

Lesotho



Joined Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement: July 2014

National Multi-Stakeholder Platform for Nutrition: Lesotho, through the Food and Nutrition Coordinating Office use several multi stakeholder task forces instead of an official MSP which is yet to be established.

Sun Government Focal Point/Country Coordinator: Qonda Tiisetso Elias, Regional Food and Nutrition Coordinator, Cabinet/Office of the Prime Minister

COUNTRY NUTRITION STATUS

→ **Annual country nutrition indicators from the Global Nutrition Report:**

<https://globalnutritionreport.org/resources/nutrition-profiles/africa/southern-africa/lesotho/>

● National multi-stakeholder platform (MSP)

Date established: no information

● MSP annual action plan exists

● Subnational nutrition coordination mechanism

● Subnational MSPs exist

● Subnational MSPs have annual action plans

● ● National nutrition plan

● Advocacy and communications framework/plan

SUN networks in-country presence

● SUN Civil Society Network

● SUN Business Network

● UN-Nutrition

● SUN Academia Network

● SUN Donor Network

● Others: e.g. youth, parliamentarian, media

Finance for nutrition

● Resource mobilization strategy exists

● Budget tracking exercise done this year

● Funding gaps identified this year

● Domestic expenditures on nutrition tracked

● Yes ● In process ● No ● Costed ● M&E framework

COUNTRY PRIORITIES 2023

Fast-track national nutrition information system development; Ensure implementation of national nutrition strategy; Establish Common Results Framework; Implement recommended structural adjustments; Establish food and nutrition MSP.

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUN 3.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (SO)

→ **SO.1 Strengthen and sustain strong policy and advocacy environments**

Great progress has been made in this regard. However, the main challenges include: - The Government often takes too long to officially adopt developed policy frameworks. By the time of adoption, most of these documents have become obsolete and must be reviewed before implementation. This becomes a vicious circle in which working policy documents are seldom relevant to prevailing challenges.- The allocation of the necessary budgets to implement policy frameworks is nevercommensurate. For most implementation activities, commitments are only claimed and are never tangible.- The enforcement of relevant policy frameworks is often minimal or nonexistent.

→ **SO.2 Develop and align shared country priorities for action**

Some progress has been made, especially with the development of the national nutrition strategy, which could easily provide a Common Results Framework to ensure alignment of shared country priorities. However, this is hampered by the lack of accompanying budget allocation to actually implement the strategy.

→ **SO.3 Build and strengthen country capacity**

The National Nutrition Strategy and the capacity assessment report make clear what capacity gaps exist and how those gaps can be addressed. Funding, however, remains the major deterrent against moving forward.

→ **SO.4 Ensure governance of SUN that promotes country leadership and responsibilities of government, aligns the resources of all SUN Movement stakeholders behind country priorities and strengthens 360 mutual accountability**

More progress in this regard can be realized if the establishment of functional national SUN structures can be achieved, with the help of the Secretariat. Furthermore, at the global level, the Movement can help by pushing for more commitment from SUN Countries – commitment that translates to actual funding of country targets at the national level. Collective commitments can put pressure on individual countries to provide necessary budget allocations that address their unique national challenges.