**Lesotho Data for Sustainable Development End of Project Evaluation**

Management Responses and Actions

Name of Evaluation: **Lesotho Data for Sustainable Development Project**

Date: **November 2019**

Prepared by: Mabulara Tsuene \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Programme Specialist (SPU )

Cleared by: Christy Ahenkora \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Deputy Resident Representative

| **Management Action[[1]](#footnote-1)**  | **Key Action**  | **Completion Date**  | **Tracking Status** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Status**  | **Comments** | **Evidence** | **Date** |
| **Recommendation 1:** To ensure a sustainable national ecosystem, **an enabling environment** **supported by appropriate legal frameworks and policies** has to be put in place. This includes updated NSDS, a national M&E policy, revised Statistics Act *- (BOS and DM&E).* |
| * 1. NSDS (2010/11 – 2015/16) has been evaluated (PARIS21) to enable development of the new generation NSDS  The Statistics Act 2001 will be also reviewed as part of the development of the NSDS II
 | * Support development of the NSDS II and review the Statistics Act 2021
 | Dec-2020 | Started |   |   |   |
| * 1. BOS currently developing a Dissemination Policy (World Bank) to support implementation of the Communication, advocacy and Dissemination strategy developed under the Lesotho Data.
 | * Support development of the data sharing protocols
* Identify and support opportunities for sharing data
 | Dec-2023 | Not initiated  |   |   |   |
| * 1. National M&E framework and plan for the NSDP II has been developed. Sector level framework and plan are underway.
 | * Support finalization of the sector level M&E frameworks to facilitate linkages to Ministerial plans and strategies
* Support development of the M&E policy
 | Dec-20 | Not initiated  |   |   |   |
| * Support production of the NSDP midterm report
 | Dec-20 |  Started  |   |   |   |
| * 1. Coordination mechanism for SDG coordination has been developed by MDP
 | * Support orientation on the TORs and launch the mechanism for SDGs coordination in context of the SDGs Country Platform model
 | Dec-20 | Not initiated  |   |   |   |
| **Recommendation 2**: Projects such as the Lesotho Data Project with an objective to develop a functional national ecosystem for statistics and M&E should have a phased approach and should be developed as a multi-stakeholder initiative with multiple stakeholders supporting different activities with resources. Depending on resources, the Project (programme) may initially focus on a few selected ministries and then roll-out instead of spreading thin. (BOS/DM&E; and UNDP and UN agencies/EU and other development partners) |
| * 1. Lesotho Data project was an anchor initiative, and it worked to establish baseline for support areas and capacity challenges in in the areas of statistics
 |   | Dec-21 |   |   |   |   |
| * The Lesotho Data project supported development of a Data Gap analysis and costing and, to enable prioritisation of data requirements and resources mobilization.
* The project also supported development of the capacity building plan to enable strategic investments within the sector
 | * Develop support projects for implementation of some key priorities from the data gap costing
 | Dec-21 |   |   |   |   |
| * Disseminate the Data Gap Costing analysis for resources mobilisation
 | Dec-21 |   |   |   |   |
| **Recommendation 3:** Sensitise top-level officials on data awareness and data literacy. This would not only help in creating demand for data for decision-making and policy planning but also would enable them to appreciate and support work being done by the mid-level officials on statistics (who have received training from the project). BOS/DM&E; UNDP/UNRCO and development partners including EU. |
| * 1. The project sensitised principal secretaries on the deployment of the assistant statisticians to line ministries. However, changes in the top management within line ministries resulted in information gaps.
 | * Support information sessions and capacity building for top officials for data literacy and demand for data in programmes/projects implementation and policy decisions
 |   |   |   |   |   |
| * 1. Lesotho Data has supported development of the Communication, Advocacy and dissemination strategy, which also segments stakeholders within National Statistical System (NSS).
 | * Support resources mobilization for implementation of the Communication, Advocacy and Dissemination Strategy action plan
 |   |   |   |   |   |
| * Ensure integration of the communication strategies in the new NSDS
 |   |   |   |   |   |
| **Recommendation 4:** Create a national data warehouse to also act as a back-up of databases from MDAs in addition to ensuring wider accessibility based on security protocols as deemed essential. Currently, databases and analysed data are in desktops and laptops of officials with backups only on USB keys (jump drives). This does not enable even officials in the ministry to access data. Surveys collect data, and not all data is analysed and published; however, data not published may be useful for other programme/project design and/or other decision-making. In the current situation this data is not available/accessible, as many are not aware of its location. (BOS & DM&E; UNDP and other UN agencies/EU and other development partners). |
| * 1. Lesotho Data procured a backup server for the Bureau of Statistics to facilitate central storage of data and website support
 | * Advocate for open central storage and data archiving for all reports, analytical work and metadata on different indicators on the BOS servers
 | Dec-2023 |   |   |   |   |
| * Facilitate engagement with the Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology on the opportunities presented by the e-government project for data management and synchronisation
 | Dec-2023 |   |   |   |   |
| * Mobilise technical assistance and capacity building on data management
 | Dec-2023 |   |   |   |   |
| **Recommendation 5**: A harmonised national coordination mechanism for statistics and M&E should be established with a strengthened role for the BOS as a coordinator. * It is important that the work of M&E and statistics is synchronised, and therefore, there should only be one national mechanism.
* The national coordination structure should have clear mandates with specific roles and responsibilities (backed by policies/legal frameworks) and could be multi-tiered. BOS and DM&E should act as “agents of change” in creating this mechanism. (BOS/DM&E; UNDP/UNRCO and UN agencies/EU and other development partners).
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| * 1. BOS coordinates only the NSS, while MDP coordinates the M&E system. Both M&E and statistics are under the Ministry of Development Planning, for harmonised and coordinated national mechanism for M&E and statistics
 | * Identify further programme opportunities for collaborative and partnership between the BOS and M&E department to enhance coordination
 | Dec-2023 |   |   |   |   |
| * 1. The Lesotho Data supported the development of Indicator and Information Management Working Groups (IIMWG) This will need review and adoption in line with the NSDP coordination mechanism.
 | * Review TOR and support adoption of the IIMWG in context of the SDGs Country Platforms model
 | Dec-2023 |   |   |   |   |
| **Recommendation 6:** UN support on data to the Government of Lesotho should be coordinated and harmonised to “deliver as one.” * It could be a “One Data Strategy for Lesotho,” wherein different agencies contribute technical and financial resources and work to achieve specific areas/results of the strategy. This not only avoids duplication but also saves costs to have a coherent approach and avoid confusion at the government’s end.
* When multiple agencies work with or support the same ministry on data collection there could be lead/co-leads.
* UN agencies should also explore option of “One Fund” mechanism for the country or multi-donor trust fund to improve data and the ecosystem in Lesotho. Funding from bilateral donors (including EU) could be mobilised for improving data availability and improving ecosystem through this one basket fund. (UNDP/UN RCO and UN agencies).
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| * 1. UNDAF (2019 – 23) identified data as one of the strategic areas for contribution in the implementation of the NSDP and the Agenda 2030
 | * Participate and contribute to development of joint UN action plans and projects for data and M&E
 |  |   |   |   |   |
| Identify comparative advantages and synergies for on data and M&E for various UN agencies and partners to eliminate duplication and enhance coherence of support to the government on data and M&E  |   |   |   |   |   |
| **Recommendation 7**: Coordination between BOS and DM&E to avoid conflicting priorities and having an advance calendar of events of the Project activities shared with MDAs will help the MDAs to be informed and ensure them to be prepared to nominate appropriate and adequate delegates for participation. This should be done in addition to invitations sent with adequate notice time and not at a day or two before the event. (BOS/DM&E). |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| **Recommendation 8:** Continue to use a collaborative approach and modality with ministries to deliver/manage projects including having project coordinators in the ministry, housing the project team in the ministry while making focused efforts to leverage partnership and resources among UN agencies and development partners (including EU) for joint design and delivery of projects to enhance cohesive support in the country. * Building partnership with CSOs and private sector will bring added value, complementary and synergistic skills and capacities including expertise on new tools and technologies. (UNDP).
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| 8.1. UNDP (UN) partnership strategy recognises the roles of the different stakeholders in development and continues to seek collaboration in implementing development projects.  | UNDP is developing its Partnership and Communications Action Plan (2019 – 2023) to guide its partnership strategies and engagement. | Dec-2021 |   |   |   |   |
| In collaboration with other UN agencies, UNDP will design follow-up projects to leverage partnerships and resources | Dec-2021 |   |   |   |   |

1. All management actions were developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Development Planning (DME and BOS) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)