

NATIONAL DIALOGUE

30 JANUARY 2024
MASERU, LESOTHO

PROMOTING CORRUPT FREE, INCLUSIVE
AND RESPONSIVE ENTERPRISE
BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES TO
WOMEN AND YOUTH IN LESOTHO

PRESENTED BY:
DEMOCRACY WORKS
FOUNDATION



PUTTING YOUTH AND WOMEN AT
THE CENTRE OF INCLUSIVE
ECONOMIC GROWTH.



FSVC
FINANCIAL SERVICES
VOLUNTEER CORPS

INTRODUCTION

Democracy Works Foundation under the EU-funded Project, Putting Youth and Women at the Centre of Inclusive Economic Growth (PYWIEG) and the Financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC) under the USAID-funded Programme, Strengthening Anti-Corruption Efforts and Procedures in Southern Africa are hosting a national dialogue on “Promoting corrupt free, inclusive, and responsive enterprise development support services that benefit women and young people in Lesotho: what must we do differently”

CONTEXT

Lesotho’s National Strategic Development II is anchored on the pillars of promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, strengthening human capital, and strengthening national governance and accountability systems (NSDP II).

In this regard, it is important to strengthen social and economic development initiatives that promote active participation of women and the youth as they constitute the larger part of the population and yet remain marginalised in many ways. The role of particularly women and young people in this regard cannot be over emphasised. In Lesotho, just like it is the case in many African countries, young people as well as women are potentially the real engine for economic growth as they constitute the most productive workforce if properly supported. In Lesotho, women and young people are identified as the groups having most difficulties accessing finance.

Lesotho is a highly patriarchal society which is enshrined in customary law. This practice extends to the economic set up of families and communities where women are excluded from financial decision-making contrary to the provisions of national legislation such as the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act of 2006. This practice also affects women in the economic and political spheres at national level despite existence of legal and policy frameworks that aim to uphold gender equality.

Despite, Lesotho’s performance in the “Ease of Doing Business Index” being considerably worse than that of its direct neighbours, the rating is measured on the institutional infrastructure to support economic participation of enterprises and not on nuances in practices on the ground. Women and youth in Lesotho experience the highest levels of unemployment (35% and 30%).

Lesotho has prioritised policy debates and focus on diversifying job creation, private-led markets, alleviating poverty and reducing unemployment through promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.

Corruption in both the public and private sectors however remains one of the challenges that undermine the effectiveness of some of the initiatives that otherwise could contribute to a more enterprise led economic growth.

APPROACH

The National Dialogue will be informed by insights from both practitioners as well as independent experts who will provide their input in form of both expert presentations and facilitated panel discussion. During plenary and group discussions, participants will also have an opportunity to actively contribute to the discussions and action points for a corrupt free, inclusive and responsive enterprise development sector for the betterment of Lesotho.

[1] Lesotho Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of Agenda 2030 Report 2019

[2] World bank, Sustainable Development Goals, 2020

[3] World Bank, Sustainable Development Goals, 2020

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this national dialogue is to provide an opportunity for the relevant stakeholders to reflect on ways to further improve an enabling environment for inclusive and responsive enterprise development services that benefit women and the youths in Lesotho. Specifically, the National Dialogue will seek to realise the following objectives:

To interrogate the challenges particularly with respect to regulatory, policy and Public Finance Management frameworks that are constraining accelerated enterprise development support services that target women and youth.

To share experiences and lessons on some of the initiatives and strategies that are being undertaken not only by government but also Business Development Service (BDS) providers as well as civil society actors.

To reflect on what can be done differently going forward to scale up the support towards a more inclusive and responsive enterprise development ecosystem.

TARGET GROUPS

- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Enterprise Focused CSO (Women and Youth)
- Government Line Ministries, Parastatals
- Business Development Services providers (BDS)

RESOURCE PERSONS

Alouis Chilunjika

Alouis Chilunjika is a holder of a Ph.D. in Public Management and Governance from the University of Johannesburg, as well as a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Administration both from the University of Zimbabwe. He is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political and Administrative Studies at the National University of Lesotho.

Dr Chilunjika has over ten years teaching experience in tertiary institutions. His research interests include Public Finance, Public Policy, Public Administration, Road Tolling and Domestic Revenue Mobilisation, Corporate Governance, Local Governance, Mineral Resource Governance Political Science and Electoral Processes.

He has published over 45 journal articles and book chapters in these areas. He has also participated as a lead consultant in several projects for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Democracy Works Foundation (DWF), Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD), Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association (ZELA). Dr Chilunjika has participated actively in curriculum review and development. He also served as a programme reviewer and panel expert for the Zimbabwe Council on Higher Education in the Public Administration, Management and Governance cluster.

He has extensively participated in trainings and capacity building programmes for the Zimbabwe Institute of Public Administration and Management (ZIPAM), Delta Private Limited's Mandel Training Institute, where he has trained technocrats, managers and leaders on governance, public policy, corporate governance, public budgeting and e-governance.

Mr. Lesei R Lesei

Lesei R Lesei is an TPMA certified trainer and a business and private sector development consultant and Practitioner, experienced in analytical skills, management, risk management, Entrepreneurship with a strong business development professional who graduated from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. Currently, Mr. Lesei is the Executive Director Business Development for the Lesotho Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) with keen interest in project planning, program and project management.

Mr Lesei also serves as board member to different organizations, having previously served as the Board member for the Basotho Enterprise Development Corporation (BEDCO) and WASCO (Maseru Water Committee) and currently sitting as the Committee Member matching grants for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

Mr. Lesei has experience in developing and mentoring SMMEs have viable business models, market access and demand and has over 10-years' experience in provision of business support services in the Country.

RESOURCE PERSONS

Masontaha Masilo

Masontaha Masilo holds a degree in Public Administration and Political Science from the University of Lesotho. She works at the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Social Development as a Senior Entrepreneurship Officer.

She is passionate about empowering youth and women in entrepreneurship. She has skills in business planning, recordkeeping, marketing and women enterprise development and she is a certified International Labour Organization trainer in Start and Improve Your Business Programme. Also holds a certificate in Trade and Gender from UNCTAD.

She enjoys collaborating and forming strategic partnerships for skills sharing and has worked with various non-governmental organizations such as LANFOD, World Vision, Enterprise Support Program, Metolong Dam.

Tebello Moreboli

Tebello Moreboli has a degree in Psychology and anthropology from the University of Pretoria. She has worked with various organizations in the space of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, GBV, Disability Rights and Community Development. These Organizations include: Centre for Sexuality AIDS and Gender (at the University of Pretoria), Lesotho National Council of Women, LPPA, DHAOL, Jhepiego and the UN.

She is the founder and Director of Alleviate - an organization whose vision is to have communities that are active in addressing social problems, understand and act on their potential to achieve social justice. Last year was selected by the UN and the Council of Europe to represent Southern Africa Region in the Training of Trainers in Human Rights Education held in Budapest, Hungary.

She is also a member of the African Initiative for Women Human Rights Defenders (AIWHRD).





STRENGTHENING INCLUSIVE & RESPONSIVE BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYABILITY & SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ABOUT DWF

Democracy Works Foundation [DWF] is an African, nonpartisan and non-profit company that operates in Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, and Zambia.

DWF believes in developing homegrown and innovative solutions that support public officials and states to be more open, transparent, responsive and accountable.

We also work to build the capacity of citizens and provide tools enabling them to impact their democracies better while meeting their obligations and claiming their rights.

DWF works on the supply and demand side of democracy.

ABOUT FSVC

The Mission of the Financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC) is to help build sound financial sectors to support healthy market-oriented economies in developing and emerging market countries.

FSVC's core work concentrate on strengthening central bank capacity, building robust commercial banking sectors and developing capital markets.

Major additional areas of work include improving access to financial services for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), financial inclusion, and combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, and advising government and civil society organizations on how to strengthen public financial management.

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