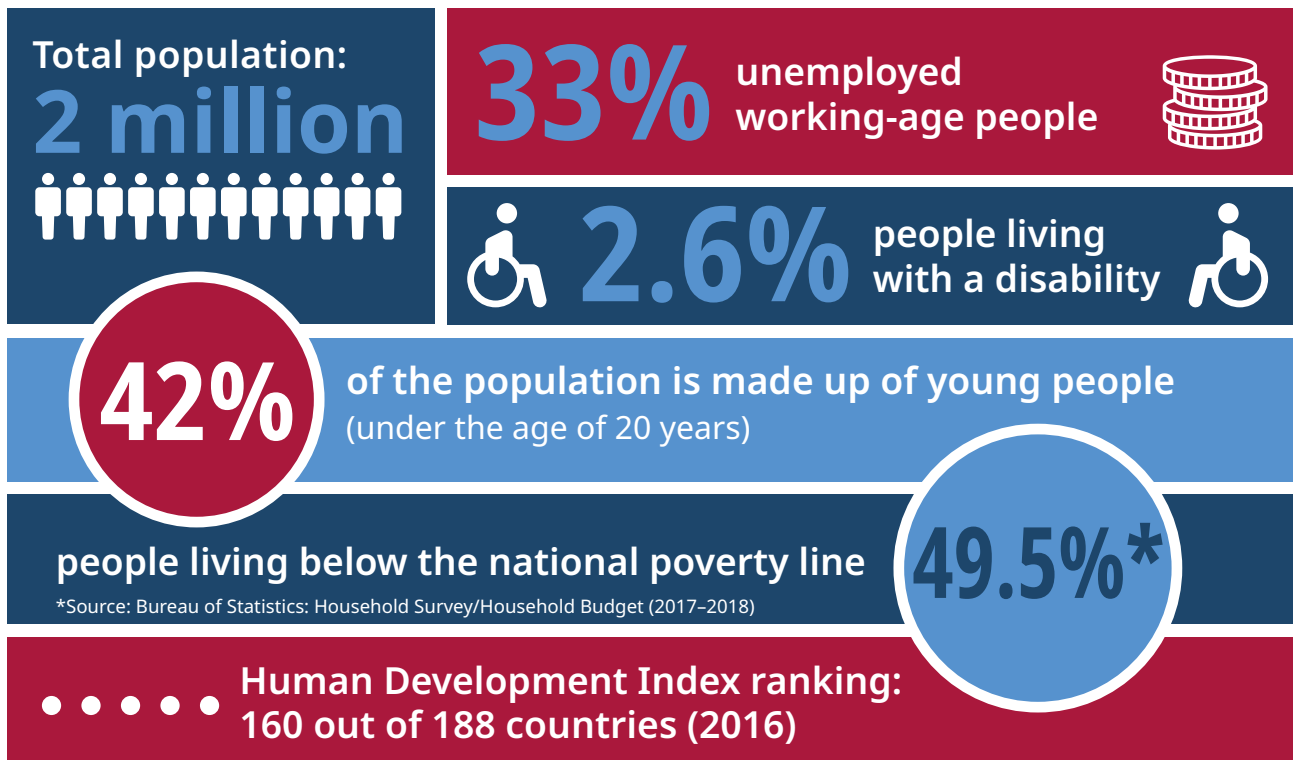
The justice sector and the rule of law in Lesotho are critical to the attainment of the country's development goals. However, many issues still need to be tackled. These include inequalities in access to justice; a backlog of court cases; and inadequate prosecutorial skills and insufficient capacity of law enforcement officials. Poor coordination between various ministerial departments also adds to the challenge. Various pieces of legislation that could change the lives of women and children for the better still need to be enacted or harmonized. Enforcement of labour law also has to be strengthened to achieve decent work across all productive sectors.

HIGH LEVELS OF OUTMIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Migration – both internal and external – is a dominant livelihood strategy for households in Lesotho. Over 90 per cent of the population has moved from their districts of birth and live elsewhere within the country, while nearly 1 in 10 people has left Lesotho (2016 Census), primarily to work in the mines and commercial farms of South Africa. Lesotho is also a source and transit country for women and children subjected to human trafficking, specifically for forced domestic service and sex work, and for men in forced labour. The legislation and policy regime, as well as law enforcement, need to be significantly improved to address migration, border and migration management, rights of migrant workers and human trafficking.



Lesotho at a glance



Source: United Nations, United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Lesotho 2019–2023, Delivering together for development, 2019.





Development objectives and priorities

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2019–2023 provides joint United Nations support to Lesotho’s national development priorities, as United Nations agencies join forces to help Lesotho progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

This fact sheet presents a summary and funding gaps for outcome 1.1 of UNDAF pillar 1 on accountable governance, effective institutions, social cohesion and inclusion.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO SEE BY 2023?

UNDAF outcome 1.1
Government and non-governmental institutions deliver their mandates and uphold good governance, rule of law and human rights, with all people having improved access to justice and participating in social and political decision-making processes in a peaceful environment.

UNDAF outcome 1.1 is aligned with:

- NSDF II: Strengthening national governance and accountability systems
- Sustainable Development Goals 5, 8, 10, 16, 17

5 GENDER EQUALITY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

WHAT DO WE FOCUS ON?

- Support **national reforms** of public and security services, parliament, the justice system and the constitution, in an inclusive, open and participatory manner.
- Strengthen national capacity to **generate and better use evidence** in planning, monitoring, reporting and review processes linked to the SDGs and the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) II.
- Strengthen **rule of law and human rights protection**, as well as support the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission.
- Build **citizens’ awareness of their rights** and promote meaningful participation of civil society, women, youths and other vulnerable groups in national dialogue and decision-making.
- Support **enactment and implementation of laws** that protect the most vulnerable and marginalized people, including the Domestic Violence Bill, Ending Child Marriage Bill and Anti-Trafficking Person’s Law.





SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS BY 2023

30% seats in the National Assembly held by women (increased from 25.3% in 2017)

Existence of an independent national human rights institution

Lesotho's ranking in the Democracy Index at 40 (up from 56 in 2017)

70% children under 18 years whose births have been registered (increased from 48%)

70 Lesotho's score on the Migration Governance Index (up from 54.5 in 2017) **50%** recommendations/action points from national dialogue and reforms implemented (up from zero in 2017)

70% SDG indicators have up-to-date data (up from 40.4% in 2018)

50% recommendations/action points from national dialogue and reforms implemented (up from zero in 2017)

IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT

Delivering as one (implementing UN agencies):

International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO) and non-resident agencies - International Labour Organization (ILO), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

Partnerships:

Prime Minister's Office-Disaster Management Authority; Ministries of Justice; Law; Defence; Public Service; Foreign

Affairs; Finance; Development Planning; Trade and Labour; Home Affairs; Local Government; Parliament; Correctional Service; Judiciary; civil society organizations and the Southern African Development Community.

Governance structure and management arrangements:

UNDAF Joint Steering Committee; UN Country Team; UNDAF Outcome Results Group 1.

Current donors:

Adaptation Fund, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), European Union, Japan, UN Peacebuilding Fund, Swedish International Development Agency, Swiss International Development Agency.

BUDGET FOR UNDAF OUTCOME 1.1 (2019-2023)

Total needed: **US\$19.4 million**

What we have so far: **US\$11.5 million**

Funding gap: **US\$7.9 million**

BUDGET FOR UNDAF OUTCOME 1.1 (2019-2020)

Total needed: **US\$5.2 million**

What we have so far: **US\$2.5 million**

Funding gap: **US\$2.7 million**



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