

# LESOTHO VNR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2019



## PRESENTATION TO THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

BY

HON. MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING



# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

**1. LESOTHO IN THREE MINUTES - Video**

**2. VNR METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS**

**3. POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT**

**4. LESOTHO PROGRESS ON SDGs**

**5. CONCLUSIONS**





# VNR METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS



- 1. Lesotho VNR 2019 was participatory and inclusive, including all levels and sectors of government, the private sector, civil society/NGOs, academia, women and youth, special groups, and the media for ownership and awareness creation towards SDGs.**
- 2. The process also included innovative ways of remote consultations/data mining through social media.**
- 3. Lesotho VNR Report 2019, was also presented to and validated by Cabinet sub-Committee on Sustainable Development.**

**The Government of Lesotho, through a consultative process has established National Sustainable Development structure and mechanism to facilitate the implementation, monitoring and reporting on the national and international development agenda.**

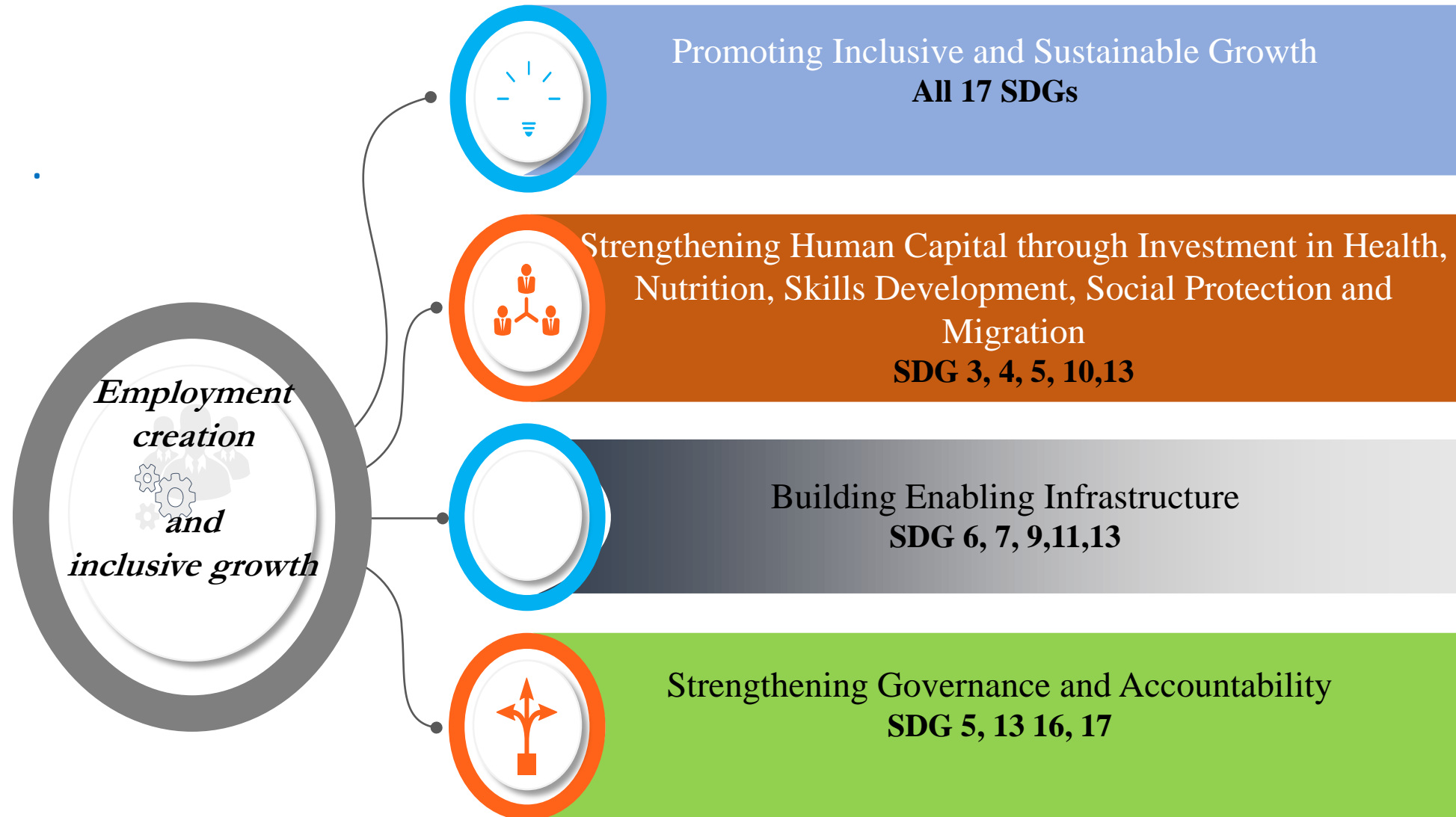
- i. The highest structure is the National Oversight and Advisory Committee, chaired by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister.**
- ii. The Cabinet sub-committee is chaired by the Honourable Minister of Development Planning. It ensures effective coordination, advocacy, implementation of sustainable development agenda.**
- iii. The National Technical Steering Committee is chaired by the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Development Planning, with a multi-stakeholder membership.**
- iv. There are also different multi-stakeholder technical groups as well as Parliamentary forum.**

# **POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT**

**Lesotho has mainstreamed agenda 2030 and other international commitments into the National Strategic Development Plan, 2018/19 - 2022/23, which include, AU Agenda 2063 and SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan.**



# Linkages between the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP II) 2019-2023 and the SDGs.



**1 NO  
POVERTY**



## LESOTHO PROGRESS ON SDGs

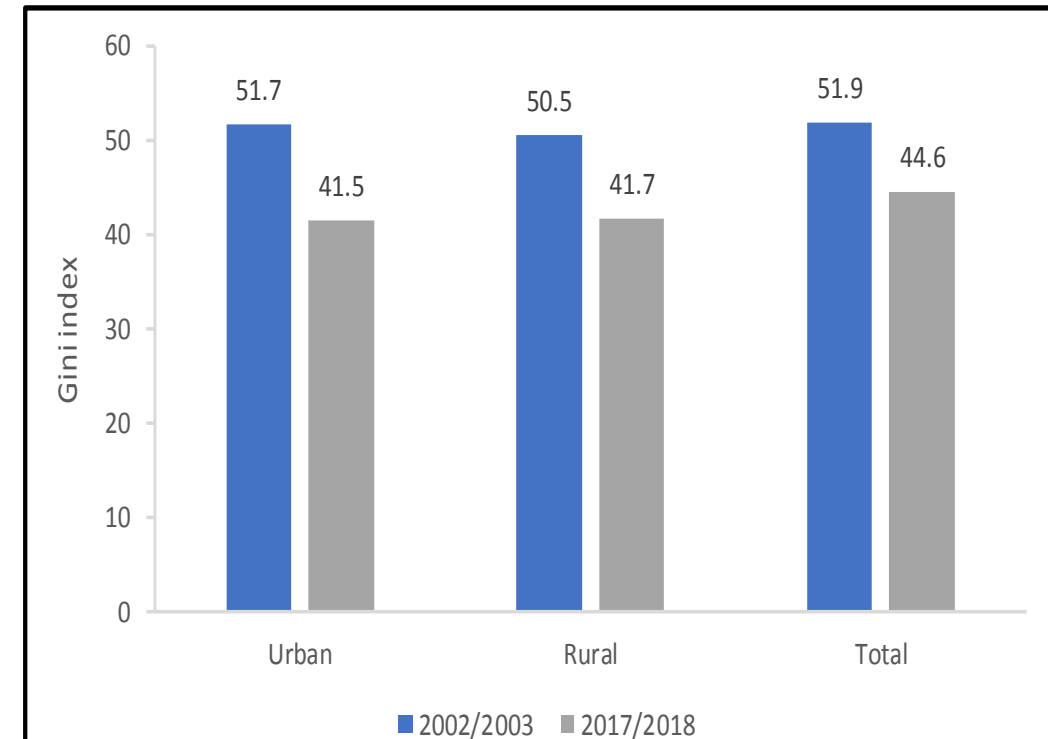
- **Between 2002/2003 and 2017/2018, Lesotho's overall national poverty and extreme poverty headcount ratios declined from 57.6 percent to 49.7 percent and from 34.1 percent to 24.1 percent respectively.**
- **A change in the level of inequality has been recorded. Gini index was 55.7 in 2010 and declined to 41.2 in 2017.**
- **The NSDP II and the related public Sector investment programme constitute poverty reduction, growth and employment strategy and core initiatives to at least halve the population living in poverty by 2030**



# Lesotho Reduces Poverty and Inequalities: 2002/2003 – 2017-2018

	Gini Index	
	2002/2003	2017/2018
<b>National</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>44.6</b>
<b>Urban</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>41.5</b>
<b>Rural</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>41.7</b>
<b>Maseru Urban</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>40.9</b>
<b>Other Urban</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>41.8</b>
<b>Rural Lowland</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>41.8</b>
<b>Rural Foothill</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>39.5</b>
<b>Rural Mountain</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>41.0</b>
<b>Rural Senqu River Valley</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>40.5</b>

Source: Lesotho BoS, 2019.







- **The population at risk of food insecurity in Lesotho varies each year, with a projection of 640,000 people to be food insecure during the period of July 2019 and June 2020.**
- **Although chronic and acute malnutrition has declined since 2004, the nutrition situation in Lesotho is characterised by high stunting rates in children under the age of five years, wide-spread micro-nutrient deficiencies in children, adolescents and adults.**
- **There is need to improve quality and upscale infant and child nutrition programmes, nutrition sensitive agriculture, school feeding, nutrition assessment tools, Sanitation and hygiene**

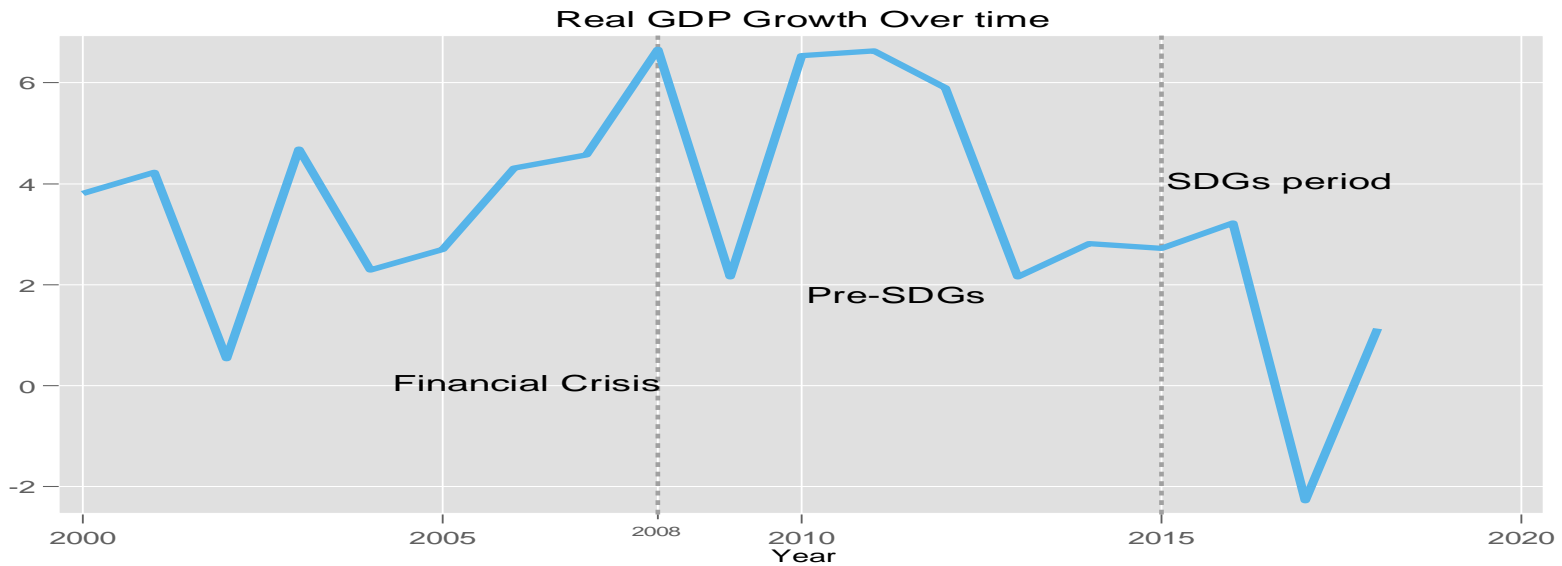




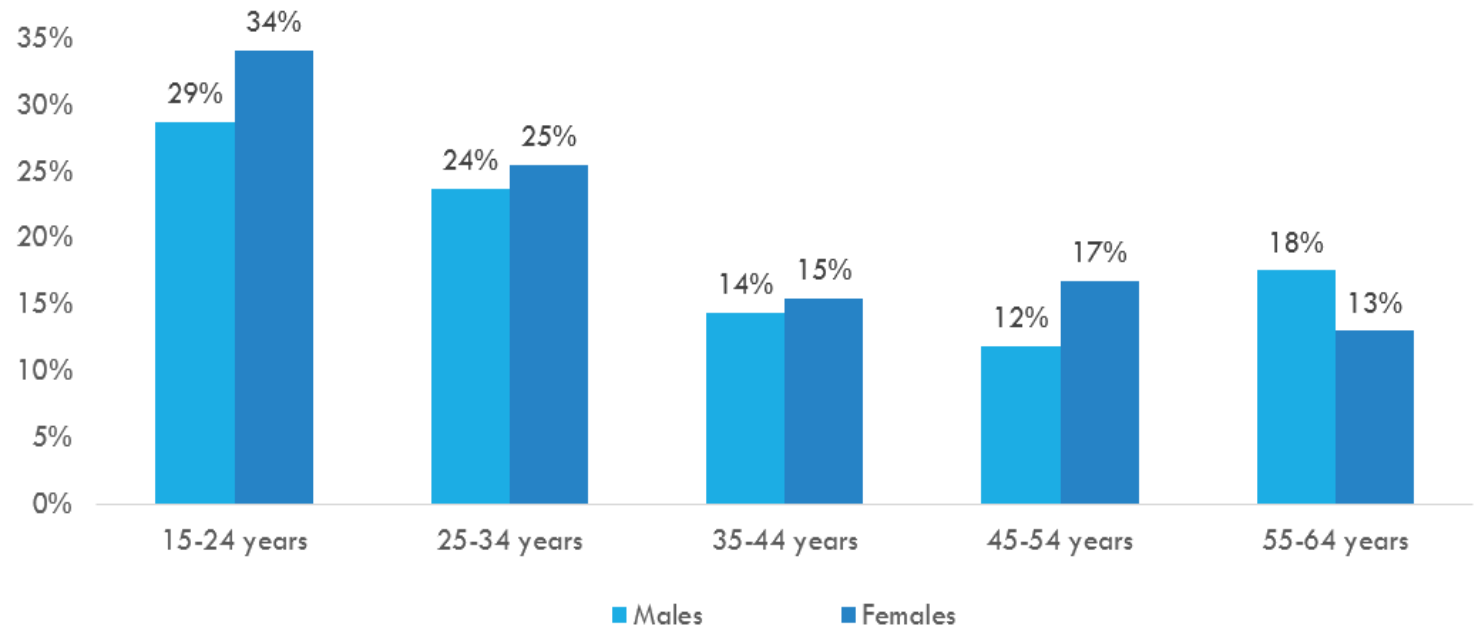
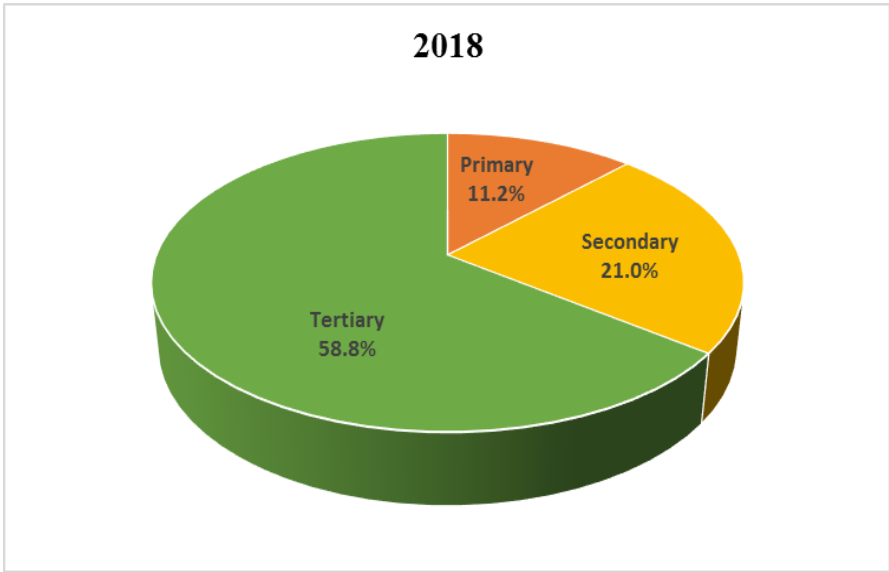
- **Lesotho recognizes that inclusive and quality education and training, together with health (SDG 3) is part of human capital development and critical enabler for achieving sustainable development in the country.**
- **Lesotho is almost achieving universal primary education (UPE), with gender parity (GER 0.95 and NER 1.0) . Pre-primary enrolment (children aged 3-5) stands at 30% (2017), with 49.9% male while 50.1 percent were female.**
- **Over the years there has been growth in both Net and Gross enrolment rates. Primary school net enrolment rate is 87 percent (female 86.9% and male 87.1%) (2017).**
- **Net Secondary School enrolment rate is quite low at 43.3% with female at 52.1% and male at 36.6%) (2017). This is due to the high dropout rates and low transition rates from primary to secondary school. Poverty, teenage pregnancy, child marriages and orphanhood are the main causes of the prevailing situation.**



- Since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, Lesotho has not been able to achieve the set target of **5% annual growth rate**. The country's average growth rate from 2015 – 2018 stands at 1.38% which is below the global growth of 3.7% and the average growth rate of sub-Saharan African region of 3.1% in 2018.
- The rate of unemployment increased from 25.8% in 2014/15 to 32.8% in 2015/16. Women and Youth most affected.
- Youth unemployment rate: 29% for males and 34% for females.
- Growth and employment is expected to rebound significantly in the next 5 years through the adoption of 'BIG-FAST-RESULTS' approach that has yielded 77 private sector projects, with investment of Maloti 19.9 billion and creation of 20,000 direct jobs in the four priority sectors, agriculture, tourism and creative industries, manufacturing and technology and innovation



Data source: Central Bank of Lesotho



- **Notable progress in terms of gender equality (female Chief Justice, Central Bank Governor and President of Senate) and reduced income inequality (Gini Coefficient: 55.7 (2010) to 41.2(2017))**
- **However there are large rural – urban disparities in terms of access to services and children (poverty of 64%) , adolescent, people with disabilities, youth, women, and elderly, and LGBTI community across the country remain largely vulnerable.**
- **Lesotho has a relatively robust social protection system, which include the Child Grants Programme, OVC Bursary, Public Assistance programme targeted especially at People with Disabilities and Migrants, Old age pension for Basotho over 70 years of age and tertiary bursary programme as well as various labour based programmes for rural roads and Land Reclamation**
- **It is important to improve on targeting of social assistance, humanitarian aid, and livelihood programmes, Addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection, Adolescent and Youth and building community and households economic resilience plus the Collection, analysis and usage of disaggregated data by age, sex, gender, regions and social-economic status among others.**





- **Lesotho is highly vulnerable to adverse impact of climate change due to its location, size and topography.**
- **In the past ten years, Lesotho has experienced successive and cyclic climate shocks such as recurrent droughts, dry spells and floods, which have negatively affected communities and households' livelihoods, with serious consequences on food security.**
- **Lesotho has established policy and institutional frameworks to address and manage climate change effects, including the development of the National Strategic Resilience Framework 2015-2025, the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), 2017-2027; and Energy Policy 2015- 2025; climate change has also been mainstreamed in the NSDP**
- **Different financing mechanisms are also being explored for disaster risk management (world bank CAT-DDO)**





- **Lesotho has established key governance institutions including the Directorate of Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO), Office of the Ombudsman and the Independent Election Commission (IEC) Lesotho also has Parliament, Labour Court, and the Directorate of Disputes Prevention and Resolution (DDPR).**
- **Enactment of the Children Protection and Welfare Act (CPWA) in 2011 was a crucial step in addressing issues of abuse, exploitation, trafficking, violence and torture against children in Lesotho. The Act provides state-of-the-art legislation, combining all elements of children’s welfare and protection in one rights-based legal framework.**
- **Lesotho has put in place legal frameworks to support the provision of legal identity. These include Children Protection and Welfare Act, 2011, the Registration of Births and Deaths Act 1973, the National Identity Cards Act 2011, Education Act 2010, Lesotho Citizenship Order 1971 and Lesotho Passports and Travel Documents Act 1998.**

- With a history of episodes of instability and political unrest, the search for sustainable peace and stable institutions is underway.
- There is a process of implementing the reforms agenda outlined in the Blue print “The Lesotho We Want: Dialogue and Reforms for National Transformation – Vision, Overview and Roadmap”.
- Lesotho’s priorities in this regard include: Building national and local level peace architecture: peace and stability institutions and platforms at all level;
- Strengthening the judiciary: special court including Children Court and that dealing with those with disability, increasing relevant human resources, including the number of judges and other legal officers. strengthen case management, Enhance legal drafting capacity





## Financing:

- Total government's domestic revenue declined from 54 to 36 per cent of GDP in 2017.
- Registered high fiscal deficits since 2015, Debt/GDP increasing significantly
- Gross Domestic Capital Formation/GDP is just above 20 per cent
- Aid flows on a declining trend

## Technology:

- mobile penetration is high, but not reaping the digital dividend due to relatively high costs of communication services, low digital skills, reflected in low e-commerce transactions, e-government is also under-developed.
- The country prioritises maths, science and technology in skills development programmes
- **Key issues:** Regaining macro-fiscal stability, improving public financial management, continue to implement investment climate reforms to increase FDI and strategic partnerships, Augment financing for start ups, and identification of innovative financing mechanisms, maintaining eligibility for Millennium Challenge Account Grant, Develop the digital economy



# CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

**The Lesotho 2019 VNR revealed that for Lesotho to effectively achieve 2030 Agenda, we have to address the following:**

- i. Implement priority programmes under different SDGs that have high combined impact on poverty reduction in all its facets and unemployment,
- ii. Mobilise the participation of everyone in the implementation of agenda 2030 and leave no one behind
- iii. Take effective action to respond to the effects of climate change and build resilience
- iii. Maintain the momentum for National Dialogue and consultations and implement the agreed National Reform Agenda, to promote lasting peace, stability, inclusive society, with strong and effective institutions.
- iv. Call on partners to provide the necessary technical support and close the resource gaps, especially for catalysing private investment, as well as strengthening statistical systems, analysis, monitoring and evaluation

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

