

Concept note for Pre Project mapping and Assessment

Background and Introduction

Many studies continue to show that the rural, disadvantaged groups endure common development challenges in Africa and in all other developing countries. Lesotho is no exception to this challenge. The challenges of the rural disadvantaged are illustrated in the following- though the list is not exhaustive:

- High unemployment rates
- Over reliance on subsistence agriculture activities yet declining agricultural outputs – unfavourable climatic conditions
- Poor physical infrastructural services
- Very limited access to social services – healthcare, clean water & sanitation
- THEREFORE, rampant poverty and hunger

These challenges manifest themselves in the following;

- Lack of/limited public participation in development agenda setting platforms & implementation thereof
- Lack of accountability from those entrusted for the custodian of the national resources and policy implementation
- Weak capacity of CSOs to demand accountability and space for public participation in development processes

The writings further show that a reliable tool and methodology to address peoples chaos is to allow people take a centre stage on how their challenges are to be addressed. As a starting point people participation in policies and or laws that affect them is of critical importance. It is when development practitioners know and understand the will of the people that development agenda can be an informed one as opposed to a perceived one. It is on the basis of the same understanding that LCN intends to increase public awareness and participation thorough a project called Public Participation & NSAs Capacity Building for Development through the support of EU. In order to carry out this noble initiative, it is imperative to conduct an assessment aimed at getting baseline information to inform implementation.

Objectives of the activity

- To map the Community Councils that the project is to operate in
- To administer the questionnaire in the designated Community Councils
- To fill in data into a prescribed tool after the field work

Description of the activity

The study is going to be conducted in the districts of Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, Quthing, Qacha'sNek, Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka covering twenty one Community Councils in the following manner:

District	Community Council	Total Per District
Mafeteng		
	Metsi- Maholo E01	
	Lehlakaneng E04	
	Makoabating E05	
	Tšana- Talana E06	
	Ramoetsana E03	5
Mohale'sHoek		
	Siloe F01	
	Khoelenya F03	
	Thaba- Mokhele F05	
	Senqunyane F07	4
Quthing		
	Mtjanyane G01	
	Qomoqomong G02	
	Telle G04	3
Qacha'sNek		
	Qanya H01	
	Ntšupe H02	
	Tsoelikana H03	3
Mokhotlong		
	Seate J01	
	Mphokojoane J02	

	Sanqebethu J03	3
Thaba-Tseka		
	Tenesolo K01	
	Khutlo- se- Metsi K02	
	Linakeng K05	3

There will be eight officers engaged to collect data using a similar questionnaire. The plan is to place four in the southern districts of Mofokeng, Quthing, Qacha's Nek and the other four will cover Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka. The groups will then embark on Mafeteng collectively. It is anticipated that each group will spend 5 days collecting data in their respective region work. Collectively they will need a day to cover Mafeteng district. They will then need two days to enter data into a prescribed data analysis tool. The eight people will consist of one from each of the four associates; namely FIDA, LYCS, DPE and LNFOD plus, four officers from LCN.

Justification of the activity.

The activity is a pre-requisite for the Public Participation & NSA Capacity Building Project. It is part of the project deliverable and as a result it should be done before major activities could be performed within the life time of the project. It is also imperative to include associates in the execution of the project. The geographical coverage of the project requires a number of officers to accomplish the task.

Output

- Assessment Report and names and contact for contact persons of the CBOs

