

LESOTHO\*

## Advancing Women's Political Participation and Decision-Making through Social Norms Change, Networking and Global Advocacy

**DURATION: 03/2026 – 10/2027**

Despite women constituting a significant proportion of Lesotho's population and voters, women remain underrepresented in political leadership and decision-making spaces. According to 2026 Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) data, women hold 25% of seats in Parliament in Lesotho, with even lower representation in senior political leadership and local governance structures. Deep-rooted patriarchal norms, limited mentorship opportunities, financial barriers, gender stereotypes, and low institutional support continue to affect women's participation in politics and governance. Young women and women with disabilities face additional exclusion. The project seeks to transform social norms, strengthen women's leadership and feminist coalitions, and promote inclusive political participation through advocacy, mentorship, media engagement, and community mobilisation.



**This project aims to strengthen** women's political participation and leadership in Lesotho through social norms transformation, advocacy, leadership development, and coalition building. Key objectives include:



**Strengthening leadership** capacities of women and young women leaders.



**Promoting positive social norms and public support** for women's leadership.



**Strengthening** feminist networks and advocacy platforms.



**Enhancing inclusion** of women with disabilities in political participation.



**Supporting evidence-based** advocacy and engagement with institutions and political stakeholders.

\*National implementation across all 10 Districts.

## KEY TARGETS INCLUDE

300

trained on leadership and political participation across all 10 districts of Lesotho

## WOMEN AND YOUNG WOMEN

10

leadership and political readiness sessions implemented, engaging emerging women leaders and aspiring political participants

DISTRICT-LEVEL  
"RACE FOR PARLIAMENT"

10

with male champions conducted to address social norms limiting women's leadership and participation

## COMMUNITY DIALOGUES

1

targeting over 100,000 individuals through radio, digital media, video, print and online platforms

## NATIONAL MULTIMEDIA AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

## PARTNERSHIPS

African Parliamentary Press Network  
- Lesotho Chapter (APPN)Disability Empowerment Association  
Lesotho (DEAL)

## Youth Hub Connect Lesotho (YHCL)

Young Women of Africa - Lesotho Chapter  
(YWA)

## KEY ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Conduct district-based "Race for Parliament" leadership sessions and mentorship circles for women and young women leaders.
- ▶ Develop and disseminate leadership and political participation toolkits and as well as digital resources.
- ▶ Organize feminist dialogue forums, broad-based coalition coordination meetings (with women's rights- and youth-led organizations, disability inclusion groups and feminist networks).
- ▶ Organize advocacy roundtables with political institutions, media stakeholders, and community leaders to strengthen inclusive women's political participation and policy influence.
- ▶ Implement community dialogues with male champions and media sensitisation initiatives to transform social norms.
- ▶ Produce and disseminate multimedia content including radio programmes, videos, social media campaigns and print materials promoting women's political participation and leadership.



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FOR ALL  
WOMEN  
AND GIRLS



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