



UNDP LESOTHO

Annual Report 2022



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UNDP works in 170 countries and territories to eradicate poverty while protecting the planet. We help countries develop strong policies, skills, partnerships and institutions so they can sustain their progress.

UNDP Lesotho works in the Kingdom of Lesotho helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. We help Lesotho to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capacities and build resilience in order to sustain development results.

We are committed to building on and sharing with our wide range of partners, to maximize the impact of development initiatives of the Government of Lesotho and other partners.

FOREWORD BY DR. JACQUELINE OLWEYA - UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE



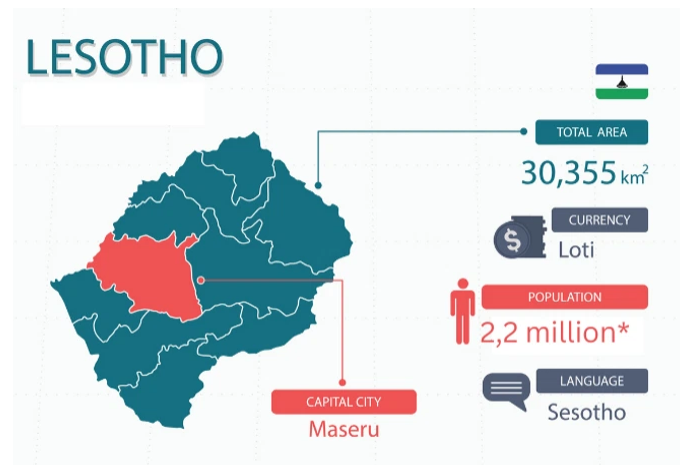
Lesotho continued to reel from the twin impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the War in Ukraine, in some cases, reversing development gains. Unemployment rate has stagnated at 22.5%, and 32.4% of 2,200,000 population live below the poverty line. Within this context, UNDP Lesotho continues to strive to support the Government and people of Lesotho to improve their development trajectory and empower the lives of Basotho through its various programmes and projects.

True, we cannot reach all the people but through the partnerships we have built, and continue to build with development partners, private sector, academia and civil society; we (UNDP) remain committed to help Basotho and the Government of Lesotho to achieve its goals as stated in the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) II and the “Lesotho We Want” aspirations of the Multi-stakeholder National Dialogue Plenary II Report of 2019.

The 2022 annual report, thus highlights some of the major initiatives which UNDP Lesotho has embarked upon to improve the lives of the people and build more resilient governance structures. You see these results through the six signature solutions which are UNDP’s integrated and cross-cutting approaches to development. These solutions are robust and integrated ways of putting our best work into achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Lesotho Development

Context



*UNFPA

UNDP Lesotho summary of activities

Leave no one behind

22.5%
Unemployment rate

32.4%
People living below the poverty line

0.514
Human Development Index (HDI)



Over 1,200 people provided with direct awareness and knowledge on clean energy technologies through nation-wide road shows.



5,160 people capacitated to diversify their livelihoods through nature-based solutions and 662 hectares put under sustainable use.



35 women political leaders trained in effective political participation. Women's representation in the National Assembly increased from 22 to 25% following 2022 elections.



344 smallholder farmers consulted in policy-making and in public-private dialogues to facilitate networking, knowledge sharing and market linkages.



Youth peace committees integrated into 20 peace building committees and empowered through conflict mediation training.



The Constitutional Omnibus Bill 2022 comprising of 98 amendments completed and 36 pieces of legislation in seven thematic sectors also completed.



M150 million (\$10 million) value of the investments secured from private sources to develop mini-grids and clean energy centres in rural and remote areas.



Digital solutions enabled in various sectors including: Lehokela app., Bophelo-ka-Mosebelets'i app., Waste Management Information Management System, and 'Marakeng online marketing solution.



The National Security Sector Policy and Strategy validated by the national stakeholders and major legislation (Acts) governing security sectors reviewed.



18 women business leaders capacitated to run sustainable, resilient, and profitable enterprises and provided with free e-commerce platform for product marketing.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



UNDP Signature Solutions



Signature Solution 1: Poverty and Inequality



Reviews of the Vision 2020, Voluntary National Review 2022 and AU2063 suggests that Lesotho has marginally improved on its critical development indicators in the past decade with unemployment at 22%, (female 38%, youth at 40%) and poverty at 34% (WB). More than 60% of the populace depends on agriculture for livelihood and economic engagement. The sector performance was poor and thus exacerbating poverty and vulnerability among the poor and the most vulnerable.



Lesotho has adopted the roadmap on the Integrated national financing framework (INFF) for aligning government expenditures to development priorities, including measures to address the pervasive poverty and inequalities, ensure equity and inclusive economic opportunities and resources mobilization. Lesotho has also streamlined mechanisms for partnership development, including the civil society organizations, by leveraging the technical and financial instruments in UNDP to develop the public partnership policy and CSO engagement policies.



In the execution of the INFF, Lesotho is developing the SDG Financing Strategy aimed at identifying policy and institutional mechanisms and tools to identify, mobilize and manage development financing resources. Through UNDP's convenor role, the government has established platforms for national dialogues and engagement with the public, private and social sectors to ensure inclusive development and oversight mechanisms of the Strategy.

UNDP supported the capacity building of 38 public officers to model the development and growth path of Lesotho using the Computerised General Equilibrium model and econometric techniques for development of the national development plan.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition collaborated with academia to roll out the 'Marakeng e-market platform for farmers to promote visibility and market access for agriproducts.

Increasingly, the performance of the private sector remains the priority of the government. MSMEs employ over 100,000 people but remain highly vulnerable to external shocks such as Covid-19 due to absence of safety nets and limited opportunities to access finance. To mobilize and ascertain private sector participation in economic development, Lesotho has initiated a database on MSMEs.

Lesotho Innovation Pod is being established, as a platform for harvesting academic and community innovations to influence development. This builds upon collaborative innovations with the academia and youth.





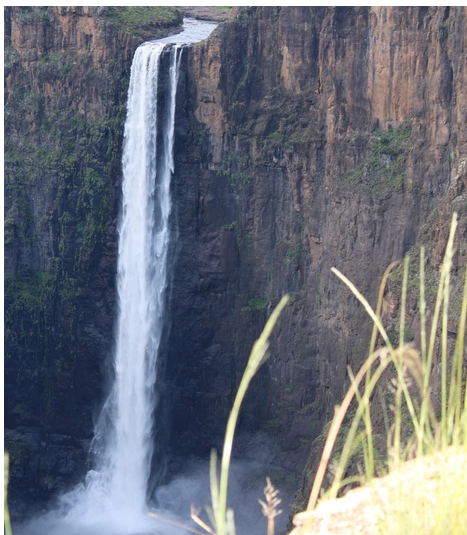
The capacity of the government to mobilize private sector participation in economic development was enhanced through the SDG investor map process which matches private sector investments to development opportunities to accelerate SDGs achievement. By completing a private sector capabilities assessment, Lesotho has information about the capabilities and conditions necessary to unlock private sector participation. Data was collected from 172 businesses across 30 private sector networks to establish a foundational overview of local private sector actors and their current capabilities to enable curation of appropriate business models for identified investment opportunities.



A total of 469 smallholder farmers participated in policy-making and public-private dialogues facilitating networking, knowledge sharing and market linkages. UNDP financially supported these farmers in the Mophale's hoek district who have shared their policy perspectives and aspirations on improving agricultural productivity and enhancing government support to the sector, led by the Lesotho National Farmers Union.



Lesotho is developing a digital national photobank of her tourism attraction sites with an aim of unlocking the economic and business potential of the tourism sector. The initiative is harnessing the capacities of the general public and tourism stakeholders through crowd sourcing local knowledge, information and data on identified tourist sites. UNDP is collaborating with the government, tourism private sector, and two higher education institutions to document, market and raise awareness on the tourist sites.



18 women business leaders were capacitated to run sustainable, resilient, and profitable business enterprises through a pilot programme named HerEmpire. The objective of the initiative is to ensure that women-led enterprises improve their business capacities, transform into iconic business frameworks pioneered by women and are able to compete at the highest level of service provision, including participation in public procurement processes. This is the first cohort of women-led enterprises. UNDP also secured partnerships with Econet Telecom Lesotho and Standard Lesotho Bank to build capacities for development of enterprises and local value chains.



UNDP partnered with the relevant government line ministries to promote sustainable management of range resources and is supporting a number of income generating activities including beekeeping to diversify means of livelihoods. To ensure acceptable quality standards, UNDP partnered with the National University of Lesotho to carry out honey analysis (physico-chemical properties) from samples of UNDP supported farms.



Signature Solution 2: Governance



Through UNDP's technical support, policy advisory, and high-level engagement with government and stakeholders, the 11th Amendment to the Constitution Act, 2022 was approved by Cabinet, passed by Parliament, and assented to by the King. Although later annulled by the courts, it remains a milestone in Lesotho's transformation into a stable nation. EU also supported the reforms process.



The Constitutional amendments done through the reforms process included 36 pieces of legislation in seven thematic sectors: Constitutional; Parliamentary; Security; Justice; Public Service; Economic and Media Reforms. The reforms process and sustained national debate contributed towards stabilizing the country, which for the first time in two decades had a parliament lasting a full term and only two governments with a smooth transition. To sustain the momentum gained, high-level policy engagements resulted in the establishment of the National Transitional Office on Reforms to continue providing technical support and coordination of the national reforms processes.



To enhance citizen participation in national processes, UNDP in collaboration with key stakeholders generated key priorities for capacity development that continues to improve citizen engagement in the implementation of the national reforms. The consensus building process led by the CSOs resulted in an agreement in Senate and National Assembly to call Parliament to deal with the 11th Constitutional Amendment.



Through sustained technical support, policy advisory, and financial support, the role of Civil Society, Faith-Based Groups, Women-led organizations, the youth, the elderly, people with disabilities and other special interest groups as alternative voices of the citizens and social leaders in Lesotho has been amplified and elevated in national policy processes. Previously, these groups participated in national policy processes by invitation. This has been reversed and their role has been recommended to be anchored in law.



The National Security Policy and Strategy document was developed in line international human rights commitments and obligations of Lesotho with the support of the Lesotho National Security Sector Reforms for Peacebuilding Project. Capacity building of the oversight institutions such as the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Human Rights, Police Complaints Authority, Office of the Ombudsman and Police Inspectorate was also carried out. The project was facilitated with the support of EU.





All political parties agreed and signed a pre-election pledge committing to comply with prevailing electoral laws, code of conduct, and peaceful elections. This exercise was done in collaboration with the Christian Council of Lesotho. The peaceful election and the acceptance of the outcome is attributed to the prior commitment of the political parties. The African Union, EUEOM, SADC and Commonwealth missions concluded that the election was well run, free and fair, despite financial shortcomings.

The outcome of the 2022 national elections resulted in an increase of women representation from 22% to 25% partly due to interventions aimed at mobilizing women's participation in politics and leadership. Training of women candidates improved the capacity of women to organize and campaign for elections and UNDP facilitated peer learning for 35 women political leaders from across the political spectrum on claiming political space within political institutions and the political landscape through peer exchange with female political leaders in the sub-region.



The National Human Rights Commission has not been established. However, significant progress was made including the development of the Human Rights Commission Bill and the provision of such body in the proposed 11th Amendment to the Constitution. The new Government has committed to continue with the national reforms process amongst which is the establishment of the Human Rights Commission.

Significant progress on human rights aspects of the LNSSRP project was made, including training-of-trainers across the four security agencies, the development of a human rights training manual for each agency, and a peer exchange for representatives from the four agencies to other African countries. This has contributed to human rights awareness and procedures in the security institutions and was bolstered by the peer exchange of the oversight institutions.

In support of the reforms of the judiciary, the Judiciary Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027 was drafted including a specific Gender and Judicial Strategy for same period to enable enhancement of female participation in the higher courts, which is below 30%. In additionally, the civil case management system assessment was undertaken with recommendations for improved case management and access to justice.

Technical support was extended to IEC for the 2022 election. This included restructuring of the ICT and election management system by embedding experts at the IEC to bolster capacity. Election administration experts were also embedded resulting in improved administration and management of the registration as well as the conduct of elections. The electoral dispute resolution tribunal was strengthened through technology and capacity building resulting in the quick resolution of disputes.



Signature Solution 3: Resilience



Community peace and security was enhanced at local level through the pilot Ribaneng Peace Committee Initiative. The initiative was supported by UNDP in partnership with the Catholic Commission on Justice and Peace and the Christian Council of Lesotho. The initiative benefited from conflict mediation training and integration of youth as peace agents. Training of over 100 youth peace committees members of Mafeteng and Botha-Bothe districts was carried out by end 2022.



The Lesotho 2019 'Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting' report shows that between 1999 and 2019, the country lost more than 100 thousand hectares of arable land. To mitigate this impact, UNDP in collaboration with SGP partnered with eighteen (18) local community-based organization (CBOs) to conserve range resources and rehabilitate degraded land. Through technical and financial support to local CBOs, 662 hectares of land were put under sustainable management.



Five knowledge sharing platforms or farmers dialogues were facilitated to network local producers and markets in partnership with Lesotho National Farmers Union.

190 farmers were capacitated to improve their farm and enterprises management practices using the GLOBALG.A.P. 50 farmers are being mentored on techniques to access finance and markets.



Over 350 farmers received direct trainings inclusive of networking forums and action planning in the three community councils of Lithipeng, Khoelenya and Thaba-Mokhele. This assisted them to transform from conventional production to a market-led approach using new knowledge as well as business management, informercials, green economy approaches, dialogue platforms and proposal writing.



Lesotho has adopted a first community health information system that is based on the Bophelo-ka-Moselebetsi experimental mobile application, developed through technical and financial support from UNDP. UNDP collaborated with UNICEF to scale-up the application to integrate collection and analysis of data on community public health and to include the management of the village health workers programme.



"I am a farmer who also preserves grazing land in my community. UNDP helped me with shade-nets, a nursery, animal kraals, water tanks and permaculture training. With the money I make I'm able to reinvest into my business."

— 'Malebohang Maribe
Farmer from Maphutseng



Signature Solution 4: Environment



More than 1 million people in Lesotho were impacted on sustainable plastic lifecycle and circularity through the advocacy, partnerships, and capacity building. Through the clean cities and plastic-free campaigns, the 10 district community councils are adopting sustainable waste management practices. These include new sources of livelihoods and income generation through waste collection and recycling. One community council has encultured environmental stewardship and created short-term job recycling opportunities for at least 7 people per month in the maintenance of environment. A school for the disabled has trained 87 disabled children on plastic recycling and repurposing.

The government has adopted an information management system on waste management to facilitate management and monitoring of waste and stakeholders including waste collectors and innovators.

UNDP mobilized funding worth US\$ 2.9 million to support and operationalize the Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) framework. The funding is supporting the implementation of ICM at the upper sub-catchment of Seapala river in Quthing district. This followed the adoption of the ICM framework which guides holistic and sustainable approaches towards conservation and management of Lesotho's soil and water resources by the Government of Lesotho.

Following the establishment of the Matšeng Biosphere Reserve (MBR) which consists of two tourism attraction areas which are the Tšehlanyane National Park and Bokong Nature Reserve, the local communities were capacitated on sustainable management of these areas and on activities for community beneficiation. Through UNDP financial support of US\$10,000, the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture provided these communities with trainings and equipment to enable them to carry out income generating activities for serving tourists visiting the area.



Waste recycle products



Sustainable Live Skills



Signature Solution 5: Energy



The current electricity generation capacity of Lesotho is 74.7MW and about 47.0% of households have access to grid electricity and these are concentrated mainly in urban areas. In the reporting period, the UNDP supported mini-grids added the generation capacity of 0.08 MW which represents 11.6% of expected generation capacity of 0.7MW of the 10 mini-grids when they are complete. The mini-grids would be fully operational by end of 2023. The private sector managed to operationalize five of the 10 mini-grids already under construction. The five mini-grids are now serving four (4) schools, two (2) health centres, and one (1) police station. As a result of clean electricity generated from the mini-grid at Ketane, the Ketane health centre now provides X-ray services for the first time to about 20 patients per week who in the past had to travel for four hours to secure same service from a nearest town.



Ten village energy centres were developed and began operations to promote access to renewable energy technologies and services of the five (5) mini-grids which came online. UNDP partnered with four (4) local private energy developers to leverage private investments and the partnership facilitated access to over 170 renewable energy technologies such as energy efficient stoves and solar lights that enabled over 135 households to have access to clean energy in the five (5) mountainous districts of Lesotho.



The concession agreements for the ten mini-grids have been signed and they will be under a Special Purpose Vehicle, the Sotho Minigrid Portfolio. The agreement was signed by the mini-grid developer and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The financing agreements for the mini-grids were also signed by the developer and UNCDF.

The UN House Lesotho was fitted with photovoltaic solar panel system generating 30 kilowatts peak power (kWp) and thus providing 25% of the Country Office energy needs with renewable energy. This accounts to a total of 54,669 kWh/year and results in reducing emissions by 25%.

[View the system here.](#)



An estimated 1,200 people attended the roadshows aimed at enhancing the awareness and knowledge of clean energy technologies in 9 road shows. Project experiences were also shared through four workshops of the Energy Sector Coordination Forum and workshops with beneficiary communities.



Signature Solution 6: Gender



Lesotho women were supported to translate the Women's position paper to the national dialogue into a legislative and policy agenda to inform the translation of the Multi-Stakeholder National Dialogue and Plenary II report into the 11th Constitutional Amendment. This resulted in mainstreaming women and gender issues into the 11th Amendment and subsequent Bills. Of the 98 amendments, 46% directly addressed women and gender issues such as the age of majority, public appointments, electoral processes, inheritance, justice reforms, and security sector practices that were discriminatory to women. In addition, direct measures were supported to ensure youth, people with disabilities, the elderly and other marginalized groups were prioritized and consolidated into the 11th Constitutional Amendment.

UNDP/UNFPA undertook a gender audit of four government ministries in 2021/2022. The recommendations of this exercise led to improved guidance on gender planning and budgeting. UNDP, UNFPA, ILO and UNICEF reviewed the Public Service Act to ensure the inclusion of the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation guidelines within the Public Service and the establishment of a neutral mechanisms to investigate allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in the workplace. The gender audit provided an assessment of gender policies, programming and financing at the policy and operational level of government and enabled the articulation of concise recommendations.

The initiative named "Her Empire" capacitated 18 women lead enterprises for participation in public procurement processes and business management skills. The top 3 participants from this cohort are benefitting from a UNDP - Econet Telecom Lesotho partnership. The partnership provides the beneficiaries with an e-commerce platform to enable enterprises to trade within and beyond Lesotho borders. A robust visibility campaign around this initiative enabled partnership with private sector to augment results.

UNDP carried out its second annual survey on workplace harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse. The finding of this survey informed a refresher training on SH/SEA and the abuse of authority in the workplace. In addition, the Country Office launched an online platform to enable staff to submit complaints or issues anonymously to the human resources office and the management for action.

A gender-based violence platform was established to discuss gender issues and concerns and coordinate GBV issues in a better way. Work on GBV met some challenges during the period, as a result, in Lesotho a coordinated approach towards GBV was decided. A technical team with UNDP participation was set up mid-year to develop a programme of action and define the agency entry points.



“
The legislative frameworks in Lesotho are supposed to be creating a conducive environment so that girls & women feel safe.
”

Dr. Jacqueline Olweya
UNDP Resident Representative



VOLUNTEERISM AT UNDP



The **International Volunteer Day (IVD) 2022** was celebrated on Dec. 5 under the theme: “solidarity through volunteering”.

The objective of the day is to celebrate the power and potential of volunteerism and highlight the contribution of volunteers in making a difference in their communities. It is an opportunity to promote volunteerism, acknowledge the efforts of volunteers, and encourage more people to get involved.



“My journey has been grounded on volunteerism. I have never stopped volunteering, every year I make sure I mentor a young black African girl,” - UN Resident Coordinator in Lesotho Amanda Khozi Mukwashi



Ms. Madalitso 'Mada' Mbendera is a Malawian currently working as the Communications and Resource Mobilisation Analyst for the UNDP Malawi Country Office. Ms. Mbendera had a brief assignment at UNDP Lesotho in 2022 as the Communications, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist for the Support to Implementation of Lesotho National Reforms Programme.



‘Mamotsabo Khoabane started as volunteer at Kick4Life center as a housekeeper then volunteered as a compliance officer for the ladies team in the same organisation. She proceeded to volunteer at Bristol Myers Squibb Children’s Clinical Center (Baylor). She stated that volunteering is personally and professionally rewarding and provides service to other.



Regional portfolio Specialist Yui Yuichi Sakai said the first celebration of IVD took place in 1986. He was part of the Lesotho event which celebrated volunteerism.



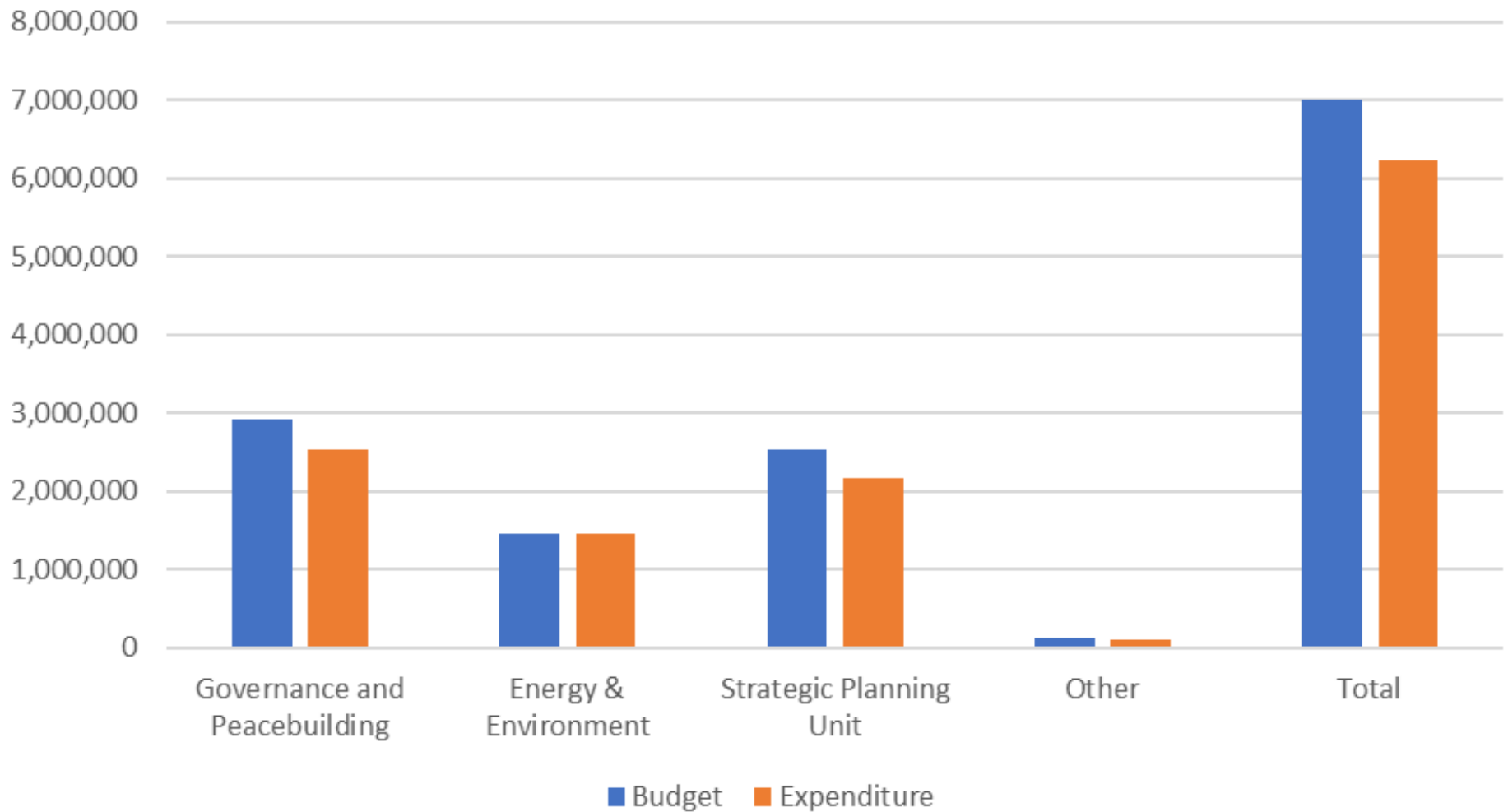
The Lesotho Red Cross Youth Volunteer, Mothibeli Tšukuliso said this year marks his 10-year anniversary as a volunteer.



Lebeko Moleko is a volunteer with Skillshare Lesotho which is a locally registered volunteering and development organization working in partnership with local and International organizations to reduce injustice and inequality, support livelihoods, and promote access to health services among the most at-risk and vulnerable communities in Lesotho.

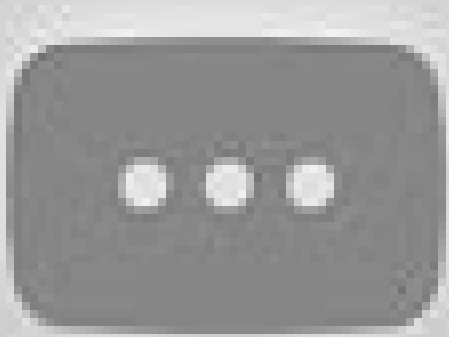
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

UNDP Lesotho 2022
Summary of financial performance



MEDIA REPORTS & BENEFICIARY VOICES

The work and programmes of UNDP Lesotho attracted the attention of both the national and international media coverage and below are some of stories. The beneficiaries also provided their own first-hand accounts on the projects and programmes:



[UNDP Supports Installation of Off-Grid Solar Energy in Mokhotlong](#)

[UNDP Supports an HIVAIDS Support Group in Mokhotlong](#)

[UNDP, Econet partner for digital business platform](#)

[UNDP fosters citizen participation in national reforms](#)

[Heart-to-heart with local UN endorsed climate change expert](#)

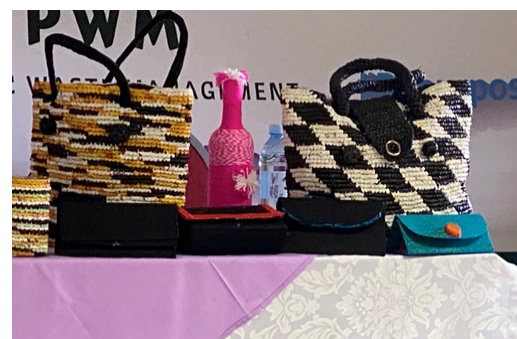
[Lesotho takes hands-on approach to climate change](#)

[Security Sector Expenditure Review Workshop Completed](#)

[Lesotho television news](#)



UNDP through the Global Environment Facilities Small Grants Programme assisted the senior citizens support group which in turn provides food to vulnerable families.



Some community groups were trained in recycling plastic and producing products with economic returns. In addition, awareness was raised on clean environment and effects of climate change.



UNDP supported the youth in several activities including: peace building; poverty alleviation; agriculture; science, technology and innovation.



Some lucky members of Mapholaneng community won prizes of renewable energy products that included energy efficient cook stoves, solar LED lights given by #SE4ALL project.

Partnerships for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and attainment of SDGs



Standard
Lesotho
Bank



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



unicef

SOTHO MINIGRID PORTFOLIO



UNDP Country Office Staff



Policy and Strategy Unit



Front Office



Energy and Environment Unit



Governance and Peacebuilding Unit



Operations

For more information on the work of UNDP Lesotho, please follow us on these platforms:



www.ls.undp.org