Lesotho / UN PBF

National Security Sector Reforms for Peacebuilding Project

**Summary**

**March 2023**

The Lesotho / UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) *Nationa**********l Security Sector Reforms for Peacebuilding Project* (NSSRPP) project has finished strongly, **delivering on all project objectives and outputs** and over 95% of the planned project activities. **76 individual activities** were conducted over 70 weeks,many of them multi-day events, through which **3,517 Basotho were consulted, trained, or directly involved**. Of these 1,424 or **40 % were women**. Many more Basotho were indirectly informed through mainstream and social media, both in Lesotho and South Africa.

# Notable programmatic achievements include:

* Significant public visibility and continued momentum on national security sector reforms.
* Firm foundations for and strengthened commitment to the national reforms and peacebuilding.
* Policy and regulatory framework changes facilitated through the drafting of a national security sector policy and strategy, through national consultations.
* A sector-wide public expenditure review and review the Acts governing Lesotho’s security agencies are other milestones on the way to improved public security and accountability.
* Significant levels of citizen engagement and oversight have been achieved through numerous outreach activities.
* Extensive training on human rights and peer exchanges on agency internal oversight have led to positive impact on all four security agencies’ human rights processes and thinking.
* NSSRPP support to the police inspectorate and complaints authority, intelligence service and correctional service has not only contributed to their further professionalisation but also raised their profile and authority as oversight bodies, as evidenced during public outreach.
* Finally, UNDP and OHCHR’s close engagement with the security institutions and agencies has contributed to government and informal international oversight of the sector, a catalyst for greater accountability.

# Human impact

* People-Centred Security. Numerous NSSRPP sponsored outreach and community activities have helped overcome suspicion and even hostility to build more collaborative relationships between security agencies and the public. Indeed, the entire sector and its reform efforts have received a great deal of positive media coverage, and relationships with civil society have changed for the better. At little cost, more could be done to extend this highly successful communication and.
* Human rights. OHCHR support to human rights efforts is being seen in the incorporation of norms and practices in the thinking and processes of the security agencies, and anecdotal reports from both authorities and the people of a reduction in human rights violations.
* Gender issues were firmly integrated within the national security policy and strategy. A gender mainstreaming and monitoring strategy for the sector will be completed by UN Women in March / April 2023.
* Conflict prevention. Project funded youth and conflict workshops provided youth associations the opportunity to come together to gain knowledge about theories and practices of conflict prevention, and to deliberate on their existing and potential roles in building peaceful and constructive society. Also funded by NSSRPP, community policing crime prevention campaigns and Intelligence Service outreach to teachers from the most troubled district in Lesotho have been important in this regard, too. Much more could be done here as gangsterism is a real and growing threat to young people and Basotho society generally.
* Corrections, rehabilitation, and reintegration. NSSRPP support to the Correctional Service has been important and impactful. It has brought public, government, and international attention to, and understanding of, the plight of the country’s inmates in overcrowded, dilapidated and under resourced correctional facilities. Advocacy by UNDP and visiting UN corrections experts has helped open doors to other UN and international agencies who may be able to provide support. These include the AU Special Rapporteur on Prisons, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UN Justice and Corrections Service and WHO. Project funded prisoner / community reintegration activities have had a very human impact that contributes to reduced recidivism and therefore improved community security.
* digital security enabler. The NSSRPP has also supported the development and further roll-out of a ‘first responder’ community policing application, “Lehokela”, as a digital enabler to local security. This will have particular benefits for those in villages and towns without ready access to Police.
* Promoting commitment to change. Unintended but equally remarkable, the delivery of even small levels of assistance to officers of the security agencies has fuelled their obvious commitment to reforms. Often neglected and wanting for resources for day-to-day operations, let alone transformation, the NSSRPP’s assistance has been a vehicle for change and a tonic to those trying to affect them.