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Country programmes and related matters

Draft country programme document for Lesotho (2024–2028)

Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. UNDP within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.....	2
II. Programme priorities and partnerships.....	4
III. Programme and risk management	7
IV. Monitoring and evaluation	8
Annex	
Results and resources framework for Lesotho (2024-2028)	9



I. UNDP within the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

1. The UNDP country programme document, 2024-2028, supports the efforts of the Kingdom of Lesotho to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals articulated in the National Strategic Development Plan, 2023/2024-2027/2028 (NSDP II). The NSDP II identifies four priorities: growth progression; social transformation; infrastructure development; and governance and accountability, with environment and climate change as cross-cutting issues.¹
2. The document is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in content, structure, and timelines, and with the NSDP II, focusing on (a) improved governance structures; (b) improved food security and nutrition, and climate resilience; and (c) transformative economic development and reduced inequalities.
3. At 168th out of 191 countries and territories, Lesotho has a Human Development Index ranking of 0.51.² It ranks 84th of 146 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index, 2022, with only 26 per cent of parliamentary and 31 per cent of managerial positions held by women.³ Gender-based violence is a challenge: 37.6 per cent of women aged 15-49 have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence, contributing to the 21 per cent HIV/AIDS prevalence rate.⁴
4. The economy contracted by 9.6 per cent in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic and related shocks. The gross domestic product is expected to rebound by 2.3 per cent in 2023, accelerating to 2.9 per cent in 2024.⁵ Poverty levels stagnated at 54.7 per cent in the past decade,⁶ with unemployment estimated at 32.8 per cent.⁷ The Gini coefficient is 0.49 (2017-2022),⁸ and women, persons with disabilities, herders, youth, the elderly, migrants, rural communities, sex workers and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex people risk being left behind.
5. Cyclic political instability, rising gun violence,⁹ fragile political coalitions, and three elections between 2012 and 2017 reduced Lesotho's ranking on the Mo Ibrahim Index of Africa Governance from 9th to 17th out of 54 countries between 2020 and 2022.¹⁰
6. Lesotho is vulnerable to climate shocks, with low readiness for adaptation.¹¹ Lesotho has experienced successive droughts and floods, leading to severe food insecurity. Limited private investment in smallholder farms constrains access to irrigation and climate-smart technologies.¹²
7. Energy generation capacity is 72 megawatts;¹³ as of 2020, 47.4 per cent of the population (11.4 per cent in rural areas) had access to electricity, yet there is vast untapped potential for renewable energy sources.¹⁴ The Government aims to expand electricity access to 75 per cent and increase the use of renewable energy by 500 megawatts by 2030.¹⁵

¹ Government of Lesotho (2018). National Strategic Development Plan II 2018-2019 to 2022-2023. Maseru, Lesotho Government Ministry of Development Planning

² Human Development Index 2021, 2022

³ <https://www.idea.int/data-tools/data/gender-quotas/country-view/174/35> . Thirty-two of 121 seats (26 per cent) in the National Assembly are held by women as of 2022.

⁴ Ministry of Social Development, Lesotho (2020). Lesotho: Violence Against Children and Youth Survey, 2018. Maseru. UNICEF.

⁵ World Bank: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?locations=LS>

⁶ Poverty rate of \$1.9/day. Source: Government of Lesotho; Beijing +25 Review, 2020; <https://www.worldbank.org/country/Lesotho>;

⁷ Bureau of Statistics. 2019 Labour Force Survey Report. Lesotho 2021

⁸ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI?locations=LS> . World Bank diagnostics indicate that Lesotho remains one of the 20 per cent most unequal countries in the world.

⁹ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/murder-rate-by-country>, (accessed 04/01/2023).

¹⁰ <https://iiag.online/>; 2022 Ibrahim Index of African Governance

¹¹ Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative Country Index, 2021

¹² Climate Risk Country Profile Lesotho, World Bank, 2021

¹³ <https://www.usaid.gov/powerafrica/lesotho>

¹⁴ Climate Risk Country Profile Lesotho, World Bank, 2021

¹⁵ Lesotho Second Voluntary National Review, 2022

8. Although Lesotho has 59 per cent mobile network coverage, the use of digital and mobile technologies is dominated by voice, social media, and short messaging services. Fewer than 50 per cent of the population use the Internet,¹⁶ and high-speed Internet accessibility remains beyond reach for many, due to digital illiteracy, lack of infrastructure, and cost. The emergence of mobile financial services has transformed financial inclusion and delivery of social services, from 7 per cent in 2015 to 49 per cent in 2021.¹⁷

9. UNDP is considered as an impartial, trusted partner in sustainable development, working with the Government and non-state stakeholders to promote citizen engagement and strengthen capacities. Drawing on its experience and expertise, UNDP will support the United Nations system in achieving the priorities of the Cooperation Framework through multi-sectoral, integrated, area-based programming, and a gender-responsive, human rights-based approach derived from its mandate and comparative advantage across the three priority areas. The programme seeks to build capacity, resilience, and models that scale local development solutions and ‘leave no one behind’.

10. The independent country programme evaluation, 2022, highlighted the role of UNDP in enabling the reform process, business environment and capacities for environmental management and renewable energy access. However, political instability and constrained economic growth have slowed the pace of the reform and efforts to strengthen institutional capacities. Nevertheless, UNDP is strategically positioned to continue supporting the transformation agenda, taking forward reforms and prioritizing support to local government capacities, and strengthening service delivery.

11. Building on achievements and lessons learned, UNDP will build capacities of national government and local authorities to enable anticipatory, adaptive, and agile development.¹⁸ Using its programme and comparative advantages, UNDP will cultivate South-South collaboration and partnerships with foundations, academic, national and subnational institutions, and civil society to share knowledge, approaches, skills and lessons in governance reform, human rights, gender equality and women’s empowerment, environmental management, climate change and renewable energy, the Lesotho Integrated National Financing Framework, green growth, and employment generation. UNDP will work with the country team to design an integrated portfolios across Cooperation Framework priorities, and contribute to providing evidence, tools, methodologies, policy expertise and innovative solutions.

12. UNDP comparative advantages complement United Nations development system efforts and derive from its development mandate and its Africa Strategic Offer. UNDP will lead United Nations efforts in governance focused on national reforms; peace and security; climate action; renewable energy; development financing; and private sector development. Opportunities for expansion of digital solutions have emerged, leveraging the Accelerator Lab. The UNDP corporate global policy network enables the country office to provide technical and innovation expertise for policy-oriented research, data collection, analysis, and use. UNDP will collaborate with partners across the United Nations system, government, the private sector, academia, and civil society. As a champion of the Sustainable Development Goals, UNDP will coordinate the push towards their implementation and support the establishment of national and subnational integrated information systems to monitor and evaluate development results. It will contribute to the Cooperation Framework governance architecture, promoting joint efforts for mobilizing development financing for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and adopt adaptive methodologies to foster impact and responsiveness to emerging national, regional, and global issues.

¹⁶ Digital 2023: Lesotho

¹⁷ FinScope 2021

¹⁸ UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025

II. Programme priorities and partnerships

13. The country programme is guided by the 2030 Agenda; national priorities; the Cooperation Framework; the Africa Union Agenda 2063; the renewed Africa offer, 2022-2025;¹⁹ and the UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022-2025. The country programme, 2024-2028, was developed through an inclusive process, with co-leadership of the Government and the participation of local government, the private sector, civil society, academia, the United Nations, development partners, and international financial institutions operating in Lesotho.²⁰

14. The country programme will contribute NSDP II priorities as articulated in the three interlinked priority areas: (a) good governance, accountability and improved service delivery; (b) climate action, disaster resilience and environmental sustainability; and (c) inclusive green, resilient and sustainable economic growth.

15. The theory of change mirrors that of the Cooperation Framework. Through this programme, UNDP seeks to contribute towards the Government goal of transforming Lesotho from a consumer-based to a producer- and export-driven economy and a just, prosperous, and stable country marked by effective, people-focused institutions; national unity of purpose; rule of law; good governance; and human rights.²¹

16. This country programme will contribute to sustainable and resilient livelihoods; environmental stability for food security; effective people-centred and right-based governance; equitable and inclusive gender- and age-responsive public services and rule of law; enhanced confidence in the security process; and sustainable peace and development for the people of Lesotho. UNDP will support business environment reforms to build resilience and competitiveness among micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, especially women- and youth-led. Operationalization and acceleration of national and institutional reforms will be supported, and the capacities of national and local government strengthened. UNDP will support Government in establishing participatory and inclusive national and local electoral and governance mechanisms, especially targeting women, youth and people with disabilities; and in developing policies that improve resilience to climate change and increase disaster-risk management capacities at national, local and community levels.

17. UNDP will collaborate with other United Nations entities, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Union, and the Lesotho Millennium Development Agency to strengthen capacities of national and local institutions in realizing the 2030 Agenda.

Programme priority one: Good governance, accountability, and improved service delivery

18. To assist in the transformation of Lesotho, UNDP will support governance institutions in establishing mechanisms that foster inclusive and accountable governance; accelerate decentralization processes; strengthen subnational governance structures and systems; develop a national infrastructure for peace and security, justice, rule of law and gender equality; and operationalize the Human Rights Commission. Working with faith-based organizations and civil society entities, UNDP will support the establishment of a national infrastructure for peace and security, and strengthen civic space and accountability by supporting capacity development of civil society.

19. UNDP will lead in the governance priority of the Cooperation Framework, working with United Nations organizations,²² the European Union, and the Southern African Development Community. UNDP will provide technical expertise and integrate various stakeholders to accelerate and implement national reforms – including security sector and public sector reforms – to build inclusive, accountable governance systems. Working across portfolios, UNDP will

¹⁹ Africa's Promise: The UNDP Renewed Strategic Offer in Africa. UNDP, 2020.

²⁰ As part of country programme development, the country office undertook a survey among various government and non-state stakeholders.

²¹ Aligned with the NSDP III goal.

²² IOM, UNAIDS, UNCDF, UNV.

support environmental and economic reforms linked to broader governance reform objectives. Leveraging technology capacities of the Accelerator Lab, UNDP will support the digitization of public service, including financial and procurement systems for improved financial inclusion and implementation of Financing Frameworks. UNDP will support the enhanced functionality of key governance institutions through performance-based contracting and capacity strengthening. It will aim to increase government capacity for policy research and analysis and establish platforms for stakeholder engagement. Additionally, UNDP will work with electoral stakeholders to strengthen electoral management.

20. South-South and triangular cooperation for capacity building, sharing lessons and best practices, established under the previous programme cycle, will be strengthened. UNDP will work with the Southern African Development Community, the Panel of Elders, South Africa, and the African Union Commission on the national reform process. Expertise and experiences from Kenya, Rwanda, and South Korean-based UNDP Centre for Public Service Excellence will be adopted to optimize public service delivery and accountability.

21. UNDP will support decentralization and the Local Government Authority reform process, and build capacity of local authorities to develop and implement inclusive plans and will support cascading of digital systems and capacities for socio-economic governance. Support for decentralizing environmental and climate change actions will be prioritized.

22. UNDP will work with the national gender architecture to accelerate women's empowerment and bridge gender inequality. To counter the scourge of gender-based violence, UNDP will support the establishment of public- and private-sector mechanisms and foster legal awareness establishing legal help desks in police stations. Working with UN-Women, UNFPA and other partners, UNDP will support stakeholder dialogues at national and community levels on the implementation of policy and legal frameworks promoting women's political participation. UNDP will support and empower civil society organizations, especially women- and youth-led, to expand women's representation in leadership and decision-making roles.

Programme priority two: Climate action, disaster resilience and environmental sustainability

23. To support Lesotho in achieving environmental sustainability, universal and inclusive access to affordable energy, building resilience and ensuring that marginalized and vulnerable populations benefit from its natural resources, UNDP will work to strengthen capacities of national and subnational institutions and local communities to sustainably utilize natural resources for economic growth and food security; create an enabling environment to leverage private-sector investment in renewable energy; and mitigate and adapt to climate change through innovative solutions and a human-rights based approach.

24. This pillar places nature and the environment at the heart of economic development, governance, and fiscal planning. Working with the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), UNDP will adopt a 'whole-of-society' approach, collaborating with local actors, communities and the private sector on disaster risk reduction and environmental management to build resilience, safeguard livelihoods and food security, and promote local economic growth. UNDP will invest in and enhance climate and environmental governance, developing and implementing legal and policy frameworks, ensuring that women, youth, people with disabilities and other marginalized persons participate in the formulation of mitigation and adaptation policies and plans; and assisting the private sector in designing and implementing green policies. The portfolio will build capacities of citizens, communities, and local authorities to protect nature and promote equitable and sustainable use of natural resources.

25. Working with diverse stakeholders,²³ UNDP will use its experience in public-private partnerships for renewable energy to support increased access in underserved rural areas and possible export within the subregion. UNDP will seek to address energy-efficiency challenges and barriers to the uptake of renewable energy solutions. It will pursue solutions that encourage utilization of renewable energy models to augment green productive capacities and innovations. The portfolio will build the capacity of local institutions to undertake climate-resilient livelihoods and integrated water resource management, climate change negotiations and regional experiences. UNDP will enhance government, local government authorities and non-state actors' ability to access the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, and innovative financing instruments such as carbon markets.

26. Working with relevant United Nations entities²⁴ and partners, UNDP will support building capacity at national and local levels to promote the design and delivery of integrated solutions with multiplier effects in conservation and managing natural ecosystems for sustainable productivity and livelihoods, low-emissions, and climate-resilient development.

Programme priority three: Inclusive green, resilient and sustainable economic growth

27. To promote a green, resilient and sustainable economy providing prosperity for the Basotho people, UNDP will support the Government in accelerating structural transformation, creating an enabling gender- and age-responsive policy and business environment, and establishing institutional mechanisms that promote effective economic governance and resilience to crisis and shocks; foster sustainable and green productivity, and facilitate access to finance through private-sector participation, development of entrepreneurial skills, and innovations among micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, particularly youth- and women-led.

28. UNDP will consolidate its thought leadership in strategic analysis to inform policy processes. It will collaborate with academia to establish platforms for promoting research, knowledge, and data analysis to influence human development, reduce vulnerability, promote digitization and innovations, and accelerate attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNDP will collaborate with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNCDF and the World Bank to nurture inclusive ecosystems for economic growth, targeting the government, the private sector, and the diaspora. It will provide technical support to bridge gaps in policy formulation and implement an integrated sectoral approach to socio-economic development. This includes activities that cultivate a business environment conducive to unlocking economic potential and promoting productivity through local added value and resilient micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the priority sectors, particularly those owned by women, youth, and people with disabilities.

29. To support business-environment reforms, UNDP will leverage the UniPod and the Accelerator Labs platforms to foster entrepreneurship and participation in local and regional trade and promote private-sector investments. UNDP will invest in co-creation, applying new and appropriate technologies to encourage business start-ups, local value chains and product diversification. It will prioritize agricultural transformation and agro-processing; tourism; manufacturing; and local industrialization; taking advantage of local and emerging regional and global markets. UNDP will utilize local-based innovations, South-South cooperation, and technology, and invest in the circular economy by scaling initiatives such as plastic waste management to create green jobs and promote environmental management. UNDP will partner with United Nations entities, academia, and the private sector to develop programmes that bridge skills gaps – especially among youth, women, and people with disabilities – by facilitating re-skilling, building science, technology, engineering and mathematics capacities and opening career and business opportunities.

²³ European Union delegation, United Kingdom, United States of America, FAO, UNCDF, UNEP, UNV, WFP, World Bank.

²⁴ IOM, UNCDF, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNV, WFP.

30. Using the ‘SDG Investor Map’, UNDP will work with the Government to develop strategic policy and programme interventions, create incentives for private-public partnerships, and assist in mobilizing private investment and engaging high-impact development sectors and opportunity areas. UNDP will work with Government, private-sector networks and academia to enhance advocacy and knowledge, and promote trade facilitation and empowerment of youth and women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to access opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement. Drawing on its global and regional experts, including the Sustainable Finance Hub and the Global Policy Network, UNDP will develop internal capacities to leverage alternative financing instruments that encourage public-private partnerships and mobilize private-sector investments.

31. UNDP will prioritize support for the Financing Frameworks Road Map in line with national reforms for public financial management and economic stability. Working with United Nations entities and international financial institutions, UNDP will support the Government in establishing policy and institutional mechanisms to foster budget credibility, ensure alignment between national development and financing objectives, and strengthen oversight and accountability mechanisms. Based on the recommendations of the Sustainable Development Goals Financing Strategy, UNDP will support the Government in developing relevant sector policies and strategies to increase national and local government capacities for economic management and maximize opportunities for mobilizing effective development financing flows, including green financing.

III. Programme and risk management

32. This country programme document outlines UNDP’s contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarter levels with respect to country programmes is prescribed in the organization’s Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures and Internal Control Framework.²⁵

33. The programme will be nationally executed. If necessary, national execution may be replaced by direct execution for part or all of the programme to enable response to force majeure. Harmonized approach to cash transfers, will be used in a coordinated fashion with other United Nations agencies to manage financial risks. Cost definitions and classifications for programme and development effectiveness will be charged to the concerned projects.

34. Programme governance mechanisms will be established in alignment with Cooperation Framework structures for management and oversight. Opportunities for systematic capacity development will be pursued jointly with other United Nations entities. UNDP will invest in change management and risk management, supporting a platform that brings all key partners together to address emerging issues country-wide.

Risks and mitigation measures

35. *Political and governance risks.* Frequent coalition turnover could affect achievement of development goals. Working with civil society organizations, religious leaders, and other stakeholders to promote passage of the reform bill, UNDP will support an infrastructure for peace.

36. *Resource mobilization risks.* Global and domestic socio-economic challenges affect the ability to mobilize financial resources for development. UNDP will continue to support realization of the Financing Frameworks, building capacities to improve public financial architecture and maximize revenue collection. UNDP will continue to seek funding from bilateral and thematic trust funds based on national development priorities and support the Government in establishing innovative instruments that explore and mobilize public-private investments for development.

²⁵ <https://popp.undp.org>

37. *Implementation and operational risks.* Limited capacity, digitization and technology lags and potential corruption could hamper the transformation agenda, exacerbate inefficiencies, and increase costs. UNDP will focus on capacity-building across government to professionalize the public service, streamline operational procedures, develop appraisal tools, and strengthen public financial management.

38. *Effective partnerships risks.* Limited capacity of civil society organizations, the private sector and communities to participate in national and local socio-economic and environmental issues could affect the ability of rights-holders to demand accountability from government and public service institutions. UNDP will use a human rights-based approach to build needed capacity and support the Government in institutionalizing an accountability mechanism.

39. *Environmental risks.* The climate crisis, threats to biodiversity, vulnerability to natural disasters, and social tensions could challenge the ambition of Lesotho for sustainable recovery and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNDP will apply social and environmental screening procedures and accountability mechanisms as part of risk management and do-no-harm principles.

IV. Monitoring and evaluation

40. UNDP country programme monitoring, evaluation, and reporting will be aligned with the monitoring and evaluation plan of the Cooperation Framework, 2024-2028. Following United Nations monitoring and evaluation guidelines, the country office will develop monitoring, evaluation and learning plans that include project and thematic portfolio evaluation for the three programme priorities. The country programme will be evaluated by the Independent Evaluation Office one year prior to its completion.

41. The country office will institutionalize a monitoring and evaluation system for the programme through an online reporting tool linked to digitalized reporting ‘e-centres’ to be established across the country. A monitoring and evaluation post will be created to entrench adaptive methodology across the programme. The monitoring and evaluation system will focus on results. Project monitoring will take place every six months throughout the programme cycle. Project-level performance indicators will be defined, and frequent independent performance monitoring conducted.

42. The country office will use national data sources, such as an integrated national monitoring and evaluation system, for reporting on results. UNDP will support efforts to strengthen national statistical systems and reinforce results-based processes. With United Nations partners, UNDP will work with national and local government and the Bureau of Statistics to strengthen government capacity, produce disaggregated data and ensure effective monitoring, evaluation, and reporting focused on the 2030 Agenda and NSDP II.

43. Adopting a whole-of-office approach, at least 15 per cent of the budget will be invested in gender equality and women’s empowerment interventions and in advancing gender seal initiatives. The gender marker will be used to monitor expenditure and improve planning.²⁶ Three per cent of the budget will be earmarked for monitoring, quality assurance and dissemination of results. Accessibility costs will be allocated to support persons with disabilities.

44. Working with partners, including academia, UNDP will develop a multi-year knowledge-generation and management agenda. A knowledge-management strategy will be implemented to promote a culture of thought leadership and leveraging knowledge for informed programming, communication, and decision-making. A partnerships and communication strategy will be implemented to tell compelling human-impact stories, highlight results and partnerships, and share the knowledge generated.

²⁶ UNDP. Gender Equality Strategy, 2022-2025

Annex. Results and resources framework for Lesotho (2024-2028)

National priority or goal (NSDP II 2023/24 – 2027/28): Key priority area (KPA) IV: Good governance and accountability; strengthened institutions				
UNSDCF outcome involving UNDP 1. UNSDCF outcome 1. People living in Lesotho are better served by improved governance systems and structures that are inclusive, accountable, with people empowered, engaged, and enjoying human rights, peace, justice, and security by 2028.				
Related Strategic Plan outcome				
Outcome 1. Structural transformation accelerated, particularly green, inclusive and digital transitions.				
Related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 5, 10, 16, 17				
Cooperation framework outcome indicator(s), baselines, target(s)	Data source and frequency of data collection, and responsibilities	Indicative country programme outputs (including indicators, baselines targets, source and frequency)	Major partners/partnerships/frameworks	Estimated cost by outcome (thousands of United States dollars)
<p>Indicators:</p> <p>16.6.2. Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services</p> <p>Baseline (2014): 27% Afro-barometer survey on satisfaction with access to public services (electricity, water, etc.)</p> <p>Target: 50 %</p> <p>5.5.1. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments.</p> <p>Baseline (2022): Direct national elections, 25%</p> <p>Target: 30 %</p> <p>5.c.1. Availability of national systems to track</p>	<p>Source: Afrobarometer Frequency: Annual Responsibility: UNDP</p> <p>Source: Government Gazette Frequency: Per electoral cycle Responsibility: UNDP</p>	<p>Output 1.1. Institutions at national and local government levels strengthened to deliver inclusive quality services to all</p> <p>Indicators</p> <p>1.1.1. Number of national and local institutions with strengthened public administration and core government functions for:</p> <p>(a) improved public service delivery (b) access to justice (c) elections management</p> <p>Baseline (2022): (a) 0 (b) 0 Target (2028): (a) 8 (b)</p> <p>Source: Third-party monitoring report, parliamentary reports; constitutional amendment. Frequency: Annual</p> <p>1.1.2. Proportion of population satisfied with last experience of public services Baseline (2023): 0 Target (2028): (a) Female: 50% (b) Male 50% Source: Third-party monitoring, UNDP-commissioned perception survey reports, Bureau of Statistics Frequency: Annual</p> <p>Output 1.2. Enhanced capacity of state and non-state actors to ensure rule of law, gender equality</p>	<p>Government of Lesotho parliament, district council, civil society organizations (CSOs), religious/traditional leaders, Electoral Commission, United Nations, donors, private sector, volunteer organizations, Academia</p>	<p>Regular: 2,500</p> <p>Other: 8,000</p>

<p>and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.</p> <p>Baseline (2022): No Target: Yes</p> <p>16.a.1. Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.</p> <p>Baseline (2022): No Target: Yes (Human Rights Commission)</p>	<p>Source: Government reports Frequency: Annual Responsibility: UNDP and Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)</p> <p>Source: Government reports/memos Frequency: Annual Responsibility: UNDP and RCO</p>	<p>and access to justice, especially for marginalized and vulnerable groups, in line with relevant international human rights obligations</p> <p>Indicators 1.2.1. Institutions with capacities to support fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations: (a) Rule of law and justice (b) Human rights Baseline (2022): 1 Target (2028): 3 Source Donor and government reports Frequency Annual</p> <p>1.2.2. Lower proportion of women and girls aged 15 and older subjected to sexual violence by an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence Baseline (2022): 37.6% Target (2028): 20% Source: Bureau of Statistics Frequency Annual</p> <p>Output 1.3. Capacities of citizens and CSOs strengthened for inclusive participation in local governance and peace structures.</p> <p>Indicators 1.3.1. Number of CSOs and volunteer organizations engaging in governance and peace structures at the local level, disaggregated by categories (women-led, youth-led, people living with disability, faith-based) Baseline (2022): 5 Target (2028): 20+ Source: Third-party, Government, CSOs, donor reports Frequency: Annual</p> <p>1.3.2. Number of CSOs and volunteer organizations satisfied with the process and outcome of national reform and peacebuilding processes Baseline (2022): Moderate Target (2028): Significant</p>		
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National priority or goal (NSDP III 2023/24-2027/28): Cross-cutting, and KPA III: Environment and climate change, and infrastructure development – energy security revolution				
UNSDCF outcome involving UNDP 1: UNSDCF outcome 2: All people living in Lesotho enjoy improved food and nutrition security, with transformed national food systems, benefiting from natural resources and green growth that is risk informed and climate resilient.				
Related Strategic Plan outcome Outcome 3. Building resilience to respond to systematic uncertainty and risks.				
Related SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 7, 11, 16				
Cooperation framework outcome indicator(s), baselines, target(s)	Data source and frequency of data collection, and responsibilities	Indicative country programme outputs (including indicators, baselines targets, source and frequency)	Major partners/ partnerships frameworks	Estimated cost by outcome (thousands of United States dollars)
<p>Indicators:</p> <p>6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services</p> <p>Baseline: 72.18% (2020) Target: 80%</p> <p>7.2.1. Renewable energy share in total final energy consumption.</p> <p>Baseline:</p>	<p>Source: World Bank, Bureau of Statistics Frequency: Annual Responsibility: UNDP, World Bank</p> <p>Source: World Bank and National Energy Survey (2020) Frequency: Every two years Responsibility: UNDP and Ministry of Natural Resources</p>	<p>Output 2.1. Capacities of key institutions, economic sector and local communities strengthened for sustainable and gender-responsive natural resources management, climate action and improved food security</p> <p>Indicators: 2.1.1. Number of public institutions, private-sector establishments, local communities, CSOs, capacitated for sustainable management of natural resources and disaster risk reduction Baseline (2022): <i>(a) Public institutions (5)</i> <i>(b) Private sector establishments (4)</i> <i>(c) Local communities (16)</i> <i>(d) CSOs (6)</i> Target (2028):</p>	<p>Department of Environment Natural Resources Ministry Ministry of Trade, Industry, Business Development and Tourism Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police</p> <p>Private sector, CSOs, and academia.</p>	<p>Regular: 1,250</p> <p>Other: 13,000s</p>

<p>Access to electricity (percentage of population) 47. 35% (2020) Target: 67% electrification, urban and rural</p> <p>13.1.1. Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction (LDRR) strategies.</p> <p>Baseline (2023): 36 (33 development strategies and 3 LDRR plans) Target: 45 (40 development strategies and 5 LDRR plans)</p> <p>15.3.1. Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area</p> <p>Baseline (2017): 14.88% (4548.13 km²) Target: 11.88% (3629.71 km²)</p>	<p>Source: Government reports Frequency: Annual Responsibility: UNDP and Ministry of Natural Resources</p> <p>Source: Lesotho Land Cover Atlas 2017 (FAO) Frequency: Every 2 years Responsibility: Ministry of Natural Resources, FAO</p>	<p>(a) <i>Public institutions</i> (10) (b) <i>Private sector establishments</i> (20) (c) <i>Local communities</i> (30) (d) <i>CSOs</i> (20) Source: Government (Sebapala project progress reports) and SGP programme database Frequency: Annual</p> <p>2.1.2. Number of people, vulnerable groups, disaggregated by gender and age, directly benefiting from sustainable natural resources management and climate-smart food production interventions Baseline (2022): 2,500 Target (2028): 4,897 Source: Government Frequency: Annual</p> <p>2.1.3. Area under improved management practices (hectares) Baseline (2021): 20,000 (2021) Target (2028): 50,000 Source: Government, project reports, Lesotho Land Cover Dashboard Frequency: Annual</p> <p>Output 2.2. Capacities of government and private institutions strengthened to promote inclusive access to renewable energy</p> <p>Indicators: 2.2.1. Number of institutions with inclusive policies and/or using renewable energy (disaggregated by public and private) Baseline (2022): Public (5), Private (0) Target (2028): Public (15), Private (20) Source: SE4ALL project reports, Bureau of Statistics Frequency: Annual</p> <p>2.2.2. Number of households and public institutions with access to clean energy (disaggregated by gender, location, public and private) Baseline (2022): 12,000 Target (2028): 20,000 Source: Bureau of Statistics, Department of Energy Frequency: Annual</p>		
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		<p>Output 2.3. Low-emission and climate-resilient objectives addressed in development plans and policies, strategies for sustainable and resilient livelihoods and green economic growth</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>2.3.1. Number of gender-sensitive and risk-informed policies, strategies and plans (a) adopted (b) in place to facilitate implementation of climate-resilient objectives and reporting. <i>Baseline (2023): (i) Development plans: 4</i> <i>(ii) Policies: 3</i> <i>(iii) Strategies: 0</i> <i>Target (2028): (i) Development plans: 10</i> <i>(ii) Policies: 6</i> <i>(iii) Strategies: 2</i></p> <p>2.3.2. Number of productive sectors with plans, strategies and policies in place to facilitate green economic growth <i>Baseline (2023):</i> <i>(i) Plans: 1;</i> <i>(ii) Policies: 3</i> <i>(iii) Strategies: 0</i> <i>Target (2028):</i> <i>(i) Plans: 4;</i> <i>(ii) Policies: 4</i> <i>(iii) Strategies: 5</i> <i>Source: Government – Nationally determined contribution and National Adaptation Plan implementation progress reports</i> <i>Frequency: Annual</i></p>		
National priority or goal (NSDP II 2023/24-2027/28): KPA 1: Growth progression – Inclusive, sustainable, and equitable growth and create private-sector lead employment				

UNSDCF outcome involving UNDP 1. UNSDCF outcome 3. People living in Lesotho, especially the most vulnerable, have equitable and sustainable access to social services, increased decent employment in an enabling business environment, and benefit from transformative economic development.				
Related Strategic Plan outcome				
Outcome 2. No one left behind, centring on equitable access to opportunities and a rights-based approach to human agency and human development				
Related SDGs: 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 17				
Cooperation framework outcome indicator(s), baselines, target(s)	Data source and frequency of data collection, and responsibilities	Indicative country programme outputs (<i>including indicators, baselines targets, source and frequency</i>)	Major partners/partnerships/frameworks	Estimated cost by outcome (thousands of United States dollars)

<p>Indicators: 1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line by sex and age. Baseline (2017/2018): 49.7% Target: 43.8%</p> <p>4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology skills, by type of skill</p> <p>Baseline (2018): 15-24 years, M-13.8% F-14.1%</p> <p>Target: 50%, male and female</p> <p>8.5.2 Unemployment rate by sex, age and persons with disabilities</p> <p>Baselines (2019): (a) National: 22.5% (b) Youth: 29.1% (c) Female: 22.4% (d) Male 22.6%</p> <p>Targets: (a) National: 20% (b) Youth: 27% (c) Female: 20% (d) Male 20%</p>	<p>Source: Bureau of Statistics/ Household Budget Survey Frequency: Annual Responsibility: Bureau of Statistics</p> <p>Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Frequency: Annual Responsibility: UNDP/RCO</p> <p>Source: Labour Force survey Frequency: Every 2 years Responsibility: Bureau of Statistics</p>	<p>Output 3.2. Business enterprises effectively participate in local and regional trade, green value chains and investment</p> <p>Indicators: 3.2.1. Number of MSMEs and tech-based start-ups supported for (a) business development services; (b) access to finance; (c) registration (disaggregated by gender, location, and vulnerability) Baseline (2022): (a) 124 (b) 0 (c) 0 Targets (2028): (a) 1,000 (b) 100 (c) 300 Source: Government reports, project reports, Acclab, UniPod Frequency: Annual</p> <p>3.2.2. Number of MSMEs with innovative and/or technology solutions that enhance product value in targeted sectors (disaggregated by gender, age, location and vulnerability) Baseline (2022): 0 Target (2028): 1,000 Source: Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), Project reports Frequency: Annual</p> <p>3.2.3. Volume and value of Lesotho exports in intra-Africa markets, including the African Continental Free Trade Area Baselines (2019): (a) (i) 39%; (b) \$253million Targets (2028): to be confirmed Source: MTI Frequency: Annual</p>	<p>Same as above</p>	<p>Regular: 3,072 Other: 5,600</p>
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		<p>Output 3.3. National and local government systems enhanced for inclusive business environment, innovative development financing and employment creation</p> <p>3.3.1. Extent to which data collection/analysis mechanisms are in place providing disaggregated data to monitor economic productivity at national and local levels: (a) Conventional data collection methods (e.g.,</p>	Same as above	

		<p>surveys); (b) Administrative reporting systems; (c) New data sources (e.g., 'big data')</p> <p>Baseline (2022): (a) 3; (b) 0 (c) 0</p> <p>Targets (2028): (a) 3, (b) 3; (c) 2</p> <p>Source: MTI, Trade Information Portal</p> <p>Frequency: Annual</p> <p>3.3.2. Number of gender-sensitive policies, regulatory and institutional frameworks developed by public and private actors to align public and private finance with the SDGs: (a) Policies; (b) Regulatory frameworks; (c) Institutional framework (RRF E3.2)</p> <p>Baselines (2022): (a) 2 (b) 0 (c) 0</p> <p>Targets (2028): (a) 5 (b) 4 (c) 4</p> <p>Source: Ministry of Finance and Development Planning</p> <p>Frequency: Annual</p> <p>3.3.3. Annual volume of innovative finance accessed/leveraged by the country for the SDGs, including climate finance, blended and private finance and thematic bonds</p> <p>Baseline (2023): 0</p> <p>Target (2028): \$2.5 million</p> <p>Source: National budget</p> <p>Frequency: Annual</p>		
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