

Universal Periodic Review

3rd Cycle, 35th Session

**Submission by the United Nations Country Team on the
Kingdom of Lesotho**

UN Compilation Report

THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

18 July 2019

Abbreviations

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CPWA	Child Protection and Welfare Act
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GoL	Government of Lesotho
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
NSDP	National Strategic Development Plan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistant Framework
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VNR	Voluntary National Review

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Over the years, the Government of Lesotho (GoL) has managed to successfully reduce absolute poverty in the country. In the period between 2002/2003 and 2017/2018, the head count ratios of overall national poverty and extreme poverty have declined from 56.6% to 49.7% and from 34.1% to 24.1%, respectively. A positive change in the level of inequality was also recorded with the decline of the Gini Coefficient in Lesotho by 6.3 points i.e., from a coefficient of 51.9 in 2002/2003 to 44.6 in 2017/2018. However, it is alarming that 65.4% of all children (aged 0-17 years) remain multi-dimensionally poor. In the coming years, Lesotho has strategically prioritized the reduction of poverty levels and inequalities through the formulation and implementation of the National Strategic Development Plan II (NSDP II: 2018/19-2022/23) and its intention to sustain the development gain made in the years based on evidence-and-result-based management.¹
2. Aligned with NSDP II, the United Nations support to the Government of Lesotho is operationalized through the priority areas of cooperation outlined in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF, 2019-2023). The UNDAF was prepared in close collaboration with the Government of Lesotho and key stakeholders, and informed by the Common Country Analysis, as well as innovative initiatives including foresight, scenario building, public engagement and other processes. It focuses on: (1) accountable governance, effective institutions, social cohesion and inclusion; (2) sustainable human capital development and; (3) sustainable and inclusive economic growth for poverty reduction.
3. With the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at its core the UNDAF interventions are positioned to support medium-term priorities closely aligned with 2018/19-2022/23 National Strategic Development Plan II (NSDP II) priorities and long-term aspirations under Agenda 2030, African Union Agenda 2063, Vision 2020 among other global and regional agreements and frameworks. These interlinked priorities will require strengthened UN coherence on multiple fronts and therefore the UN pledges its commitment to the new UNDAF as a means of fostering cooperation, coordination and enhancement of UN coherence in the spirit of Delivering as One and ensuring the impact of UN's collective response to the development needs of Lesotho. Through UNDAF, the UN in Lesotho robustly supports rights-holders in advocating for and claiming their rights, as well as holding duty-bearers accountable.
4. Accordingly, the United Nation continues to support the Ministry of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights in the advancement of human rights, particularly in the efforts of government to address issues raised in the UPR 2015 recommendations. It has been concluded that the establishment of a national inter-ministerial committee will enhance the implementation and reporting of the recommendations provided by VNR 2019 on SDGs, UPR 2019/2020, international and regional human rights mechanisms and other obligations. This process can further be enhanced by the establishment of a UPR Multi-Stakeholders Forum that would enable governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental actors to take part in the review of the human rights situation in Lesotho.

¹ The data in Paragraph 1 is extracted from the Lesotho SDG Voluntary National Review Report published in June 2019.

II. METHODOLOGY

5. This UN UPR report is a consolidated submission of the UNCT in Lesotho under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator.² The joint work was supported by the UN UPR Task Team established by the UNCT with technical assistance of the Human Rights Officer from OHCHR and the Peace and Development Advisor from the Resident Coordinator's Office.

III. THEMATIC AREAS: OBSERVATIONS & RECCOMENDATIONS

International Norms & Cooperation with International Mechanisms/Ratification/Overdue Reports

6. Lesotho is a state party to nine core international human rights treaties. It ratified all major international human rights instruments, including ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CAT, CED, CERD, CMW, CRC and CRPD. The State also accepted individual complaints procedures under ICCPR.
7. The execution of these treaties requires not only the political commitment of the GoL but also substantial resources that help build the institutional, technical and administrative capacity of the state. It requires complimentary efforts to domesticate and implement Lesotho's human rights obligations. The institutional capacity of the state should be complemented by its technical and administrative capacities in order to in order to ensure the fulfilment of the county's reporting obligations to both regional and international human rights mechanisms These include the reduction of the backlog of overdue reports and timely submission of rereports.
8. The GoL ratified the Convention on the Rights of People Living with Disabilities on 2 December 2008. The domestication of the convention requires the enactment of the Disability Equity Act, which is still pending before the Parliament. With respect to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, ICRMW, while the Committee gave recommendations in April 2016, the UNCT observes that the current reporting Ministry (the Ministry of Home Affairs) does not have the mandate or the information to act accordingly as most of the recommendations were directly addressed to the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
9. Following a 13-year default in reporting on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the GoL submitted and presented its second combined reports in October 2017 and May 2018, respectively. While Concluding Observations and Recommendations were received in 2018 from the UN, the Government is yet to officially disseminated them. Despite being finalized in 2015, the submission under the Convention on the elimination of discrimination against women, CEDAW, is not also yet effected.

Recommendations

- Enact the Disability Equity Act to domesticate the Convention on people living with disabilities

² IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, FAO and WHO

- Take into consideration the Ministry of Labour and Employment as the reporting Ministry for CRMW for the requisite implementation and timely reporting
- Expedite completion of overdue reports and establish mechanisms to facilitate consistent and timely preparation and submission of reports

Non-Discrimination and Equality

Issue 1: Addressing discrimination and unequal treatment of persons with disabilitiesⁱⁱ

10. In November 2018, the GoL adopted an Inclusive Education Policy to facilitate the inclusion of learners with disabilities in the education system. Nevertheless, the operationalization of the Policy has not occurred due to non-allocation of funds. Furthermore, while the GoL launched the Disability Policy in 2011, the implementation is still lagging behind as there is no strategy or costed action plan. Consequently, people living with disabilities continue to suffer inequalities, increasing the existing social gaps in terms of access to education and other social services. While the Ministry of Education and Training recruited sign language interpreters at ministerial level, there is still the need to build the sign language capacity of teachers in order to enable young people with hearing impairments to be able to fully integrate themselves in the education system.
11. Inadequate collection and generation of data on disability creates challenges in measuring the progresses made and the implementation of programmes that are responsive to the needs of people living with disabilities, particularly the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) of women and girls living with disabilities.
12. The country developed Adolescent Minimum Standards that outline adolescent-friendly health services including those that are disability friendly. Nevertheless, there are still acute gaps in implementation and delivery services due to communication barriers between health providers and people living with disabilities. For instance, people living with speaking and hearing impairment have limited formats of access to information such as braille.

Recommendations

- Enact the Disability Equity Bill to address and reduce social and economic inequalities for people living with disabilities
- Review the 2011 Disability Policy in order to develop an implementation strategy and allocate adequate budget for implementation
- Adopt and implement the Universal Design Standards to improve physical, sensory and communication in order to facilitate access to education, health and other social services for people living with disabilities
- Fully implement the Inclusive Education Policy that advance the educational needs of learners living with disabilities. In particular, raise and allocate funds required for the implement of the policy and the strategy
- Improve collection and generation of data on disability to effectively measure developments and progresses of interventions that are responsive to the needs of people living with disabilities. This should consider the needs of women and girls

living with disabilities

- Strengthen legislation and implementation of health policies and guidelines to improve access to health services - including sexual and reproductive health services by people living with disabilities, women and young people in particular
- Strengthen all levels of engagement and participation of persons living with disability in the development of legislations, policies, strategies and plans in order to ensure inclusiveness and ownership

Issue 2: Discrimination against Women/Violence against Women/Gender Equalityⁱⁱⁱ

13. The UNCT notes that the Domestic Violence Bill of 2018 intended to prevent and combat GBV especially Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and to provide comprehensive support for women exposed to violence, is yet to be enacted despite concerted advocacy by the UNCT and CSOs.
14. The UNCT acknowledges the progress made in enacting progressive laws such as the *Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act 2006*, which gives married women equal say in matrimonial matters and the *Land Act 2010* that permits joint titling of lease by married couples. However, the country's legal system is divided into two with the customary and civil laws, which results in two legal paradigms that offer conflicting rights and challenges to justice particularly for women and girls. Some aspects of Customary Law remain a means for discrimination of women and girls particularly on issues of inheritance and property right and of access to justice. The UNCT notes that there is limited statistics on national GBV and no time use survey has ever been conducted in Lesotho in order to assess how culturally entrenched gender roles negatively affect the right to the equality of women and girls due to increased unpaid/reproductive work burden.
15. UNCT acknowledges efforts of the Government on ending child marriage, through multi-stakeholder advocacy campaigns and by amending the *Child Protection and Welfare Act of 2011 (CPWA)* in line with the CRC and CEDAW, to include a section on ending child marriage. Efforts are underway to harmonize conflicting legislation such as the *Marriage Act 1974*, which permits related to girls to marry at 16 years of age, and *CPWA 2011*, which advocates for protection of children at risk of forced marriage by criminalizing child marriage.
16. In August 2018, Lesotho approved the second Gender and Development Policy and the Ministry of Gender is formulating its implementation plan. The Government attempted to mainstream gender in all pillars of NSDP II. However, at district and national levels, there is lack of data on GBV that creates challenges in designing appropriate policies and programmes to make relevant responses.
17. The Ministry of Social Development is scheduled to launch the first Action Plan on “End Violence Against Children” in 2019, which is based on the Violence Against Children Survey. The Action Plan includes information on the types and scope of sexual and physical violence that involve child marriage and HIV/AIDS.

Recommendations

- Comprehensively integrate GBV in national representative surveys such as the Demographic Health Survey

- Enact the Domestic Violence Bill and support its' immediate implementation
- Strengthen coordinated essential services package and referral pathways between health, social services, police and justice sectors in order to respond to GBV
- Harmonize the dual legal systems to address discriminatory provisions and administrative regulations relating to family, marriage, and inheritance, in order to eliminate discrimination against women and girls
- Finalize the review of the *Child Protection and Welfare Act of 2011* to include sections that protect children from child marriage and consider enacting the Child Marriage law and support its' implementation
- Implement constitutional, legal and policy reforms to promote and protect the human rights of all persons irrespective of their sexual orientation, gender identity and disabilities
- Expand and improve national data collection on GBV and conduct a national time-use study disaggregated by sex, age, location, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability, and other relevant socio-economic indicators.

Civil & Political Rights

Issue 1: Combat torture/security sector issues/detention conditions^{iv}

18. Through the National Dialogue and Reforms process on a common and inclusive national vision and policy for the security sector, the Government of Lesotho embarked on capacity development for enhanced professionalism, transparency and accountability in the security sector. A Security Sector Reform strategy, linked to legislative changes and constitutional review is in progress along with mainstreaming of gender and human rights, by enhancing knowledge of the UN Human Rights Conventions and gender equality, with support from UNDP, OHCHR and UN Women.
19. The security sector in Lesotho has been challenged with human rights violations such as arbitrary arrests, torture including the places of detention, enforced disappearances, and unlawful killings. While the UNCT notes significant progress made by the security sector, excessive use of force is widespread, including due to inadequate training in appropriate interrogation and investigative techniques. Slow judicial processes and a backlog of cases results in under-resourced detention centres remaining heavily overpopulated with inmates awaiting trial for lengthy periods. Overlapping mandates and functions of different security sector agencies, and poor relationships among agencies, and between civilian and agency leadership, negatively affect progress to reform the sector.

Recommendations

- Establish a national security sector interagency coordination mechanism with a mandate to monitor and address human rights violations.
- Provide increased technical and operational support to complete the national dialogue and implementation of a broad-based reforms process, and ongoing training to security sector personnel on human rights enforcement.
- Ensure that Justice Sector reforms limit the number of inmates in custody on remand and improve the conditions in detention centres.

- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Issue 2: Establishment of the National Human Rights Commission^v

20. The UNCT notes that the *National Human Rights Commission Act 2015* was enacted but political instability and concerns from civil society on matters such as appointment of Commissioners, as well as possible deferment to the national dialogue process to discuss the establishment of the Commission, have delayed its finalization and operationalization.

Recommendations

- Expedite the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission by operationalization of the *National Human Rights Commission Act 2015* including by ensuring compliance to the Paris Principles
- Consider creating a National Mechanism and Reporting Framework for Human Rights Treaty Body reporting or similar structures

Issue 3: Trafficking of Persons^{vi}

21. The UNCT commends efforts by the Government of Lesotho to sensitize officials, community leaders and vulnerable groups on Trafficking in Persons (TiP). The *2011 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act* criminalizes all forms of labour trafficking and some forms of sex trafficking³. However, contrary to international law, the law in Lesotho requires a demonstration of force, fraud or coercion to constitute child sex trafficking offences. IOM has advocated on the removal of consent as a requirement in child trafficking cases. While a Multi-Sectoral Task Force on TiP, is revising the National Action Plan, coordination in monitoring of implementation remains limited due to human resources and financial constraints. The Government further introduced the *Anti-Trafficking in Persons Regulations (2015)* to provide clarity roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in implementing legislation on trafficking in persons, however, implementation should be strengthened.⁴
22. The UNCT additionally applauds efforts by the Government of Lesotho to identify and refer potential trafficking victims to care, and to coordinate with foreign governments of destination countries to repatriate victims exploited abroad. It is noted that Lesotho provides in-kind and financial support to the NGO-run residential shelter that accommodates female victims of trafficking. UNCT is aware that the Government intends to shift the shelter to a permanent building to ensure sustainability in its running. UNCT recommends that Lesotho extend care to male (boys and men) victims of trafficking. The establishment of the Trust Fund for the Victims of Trafficking should be considered a priority.
23. Moreover, the UNCT urges strong action against perpetrators of trafficking in persons and dealing with the backlog of cases investigated by Lesotho Mounted Police Services over the years. There

³ Lesotho Government. *Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, 2011*. available https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1403671/1930_1499759330_595c944c4.pdf

⁴ Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons: Lessons from the SADC Region, 2017

are no convictions for TiP cases due to various reasons, such as victim's fear of revenge by perpetrator/s, and weak accountability that corrupts the systems. Consequently, traffickers continue their criminal activities with impunity, which further undermines Government efforts in addressing trafficking. Finally, the UNCT noted increasing incidents of smuggling into Lesotho as a country of transit or of origin. The majority of smuggled migrants are in search of better economic opportunities in the Republic of South Africa. As the smuggling of migrants can easily transform into the trafficking of persons, the Government of Lesotho requires urgent action correspondingly to curb smuggling.

Recommendations

- Amend the *Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (2011)* to remove force, fraud, or coercion as a requirement for child trafficking and with respect to implementation, increase efforts to secure the conviction of perpetrators of trafficking
- Finalize the revision of the National Action Plan and ensure strengthened SOP and referral systems
- Review and harmonise all legal frameworks to enable access to justice for victims of trafficking, with stringent penalties to deter the crime of trafficking
- Allocate funds for the operation of the Multi-sectoral Task Force for TiP, and improve stakeholder coordination and monitoring of the National Action Plan
- Establish the Victims of Trafficking Trust Fund and ensure that it is fully resourced to carry out its mandate
- Continue to provide support to the NGO run shelter for victims of trafficking and explore access to care by male victims of trafficking
- Increase efforts to counter smuggling from and into the country and ensure the prosecution of smugglers

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Issue 1: Right to an Adequate Standard of Living/Eradication of Poverty/social protection^{vii}

24. Lesotho recognizes the importance of social protection in reducing poverty and inequality, ensuring human rights, and promoting human development and economic growth. Social protection currently represents 4.6% of GDP, well over the 1% to 2% spent by most developing countries. The underlying vulnerabilities in Lesotho, characterized by poverty and hunger, HIV and increasing tendency to natural disasters, including droughts and flooding, are widespread and have led to this high demand for social protection. The UNCT notes that Lesotho has had a significant proportion of its population in a state of food insecurity with almost one in every five people facing chronic food insecurity annually. Moreover, most vulnerable and marginalized people, such as persons with disabilities, have limited access to social services and face multiple forms of deprivation.
25. Lesotho continues to show commitment to nutrition and expansion of social assistance to vulnerable people including children living in poverty. UNICEF supported the Social Protection

Action Plan (2019-2025) on socio-economic vulnerabilities and a Community Development Plan to complement the cash grants by involving households living in poverty and already receiving grants to engage in livelihoods.

26. Lesotho developed a draft Labour Policy, on gender sensitive market response and decent work deficits, a draft Employment Policy to promote sustainable economic growth and development, while NSDP II deals with inclusive and sustainable growth, and strengthening governance and accountability. The Gender and Development Policy 2018-2030 further emphasizes the need for economic empowerment for women. Women compose the majority of membership in cooperatives and village savings and lending associations. An SMME Development Policy was also adopted to enable a gender-sensitive regulatory environment and the growth and development of SMMEs in the country.
27. Lesotho introduced mobile money in 2013 to promote access to financial services, especially targeting the most vulnerable and financially excluded groups. The UNCT notes however, that general delays in adoption of legislation and policies have compromised the potential for development of the sector, and in particular the private sector. Lesotho is ranked low on economic competition indexes due to difficulties in developing and investing in businesses, and disparities in labour markets and wages between women and men. Moreover, a lack of comprehensive data on women-led economic and social activities has led to underestimated economic reporting and representation of women. These are further exacerbated by weak coordination mechanisms amongst Government Ministries.

Recommendations

- Social protection schemes must be funded and targeted to reach the most vulnerable including youth, women, and rural populations.
- Ensure that the design of the national social protection programmes system is disaster resilient and that vulnerable populations receive lifesaving support during disasters.
- Allocate sufficient human and financial resources to drive the costed multi-sectoral food and nutrition strategy and Zero Hunger roadmap.
- Improve legislative and policy frameworks to increase the ease of doing business and to enable investment in the private sector.
- Improve the national labour environment through the approval and implementation of the draft Labour and Employment Policies.

Issue 2: Combating corruption/enhance service delivery^{viii}

28. The Government has undertaken strategic administrative reforms to increase transparency and confidence in the public service, enhancing accountability, improving public sector leadership, increasing innovation and developing a one-stop shop system to eliminate bureaucracy and corruption. For example, the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan (NASCAP) was created to foster good governance and accountable institutions.
29. The UNCT notes however that politicization of the public service and justice sector, which perpetuates a culture of patronage, continues to be a challenge and must be addressed including

through the National Reforms process for effective functioning. Investigations into alleged corruption and fraud should be systematic; perpetrators prosecuted and sentenced with appropriate sanctions to effectively tackle corruption and fraud in the country.

Recommendations

- Address public sector corruption and accountability and judicial independence, by implementing national reforms and strengthening the mandate of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences to effectively prosecute offenders.

Issue 3: Right to Health/health services/HIV&AIDS/maternal and child health^{ix}

30. The Government of Lesotho aspires for improved Universal Health Access (UHC) to quality essential health services for 80% of the population by 2030 to ensure the “Right to Health for All” and the Ministry of Health has made progress in formulating policy and strategic documents to improve the health sector. The UNCT notes however that only 40% of the population has access due to low utilisation of existing health services, limited resource capacity, weak outreach services and structural barriers. Moreover, that there is generally low quality of services, for example while skilled birth attendance to 77% and 78% in health facilities improved, the maternal mortality ratio is still high at 618/ 100 000.⁵ Notwithstanding that, Lesotho developed the National Health Strategic Plan (NHSP 2018/19- 2022/23) and the National Health Policy, the UNCT holds that the decentralization process of the Ministry of Health is imperative to inform implementation of the NHSP.
31. In 2018, the Lesotho WHO Country Office supported finalization of the Lesotho Strategic Results Note with Outcome 1.1 addressing improved access to quality essential services. Nonetheless, the UNCT observes that the Essential Health Package (ESP) has not been reviewed for several years, and a new ESP is essential to address UHC, including equity in health, to ensure the availability, affordability and acceptability of systems and services. Central to this revision is the enactment of a new Lesotho Public Health Bill and the Medicine and Medical Device Control Bill.
32. Lesotho has the second highest number of new infections in sub Saharan Africa with an annual incidence of HIV among adults ages 15 to 59 years at 1.47%: females 1.74% and males 1.22%, around 13, 000 new infections of HIV annually. In 2016, the Government adopted the Test and Treat Strategy that was key for improvement in the Treatment Thematic Area. The country created the Minimum Standards for Provision of Adolescents Friendly Health Services in 2016. However, the 2016 assessment of these services supported by UNFPA shows that services for adolescent and young people are not sufficiently ‘friendly’, which affects their uptake of services in this group.
33. After a five-year hiatus, with support from UNAIDS, the Government of Lesotho re-established the National AIDS Commission (NAC) in 2016 to revitalize the multi-sectoral coordination of the HIV and AIDS response at national and subnational level to improve partner coordination and alignment. Despite this, the NAC lacks adequate resources to fully operate and fulfil its mandate, while coordination roles between NAC and Ministry of Health are undefined. The Lesotho UN Joint team of AIDS (JUNTA) supports NAC in strengthening coordination and leadership capacity in the

⁵ Lesotho Population Household Survey 2016

overall HIV and AIDS response while UNICEF supports the Ministry of Health to restructure the Village Health Program as a strategic entry point on UHC at community level.

34. In 2017, the Government reviewed the family planning register to incorporate GBV and HIV to promote integration of services. The Ministry of Health updated the Family Planning guidelines to include people living with HIV/AIDS, people living with disabilities and to promote human rights-based approaches to family planning. It also reviewed the Supply Chain Strategic Plan 2019-2023 to address stock out of health commodities in health facilities, especially Reproductive Health Commodities, but there is no national budget line for their procurement. While Lesotho has made progress in reducing unmet family planning needs, additional effort is necessary for all women and girls to have access to and choice of contraception.
35. The Government of Lesotho increasingly acknowledges Key Populations (LGBTI and Sex Workers) alluding to them in the HIV Policy and the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan. There are health care programmes that target key populations. However, entrenched stigma, exclusion, and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWAs), Sex Workers, LGBTI, and adolescents within health facilities, families and society, coupled with the criminalization of some of the populations in law and fears of confidentiality⁶, have severely diminished access to health care, further increasing vulnerability and risk.
36. In Lesotho, many young women, and some young men, engage in sex work to escape poverty and to earn income to support themselves and their families. Outreach programmes by the Ministry of Health and partners help sex workers transition to other means of earning income and avoid HIV infection, but it is clear that the protection of the rights of sex workers in Lesotho requires further effort.
37. Forced sex (rape), consensual sex, and transactional sex reportedly occur within prisons in Lesotho⁷. The country recognises the importance of access to prevention and treatment in prisons and provides condoms and treatment to HIV positive inmates while NSP II articulates implementation of the international UN guidelines on HIV prevention and treatment for prisoners while incarcerated and on release. However, while National ART guidelines recommend oral PrEP for HIV negative individuals at significant risk of HIV infection, including prisoners, this is yet to be implemented in prisons. The high HIV prevalence contributes to the spread of TB within correctional facilities posing further health complications, including for prison staff. The UNCT observes that there is inadequate knowledge and uptake of HIV services by prisoners, and efforts must intensify to mitigate high HIV among prisoners and to create demand for HIV prevention and ART retention.
38. The UNCT commends efforts by the Government of Lesotho on UHC access for migrants, and immigrants regardless of their immigration status. While the UNCT acknowledges attempts at continuity of care for PLWHA who work abroad by providing multiple supplies of ART, it is also noted that some PLWHA are sometimes denied by authorities to do so. Moreover, generally cross border health coordination between Lesotho and South Africa should be enhanced for access to primary health services, sexual reproductive health services, and HIV treatment / services.
39. Over 60% of the population in the country does not have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS. To address this, Lesotho implements social behavioural change communication (SBCC)

⁶ HIV/AIDS NSP 2018/19-2023

⁷ Lesotho Comprehensive HIV Epidemic Analysis, 2017

programmes, which include mass media campaigns, Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) through the life-skills curricula in schools, and community engagement activities by CSOs. In 2018, UNCT supported the Government to identify challenges in SBCC, while NSP II outlines evidence-based strategies and interventions for achieving results in SBCC and in transforming harmful socio-cultural norms, values, beliefs and practices. Notwithstanding, quality improvement and scale-up of CSE is necessary to address lack of knowledge and risk perception of HIV and AIDS.

Recommendations

- Initiate the implementation of the NHSP 2018/19- 2022/23 including its Moderate Scenario that advocates for the scaling up of high impact services and health system investments.
- Strengthen community level systems to increase awareness and uptake of services noting the disease burden on communities as the entry level for the right to health and implementation of cost-effective interventions.
- Establish an operational Directorate of Quality Assurance at the Ministry of Health to facilitate the development of standards and to oversee the use of all official tools and guidelines throughout the health sector.
- Strengthen the local capacity for implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR) and health emergency preparedness.
- Strengthen health systems by reviewing and implementing the ESP including the provision of integrated SRHR package and provide comprehensive integrated SRHR and HIV services for key populations, adolescents and young people with tailor-made HIV packages for each target group, ensuring their inclusion in tracking and monitoring access and uptake of services
- Improve capacity in supply chain and procurement for all health commodities including through enactment of the Medicine and Medical Device Control Bill and a specific budget line item in the National Budget for procurement of Family Planning commodities for commodity security
- Strengthen the capacity of Health Care Providers with the newly updated 2017 Family Planning Guidelines and demand generation interventions for family planning
- Implement the Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH & N) programme in Lesotho and review midwifery polices on induction and rotation of midwives in health facilities and institutionalise the process of Maternal death audits and produce a periodic report to inform interventions needed to reduce and prevent maternal mortality
- Strengthen health data collection, analysis and use of disaggregated data to inform policies and programming especially for adolescent sexual and reproductive health,
- To collect and replicate good practices and lessons learned from the existing cross-border health services between Lesotho and South Africa, and in this respect harmonize and standardize border data systems, and referral tools

Issue 4: Right to Education^x

40. The UNCT commends the Government of Lesotho for achieving gender parity in primary education

and that it remains committed to education spending which lies between 9 and 10% of the GDP while the free primary education since 2000 has increased enrolment of boys and girls in schools. However, the UNCT observes that the bulk of the budget is on primary education leaving very little resources for Early Childhood Care and Development Education and secondary education. Consequently, the associated fees have resulted in high repeat rates and very low transition rates from primary to secondary school and low completion of secondary school. Moreover, access to education remains inequitable especially in rural remote and mountainous areas, particularly for boys and those from poor families dropping out of school. Education outcomes are inadequate and inequitable compared to investment. While more girls than boys enrol in secondary school, many girls still drop out due to factors like fees, teenage pregnancy, violence in schools and child marriage.

41. The Government of Lesotho adopted CSE as Life Skills Based Sexuality Education for out of school youth and institutionalized it for grade 4 to grade 10. The Lesotho College of Education also developed a CSE curriculum for teachers. CSE equips adolescents and youth with knowledge and skills to improve sexual behaviour. Additionally, the Government formulated the National School Health and Nutrition Policy 2018 on health issues that may affect learning in schools. Moreover, recognizing that addressing menstrual stigma and discrimination will help adolescent girls to continue school, Lesotho has made progress in addressing menstrual health and hygiene by removing tax on sanitary towels in 2019.

Recommendations:

- Strengthen the capacity of teachers to deliver quality CSE in schools and provide supportive supervision and monitoring of its delivery
- Develop an Implementation Plan for the National School Health and Nutrition Policy to complement the delivery of CSE in schools through uptake of SRHR services by adolescents and young people
- Enact the reviewed *Child Protection and Welfare Act 2011* to protect children and adolescents from forced and early child marriage
- Develop and implement a national strategy to reduce teenage pregnancies that should include reintegration in schools
- Allocate adequate funds to subsidize early childhood, secondary and tertiary education for access to education at these levels
- Develop a Menstrual Health Management (MHM) Policy and generate data to inform MHM programs
- Undertake special measures to retain boys in schools with specific focus on those in the rural remote areas

Issue 5: Address climate change, food insecurity and environmental degradation^{xi}

42. Lesotho has faced grave weather events in recent years including drought, severe hailstorms and flash flooding, causing significant environmental damage and delaying sustainable progress due to crisis response. Despite some progress however, general delays in adoption of policies and poor law enforcement have compromised efforts towards sustainable natural resources management

and progress on climate change adaptation and mitigation. There are number of environment related frameworks developed that could facilitate effective implementation of sustainable management of natural resources, however there is need to improve enforcement if Lesotho is to sustainably manage its natural resources.

43. Lesotho mainstreamed Climate Change into the NSDP II, and crafted a Climate Change Manual for schools on youth engagement in sustainable environmental management. In 2017, the first National Household Energy Survey report was released, and the National Energy Policy is under development. The Government created an enabling environment for private sector participation in sustainable energy through a Country Action Agenda and Investment Prospectus for production and supply of energy, and the development of a draft Off-Grid Regulatory Framework for mini-grids. With support from UNDP and partners, Community-based initiatives towards biodiversity conservation, such as the Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation (COMPACT) strategy for the Sehlabathebe National Park, are in place.
44. FAO is supporting the government of Lesotho to incorporate the Right to Food established guidelines into legislations and policies and to adopt rights-based food security strategies. Acknowledging that every human being is a rights holder, it is important that every individual not only has the right to feed themselves and their family in dignity, but also has the responsibility to do everything within their power to do so. FAO is working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to provide the required training to develop capacity in the areas of legislation, policy, assessment, and monitoring of the food security situation in the country.
45. Lesotho continues to prioritize agriculture and food security. The medium-term planning framework (NSDP II) for the Government of Lesotho focuses on doubling of incomes and productivity for the smallholder producers. Under this strategic objective, several interventions are being undertaken to provide direct support to vulnerable households to diversify and strengthen their agricultural and other productive activities in order to improve their livelihoods and food security. FAO is instrumental in promoting productivity enhancing technologies for improving agricultural production amongst the vulnerable farming households. In view of the increasing frequency of climate change induced disasters, FAO is providing technical and material support for promotion of climate change resilient production technologies.
46. UNCT commends efforts of the Government in collaborating with UN Agencies to integrate gender, GBV, HIV SRH in the response and mitigation of drought and other natural disasters and in the Lesotho Disaster Management Authority tools, such as response, resilience and mitigation plans. Increasingly, stronger linkages are made between food insecurity and increases in GBV, HIV and demands for SRHR services - and the need to address these inter-linkages in humanitarian responses, and targeting of respondents in addition to the development of appropriate interventions for affected populations.

Recommendations:

- Undertake concerted efforts to approve and operationalize the National Resilience Strategic Framework to protect its development gains and build resilience of citizens against natural shocks
- Increase opportunities for sustainable food production, improved food security and decent work, especially for women, and youth

- Promote sustainable utilization of natural resources and ensure that the marginalized and most vulnerable are increasingly resilient
- Rights holders should take part in discussions and decision-making on programmes and policies aimed at realizing their right to food and in monitoring progress.
- Fast-track implementation of the National Climate Change Policy and put in place a comprehensive M&E system to monitor its implementation
- Continue ensuring integration of SRHR, HIV and GBV in rapid assessments in humanitarian situations
- Ensure full implementation and use of DMA response and mitigation of drought and other natural disasters tools that integrate gender, GBV, HIV SRH, and of the Gender Audit as conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Children's Rights

Issue 1: Child labour^{xii}

47. The Ministry of Education and the Child Labour Unit of the Ministry of Labour and Employment mounted awareness raising campaigns to prevent and respond to child labour. The former leads on the provision of non-formal education to vulnerable children, notably herd-boys, to break a cycle of illiteracy and poverty. The Child Labour Unit developed draft Guidelines for Employment of Herdboy to prevent exploitative labour and promote the rights of working children to payment, education, rest, leisure, and nutrition.
48. As noted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the implementation of special action programme for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour (APEC) has been slow owing to a lack of adequate resources, and that children are still exposed to the worst forms of child labour, such as herding, domestic work and sexual exploitation.

Recommendations:

- The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State party: (a) provide sufficient resources to fully implement APEC and address in particular the exploitation of children for herding, domestic work and sexual exploitation, and conduct a study on the worst forms of child labour; (b) widely disseminate the Minimum Employment Guidelines for Shepherds/Herdboys (2014) and undertake awareness-raising programmes, including campaigns; and, (c) collect data on children involved in different types of child labour and establish a child-specific complaints mechanism that can receive, monitor and investigate reports on cases of child exploitation, and raise awareness among children of the mechanism.

Issue 2: Child Education^{xiii}

49. The Ministry of Education and Training, and CSOs hold awareness campaigns on the importance of education especially in the mountain and rural areas where herd-boyship is prevalent. Education Act of 2010 provides for pregnant girls to continue schooling until they are

due for delivery and after they have delivered. The Child Friendly Schools Framework by the Ministry of Education and Training aims at infrastructure improvement, safe schools and similarly provides for pregnant girls to remain in schools. The current integrated curriculum offers human rights education. However, the challenge is that most teachers have not been sufficiently trained enough to implement the curriculum effectively. In 2019, the Inclusive Education Policy was developed to attend to the issue of access to schools of children living with disabilities.

Recommendations:

- Provide capacity building to teachers on the effective implementation of the curriculum including on efficient delivery of human rights education
- The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended: (a) the need to raise awareness among parents on the importance of education and provide financial support for children in the most disadvantaged situations
- The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) collect data on children in street situations and use that data to develop and inform a specific policy and plan of action to address the situation; (b) provide professional support, in particular personnel with specialized skills in psychology and social work, to the organizations working with children in street situations; (c) ensure that support for family reintegration or placement in alternative care is provided with full respect for the child's best interests and giving due weight to their autonomous views, in accordance with their age and maturity.

ⁱ **Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendations** ; Take the necessary steps to accede or ratify the core international human rights instruments that they are not yet acceded to; (Kuwait) Incorporate in Lesotho's domestic legislation provisions of international legal instruments already ratified; (Senegal) Incorporate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the national legislation, and take the necessary measures for them to attain work opportunities; (Libya) Bring its domestic legislation into line with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Costa Rica) Pursue the strengthening of its cooperation with treaty bodies, step up its efforts in domesticating international human rights legal instruments by supporting its request to strengthen capacities in the areas which it has set out; (Niger) Seek technical assistance to meet its human rights obligations, obligation the submission of its overdue report to the Committee Against Torture as soon as possible; (Sierra Leone) Hand in its initial report to the Committee against Torture as soon as possible; (Denmark) Train and prepare public officials responsible for preparing State reports; (Gabon) Submit overdue initial and periodic reports to the various human rights treaty bodies, some of which have been overdue since 1994; (Ghana)

ⁱⁱ **Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendations** Incorporate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the national legislation, and take the necessary measures for them to attain work opportunities; Continue consolidating social protection programmes undertaken in favour of persons with disabilities; (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) Put in place and adopt legal and administrative measures aimed at making its education premises accessible and, on the other hand, at training teachers, with a view to guaranteeing full access to education to people with disabilities; (Argentina)

ⁱⁱⁱ **Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendations** Further strengthen the understanding of gender equality, in order to eliminate patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes; (Slovenia) Take more effective measures to address cultural practices that foster discrimination against women; (Ghana) Set up the efforts to improve gender equality as well as to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, especially with regard to access to education and employment opportunities; (Thailand) Undertake further steps to prevent gender-based violence and combat preventable maternal mortality and morbidity; (New Zealand) Prevent and combat domestic violence; (Djibouti) Provide comprehensive protection for women exposed to violence; (Turkey) Continue to actively protect rights of women and children; (Russian Federation) That Lesotho seeks to increase access to affordable contraceptive methods and antiretroviral treatment and to promote education on sexual and reproductive health; (Trinidad and Tobago) Provide effective institutional mechanisms that duly protect girls against sexual abuses and effectively prevent early and forced marriage; (Chile) Continue efforts in implementation of the National Action Plan to end Gender Based Violence Against Women; (South Africa) Enhance efforts to fight all forms of discrimination against women by ensuring effective implementation of existing legislation; (Italy) Take necessary measures to actively combat violence against ensuring effective implementation of existing legislation; (Italy) Take necessary measures to actively combat violence against women and promote gender equality, in particular by reforming discriminatory legislation against women; (France) Consider amending discriminatory provisions and administrative regulations relating to family, marriage, divorce and share of marital property, with the aim to eliminating discrimination against women; (Namibia) "Incorporate the principle of gender equality into all areas of law by repealing or amending all existing discriminatory legislation, in order to achieve full de jure equality for women in Lesotho, in compliance with the State's international treaty obligations; (Latvia)" "Continue to align its national laws, specially the sub-constitutional legislation and customary legal practices, with its international human rights obligations, particularly in the field of gender equality and prevention of violence against women, where special programmes and policies would be highly welcomed; (Brazil)" Enact the Domestic Violence Bill into law, ensuring that future cases of domestic violence are dealt with decisively; (United Kingdom) Prioritize the adoption and enactment of the Domestic Violence Bill and put in place further comprehensive measures to prevent and address gender-based violence, including the establishment of institutions for victim support; (Germany) Incorporate the principle of gender equality in its domestic law and prohibit by law discrimination on the grounds of gender and domestic violence; (Costa Rica) Incorporate the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women in its domestic law; (Netherlands) Include in the Constitution and other legislation provisions prohibiting discrimination against women in matters such as adoption, marriage, divorce, devolution of property, burial and death (Canada) Enact the law on domestic violence in order to overcome the Penal Code's shortcomings in covering domestic violence cases; (Turkey) Intensify efforts to adopt laws and measures to address domestic violence more effectively; (Philippines) Investigate all cases of domestic violence, in collaboration with the civil society engaged in this field and to develop a comprehensive national strategy to facilitate equal access of girls and women to all levels and fields of education; (Italy) Provide effective institutional mechanisms that duly protect girls against sexual abuses and effectively prevent early and forced marriage; (Chile)

^{iv} **Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendations** Take necessary measures for the improvement of the conditions of prisons and places of detention; (Egypt) Adopt measures to guarantee the respect of judicial guarantees and human rights in detention and police custody; (Spain) Adopt measures to guarantee the respect of judicial guarantees and human rights in detention and police custody; (Spain) Take necessary measures aimed at verifying alleged human rights violations committed by members of the security services; (Egypt) Continue efforts to combat cases of torture by adopting specific legislation to criminalize torture, by developing training programs for the security forces and by ensuring that perpetrators of these crimes are prosecuted; (France)

^v **Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendations** Pursue the adoption process of the draft bill on the National Human Rights Commission of 2014 with a view to render it fully operational; (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) Expedite enactment of planned legislation to establish a Human Rights Commission; (Australia) Take steps to establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles; (Kenya) Conclude the project of creating an independent national human rights commission in line with the Paris Principles; (Djibouti) Finalize efforts to create a National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles; (France) Establish a national human rights commission; (Gabon, Spain) Take necessary measures to finalize the process of establishing the National Human Rights Commission; (Mali) Step up efforts aimed at promptly establishing an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles; (Mexico) The National Human Rights Institution be made fully operational and ensure that it functions in conformity with Paris Principles; (Morocco) Continue its efforts towards the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission; (Rwanda) Establish a national human rights institution which is in conformity with the Paris Principles; (Sierra Leone) Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles; (Timor Leste) Continue the ongoing process to operationalize the National Human Rights Commission; (Zimbabwe) Implement and put in place the Human Rights Commission, in line with the Paris Principles; (Chile) Continue efforts on the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles; (South Africa) Speed up the process of setting up a national human rights commission, with the support of the international community; (Mozambique) Takes all necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of the national human rights policy and action plan; (Kenya) Continue its efforts to develop a national policy for human rights and to finalize the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles; (Yemen) Pursue the adoption process of the draft bill on the National Human Rights Commission of 2014 with a view to render it fully operational; (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) Expedite enactment of planned legislation to establish a Human Rights Commission; (Australia) Take steps to establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris

Principles; (Kenya) Conclude the project of creating an independent national human rights commission in line with the Paris Principles; (Djibouti) Finalize efforts to create a National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles; (France) Establish a national human rights commission; (Gabon, Spain) Take necessary measures to finalize the process of establishing the National Human Rights Commission; (Mali) Step up efforts aimed at promptly establishing an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles; (Mexico) The National Human Rights Institution be made fully operational and ensure that it functions in conformity with Paris Principles; (Morocco) Continue its efforts towards the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission; (Rwanda) Establish a national human rights institution which is in conformity with the Paris Principles; (Sierra Leone) Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles; (Timor Leste) Continue the ongoing process to operationalize the National Human Rights Commission; (Zimbabwe) Implement and put in place the Human Rights Commission, in line with the Paris Principles; (Chile) Continue efforts on the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles; (South Africa) Speed up the process of setting up a national human rights commission, with the support of the international community; (Mozambique) Takes all necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of the national human rights policy and action plan; (Kenya) Continue its efforts to develop a national policy for human rights and to finalize the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles; (Yemen)

^{vi} **Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendations;** Take necessary measures aimed at combating sexual exploitation of migrant women and children, especially young girls; (Egypt) Implement progressively and effectively the legislations and policies on trafficking in persons; (Ethiopia) Provide legal remedies and assistance for victims of trafficking in persons; (Sierra Leone) Continue the fight against trafficking in human beings by implementing a comprehensive program to combat these practices and support the victims; (France) Enforce all laws that protect children from trafficking and exploitation, and their uses in illegal activities; (Libya) That Lesotho ensures the effective implementation of its human trafficking legislation; (Trinidad and Tobago) Ensure the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of human trafficking as well as to endure necessary assistance to victims; (Turkey)

^{vii} **Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendations;** Strengthen measures to reduce poverty amongst vulnerable groups; (Angola) Develop sustainable economic policies to reduce extreme poverty, food insecurity and unemployment; (Senegal)

Continue to prioritize poverty reduction in protection and promotion of economic, social and cultural rights of its people; (China) Formulate a national disaster risk reduction programme to respond to crises relating to food security; (Egypt) That Lesotho takes steps to continue working on its national nutrition policy; (Trinidad and Tobago) Continue undertaking measures to reduce environmental degradation as an essential requirement to reduce the impact of poverty; (Cuba) That a long-term sustainable policy approach be adopted to respond to crises such as climate change and food security; (Trinidad and Tobago) Continue efforts to develop access to water and sanitation and to combat disparities between urban and rural areas; (Togo) Continue strengthening its proper social policies in order to provide greater well-being and living standard to its people, for which international support and cooperation are fundamental; (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) Continue its efforts to reduce poverty, especially in fulfilling the rights of vulnerable groups; (Indonesia) Continue this work of alleviating of poverty and developing social economic sphere in the context of realization of national strategic plan in the area of development; (Russian Federation) Fully implement the National Strategic Development Plan aimed at reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development, including through the enactment of the draft National Policy on Social Development; (South Africa) Accept the visit request by the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, in particular with a view to creating necessary institutional capacities to strengthen cooperation with the bodies of the international system for the human rights protection; (Mexico)

^{viii} **Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendations;** Combat more effectively corruption and adopt necessary legal measures; (Russian Federation) Redouble its efforts to combat practices of corruption in Lesotho; (Indonesia) Continue to strengthen good governance at all levels to enhance service delivery; (Singapore) Continue support for agencies such as the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences, and for the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan; (New Zealand) Continue to provide and ensure improved and easily accessible service delivery, especially to marginalized sections of the population; (Zimbabwe)

^{ix} **Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendations:** Enhance capacity of health centres and health service providers, with a view to improving access to quality health services of people, particularly in the rural areas; (Philippines) Continue to strengthen the provision of health-care services to its people, particularly women and children; (Singapore) Implement policies and plans aimed at improving maternal and child health, and ensure equitable access to health services to effectively address maternal and infant mortality; (Botswana) Strengthen the construction of its health system; (China) Continue efforts to ensure free access to health care throughout the country; (Algeria) Ensure that the new initiatives on health centres reach all districts of the Kingdom; (Ethiopia) "Take action at all levels to address the interlinked root causes of preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 and consider applying the "Technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age" (Ireland) "Define and deploy the necessary resources, particularly human, legislative and financial resources, in order to effectively implement the Lesotho Government's ambitious policy in the field of economic and social rights, particularly with respect to health care and education; (Senegal)" Put in place measures that guarantee the integrity and protection of prisoners and detainees, particularly vis-à-vis other prisoners, in the light of cases of rapes that have led to an increase of HIV positive prison population prevalence; (Spain) "Suitably addresses the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls by increasing its efforts to further reduce the number of women and girls affected by the HIV pandemic and to increase prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and AIDS; (Namibia)" Increase the coverage of service level of the medical care, and put further attention to combating AIDS; (China) Plan to re-establish the National AIDS Commission so as to effectively support programmes and policies to combat HIV/AIDS; (Democratic Republic of the Congo) Develop more effective strategies to prevent and combat HIV/AIDS; (Togo) Step up awareness-raising campaigns on effective methods to combat and fight AIDS; (Angola) Further involve civil society actors in awareness-raising campaigns with respect to infectious diseases, in particular HIV; (Senegal) Implement foreseen measures to reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS by at least 15 percent; (Cuba)

^x **Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendations :** Allocate more resources to improve educational infrastructure as well as to take the necessary steps to ensure that members of the local communities, Take the appropriate measures to address the disadvantage situation of girls concerning access to education, as well as reports on sexual violence and abuses committed in schools, Include human rights education in the school curriculum and the necessary assistance and capacity-building be provided to Lesotho in this regard; (Mauritius) Take action towards more

pervasive measures to prevent violations of the rights of children through, inter alia, training professionals such as teachers, doctors and social workers to identify potential situations of abuse and report them to the authorities; (Brazil)"

^{xi} **Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendations**: Seek financial assistance for mitigation and adaption activities to address the impact of climate change; (Sierra Leone) That a long-term sustainable policy approach be adopted to respond to crises such as climate change and food security; (Trinidad and Tobago) Continue undertaking measures to reduce environmental degradation as an essential requirement to reduce the impact of poverty; (Cuba)

^{xii} **Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendations** :Deploy further efforts to prevent child labour and to avoid the drop out from school of minors, with particular reference to the herd boys, ensuring a full implementation of the Education Act of 2010; (Italy) Continue the implementation of all obligations of the CRC, in particular to combat violence against children and forced labour; (France) Increase oversight of labour recruitment agencies licensed in Lesotho, and accelerate legal reforms to combat the worst forms of child labour; (United States of America) Strengthen measures to protect children from the worst forms of labour, and ensure full implementation of the Children's Protection and Welfare Act; (Botswana) "Strengthen measures to implement the law on the protection and well-being of children, particularly in rural areas, so as to prevent children having to work in the fields or in home in order to meet their needs and those of their families; (Democratic Republic of the Congo)"

^{xiii} **Linked to 2nd cycle UPR recommendations** Take necessary measures to guarantee all children the right to education; (Algeria) Put in place awareness campaigns to sensitize local communities on the importance of education for both boys and girls alike; (Latvia) Ensure an inclusive education system, in order to allow all children to attend classes, in particular pregnant girls; (Timor Leste) Include human rights education in the school curriculum and the necessary assistance and capacity-building be provided to Lesotho in this regard; (Mauritius) Put in place and adopt legal and administrative measures aimed at making its education premises accessible and, on the other hand, at training teachers, with a view to guaranteeing full access to education to people with disabilities; (Argentina) Take the appropriate measures to address the disadvantage situation of girls concerning access to education, as well as reports on sexual violence and abuses committed in schools; (Portugal) Allocate more resources to improve educational infrastructure as well as to take the necessary steps to ensure that members of the local communities, especially those living in the rural areas, realize the importance of education for both boys and girls; (Thailand)" Ensure access to education of all children, including those in hard-to reach areas, by increasing investments in education infrastructure and training of educators and pursuing all possible avenues for international cooperation; (Philippines) Investigate all cases of domestic violence, in collaboration with the civil society engaged in this field and to develop a comprehensive national strategy to facilitate equal access of girls and women to all levels and fields of education; (Italy) Set up the efforts to improve gender equality as well as to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, especially with regard to access to education and employment opportunities; (Thailand)