

# LESOTHO



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Gender Links Lesotho office was legally registered on 1 February 2011. The office works with 50 councils across the country as part of its COE programme - about two thirds of the councils in Lesotho. In 2017 the office:

- Strengthened partnership with the Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports and Recreation and Principal District Gender Officers and the gender focal points within the municipalities. This approach promotes sustainability and stronger ownership of GL programmes while saving financial costs of programme delivery.
  - Conducted verification for Centres of Excellence gender mainstreaming efforts as guided by their gender and gender based violence action plans and evidenced by documentation of actions taken. Councils were graded against the GES standards in a six tier system from blue to platinum.
  - Conducted a national summit with 50 COE entries; four winners and 5 runners-ups.
  - Piloted "Selibeng-Breaking the silence" promoting awareness on GBV through digital solutions in Lesotho in twelve COE councils in the three districts of Mafeteng, Mofeng, and Thaba Tseka. The project is a partnership with Participatory Initiative for Social Accountability (PISA) and Main level Consulting (as digital partner) to conceptualise and pilot the initiative. In all, 85 women GBV survivors were identified in twelve councils and a needs assessment work-shops held for them. A smart phone application was developed and tested with the group identified.
- GL's Monitoring and Evaluation through the Gender and Local Government Score card shows that:
- Women comprise 40% Councillors; 9% mayors or political heads; 25% deputy mayors/political head. They chair 44% committees and 44% women participated in public consultations. Women constitute 58% women of those on water/sanitation committees and 70% of those on water and sanitation committees are chaired by women.
  - Women constitute 56% of COE employees and 62% of COE council management.
  - 59% councils have disability friendly facilities.
  - Council projects employ 49% women and 10% people with disabilities.
  - 59% councils keep sex disaggregated data on procurement; 34% set a target for increasing the number and value of contracts allocated to women, PWD and youth.
  - Lesotho COEs budgeted US\$ 2,404,644 for promoting gender equality in decision-making and public participation in 2017 and US\$ 21,749,202 allocated to gender responsive local economic development in 2017 and US\$ 831,296 for promoting gender/youth and disability friendly SRHR, HIV and AIDS programmes in 2017.
  - Councils allocated 34% of land and 57% housing to women.
  - 25% councils have street lights.