

REFLECTIVE STAKEHOLDER'S MEETING AND WRAP-UP OF PYWIEG PROJECT

Synthesising PYWIEG's Results into a Concrete
Solution for Women and Youth: A Responsive
Enterprise Business Support Services

23 August 2024

Maseru, Lesotho

BACKGROUND

Strengthening the socio-economic development and employability of women and youth-led enterprises in Lesotho is paramount. In realising this goal, Democracy Works Foundation (DWF), in partnership with the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), implemented a 3-and-a-half-year initiative called: "Putting Youth and Women at the Centre of Inclusive Economic Growth" (PYWIEG).

The programme was made possible by the support of the European Union People through the European Union Delegation in Lesotho. The project championed change agents by contributing to the support of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in initiatives that promote youth and women participation and empowerment and strengthening youth and women led CSOs' capacities and participation in decision-making processes at district and national levels.

Additionally, the project contributed to strengthening the capacity of CSOs and Business Development Service (BDS) providers to support the employability, business and entrepreneurial skills of youth and women while also enhancing the capacity of Community Council Members and District Development Coordinating Committees in facilitating participatory and responsive enterprise support services to Small Micro Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) led by women and youth. This has been achieved through supporting, advocating and piloting more relevant education, vocational training development strategies and promoting economic and social rights.

Additionally, the event will also herald the launch of an online portal – multisector enterprise support network, incorporating digital technology in response to some of the challenges faced by women and youth in the country. The multi-sector platform publishes services and products aimed at strengthening SMMEs, easily accessible online. Notably, the online portal will also provide some key messages and resources and self-learning materials to guide and support women and youth in their SMMEs.

PURPOSE

This is envisioned to be a hybrid event that aims to take stock of the PYWIEG journey by examining the achievements, successes and lessons learnt.

This will also allow the stakeholders to deliberate on the sustainability and continuity of the implemented interventions. In light of this, the event will also enable the stakeholders to discuss their success stories, the results achieved by the project as well as the opportunities to foster responsive business and entrepreneurial services for women and youth in Lesotho.

Discussions will also capture key lessons as well as chart the way forward to enhance sustainability and fortify the achievements of the project, thereby promoting continuity and sustainability of the project. The event will involve stakeholders' input on the recommendations for future interventions.

OBJECTIVES

To reflect on the achievements, successes and lessons of the PYWIEG project

To examine strategies for sustaining the achievements and successes of the PYWIEG project

To proffer recommendations for future interventions

TARGET AUDIENCES

- Civil Society Organisations: Youth and Women-led Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) participating in the PYWIEG programme as beneficiaries and those that have not participated.
- Business Development Service Providers: Organisations offering training, consultancy, and financial services for opportunities and collaboration with the programme beneficiaries.
- Private Sector: Individuals/ companies/ organisation with vested interest in promoting enterprise development with similar programming.
- Aspiring and active Youth and Women entrepreneurs to access the wealth of resources and learning products developed from the Programme
- Development Partners: Development Partners contributing to the realisation of empowered women and youth in Lesotho.

ABOUT PYWIEG PROJECT

Putting Youth and Women at the Centre Of Inclusive Economic Growth (PYWIEG) is a 3 and a half years project funded by the European Union Delegation in Lesotho under the Grant titled 'Civil Society Organisations as Actors of Governance and Development.'

It's implemented in the Butha Buthe, Leribe and Maseru districts. The goal of the programme is to increase Youth and Women-led CSO's participation in the Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME) ecosystem of Lesotho.

This was also achieved through two priority areas mainly; 'Supporting Civil Society Organisations in initiatives that promote youth participation and empowerment at district and national level and 'Strengthening Women CSOs capacities and engagements for participation in decision-making processes.

The project stakeholders are:

- Youth and Women-led CSOs
- Business Development Service providers
- Local Authorities: Counsellors and Chiefs
- The Ministry of Trade and Industry
- The Ministry of Small businesses and cooperatives

ABOUT DWF

Democracy Works Foundation [DWF] is an African, nonpartisan and non-profit company that operates in Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, and Zambia.

DWF believes in developing homegrown and innovative solutions that support public officials and states to be more open, transparent, responsive and accountable.

We also work to build the capacity of citizens and provide tools enabling them to impact their democracies better while meeting their obligations and claiming their rights.

DWF works on the supply and demand side of democracy.

AGENDA

SESSION ONE: OPENING		
Moderated by Ms Kahisano Kolobe, Lesotho Project Manager / Country Lead		
Time	Activity	Responsible
08:30 - 09:00 AM	Walk in & Registration	DWF
09:00 - 09:30am	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Augustine Magolowondo • Ms. Thusoane Ntlama 	DWF Regional Director FIDA Program Coordinator
09:30 - 09:45 am	Opening Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. T'sepoT'sepo Lethobane 	District Administrator Maseru
09:45 - 10:00 am	Official Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Mokhethi Shelile 	Minister of Trade, Industry and Business Development
SESSION TWO: SUCCESS AND IMPACT STORIES AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS		
Moderated by Katiso Mosoeunyane, DWF Monitoring and Evaluation Officer		
10:00 - 10:20am	Solidarity message <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An organisation we have worked with during the implementation of the project 	F SVC/ PPAD/ DCEO/ GEM Institute / LCCI
10:20 - 10:40 am	Beneficiary Messages (CSOs, MSMEs, and BDSPs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maseru Representative • Leribe Representative • Butha Buthe Representative 	Districts to elect representatives
10:40 - 10:55am	Project Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact video/ messages/ results/ project beneficiaries 	DWF Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
10:55 - 11:10 am	Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Paula Amadei 	EU Ambassador Lesotho
11:10 - 11:15 am	Group Picture	DWF
11:15 - 11:45 am	HEALTH BREAK	
SESSION THREE: SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE INTERVENTIONS		
Moderated by Ms. Maneo Seekane & Dr. Alouis Chilunjika		
11:45 - 12:30 pm	Key Messaging: Lessons learned and recommendations: responsive enterprise support service; governance, democracy, and responsive business support services; and Participative Governance and Inclusion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations by key experts 	Ms. Maneo Seekane & Dr. Alouis Chilunjika
12:30 - 13:00 pm	Sustainability and Future Interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break-out sessions 	Ms. Maneo Seekane & Dr. Alouis Dr. Alouis Chilunjika

AGENDA

13:00 - 14:00 pm	LUNCH	ALL
SESSION FOUR: SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE INTERVENTIONS Moderated by Ms. Maneo Seekane and Dr. Alouis Chilunjika		
14:00 – 15:00 pm	Sustainability, future interventions, synergies • Plenary	Ms. Maneo Seekane & Dr. Alouis Chilunjika
15:00 – 15:30 pm	UNICEF future interventions and synergies	Social Policy Officer UNICEF Ms. Mabaruti Motsamai
SESSION FIVE: PORTAL LAUNCH AND CLOSURE		
15:30 - 15:45 pm	• Portal launch & Concluding Remarks	DWF Regional Director Dr. Augustine Magolowondo
15:45 - 16:00 pm	Vote of Thanks • Ms. Kahisano Kolobe	DWF Lesotho Project Manager Ms. Kahisano Kolobe

FOLLOW THE PYWIEG JOURNEY, HIGHLIGHTS AND RESEARCH FINDINGS: www.democracyworksfoundation.org/pywieg

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