

LESOTHO



Basic Indicators to the top

Under-5 mortality rank	16
Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR), 1990	85
Under-5 mortality rate (U5MR), 2012	100
U5MR by sex 2012, male	107
U5MR by sex 2012, female	92
Infant mortality rate (under 1), 1990	68
Infant mortality rate (under 1), 2012	74
Neonatal mortality rate 2012	45
Total population (thousands), 2012	2,051.5
Annual no. of births (thousands), 2012	56,8
Annual no. of under-5 deaths (thousands), 2012	6
GNI per capita (US\$), 2012	1,380
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2012	48.9
Total adult literacy rate (%) 2009-2012	75.8
Primary school net enrolment ratio (%) 2008-2011	75

SOURCES: UNICEF DATA. <https://data.unicef.org/country/lso/>



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Partners in Brazil	Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) State Government of São Paulo Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger (MDS)
Partners in Lesotho	Ministry of Social Development
Objective of Cooperation	Support the Government of Lesotho to ensure political commitment to strengthen and expand social protection systems to achieve a more rapid decline in poverty at an affordable cost.
Component within Lesotho National Plan of Action	Lesotho National Strategic Development Plan 2012/13-2016/17 strategic objective to consolidate and improve efficiency of social protection systems and enhance coverage of selected interventions. ⁴⁵

Situation of children

Lesotho is a landlocked country with a population of approximately 2 million. In recent years, it has strengthened its education system and worked towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).⁴⁶ The country's 906,000 children face a high rate of poverty.⁴⁷ A total of 56.6 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line. In rural areas poverty rates are 50 per cent higher than in urban areas.⁴⁸

Objective of cooperation

Brazil, Lesotho and UNICEF began cooperating in 2011. Senior officials of the Government of Lesotho and UNICEF Lesotho staff members visited Brazil to study the design and implementation of social transfers and central registries. Following this visit, Lesotho implemented a number of programmes and pilots, such as the National Information System for Social Assistance, based on Brazilian experiences. Currently, Lesotho spends approximately 9 per cent of its GDP on social transfers, well above the average spent by most developing countries. However, only 7 per cent of these resources reach the poor, due to coverage overlaps and gaps.⁴⁹

In 2015, Lesotho requested a second stage of cooperation to train new governmental decision-makers on social protection. This stage should harness the necessary political will and technical understanding required to ensure continued governmental support for social protection programmes.

Cooperation activities

In October 2015, five delegates travelled from Lesotho to Brazil. They were headed by the Minister of Social Development of Lesotho, with representatives from the same Ministry and the Parliament of Lesotho. The delegation travelled to Brazil with the aim of implementing and expanding the newly formulated National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS). They focussed on Brazil's most successful and internationally renowned programmes, such as *Bolsa Família* and Brazil Without Extreme Poverty. Specifically, the delegation expressed interest in learning about how Brazil handles leadership, coordination and ownership of its social programmes at both Federal and State levels, among the various ministries and subnational secretaries. During the week long visit, the delegation attended a series of workshops and informative sessions in Brasília. They went on a field visit to a CRAS and held a ministerial meeting between **Minister Molahlehi Letlotlo and the Brazilian Minister for Social Development and Fight Against Hunger, Tereza Campello**. They concluded the visit in São Paulo, where the delegation participated in a round-table meeting with the São Paulo Deputy State Secretary for Social Protection, Felipe Sigollo, and technical state officials from the Secretaries of Education, Health and Social Assistance.



Brazilian Minister of Social Development and Fight against Hunger, Tereza Campello, meets the Minister of Social Development of Lesotho, Molahlehi Letlotlo in Brasília

Area Nascimento/2015
Ministers Tereza Campello and Molahlehi Letlotlo meet in Brazil

Progress to date

Lesotho has already achieved significant governmental investment in its social programmes, which were implemented following the initial visit to Brazil in 2011. Minister Molahlehi Letlotlo committed to advance the social protection agenda in Lesotho. He was satisfied with the learning outcomes of the 2015 mission, which effectively demonstrated the numerous advancements that Brazil has made in the area of social protection.

Additional steps are currently underway within Lesotho to revise and update the draft coordination framework for social protection to establish more coordinated and efficient programmes.

2011

Formal request from Gvt. of Lesotho received

SEPTEMBER: Lesotho ministerial representatives' study mission to Brazil

Government investment achieved for social protection programmes

2015

OCTOBER: Lesotho study mission to Brazil

Minister Letlotlo pledges to push social protection agenda forward

2016

Planning next steps of cooperation project with activities on social protection

⁴⁵ Government of Lesotho, National Strategic Development Plan 2012/13–2016/17, 2012, <http://bit.ly/1KM8q8x>

⁴⁶ UNICEF Lesotho Country Programme Document 2013-2017, <http://uni.cf/1LiNOQs>, page 4.

⁴⁷ UNICEF Data, Country Statistics, Lesotho, <http://data.unicef.org/countries/LSO.html>

⁴⁸ UNICEF Lesotho Country Programme Document 2013-2017, <http://uni.cf/1LiNOQs>, page 2.

⁴⁹ Brazil-UNICEF-Lesotho Trilateral South-South Cooperation Request Form