Early Warning System

WB-P519503

Lesotho Skills Acceleration Project

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Quick Facts

Countries	Lesotho
Financial Institutions	World Bank (WB)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	B
Voting Date	2027-06-15
Borrower	The Kingdom of Lesotho
Sectors	Agriculture and Forestry, Education and Health, Energy, Water and Sanitation
Investment Type(s)	Loan
Investment Amount (USD)	$ 30.00 million
Project Cost (USD)	$ 30.00 million

Project Description

According to bank provided information, the Lesotho Skills Acceleration Project will increase skilled graduates and workers for priority value chains and strengthen the skills system's responsiveness to labor-market demand. Energy, requiring about 18,000 jobs annually over the 10-year investment period, and water, requiring skills in purification, treatment, utility operations, and leakage control, were selected with agriculture because major investments will sustain demand. Agribusiness, tourism, and manufacturing were prioritized to leverage industry-designed, demand-led programs to accelerate graduates' employment.Aligned with the Set4Jobs MPA, the objective will be achieved through three mutually reinforcing areas:1. Prepare youth for better jobs. This includes developing and upgrading accredited programs at basic, intermediate, and advanced levels; strengthening pre-vocational secondary schools; expanding training and trade-testing capacity in underserved areas; integrating ICT and AI into delivery; and embedding Industrial Advisory Committees in institutional governance and programs delivery.2. Increasing employment opportunities in select value chains. Support will include Skills Development Fund grants, apprenticeships, internships, on-the-job training, employer and community-based platforms, and Recognition of Prior Learning. NEET youth, young women, orphans, and vulnerable children will receive targeted support for business formalization, incubation, licensing and business development. The project will incentivize proven private-sector and Youth Resource Center programs, using the National Information System for Social Assistance for targeting.3. Build industry-led skills systems. This will institutionalize private-sector engagement; update the TVET Act and related policies; introduce performance-based financing; establish a digital skills management information system with tracer-study capabilities; align occupational standards, curricula, assessment, and certification with market demand; and strengthen instructor training and deployment. Where feasible, reforms will be informed by evidence from surveys conducted with IFC developed tools such as VITAE and D4TEP, and findings from the ongoing Skills for Jobs Policy Review pilot.

Investment Description

- World Bank (WB)

Contact Information

World Bank

Innocent Kibira Najjumba Mulindwa

Senior Education Specialist

Borrower/Client/Recipient

The Kingdom of Lesotho

Implementing Agencies

Ministry of Education and Training

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

To submit an information request for project information, you will have to create an account to access the Access to Information request form. You can learn more about this process at: https://www.worldbank.org/en/access-to-information/request-submission

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Bank Documents

- Initial Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS) - Lesotho Skills Acceleration Project - P5195
- Initial Project Information Document (PID) - Lesotho Skills Acceleration Project - P519503