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| REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2063  First Draft | COUNTRY REPORT  A democratic monarch. Population approximately 2million  COUNTRY: LESOTHO  FEBRUARY 2020 |

1. **Introduction**

The African Union adopted Agenda 2063 as a framework through which continental development would be pursued through the integrated approach. The AU member states and the Regional Economic Communities were then sensitized in collaboration with other Pan African Institutions to domesticate the framework by prioritizing those elements that may synchronize with national priorities. The Commission later developed the monitoring and evaluation framework through which progress would be measured, and impact evaluated.

The Government of Lesotho (GoL) was sensitised in 2016, through a consolidation workshop whose overall objective was to build upon the momentum generated from the initial domestication mission to the AU Member States. The process also ensured integrating the relevant elements of Agenda 2063 First Ten Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP) into the first generation of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP).Coincidentally, the National Development Plan was in its final year of implementation. This enabled Government to incorporate relevant elements of Agenda 2063 into the successor plan (NSDP II). The NSDP II identified four priority areas through which Basotho choose to take a development path to realise the development goals that they seek to achieve—employment, poverty eradication, shared prosperity, lasting peace and security, strengthened human capital base, and the protection of the fragile ecosystems and cultural heritage. NSDP II anchors jobs and inclusive economic growth on the four productive sectors: agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and creative industries, and technology and innovation, which will be implemented based on their respective interlinkages with other cross-cutting sectors.

1. **Key Strategies for Implementing Agenda 2063**

The national development plans reflect the aspirations of Basotho as articulated in the National Vision 2020. The previous NSDP was implemented during the turbulent period of political instability. Consequently, there was limited monitoring of the NSDP implementation, and likewise, evaluating the impact was not possible. These challenges provided lessons that informed the design of NSDP II. The NSDP II is aligned with the Agenda 2063, Agenda 2030, the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and other international commitments Lesotho is signatory to.

The Government of Lesotho has institutionalized the Development Agenda Coordination Structure. The national institutional architecture and coordination mechanism builds into the existing government structures, which also includes accountability institutions like the parliament. The Ministry of Development Planning coordinates implementation with that of Finance with the Medium Term Budget Framework, other stakeholders, including the SADC Secretariat convergence at the regional level.

Lesotho’s development environment over the period 2014-2018 has broadly been stable with economic growth averaging 2.7 per cent. This was despite the macroeconomic challenges, including decline receipts from the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU), as well as increase in unplanned expenditures resulting in build-up of arrears and a sharp decline in international reserves.

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho, has been implementing reforms to boost revenues and promoting a conducive business environment to support private sector-led growth.

1. **Country Level status on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 goals**

This section presents national performance against the set goals and targets summarized in a table.

| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | MAJOR INTERVENTIONS | MAJOR RESULTS | | MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Goal 1: A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens | | | | | |
| * Income, jobs and decent work | The country aims to create 30,000 jobs over the NSDP II period. Lesotho adopted Big Fast Results (BFR) methodology in order to achieve NSDPII Key Priority area of promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth and private sector led job creation. The BFR methodology focus mainly on strategic projects that creates jobs through private investment. 77 Private Sector projects carefully selected. | Lesotho has not progressed fast enough in creating job opportunities since 2014. The rate of unemployment increased from 25.8 percent in the second quarter of 2014/15 to 32.8 percent in the second quarter of 2015/16.The BFR initiative identified 77 Private Sector projects with potential investment value of about 20 Billion Maloti and over 30,000 jobs. | | The support is needed in provision of infrastructure that is needed to facilitate the private sector investment in the areas identified. | |
|  | The Cabinet of the Kingdom of Lesotho passed and adopted The National Youth Policy for Lesotho 2017-20130, as a yardstick and a blueprint to advance national youth development agenda in the Kingdom of Lesotho. It is a comprehensive manuscript borne out of inclusive and consultative process involving mainly youth as primary stakeholders, and to some extent other secondary stakeholders involved in youth development agenda.  Thematic Area No.7 of the same document dictates that there should be established Institutional Structures for Youth Development, inter alia National Youth Development Agency, National Youth Council, National Youth Service, National Youth Work Council etc. The availability of these structures ascertains ownership and effective administration of youth development agenda by young people. The Bill, which is expected to pave the way for establishment of these structures, is at the very advanced stage.  There is also an Implementation Plan/ Mechanism to the policy, which reflects primary players, estimated cost per activity as well timeframes for completion of each. | In terms of current programming, there are a number of programmes in place, and these include but are not limited to:  a. Social Compact: Young people are provided seed capital to start up their own businesses, or advance the existing businesses. To date fifty-nine (59) groups hailing from across the ten (10) districts have been assisted under the programme. Under the same programme, young people are also equipped with professional entrepreneurial skills training in a bid to get them to appreciate basic challenges in business cycles and possible solutions.  b. National Volunteer Corps: The programme targets graduate youth. The idea is to provide experiential learning based on academic qualifications. Young people are placed in both public and private institutions, and the initiative commenced way back in 2009, with a view to meet the need in job market which requires certain experience for anyone to be considered. The programme is also aimed at instilling patriotism among the young people as it is fundamentally a volunteer programme.  These programmes will afford the youth with much needed experience in the job market. | | Continued sensitization of the private sector to provide more internship opportunities as well as strengthened systems for transparency and accountability. | |
| * Poverty, Inequality and hunger | The country has put in place National Drought Response Plan 2019 to respond to current drought effects. |  | | Financial support to implement the Response Plan. The population at risk of food insecurity is expected to increase to 640,000 people during the period July 2019 to June 2020. The country is currently experiencing severe droughts, which might exacerbate the problem. | |
|  | The country has undertaken the poverty assessment and Poverty Assessment Report was launched in December 2019. | On the overall, poverty level has been reduced from 56.6% in 2002 to 49.7% in 2017. The food poverty declined from 34.1% to 24.1% while the poverty gap declined from 29% to 21.9% in the same period. | | There are districts that are affected more than others in particular those in rural mountains. There is a need for support to develop targeted programmes in order to address these inequalities. | |
|  | The climate-smart agriculture (CSA) concept reflects an ambition to improve the integration of agricultural development and climate responsiveness. It aims to achieve food security and broader development goals under a changing climate and increasing food demand. | Conservation agriculture (CA) is the most widely promoted climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practice, although other practices such as keyhole gardens, small-scale irrigation, organic manure application and the use of tunnels (greenhouses) are common. Traditional CSA practices such as Likoti and Machobane also exist and have potential to be integrated into modern CSA practices, hence improving acceptability among rural households. | | CSA research in Lesotho needs to be enhanced in partnership with government, private sector, international research institutes, development partners and the farmers themselves. | |
|  | In 2015 the Government of Lesotho established the Ministry of Water in order to increase efficiency in water and sanitation provision. Subsequently Water and Sanitation Strategy of 2016 was developed which operationalize the Water and Sanitation Policy of 2007. The national water and sanitation policy 2007 covers issues of access to safe drinking water. It also sets limits for the minimum distance travelled from water sources in rural areas. | The new water connections increased the number of people with access to clean and safe drinking water for both rural and urban areas to around about 77 percent of households in the country. 72 percent of them travel less than 30 minutes from water sources. This has made Lesotho rank third among 24 countries in Africa that have made huge progress in moving people from untreated surface water to higher levels of clean water services. | | Support is needed to finance the construction of large dams planned for under the Lowlands Water Supply Scheme | |
| * Modern and Liveable Habitats and Basic Quality Services | The Country developed Lesotho energy policy (2015) which is a framework to aid the strategic direction of the energy sector. | The existence of the energy policy attracted private sector investment in the energy sector in particular for generation of renewable energy. | | A support in the development of regulatory framework for off-grid solutions is required. | |
|  | The Government of Lesotho is in the process of Developing 90 MW solar plant at Ha Ramarothole in Mafeteng district, which would be fed to the national Grid in order to achieve the target of increasing electricity generation and distribution by at least 50 % by 2020. | By 2015/16, total electricity connections to the  main grid had increased to 235,000, translating to more than 200,000 households connected to electricity. | |  | |
|  | In 2013/14 the Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology established the Digital Migration Unit (DMU) to oversee the project on Migration from Analogue to Digital terrestrial television. The project is still on hold.  In 2017/18, mobile network expansion projects intended to provide mobile voice and broadcast service were completed and commissioned. The projects were funded under the e-government project. | The mobile network expansion projects commissioned in 2017/18 benefited a population of about 24,540. The number of penetration of active mobile broadband subscriptions has grown rapidly. A lot of people who started with voice only mobile subscription have switched to smartphone and tablets and these has accelerated the use of mobile broadband. Percentage of people using internet has increased from 42 in 2014/15 to 56 in 2017/18. This attributed to small recharge denominations and affordable data bundles. Most of Maseru city residential areas are serviced with Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) for wireless internet access solutions. Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL) backbone transmission infrastructure comprises of Fibre Optical Cable (FOC) and microwave power point to point links. ETL FOC covers eight districts of Lesotho. | | Support is required to carry out e-government survey to monitor status of e-governance in Lesotho. A concept paper that presents a proposed methodology including the data collection tool has been developed. It is proposed that the survey should be piloted in few ministries, agencies and parastatals. | |
| * Social Security and Protection including Persons with Disability | The Government of Lesotho has identified the need to increase the efficiency and coverage of social protection programmes to improve coordination and harmonization of legal frameworks and to consolidate social assistance programme across the country. The Government therefore, established the National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA).  The process of enacting disability specific legislation for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities is on-going. | There is social safety nets for vulnerable children and elderly. Government has established school feeding programme for students at primary level, and bursary scheme at post primary. This builds on the loan bursary schemes that is available for eligible students at tertiary institutions.  Income inequality has decreased, the bottom 10 percent of income scale has seen some growth  In 2018, the GoL successfully negotiated an increase in minimum wage in the textile sector from $85 to &138. This sector employs majority of workers in Lesotho. | | There is a need for resources to implement the model. | |
|  | * Child Grand Program in Health and Education for Stunting and Under weight control measures. |  | |  | |
| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | **MAJOR RESULTS** | | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** | |
| Goal 2: Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation | | | | | |
| * Education and STI driven Skills Revolution | The GoL through the MoET adopted the National Policy for Integrated Early Childhood Care and Development (NPIECCD) in 2013, which currently guides the provision of early childhood care and development (ECCD). The Policy presents the national initiative for a holistic child and family development. It is underpinned by respect for and involvement of parents, grandparents, adoptive parents and legal guardians in facilitating access and participation in high quality and cost effective integrated ECCD education in their communities.  Expanding IECCD complimentary approaches countrywide:  The MoET is taking measures to promote extension of parental education on integrated ECCD, focusing on home-based approaches to childcare and development. This includes the provision of learning and teaching materials as well as equipment for promoting the home-based approach. The input of com-munities, the private sector and development cooperation partners shall be specifically en-listed for these supplementary actions.  Attaching Reception Classes to every GOL/ Community primary school: In order to expand access, especially to the poorer mountain regions, the Government is piloting the attachment of reception classes to every primary school. The target is that by 2030 reception classes shall be attached to existing primary schools.  Government provides subsidy to disadvantaged children.The subsidy mainly targets children that are orphaned, disabled and neglected.  Integration of children with special needs into ECCD: The Government is undertaking a study to establish the magnitude of the challenge of addressing children with special disabilities and design the best strategies on how to integrate them into the ECCD programmes.  PRIMARY  The Government developed several laws and policies to demonstrate its commitment to the Education for All agreement. The legal and policy framework governing primary education is as follows:  1. Curriculum and Assessment Policy (CAP) is worth noting for its change from examination-oriented focus to competency-based teaching and learning. It also recognized language diversity as it added Sign Language as part of the language policy along with Sesotho and English Languages.  2. The Education Act of 2010, which declares primary education as Free and Compulsory.  3. Child Protection and Welfare Act of 2011, Section 11 which declares education as a right and outlaws any form of discrimination or barrier to facilitate children’s access to education .  4. The National School Feeding Policy which commits the Government to provide at least two meals on each school day in all public primary schools 29.  5. The Education Sector HIV and AIDS Policy commits MoET to provide psychosocial support to the education workforce including teachers and to learners infected and affected by HIV/ AIDS30.  6. Inclusive Education Policy which mandates teachers to use learners’ individual needs and hence its alignment with CAP demands integration of assessment with teaching and learning.  7. Education Language Policy will enable inclusion of children from the language minority groups, including Sign Language.  SECONDARY EDUCATION  Despite secondary education not being free, the Government of Lesotho has made a major contribution towards funding vulnerable learners including orphans. There are three innovative interventions that, the GoL took in order to make equitable access to education easier for all citizens. First, it supports vulnerable children by awarding them bursaries to enable them to participate in secondary education “where the demand for fees, books and other supplies is much higher than that of primary schools”35. Second, along with bursaries for the vulnerable, the GoL introduced a book rental scheme policy to reduce heavy burden of expensive books for parents. Lastly, the Government undertook a fees rationalization in all public secondary schools in the country to ensure that all children have access to secondary education. | Over the years, there has been a growth in both the Net Enrolment Rate (NER) and the Gross Enrolment Rate (GER). Lesotho is almost achieving universal primary education (UPE), with gender parity. | | | Funding Pre-primary education: The current allocation of only 0.3 percent of the total education budget to ECCD is inadequate and needs to be reviewed.  • Expanding access rate to ECCD to all school-age children across the country.  • Supporting, expanding and sustaining school feeding programme to pre-primary education is one of the critical strategies that will increase school participation.  • Strengthening quality assurance in pre-primary programmes, quality of teachers, facilities and increasing access nationally, particularly for the poorest and those in rural areas.  • Bridging gender gaps in pre-primary education: male enrolment in pre-primary education is lagging behind. However, this varies from district to district.  Improving quality of teaching and learning outcomes, particularly in relation to level of spending.  • Improving efficiency in financial management. About 92 percent of the education budget in 2018/19 was allocated to recurrent items, primarily salaries. This reflects a spending imbalance between other recurrent expenditure items and capital expenditure and makes it difficult to invest in other inputs to increase the quality of education.  • Addressing regional and wealth quintile disparities in enrolment, learning and completion.  • Effectively implementing inclusive education policy to increase access and quality for learners with disabilities.  •Addressing push factors such as teenage pregnancy, child marriage and violence that limit progression and subsequently affect availability of skilled, educated and health productive workforce.  • Supporting and increasing male participation in secondary education particularly those in poor districts.  •Supporting and increasing secondary school attendance in rural areas particularly in foothills and mountains where attendance is 41 percent and 37 percent respectively.  •Revamping secondary education through revision of CAP in view of skills sets that address the fourth industrial revolution and properly aligned with programmes at TVET and tertiary levels that are equally relevant.  •Allocating more resources for effective management of secondary education. More re-sources are needed to increase access at the secondary level particularly for the most disadvantaged including students with disabilities.  •Strengthen management and monitoring of bursary scheme for vulnerable learners to in-crease their participation at secondary education level. |
| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | **MAJOR RESULTS** | | | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** |
| Goal 3: Healthy and Well-Nourished Citizens | | | | | |
| * Health and Nutrition | The GoL has put in place Food Security and Nutrition Policy 2017 and has proposed Food and Nutrition Strategy.  The Zero Hunger Strategic Review Report 2018 provides multi-dimensional causes and consequences of malnutrition. | Lesotho with support from the UN finalised the Lesotho Food and Nutrition Policy, and the cost of hunger in Africa Study (Lesotho Chapter) which together with the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN), were launched in 2016 by His Majesty King Letsie III who is an AU Nutrition Champion and FAO Special Ambassador for Nutrition. | | | There is need to improve quality and upscale infant and child nutrition programmes, nutrition sensitive agriculture, school feeding, nutrition assessment tools, sanitation and hygiene.  As well as effective implementation and monitoring of Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH) initiative |
|  | The Lesotho National Health Policy was reviewed to align with the SDGs and other global, regional and national strategies. In order to achieve universal health coverage with a vision of a healthy population living a quality and productive life. | A framework was developed for implementation.  Essential health services are free and others subsidized to enable access to health by citizens. | | |  |
|  | The National Aids Commission (NAC) has been resuscitated in 2015 after being disbanded in 2011. NAC provides leadership and coordination of all HIV and AIDS activities in the country. Lesotho is committed to fast track the 90-90-90 targets by 2020, hence the implementation of test and treat strategy. The country has also implemented the Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC). | The country has developed the National HIV AIDS Strategic Plan 2018/19-2022/23.  The introduction of Antiretroviral Therapy in the early 2000‘s and the adoption of Test and Treat in 2016 has had a direct effect on AIDS related deaths, from a peak of 12,000 deaths in 2005 to the current 4,900 deaths in 2017.  In the last National HIV & AIDS Strategic Plan (2013 – 2018) Lesotho adopted the 90–90–90 targets, where according to the LePHIA (2017) the country is now at 77-90-88 amongst people living with HIV aged 15 to 59 years, with,  77.2 percent (81.5 percent females and 71.0 percent males) reporting knowing their HIV status;  90.2 percent (90.6 percent females and 89.4 percent males) who know their HIV status reporting current use of ART; and 88.2 percent (88.3 percent females and 88.4 percent males) of those reporting current use of ART virally suppressed.  The proportion of males aged 15-49 who report having been medically circumcised is 23 percent, and 13.8 percent for the age group 50-59, against the National Strategic Plan (NSP) target of 64 percent. The Annual Joint Review Report (2016) found that only 28 percent of males 15-39 had undertaken VMMC. These figures fall far below the threshold to achieve significant population level impact. | | | The VMMC program is over-dependent on donor support, with inadequate MOH ownership. There is need to strengthen MOH capacities. |
| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | **MAJOR RESULTS** | | | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** |
| Goal 4: Transformed Economies and Job Creation | | | | | |
| * Sustainable and Inclusive Growth | Growth and employment is expected to rebound significantly in the next 5 years through the adoption of BFR approach that has yielded 77 private sector jobs with investment of USD 1.5 billion and creation of over 30,000 jobs in NSDP II priority sectors: Commercial Agriculture; Tourism and Creative Industry; Manufacturing and Technology and Innovation.  Lesotho has completed Decent Country Programme III. | Lesotho has experienced lower economic growth since 2015 with GDP growth at 1.2 percent and GDP per capita at 0.5 percent. These is due to both external and internal factors: low domestic investment and FDI; slow growth in private sector particularly MSMEs; changing climatic conditions; slow economic growth in South Africa as well as global oil prices and financial challenges. | | | Large informal sector undermines enforcement of Labour Rights. Need to implement transition strategies from Informal to Formal Sector. |
| * STI driven Manufacturing/Industrialization and Value Addition | Lesotho’s manufacturing sector is based on textiles, garments and footwear. It is an industry dominated by female labour and large foreign firms. The GoL’s is to diversify and deepen manufacturing. In recent years there has been diversification into other products like electronics, food and beverages as well as cement.  There is also an initiative to establish the Special Economic Zone at Ha-Tikoe and Ha-Belo industrial estates.  Wool and Mohair production is another successful industry very close to Basotho’s hearts. In order to enable greater investment at home and add more value to farmer’s returns there have been initiatives to cut out the middle-man for wool and mohair auctioning to take place within Lesotho’s boundaries. | In 2013, more than 45,000 people were employed in Manufacturing of whom 40,000 were female.  Lesotho has attracted a significant number of manufacturing investments from South Africa and Asia  The Lesotho wool and mohair scouring plant was launch and opened at Thaba-Bosiu in the Maseru district. | | | There is shortage of fabric knitting mills and dye houses resulting in dependence of fabric coming from China.  Need support in initiatives to improve the Investment Climate by fast tracking work permits, leasing land for private sector investments and pursue free preferential trade deals for Lesotho’s products to penetrate different markets |
| * Economic Diversification and Resilience | Through financial assistance by World Bank in Private Sector Competitiveness and Economic Diversification project to support commercial fruit production in Lesotho, 41.5 hectares has been utilized for the three (3) sites of Likhetlane (15.2 ha), Maoamafubelu (15.6 ha) and Likhothola (10.7 ha). Trees at these farms are at different stages of development whereby Likhothola is on the 6th leaf production while the other two (2) farms; Maoamafubelu and Likhetlane on the 3rd leaf production. The three farms continue to adhere to social and environmental safeguards protocols as per Good Agricultural Practices. | Apart from successful wool and mohair industry. There is more evidence of diversification in the agricultural sector. There is growth in commercial production of fruits (peaches, apples and cherries), medicinal cannibas as well as salmon farming which will be commencing soon. | | | Need support in initiatives to improve the Investment Climate by fast tracking work permits, leasing land for private sector investments and pursue free preferential trade deals for Lesotho’s products to penetrate different markets |
| * Hospitality and Tourism | Lesotho tourism sector has potential for creating decent work for the youth and accelerate economic growth. The Government therefore increased budget allocations for the ministry of Tourism to invest in enabling environment that will attract local, regional and international investors to the sector. | The tourism sector is estimated to have supported over 20,000 jobs in 2013, with 4,737 people estimated to be employed directly by the tourism industry. The accommodation industry accounted for the majority of employment, estimated at 2,969 jobs. The food and beverages industry was the second largest employer, accounting for 733 job. Lesotho will be hosting the African Union Region 5 Under-20 Games in 2020. Construction of infrastructure for accommodation and sports facilities has begun. The same facilities will be used for African Youth Games in 2022. | | |  |
| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | **MAJOR RESULTS** | | | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** |
| Goal 5: Modern Agriculture for increased Productivity and Production | | | | | |
| * Agriculture Productivity and Production | The Government of Lesotho is implementing the Intensive Crop Production Programme which aims to increase cereal crop production and productivity in the country to reduce food insecurity. The programme has two major components; subsidy of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizer and pesticides,) and mechanical operation (ploughing) and the agricultural research component. One other major intervention is implementation of the Smallholder Agriculture Development Project (SADP). The project started in 2011/12 and aims to increase productivity, improve produce quality and increase marketed output among programme beneficiaries in the Lesotho's smallholder farmers in the agriculture and food sector.  There is also Wool and Mohair Promotion Project (WAMPP). The Project started in 2015/16 and aims to boost economic and climate resilience of poor, smallholder wool and mohair producers, as leading export commodity in the country by enabling smallholder livestock producers to generate higher incomes and have sustainable livelihoods. | ICP assists above 10,000 farmers annually in subsidizing inputs and mechanical operations at 50%.  Through SADP a total of 972 grants have been awarded to registered agricultural business and above 74,000 farmers have benefited.  Major areas of support included piggery production, poultry production, protected agriculture production through tunnels and shade nets and processing and fruit drying. There has been  51% participation of women and the project is also  Developing Lesotho Irrigation Master Plan and Investment Framework. WAMPP has established a breeding programme of Merino sheep and Angora Goats to reduce dependency of importing breeds.A total of 966 ewes, 6 rams, 200 owes and 6 bucks have been procured to be used for breeding quality sheep and goats for farmers in country. The Project also Capacitates and provides financial support to youth and women in designing wool and mohair products | | | Build capacity for agriculture extension officers. |
| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | **MAJOR RESULTS** | | | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** |
| Goal 6: Blue/Ocean economy for accelerated economic growth | | | | | |
| * Marine resources and Energy | **Not Applicable to Lesotho as an inland country.** |  | | |  |
| Goal 7: Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities | | | | | |
| * Biodiversity, Conservation and Sustainable natural resource Management | In the past ten years, Lesotho has experienced successive climate shocks such as recurrent droughts, dry spells and floods. From 2015, the climate change effects became more frequent every 2-3 years compared to before.Rainfall together with winter snowfalls provides an estimated 5.5 billion cubic metres of water annually and renewable groundwater resources of some 340 million cubic metres per year.  The funding, which was mobilised under the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) of the GEF, is expected to address constraints related to increasing populations in the peri-urban areas; economic growth and higher demand; geographical isolation; lack of public utilities and regulation; high cost of water provision; and the water stress caused by increasing climate change and variability. The project was concept was approved in 2017 and it is presently awaiting implementation approval. |  | | | Efforts are needed to reverse environmental  degradation and desertification in order to preserve Lesotho for future generations.  It is critical to facilitate spatial planning that includes analysis and recommendations on growth pole developments  and develop capacity to produce accurate and up-to-date maps. Chapter 9.5 further addresses issues related to urban planning and urban sprawl. |
|  | The Long-term Water and Sanitation Strategy was completed in 2014. It was formulated to enhance the implementation of Water Act, and the Water and Sanitation Policy (2007).  Draft Water Quality Guidelines and Standards and the development of the draft national water quality guidelines and standards was completed in 2013. Development of a Hydraulic Network Analysis Model incorporating optimized operating costs, Integrated Asset Management for Maseru and areas served by the Metolong Dam was completed in 2013. | The Letšeng-la-Letsie wetland (Plate 2-5) in the Quthing district was designated as a RAMSAR site by the Government as part of its accession to the RAMSAR Convention.  Construction of Metolong dam under Lesotho Lowlands Bulk water Supply Scheme was completed in 2015. The Metolong Dam is 73m high, 53MCM roller compacted concrete dam, constructed for bulk water supply to areas that include Berea, Maseru, Roma, Mazenod and Morija.  This dam is expected to meet domestic and industrial requirements for approximately 40 years. | | |  |
|  | The Maseru Master Plan Readiness Study has been completed. This study highlighted the need for development of  the National Urban Policy and the National Spatial Development Framework. With the current urbanisation rate,  these frameworks will be important in guiding the spatial distribution of people, resources, as well as land use and management. | Lesotho has begun the New Urban Agenda Talks. In commemorating the UN Habitat Day 2018, Lesotho held a multi-stakeholder dialogue on Municipals Waste Management. This was followed by Lesotho National Urban Forum whose main objectives were: to consolidate the country’s position on sustainable urban development; advance related policies; and formulate a national implementation framework for the New Urban Agenda. Outcomes of these deliverables will be shared at the tenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) to be held in Abu Dhabi in February 2020. | | | Lesotho’s Urbanisation (which is estimated at 34 percent in 2020) has already resulted in expansive unplanned development of low densities and sprawling suburbs which are extremely expensive to service with basic infrastructure. These developments have often encroached on agricultural land which currently stands at about 9 percent of total land cover. |
| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | **MAJOR RESULTS** | | | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** |
| Goal 8: United Africa (Federal or Confederate) | | | | | |
| * Political and Economic Integration | Lesotho is a member of WTO, AU, SADC and SACU with several bilateral agreements.These regional and unilateral trade agreements shape Lesotho’s trade with the rest of the world and offer huge markets for Lesotho’s products. The offers which are minimally exploited. | Lesotho has utilized available trade opportunities as is one of the leading exporters of textiles to the USA through the AGOA initiative. Attempts have also been done to expand the export base as demonstrated by increasing exports to the Republic of South Africa and the European Market. | | | Establish an appropriate institutional infrastructure and capacity  to participate effectively in the negotiations on regional integration, and to develop trade agreements with third  parties and other international policy making processes, such as the World Trade Organization and the UN system. |
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| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | **MAJOR RESULTS** | | | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** |
| Goal 9: Key Continental Financial and Monetary Institutions established and Functional | | | | | |
| * Financial and Monetary Institutions | ***Not Country Specific*** |  | | |  |
| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | **MAJOR RESULTS** | | | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** |
| Goal 10: World Class Infrastructure Criss-crosses Africa | | | | | |
| Communications and Infrastructure Connectivity | Readiness to implement trans African Highway Missing Link. This flagship project is not implemented in Lesotho as Lesotho has since been removed from the network of trans African Highway Missing Link. | |  | - | |
|  | Readiness for in country connectivity to the High Speed Railway Network. Lesotho is currently not implementing this flagship project because of the terrain of the country. It was observed that it would be more expensive through the established network as it would need tunnels through the mountains | | . | - | |
|  | Lesotho has signed a protocol in December 2018 opening up skies for African countries to fly and land in our Country. Single African Air Transport Market (SAATMA). | | Skies fully open to African Airlines, however, only one Agency (Airlink) is operating in Lesotho. | , There is need for infrastructural investment to improve unsatisfactory conditions of Moshoeshoe I International Airport. | |
|  |  | |  | Only one Agency (Airlink) is operating in Lesotho even after opening the skies, this is probably because of unsatisfactory conditions in Moshoeshoe I International Airport. | |
|  | EASSy is an acronym for the Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System, which is an undersea fibre optic cable system, which runs from South Africa to Sudan and connects various countries including Lesotho to the rest of the world for voice and data services. | |  |  | |
|  | The Government of Lesotho is in the process of Developing 90 MW solar plant at ha Ramarothole in Mafeteng district, which will be fed to the national Grid in order to achieve the target of increasing electricity generation and distribution by at least 50 % by 2020. | | The project is still in its infancy stage | A support in the development of regulatory framework for off-grid solutions is required. | |
| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | | **MAJOR RESULTS** | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** | |
| Goal 11: Democratic Values ,practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched | | | | | |
| * Democratic Values and Practices | Lesotho has a number of independent institutions/offices in place and are operational. They include  In 2015, the Government rescinded on its moratorium on issuing of broadcasting licenses.  In 2018 Lesotho enacted the National Reforms Dialogue Act that provided a legal basis for initiation of dialogue and implementation of the National Reforms Agenda. The following areas are covered in this Agenda; Constitutional, Parliamentary, Security, Judicial, Public Sector, Economic and Media. | | Available data indicates that Basotho’s perception is that corruption had decreased between 2014 and 2017  The number of radio stations increased from 13 to 24 with majority being private and community radio stations.  National Public consultations have been completed and thematic reports produced. In 2019, the Parliament has enacted the law that establishes the National Reforms Authority that will be responsible for management, coordination and leadership of the Reforms process. | Strengthening of the independence and capacities of these institutions to perform their duties effectively and efficiently  Support is needed to implement the Media Reforms.  Support is needed to meet the financial and technical resources of the Authority. | |
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| Goal 12: Capable Institutions and Transformed Leadership in place at all levels | | | | | |
| * Institutions and Leadership | Lesotho has key governance institutions such as Directorate on Corruption (DCEO) and Economic Offences; Office of the Ombudsman, and that are operational | | Available data indicates that Basotho’s perception is that corruption had decreased between 2014 and 2017 | Support in strengthening technical and financial capacities as well as legal frameworks. | |
|  | Since 2017, the Public Accounts Committee proceedings have been aired live on both state media and private media | |  | There is a need for creation of laws that addresses recovery of lost funds. To curb erosion of public funds to corruption. | |
| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | | **MAJOR RESULTS** | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** | |
| Goal 13: Peace, Security and Stability are Preserved | | | | | |
| * Maintenance and Restoration of Peace and Security | The Government in partnership with UNDP formulated the Lesotho National Dialogue and Stability Project. The focus is on initial inclusive and participatory dialogue to build consensus and urgent stabilization measures in the security sector.  The comprehensive national reforms are in the following thematic areas: Constitutional, Parliamentary, Security, Judicial, Public Sector, Economic and Media.  Lesotho has established specialised courts such as children’s Court and Commercial Court. | | The National Reforms dialogue process led to two successful National Leaders Forum. It Also resulted in the declaration on National Dialogue Comprehensive Reforms by the political leadership established of 15 member National Dialogue Planning Committee with a functional secretariat to steer up the dialogue process. The major groups including women, youth, children and elders are included in the process. The groups produced common positions articulating their positions on the Reforms.  These positions were presented in the second plenary held on 26 to 27 November 2019. | Support for implementation of the National Reforms Agenda. | |
| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | | **MAJOR RESULTS** | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** | |
| Goal 14: A Stable and Peaceful Africa | | | | | |
| * Institutional Structure For AU Instruments on Peace and Security | ***Not Country Specific*** | |  |  | |
| Goal 15: A Fully Functional and Operational African Peace and Security Architecture | | | | | |
| * Operationalisation of APSA Pillars | Since 2015 constitutional, parliamentary, judiciary, public and security sector reforms have  been a topical issue both internally and externally. A civil society organisation,  Development for Peace Education (DPE) currently soliciting citizen voices on the reforms  initiated meetings with leaders of other similar initiatives namely Lesotho Council of NGOs, Justice and Peace Commission of Lesotho Catholics Bishop Conference(JCCP), Transformation Resource Centre (TRC), Christian Council of Lesotho(CCL), Media Institute for  Southern Africa Lesotho chapter, Department of Political and Administrative Studies and experts from other departments of the National University of Lesotho to discuss possible  ways of collaboration. | | Robust internal engagements led to a consensus that the parties  should work together to ensure that their different individual initiatives and those of others which may still come are channeled into a framework that will ensure that all ideas  generated become part of reforms debate. | The reforms process should be people and not government driven and  government should not be allowed to kill the process by unnecessary and  excessive dominance.  There is a need for a concerted effort by non-state actors to define the process which would best suit the Lesotho situation and present it to different actors for endorsement and execution. | |
| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | | **MAJOR RESULTS** | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** | |
| Goal 16: African Culture Renaissance is pre-eminent | | | | | |
| * Values and Ideas of Pan Africanism | The Lesotho Language policy developed to preserve the Basotho culture by education Youth in Primary and Secondary schools. | |  |  | |
| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | | **MAJOR RESULTS** | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** | |
| Goal 17: Full Gender Equality in all Spheres of life | | | | | |
| * Women Empowerment | Lesotho has relatively high population living in poverty. The poor women headed households are vulnerable to food insecurity. After enactment of Land Act 2010 which repealed legal impediments and barriers to women’s land rights. The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) intervention resulted in the full legal recognition of women. Women can now acquire, inherit and dispose property and land in their own right. | | The conversion of land tenure from customary to registered leases has created opportunities for women to secure land. Before the Land Act 2010, 73 percent of leases were registered to men only. Women now hold 34 percent of leases and joint registration by men and women is 25 percent. | Gender- based violence presents a major obstacle for women in Lesotho to realize their fundamental human, sexual and reproductive rights. | |
| * Violence and discrimination against women and girls | Enactment of the Children Protection and Welfare Act (CPWA) in 2011 was a crucial step in addressing issues of abuse, exploitation, trafficking, violence and torture against children. In 2013/14 the Ministry of Social Development with support from development partners commissioned a child protection system, mapping and assessment exercise in order to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, obstacles and gaps in Lesotho’s child protection system. | |  |  | |
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| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | | **MAJOR RESULTS** | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** | |
| Goal 18: Engage and Empower Youth and Children | | | | | |
| * Youth Empowerment and Children’s rights | The GoL has instituted commendable policies, strategies and programmes framed in the National Youth Policy 2017-2030. A framework to empower youth to develop social, economic, cultural and political skills.  In 2018, the country developed Decent Work Country Programme 2019-2030 which is aligned to NSDP II. It covers issues on promotion and protection of workers.  Violence against Children Study  Adolescents Health Corners  Dreams Program | | Youth unemployment increased from 31.2 percent in the second quarter of 2014/15 to 35.8 percent in the second quarter of 2015/16. The high rate of unemployment among youth is mainly due to limited job opportunities in the private sector and the mismatch between skills demand and supply. |  | |
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| AGENDA 2063 GOALS | **MAJOR INTERVENTIONS** | | **MAJOR RESULTS** | **MAJOR AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED** | |
| Goal 19: Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence | | | | | |
| * Africa’s place in global affairs | ***Not Country Specific*** | |  |  | |
| Goal 20: Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development | | | | | |
| * Capital Markets | The GoL initiated the Maseru Securities Market (MSM) which is executed by the Central Bank of Lesotho. The MSM was established by law in 2014 through the publication of Capital Markets Regulations of 2014. These regulations and other regulatory instruments provide for the operation of a market that is fair, orderly, secure, and transparent. It provides for investor protection and the licensing of all market players. | | The MSM was launched in 2016 and the trading platform has adopted a dual method; an off-floor trading and an open outcry process where brokers trade on a designated place. As the platform matures and activities increase, it is envisaged that trading will be automated and this will open an opportunity for linking to other SADC stock exchanges.  However, there is slow take-off of the market. |  | |
| * Fiscal System and Public Sector Revenue | The GoL has put extra efforts to expand the tax base, which is however off set by decline in SACU revenue receipts since 2013.  Other key efforts of domestic resource mobilisation include increase of VAT tax from 14 percent to 15 percent.  The GoL is also developing fiscal adjustment reform programme to regain sustainability, including measures to contain the wage bill of around 45 percent of GDP in 2017.  Polihali Dam is under construction, the dam and transfer tunnel will be preceded by the construction of advance infrastructure works, including roads, bridges, housing and telecommunications. Phase II has been completed, the amount of water supplied to South Africa through the LHWP will progressively increase from 780-million cubic metres yearly to about 1.27-billion cubic metres a year over the following 20 years. | | While grants to the Government has slightly increased from 4 percent of GDP to 7 percent of GDP between 2010 and 2013, it dropped by about six percentage points between 2013 and 2015 and roughly stayed constant since then. Domestic tax revenue and other revenue remained constant about 20 percent and 5 percent of GDP respectively.  The IMF has predicted that Lesotho’s public debt to GDP will reach 47 percent in 2022. | Most of the Government budget is devoted to recurrent expenditure and little devoted to capital development expenditure. This compromise the achievement of development agenda.  Support needed on strengthening capacities on debt sustainability issues | |
| * Development Assistance | The Government of Lesotho’s effort to mobilise resources is hampered by decline in its main sources of revenue thus, the tax revenue as well as other sources particularly the Foreign Direct Investment and the Official development Assistance.  Lesotho has also embarked on several legal and institutional reforms in order to address different forms of illicit financial flows (IFF). To mention a few: The Directorate of Corruption and Economic Affairs (DCEO), Auditor General, Financial Intelligent Unit and Parliament Accounts Committee. | |  |  | |

1. **Challenges and Opportunities,**

Domestication of the socioeconomic aspirations of Agenda 2063 is straightforward as it resonates with majority of the challenges countries are faced with. However, it is not easy to domesticate as it may require revisions of national laws of which parliament programmes may not be accommodative. This also apply to other regional or global agendas. These kind of changes are driven by political commitments led by the Heads of State.

1. **Key Lessons learnt**

Good reporting depends solely on reliable data. The quantitative indicators are also dependent on the availability of recent and relevant surveys, which may align with the national priorities. Furthermore, national reporting should harmonise with requirements of other international organisations, such as the UN system present in member states and the RECs. This is to avoid fatigue and minimize resource requirements that could be availed for key priority areas.

1. **Conclusion**

Agenda 2063 reporting should be coordinated within member states, and initiated by the relevant sectors for ownership and accountability. This will also enable production of a single reporting process that covers all the constituents, and communicated through the AU structures to the Apex body.

1. **Annexes**
2. **Reporting Template**