



# Metsi a Lesotho

**Metsi a Lesotho** (Water of Lesotho) aims to ensure communities in Lesotho have access to clean water and sanitation services, while preserving water and land resources for present and future generations.



Photo by: Senate Nkuebe.

With the core objective of expanding access to safe, sustainable, and affordable water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, **Metsi a Lesotho** aims to cultivate a healthier, greener, and more prosperous society while effectively managing water and land resources. Through robust capacity-building efforts and WASH infrastructure development, **Metsi a Lesotho** seeks to improve services and foster cooperation at community, catchment, and transboundary levels.

Launched in 2024, **Metsi a Lesotho** is part of the **Global Gateway**, Europe's strategy to boost smart, clean and secure connections in digital, climate, energy and transport sectors, and to strengthen health, education and research systems across the world.

## WHY METSI A LESOTHO?



**Access to safe and affordable water and sanitation for all** is a basic human right, crucial for sustainable development. Lesotho and the broader region face water scarcity and unequal access due to rising demand and climate change.



**Sustainable water resources management** can help Lesotho reverse ongoing land degradation, ensure water continues to be available and clean, promoting water security, regional stability and peace.



**Climate change** increases water scarcity, especially in vulnerable regions like Lesotho. Faced with more frequent extreme weather events, safeguarding healthy catchment and wetland ecosystems becomes ever more important.



**Health, food, energy, livelihoods, jobs and skills** depend on Lesotho's water resources. Preserving the environment and socio-economic prosperity are not contradictory objectives, but one and the same.



**Nurturing partnerships and research** strengthens water management efforts in Lesotho. Cooperation among governments, communities, the private sector, civil society, academia, and research institutes is vital for water sustainability.

## HOW?

*Metsi a Lesotho* utilises various tools including:



**WASH Infrastructure development.** *Metsi a Lesotho* will construct or rehabilitate water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities in 250 rural communities, 125 schools, and 15 clinics. These include systems for the collection, treatment, storage, and distribution of water; toilets; as well as handwashing stations.



**Land and water conservation.** *Metsi a Lesotho* will contribute to ReNOKA – Lesotho's national movement to restore land and water – through sustainable management approaches and rehabilitation measures across 50% of Lesotho's catchments. It will also help establish a sustainable national financing mechanism.



**Policy, Capacity Building and Data.** *Metsi a Lesotho* will support strategic planning, the development of water policies and regulations, while providing water management professionals with the necessary skills to perform their crucial roles. Water and soil data will be produced, updated and shared to improve services and accountability.

## Find out about other ongoing EU-supported water initiatives:

**ReNOKA** is an inclusive and holistic movement to protect and conserve the natural resources of Lesotho and the Orange-Senqu River Basin. ReNOKA implements rehabilitation measures in 18 sub-catchments.

The **Lesotho Lowlands Water Development Project (Phase 2)** is developing water and sanitation infrastructure in the areas of Hlotse, Maputsoe, Mohale's Hoek, and Mafeteng. By 2027, the project will provide safe drinking water to 280,000 people and upgrade sanitation facilities for 20,400 individuals.

The **Lesotho-EU Cooperation Facility** mobilises long- and short-term technical assistance to support Lesotho's water sector.

## BACKGROUND

Water is our planet's most precious resource, essential for sustaining life and fostering healthy ecosystems. Our own health, food systems, infrastructure, and livelihoods depend on it. The climate crisis exerts a profound and distressing impact on the availability, accessibility and equitable allocation of water resources across the globe. We all need to come together to manage water resources sustainably for present and future generations.

The Government of Lesotho and its relevant Ministries are collaborating with Team Europe, namely the **European Union Delegation to Lesotho**, the **European Investment Bank (EIB)**, the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**, **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)** on this initiative. The **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)** is also a crucial partner in the broader mission to extend access to water and sanitation services.

**Metsi a Lesotho** is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation for all)** as well as the Government of Lesotho's **National Strategic Development Plan II (NSDP II)**.

The European Union continues to play a pivotal role in Lesotho's water sector, providing a significant investment, (through **Metsi a Lesotho**) of EUR 27 million (LSL 540 million) to improve access to clean and accessible water, open to additional contributions from other partners.

