UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

LESOTHO 2024- 2028

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Joint Statement and Signature Page[1]

As the United Nations Country Team, together with the Government of Lesotho as the undersigned, commit to delivering all the strategic priorities of the Lesotho United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2024 – 2028), in line with the National Strategic Development Plan II (2023/24-2027/28). Together we will work efficiently and effectively towards Agenda 2030 for the prosperity, peace, and stability of all Basotho people, leaving no one behind.

The Government of Lesotho

Right Honourable Prime Minister

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Samuel N. Matekane

Date: _____

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United Nations in Lesotho

UN Resident Coordinator

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi

Date:

SIGNATORIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

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Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	Sub-regional Coordinator for Southern Africa Patrice Talla	
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Country Director XXX	
International Labour Organization (ILO)	Director of the ILO Decent Work Team for Eastern and Southern Africa Joni Musabayana	
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)	Head of Office Eriko Nishimura	
International Trade Centre (ITC)		
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS)	Country Director Pepukai Chikukwa	

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	Regional Representative Abigail Noko	
Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)	Regional Director Lidia Arthur Brito	
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)		
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Representative Jacqueline Olweya	
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Representative Deepak Bhaskaran	
United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)		
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	Director, Sub regional Office for Southern Africa Eunice Kamwendo	
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women)	Multi-Country Representative, South Africa Aleta Miller	
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	Head of the UNEP Southern Africa Sub-Regional Office Meseret Teklemariam Zemedkun	
United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)		
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)		

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)		
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)		
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Representative xxxx	
United Nations Volunteers (UNV)		
World Food Programme (WFP)	Country Director Aurore Rusiga	
World Health Organisation (WHO)	Country Representative Richard Banda	
World Bank*[1]	Country Representative Ishihara Yoichiro	

Acronymns

CF – Cooperation Framework
UN – United Nations
UNDAF – United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Lesotho
NSDP II – National Strategic Development Plan II
SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
HIV – Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
AU – African Union
GDP – Gross Domestic Product
SACU – Southern Africa Customs Union

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*The World Bank Group's Country Partnership Framework for Lesotho sets out the partnership objectives agreed between the World Bank Group and the national authorities. Within this country partnership, the World Bank Group broadly contributes to priority areas also reflected in the UN's Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Lesotho, consistent with its development mandate and country engagement approach, and coordinates closely with the UN, Lesotho and other development partners.

AIDS – Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

UNAIDS – Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

CCA – UN Common Country Analysis

LGBTIQ+ - Lesbian, Gay, Trans, and Gender diverse, Intersex, Queer and questioning

SAPP - Southern African Power Poll

VNR – Voluntary National Review

UNCT – United Nations Country Team

MSMEs – Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

LNOB – Leave No One Behind

LDC – Least Developed Countries

MDGs – Millenium Development Goals

UNDAF – UN Development Assistance Framework

AFPs – Agencies, Funds Programmes

UNDS – UN Development System

CSOs – Civil Society Organisations

NGOs – Non-governmental Organisations

CBOs – Community Based Organisations

INFF – Lesotho Integrated National Financing Framework

GBV – Gender Based Violence

NSDS II – National Strategy for Development of Statistics

ICM – National Integrated Catchment Management

DFIs – Development Finance Institutions

PWDs – Persons With Disabilities

PPP – Public, Private Partnerships

SBC – Social and Behaviour Change

PHC – Primary Healthcare

NISSA – National Information System for Social Assistance

AfDB – African Development Bank

MIDSA – Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa

AfCFTA – African Free Trade Area

BNC – Bi-National Commission

JBCC – Joint Bi-lateral Commission of Cooperation

DPCF – Development Partners Coordination Forum

ACF – Aid Coordination Forum

IFIs – International Financial Institutions

RCO – Resident Coordinator Office

JSC – Joint Steering Committee

GoL – Government of Lesotho

MoFDP –

UNSDCF –

ORG – Outcome Results Groups

HNG – Humanitarian Nexus Group

JWPs – Joint Work Plans

TPCT – Technical Programme Coherence Team

ACF – Aid Coordination Forum

DPs – Development Partners

MiCC – Ministerial Coordination Committee

TLCF – Technical Level Consultation Forum

PCT – Programme Coherence Team

UNCG – UN Communications Group

OMT – Operations Management Team

JUNTA - Joint UN Team on AIDS

UN DCO – UN Development Coordination Office

HACT – Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers

ICT – Information and Communications Technology

MDAS – Ministries, Departments and Agencies

DCEO – Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences

SBCC – Social and Behaviour Change

UNSDCF –

ECOL – Examinations Council of Lesotho

IPRT – Integrated Planning and Reporting Tool

SBAA – Standard Basic Assistance Agreement

UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund

SAI – Supreme Audit Institution

BSOs – Business Support Organisations

Executive Summary

Ka lebelo la Ntšoekhe – With the speed of Ntšoekhe and aligned to the call by UN Member States to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, this Cooperation Framework calls

for accelerated pace in decision making, delivering and coordinating of development priorities, while leveraging all available resources, domestic and international, private and public, by the Government of Lesotho, the United Nations and development actors to ensure that no Mosotho is left behind and the SDGs are achieved by 2030 (CF).

This 2024 - 2028 CF has been developed at a time when the Kingdom of Lesotho and the world has experienced one of the most devastating public health crises in recent history. The Covid-19 pandemic impacted on both the economic and social stability of countries. It exposed already existing vulnerabilities and cracked wide open the education, health, gender, and economic fault lines in-country and across regions. The Russia and Ukraine conflict further exacerbated what was already a fragile socio-economic context. The cost of living has increased and so has the number of people who are food insecure, out of employment and at risk of multiple vulnerabilities. Macro-economic stability has become an urgent goal together with expanding the fiscal space for investing in sustainable development activities and introduce social safety nets that will address poverty and inequality, support economic growth, and improve people's wellbeing. In short, Lesotho has been experiencing distressed development and weakened governance systems for too long. To make inroads and speed up the process of development, governance and state-society relationships will have to improve and deliver transformation in Lesotho.

In developing the Cooperation Framework, the UN in Lesotho and the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, implemented an inclusive process that brought together representatives from Government, private sector, trade unions, civil society, academia and development partners and the United Nations. The Evaluation of the UNDAF 2019-2023 together with the Common Country Analysis provided a wealth of experiences that informed the consultations. Three areas of focus emerged from the consultative process to inform the 3 key pillars upon which the outcomes are formulated with the supporting outputs and activities of this Cooperation Framework:

Good governance and Social Equity
This pillar recognizes the essentiality of good governance and social equity as a foundation for achieving a vision of a Lesotho that is politically stable, economically viable, whose people are resilient in the face of shocks, free from violence, can access essential services and are self-sufficient. Lesotho has a long history of political instability and security concerns which the people of Lesotho must contend with and overcome. The promise of good democratic governance, which ensures that every institution delivers its service faithfully, has not been largely fulfilled. State capacity, public resources management and social accountability have been weak. The relationship between those entrusted with leadership and the citizens has not delivered development progress, the exercise and enjoyment of rights, freedom from want or inclusion of the most vulnerable in economic productivity, nor freedom from violence. As a result, too many Basotho have been left behind for far too long. This has continued to affect the political stability and peace of the country – and requires accelerated and enhanced engagement by all stakeholders to prevent and manage conflicts and support peacebuilding processes at various levels. The government has a responsibility to institutionalise a culture of constitutionalism, the rule of law and the promotion of human rights. This will require the implementation of the social contract embodied in the National Reforms Agenda.

The UN in Lesotho will aim to support Basotho to strengthen good governance systems and institutions, work in partnership with the Government for them to accelerate the implementation of laws and policies that affect people's lives and ensure that no one continues to be left behind.

Equitable food systems, environmental sustainability, and climate action

The pillar on food systems and environmental sustainability acknowledges the inter-connectedness of the need of the nation to be food self-sufficient on the one hand and the dependency on natural resources such as land and water for resilience building on the other. The ability of the country and the people of Lesotho to find the balance and manage said finite natural endowments (protecting the environment including the wetlands, range lands and biodiversity) in a sustainable manner that is mutually beneficial for both people and planet will be critical to the achievement of the government's priorities as articulated in the revised NSDP II. Transforming food systems has been recognised as central in the efforts to achieve all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Lesotho is committed to accelerate and deepen the transformative power of food systems and inspire action to help build back better in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis in a manner aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

The UN will focus on supporting the government to strengthen food systems that are equitable and that contribute to people's nutrition, health, and well-being, restore, and protect nature, are climate neutral, adapted to local circumstances, and provide decent jobs and inclusive economies. Food production requires fertile land, access to water and renewable energy to provide healthy and nutritional food for consumption for all groups in society. The UN's efforts will go beyond supporting production and consumption, to supporting efforts that help communities to access markets and active private sector participation to achieve the required level of resilience thereby avoiding the chronic food crisis that the country has been undergoing for many years and creating a solid base for responding to shocks caused by climate change.

People's Wellbeing and Economic Development

The pillar on people's wellbeing and economic development goes to the heart of everyday life of people in Lesotho. Their ability to access essential life services such as healthcare services, good quality education and engage in productive economic activity for self-reliance sit at the fulcrum of achieving the sustainable development goals and ultimately achieving the political, economic, and social stability that Lesotho needs.   The Government of Lesotho's vision for social development is "a nation where everyone enjoys an acceptable minimum standard of living and in which there are equal opportunities for people to realise their full potential." The government has committed itself to improving the quality of life of all Basotho through interventions that address poverty, deprivation, vulnerability, and inequality comprehensively and holistically.

This pillar aims at focusing the efforts of the United Nations in Lesotho on addressing challenges of economic inequality that have caused the country, both urban and rural, to be in a situation of development distress. A focus on high unemployment levels, lack of access to good quality healthcare, high HIV prevalence and gender-based violence, poverty induced labour migration, an inadequate education system unable to meet the skills requirements of economic activity as informed by the

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Transforming Education Summit consultations and national commitments, and poor access to other basic services such as water and sanitation. To help close the economic gap and increase productivity, the efforts of the United Nations will go beyond supporting economic growth to supporting macro-economic solutions that transcend financial solutions and ensure that vulnerable communities and key populations are not left behind.

A healthy, well-educated, and skilled population, evidenced through the high human development index and based on the foundation of being able to access and exercise human rights, is a good. This is a catalyst that will drive the economic transformation of Lesotho as productivity is highly dependent on a healthy, well-educated, and skilled population. The enabling environment for such a transformation is also dependent on the ability of public institutions, systems, and services to successfully frame and implement a coherent integrated policy framework, based on principles of equity, accountability, transparency, and efficiency. The UN will focus on supporting the improvement of the quality and access of healthcare services and quality of education for all, including leveraging technology to ensure that Basotho children are not technologically left behind.

The pillars have been translated into three outcomes which are supported with 16 outputs and accompanying activities, and with each having a theory of change. The overarching pathway of transformation is based on the understanding that a stable governance system, founded on the principles of good governance and supportive of people's exercise and enjoyment of human rights, will provide stability for economic productivity and growth, delivery of quality essential services, including food resilience, and will foster both people's wellbeing and environmental sustainability.

The UN country team in Lesotho, after exploring and determining what capacities and resources would be required to contribute to the implementation and delivery of the CF, has come up with a joint statement of commitment. The aim is to leverage the strengths of each UN Entity active in Lesotho and increase efficiencies through joint programming. The current gap in the resourcing of the CF will require concerted efforts from UNCT, the government and development partners to ensure that resources are made available, domestically, and internally as well as through the private sector. The key message of the CF is that since many Basotho have been left behind for far too long, acceleration of delivery must be a priority hence, delivering *ka lebelo la Ntšoekhe*!

CHAPTER 1: COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS AGENDA 2030

The mountainous Kingdom of Lesotho, with a landmass of 30,555 square kilometres, is the largest of the worlds' three sovereign enclaves. Surrounded entirely by South Africa, Lesotho has a population of over 2.2 million people, predominantly young, with a median age of 24 years. Its governance system follows the UK Westminster Model, with the King as a constitutional monarch and Head of State, and the Prime Minister as the Head of Government. In terms of governance, Lesotho has a long history of political instability and security concerns. Good governance and human rights constitute the enabling environment

for advancing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (SDG 16), the African Union (AU) 2063 agenda and delivering the government's priorities as articulated in the revised National Strategic Development Plan II NSDP II). In October 2022, the country successfully held democratic elections. In the 2023 Freedom House report, Lesotho's status improved from Partly Free to Free due to the formation of a new government following competitive parliamentary elections. The electoral process and outcome have given the country a sense of positive change and greater hope for democracy, peace, development, and poverty reduction. There is a new impetus that the promise of good democratic governance might be moving in the right direction through improved State capacity, public resource management and social accountability. The state-society relationship, between those entrusted with leadership and citizens, which was envisioned under the country's National Reforms Agenda, requires continued focus and faster more coordinated execution of decisions by all stakeholders to prevent and manage conflicts and support peacebuilding processes.

More recently, it was widely acknowledged by Basotho that Lesotho's stagnant economic performance between 2012 and 2019 reflects a fragile political environment that has contributed to a deterioration in domestic governance. The country's economic progress, closely intertwined with that of South Africa, has been mixed. For the past five years (2017/18 – 2021/22), the economy contracted by about 1.7 percent on average, mainly due to impact of COVID-19 pandemic which contracted the economy by 5.6 percent in 2020 and 2021. However, the economy is on a recovery trajectory with an estimated 1.8 percent and 2.3 percent growth in 2022/2023 and 2023/24 respectively. The private sector, which accounts for only 20 per cent of GDP, is mostly focused on the domestic market with micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) accounting for 97 per cent of all local firms. The sector is further constrained by weak capacity, low productivity, poorly skilled workers, and inadequate infrastructure and resources.

It is important to note that while Lesotho's economy has grown since the turn of the century, growth has been relatively weak and has neither reduced rural poverty nor fostered inclusive social development. Lesotho imports over 90 percent of its food from South Africa and a large part of its revenue is dependent upon Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) revenues with other sources being from domestic, international, public, and private sources. Lesotho's public revenues, however, typically fall short of the expenditure needed for inclusive development. Remittances have historically played a major role in household consumption and economic growth. Poor households' benefit, from remittances. Yet, due to the decline in mining jobs in South Africa, the share of remittances has declined, but still constitute about 15% of GDP (or, according to 2020 World Bank data, 21.1% of GDP)[2] – the highest for any SADC country, and at a figure of USD 438 million in 2018 effectively surpassing Lesotho's Overseas Development Assistance as well as Foreign Direct Investment.[3] However, Most public revenues are volatile and are difficult to forecast. In the last fifteen years, projections and budgeted revenues have remained mostly unrealized year after year.[4] Unlocking this challenge requires implementation of strategies to increase the reliability of domestic revenues, which will, in turn, provide more certainty around consistent funding levels for the country's development agenda. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-

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[2] See https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.DT.GD.ZS?locations=LS. See https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.DT.GD.ZS?locations=LS.
[3] FinMark *2019 Remittance Country Profile: Lesotho* (2019)
[4] Parliament of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Budget Speeches, 2004-2020.

Ukraine War have further weakened the national economy. The UN Common Country Analysis of 2022 concludes that Lesotho's development is in distress.

The economy is dominated by agriculture, which is the most important source of employment. However, this sector suffers from low productivity and has been stagnant for the last two decades. The consequence of such stagnation has manifested in higher rural poverty and weak economic growth. In addition, Lesotho remains vulnerable to the socio-economic impacts of climate change and the degradation of biodiversity and ecosystems. Climate change exerts a substantial impact on human health (SDG 3), economic growth (SDG 8) and biodiversity (SDGs 14 and 15). Human activities contribute significantly to climate change (especially SDG 7, 8, 9 and 13), which increases Lesotho's already high exposure to extreme weather events and their devastating effects (SDGs 1-3). For the past decade the governance and management of the environment, particularly natural resources, have suffered from lack of coordination between stakeholders and implementation gaps in the government departments responsible. This lack of coordination, which has ultimately also impacted on the Country's ability to be food self-sufficient must be tackled and replaced with improved, more efficient, and impactful ways of working that are also fit for fast responses when needed.

Food and nutrition insecurity (SDG 2) in Lesotho exposes Basotho to rising food prices because of the country's high food import dependence. The lack of adequate nutrition remains a significant challenge for most households, and poverty. Food insecurity has a long-lasting detrimental effect on all, and particularly on those who are already vulnerable such as children, women, people living with HIV/AIDS, people with disabilities, the large number of unemployed young people and those in rural areas. It should be noted that climate change also has a differential impact on different social groups. Droughts can force girls and women to travel longer distances each day in search of water and firewood, increasing their unpaid care and domestic work, limiting their ability to attend school and earn an income, exposing them to risks of gender-based violence, and increase environment-induced displacement as well as irregular migration. Girls and women are more likely to live in poverty and have less control over resources due to climate change, making them more vulnerable to food insecurity. The stress of natural disasters and food insecurity destabilizes patriarchal relationships, often leading to an increase in gender-based violence at the hands of stressed men. Desperate families caught up in the consequences of climate change and unable to feed their daughters often resort to early marriage.

In the area of health, there has been some progress, but significant concerns remain. Lesotho has made significant progress towards the global goal of ending AIDS by 2030.[5] It is one of the few countries globally to have achieved the UNAIDS 90-90-90 treatment cascade targets. Efforts to reduce maternal mortality have resulted in an average annual reduction rate of 0.7 percent against the SDG target of 10 percent. The inability to provide a minimum level of essential health services demonstrates how Lesotho's health system and services are challenged by the narrow scope of investment in public health. Health service delivery structures, the integration of health service processes, and governance and coordination of these structures and processes remains weak. There is a need to find means to provide universal health

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[5] Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030.

coverage and meet this basic human right. A key priority for achieving universal health coverage will be a renewed focus on integrated service delivery, consolidating gains from the HIV response, and with an emphasis on safety and quality primary health care services. Health systems must be reorganized around people, with strong linkages to communities and health institutions. The scale-up of innovations, such as digital health, is also critical for improving health outcomes and reaching underserved populations to ensure no one is left behind.

In education, the country has some of the highest literacy rates in the region, with 85 per cent of men and 97 percent of women being literate and a near-universal primary school enrolment of 97.2 percent. Despite these achievements, there are significant urban and rural discrepancies in enrolment and in the quality of education all round. Quality education in Lesotho is challenged by the government's limited scope of and insufficient investment in public education and excessive reliance on households and the private sector to support education. Post-primary school facilities need to be enhanced. The delivery of learning is hampered by curricular issues facing teachers, and the governance and coordination of education remain weak. The national commitments made at the Transforming Education Summit convened by the UN Secretary-General in September 2022 offers the country an opportunity to address its education challenges and transform education, making it the centerpiece of every community (connected to nutrition, good health, safety, digital empowerment) and relevant to the 21st century. Given that investment in human capital is widely agreed to be central to economic growth, new pathways must be found to provide quality education for all in Lesotho. Achieving education outcomes quickly will enhance Lesotho's economy and society and provide a firm foundation on which socio-economic transformation can take place in a way that leaves no one behind.

The CCA further highlights that in so far as governance, equitable food systems, environmental sustainability, climate action, people's wellbeing and economic development are concerned, many vulnerable groups are being left behind and have been for far too long. As a country that is already dealing with effects of climatic variability and changes, slight shifts in temperature and precipitation harbor massive ripple effects on various sectors including the agriculture, water, and energy sectors. The country's farming and livestock sectors as well as water and their management practices and related ecosystems are among those segments that are highly exposed to climate change impacts. The dependence on rain-fed agriculture by most of the country's rural populations puts a huge segment of the populations at a higher scale of exposure. Climate change impacts present a major threat to Lesotho's food and water security, with snowballing effects on the country's poverty levels and gender inequalities. Food and water security coupled with lack of access to energy are negatively impacting on Basotho livelihoods and the country's economic growth.

Lesotho is considered one of the fairly water-rich mountainous countries as it occupies about 3.4% of Orange-Senqu River basin but generates more than 40% of the total basin runoff, hence it is referred to as the water tower for the southern African region. Despite some developments in the water sector including construction of dams for Lesotho Highland Water Programme for exporting and supplying South Africa, and Lesotho Lowlands Water Development project supplying some of Lesotho`s townships, only 28.9% of the population have access to clean and safe water for domestic use. Climate scenarios predict

that Lesotho`s water demand including for domestic use and export to South Africa is going to be impacted by climate change. At the same time, massive soil erosion due to unsustainable livestock grazing practices and crop farming, coupled with the adverse effects of climate change, present a significant threat to the future of freshwater resources and water development projects in Lesotho.

Lesotho has abundant potential resources for generation of clean energy from solar, hydro and wind. However, Lesotho is considered one of the countries that still have low access rate to energy as only 40% of its population has access to clean cooking energy and electricity access rate of 47.4%. Lesotho`s energy mix is predominantly biomass and imported fossil fuels (coal and petroleum). With limited generation capacity, the country generates about 50% (72MW) of its electricity demand of 145MW, while a shortfall is imported from Southern African Power Poll (SAPP). , limited access to renewable energy technologies for off-grid generation and energy services is still a big challenge due to upfront cost of such technologies, while on the other hand the country`s terrain and sparse settlements make provision of on grid energy services exorbitant.

Analysis shows that from a legal perspective, significant progress has been made in fostering gender equality in the eyes of the law in Lesotho. De jure equality or equality in the eyes of the law has been ensured by the removal of various discriminatory laws and the enactment of laws that foster an enabling environment for the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality, e.g., Inheritance Act of 2022. Despite the advances and commitments made by the Government of Lesotho to prevent and respond to issues of gender equality and gender-based violence, several challenges affect the implementation of policies and interventions. Gender-based violence reflects deep-seated inequalities between men and women regarding land ownership and inheritance, which result in most women becoming structurally reliant upon men for an economic livelihood. The 2020 Universal Periodic Review recommendations reinforce those in 2010 by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women that urged the government to prioritize the rollout of the Counter Domestic Violence Act and establish comprehensive measures to prevent and address gender-based violence and development interventions. As is clear from the state of gender equality in Lesotho, the implementation of gender-responsive policies and the enforcement of non-discriminatory laws remain weak and must be expedited to protect women and girls and enable them to be healthy and fully productive in the economy of the country.

Ka lebelo la Ntšoekhe – The theme of this CF has been coined as "***ka lebelo la Ntšoekhe***" an old Sesotho adage of one of King Moshoeshoe I's messengers *Ntšoekhe*, who was one of the fastest runners and was trusted to deliver the king's messages quickly and effectively. **With the speed of Ntšoekhe** is the accelerated pace of decision making, delivering, and coordinating of development priorities, while leveraging on all available resources, domestic and international, private, and public, to ensure that no Mosotho is left behind and the SDGs are achieved by 2030. It will require the country, different stakeholders, development partners and the whole of society to accelerate and speed up on tackling the stagnation of development progress, weakened governance, food systems, environmental sustainability and climate mitigation and adaptation as reflected in the SDGs. The indivisibility, interconnectedness and interdependence of the SDGs is founded on the universal framework of human rights. The analysis has

shown that while progress has been made in some areas, too many indicators demonstrate a deterioration over the two decades that predate the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, far too many Basotho have been left behind. Those left behind include (i) people with disabilities, (ii) women and girls (iii) herders (iv) youth (v) migrants, stateless and displaced persons; (vi) LGBTIQ+ community and female sex workers, (vii) Older Persons, (viii) people living in poverty in rural areas and (ix) refugees and asylum seekers. Reconfiguring socio-economic development efforts to reach these groups is essential if Lesotho is to leave no one behind. The 2019 Voluntary National Review (VNR) identified that to reduce poverty (SDG 1) and inequality (SDG 2) requires effective institutions and access to justice (SDG 16) and partnerships, including financial resources (SDG 17). Similarly, in 2022, Lesotho's VNR assessed progress made on five goals: no poverty (SDG 1); quality education (SDG 4); gender equality (SDG 5); life on land (SDG 15); and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17). As of 2022, Lesotho was on track to meet only two (SDG 12 and 13) of the 17 SDGs. Progress needed to be improved for 10 of the Goals, while for one SDG (SDG 16), Lesotho was regressing. The reasons for the deceleration in progress include the impact of COVID-19, effects of climate change, political instability, governance issues and inefficiencies in public service delivery and accountability. This now needs to be turned around and a sense of urgency imbued in all actions to stimulate progress on agenda 2030.

Addressing the above challenges and taking advantage of the opportunities the country has, will also require financial resources and effective partnerships. The NSDP II priority sectors that have potential to boost development in Lesotho have received little development assistance, exacerbated by restrictions to curb the pandemic. Agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, technology, and innovation are identified as the main engines of economic growth. Due to food insecurity and drought, the agriculture sector attracted more attention from development partners. However, there were delays in the implementation of development partner country assistance strategies that were meant to support the agriculture sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a huge divergence in fund allocation between the recurrent and development budgets. The development budget has steadily declined from 35.2 per cent of the total national budget in 2016/17 to 29.8 per cent in 2019/20, collapsing to 12.7 per cent in 2020/21. In parallel, the recurrent budget steadily increased from 64.8 per cent in 2016/17 to 87.3 per cent in 2020/21. The biggest proportion (40.8 per cent) of the recurrent budget goes to paying salaries and wages of public service employees and giving Lesotho one of the highest wage bills in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Development expenditure has been faring poorly since the highs of 2015/16. Ironically, the development budget gets the lowest allocation, and its absorption is lowest. This signals a failure to deliver services and spells the loss of opportunity for industrial development and employment creation for the Basotho people. Bottlenecks to the delivery of the development budget should be studied and dealt with decisively and with speed to improve absorption rates.

Furthermore, 75 per cent of the population live in rural areas, however, budget allocations do not necessarily reflect that. It is the rural population who have the lowest educational achievements, limited access to health, limited education and employment opportunities, limited access to clean water, and sanitation. Efficient and equitable allocation and execution of resources should reflect the population and should be emphasized if national development priorities are to be realized. Delivering on rural

development can provide quick wins for the country and the economy, but allocation of resources and delivery must be done *ka lebelo la Ntšoekhe.*

Achieving sustainable development will depend to a large extent on the ability to engage in a meaningful way with partners from all sectors of society. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for a revitalized global partnership. Under SDG 17, multi-stakeholder partnerships are encouraged to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources. Furthermore, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda 2 recognizes that effective and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships can play an important role in advancing sustainable development. It also encourages the use of partnerships as effective instruments for mobilizing human and financial resources, expertise, technology, and knowledge. Forging partnerships ensures people's meaningful participation, particularly those organizations and representatives of groups most left behind.

The partnerships and resources required to support the government and the people of Lesotho must all be leveraged with speed and efficiency to deliver development progress. To ensure no one is left behind, the above groups will require a whole of society approach, reducing of the digital divide and a governance model that puts people at the centre of its agenda. And this will require all stakeholders to move *ka lebelo la Ntšoekhe!*

CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA

2.1 Cooperation Framework design process

The process of developing the UN Lesotho Cooperation Framework (2024-2028) was jointly led by the Government of Lesotho and the UNCT, with the full participation and engagement of key national partners, civil society, private sector, youth and women's organizations, people with disabilities, and representatives of major groups and stakeholders. A series of multi-stakeholder consultations were undertaken from the evaluation of the UNDAF (2019-2023), the development of the Common Country analysis, CF strategic prioritization exercise and in defining of solution pathways. This resulted in the articulation of the challenges, desired changes and capacities needed to support the Kingdom of Lesotho.

In consultation with government, strategic priorities, and related development results (outcomes and outputs) in which to invest the UN in Lesotho's collective efforts, capacities and resources were agreed upon. These choices are underpinned by a candid assessment of the comparative advantage of the UN system vis-à-vis other development actors. They also articulate the highest priorities and most sustainable development choices that require urgent interventions bearing in mind that the UN development system cannot and should not attempt to address all development issues in Lesotho but focus on a few prioritized areas. The prioritization exercise of the key macro challenges was undertaken in three distillation levels using the evaluation report of UNDAF (2019-2023), the 2022 Common Country Analysis and the revised National Strategic Development Plan II.

The first round of strategic prioritization involved the assessment of the identified 15 challenges which were assessed against 4 criteria (1) **Transformational effect**: (2) **Leave No One Behind (LNOB)**: (3) **Reach**: and (4) **Time sensitivity.** The second level of strategic prioritization further scrutinised the challenges using the criteria of the UN value-add and alignment with national/government priorities resulting in the top 5 challenges. The last level of strategic prioritization involved deeper deliberations by the multi-stakeholder group which resulted in the agreement of the top three (3) challenges. Additionally, to triangulate the selection of the top 3 challenges, participants of the Strategic Prioritisation retreat were invited to respond to the following question: *"what are your perceptions of the value-add of UN for each of the challenges?"* The objective of this exercise was to get insights of how UN agencies view their value-add, compared to how other stakeholders (government and non-state actors) perceive the UN's value-add and giving further information for the selection. The top three (3) challenges identified were **1) Poor governance systems and processes 2) Food insecurity and 3) High unemployment and a distressed private sector.**

Through multiple engagements, the UN and its partners then deliberated how these three challenges would inform the priorities for the next five years. An agreement was reached by consensus on the following three strategic pillars and outcomes: 1) **Pillar 1 - Good Governance and Social Equity; 2) Pillar 2 – Equitable food systems, environmental sustainability, and climate action; and 3) Pillar 3- People's well-being and economic development.** These also included related outputs that aim to address the challenges identified. The pillars, outcomes and outputs are aligned to the revised National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP II), the African Union Agenda 2063, and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. While the LDC Doha Plan of Action was not specifically discussed, the agreed priority pillars will help the country, the UN, and other stakeholders to deliver on the plan.

2.2 Overarching Theory of Change

In 2017, the UN Lesotho developed the UN Vision 2030 which contextualizes UNCT planning in Lesotho within a longer-term perspective, aligned with the 2030 Agenda and multi-year national planning. This was on the backdrop of Lesotho having unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with MDGs 1, 4-7 with status as '*Very slow progress Target not Achieved'*; MDG 2 as '*Substantial Progress but Target Not Achieved*'; MDGs 3 and 8 as '*Substantial Progress'*. The first planning framework developed by UN aligned to this Vision 2030 was the UNDAF (2019-2023). This Cooperation Framework is the second UN planning document of this UN Vision 2030.

To ensure the consideration of trends beyond the horizon of the first UNDAF period (2019- 2023), the UN Vision 2030 paper covers:

(a) The UN's and Government's working assumptions around Lesotho's long-term development trajectories and challenges till 2030.

(b) The role that the UNCT envisages for the United Nations in supporting Lesotho's development strategies and plans up to 2030; and

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(c) The ways in which the analysis of the country, and the next UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), represents logical steps in longer-term results areas which will define the UN's principal contributions to supporting Lesotho's sustainable development.

The overall vision for UN support in Lesotho up to 2030 states that:

"The UN System contributes to inclusive and equitable economic growth and to a transformed and resilient society and to political stability in Lesotho."

Within the 2030 vision, the medium-term objective by the UN for the 2019-2023 UNDAF was:

"Strengthening the capacity of Lesotho government and society at all levels to accelerate economic growth, environmental sustainability and good governance in order to establish a firm basis for subsequent efforts by all stakeholders to make further progress towards the SDGs in subsequent years."

Within this 2030 vision, the medium-term objective by the UN for the 2024-2028 UN Cooperation Framework is:

"The UN in Lesotho will work in partnership with the Government and the people of Lesotho, the private sector, civil society and other development partners to help accelerate attainment of economic development and peoples' well-being, strengthen equitable food systems, enhance environmental sustainability and climate action, and support good governance and social equity for the benefit of all, leaving no one behind."

CONTEXT **UNSDCF** **IMPACT**

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES
- Political instability and ineffective governance
- Poor economic growth and increased inequality
- Environmental degradation and climate change risks
- Climate vulnerability and food systems
- Gender equality and gender-based violence
- Investment in human capital has not been enough.
- High youth unemployment potential to derail development

People's wellbeing and economic development

Equitable food systems, environmental sustainability and climate

Good Governance and Social equity

ACHIEVEMENT OF NSDP II

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

NSDP II PILLARS
- KPA 1: Growth Progression
- KPA 2: Social Transformation
- KPA 3: Infrastructure Development
- KPA 4: Good Governance & Accountability

UN REFORM

Leaving No One Behind | Human Rights Based | Gender Equality | Resilience | Accountability | Sustainability

MAINSTREAM UN STRATEGIES

IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS

2.3 Outcomes and Outputs

Several multi-dimensional risks could derail the efforts to leave no Mosotho behind. These potentially high risks – which are inter-linked, and overlap are:

1) Political instability and ineffective governance: The country has been ruled under unstable coalitions since 2012, resulting in deep-rooted and antagonistic political polarization and chronic loss of legitimacy of government. The instability of coalitions in Lesotho has resulted in a high turnover of governments in the last decade (three elections in five years (2012-2017), and four governments in 10 years (2012-2022)). Development cannot occur in an unstable environment. In addition, resources that could have been channelled to development will be diverted to dealing with instability. However, this risk is recognized by the government and stakeholders and can be mitigated.

2) **Violence:** The lack of peace in the home, schools, communities, and business spaces will continue to threaten and block economic productivity in the nation. Two key areas require a whole-of-society approach: tackling gender-based violence and violence against children. This can be mitigated by improved policing, accountability for those involved in crime and violence and strengthening community

protection mechanisms. In addition, since violence is strongly linked to unemployment, creating job opportunities could reduce the level of violence.

3)Denial of justice and rule of law (Low): Lesotho has limited capacity to respect, promote and protect human rights, given its lack of a national human rights institution and weak oversight institutions. The administration of justice in Lesotho has several issues that will derail the attainment of a just society if not addressed. The establishment of the Human Rights Commission, the strengthening the independence of the judiciary and adoption of a sector wide approach for the justice, law and order sector will go a long way to mitigate this risk.

4)Poor economic growth and increased inequality: The debt burden and downcast foreign investment prospects in the context of high levels of corruption is a great risk for inclusive economic growth. The effects of climate change and environmental degradation could worsen food insecurity and limit the creation of jobs for the youth in micro-, small- and medium-scale enterprises and agro-value chains. However, opportunities exist to incorporate targeted ecosystem-based adaptation strategies and nature-based solutions to curb land degradation and the local impacts of climate change. Efforts to transform the country from a consumer-based economy to a producer and export-driven economy will mitigate these risks.

5)Environmental degradation and climate change risks (High): Due to its topographical nature and ongoing environmental degradation, the country will continue to face significant negative impacts of climate change affecting communities and household livelihoods and income streams, with serious consequences for people's food security, nutrition, and anti-poverty actions. Strengthening climate risk management, addressing soil erosion and poor land management practices and the general management of wetland are key mitigation opportunities for the country.

The Lesotho-United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2024-2028 aims that, **by 2028 people of Lesotho, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised:**

1) 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.
2) equitably enjoy improved food and nutrition security, with transformed and efficient national food systems, benefiting from natural resources and green growth that is risk informed, and climate-resilient and
3) have equitable and sustainable access to social services, increased decent employment in an enabling business environment, and benefit from transformative and sustainable economic development.

These three outcomes in turn contribute to the Lesotho National Strategic Plan (NSDP II)) key priority areas of Growth Progression (NSDP II, KPA I), Social Transformation (NSDP II, KPA II), Infrastructure Development (NSDP II, KPA III), Good Governance and Accountability (NSDP II KPA IV). The three risk-

informed outcomes are critical for advancing the SDGs around which the UN is best placed to leverage its comparative advantages.

The CF outcomes and outputs are also aligned to **The Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031 and The Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Countries** hence will contribute to the government's progress on these commitments.

Three **theories of change**, which link the **outcome statement** to all the solutions and changes required to achieve them, have also been developed and presented to civil society, the private sector and other development partners (*Annex 1: Theory of Change*). Particular attention has been given to:

- *major risks,* which could derail progress towards the desired outcome, and *assumptions*, which are the preconditions required for the achievement of the desired outcome.
- as per the UN pledge to Leave No-one Behind, the list of the most *vulnerable groups*.
- the required *partnerships* the UN will engage in, under each strategic priority, to build coalitions in support of financing and achieving the SDGs; to drive transformative changes at all levels; to address structural barriers and drivers of vulnerability and marginalisation; and to ensure more integrated and coordinated development results.
- *sustainability*, and the necessary solutions to ensure long-lasting transformational change and build capacity locally, beyond the duration of the Cooperation Framework and towards the 2030 horizon.
- *synergies* between Cooperation Framework outcomes, presenting how outcomes align with national Government priorities, how they interact.

Under each strategic priority, the **joint outputs** are the direct contributions of the UNDS, for which AFPs are directly responsible and accountable. The definition of joint outputs, aggregating joint programmes and individual contributions, answers the necessity to bring AFPs closer together, in line with the reform of the UNDS, to ensure better coordination, more efficiency, and more transformational results in the delivery of programming.

The three strategic priorities and outcomes are integrated and interlinked as the progress in one outcome will require or contribute to progress in the other outcomes. The synergies in the three outcomes are clearly linked to the three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda. The Cooperation Framework focuses on the marginalized and most vulnerable and aims at building strong, accountable, and sustainable institutions and systems that promote resilience and adaptation in social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
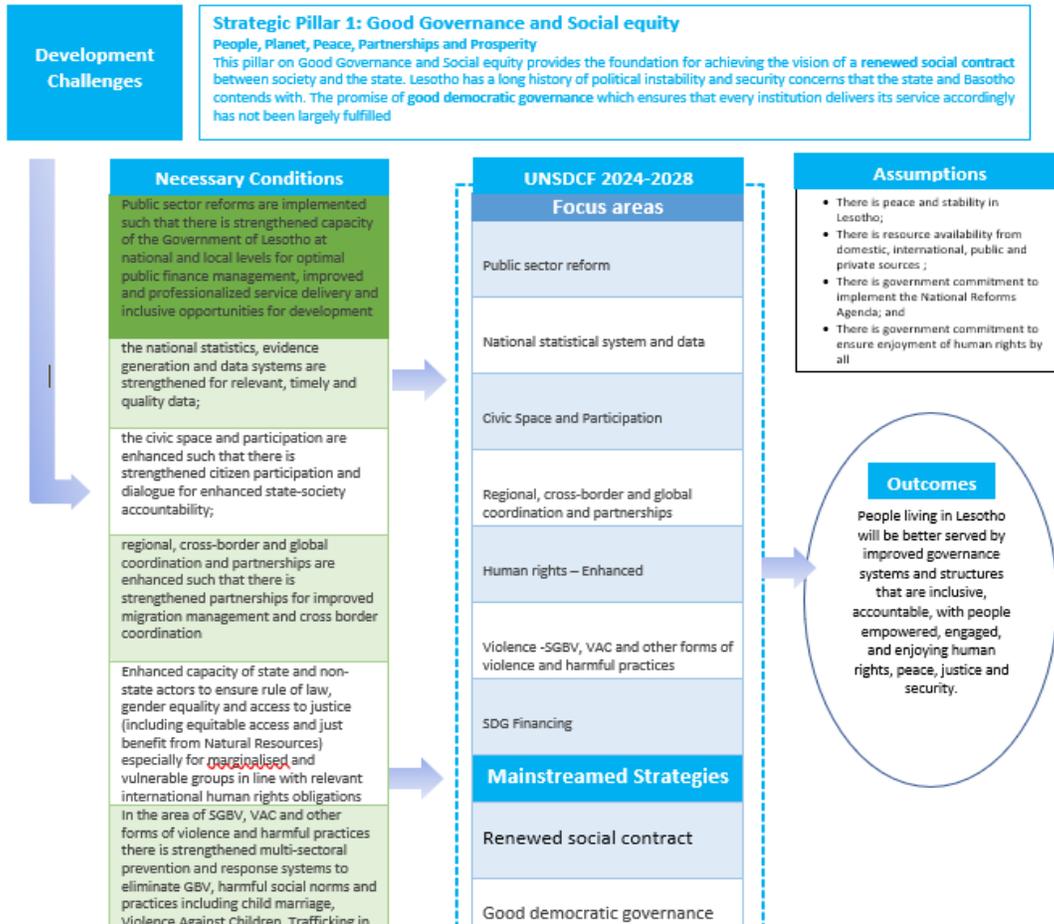
Strategic Pillar 1: Good Governance and Social equity

People, Peace, Partnerships and Prosperity

CF 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.

Alignment with Government Priorities and AU2063	The Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031	The Vienna Programme of Action
NSDP II – Pillar 4- Good Governance and Accountability

AU2063 - 3) An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice, and the Rule of Law

AU2063 - 4) A Peaceful and Secure Africa | Focus Area 3, Supporting structural transformation as a driver of prosperity.

Focus Area 4: Enhancing international trade of least developed countries and regional integration.

Focus Area 6: Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships. and innovative tools and instruments: a march towards sustainable graduation | Priority 1: Fundamental transit policy issues

Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation

Priority 6: Means of implementation |

Development Challenges

Strategic Pillar 1: Good Governance and Social equity
People, Planet, Peace, Partnerships and Prosperity
This pillar on Good Governance and Social equity provides the foundation for achieving the vision of a renewed social contract between society and the state. Lesotho has a long history of political instability and security concerns that the state and Basotho contends with. The promise of good democratic governance which ensures that every institution delivers its service accordingly has not been largely fulfilled

Necessary Conditions

Public sector reforms are implemented such that there is strengthened capacity of the Government of Lesotho at national and local levels for optimal public finance management, improved and professionalized service delivery and inclusive opportunities for development

the national statistics, evidence generation and data systems are strengthened for relevant, timely and quality data;

the civic space and participation are enhanced such that there is strengthened citizen participation and dialogue for enhanced state-society accountability;

regional, cross-border and global coordination and partnerships are enhanced such that there is strengthened partnerships for improved migration management and cross border coordination

Enhanced capacity of state and non-state actors to ensure rule of law, gender equality and access to justice (including equitable access and just benefit from Natural Resources) especially for marginalised and vulnerable groups in line with relevant international human rights obligations

In the area of SGBV, VAC and other forms of violence and harmful practices there is strengthened multi-sectoral prevention and response systems to eliminate GBV, harmful social norms and practices including child marriage, Violence Against Children, Trafficking in

UNSDCF 2024-2028
Focus areas

Public sector reform

National statistical system and data

Civic Space and Participation

Regional, cross-border and global coordination and partnerships

Human rights – Enhanced

Violence -SGBV, VAC and other forms of violence and harmful practices

SDG Financing

Mainstreamed Strategies

Renewed social contract

Good democratic governance

Assumptions

- There is peace and stability in Lesotho;
- There is resource availability from domestic, international, public and private sources ;
- There is government commitment to implement the National Reforms Agenda; and
- There is government commitment to ensure enjoyment of human rights by all

Outcomes

People living in Lesotho will be better served by improved governance systems and structures that are inclusive, accountable, with people empowered, engaged, and enjoying human rights, peace, justice and security.

This pillar recognizes the essentiality **of good governance and social equity** as a foundation for achieving a vision of a Lesotho that is politically stable, economically viable, whose people are resilient in the face of shocks, free from violence, able to access essential services and are self-sufficient. Lesotho has a long history of political instability and security concerns which the people of Lesotho must contend with and overcome. The promise of good democratic governance, which ensures that every institution delivers its service faithfully, has not been largely fulfilled. State capacity, public resources management and social accountability have been weak. The relationship between those entrusted with leadership and the citizens has not delivered development progress, the exercise and enjoyment of rights, freedom from want or inclusion of the most vulnerable in economic productivity, nor freedom from violence. As a result, too many Basotho have been left behind for far too long. This has continued to affect the political stability and peace of the country – and requires accelerated and enhanced engagement by all stakeholders to prevent and manage conflicts and support peacebuilding processes at various levels as aligned to the UN Common Agenda on promoting peace and preventing conflicts. The government has a responsibility to institutionalize a culture of constitutionalism, the rule of law and the promotion of human rights. This will require the implementation of the **social contract** embodied in the National Reforms Agenda.

The UN in Lesotho will aim to support Basotho to strengthen good governance systems and institutions, work in partnership with the Government to accelerate the implementation of laws and policies that affect people's lives and ensure that no one continues to be left behind. The UN will support the government to ensure that this renewed social contract as aligned to the UN Common Agenda plan rebuilds trust and embraces a comprehensive vision of human rights including the active and equal participation of women and girls, without whom no meaningful social contract is possible.

To contribute to the transformation of the Kingdom of Lesotho into a just, equitable, prosperous, resilient, safe, stable and peaceful country, UN with partners will support national institutions of governance to establish mechanisms that foster inclusive and accountable governance; accelerate decentralization process and strengthen subnational level governance structures and systems; and develop national infrastructure for peace and security, justice, rule of law and gender equality and operationalisation of the Human Rights Commission. UN will work with the existing national conflict prevention mechanisms (CSOs, NGOs, CBOs, and religious institutions). The key strategic planned interventions include technical expertise for the acceleration and effective implementation of the **national reforms**, including security

sector reform; support environmental and economic governance reform linked to broader governance reforms objectives; **leveraging technology** capacities of the SDG Accelerator Lab for the digitization of public service, including financial and procurement systems, and public financial management for improved financial inclusion and implementation of the INFFs; and advocacy for **decentralization policy implementation**, capacity building of local authorities to develop and implement inclusive plans, and cascading systems and capacity for e-governance. UN will also support the enhanced **functionality of key governance institutions** through performance based contracting and capacity for implementation of the reform recommendations; enhance government capacity for policy research and analysis, and to establish platforms for stakeholder engagement.

To counter the scourge of **Gender Based Violence**, the UN with partners will support the government in the use of transformative gender approaches and institutional capacity building to engage adolescent boys, men, adolescent girls and women together as agents of change in addressing gender-based violence and harmful practices; support strengthening of high quality and gender responsive survivor centred essential services; support entrenchment of mechanism and policy to counter GBV in the public and private sector as well as enabling legal rights awareness through establishment of legal help desks in police stations. Another priority is protecting children and adolescents from violence, exploitation, abuse, and harmful practices. This includes improving the operationalization of adequate legal and policy frameworks, supporting a national child protection strategic plan, a statutory oversight structure, and monitoring quality budget allocation and expenditure for child protection. Developing data collection tools and improved multisectoral coordination for evidence generation will support enhancing monitoring and reporting of violence against children and case management.

A key challenge as outlined in the CCA is the non-availability of **disaggregated and quality data** that hampers evidence-based policymaking and monitoring of the SDGs. The data gaps are a result of several factors, which include: (i) inadequate statistical products/statistical methods, (ii) institutional/individual capacity challenges concerning performing statistical work, and (iii) the requirement for disaggregation by sex, age, location, and levels of vulnerability. The National Statistical system remains uncoordinated, with weak internal human and technical capacities. The UN will support the government in the implementation of the second National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS II), which has a focus on gender mainstreaming; modernization of the national statistical ecosystem, building of integrated data management systems, improving data literacy, and raising the statistics profile for monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UN will contribute to improved **SDG Financing** by prioritizing implementation support for the Lesotho Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF) roadmap in line with the ongoing national reforms for public financial management and economic stability. This is aimed at supporting the government to attain budget credibility, ensure alignment between the national development and financing objectives, and strengthen oversight and accountability mechanisms. Based on the recommendations of the SDG Financing Strategy, UN will support the government to strengthen mechanisms to maximize mobilization and effectiveness of development financing flows from domestic and international public and private sources, including diasporas.

Leave No One Behind

The solutions and changes required to achieve the Good Governance and Social Equity outcome by 2028 should address all people, with specific attention to the most marginalised and vulnerable groups of Basotho listed below.

Persons with disabilities; Women and girls; Herders; Youth; Migrants; LGBTIQ+ community and female sex workers; Older persons; People living in poverty in rural areas; and Refugees, asylum seekers.

Partnerships

- National and local Government; Development partners; NGOs; Community Based Organisations; Faith Based Organisations, social movements (e.g., youth, women); Entrepreneurs/ SMME, business sector, Academia/ research institutions; Media; Development Finance Institutions (World Bank, AfDB, national commercial banks),

Strategic Pillar 2: Equitable food systems, environmental sustainability, and climate resilience
**People, Planet, Peace, Partnerships and Prosperity**

CF 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.

Goal 1 No Poverty, Goal 2 – Zero Hunger Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being. GOAL 5: Gender Equality GOAL 6: Clean water and sanitation GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality GOAL 11: Sustainable cities and communities GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production GOAL 13: Climate Action GOAL 14: Life Below Water GOAL 15: Life on Land GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

Alignment with Government Priorities and AU2063	The Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031	The Vienna Programme of Action

| NSDP II – Pillar 1 - Growth Progression

AU2063 - 1) A Prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development	Focus Area 5: Addressing climate change, environmental degradation, recovering from COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against future shocks for risk-informed sustainable development,	Priority 2: Infrastructure development and maintenance
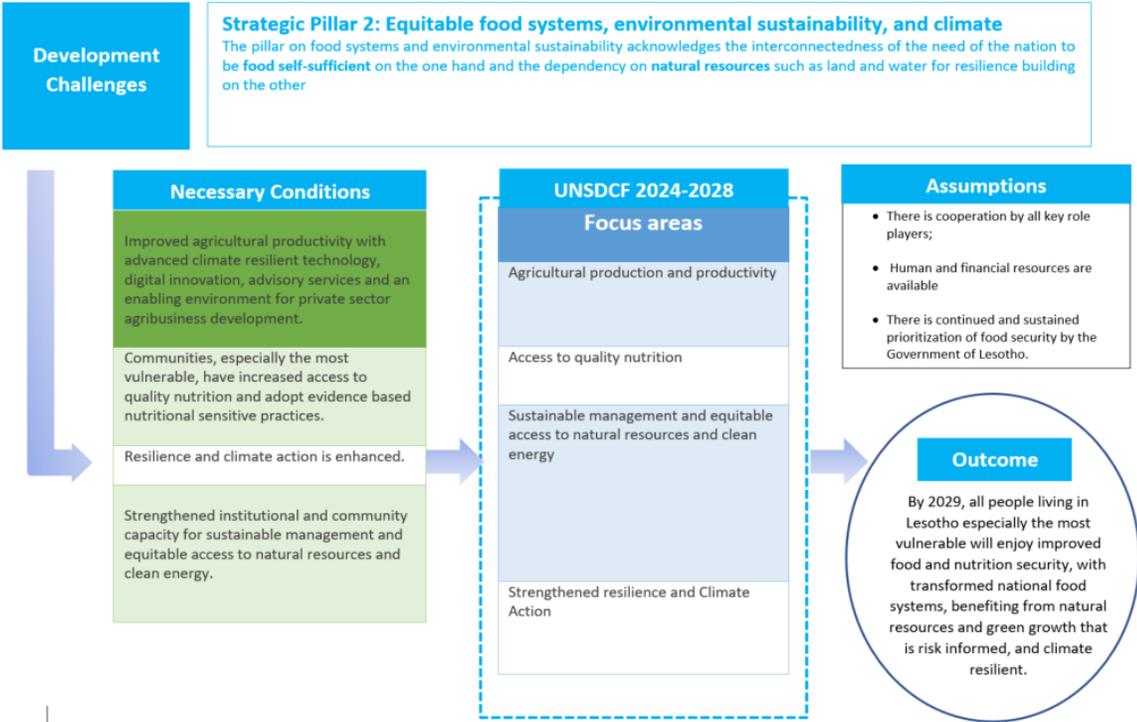
The pillar on **equitable food systems and environmental sustainability** (climate, biodiversity/nature, and waste/pollution) acknowledges the interconnectedness of the need for the nation to be **food self-sufficient**, **climate-resilient and waste/pollution free** on the one hand and the **sustainable management** and utilisation of natural resources for improved livelihoods and well-being of vulnerable communities on the other. The ability of the country and the people of Lesotho to find the balance and manage said finite natural endowments (protecting the environment including the wetlands, range lands and biodiversity) in a sustainable manner that is mutually beneficial for both people and planet will be critical to the achievement of the government's priorities as articulated in the revised NSDP II.

The communities including women, youth, children, and people with disabilities should be capacitated to protect their land, water forests, rangelands, grasslands, wetlands, and all ecosystems on which they depend for the realization of their right to a healthy environment. The acceleration of economic growth and transformation that Lesotho requires on the one hand, should be duly balanced by shifting to the Green Economy, transitioning to Just and Clean Energy, with the sustainable production and consumption patterns, as well as other concerted climate change response efforts. Climate-induced disasters denote that Lesotho must urgently build resilience to withstand future shocks – whether socio-economic, political or environmental. Environmental sustainability and transforming food systems are recognised as central in the efforts to achieve all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Lesotho is committed to accelerate and deepen the transformative power of food systems and inspire action to help build back better in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis in a manner aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The joint statement[6] by treaty bodies on Climate Change and Human rights confirms that climate change poses significant risks to the enjoyment of the human rights.

In this regard, Government and the UN will cooperate and work together with key stakeholders (private sector and other relevant institutions) to harness the opportunities in agriculture. The UN will support the Government to implement **climate-smart agriculture** and the sustainable intensification of agriculture to improve productivity, establishment of local value chains and market efficiency, and resilience, while promoting food sufficiency. Beyond production and consumption, UN will support communities to access markets and active private sector participation to achieve the required level of resilience thereby avoiding the chronic food crisis that the country has been undergoing for many years and creating a solid base for responding to shocks caused by **climate change.** UN will support the continued implementation of the National Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) programme aimed at promoting sustainable management of Lesotho`s catchments of which climate resilient food production is integral part.

One comparative advantage of the country that has been identified is the potential production and marketing of **organic food**. Developing the required capacity and a competitive edge in the production and supply of organic foods requires comprehensive and Integrated policy on Organic Farming; legal framework and Institutions to support enforcement and certification and an investment vehicle to support production and exports. To accomplish this in a sustainable manner, the country would need to set-up a national Organic Farming Investment Fund. The Fund will have capacity to make grants for technical assistance, R&D, and to provide loans and trade finance to farmers or farmer organizations, and to private sector entities involved in any aspects of the respective value chains, from supply of inputs to exports. The Fund will be established through a combination of Government, bilateral donors and/or international development agencies' grant support, concessionary financing from national DFIs and IFIs and private sector borrowings. The UN will support the government in the realization of the organic farming programme through technical expertise and resource mobilization.

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[6] https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2019/09/five-un-human-rights-treaty-bodies-issue-joint-statement-human-rights-and#:~:text=Joint%20Statement%20on%20%22Human%20Rights%20and%20Climate%20Change%22&text=The%20Committees%20welcome%20also%20the,dangerous%20impacts%20of%20climate%20change

The UN will adopt a 'whole-of-society' approach and collaborate with local actors, communities and private sector on **disaster risk reduction and environmental management** to build resilience, safeguard livelihoods and food security, and promote local economic growth; support the government, local authorities, private sector, and communities to invest in and enhance climate and environmental governance through development and implementation of legal and policy frameworks and plans, ensuring that women, girls, PWDs and other marginalized persons participate in the formulation of mitigation and adaptation policies/plans; and for the private sector to design and implement green policies and plans. The capacities of citizens, communities, and local authorities to protect nature and promote equitable and sustainable use of natural resources will be enhanced.

Given the potential of **renewable energy**, UN working with diverse stakeholders, will foster public-private partnerships (PPP) and investment for renewable energy, to support increased energy access in under-served rural areas and possible export within the sub-region. Additionally, the UN will build the capacity of local institutions to undertake climate-resilient livelihoods and integrated water resource management; and support the government, local government authorities and non-state actors' ability to access the Global Environment Facility, and Green Climate Fund and other innovative financing instruments into environment-and climate-friendly initiatives.

The UN will work with key partners and stakeholders on building and rehabilitating **climate-resilient community water supply systems** in rural areas; increasing access to basic hygiene services by strengthening hygiene infrastructure, supplies, technical capacities and influencing Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) on hygiene; and strengthening sector coordination and mainstreaming climate resilience and inclusion in the sector, including capacity building, and strengthening data systems.

Leave No One Behind

The solutions and changes required to achieve the outcome for Food Systems, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action by 2028 should address all people, with specific attention to the most marginalised and vulnerable groups of Basotho listed below.

Persons with disabilities; children; Women and girls; Herders; Youth; Migrants; LGBTIQ+ community and female sex workers; Older persons; People living in poverty in rural areas; Refugees, and asylum seekers.
Partnerships

- National and local Government; Development partners; NGOs; Community Based Organisations; Faith Based Organisations, farmer's union; social movements (e.g., youth, women); Entrepreneurs/ SMME, business sector, Academia/ research institutions; Media.

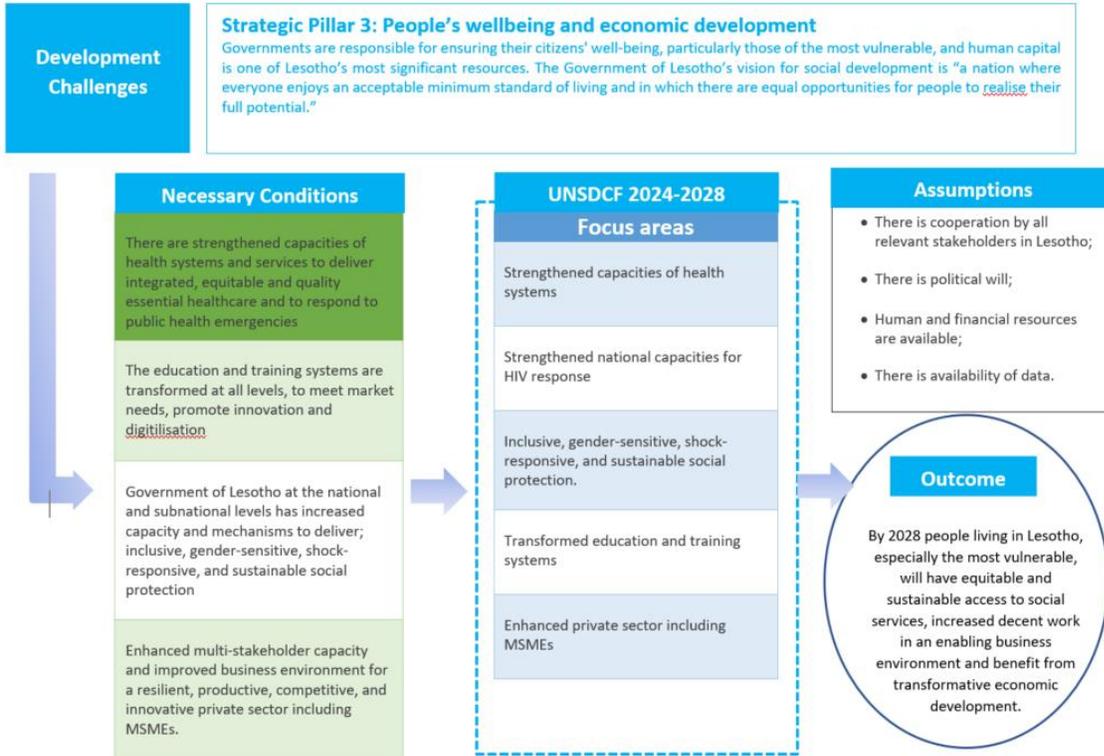**Strategic Pillar 3: People's wellbeing and economic development**
People, Prosperity, Partnerships, and Planet

CF 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.

GOAL 1: No Poverty GOAL 2: Zero Hunger GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being GOAL 4: Quality Education GOAL 5: Gender Equality GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

Alignment with Government Priorities and AU2063	*The Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031*	*The Vienna Programme of Action*
NSDP II – Pillar 1 - Growth Progression *NSDP II – Pillar 2 - Social Transformation* *AU2063 - 1) A Prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development* *Au2063 - 6) An Africa Whose Development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by African People, especially its Women and Youth, and caring for Children*	*Focus area 1; Investing in people in least developed countries: eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind.* *Focus area 2: Leveraging the power of science, technology, and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the SDGs.*	*Priority 5: Structural economic transformation* *Priority 3: International trade and trade facilitation*

Strategic Pillar 3: People's wellbeing and economic development

Development Challenges

Strategic Pillar 3: People's wellbeing and economic development
Governments are responsible for ensuring their citizens' well-being, particularly those of the most vulnerable, and human capital is one of Lesotho's most significant resources. The Government of Lesotho's vision for social development is "a nation where everyone enjoys an acceptable minimum standard of living and in which there are equal opportunities for people to realise their full potential."

Necessary Conditions

- There are strengthened capacities of health systems and services to deliver integrated, equitable and quality essential healthcare and to respond to public health emergencies
- The education and training systems are transformed at all levels, to meet market needs, promote innovation and digitilisation
- Government of Lesotho at the national and subnational levels has increased capacity and mechanisms to deliver; inclusive, gender-sensitive, shock-responsive, and sustainable social protection
- Enhanced multi-stakeholder capacity and improved business environment for a resilient, productive, competitive, and innovative private sector including MSMEs.

UNSDCF 2024-2028
Focus areas

- Strengthened capacities of health systems
- Strengthened national capacities for HIV response
- Inclusive, gender-sensitive, shock-responsive, and sustainable social protection.
- Transformed education and training systems
- Enhanced private sector including MSMEs

Assumptions

- There is cooperation by all relevant stakeholders in Lesotho;
- There is political will;
- Human and financial resources are available;
- There is availability of data.

Outcome

By 2028 people living in Lesotho, especially the most vulnerable, will have equitable and sustainable access to social services, increased decent work in an enabling business environment and benefit from transformative economic development.

The pillar on **people's wellbeing and economic development** goes to the heart of everyday life of people in Lesotho. Their ability to access essential life services such as healthcare services, good quality education and engage in productive economic activity for self-reliance sit at the fulcrum of achieving the sustainable development goals and ultimately achieving the political, economic, and social stability that Lesotho needs. The Government of Lesotho's vision for social development is "a nation where everyone enjoys an acceptable minimum standard of living and in which there are equal opportunities for people to realise their full potential." The government has committed itself to improving the quality of life of all Basotho through interventions that address poverty, deprivation, vulnerability, and inequality comprehensively and holistically.

This pillar aims at focusing the efforts of the United Nations in Lesotho on addressing challenges of economic inequality that have caused the country, both urban and rural, to be in a situation of development distress. The measurement of economic success needs to expand beyond the instrument of Gross Domestic Product, to assess how well the economy delivers on people's rights, disaggregated to make sure that discrimination, and other forms of structural inequality. As acknowledged in a joint statement by the High Commissioner for Human Rights[7] "a **human rights economy** will deliver better results for people and planet, because, beyond profit, it is grounded in everybody's rights. The human

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[7]   https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2023/04/statement-un-human-rights-chief-human-rights-economy

rights economy directs investment to address and redress barriers to equality, justice, and sustainability". The UN will support the government in putting measures to tackle illicit financial flows and tax evasion that impedes the people's rightful share of resources and ensuring that business operations do no harm through human rights due diligence.

The UN will support and work with the private sector, youth, and academia to leverage innovations and technology for job creation; development of entrepreneurial skills innovations among MSMEs, business start-ups, product diversification, economic/business security and development and access to finance through private sector participation. The use of **digital technologies** to drive innovation and integrated approaches for business, job creation, and increased production and productivity in agriculture, and the service and manufacturing sector will be promoted. In this regard, the UN and Government will cooperate to promote inclusive economic growth based on a people-centered approach to planning and pro-poor interventions.

The UN will focus on supporting the improvement of the quality and access of healthcare services and quality of education for all, including leveraging technology to ensure that Basotho children are not technologically left behind. To increase access and demand for **quality nutrition** services and practices, UN will support the Government on (a) strengthening sectoral and multisectoral strategies, planning and coordination at national and community level; (b) reinforcing capacities of health-care and nutrition workers and caregivers on strategies to improve maternal nutrition, breastfeeding and diet diversity among young children; (c) scaling up community-based Social and Behaviour Change interventions to promote nutrition and feeding practices; (d) generating evidence on food systems governing healthy diets, nutrition practices and status, to inform decision-making; and (e) advocating for systematic linkages between nutrition and social protection platforms and services.

UN will contribute to increasing the **healthcare system's** capacities to provide equitable, affordable, and accessible high-quality primary healthcare (PHC) services focused on maternal and new-born care that support preventive, promotive and curative approaches, including HIV services at all levels of care. This includes strengthening health-care workers' capacities, including at community level including for early detection and response to disability needs; scaling up broader community health information systems; advocating for and supporting the development and implementation of a PHC strategy and a strategy for HIV mother-to-child transmission elimination and paediatric HIV treatment and care; and strengthening community engagement and feedback mechanisms for PHC and HIV services. Interventions to improve access to **immunization services** include advocating for scaling up the use of digital systems for real-time monitoring of immunization services, supporting the development and implementation of an Operational Zero Dose strategy and costed national immunization strategy, and advocating for immunization financing prioritization. UN will work with the Government in strengthening health workers' capacities to provide integrated COVID-19 and routine vaccination services, reinforcing cold chain and vaccine management, and developing and implementing SBC strategies to promote immunization. Innovative approaches will accelerate demand and address misinformation and vaccine hesitancy.

To improve **quality learning and relevant skills acquisition**, UN will work with the Government and partners to support the harmonization, operationalization and monitoring of key policies, developing a

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comprehensive strategy for learning continuity and resilient education; strengthen data availability and utilization through improved evidence generation, the digitalization of EMIS, the institutionalization of national learning assessments, and strengthened cross-sectoral accountability, coordination and monitoring at sector, district and community level; foster adolescent engagement and participation, including through mentorship and leadership programmes, gender- and disability-inclusive youth councils, and the cocreation of innovative solutions to prevent violence and harmful practices and promote positive gender norms and climate action; and expand flexible and alternative learning pathways, life skills development and disability-inclusive and gender-transformative learning systems, while strengthening community learning centers, advocating for greater and affordable access to secondary education and leveraging private sector initiatives on entrepreneurship and innovation.

Under **social protection**, UN will collaborate with the Government and partners on key strategies and interventions, including: strengthening the social protection system to ensure inclusion and improve resilience, advocating for sufficient and equity-based cash transfers, implementing a Cash-Plus programme for vulnerable children, and advocating for the use of National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA) as the social registry of reference for multiple social protection and other interventions; supporting **digital transformation**, including the gender-sensitive digitalization of social assistance payments (regularly and in times of shocks) and the strengthening of economic data collection through digital methods to increase efficiency, accuracy and availability; **building resilience** for risk-informed programming and planning, including strengthening capacities, data availability and preparedness of the social protection system to respond effectively to shocks;

Leave No One Behind

The solutions and changes required to achieve the outcome for Economic development and people's well-being by 2028 should address all people, with specific attention to the most marginalised and vulnerable groups of Basotho listed below.

Persons with disabilities; Women and girls; Herders; Youth; Migrants; LGBTIQ+ community and female sex workers; Older persons; People living in poverty in rural areas; and Refugees, asylum seekers.

Partnerships

- National and local Government; Development partners; NGOs; Community Based Organisations; Faith Based Organisations, farmer's union; social movements (e.g., youth, women); Diaspora Association, Entrepreneurs/ MSMEs, business sector, export and producer's associations, Academia/ research institutions; Media; Employers and Business Member Organisations; Trade Unions; TVETs; Development Finance Institutions (World Bank, AfDB, national commercial banks), and the Lesotho National Development Cooperation.

2.4 Regional and cross-border dimensions

The Government of Lesotho has ratified all nine-core international human rights treaties of the United Nations, and four optional protocols.[8] The government has ratified six key African Union regional human rights treaties.[9] However, although Lesotho's treaty ratification record is impressive, its implementation record as a duty-bearer is not –too many Basotho have experienced human rights violations.

Throughout its engagement, the United Nations will support the Government to live up to its obligations and commitments as a State, party to key human rights instruments at regional and international levels, under the Universal Periodic Review and with Special Procedures. Lesotho's sustainable development is affected by regional dynamics and cross-border issues. The country is landlocked by and economically dependent on South Africa. Gold mines in South Africa have been a major source of employment for Lesotho's labour force, and thus a source of remittance to the economy. Lesotho is committed to the implementation of the African Union's Strategic Framework on International Migration and Common Position on Migration and Development. It is an active participant in the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA), an inter-governmental forum for policy dialogue on migration within SADC. In 2018, Lesotho signed the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and is committed to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, including its migration-related targets, agreed on by the UN in 2015. In addition, Lesotho has ratified a range of international agreements pertaining to migration and migration-related matters, including (in 2005) the 1990 UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.[10] adapted the National Migration and Development Policy in 2022. The policy provides a framework for the implementation of migration and development strategies and actions for the national benefit. The Policy also seeks to ensure the nexus

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[8] The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

[9] The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Protocol of the Court of Justice of the African Union, the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa, the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

[10] Crush *et al Migration Remittances and 'Development' in Lesotho* (2010) 5; http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?mtdsg_no=IV-13&chapter=4&lang=enhttp://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?mtdsg_no=IV-13&chapter=4&lang=enhttp://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?mtdsg_no=IV-13&chapter=4&lang=en..

between migration and development. Lesotho is a trade-dependent country; total exports and imports divided by GDP equalled 150 per cent of GDP in 2020. Lesotho runs a significant balance of trade deficit and the deficit in the trade balance before 2019 remained just under 30 per cent of GDP. Foreign investment in Lesotho's diamond mining, textiles and apparel dominate the export sector. The banking sector is also largely foreign owned.[11] Nonetheless, foreign investment remains low, in part because the legal framework for investors is underdeveloped.

Lesotho should take the opportunities offered by the SADC Trade Protocol, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which it ratified in 2020. Lesotho needs to develop and implement strategies to tap into Africa's growing regional demand and maximize the benefits of the AfCFTA. However, to access regional and international markets, the country needs to invest in establishing and strengthening institutional infrastructure related to standards, metrology, testing and quality to better exploit the advantages of the continental and global trade regimes. This will be particularly important when the current African Growth and Opportunities Act arrangement ends.

On the cross-border dimension, Lesotho and South Africa has launched the Bi-National Commission (BNC) (previously Joint Bilateral Commission of Cooperation (JBCC), a cross-border intergovernmental Lesotho-South African institutional structure. This cooperative structure is important as the main vehicle for the negotiation and entering into appropriate bilateral agreements, also on labour migration issues affecting Lesotho. There is an opportunity for Lesotho to work closely with South Africa within this framework on the various cross-border issues. Lesotho's membership of the *Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa* and the *Global Compact on Migration,* provides opportunities to strengthen cross-border collaboration and migration governance.

UN will support the government in addressing the challenges posed by cross-border political and security issues, trafficking in persons, illicit cross-border activities and trans-national crimes, xenophobia, violent extremism to promote peaceful societies across borders with the support of the regional bodies of SADC and AU. Under the Strategic Pillar 1 a specific CF output has been included enhancing regional, cross-border and global coordination and partnerships.

2.5 Sustainability
The evaluation of the UNDAF (2019-2023) assessed the extent to which the UNCT had established mechanisms for socio-political, financial, institutional, and environmental sustainability; sustainability of results and strategies of UNDAF and the likelihood of capacity strengthened contributing to sustainability. The alignment of the UNDAF with government priorities in NSDP II (2019-2023) and with sectoral plans was intended to ensure that the UN was supporting interventions that were in government plans. This would have a high likelihood of ensuring government and local stakeholder ownership resulting in enhanced sustainability. However, during the period of the UNDAF, government faced financial constraints and institutional leadership challenges that affected implementation of its own programmes, irrespective of alignment of UNDAF to these programmes. Thus, sustainability of outcome achievements

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[11] Ibid

resulting from support by the UN family and other development partners was affected by government coordination, institutional, and governance weaknesses.

This new Cooperation Framework has taken this into account and embedded in the process and content of the CF safeguard measures that place government ownership at the center of the CF commitments.

The Government of Lesotho provided regular technical inputs, and co-chaired consultations with a broad group of stakeholders during the drafting of the Cooperation Framework. The coordination mechanisms, governance structures and accountability framework – *see chapter 3* – are jointly led by the UN and relevant government ministries, with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning acting as the primary national coordinating body and representative of the Government of Lesotho. Monitoring and reporting will also be jointly undertaken to ensure joint and joined up learning to inform course correction during the duration of this CF.

In addition to stronger coordination within government, within the UNDS and with other development partners and stakeholders, sustainability of development results will also depend on ensuring financial investment in development priorities by the government of Lesotho and other development partners. As mentioned previously, unlocking new sources of finance will be key.

To support this approach, a joint output under Strategic Pillar 1 has been agreed. It aims to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Lesotho at national and local levels for optimal public finance management, improved and professionalised service delivery and inclusive opportunities for development.

The UN is committed to ensure the delivery of sustainable and impactful results, building capacity of national and local institutions, and ensuring adequate transfers of knowledge and expertise, within a co-led Co-operation Framework contributing to the national priorities of the country and the achievement of the SDGs.

The UN will develop strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders – *see partnerships under each strategic priority* – and more synergies, for more cost-efficient, more coordinated, and more sustainable development results. It will engage in Government-led development coordination mechanisms and support the Government to engage in global platforms and conferences. The UN will also work to facilitate opportunities to realise the benefits of South-South and Triangular Cooperation through programming, recognizing the potential benefits from greater cooperation with peers and neighbors.

2.6 UN Comparative Advantage and UN Country Team Configuration

The United Nations Development System (UNDS) in Lesotho is committed to harnessing its comparative advantage to work jointly and effectively with partners to achieve national development priorities within the 2030 Agenda.

The United Nations in Lesotho is uniquely placed to support implementation of the joint priorities and outcomes, as well as to leverage financing, partnerships, and knowledge to support the national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is based on the following areas of comparative advantage:

- **Coordination** and convening with impartiality - of current and potential partners supporting SDG achievement (including, government, development partners, civil society, employers' and workers' associations, academia, the private sector, and international financial institutions.
- **Leveraging UN wide resources** and offer knowledge and solutions that have been tested and tried in other countries, contextualising them to inform Lesotho's development agenda, including South-South learning and partnerships.
- **Providing policy advocacy** with development diplomacy - evidence-based policy advice and technical expertise, including advocacy for vulnerable groups on laws, policies, and national and sectoral programmes; expertise in the collection, analysis, and use of disaggregated data in line with international standards; and
- **Advisory services** on international commitments, norms, and standards in line with Lesotho's international commitments
- **Leaving No one Behind** - the application of cross-sectoral and whole of society approaches to address issues such as exclusion, multiple and intersectional vulnerabilities, gender equality and women's empowerment, and human rights-based approaches to development.

These comparative advantages are further strengthened by the following attributes:
1) a longstanding in-country presence since 1974
2) a people-centered whole of society development approach; and
3) an extensive reach to the most geographically remote areas of Lesotho in all the 10 districts.

These attributes confer on the UNDS unique relevance and responsibility in relation to specific efforts led by the Government to achieve the country's aspirations for a just, equal, and resilient society and to do so with the speed and urgency needed at this time. It envisions that by 2025 the Government will make significant progress towards achieving its national development goals, aligned with the SDGs, with UN support within the following three strategic priorities: **(1) Good governance and social equity; (2) Equitable food systems, environmental sustainability, and climate action;** and **(3) People's well-being and economic development.**

UN Country Team will systematically engage with development partners through the Development Partners Coordination Forum (DPCF). The purpose of the Development Partners Coordination Forum (DPCF) is to facilitate collaboration and harmonization within the donor community. By fostering strategic discussions and shared vision, it enables policy and programme dialogue with the Government of Lesotho on the country's development priorities. This, in return, adds value to the Aid Coordination Forum (ACF) and improves the overall effectiveness of development assistance. The ACF is the highest national coordination body while the DPCF is a coordination mechanism for development partners only. At the national level, the DPCF is right below the ACF and feeds into it. It is a consultative body coordinating development partners strategies in support of the government's development priorities.

The UN system's support to Lesotho within the Cooperation Framework will be offered in an integrated manner to ensure that progress in one area will require, or/and contribute to, progress in other priority

areas. None of the priorities concern a single sector or single stakeholder, rather they embody a nexus of collaboration and partnerships which require the mobilization of a range of UN entities and partners working together. This wider and whole of society approach to leveraging capacities, and building on comparative strengths, is a key difference from the preceding UNDAF 2019-2023. As part of this effort, the UN in Lesotho will ensure that the UN coordination structures lock-in to the national coordination mechanisms and support the government in making these mechanisms inclusive, effective, efficient and results oriented.

The UN entities will complement each other in those areas of the Cooperation Framework where they have strongest capacities and resources to contribute to implementation. To facilitate the exploration and adaptation of innovative delivery modalities, UNCT members will involve partners, especially from civil society, academia, IFIs, other development partners and the private sector. They will also leverage South-South and Triangular Cooperation (all UN entities), joint programming initiatives on key strategic and cross-sectoral challenges (for example food systems, gender-based violence, governance) and in developing regional solutions which benefit neighborhood communities. The UNCT will ensure strategic dialogue with neighbouring UN Country Teams to facilitate effective sub-regional cooperation.

All UNCT members will benefit from RCO coordination and substantive support. RCO will support the UNCT by:
- championing jointly agreed advocacy and programmatic priorities in strategic interactions with national and international partners.
- searching for and bringing in relevant expertise from across the UN system and beyond to implement the joint programming activities agreed within the UNCT to respond to the emerging development needs of the Government.
- sharing global tools and methodologies for SDG data collection, analysis, and reporting at regular meetings of the joint CF Results Groups and Steering Committee.
- reaching out to non-traditional UN partners and leveraging their contributions to the CF.
- producing and sharing analytical economic development reports and papers, as well as communication and advocacy materials for the purposes of the Cooperation Framework implementation.

CHAPTER 3: COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3.1 Cooperation Framework Governance
The implementation and delivery of the CF is through a governance mechanism that aims to ensure mutual accountability for the resources, capacities, coordination, and results that are planned for in the CF. The mechanism has benefitted from lessons learnt as identified in the UNDAF evaluation and the analysis of the CCA. To this end, the apex of the governance mechanism will be the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) that will link into both the government oversight mechanisms and the UN oversight mechanisms. In line with the Government's drive for transparency and accountability, and the UN's alignment with national priorities and global commitments, the JSC will contribute to ensuring that

national ownership is evidenced, delivery is coordinated across all government departments/agencies and across UN entities, both resident and non-resident, in Lesotho. Through open and inclusive approaches, the JSC will ensure that all key stakeholders can engage with the CF at different stages and phases of implementation. The JSC will specifically:

- Provide oversight of the coordinated, efficient, and impactful implementation of the Cooperation Framework with *ka lebelo la Ntšoekhe*
- Provide guidance for the joint mobilisation of resources for the Cooperation Framework
- Receive bi-annual programme and resource mobilisation reports.
- Conduct joint programme visits across the districts with different stakeholders.
- Approve annual reports and Joint Work Plans.
- Provide oversight on and guidance to the independent evaluation of the Cooperation Framework. The JSC may decide on any course corrections required during the implementation of the Cooperation Framework and
- Provide oversight and guidance on the development of the next Cooperation Framework informed by national development plans, the UN Country Analysis, and other global commitments that Lesotho is party to as part of achieving the SDGs.

The JSC is co-chaired by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning and the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

Core membership is made up of the chairs and co-chairs of the Results Groups under the Cooperation Framework. Other members of the UNCT, together with members of government departments/agencies and representatives from development partners, civil society, private sector, academia, industry associations, donors, international financial institutions (IFIs), LNOB groups and communities, and volunteer groups are included as observers.

The JSC will ordinarily meet at least twice a year.
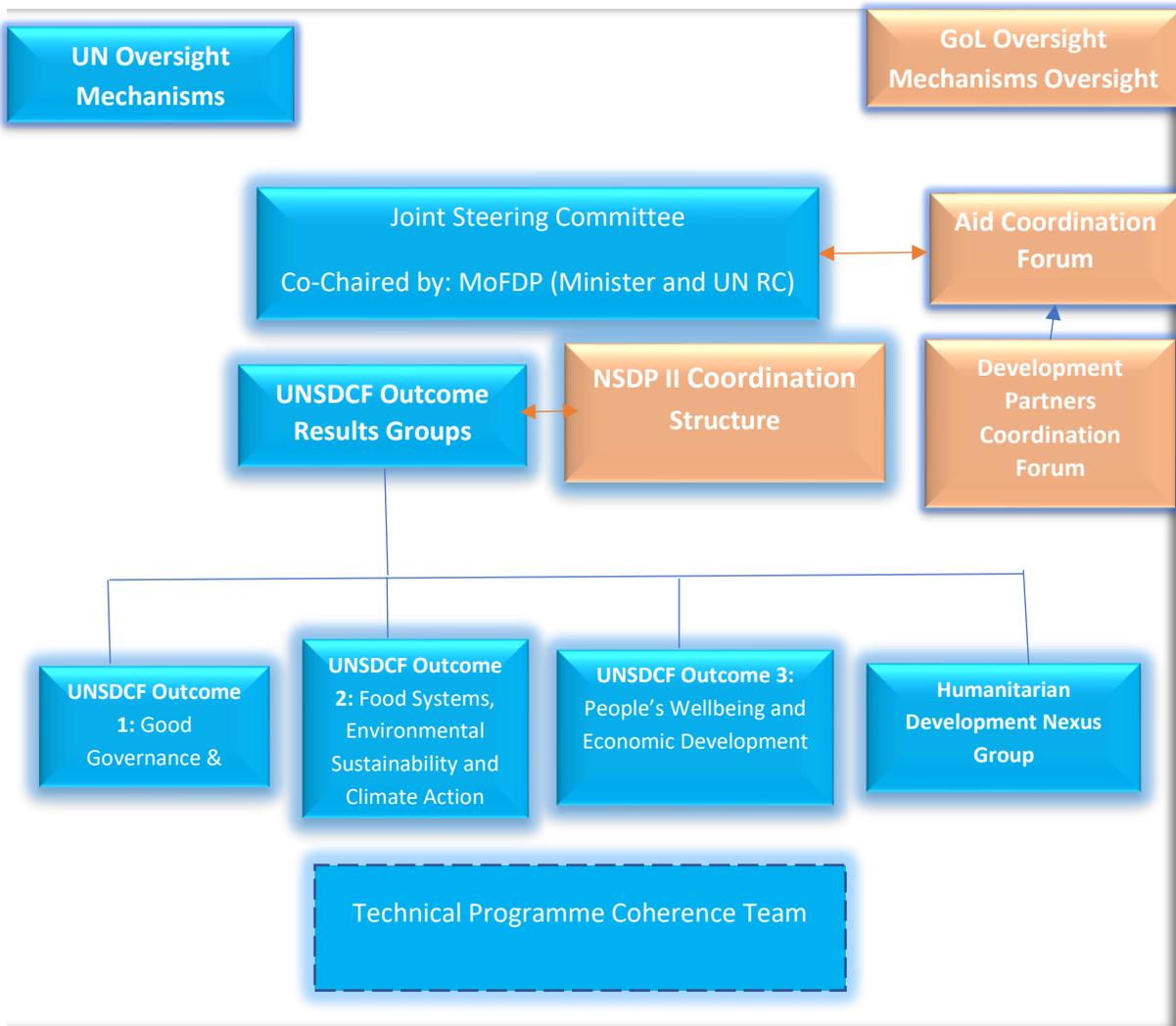
The Outcome Results Groups (ORG) and the Humanitarian Nexus Group (HNG) serve as the key support mechanisms for the JSC. These are co-chaired by government and UN; and with participation of UN, government and relevant key stakeholders drawn from development partners, civil society, and private sector. For the ORGs in particular, relevant Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies; CSOs and implementing partners will contribute to the Results Groups' planning, monitoring, and reporting.

Joint Outcome Results Groups (ORGs): Three joint ORGs aligned to the three strategic priorities, are the coordination mechanisms for the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of outcomes under the Cooperation Framework. The ORGs will be co-chaired by a Head of Agency and the Principal Secretary from the relevant ministries from Government. The RCO acts as secretariat and facilitates strategic coordination. The ORGs serve to improve coordination and support a strategic approach to analysis, planning, implementation, and monitoring in relation to the relevant outcome. They promote complementarity and synergies and reduce overlaps and gaps within outcome areas.

The three ORGs are:

Outcome Results Group 1: Good Governance and Social Equity

Outcome Results Group 2: Equitable Food Systems, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action; and

Outcome Results Group 3: People's Well-being and Economic Development.

ORGs are responsible for inter-agency coordination and technical support associated with the implementation of agreed UNSDCF Outcomes, including cross-cutting issues. ORGs will develop Joint Work Plans (JWPs), identifying outputs where agency activities can complement one another, including through joint programming, joint resource mobilization, outlining the activities of each agency in the achievement of common results. The quarterly meetings of UNSDCF ORGs will engage Principal Secretaries of line ministries along with other respective national institutions and partners.

Humanitarian Nexus Group (HNG): The HNG is a supportive body of the JSC responsible for preparing and coordinating emergency preparedness and response activities, and long-term plans for disaster risk reduction and resilience building among United Nations agencies and Government, with capacity building of the Government in these respective areas. The HNG is co-chaired by a UN Head of Agency and Government.

Technical Programme Coherence Team (TPCT): TPCT serves to inform and support the JSC and ORGS in technical guidance and support in the joint planning, monitoring, and reporting; oversight of cross-outcome priorities and ensuring adherence to the Guiding Principles of the Cooperation Framework. It is also responsible for organizing the Joint Steering Committee meetings as the Secretariat. The TPCT comprises UN Deputy representatives or most senior programme staff, and staff with expertise in human rights and gender equality and representatives from all the departments of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. The TPCT meets at a minimum, quarterly, with ad-hoc sessions as required. The TPCT is co-chaired by a Deputy Head of Agency and the Director Ministry of Finance and Development Planning.

Aid Coordination Forum: In Lesotho, the Department of Aid Coordination in the Ministry of Development Planning is responsible for the coordination of donor support to the country. Lesotho Aid Coordination Forum (ACF) is a development aid consultative mechanism between the Government of Lesotho (GoL) and Development Partners (DPs). Its operational structure has three layers. They are the Ministerial Coordination Committee (MiCC), Technical Level Consultation Forum (TLCF) and the Secretariat. The key areas of ACF include to Serve as a forum for dialogue in the coordination of development assistance to Lesotho; Facilitate high-level discussion on harmonization of development support; Monitor implementation of the National Strategic Development Plan II (NSDP II); Facilitate high-level discussion on alignment of development interventions with GoL's priorities; Monitor compliance with aid effectiveness principles; Make strategic decisions on development assistance to Lesotho.

The UN Resident Coordinator's Office, together with the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning provide secretariat and coordination support to the JSC to ensure a well informed and coordinated working of the JSC.

3.2 Cooperation Framework UN Management Structure

In addition to the CF Governance structure, the UN System in Lesotho has organized itself to deliver the Cooperation Framework results in a more coordinated manner in line with the UNDS Reforms. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator. The UNCT is the main inter-agency mechanism in country for inter-agency coordination, coherence and decision-making responsible for the undertaking common country analysis, planning, implementation and monitoring of agreed UN Cooperation Framework results, annual UN country results reporting, and communication in support of the 2030 Agenda, including through policy and technical support and promotion of norms and standards and human rights (including advocacy), and within available means.

The UNCT in Lesotho consists of 23[12] UN AFPs of which 8 are resident. The Non-Resident Agencies upon signing the Cooperation Framework will commit to participating in the relevant coordination structures. RCO will ensure that each entity (resident and non-resident) has the focal persons in each of the interagency coordinating structures. Mailing lists made up of all the focal points from each interagency structure to ease communication for joint planning, implementation, reporting. Non-resident UN entities participate remotely through online platforms and in-person missions as necessary.
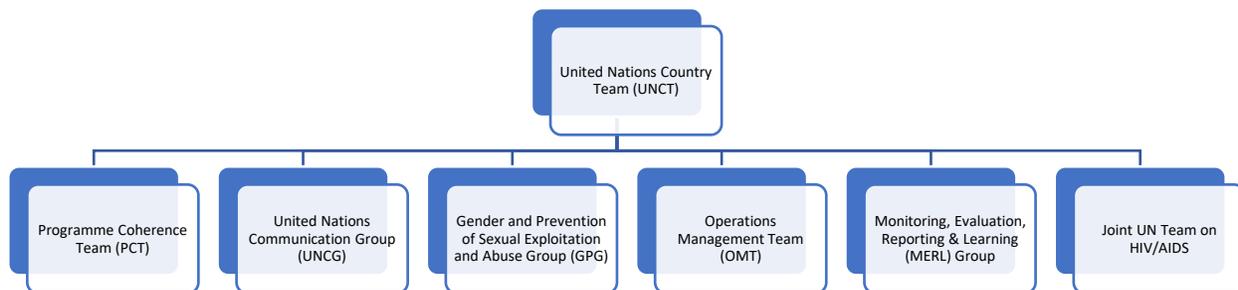
In line with the reform of the UNDS's emphasis on improving coordination and coherence of efforts, all UN contributions to the realisation of outputs have been organised as key entry points for improved coordination under the relevant ORGs. These internal working teams are organic and will be constituted as required.

As part of the development of the Cooperation Framework, a UNCT configuration exercise was conducted to identify shifts in UN capacity and business models required to deliver planned commitments. This process mapped planned UNCT contributions to the Cooperation Framework's joint outcomes and outputs, as well as technical, financial, and operational capacities. The process also addressed planned changes in UN entities' business models, capacity gaps, overlaps and synergies, and further strengthening non-resident agencies' engagement with Cooperation Framework implementation.

The following internal collaborative mechanisms will support UNCT in delivering joint and joined up programming as well as deliver efficiency gains in UN business operations: Technical Programme Coherence Team (PCT), UN Communications Groups (UNCG) and the Operations Management Team (OMT), Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Group (MEL) and Gender and PSEA Group (GPG).

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[12] **Resident:**
IOM, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WFP, FAO, WHO, UNAIDS

Non – Resident:
IFAD, ILO, ITC, UNV, UNCTAD, UNECA, UNEP, UN Habitat, UNIDO, OHCHR, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNCDF, UNODC, UN Women

United Nations Country Team (UNCT)

- Programme Coherence Team (PCT)
- United Nations Communication Group (UNCG)
- Gender and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Group (GPG)
- Operations Management Team (OMT)
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting & Learning (MERL) Group
- Joint UN Team on HIV/AIDS

Operations Management Team (OMT): The OMT provides support and advice to the UNCT to improve efficiency in operations by harmonizing business operations. Significant priorities over the course of the Cooperation Framework are outlined in section 3.6., the OMT is chaired by a Head of Agency.

The UN Communications Group (UNCG): the UNCG supports the implementation of the Cooperation Framework through the facilitation of joint and integrated communication of UN initiatives, events, and campaigns, and advocates for development change in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UNCG is chaired by a Head of Agency.

Gender and PSEA Group: This group, collaborating closely with the Resident Coordinator's Office, provides technical support to the UNCT and Programme Coherence Team on issues related to gender and PSEA; supports coherence in mainstreaming of gender in United Nations programmes and operations, interagency coordination, and capacity building; and monitors fulfilment of United Nations' institutional commitments on gender and PSEA in programming and operations. Such commitments include, among others, the Gender Scorecard and UNCT-System Wide Action Plan, use of gender markers in programming, achievement of gender parity. The group comprises gender focal persons from all United Nations agencies. The GPG is chaired by a Head of Agency.

Programme Coherence Team (PCT): PCT will be responsible for programmatic-level coordination, oversight of cross-outcome priorities and ensuring adherence to the Guiding Principles of the Cooperation Framework. The group will be responsible for ensuring that the Guiding Principles are at the center of the UNCT's policy and programmatic advice and operational support to the Government in its efforts to achieve the national goals of the NSDP II and implement the 2030 Agenda. The PCT will establish an 'early warning system' within the CCA and Cooperation Framework to identify emerging issues against selected indicators and how they may affect identified vulnerable groups applying the principles of LNOB. The PCT comprises Deputy representatives or most senior programme staff, and staff with expertise in human rights and gender equality. The PCT is chaired by a Deputy Head of Agency, reporting directly to the UNCT. The PCT meets at a minimum, quarterly, with ad-hoc sessions as required.

UN Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Group (MEL): Composed of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) focal points from UN entities, the MEL is tasked with the development and monitoring of the Cooperation Framework Results Framework, working closely with the RGs in the preparation of periodic progress reports and ensuring compliance with results-based management best practices. The MEL works closely with and reports to the PCT on deriving conclusions on progress across outcomes, and on specific disaggregated data and indicators concerned with vulnerable groups. As appropriate, the MEL group will provide technical support to the government broad-based institutional mechanism to monitor, mainstream and coordinate SDGs, including in the preparation of Voluntary National Reviews. The MEL Group is Chaired by a Deputy Head of Agency.

Joint UN Team on HIV/AIDS: The Joint Team is a mechanism for the UN to deliver the HIV-relevant components of the Cooperation Framework. Thus, the program is coordinated and monitored through the Cooperation Framework structures and processes. The JUNTA is coordinated by the UNAIDS, led by the Country Director, and oversighted by the UN Country Team consisting of heads of the agencies led by the UN Resident Coordinator. The joint UN Team on AIDS (JUNTA) is a team of technical UN staff working full- or part-time on AIDS throughout the UN system, including UNAIDS cosponsor and other non-cosponsor agencies. The purpose of Joint UN Teams on AIDS is to improve support to the national response, and contribute to expanding HIV prevention, care and treatment leading to reduced HIV vulnerability and infections and increased access to interventions. The JUNTA promotes coherent and effective UN action in support of national response to HIV; works to increase coordination and collaboration at all levels, leveraging the contribution of the AIDS response for larger health, development, peace, and human rights achievements.

3.3 Resourcing the Cooperation Framework

Financing the realisation of national development priorities is a key challenge for Lesotho with already limited fiscal space further constrained by the impact of COVID-19. The UN is working closely with the Ministry of Finance on the development of a financing strategy for the NSDP II to support optimized resource mobilization and allocation toward national priorities in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and foster the adoption of an INFF. Funding the Cooperation Framework, as the UN's contribution to the realisation of the NSDP II is part of the overall financing of the SDGs. The UNCT will attempt to diversify the financial flows contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. UNCT strategies to mobilize resources in support of development goals will vary by outcome and output but should include efforts to:

• structure the necessary UN resource mobilization through the development of a multi-year Funding Framework to support the implementation of the Cooperation Framework,
• developing joint programmes to increase the cost-effectiveness and quality of UN programming,
• offering visible platforms for resource mobilization, and making use of the complementary expertise and skills available across the UN entities,
• strengthen partnerships and facilitate dialogues with the private sector and address specific challenges to accessing private investment capital, and support the Government in identifying new sources of SDG financing, starting with the development of assessments of the financing landscape,

the formulation of a high-level financing strategy for the NSDP II, development of monitoring systems to track expenditures against policy priorities and the SDGs, all through numerous stages of structured dialogues to ensure that all relevant financial stakeholders are consulted and informed.

The funding framework will respond to the requirements of the funding compact agreed by Member States, committing the United Nations development system to more transparency and accountability for its expenditure and enhanced effectiveness and efficiency in the use of limited resources. The funding framework will represent a consolidation of the agreed, costed results of the Cooperation Framework including operations and communications. It will provide an overall picture of the (1) amount, (2) type, (3) source, (4) duration, and (5) sequence of financial resources, including the required amounts, available resources, and resource mobilization needs. It will function as a financial planning, resource management and mobilization tool of the UNCT, Government, and other stakeholders.

The UNCT will develop the funding framework that will emphasize the allocation of resources in the context of larger flows to support NSDP III and SDGs. The estimated financial contribution of the Cooperation Framework, over the 5- year period, is **US$ 331,111,495.** The Joint work plan, which is developed annually and prioritises key deliverables, will also be informed by availability of resources. United Nations resources will play a complementary and catalytic role to address barriers to SDG financing, facilitate strategic engagement with diverse partners and enable governments identify new sources of SDG financing; and to better align existing financial resources with national development plans towards the realization of the SDGs.

Under the Joint SDG Financing (2020- 2023), the UN has supported the Government of Lesotho in the creation of a conducive policy environment, strengthening Public Finance Management processes, providing platforms for dialogue, and generating evidence for private–public collaboration towards mobilizing large scale private sector investments into Lesotho. A private sector assessment to establish a foundational overview of local private sector actors and their current capabilities to contribute to national development and Financial Strategy Development and advocacy for Financial Reforms was undertaken in 2022. This, if well implemented, will broaden private sector participation, and further increase whole of society ownership and sustainability of programmes. The support for the assessment of the Lesotho Medium-term Expenditure Framework will ensure that policy priorities are well funded and that all sources of financing are appropriately mobilised, with a monitoring and evaluation framework to measure progress and keep track of the sustainability of development results.

The UN system agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities within the Cooperation Framework, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of the UN system entities' support may be provided to non-governmental [and civil society] organizations as agreed within the framework of the individual workplans and project documents.

Additional support may include access to UN organization-managed global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies' country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and access to the support provided by the network of UN specialized agencies, funds, and programmes. The UN system agencies shall appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the UN system agencies' funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the Cooperation Framework. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the workplans and project documents. By mutual consent between the Government and the UN development system entities, funds not earmarked by donors to UN development system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

The Government will support the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds required to meet the needs of this Cooperation Framework and will cooperate with the UN system agencies including: encouraging potential donor Governments to make available to the UN system agencies the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the programme; endorsing the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector both internationally and in Lesotho; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Lesotho to support this programme which will be tax exempt for the Donor, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

3.4 Derivation of UN entity country programming instruments from the Cooperation Framework
Operationalization of the strategic directions and commitments of the UNCT under the outcome areas will take place through the implementation of UN entity-specific country programme documents and plans. These are outlined by AFPs in collaboration with relevant line ministries and other national counterparts and implementing partners in accordance with their individual mandates and capacities.

UN entities in Lesotho will derive their development programming from the Cooperation Framework based on the agreed Outcomes and Outputs and direct contributions to specific Outcome and Output Indicators of the Cooperation Framework. This will be reflected in the Joint Work Plans and UNINFO.

3.5 Joint Work Plans
To respond to the changing national context and emerging global issues, each year, the joint workplans that are aligned to the CF Outcomes and Outputs will be developed to reflect how the agencies leverage the resources and maximize the synergies together in order to achieve the planned results. In developing the annual joint workplans, the UN organizations (resident and non-resident) and national partners (GoL, CSOs and some implementing partners) will collectively prepare, implement, monitor, report and evaluate development activities aimed at achieving SDG 2030 Agenda and other national international and regional commitments.

The JWPs at the outcome-level are critical instruments to avoid duplication and fragmented approaches and to ensure UN-wide coherence in collective programming for the country. Individual entity contributions in the JWPs will be consistent with the theory of change of the Cooperation Framework and directly contribute to the Cooperation Framework outputs and outcomes. The JWPs also form the basis for preparing the Annual Performance Review and Annual Country Results Report from January 2024 to December 2028. The Outcome Results Groups will be responsible for facilitating the development of the annual joint work-plans and agencies will be encouraged to identify some activities for which two or more agencies could join the efforts and resources together in the implementation thereof, with secretariat support from the RCO. JWPs will be endorsed by the UNCT and JSC with the Annual Performance Review and Annual Country Results Report submitted by 31 March to the UN Development Coordination Office (UN DCO) through the RCO.

UN INFO

The Joint Work Plans will be captured into the UN INFO (online planning, monitoring, and reporting platform that digitizes the Cooperation Framework) with support from the MEL Team. UN INFO will be updated regularly with quality assured, entity-specific data and analysis. When fully updated, UN INFO provides an overview of country level progress and contributions towards the SDGs. UN INFO will also demonstrate how the UN system in Lesotho is channeling resources towards national priorities, thematic issues (including based on cross cutting gender, human rights, and humanitarian markers) and the SDGs. Regular monitoring of joint workplans will be done to ensure that results are delivered as planned.

3.6. Business Operations Strategy in support of the Cooperation Framework

As part of the efficiency initiatives, UN Lesotho will support the UNSDCF through the implementation of the Business Operations Strategy and Common Premises which form part of the UN efficiency agenda.

The BOS will focus on the efficiency and effectiveness of the UN operations and programme delivery by ensuring time reduction on processes, cost avoidance and quality improvements through collaborations and establishment of the joint inter-agency long-term agreements with partners and services providers. Through mutual recognition of each UN entity policies and procedures and client satisfaction principle, the implementation of the CF will be enhanced by eliminating duplication of efforts, leveraging on the bargaining power of the UN, and maximizing on economies of scale.

The BOS contributes directly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through improved Sustainable practices including use of green energy, environmentally and gender responsive procurement sourcing, Physical and services accessibility for People with Disabilities and shared common resources with UN agencies in Lesotho co-located in one common premises. , The BOS will focus on 5 key operational areas: Common Administration and Premises coupled with Common Security, Common Human Resources, Common Finance and Harmonised approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), Common Procurement, and Common Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

CHAPTER 4: MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

4.1 Adaptive Programming

While the CF Outcomes will remain constant for the rest of CF implementation, the CF Outputs and sub-Outputs may be adjusted to respond to the changing national context and emerging issues to ensure that they remain relevant and responsive. The ORGs and joint work plans / programmes will be the mechanisms for adaptive programming with the support of the M&E, PCT. ORGs will each year, review outputs, sub-outputs and related budgets as informed by lessons learned during implementation, monitoring, and reporting. To support adaptive programming, the UN development system in Lesotho will develop a costed multi-year joint monitoring and evaluation plan for the full CF period. The joint monitoring and evaluation plan should integrate all the contributing entities' M&E plans.

4.2 Monitoring and learning

The goal of joint monitoring and learning by the MEL Team will be to ensure that the UN development system (a) delivers on the commitment to leave no one behind and to achieve the results that uphold the CF guiding principles; (b) helping national partners develop M&E capacities; mitigating drivers of conflict, disaster risks, humanitarian crises and complex emergencies, including through greater cooperation and complementarity among activities related to development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and sustaining peace; (d) fostering new and effective partnerships between national stakeholders and international actors, including through South – South cooperation. Learning and sharing will be promoted during the CF implementation. Knowledge sharing sessions will periodically be done by MEL to facilitate cross-learning.

4.3 Reporting

UN INFO will be updated as and when the results (indicators data, financial data – budgets, mobilized resources and expenditures are available, particularly at the beginning of the year (first quarter) to inform the past year reports and the new year planning baselines. Reporting will be done semiannually and annually.

4.4 Joint Monitoring Visits

ORGs and other joint coordinating structures will be expected to plan and undertake joint monitoring visits to draw lessons for improved implementation of CF, minimization of implementation risks by taking necessary corrective actions. The UN teams in partnership with government relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) will jointly participate in the monitoring visits. The proposed frequency of the joint monitoring visits will be conducted quarterly.

4.5 CF Evaluation

The CF evaluation will be conducted in the penultimate year of the end of the cycle which will be in 2027. The purpose of the evaluation will be to draw some lessons to inform the new cooperation framework.

Monitoring and evaluation plan is annexed (Annex 3).

Annex 1: Theory of Change

Theory of Change Diagram for the Cooperation Framework (2024-2028)

vision

The UN in Lesotho will work in partnership with the Government and the people of Lesotho, the private sector, civil society, and other development partners to help accelerate attainment of economic development and peoples' well-being, strengthen equitable food systems, enhance environmental sustainability and climate action, and support good governance and social equity for the benefit of all, leaving no one behind."

Results

Good Governance and Social equity

- 50% of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services.
- 30 % of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments.
- Reduction by at least 10% of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to IPV.
- At least 30% increase in disaggregated data availability

Equitable Food Systems, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

- Reduction in prevalence of stunting by at least 10%
- At least 5 % increase in population using safely managed drinking water services.
- 67 % renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption.
- 90 5 proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture.
- Decrease in proportion of land that is degraded.

People's Well-Being and economic development

- Reduction in maternal mortality ratio and under-5 mortality ratio.
- Increased coverage of essential health services (UHC).
- Reduction in number of new HIV infections.
- Reduction in Unemployment rate.
- Increased literacy rate.
- Reduction in proportion of population living below the national poverty line.
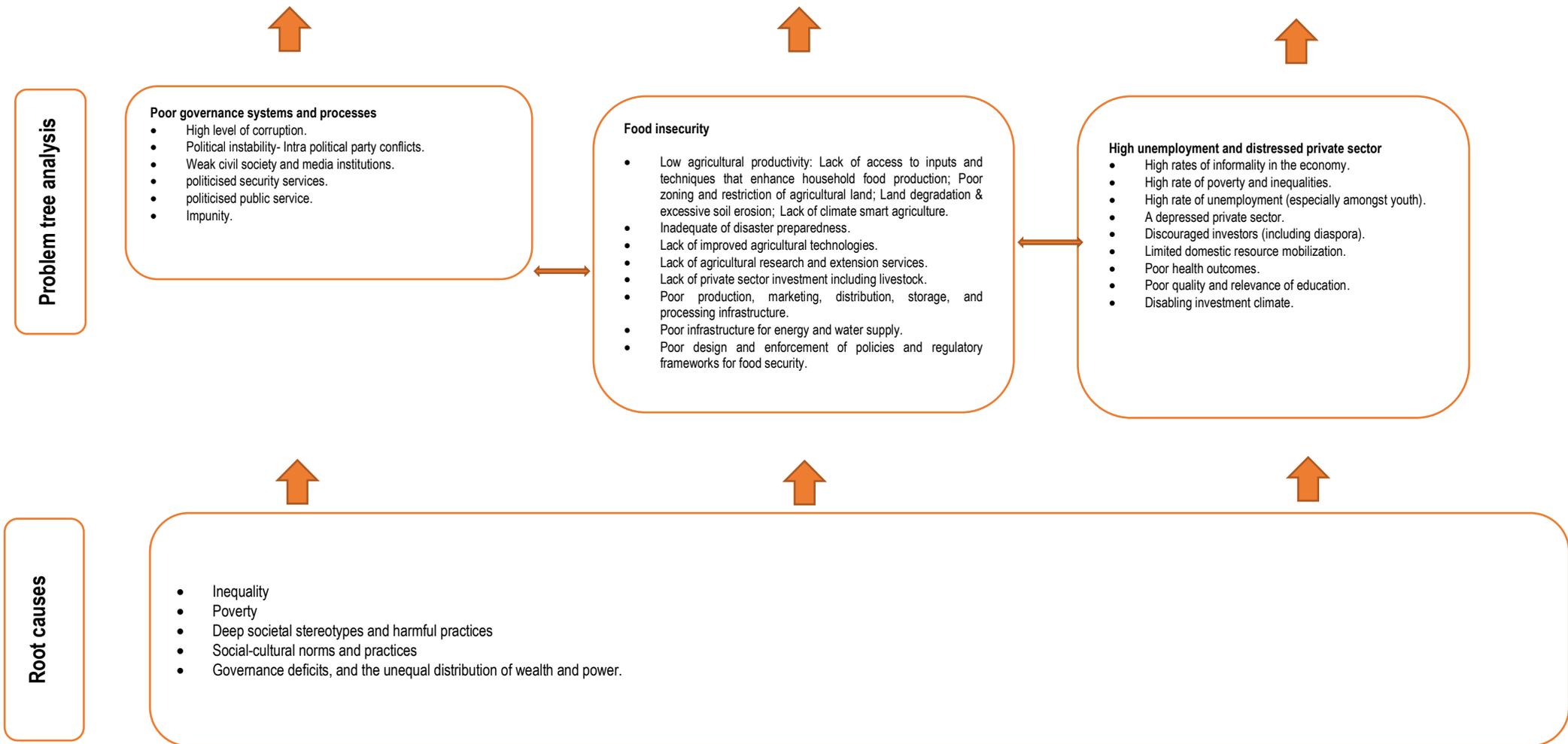
Strategic Interventions

- Strengthened capacity of Government of Lesotho at national and local levels for optimal public finance management, improved and professionalized service delivery and inclusive opportunities for development.
- Strengthened national statistics, evidence generation and data systems for relevant, timely and quality data.
- Strengthened citizen participation and dialogue for enhanced state-society accountability.
- Strengthened partnerships for improved migration management and cross border coordination.
- Enhanced capacity of state and non-state actors to ensure rule of law, gender equality and access to justice (including equitable access and just benefit from Natural Resources) especially for marginalised and vulnerable groups in line with relevant international human rights obligations.
- Violence -SGBV, VAC and other forms of violence and harmful practices - Strengthened multi-sectoral prevention and response systems to eliminate GBV, harmful social norms and practices including child marriage, Violence Against Children, Trafficking in persons.
- The Government of Lesotho progresses towards an integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) and has improved technical and fiscal capacity dedicated to finance and localization of the SDGs with citizen participation.

- Agricultural production and productivity - Improved agricultural production and productivity with advanced climate resilient agricultural technology, digital innovation, advisory services, and an enabling environment for private sector agribusiness development.
- Communities especially the most vulnerable, have increased access to quality nutrition and adopt evidence based nutritional sensitive practices.
- Strengthened institutional and community capacity for sustainable management and equitable access to natural resources and clean energy.
- Strengthened institutional and community capacities for disaster preparedness, anticipatory action, and response with climate change mitigation measures.

- Strengthened capacities of health systems and services to deliver integrated, equitable and quality essential healthcare and to respond to public health emergencies.
- Strengthened national capacities for an equitable and sustainable HIV response, targeting key & priority populations.
- The Government of Lesotho at the national and subnational levels has increased capacity and mechanisms to deliver; inclusive, gender-sensitive, shock-responsive, comprehensive, and sustainable social protection.
- Government of Lesotho at the national and subnational levels has increased capacity, to transform education systems and mechanisms to deliver; inclusive, gender-responsive quality education and 21st century skills to meet the market needs, promote innovation technical and vocational learning and entrepreneurship.
- Private sector development: Enhanced multi-stakeholder capacity and improved business environment for a resilient, productive, competitive, and inclusive private sector including MSMEs.

Risks:

- Changing political landscape.
- Limited financial contribution.
- Humanitarian crises.
- **Assumptions:**
- Resource availability from domestic, international, public, and private sources.
- Government commitment to implement the National Reforms Agenda; and
- Government commitment to ensure enjoyment of human rights by all.

Problem tree analysis

Poor governance systems and processes
- High level of corruption.
- Political instability- Intra political party conflicts.
- Weak civil society and media institutions.
- politicised security services.
- politicised public service.
- Impunity.

Food insecurity

- Low agricultural productivity: Lack of access to inputs and techniques that enhance household food production; Poor zoning and restriction of agricultural land; Land degradation & excessive soil erosion; Lack of climate smart agriculture.
- Inadequate of disaster preparedness.
- Lack of improved agricultural technologies.
- Lack of agricultural research and extension services.
- Lack of private sector investment including livestock.
- Poor production, marketing, distribution, storage, and processing infrastructure.
- Poor infrastructure for energy and water supply.
- Poor design and enforcement of policies and regulatory frameworks for food security.

High unemployment and distressed private sector
- High rates of informality in the economy.
- High rate of poverty and inequalities.
- High rate of unemployment (especially amongst youth).
- A depressed private sector.
- Discouraged investors (including diaspora).
- Limited domestic resource mobilization.
- Poor health outcomes.
- Poor quality and relevance of education.
- Disabling investment climate.

Root causes

- Inequality
- Poverty
- Deep societal stereotypes and harmful practices
- Social-cultural norms and practices
- Governance deficits, and the unequal distribution of wealth and power.

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Annex 2: Results Framework

Good Governance and Social Equity Results Framework

Strategic Pillar 1: Good Governance and Social Equity **SDG Pillars:** People, Peace, Partnerships and Prosperity
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.
Alignment with national and regional frameworks: *NSDP II – Pillar 4- Good Governance and Accountability; AU2063 – 3) An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice, and the Rule of Law; AU2063 – 4) A Peaceful and Secure Africa.*
SDGs and SDG targets: Goal 5: Gender Equality, Goal 10: Reduced Inequality, Goal 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions; GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal
Implementing Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies: Ministry of Public Service; Ministry of Finance and Development Planning; Bureau of Statistics; Disaster Management Authority; Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs

Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Year)	Target	Source/Means of Verification	Assumption Statement
5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age.	37.6% (2021), Bureau of Statistics By form of violence: TBC By age: TBC	20% By form of violence: TBC By age: TBC	Bureau of Statistics Reports from Ministry of Police, MOH	The awareness and advocacy programmes will increase the reporting and systems in Ministry of Health and Police are up to date.

Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Year)	Target	Source/Means of Verification	Assumption Statement
5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments.	25% (2022), Direct National Elections	30%	Government Gazette	
5.c.1 Availability of national systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment.	No	Yes	Government reports	Given that in the 2023 27th February budget speech the commitment is "Current: 15% (Allocation for gender...). the target is to increase to 17% or more in 5 years
10.7.2 Number of well-managed migration policies adopted.	3 adopted (Migration and Development policy, diaspora policy and MGI index, Labor Migration Policy)	5 (Mixed Migration and others TBC)	Government reports	
16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population.	33.6% (February 2023)	20%	Data from Lesotho Correctional Services	Data availability from prisons
16.6.2 Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services.	27% (2014) Afro-barometer survey on satisfaction with access to public services (electricity, water, etc).	50%	Afro-barometer and governance surveys	
17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source.	48.2% (2022) By Sources: Income Tax:	55%	CBL, National Accounts Statistics – Bureau of Statistics, Budget Speeches	

Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Year)	Target	Source/Means of Verification	Assumption Statement
17.18.1 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	40.4% (2018)	70%	SDG Data Gaps Report, Bureau of Statistics	

CF output 1.1 Public sector reform: Strengthened capacity of Government of Lesotho at national and local levels for optimal public finance management, improved and professionalized service delivery, improved access to justice and inclusive opportunities for development
Contributing agencies: IOM, OHCHR, UNCDF, UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, UN Women

Output Indicators	Baseline (Year)	Target	MoV
1:1:1 Number of oversight institutions	4 (Ombudsman, Police Complaints Authority, Parliamentary Portfolio Committees, DCEO) (2022)	5 (Human Rights Commission in addition to 4 in the baseline) (2028)	National gazette: Reports from National Mechanism for reporting and follow up
1.1.2 Extent to which oversight, accountability, or protection mechanisms, especially on civic space, that conform to international human rights standards, are in place and/or functioning, with UN support	Partial (2022)	Full (2028)	Implementation reports

	Partial	Full	Bureau of Statistics
1:1:3: Extent that Lesotho has, with UN support: a) Constitution making processes with mechanisms for civic engagement; b) Electoral Management Bodies with strengthened capacity to conduct inclusive, peaceful and credible elections; c) Parliaments with improved capacities to undertake inclusive, effective, and accountable law-making, oversight and representation	5 (Baseline) a) 1 (National reform and Dialogue process initiated) b) 1 (Independent Electoral Commission strengthened on National and local election processes) 3 (Parliamentary committees strengthened, namely: Women Political Coccus, Legal affairs, and Economical development on SDG Reporting) (2022)	Target: 13 7 (11th Constitutional amendments, 1 IEC, 5 Parliamentary committees) (2028)	Parliament Hansard: Number of institutions established and gazette
1.1.4: Number of national and subnational institutions and structures that engage youth in governance, rule of law, peace-building and human rights, and decision-making processes, with UN support	3 Youth Council, women networks and PWDs (2023)	17 3 Youth, 4 women groups, 3 PWDs, 3 Faith Based Groups, 3 Civil Society, 1 National Human Rights Institution (2028)	Existence of mandated institutions Government willingness and commitments to adopt and implement developed policies and reforms
1.1.5: Number of institutions participating in building inclusive societies and enhancing participatory democracy through the electoral cycle, through UN support	3 1 Parliament, 1 Executive and 1 Judiciary (2022)	9 2 Parliament-National Assembly and Senate, 5 Executive/Ministries, 1 Judiciary; 1 National Human Rights Institution (2028)	Parliamentary reports, Ministerial Strategic Plans Judicial Annual reports and reviews, and Media reports, Performance Contract

1:1:6 Number of human rights-aligned laws enacted (in the last 12 months)	2 Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act; Counter Domestic Violence Act (2022)	4 Gender Equality Bill, Amendment of CPWA, Amendment to Public Service Act to address PSEA)	Index of laws enacted in 2022; Acts of Parliament
1.1.7 Legal frameworks and policies backed by data or research (list them)	1 2022 11th Constitutional Amendment Bill 2022 (Omnibus Bill)	TBC 2028 Policies and institutions proposed in the 11th Constitutional Amendment Bill implemented/established in targeted sectors	Report of relevant Ministries
1.1.8 Number of people benefiting from improved local public services and upgraded resilient infrastructure, with the support from the UN	TBC (study to be established within first 3 months)	TBC (citizens satisfaction with public services)	Perception survey, Commission studies and WB Governance report, Corruption perception index
1.1.9 Number of national legislation documents to institutionalize transparency, accountability, and integrity in line with international standards developed with the support of the UN	2022 1 (DCEO)	3 Omnibus bill, Anticorruption commission, and National integrity system (2028)	Omnibus bill/acts Parliamentary report, supplementary legislation Ministerial minutes and reports
1.1.10 Number of new measures that improved agility and responsiveness of local governance institutions, with UN support, for: a) basic service delivery; and b) prevention of violence and conflicts	0 (2023)	3 district councils (2028)	Ministries report, Local council reports Commission studies

CF output 1.2 National statistical system and data: Strengthened national statistics, evidence generation and data systems for relevant, timely and quality data			
Contributing agencies: FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNECA, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, WFP, WHO			
Output Indicators	**Baseline (Year)**	**Target**	**MoV**
1.2.1 Inclusive, efficient, and real-time education data management system (EMIS) at all levels for evidence-based planning, monitoring, and decision-making, supported by the UN (4.5.1_1)	No	Yes	Implementation reports
1.2.2. Existence of data collection and/or analysis mechanisms providing disaggregated data to monitor progress towards the SDGs with UN support: a) Conventional data collection methods (e.g., surveys); b) Administrative reporting systems; c) New data sources (e.g., big data)	2 (2022) Existence (Rating scale at country level: 0 = Not in place, 1 = Work started, 2 = Work in progress, 3 = Work almost complete, 4 = In place)	4	BoS website Implementation reports
1.2.3 Number of national plans and strategies that integrate gender statistics as an objective strategy	0	2+ NSDS II, NSDS II	BoS report Relevant Line Ministries Implementation reports
CF output 1.3 Civic Space and participation: Strengthened citizen participation and dialogue for enhanced state-society accountability			
Contributing agencies: IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC			
Output Indicators	**Baseline (Year)**	**Target**	**MoV**

1:3:1 Number of human rights shadow reports submitted by civil society organizations	1 2020 (UPR)	5 Treaty reports	Shadow reports submitted by CSOs
1.3.2. People and authorities make **effective use of inclusive dialogue mechanisms** for policy design and delivery, including in the world of work, with UN support	Yes (Partly) (Stakeholder forum, Anti-GBV forum 2022)	Yes (Fully)	Meetings and report from dialogue platforms
1.3.3 Level of meaningful participation of right-holders, especially women, youth, and discriminated groups, in selected public processes, supported by the UN. • Low • Moderate • Significant • High	2022 Moderate **Selected Processes:** Parliament • Elections • Budget • National reforms • Community dialogues	2028 Significant	Civil society and media reports, Government Partners, Surveys on public participation
1.3.4 Number of national and subnational institutions and structures that engage youth in governance, rule of law, peace-building and human rights, and decision-making processes, with UN support	2022 a) National – 0 b) Subnational – 1	2028 a) National – 1 b) Subnational – 5	National reports

1.3.5: Number of entities with strengthened capacities to implement legislation, policies, action plans and initiatives to prevent and respond to GBV, with UN support: a) National entities; b) Sub-national entities; c) Civil Society Organisations (CSOs); and d) Private sector	4 (2023) Ministries: Health, Police, Prime Minister – DMA, MFD, Public Service	5+ All Ministries' Gender Focal Persons at the national level 5 Capacity Building sessions for CSOs and Private Sector	Reports by government entities and CSOs
1.3.6: Number of partnerships with women-led civil society organizations (CSOs) and other bodies and networks to advance women's leadership and participation and gender equality	5 (2023) Gender links, WLSA, FIDA, She-HIVE, LANFE	10+ Mphatlalatsane, ...	Third Party, Government, CSOs, donor and parliamentary reports
1.3.7: National stakeholders supported by the UN to improve inclusivity in political and peace processes and decision-making through a) Mediation; b) Electoral support; and c) Partnerships, including with International Financial Institutions (IFIs), regional organizations & civil society organizations (CSOs)	5 (2023) 1 mediation – CCL 1 IEC 1 CSOs, 1 Media, 1 Partnerships	10 (2028) 2 mediations 1 IEC 2 CSOs, 2 Media, 3 Partnerships	Third party, government, CSOs, donor and parliamentary reports
CF output 1.4 Regional, cross-border and global coordination and partnerships: Strengthened partnerships for improved migration management and cross border coordination			
Contributing agencies: ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNECA, UNFPA			
Output Indicators	**Baseline (Year)**	**Target**	**MoV**

1.4.1 Bilateral, national, and local development and sectoral policies that integrate migration and recognize migrants as contributors to sustainable development developed with UN support and implemented by the Government	Number of Bilateral policies: TBC Number National policies: TBC Number Local policies: TBC	Number of Bilateral policies: TBC Number National policies: TBC Number Local policies: TBC	Adopted policies
1.4.2 Coordination mechanisms (cross-border and regional platform) for integrated migration policy planning and implementation have been developed, with UN support	1 (Cross border Crime Prevention Forum) 2022	2	Implementation reports
1.4.3 Existence of a policy and institutional framework to **protect the rights of migrants and refugees** and promote coherence with employment, skills, social protection, and other relevant policies, and that includes the prohibition of recruitment costs being charged to migrants, developed/implemented with UN support	No	Yes (Mixed Migration Policy)	Adopted policy
1.4.4 Number of migrants and refugees related legal frameworks developed or revised	3 (2022)	5 (2028)	Legal department, Ministry of Home Affairs

CF output 1.5 Human rights: Enhanced capacity of state and non-state actors to ensure rule of law, gender equality and access to justice especially for marginalised and vulnerable groups in line with relevant international human rights obligations

Contributing agencies: ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UN Women			
Output Indicators	**Baseline (Year)**	**Target**	**MoV**
1.5.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles	2022 No	Yes (2028) 1 Human Rights Commission	Act of Parliament
1.5.2 Number of treaty body reports submitted	(0) 2022	7 (CEDAW, Migrant Workers, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Torture, Persons with Disabilities, Beijing +30)	Treaty body reports submitted
1:5:3 Number of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) reports submitted	(1) 2020	1 (Next report due 2025)	Implementation reports
1.5.4 Number of human rights Special Procedure mandate holders visiting Lesotho	(1) 2023 Expert Mechanism on Rights to Development	3 (Special Rapporteur on Torture; Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression; Special Rapporteur on women rights)	Implementation reports
1.5:5 Number of human rights recommendations implemented	(10) 2022 Ten UPR recommendations implemented	50 (At least 50 recommendations of recommendations from UN mechanisms implemented)	Implementation reports
1.5.6 National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) on human rights is functional	(2022) Inter-Ministerial Committee with a Secretariat within the Ministry of Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs	Functional NMRF with designated membership from Government Ministries and a permanent secretariat	Government Gazette

CF output 1.6 Violence – SGBV, VAC and other forms of violence and harmful practices: Strengthened multi-sectoral prevention and response systems to eliminate GBV, harmful social norms and practices including child marriage, Violence Against Children, Trafficking in persons			
Contributing agencies: IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP, WHO			
Output Indicators	**Baseline (Year)**	**Target**	**MoV**
1.6.1 Proportion of domestic resources allocated for (a) Prevention and protection of sexual and reproductive health and (b) Prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices (HP), with UN support (3.1.1_4)	0.045% (2022) a) 0.045% b) 0.045%	a) 10% b) 10%	Ministerial Budgets
1.6.2 Existence of a national or subnational mechanism, addressing discriminatory gender and social norms, stereotypes, practices and power relations at the individual, social and institutional levels related to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices (HP), supported by the UN (5.2.1_10)	No (2023)	Yes	Ministerial reports
1.6.3 Extent to which the country/territory implements evidence-based, costed, and funded action plans or strategies with monitoring and evaluation frameworks to end child marriage, with UN support (5.3.1_1)	1 (2023)	4	Ministerial reports

1.6.4 Number of women, adolescents, and youth, including women, young people with disabilities and key populations benefited from the high-quality services related to harmful practices (HP), with UN support (5.3.1_3)	21,143 Women: TBC Adolescents: TBC Youth: TBC Disabilities: TBC Key Populations: TBC (2022)	24,000 Women: TBC Adolescents: TBC Youth: TBC Disabilities: TBC Key Populations: TBC	Ministerial reports
1.6.5 New or strengthened national programmes and services to prevent Trafficking in Persons (TIP), protect Victims of Trafficking, and prosecute traffickers, supported by the UN	1 (Females' Shelter for Victims of Trafficking	2 (Males' Shelter in addition to Women's)	Project reports
1.6.6 Number of national partners with capacities to apply Gender Responsive Budgeting tools in the budget cycle, through UN support	2022 **1** Ministry of FDP	**4** **2028** Ministries: Gender, Health, Police, Local Government	Programme/project reports, National reports such as budget speech
1.6.7: Existence of national or subnational mechanism to address discriminatory gender and social norms, stereotypes, practices and power relations at the individual, social and institutional levels related to gender equality and the empowerment of women, with support of the UN	No (2023) Anti GBV Forums (National partners, Development Partners, etc.) in place	Yes Third Party Monitoring, Government and Donor report • Sub national level – GBV laws advocacy at community levels targeted in • Male Forums	Implementation reports

1.6.8: Existence of a functional national mechanism, to engage men's and boys' organizations/networks/coalitions promoting positive masculinities that actively advocate for ending gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices (HP), supported by the UN	No (2023)	Yes Government Reports, Local Council Bi-Laws, Council of Chiefs Reports, Civil Society Reports, UNDP commissioned survey reports	Government Reports, Local Council Bi-Laws, Council of Chiefs Reports, Civil Society Reports, UNDP commissioned survey reports

CF output 1.7 SDG Financing: The Government of Lesotho progresses towards an integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) and has improved technical and fiscal capacity dedicated to finance and localization of the SDGs with citizen participation

Contributing agencies: IOM, UNCDF, UNECA, UNDP, UNICEF

Output Indicators	Baseline (Year)	Target	MoV
1.7.1 Number of policies and regulatory and institutional frameworks developed and adopted by public and private actors to align public and private finance with the SDGs: a) Policies; b) Regulatory frameworks; c) Institutional frameworks	2022 a) 1 b) 0 c) 1	2028 a) 1 b) 3 c) 3	Implementation reports/Development Cooperation Report
1.7.2 Number of functioning multi-stakeholder platforms supported to improve the rural investment environment, with UN support	0 2022	5 2028	Implementation reports/Development Cooperation Report

3.5.7: Annual volume of innovative finance (in current USD) accessed/leveraged by the country/territory for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through UN support (including climate finance, blended and private finance and thematic bonds)	$997,860 (2022)	$2.5 million	The Lesotho Finance Development Assessment & INFF Roadmap: Lesotho | Joint SDG Fund LAUNCH OF THE LESOTHO DEVELOPMENT FINANCE ASSESSMENT AND THE INFF ROADMAP | Joint SDG Fund Implementation reports/Development Cooperation Report Implementation reports/Development Cooperation Report
3.5.8: Number and estimated US$ value of [SDG investment] opportunities that are a) investment-ready; and b) received initial offers from an investor, following UN support	TBC (an investor map ongoing) 0	a) 15 b) 5	SDG Investor maps: Implementation reports/Development Cooperation Report

Equitable Food Systems, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

Strategic Pillar 2: Equitable Food Systems, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action   **SDG Pillars:** People, Planet and Prosperity
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.
Alignment with National and regional frameworks: *NSDP II – Pillar 1 – Growth Progression; AU2063 – 1) A Prosperous Africa, based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development*

Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Year)	Target	Source/Means of Verification	Assumption Statement
2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	TBC – Data analysis pending from BOS 2018	TBC FAO to update	FIES Survey, BOS has the data, but it is not yet analysed, pending FAO Support FAO, WFP, IFAD	
2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age	34.5% (36.5%male, 32.5%female 2018	29% (Overall)	MICS (every 4yrs Mid DHS), DHS	Nutrition programmes (specific and sensitive are well integrated and coordinated
2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	85.6% 2020	90%	Agric census Land cover	

Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Year)	Target	Source/Means of Verification	Assumption Statement
5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure	19.2% (Co owned) in 2014 2023	30%	Data from Land Registry	Availability of Implementation of – Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries, and forests in the context of national food security
5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control	No 2023	Yes	Data from Ministry of Gender	Acts Of Parliament
6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	72.18% (2020)	80%	JMB, WB and BOS	Availability of resources to implement Long-term Water and Sanitation Strategy (Vol II, 2014). Progress of large water projects, particularly the Lowlands Water Project.
7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	Access to electricity (% of population) 47.35% 2020	67% Electrification: Urban and Rural	WB and National Energy Survey (2020)	Availability of resources to meet the high demand. Govt and private sector willingness to commit the relevant needed resources.

Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Year)	Target	Source/Means of Verification	Assumption Statement
13.1.1 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies	2023 36 disaster risk reduction strategies (33 development strategies and 3 LDRR plans (2023)	45 local disaster risk reduction strategies (40 development strategies and 5 LDRR plans	Government reports DMA reports as coordination body for disaster risk reduction	• Availability of resources effectively supporting implementation of the National and LDRR plans • Government willingness to harmonize plans and mobilized resources for implementation. • Frequent disasters and climate induced shocks ravaging developments especially on sustainable NRM interventions.
15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area	14.88 per cent (4,548.13 km^2) 2017	11.88 per cent (3,629.71 km^2)	Lesotho Land Cover Atlas (FAO 2017)	• Availability of resources effectively supporting implementation of the National and LDRR plans • Government willingness to harmonize plans and mobilize resources for implementation. • Frequent disasters and climate induced shocks ravaging developments especially on sustainable NRM interventions.

CF output 2.1: **Agricultural production and productivity:** Improved agricultural production and productivity with advanced climate resilient agricultural technology, digital innovation, advisory services and enabling policy environment for private sector agribusiness development
Contributing agencies: FAO, UNCDF, UNDP, UNECA, UNEP WFP

Output Indicators	Baseline (Year)	Target	MoV
2.1.1 Number of farmers, livestock owners or other rural producers accessing production inputs and/or technological packages, with UN support	21,200 (2022) 1,200 livestock owners received fodder seeds; 20,000 farmers received veterinary support. 200 farmers under WFP Adaptation fund project	42,400	Government and projects report
2.1.2 Number of persons trained in improved or innovative production (crop, livestock, or fish) practices and/or technologies, with UN support	12,000 (2022) trained on crop and livestock production and nutrition issues.	24,000	Government and projects report
2.1.3 Number of system/information services monitoring food security and climate resilient agriculture, supported by the UN	4 (2022) Crop forecasting, crop assessment, vulnerability assessment, integrated food security phase classification conducted annually	4 Crop forecasting, crop assessment, vulnerability assessment, integrated food security phase classification conducted annually for the next 5 years	LVAC reports, BOS Reports

2.1.4 Areas of land (ha) brought under climate-resilient management, with UN support	3,000 ha (2022)	4,000	Implementation reports
2.1.5 Number of targeted agricultural businesses with increased export volume after having received trade information services, with UN support	TBC	TBC	Implementation reports
2.1.6 Number and types of instruments designed and implemented to enable access to finance/investment for agrifood value chain development, sustainable natural resources management and improvement in agriculture water management.	2 • Agricultural input subsidies • Competitive grants	5 • Smart and targeted subsidies • Agricultural development fund • Commodity specific funding arrangements	Government and project implementation report

CF output 2.2: **Nutrition:** Communities, especially the most vulnerable, have increased access to quality nutrition and adopt evidenced based nutritional sensitive practices			
Contributing agencies: FAO, UNICEF WFP, WHO			
Output Indicators	**Baseline (Year)**	**Target**	**MoV**
2.2.1 New or improved sectoral and/or cross-sectoral policies, strategies, and investment programmes to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, developed with UN support	7 Food and Nutrition strategy (2021), livestock policy (2022), Gap (2019), Lesotho Food Action Plan (2019-2023) Nutrition and Home Economics Strategy (2020-2024), Lesotho and Nutrition Strategy and Costed Action Plan (2019-2023), Food and nutrition policy, 2018; Nutrition SBCC strategy, 2021 food fortification legislation, food fortification guidelines	10	Adopted policies interventions and strategies. Project implementation reports
2.2.2 Government has put in place inclusive governance, coordination, and accountability mechanisms to **eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition**, with UN support	Yes (Implementation of mechanisms need strengthening) Lesotho Food and Nutrition Strategy and Costed Action Plan 2019-2023	Yes (mechanisms strengthened)	Food Clusters (4 W's Matrix). Strategy implementation reports

2.2.3 Number of governmental and non-governmental institutions having increased capacity to design, implement and fund policies preventing and reducing malnutrition and promoting healthy diets, with UN support	22 Governance structures (Multisectoral and Multistakeholder) in place including Scaling-up Nutrition Structures, Nutrition Sensitive Platform, UN Nutrition Network Nutritional capacity gap assessment report (2018); Zero hunger strategic review (2018); Cost of hunger report, 2019.	25	Joint UN Network reports (WFP, UNICEF, FAO, WHO)
2.2.4: Number of people reached through interpersonal social, and **behaviour change communication (SBCC)** approaches, with UN support	100,000 (2022): WFP	200,000	Implementation reports
2.2.5 Number of nutritionally vulnerable people receiving with UN support: food/cash-based transfers/commodity vouchers/capacity strengthening transfers through malnutrition treatment and prevention programmes	58,512 (2021) – WFP (Food vouchers and cash transfers; FAO complemented same number with Home Gardening kits 3,000 reached with e-vouchers for farming inputs (FAO, 2021) 46,450 received farming inputs – 2022)	117,024 (53% Women)	Beneficiary lists

CF output 2.3: Natural resource management: Strengthened institutional and community capacity for sustainable management and equitable access to natural resources and clean energy

Contributing agencies: FAO, UNCDF, UNECA, UNDP, UNEP, UN Habitat, UNIDO, WFP

Output Indicators	Baseline (Year)	Target	MoV

2.3.1 Water, sanitation and hygiene monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) mechanism implemented with UN support (3.9.2_1)	No	Yes	Implementation reports
2.3.2 Functional sector coordination mechanism for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), supported by the UN (3.9.2_2)	Yes, but needs strengthening.	Yes. Fully functional and includes all relevant sectors	Implementation reports
2.3.3 Number of people reached with, at least, basic drinking water services that are safe and available when needed, through UN support (6.1.1_3)	1,512,000 (2020) 72.18% (2020) https://knoema.com/WBWDI2019Jan/world-development-indicators-wdi?tsId=3313920	1,680,000	Implementation reports; JMP (Joint Monitoring Program: UNICEF, WHO,
2.3.4 Number of people with enhanced knowledge on efficient water use through targeted technical capacity building programmes, through UN support (6.1.1_4)	750,000 (2022)	800,000 (WFP target)	Implementation reports; UNICEF, WFP
2.3.5 Number of new or revised policies and approved targeting sustainable forest management with support from UN	7 (4 development plans & 3 policies (2023)	10	Review of the development and NRM policies including accounting records on financing earmarked fiscal resources. Approved and adopted development and NRM Policies

2.3.6 Number of hectares (ha) of degraded land rehabilitated and restored, supported by the UN	20,000 ha (2021)	50,000 ha	GIS mapping/remote sensing, post impact analysis, PIR and Progress reports, Mid-term and end term surveys/evaluation, Reforestation/Afforestation records kept by the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Environment.
2.3.7 Number of people/HHs directly benefitting from initiatives, with UN support, to protect nature and promote sustainable use of resources	2,500 HHs (50% women-headed) (2022)	4,897 HHs	Mid-term and End term Surveys/evaluations GEF PIR Reports
2.3.8 Number of people/HHs who, with UN support: a) Gained access to clean, affordable, and sustainable energy; and b) Benefitted from services from clean, affordable, and sustainable energy	12,000 HHs (50% women headed HHs) (2022)	20,000HHs (50% women headed HHs)	Government (SE4ALL project reports, BOS) GEF PIR reports, Mid-term, and End-term evaluations Beneficiary list/records kept by the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Environment.
2.3.9 Number of entities with improved level of energy efficiency, supported by the UN	5 (2: Health Centres, 2: Police and 1: Schools) (2022) Plus 6 WFP assisted schools	15 (5: Health Centres; 5; Schools; and 5: Police Stations) plus 10 WFP assisted schools	Government (SE4ALL project reports, BOS) GEF PIR reports, Mid-term, and End term evaluations Private Energy Developers report Project reports: WFP
CF output 2.4: Resilience and climate action: Strengthened institutional and community capacities for disaster preparedness, anticipatory action, and response with climate change mitigation measures			

Contributing agencies: IOM FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP			
Output Indicators	**Baseline (Year)**	**Target**	**MoV**
2.4.1 Government with capacities strengthened, with UN support, to enhance their resilience to, and address the challenges faced by women and girls regarding natural hazards and climate change (13.1.1_1)	a) 5 Public institutions (2022) b) 16 Communities (2022) Plus LMS, DMA, Local Government, Ministry of Defence, national security, and Environment	a) 10 Public institutions (2028) b) 30 Communities (2028)	• Mid-term and End term Surveys/evaluations • GEF PIR Reports • Progress reports • Third Party Monitoring/independent evaluations • NDC & NAP implementation progress reports • MECC strategy
2.4.2 Number of people provided with climate information services, with UN support (13.3.1_2)	41,500 39,000 (2021) – FAO Received climate smart agriculture information (brochures) 2,500 (2022) – UNDP Received climate information through GEF project 341,000 (2022) WFP through adaptation fund project	90,000 Plus 300,000 people (WFP)	Implementation reports
2.4.3 Number of people per 100,000 that are covered by early warning information through local governments or through national dissemination mechanisms, supported by the UN, in line with Sendai Framework	2,500 (2022) Plus 22,000 people (WFP)	4,897 25,000 people	• Mid-term and End term Surveys/evaluations • GEF PIR Reports • Progress reports • Third Party Monitoring/independent evaluations • Post impact Analysis Report

2.4.4 Existence of a national disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategy adopted with UN support and implemented by the Government, in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR	Yes Draft (2023) Draft national disaster risk strategy and action plan (2020)	Gender Sensitive National DRR Plan incorporating local level priorities approved and adopted. Approved DRR strategy and Action Plan	• Review of the Gender Sensitive National DRR Plan including accounting records on financing earmarked fiscal resources. • GEF PIR Reports • Progress reports • Third Party Monitoring • independent evaluations
2.4.5 Number of local disaster risk reduction (DRR strategies) adopted/communities with UN support and implemented by the Government, in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR	36 (33 development strategies and 3 LDRR plans (2023)	45 (40 development strategies and 5 LDRR plans	• Review of the Development Strategies and LDRR including accounting records on financing earmarked fiscal resources. • Approved and Adopted Development Strategies and LDRR Plans • GEF PIR and Government reports • WFP progress reports

People's Well-being and Economic Development Results Framework

Strategic Pillar 3: People's Well-Being and economic development **SDG Pillars:** People, Prosperity
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
SDGs and SDG targets: Goal 1: No poverty; Goal 2: Zero Hunger; Goal 3: Good Health and well-being; Goal 4: Quality Education; Goal 5: Gender Equality; Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and infrastructure; Goal 10: Reduced Inequality; Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goals
National and Regional frameworks: *NSDP II – Pillar 1 – Growth Progression; NSDP II – Pillar 2 – Social Transformation; AU 2063 – (1) A prosperous Africa, based on inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development; AU 2063 – 6) An Africa whose development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by Africa People, especially its Women and Youth, and caring for Children.*
Relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies: Ministry of Social Development; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education and Training; Ministry of Trade; Ministry of Environment

Outcome Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target	Source/Means of Verification	Assumption Statement
1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	49.7% (2017/2018)	43.8%	Bureau of Statistics/Household Budget Survey	The Household Budget survey is conducted to fill the huge data gap
3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio	1024/100 000 (2014)	70/100 000	Census, Lesotho Demographic	The LDHS is conducted in 2024

Outcome Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target	Source/Means of Verification	Assumption Statement
			Health Survey (LHDS)	
3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate	80/1000 LHDS (2014)	55/1000	Census, Lesotho Demographic Health Survey (LHDS)	The LDHS is conducted in 2024
Neonatal mortality rate	26/1000 (2014)	20/1000	Census, Lesotho Demographic Health Survey (LHDS)	The LDHS is conducted in 2024
3.1.4. UHC service coverage index 3.8.1: Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, new-borns and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)	38.7% (2019)	75%	WHO global data	
3.1.5 Proportion of population with large/impoverishing household expenditure on health as share of total household expenditure of income [SDG 3.8.2]	15% (2020)	<10%	WHO global data	

Outcome Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target	Source/Means of Verification	Assumption Statement
3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections in adults 15+, by sex, age, and key populations.	5000 (2020)	1250	LePHIA, Lesotho Demographic Health Survey (LHDS), UNAIDS Spectrum Estimates	The LDHS is conducted in 2024.
3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group.	91/1000 (2018)	35/1000	LDHS, MICS	The LDHS is conducted in 2024.
4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex	**Grade 2/3** (MICS 2018) Numeracy: M–0.6% F–1.8% Literacy: English (reading): M–5% F–5% Sesotho: M-5.8% F–17.7%) **Primary Grade 6** (ECOL 2022) Math: M–39.9% F–43.1%; English: M–38.5% and F–47.5%; Sesotho M–30.4% F–37.2%	M–60% and F–60% for all the subject areas M–60% F–60% in Math and Language and Science	MICS ECOL National Learning Assessment reports TBD	Learning assessments will be carried out periodically every two years for different grades

Outcome Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target	Source/Means of Verification	Assumption Statement
4.2.2 Participation in organised learning (one year before the official primary entry age) by sex.	Baseline in 2019 Total 26.7% Female: 26.9% Male 26.5 %	T: 50% F: 50% M: 50%	EMIS	Annual Statistics from MOET
4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill **National indicator:** Percentage of males and females who in the last three months have carried out at least one of the nine listed computer related activities	15–24 years M–13.8% F–14.1% (MICS 2018)	50% for Males and Females	MICS	There is an acceleration of digital literacy programs in the country
8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex and disability	Total – 73.1% a) Men – 69% b) Women 77.2%	TBC	Labour Force survey	• Data Availability • Optimum resource mobilised to cover needs and establish credible data
8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities.	a) National = 22.5% (2019) b) Youth = 29.1% (2019) c) Women = 22.4% (2019) d) Men 22.6% (2019) e) PLWD: TBC	a) National = 20% b) Youth = 27% c) Men = 20% d) Women = 20% e) PLWD: TBC	Labour Force survey	• Data Availability • Optimum resource mobilised to cover needs and establish credible data

Outcome Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (Year)	Target	Source/Means of Verification	Assumption Statement
8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment, or training	35.2% (World Bank) 11.97% (BoS)	16 %	Bureau of Statistics	Data will be collected regularly
10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted	10% (2022)	5%	Central Bank of Lesotho	
Number of bilateral labour agreements signed for labour exchange. Decent work, Migration management (10.7)	0	4 (Seychelles, Qatar, Mauritius, RSA)	MOFAIR, MOLE records	

CF output 3.1: Health: Strengthened capacities of health systems and services to deliver integrated, equitable and quality essential healthcare and to respond to public health emergencies			
Contributing agencies: FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNEP, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP			
Output Indicators	**Baseline (Year)**	**Target**	**MoV**
3.1.1 Percentage of facilities offering integrated services according to national defined service package with quality standards	45% (2022)	75%	Project implementation reports
3.1.2 Percentage of facilities meeting criteria for resilient health facilities and services	55% (2022)	75%	Project implementation reports

3.1.3 Percentage of facilities compliant with infection prevention and control (IPC) measures	85% (2022)	95%	Project implementation reports
3.1.4 Timeliness of emergency detection and reporting	85% (2022)	90%	Project implementation reports
3.1.5 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	82% (2014)	90%	LHDS
3.1.6 (SDG 1.a.2) Proportion of total government spending on health	9.5% (2020)	**20%**	Budget reports
3.1.7 Percentage of teenage pregnancy in Lesotho	19% (2014)	5%	LDHS
3.1.8 Proportion of facilities providing BmONC services	0	90%	Quality of care assessment report

CF output 3.2: HIV response: Strengthened national capacities for an equitable and sustainable HIV response, targeting key & priority populations

Contributing agencies: IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO

Output Indicators	Baseline (Year)	Target	MoV
3.2.1 Proportion of UBRAF indicators on joint program support in strengthening national HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support met	23/30 (77%) (2022)	27/30 (90%)	Joint Program Monitoring System Reports

3.2.2 Percentage of people at risk of HIV infection—within all epidemiologically relevant groups, age groups and geographic settings—who have access to and use appropriate, prioritized, person-centred and effective combination prevention options **National indicator:** % who received at least 2 prevention interventions	Sex workers – 39% MSM – 21% (2021)	95%	Surveys; Prevention Score Card; Program Reports
3.2.3 Progress towards the 95 – 95 – 95 Treatment Targets (% of people living with HIV who know their HIV status; % of those who know their HIV status who are on treatment; % of those on treatment who are virally suppressed)	90 – 97 – 92 (Adults 15+) 91 – 98 – 92 (Adult Females 15+) 88 – 96 – 90 (Adult Males 15+) 82 – 95 – 91 (Young People 15 – 24) (2021)	95 – 95 – 95	LePHIA & UNAIDS Spectrum Estimates
3.2.4 Percentage of children (0 – 14 years) on antiretroviral therapy among all children living with HIV	Children – 64% (2021)	90%	UNAIDS Spectrum Estimates
3.2.5 Percentage of pregnant and breastfeeding women who received ART	82% (2021)	95%	UNAIDS Spectrum Estimates

CF output 3.3: Social protection: Government of Lesotho at the national and subnational levels has increased capacity and mechanisms to deliver; inclusive, gender-sensitive, shock-responsive, and sustainable social protection

Contributing agencies: FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNEP, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP

Output Indicators	Baseline (Year)	Target	MoV
3.3.1 Extent to which measurement, analysis, or policy advice, has informed policies and programmes to reduce child poverty (1.2.1_2)	2 – Work in progress Rating scale at country level: 0 – Not in place, 1 – Work started, 2 – Work in progress, 3 – Work almost complete, 4 – In place	4 – In place	Government Policies, laws and Programmes mentions to child poverty analysis and measurement
3.3.2 Extent to which policy measures and institutional capacities are in place which aim to increase access to social protection schemes, with UN support (1.3.1_1)	1 – Work Started Rating scale at country level: 0 – Not in place, 1 – Work started, 2 – Work in progress, 3 – Work almost complete, 4 – In place	4 – In place	Adopted policies that mainstream migration
1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on social protection	12.3% (2022)	16.8%	Social Protection Budget Brief

CF output 3.4: Transformed education: Government of Lesotho at the national and subnational levels has increased capacity, to transform education systems and mechanisms to deliver; inclusive, gender-responsive quality education and 21st century skills to meet the market needs, promote innovation and entrepreneurship

Contributing agencies: ILO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF

Output Indicators	Baseline (Year)	Target	MoV
3.4.1 Extent to which the education system is inclusive and gender equitable for access to learning opportunities and in accordance with international human rights standards, with UN support (4.1.2_1)	Scale of 0 – 7) Baseline Scale: 3	Scale of 0 – 7) Target Scale: 5	Implementation Reports

3.4.2 Learning outcomes, including early stimulation through better aligning policies, pedagogies, environments, and assessments, are improved with UN support (4.2.1_1)	Math: M- 39.9% F-43.1% English: M-38.5% and F-47.5%; Sesotho M-30.4% F-37.2%	TBC	National Learning Assessment to be conducted with support of UN agencies and related reports
3.4.3 Policies on skills development for work and life within lifelong learning policies, plans and pathways developed with UN support and implemented by the Government (4.3.1_2)	Basic Education Curriculum policy including three pathways drafted	Functional Basic Education Curriculum promoting the three pathways with full complement of teaching and learning materials along progress reporting in place.	Report on the Basic Education Curriculum and its implementation
3.4.4 Number of people directly benefiting from improved access to skills and lifelong learning programmes, including for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), developed, and implemented with UN support (4.3.1_8)	Enrolment- lifelong learning: 9,425 Number benefiting from CSE: 301,346	Increased enrolments at 10,000 CSE: 310,000	Implementation reports
3.4.5 Government supported by the UN in developing technology- enabled inclusive and resilient learning systems and/or in leveraging emerging technologies to enhance teaching/learning processes and management of education (4.4.1_2)	Comprehensive inclusive and resilient learning under development	Functional non-classroom centric inclusive and resilient learning implemented	Implementation reports

3.4.6 Number of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions with improved capacity to deliver training and assessments with UN support	TBD (Baseline to be carried out in yr. 1 of the CF to inform the targets)	TBD (to be confirmed in Yr. 1 Of the CF recommendations)	Implementation reports
1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on education	16.2% (2022)	20%	Education Budget Brief

CF output 3.5: Private sector development: Enhanced multi-stakeholder capacity and improved business environment for a resilient, productive, competitive, and innovative private sector including MSMEs

Contributing agencies: ILO, IOM, ITC, UNCDF, UNCTAD, UNECA, UNDP, UNV, WFP

Output Indicators	Baseline (Year)	Target	MoV
3.5.1: Number of persons accessing financial services (savings, credit, insurance, remittances, mobile money) with UN support	a) Savings 57.5% b) Credit 41.2% c) Insurance 63.3% d) Remittances 68.3% e) Mobile money 64.3% Fin scope 2021	a) Savings = 65% b) Credit = 55% c) Insurance = 70% d) Remittances = 70% e) Mobile money = 80%	Implementation reports
3.5.2: Number of policies that promote enabling and regulated digital ecosystems that are affordable, accessible, trusted, and secure.	a) Policies (0) 2022 b) Regulatory frameworks (0) 2022 c) Institutional (0) 2022	a) Policies (5) b) Regulatory frameworks (4) c) Institutional (4)	Implementation reports
3.5.3: Number of people engaging with UN-supported a) financial and digital products, services; and b) infrastructure	a) Financial = 0 b) Digital = 1000 c) Infrastructure = 0	a) Financial = 1000; Digital = 100,000 b) 100,000 c) Infrastructure = 200	Implementation reports

3.5.4: Number of established start-ups, supported by the UN	0 (2022)	50	Implementation reports
3.5.5: Number of innovative solutions adopted by programme partners, which expanded policy and development options, with UN support: a) Foresight; b) Solution mapping; c) Crowd sourcing and collective intelligence; d) Crowd funding and alternative finance; e) WEB 3.0; f) Behavioural insights; g) Artificial intelligence; h) Micronarratives and deep listening; i) New and emerging data; j) Positive deviance; k) Robotics; and l) Other.	a) Foresight; 0 b) Solution mapping; 0 c) Crowd sourcing and collective intelligence; 0 d) Crowd funding and alternative finance; 0 e) WEB 3.0; 0 f) Behavioural insights; 0 g) Artificial intelligence; 0 h) Micronarratives and deep listening; 0 i) New and emerging data; 0 j) Positive deviance; 0 k) Robotics; 0	a) Foresight; 2 b) Solution mapping; 5 c) Crowd sourcing and collective intelligence; 5 d) Crowd funding and alternative finance; 3 e) WEB 3.0; 2 f) Behavioural insights; 5 g) Artificial intelligence; 3 h) Micronarratives and deep listening; 2 i) New and emerging data; 5 j) Positive deviance; 3 k) Robotics; 2	Baseline survey, post impact survey, Government and Donor reports
3.5.6: Number of functional Public Private Dialogue Mechanisms on Trade and Industry, Agriculture, Tourism, Culture, Employment and Labour, in place supported by the UN	1	5	Implementation reports

3.5.7: Number of policies developed or improved for the benefit of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and diaspora investors with business sector input, and promulgated or implemented, with UN support	47 (2019)	53	Implementation reports
3.5.8: Number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) that have made changes to their business operations for increased competitiveness, through including labour migration/diaspora skills transfer with UN support	0 (2022)	10	Implementation reports
3.5.9: Number of **market linkages** facilitated for both exports and import sourcing (trade fairs, buyer, seller meetings, inward buyer missions), supported by the UN	0 (2022)	10	Implementation reports
3.5.10: Number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) served by business support organizations (BSOs) that are directly supported by the UN	124 (2022)	1000	Implementation reports

Annex 3: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Joint Monitoring, Reviews and Reporting

Description of activities	Data Collection Frequency	Use of Information / Purpose of Activity	Responsible Groups	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
UN INFO data uploaded for all reporting requirements by all agencies	Annually	To demonstrate the performance of UNCT against JWP key targets and thematic areas	M&E Team	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Results Groups Review of progress on Outputs and Outcomes – narrative	Twice a year	For UNCT reporting and contributions to One UN report.	ORGs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joint annual review - One UN Report	Annually	For reporting of annul UNCT results to host government, national partners and to UN.	ORGs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joint National (UN and GoL) Steering Committee annual results performance review	Annually	To ensure alignment of support to national priorities set out by the government.	ORGs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joint National (UN and GoL) Steering Committee annual Joint Work Plans review and endorsement	Annually	To ensure alignment of support to national priorities set out by the government.	ORGs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support National Bureau of Statistics with	Quarterly	To support the monitoring and achievement of NSDS II goals.	M&E Team	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

the implementation of NSDS II and its monitoring framework								
Support the implementation of Integrated Planning and Reporting Tool (IPRT)	Monthly	To support GoL to have the updated dashboard of financial and NSDP II data.	M&E Team	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joint monitoring visits of the Results Groups	Quarterly	To draw implementation lessons for replication and corrective actions.	ORGs and M&E Team	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Joint Assessments and Evaluations

Description of activities	Data Collection Frequency	Use of Information	Responsible Results Groups	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Conduct Evaluability and learning assessment of the Cooperation Framework	Mid Term	To conduct an internal evaluation as a way of preparing for the final evaluation.	M&E Team			✓		
Conduct evaluation of joint programmes	Penultimate year of JP	To draw lessons for replication and to inform timely correct actions.	M&E Team	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Description of activities	Data Collection /Activity Frequency	Use of Information	Responsible Results Groups	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Country Program evaluations of United Nations entities	Mid Term and end term evaluations	To ensure that country programme documents are contributing to the CF	M&E Team			✓		✓
Independent evaluation of the Cooperation Framework	Penultimate Year of CF	To inform the new Cooperation Framework.	M&E Team				✓	
Yearly updates Common Country Analysis (CCA)	Annually	To update the current CCA with some changes so that UNCT strategies are informed and remain relevant each year.	PCT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conduct CCA to inform the new Cooperation Framework	Penultimate Year of CF	To provide baselines which will be used to support the development of the new Cooperation Framework.	M&E Team				✓	

Joint Learning

Description of activities	Data Collection /Activity Frequency	Use of Information	Responsible Results Groups	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Establish learning and sharing	Monthly	To promote learning and sharing based on research and studies	PCT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

platforms on research, MERL, new tools / innovations around data		conducted within UN Lesotho.						
Learning and sharing platform with academia, GoL, Think Tanks, UN, Private Sector, CSOs, etc., with the view to bridge SDG data gaps.	Quarterly	To bring in all the national partners' contributions on board towards bridging SDG data gaps.	PCT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Document and collectively analyse lessons learned during Programme cycle	Annually	To have the readily available repository of lessons learned to inform new programming / improve current programming.	PCT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Facilitate learning and exchanges with GoL, CSOs, Private sector, youth, disability	Twice a year	To bring in all the national partners' contributions on board towards bridging SDG data gaps with the	PCT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

groups and other LNOB groups		view of Leaving No One Behind.						

Annex 4: UNCT joint concept note [NOT RECEIVED]

Annex 5: Legal Annex

1. Whereas the Government of Lesotho (the "Government") has entered into the agreements listed below with the United Nations, including its Funds, Programmes and other subsidiary organs, and other organizations of the United Nation's system ("UN System Organizations"), which are applicable to their programme activities in *[Lesotho]* (the "UN Agreements") under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (the "Cooperation Framework").

2. Whereas the UN Agreements, together with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946 (the "General Convention") and/or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947 (the "Specialized Agencies Convention") as applicable, form the primary existing legal basis for the relationship between the

Government and each UN System Organization for supporting the country to deliver on the Cooperation Framework, and are non-exhaustive and without prejudice to any other legal instruments the Government may enter into, including additional agreements with UN System Organizations for the purpose of their activities in the country:

a) **With the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, a basic agreement to govern UNDP's assistance to the country, which was signed by the Government and UNDP (the "Standard Basic Assistance Agreement" or "SBAA")] on 3rd December 1974. This Cooperation Framework, together with a joint results group work plan specifying UNDP programme activities further to this Cooperation Framework (which shall form part of this Cooperation Framework and is incorporated herein by reference), constitute together a "project document" as referred to in the [SBAA]. The implementing partner and UNDP will sign a project agreement containing the specific arrangements for each project further to the relevant project document.

b) **With the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),** a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF on 30th November 1994.

c) **With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),** a Country Co-operation Agreement concluded between the Government and UNHCR on ___ [and revised on___].

d) **With the World Food Programme (WFP)**, a Basic Agreement concerning assistance from WFP, signed by the Government and WFP on 11 November 1968.

e) **With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA),** [*the text to be used in this section depends on the specific legal framework in the country. A menu of options for the appropriate text is available in the UNFPA Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM) at the following link:*
http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/admin-resource/Legal%20basis%20of%20cooperation%20UNDAF.pdf

UNFPA Country Offices are requested to consult with UNFPA's Legal Unit, OED, for the correct text to be used.]

With the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, an agreement concluded by an exchange of letters, which entered into force on 31 March 2010, pursuant to which the standard

basic assistance agreement between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme shall mutatis mutandis apply to UNFPA in the country."

f) **With the International Labour Organization (ILO)**, the "[*title of bilateral agreement containing privileges and immunities*]" concluded between the Government and ILO on_____.

g) **With the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), in** conformity with General Conference decision GC.1/Dec.40, adopted on 12 December 1985, and Director-General's bulletin UNIDO/DG/B.18/REV.1, dated 15 May 1992, the Standard Basic Cooperation Agreement ("SBCA") concluded with the Government on [*date*]. If the Government has not concluded a SBCA, the provision of technical assistance will be subject to the Government's acceptance to apply to the project document signed with UNIDO, *mutatis mutandis*, the provisions of either the SBAA concluded with UNDP, or the Technical Assistance Agreement concluded with the United Nations and Specialized Agencies. In the absence of any of the foregoing agreements, the provision of technical assistance will be subject to the Government's acceptance of the "Basic Terms and Conditions Governing UNIDO Projects".

h) **With the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),** an Agreement for the establishment of the FAO Representation in Lesotho concluded between the Government and FAO on 09 September 1981.

i) **With the World Health Organization (WHO),** a Basic Agreement for the Provision of Technical Advisory Assistance signed by the Government and WHO on 11 December 1967.

j) **W With the International Organization for Migration (IOM),** the "Cooperation Agreement between the International Organization for Migration and the Government of Lesotho" concluded between the Government and IOM on 19 January 2011.

k) [*Add in references to other UN System Organizations as appropriate. Text to be provided by their respective headquarters' legal offices*]

3. **With respect to all UN System Organizations**: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions, decisions, rules, and procedures of each UN System Organization.

4. Without prejudice to the above, the Government shall:

(i) apply to each UN System Organization and its property, funds, assets, officials, and experts on mission the provisions of the General Convention and/or the Specialized Agencies Convention; and

(ii) accord to each UN System Organization, its officials and other persons performing services on behalf of that UN System Organization, the privileges, immunities, and facilities set out in the UN Agreement applicable to such UN System Organization.

5. United Nations Volunteers performing services on behalf of a UN System Organization shall be entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to officials of such UN System Organization.

6. Any privileges, immunities and facilities granted to a UN System Organization under the Cooperation Framework shall be no less favourable than those granted by the Government to any other UN System Organization signatory of the Cooperation Framework.

7. Without prejudice to the UN Agreements, the Government shall be responsible for dealing with any claims which may be brought by third parties against any of the UN System Organizations and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf, and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the Cooperation Framework, except where it is mutually agreed by the Government and the relevant UN System Organization(s) that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that UN System Organization, or its officials, or persons performing services.

8. Nothing in or relating to this Cooperation Framework shall be deemed:

(i) a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities of any UN System Organization; or

(ii) the acceptance by any UN System Organization of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising from this Cooperation Framework,

whether under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention, the UN Agreements, or otherwise, and no provisions of this Cooperation Framework shall be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, that is inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

Annex 6: Government-UN Accountability in Programme implementation

This Cooperation Framework programme will be nationally executed under the overall co-ordination of Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. Government Ministries, NGOs, INGOs and UN system agencies will implement programme activities. The Cooperation Framework will be made operational through the development of joint work plan(s) (JWPs)[13] and/or agency-specific work plans and project documents as necessary which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner as necessary on the use of resources. To the extent possible the UN system agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the signed Cooperation Framework and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary, and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the Cooperation Framework and joint or agency-specific work plans and / or project documents[14].

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[13] As per the UNDG Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for countries adopting the "Delivering as One" approach.

[14] In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Co-operating Agency directly responsible for the Government's participation in each UNDP-assisted workplan. The reference to "Implementing Partner(s)" shall mean "Executing Agency(s)" as used in the SBAA. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a workplan, a Principal Implementing Partner will be identified who will have responsibility for convening, coordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the Implementing Partners identified in the workplan to ensure that inputs are provided, and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the workplan.

Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria, and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations system (as stated in the ICSC circulars).

Programme Implementation

All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Work Plans (WPs[15]) agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner:
    a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
    b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement).
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners based on requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner.
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

[In countries where it has been agreed that cash will be transferred to institutions other than the Implementing Partner (e.g., the Treasury) please replace with the following text:]

Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred to the [national institution] for forwarding to the Implementing Partner:
    a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
    b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement).
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners based on requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner.
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

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[15] Refers to Groups or agency specific annual, bi-annual or multiyear work plans

Where cash transfers are made to the [national institution], the [national institution] shall transfer such cash promptly to the Implementing Partner.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts.

Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN[16] Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised during the programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner in [here insert the number of days as per UN system agency schedule].

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners based on requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within 15 days from the date of receipt of the invoices and supporting documents.

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[16] For the purposes of these clauses, "the UN" includes the IFIs.

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third-party vendor.

Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agency provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that [UN organization] will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request, and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.

Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the work plans (WPs) only.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs) and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UN organization] within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs) and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UN organization] within six months after receipt of the funds.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from [UN organization] will provide UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:

- all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by [UN system agency], together with relevant documentation;
- all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and [UN organisation]. Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:

- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.
- Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the [UN organisation] that provided cash (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, and to the SAI) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to the UN organization.
- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.

Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, and add to the SAI), on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

(Select from the following two options):

Option 1: [Where an assessment of the Public Financial Management system has confirmed that the capacity of the Supreme Audit Institution is high and willing and able to conduct scheduled and special audits]:
The Supreme Audit Institution may undertake the audits of Government Implementing Partners. If the SAI chooses not to undertake the audits of specific Implementing Partners to the frequency and scope required

by the UN system agencies, the UN system agencies will commission the audits to be undertaken by private sector audit services[17].

Option 2: [Where no assessment of the Public Financial Management Capacity has been conducted, or such an assessment identified weaknesses in the capacity of the Supreme Audit Institution]:
The audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.

Cooperation Framework Monitoring and Evaluation

Implementing Partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies. To that effect, Implementing Partners agree to the following:

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/ contracts with the UN system agencies.
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,
3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

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[17] Seen through a South-South lens, the capacity assessment process presents an opportunity to identify capacity assets that a particular country could offer to other developing countries and the capacity gaps that could be filled by other developing countries. For UNDP, the audit of NGO or nationally implemented projects can be assigned to the national Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) only on the condition that the institution has a demonstrated capacity to carry out the audits in an independent manner. To this effect, the Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) has made available on its Intranet site guidance on the assessment of SAIs along with a questionnaire that will need to be properly completed, signed and communicated to OAI to support that due diligence has been exercised prior to opting for having such audits.
undertaken by the national SAI. Please refer to OAI Intranet site for further details.