



## PRESS RELEASE

### Civil Society organisations (CSO) Health Advocacy Forum (HAF) Health Advocacy Training, Reflection and Planning Session Mmelesi Lodge 14 – 16 July 2015

The Lesotho Council of NGOs Health and Social Development Commission through Health Advocacy Forum has organised a three day workshop to strengthen the capacity of its members from July 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> at Mmelesi Lodge in Thaba-Bosiu.

In an effort to address CSO's coordination challenges, CSOs in the health sector established the CSO *Health Advocacy Forum* (HAF) through the *Lesotho Council of NGOs* (LCN) Health and Social Development Commission. The goal of the forum is to enhance coordination and collaboration among CSOs working in Health and in HIV and AIDS in order to support delivery of high quality health services and the effective national response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

The objectives of the workshop are to strengthen the capacity of CSO Health Advocacy Forum members in Advocacy, to establish CSOs common understanding on coordination and effective collaboration, to discuss CSOs approaches and mechanisms in HIV and AIDS/Health programs, to monitor CSOs Health Advocacy progress and to recommit CSOs in the response to HIV and AIDS through the familiarisation of the CSOs Statement of Commitment and Charter. They will also reflect on how they have been doing things, reasons for the fragmented efforts, and best approaches to be adopted to ensure effective coordination.

It expected that at the end of the training CSOs will be better positioned to play their oversight role to government to ensure delivery of quality health services, again CSOs will gain knowledge and skills on advocacy strategies that can result in real policy change and representation of patients voices in a meaningful manner.

The workshop is supported by UNAIDS in collaboration with MSF. Expected at the training are CSOs participating in the CSOs Health Advocacy Forum.

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