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ANNEX

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Kingdom of Lesotho for 2023

Action Document for Metsi a Lesotho (Water of Lesotho)

ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	‘Metsi a Lesotho’ (Water of Lesotho) OPSYS number: ACT-61909 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	Yes Team Europe Initiative Green Deal Lesotho ¹ Team Europe Initiative Transboundary Water Management in Africa ²
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in The Kingdom of Lesotho
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Specific Objective 1 – The population of Lesotho has access to safe, sustainable and affordable WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) facilities to promote a healthy, green and prosperous society. Specific Objective 2 – Lesotho sustainably manages its water and land resources comprising the water-energy and natural resources nexus and becomes climate resilient. Specific Objective 3 – Lesotho strengthens water sector capacities to improve services and cooperation at community, catchment and transboundary levels.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority area 1 – Green and resilient economy, Water

¹ <https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/resources/team-europe-tracker/partner-countries/lesotho/tei>

² <https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/resources/team-europe-tracker/partner-countries/sub-saharan-africa/transboundary-water-management-africa>

7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG 1 – No Poverty SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being SDG 4 – Quality Education SDG 5 – Gender Equality SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG 13 – Climate Action SDG 14 – Life below Water SDG 15 – Life on Land SDG 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions			
8 a) DAC code(s)	14030 – Basic water supply and sanitation – 28% 14031 – Basic drinking water supply – 28% 14010 – Water sector policy and administrative management – 6% 14015 – Water resources conservation (including data collection) – 30% 14040 – River basins development – 8%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Multilateral organisations – 40000 European Commission – Development Share of Budget – 42001			
9. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/
	digital governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital skills/literacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/
energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
education and research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020122 Total estimated cost: EUR 27 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 27 000 000 TEI Green Deal (together with the EIB): indicative contribution of the EIB to the overall TEI expected to be between EUR 50 000 000 and 100 000 000. ³			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing⁴	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in sections 4.3.1, 4.3.2 and 4.3.3.			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The European Union's cooperation strategy with Lesotho, the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027⁵, focusses on two priority areas: (1) green and resilient economy and (2) good governance, peaceful and just society. Under the first priority area, EU cooperation aims to facilitate Lesotho's move towards a circular economy

³ This is an indicative estimation which remains subject to the identification of eligible projects and the availability of resources under the EFSD+ guarantee as well as of blending resources if and when needed.

⁴ Art. 27 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe.

⁵ Commission implementing Decision of 14.12.2021 adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the Kingdom of Lesotho for the period 2021-2027 C(2021)9086.

that becomes increasingly sustainable and self-sufficient with regard to energy generation and consumption and that provides affordable access to energy, water and sanitation for all the population. Under the second priority area, EU cooperation supports the process of national reforms undertaken by Lesotho and the improvement of service delivery to the citizenry, particularly social protection.

Metsi a Lesotho (Water of Lesotho) will contribute to the first priority area by promoting access to water and sanitation services in rural areas and strengthening capacities for water resources management. Its specific objectives are to increase access to safe, sustainable and affordable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems in rural communities and schools; ensure that Lesotho sustainably manages its water and land resources; and strengthen national water sector capacities to improve services and cooperation at community, catchment and transboundary levels.

The action foresees three components. The first component is dedicated to providing access to WASH facilities in rural schools and clinics, as an emergency measure, and operationalising (rehabilitating existing or constructing new) water supply systems for the rural communities hosting the targeted schools and clinics. This will require the prior establishment of WASH policies and capacities at the community and district levels consistent with the ongoing nation-wide decentralisation process.

The second component foresees a continuation of the national Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) programme, also known as ReNoka (“We are a river”⁶), supported as part of the 11th European Development Fund until 2025. This component will look into expanding the piloted initial phase of ReNoka into other sub-catchment areas, covering 50% of the total sub-catchments in Lesotho. It will ensure continued support to the established institutions and structures under ReNoka, at national and local level. ICM strategic catchment development plans will receive additional support for their implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The action will further aim at reinforcing ICM financing mechanisms (to be tested under ReNoka) as multi-stakeholder partnerships to build long-term resource sustainability (including private sector). This action will further look into developing/supporting projects following the water-energy and natural resources nexus, as an instrument of inclusive green growth and sustainable development. Incentives for community engagement in the protection of natural resources and infrastructure (water systems) will also be pursued through commercial livelihood support interventions, accompanied by value chain development. Lastly, the action will continue with the implementation of the soil and water conservation measures - prevention and rehabilitation - in the catchments through i.e. the construction of stone bunds, road storm water management, rehabilitation of terracing, gully head stabilisation, sustainable rangeland management, etc.

The third component is dedicated to building capacities in the cadres of key Lesotho entities responsible for national and international waters and its management. Cadre strengthening is necessary in this action to extend sustainable water management to other aspects (such as, bulk water supply, WASH and data management) and to extend benefits to additional partners and water users across Lesotho. With regard to water management at the international level, the action will support capacities needed to capitalise on Lesotho’s position as the ‘water tower’ of Southern Africa, including techniques, know-how and diplomacy to respond to existing and ongoing requests for water exports from neighbouring countries and monitor that this is done sustainably. A ‘data management task force’ will be established across the sector entities engaged in data collection and, accordingly, a national water dashboard will be developed to share (on a ‘need to know’ basis) and track water sector developments.

Metsi a Lesotho is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and particularly SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) as well as the National Strategic Development Plan II (NSDP II⁷). It also advances the objectives of the EU Gender Action Plan III⁸, particularly its thematic area of engagement “promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women”, and will take into account various climate change scenarios and gender-related issues. By promoting access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene and sustainable water management, it directly contributes to the Lesotho Green Deal Team Europe Initiative and the Global Gateway Strategy, delivering sustainable, resilient and high-quality actions, as well as contributing to areas of digitalisation (e.g. water and sanitation e-services) and creating sustainable growth and jobs. This action will pave the way for potential blending

⁶ Website: <https://renoka.org/>

⁷ <https://www.gov.ls/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/National-Strategic-Development-Plan-II-2018-19-2022-23.pdf>

⁸ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-01/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf

operations, promoted by the Lesotho Green Deal Team Europe Initiative (with the EIB), to finance WASH infrastructure and position local project pipelines with global and regional facilities and instruments including opportunities for blending under the Africa Investment Platform. The action is also complementary to the Team Europe Initiative Transboundary Water Management in Africa. *Metsi a Lesotho* will also contribute to the overall UN strategy to ‘Leave no one behind’⁹, common to all actions under the MIP. The Action is also in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)¹⁰, and the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030¹¹.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The Kingdom of Lesotho is a mountainous country in Southern Africa, with a unique geography as it is entirely surrounded by South Africa. Around 80% of Lesotho’s land is more than 1,800 metres above sea level with an average elevation of 2,161 metres. Lesotho is classified as a ‘Lower Middle Income’ country¹² with a per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimated at USD 2,300 in 2021¹³. It is a small and largely rural country of about 2.3 million people. Most people live in rural areas, but the share of the urban population has increased substantially, from 14% in 1990 to 29% in 2020¹⁴, placing additional strains on water and sanitation infrastructure.

Lesotho has suffered from political instability and internal conflicts, ever since gaining independence from the United Kingdom in October 1966. This has negatively impacted on both its socio-economic development and its ability to profit from regional economic integration. Today, Lesotho is confronted with a multitude of developmental challenges. Nonetheless, the elections in October 2022 ushered the formation of a new government with a strong electoral mandate. EU cooperation programmes are well aligned with Lesotho’s national strategies and the priorities of the new government. The EU is also well positioned as a key international partner in the water and energy sectors, particularly through the Team Europe Initiative Green Deal, which this action contributes to, supported also by the European Investment Bank, as well as through the the Team Europe Initiative Transboundary Water Management in Africa.

Water is one of the most important natural resources of Lesotho and the water sector encompasses all aspects of life, the economy, and the natural environment. The unique geographic location, high altitude and pristine natural quality of the mountain areas position Lesotho as the "water tower" of Southern Africa. As such, Lesotho’s contribution to the annual run-off in the Orange-Senqu river basin is 40% with only 3% of the basin area. Around 30% of all water supplied in the Gauteng Province - with 12 million clients - comes from the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), while up to 40% of the GDP in South Africa is generated in Gauteng Province. In addition, the LHWP contributes to around half of Lesotho’s current electricity needs via hydropower. More dams are planned under Phase 2 of the LHWP to increase water storage/transfers and hydropower generation. Moreover, Botswana, Lesotho and South Africa have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for access to water from Lesotho to alleviate the structural water shortages in Gaborone.

Lesotho’s water generates significant revenues for the country. In the fiscal year 2020/21 the royalties for water transfers to South Africa amounted approximately to EUR 65 million, equal to 2.8% of Lesotho’s GDP and 5.3% of government revenue. Furthermore, hydropower adds further value and security to domestic electricity generation. In this regard, improved sustainable natural resource management is key for the economic and human development in the wider basin. Water and energy projects in the largely unserved rural areas of Lesotho are urgently needed, emphasising also the nexus between water, energy and ecosystems. Regional cooperation and water diplomacy are key for regional integration, peace and stability. The latter should increasingly focus on making best use of the scarce water resources in the region by promoting water management, efficiency, water

⁹ <https://unsdg.un.org/2030-agenda/universal-values/leave-no-one-behind>

¹⁰ [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#).

¹¹ [EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030](#).

¹² worldbank.org/opendata/new-world-bank-country-classifications-income-level-2022-2023

¹³ World Factbook

¹⁴ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?locations=LS>

quality and catchment management. Ensuring a closer alignment between regional and national programmes will also help ensure that the sectors that make most use of water in the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) countries (South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Lesotho) do so efficiently.

Water is generally described as an abundant resource in Lesotho, yet, less than a third of the population have access to a safely managed drinking water service, and less than half have access to a safely managed sanitation service, both leading to profound risks to public health and public safety¹⁵. WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) access is a prerequisite for economic growth, poverty alleviation and to ensure basic human rights. A number of sectors require regular water supply to develop and create jobs, especially agriculture. Food insecurity has intensified in recent years, particularly following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, resulting in higher food and fuel prices, coupled with imports dependency (22% of the population are rated as severely food insecure)¹⁶. The sustainable management of water resources is key to foster domestic food production, counter food insecurity and reduce reliance on imports from South Africa. Water is also crucial for Lesotho's industrial and commercial activities.

Water resources management is also a strategic component of public safety (disaster risk reduction, as regards flooding), climate resilience (to help absorb changes in precipitation patterns and droughts, already experienced, especially outside of the rainy season), and creating liveable and sustainable communities. Around 70% of the rural population relies on agriculture and women and girls are more likely to be responsible for water collection, food production and preparation within households. Water is necessary not only for drinking, but for personal hygiene (on daily basis even during menstruation, pregnancy, child birth and during breast feeding), cleaning, waste disposal, washing, caring for the sick and care of domestic animals. One of the causes of maternal mortality in Lesotho is insufficient water within health facilities¹⁷. There is also an urgent need for water in schools to enable safe learning environments.

The current rate of erosion in the catchment areas of Lesotho threatens agriculture (crop and livestock production), hydropower generation, and livelihoods as a result of overgrazing and land degradation. The core challenge presently addressed under ReNoka is the absence of an integrated catchment management framework to effectively halt, reverse and prevent these challenges. Effective implementation of an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) approach through intersectorial and multi-stakeholder cooperation has to date not been fully institutionalised. ReNoka currently supports the Government of Lesotho in the establishment and implementation of a national multi-sectoral ICM programme. The programme follows a two-pronged approach, where capacities are strengthened at policy, institutional and individual levels. At the same time, catchment management plans and measures in prioritised sub-catchments are being implemented. This approach has enabled stakeholders and citizens to appreciate the benefits of ICM, learn on-the-job and generate lessons to feed back into policy and institutional reform processes ("learning loop"). The creation of a ICM financing mechanism is also being tested and will be further boosted by this action.

The MIP is fully aligned with Lesotho's second five-year NSDP II. The NSDP II consists of four key priority areas: (1) Enhancing Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Private Sector-led Job Creation, (2) Strengthening Human Capital, (3) Building Enabling Infrastructure, and (4) Strengthening National Governance and Accountability Systems. In terms of policy alignment, the policies set out in the Plan are consistent with the United Nation's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063. Furthermore, the MIP is aligned with EU external political priorities and puts focus on key challenges related to environment and climate change, such the European Green Deal and the Global Gateway Strategy¹⁸.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

¹⁵ sdg6data.org

¹⁶ Annual Country Reports – Lesotho, 2022

¹⁷ Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC)- 2016 report

¹⁸ COM/2019/640 final and JOIN(2021)30 final

Component 1 - WASH: Universal access to water-sanitation-hygiene is far from being achieved in Lesotho. More than 27% of the population do not have adequate access to basic water and 50% to basic sanitation services¹⁹, 20% practise open defecation. The hygiene gap is even more concerning as only 6% of the population wash their hands with soap and water²⁰. In addition, schools in Lesotho are in dire need of sanitation facilities. Learning environments in many schools are unsafe. Many schools do not have toilets, others have facilities in a poor state. It is estimated that over 40% of schools still have no water supply – more than 700 primary and high schools – and that 18% of health care facilities have no access to water²¹. In this regard, there is considerable ground to cover and challenges to overcome if the country is to achieve universal WASH access and ensure sustainable water resources management for internal use and external export by the SDG deadline of 2030. Furthermore, if one considers around 70% of the rural population relies on agriculture and women and girls are most likely responsible for water collection, food production and preparation within households²², women's roles in natural resources management need to be revamped and recognised. Limited levels of WASH access is coupled with (and partially a victim of) the WASH sector being under transition for almost a decade. The central government still performs service delivery through de-concentrated departments in the districts. This overlap between local authorities and de-concentrated central government departments has largely stifled local government in Lesotho. The national *Decentralisation Act* of 2014 envisages the devolution of WASH mandates and responsibilities to Community and District Councils and the establishment of Water Service Authorities (WSAs) and Water Service Providers (WSPs). The new government has reiterated that decentralisation is a national priority and is working on a revised legislative framework (*Water Act, Water and Sanitation Services Policy, Water and Sanitation Services Bill*) which is expected to be promulgated in 2024. The decentralisation process is consistent with the *participatory approach principle* of IWRM²³, whereby local authorities are well suited, due to proximity, to oversee and deliver community water supply systems. In this manner, a 'bottom-up' participatory approach will contribute to improve WASH access, which is currently limited in rural areas by insufficient resources and capacities for both operations and maintenance of existing systems and development of new systems. Lastly, WASH access is being hampered by insufficient resources allocated for regular operations and maintenance of existing water supply systems, let alone the development of new systems.

Component 2 – ReNoka: Soil erosion in the catchment areas of Lesotho threatens agriculture (crop and livestock production) and livelihoods as a result of overgrazing and land degradation. Increased use of natural resources for farming, grazing, and fuel has resulted in environmental degradation, posing both economic and governance challenges. Human needs, like food production, are satisfied by clearing and draining wetlands, while dam building can also deprive downstream wetlands of water. Hydropower generation can be affected by silted dams or reduced water flows. Annual depletion of natural resources is estimated at 4.6% of gross national income and the country loses at least 2% of its topsoil annually due to erosion. About 66% of households live on degraded land. Reversing this trend on degradation has started under ReNoka, however sustainable soil management and smart agriculture practices rely partially on behavioural changes, which require time. In addition, these measures need to be expanded through ICM decentralised structures to further catchments. Legal frameworks and strategies that are being developed and tested under phase one, would need further implementation and follow-up to obtain long-term sustainable solutions. A sustainable funding structure and mechanism is also required.

Component 3 - Cadre capacity building in water management: ICM is already being institutionalised by the Ministry of Natural Resources through the ReNoka programme, which addresses the six catchments within Lesotho. Yet, several aspects of water resources management require the same focus and capacity building. The cadres of the Government of Lesotho (GoL) entities responsible for managing the water resources of Lesotho and international waters (flows beyond the borders of Lesotho) are hindered by limited financial resources, and in turn professional capacities, to apply evidence-based decision-making in water management. Gaps have developed in the monitoring and data collection processes and protocols necessary to regularly produce outputs valuable to sector leaders and national decision-makers. Many hydro-meteorological measurement stations are unoperational, vandalised or missing; data collected from the remaining measurement stations by government cadres remains on

¹⁹ AQUASTAT, WHO-UNICEF via fao.org, 2020

²⁰ JMP 2021 progress report on WASH in households. [https://washdata.org/data/household#!dashboard/new](https://washdata.org/data/household#!/dashboard/new)

²¹ Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey- MICS –Lesotho 2018

²² Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC)- 2016 report, which states, in particular that women are the ones who collect water across all districts, with more girls than boys collecting water (7.5% girls vs 5.6% boys).

²³ *Principles and Practices of Integrated Water Resources Management*; Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI); 2020

individual laptops, instead of being integrated in a central database to be accessed by water sector entities; service performance or output benchmarking data remains isolated within a department, instead of being disseminated to customers and managers. These outputs form the basis of setting water conservation and allocation strategies, including for drought scenarios, and for setting agreements to share water with downstream countries. Maintaining water resources quantities and quality, requires attention to WASH strategies and facilities. Accordingly, data management for both water management and WASH themes can function as the vehicle to improve performance of water sector entities and attain more sustainable management of Lesotho's water.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

- The **Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)** leads the water sector in Lesotho; it was formed in 2022 by joining the three former ministries of Energy and Meteorology, Mining, and Water. Its mandate is to strengthen the development and management of natural resources and to increase access to energy, water supply and sanitation services. Under this Ministry the following departments are involved in the management of the water sector:
 - o The **Office of the Commissioner of Water (CoW)** provides direction on water resources management and utilisation through planning and coordination;
 - o The **Department of Water Affairs (DWA)** is responsible for the monitoring, assessment and allocation of water resources. The Department hosts the ICM Central Unit (ICU) under ReNoka. It is also supported by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) with capacity development for water resources assessments and permit administration as part of a project on commercialising agriculture;
 - o The **Department of Rural Water Supply (DRWS)** is responsible for water supply and sanitation infrastructure development and service delivery (including 'after care') in the rural areas (in practice defined as the areas not covered by the WASCO networks). DRWS supports community managed water schemes and on-site sanitation, and, as possible, hygiene education is offered concurrently to realise full health benefits of access to potable water and sanitation;
 - o The **Water and Sewerage Company of Lesotho (WASCO)** is the government-owned company responsible for water and sewerage services in major urban areas and for operation of bulk water services;
 - o **Lesotho Electricity and Water Authority (LEWA)** is mandated to regulate electricity and water services.
- The **Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MoFDP)** is responsible for financial regulations and national-level budgets – for National Departments and Local Councils. The MoFDP is the owner of the water sector assets. It administers the royalties for international water transfers, as per the Lesotho Highlands Water Treaty.
- The **Ministry of Defence, National Security and Environment** is in charge of the overall regulatory framework for environmental management and pollution control under the Directorate of Environment. The Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation Department is responsible for rangeland management, forestry and soil conservation; earth dams, rainwater harvesting, erosion protection;
- The **Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition** supports crops and livestock farmers and, and in charge of irrigation regulation under the irrigation master plan;
- The **Ministry of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police – Decentralisation Directorate** is responsible for the overall structure, mandates and capacity of District and Local Councils, as pertains to the overarching Decentralisation process (which in turn is driven by the *Local Government Bill 2017*, undergoing enactment, step-by-step);
- The Department of Gender within the Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports, Arts, Culture and Social Development takes gender concerns into account in all national and sectoral policies, programmes, budgets and plans in order to achieve gender equality in the development process;
- The **District Councils** and **Local Councils** are responsible for implementation and operations and maintenance (O&M) of rural WASH infrastructure, within their respective jurisdiction. (The Local Councils are known as Municipal, City and Urban Councils in the urban areas and Community Councils in the rural areas);

- **Traditional Authorities** such as chiefs and traditional leaders, in cooperation with Councils, have responsibilities as regards conflict resolution and land management, including rangelands, maintenance of water supplies in villages and grazing permits. Political leaders (Parliamentarians and Councillors) and especially chiefs are important stakeholders and potential change agents, especially in relation to building consensus on catchment management approaches or promotion of sanitation and hygiene;
- **The Ministry of Health** is mandated to provide sensitisation on hygiene and sanitation and data collection on water-borne diseases;
- **The Ministry of Education and Training (MoET)** is responsible for standards and guidelines for school on WASH. The primary and secondary schools are responsible for implementing school WASH including O&M of facilities and promotion of hygiene and handwashing in schools guided by the District Education Officers;
- **Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS)** ensure meteorological data collection and weather forecasts. It also hosts the secretariat for climate change adaptation and mitigation activities;
- The **National University of Lesotho (NUL)** currently has a poorly resourced inter-disciplinary **Water Institute**. The Water Institute intends to coordinate interdisciplinary research, education and outreach programmes related to water, and to explore alternative ways of dealing with climate change, population growth and land use changes in order to avert their impacts on water resources;
- **The private sector in Lesotho** is not yet fully involved in ICM or WASH programmes, this will be further looked into throughout this action;
- **Civil society organisations** that are working in the WASH and ICM sectors.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to ensure access to sustainable water and sanitation for all as a means for green and resilient growth and promoting peace and security in Lesotho and the region.

The Specific Objectives of this action are to

1. Increase access to safe, sustainable and affordable water, sanitation, and hygiene systems in rural communities²⁴, schools and clinics, through decentralised structures integrating a gender-based approach;
2. Lesotho sustainably manages its water and land resources comprising the water-energy and natural resources nexus and advances its climate resilience with an inclusive²⁵ approach;
3. Strengthen national water sector capacities to improve services and cooperation at community, catchment and transboundary levels.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are

- 1.1 Inclusive WASH facilities are implemented in rural schools and clinics without operational water supply, and water supply systems and public WASH facilities in their communities;
- 1.2 A conducive decentralised framework for rural WASH is developed and approved;
- 1.3 Local, district and national departments in charge of water supply are capacitated to implement the rural WASH framework, with a focus on women and persons with disabilities;
- 2.1 The Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) approach²⁶ is implemented across the sub-basins of Lesotho for improved stewardship of water and land resources;
- 2.2 ICM financing mechanisms are implemented in sub-catchments as multi-stakeholder partnerships to build long-term resource sustainability;
- 2.3 The integration and implementation of the water-energy-natural resources nexus is strengthened under the ICM programme;
- 3.1 Capacities of government cadres for water management, at technical and diplomatic level, are enhanced;

²⁴ Rural communities are generally but not exclusively defined as areas not covered by bulk water systems.

²⁵ Inclusive meaning: construction of inclusive (gender, disability) toilet blocks in schools (e.g.: adding a ramp, a wider entrance, or making a path wide enough for a wheelchair to pass, changing rooms for girls during menstruation, etc.)

²⁶ ICM approach is based on gender equality and climate adaptation principles.

3.2 Policy-relevant and water related data (including climate and sex-disaggregated) and information is produced, updated and shared timely and consistently for accountability.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1

- Construction and rehabilitation of inclusive WASH facilities in eligible²⁷ primary, post primary schools and clinics in rural areas of Lesotho, as an emergency measure;
- Communities consultations to select a suitable and affordable water supply systems type (standpipes vs. household connections) and raise awareness of public health via hygiene-sanitation-handwashing;
- Construction and rehabilitation of water supply systems in rural communities;
- Construction of inclusive WASH facilities in a central, public place in rural communities.

Activities relating to Output 1.2:

- Technical support to develop/finalise the regulatory framework and by-laws related to rural WASH;
- Activities of dissemination and consultation on the regulatory framework and by-laws for operationalising the Water Service Providers (WSP) and Water Service Authorities (WSA).

Activities relating to Output 1.3:

- Capacity building to WSP and WSA for their operationalisation;
- Capacity building to Community Councils to develop and approve school WASH facilities and to establish WSP for rural communities;
- Capacity building to Community Councils to develop Water & Sanitation Services Plans (including O&M) for Council Areas;
- Capacity building to Department of Rural Water Supply (DRWS) and District Councils (DCs) WASH offices to operationalise the Project Life Cycle and the use of planning, survey, and design tools; GIS data, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), data and reporting mechanisms;
- Capacity Building to DRWS, Environmental Health functions and District Education Officers (DEO) to improve their survey and design tools in integrated WASH implementation standard designs for water (and special focus on sanitation).

Activities related to Output 2.1:

- Support to the ICM national governance structure to plan, coordinate (inter-ministerial), monitor and evaluate the ICM National Strategic Framework;
- Support to integrated ICM implementation and monitoring at local level, including the sub-Catchment planning implementation Support Units (CPUs);
- Implementation of the soil and water conservation measures - prevention and rehabilitation - (as per the National compendium of measures designed by ReNoka) in the catchments including construction of stone bunds, diversion furrows, erosion blankets, rehabilitation of terracing, no till or minimum tillage, agroforestry, gully head stabilisation, etc. prioritising the implementation of nature-based solutions over grey infrastructure;
- Implementation of livelihood support measures as an incentive mechanism for communities to promote land and water conservation;
- Support data management and M&E systems for accountability and change, as well as research and human capacity development (i.e.: Water Research Institute, National University of Lesotho, etc.).

Activities related to Output 2.2:

- Facilitate the endorsement of a financing mechanism for ICM (possibly one at national and one at local level, based on lessons learnt under ReNoka);
- Implementation of the finance mechanism for ICM and support to coordination, planning, monitoring, reporting and attracting new investments (including options for payment for ecosystem services schemes to mobilise cooperation with local farmers, landowners and authorities);
- Support the development of bankable projects for ICM in order to obtain further finance.

Activities related to Output 2.3:

- Facilitate national level dialogues involving water-energy-natural resources nexus stakeholders to stimulate discussions around the nexus agenda at the level of technical working groups, and to support the identification and implementation of national nexus priorities and investment planning;

²⁷ Eligible meaning schools without an operational water supply system.

- Develop a nexus conceptual framework that is calibrated to the context of Lesotho to ensure governance oversight and establish coordination mechanisms;
- Support the mainstreaming of the nexus approach within the already existing national institutions, policy and legislative frameworks and create awareness around the nexus in the national development agenda;
- Identification and implementation of nexus flagship projects and upscale best practices from flagship projects to enhance nexus benefits.

Activities relating to Output 3.1:

- Functional analysis of cadre capacities in water management departments;
- Learning-by-doing capacity-building programme for water management cadre members (to put-in-practice specialist expertise in transboundary water cooperation e.g. adherence to UN Water Convention (UNECE), public-private partnerships, public utilities, etc.);
- Support development and implementation of strategic and financing plans under long-term water and sanitation strategy and rural sanitation financing strategy;
- Support the production of water resources research reports.

Activities relating to Output 3.2:

- Functional analysis of data management capacities at entities involved in ‘monitoring & evaluation’;
- Support to the establishment and operationalisation of a data management task force;
- Support to installation and operationalisation of database system (water dashboard reporting) and production/dissemination of evidence-based (sex-disaggregated) outputs.

The commitment of the EU’s contribution to the Team Europe Initiative to which this action refers will be complemented by other contributions from the EU, Member States and financial institutions in a Team Europe approach. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective member’s meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise, the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions). The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project). The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project). The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

The action is expected to deliver positive nature and climate change benefits. Adaptation to climate change and biodiversity is expected to be positively affected by the bottom-up catchment management approach, and by the introduction of payment for ecosystems services via ReNoka. The action will further look into having a positive environmental impact by facilitating climate change resilient WASH and catchment management plans and providing also opportunities for improving environmental and climate change awareness. Additionally it will mainstream the utilisation of climate resilient infrastructure (i.e.: utilisation of solar pumping systems for water supply and mainstreaming ICM into WASH plans), as well as conducting climate risk and vulnerability assessments for each catchment area plan.

The second component of this action is expected to look into the water-energy and natural resources nexus, promoting a more efficient use of biomass. Biomass is a major source of thermal energy needs (cooking, heating) in the country, and reduction of the latter will increase water retention and reduce the environmental and health hazards associated with indoor air pollution. Wetland ecosystem protection would allow preserving species that live or breed in wetlands, as well as to contribute to water retention, and further serve as carbon sequestration zones.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender equality and empowerment of women and girls is a significant objective of the action (GAP III, SDG 5). The design of the action was informed by the Country Gender Profile outlining that women are generally more prone to be affected by lack of access to WASH services. Women's roles in natural resources management is already being recognised under ReNoka, for instance their importance they play and responsibilities they have in water management as well as in the management of natural resources. Women will be an asset as they have acquired valuable knowledge that enables them to contribute positively to the identification of appropriate adaptation and mitigation techniques in the action.

The activities foreseen by this action can have a gender transformational impact. Access to water supply in rural communities can improve public health and nutrition for all and reduce water fetching time, which is a task allotted mainly to women and girls. Instead this time can be invested for girls to attend school and women to focus on economic activities. Access to WASH in rural schools can improve public health of all students, and provide access to menstrual hygiene for girls and young women. Thus, access to WASH facilities encourages greater school attendance by girls and young women.

Through emphasis on equal access to and control over water and ecosystem services for women and youth, including equitable engagement in the management of clean water and livelihoods, the ReNoka programme will contribute to the economic and social empowerment of the latter. Gender equality will be mainstreamed, promoting equal access to and control over e.g. ecosystems. Under ReNoka, gender roles and norms have been considered in the prioritisation of catchment rehabilitation measures and assured that women, men and groups in vulnerable situations contribute equitably. Moreover, ReNoka aims at intention advancing gender equality through ICM. In this regard a gender mainstreaming guideline in community council planning process has been developed and is currently being implemented. The goals of gender mainstreaming in community engagement are as follows: gender sensitive introduction of the programme to the community, ensuring it does not further perpetuate the marginalisation of certain groups; leave no-one behind-inclusive formation of community watershed teams; and gender-sensitive and inclusive community meetings.

As much as there are positive legal reforms related to women empowerment, the status of women remains unchanged due to customary law and practices (e.g.: rangelands are customarily the domain of men, issues of land inheritance, etc.). ICM related legislation still lacks sufficient realisation of gender equality principles, which makes it difficult to promote the latter in the sphere of land and water resources management. More work will be done to emphasise and protect the rights of women and children under this action.

Lastly, one of the causes of maternal mortality in Lesotho is insufficient water within health facilities-clinics. As a result, women have gained more knowledge on water issues that include sources, purifying and safe storage²⁸. This negative impact will be reduced by improving access to safe water for women and girls in rural Lesotho.

Human Rights

The design and implementation of this action is inspired by the Human Rights-based approach²⁹ and the need to ensure that those living in the most vulnerable situations are represented and can participate and steer Lesotho's water-sanitation-hygiene policy. Addressing access to drinking water in rural communities and access to WASH in rural schools will help remove a significant socio-economic barrier that prevents many Basotho from enjoying their formal rights.

In addition, sector coordination activities will continue to involve civil society actors such as the Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of Disabled (LNFOD), World Vision Lesotho, Catholic Relief Services and Technologies for Economic Development (TED). The Action will respect the 5 HRBA principles: respect to all human rights, participation, accountability, transparency, and accountability. In addition, the action will implement the principles of no one left behind, do not harm and will encourage the private sector to respect the guiding principles on business and human rights.

Disability

²⁸ Baseline Study on El-Nino Linked Gender-Based Violence in Lesotho (2016)

²⁹ EU human rights guidelines on safe drinking water and sanitation (2019)

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that a more equitable and accessible water and sanitation infrastructure for persons with disabilities is a significant objective and will be mainstreamed through the action.

To date, school infrastructures and teaching aids are not user friendly for people living with disability. The action will look into construction of inclusive (gender, disability) toilet blocks in schools (e.g.: adding a ramp, handrails, a wider entrance, or making a path wide enough for a wheelchair to pass). These blocks will have an integrated handwashing facility. Lastly, bringing access to water closer to the household will imply less time and constraints for a person with disability to fetch water.

Reduction of inequalities

As per the Inequality Marker, the Action is labelled I-2. More equitable access to water services and improved livelihoods for all will help address inequalities in Lesotho, one of the most unequal countries in the world. This action will further reduce inequality by levelling the rural-urban divide for access to water supply in communities and WASH in schools. It will further contribute to reducing gender-based inequality, by reducing the time spent on water collection, often a burden that disproportionately affects women, and will improve the ability of women to meet their specific hygienic needs.

Without clean water or decent toilets at home or school, class attendance and educational outcomes are negatively impacted. Children are often sick to go to school, dangerously ill with diarrhoea. The action will contribute to avoid these type of absenteeism, reducing educational gaps.

Democracy

The action aims to remove the socio-economic barriers that prevent a large section of the population in Lesotho from fully enjoying their formal rights. The action further follows a decentralised approach, bring decisions closer to the people. By ensuring that water services reach the most marginalised people, this action will contribute to reinforcing people’s trust in the institutions of democratic governance and prevent the rise of populist or authoritarian tendencies.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

This action, by facilitation access to water and sanitation will contribute to mitigating the risks of social conflict and improve resilience. Moreover, the action will contribute to protecting the “water tower” of Southern Africa, helping to maintain peace and stability in the region, and reducing possible water conflicts.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Improved water resources management, increased available data, and capacities therein, especially more efficient water allocations scenarios planning have the potential of reducing climate shocks (floods, droughts). This improves resilience against disasters, protects public safety & assets, and supports food production. Wherever possible, the Action will include crisis modifiers to ensure sufficient flexibility of activities’ implementation vis-à-vis shocks

Other considerations if relevant

Access to WASH in rural schools has a significant impact on education, especially for girls and young women. Functional WASH facilities encourage greater attendance and provide a more sanitary setting for all students to harness their potential. Access to water supply and a public WASH facility in rural communities has a significant impact on the rural economy. As a fundamental building block of economic activities, water supply systems reduce the time spent fetching water, freeing time for business, agriculture and wealth-growing activities. Access to clean water will also have a positive impact on learners and teachers health and overall on nutritional outcomes. Water access interventions in schools may be coupled with the establishment of school gardens, contributing to the availability of more diverse nutrients (vegetables) for learners.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External Environment	Environmental change might arise from poor catchment management	Medium	High	Robust and urgent awareness raising at all levels. High profile demonstration projects combined with effective

	compromising water security of entire basin. Impact on livelihoods and on economy of Lesotho, as well as on the whole region.			<p>communication campaigns to be implemented.</p> <p>Focus on professional capacity for data management, and M&E to enable Lesotho to effectively address catchment management and negotiate strongly for transboundary benefits of water resources.</p>
Planning, processes and systems	Government Effectiveness – e.g. insufficient budget allocations, performance-based sector response. No incentives can affect commitment to performance of Local Councils etc.	Medium	Medium	<p>Support to public financial management for budgeting under support measures of MIP.</p> <p>The government of Lesotho commits to merit-based cadre selection for positions to be established according to needs identified in functional analysis for water sector positions, as part of its matching contributions.</p> <p>Community and District Councils are capacitated to conduct WASH planning, facilities approval and Water Service Provider authorisation.</p> <p>Performance targets for capacity of the local councils for investments.</p> <p>Performance targets for number of projects funded through the proposed sustainable ICM financing mechanism.</p>
Planning, processes and systems	Necessary WASH legislation is under revision, but not yet approved for harmonisation with the national Decentralisation Act (Water Act, Water and Sanitation Policy, Water and Sanitation Bill)	Medium	High	<p>This action provides support to realise the decentralisation transition in the WASH sector. Community and District Councils are capacitated to conduct WASH planning, facilities approval and Water Service Provider authorisation.</p> <p>Should the legislative processes stall, the action focus can shift to implementation of WASH projects via the District Offices of the Department of Rural Water Supply, without becoming part of local government structures.</p> <p>ICM structure should be legally anchored and gain its autonomy during ReNoka phase 1.</p>

Planning, processes and systems	Government not prioritising capacity development and planning/Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tools and systems. Impact on cost effectiveness of investments.	Medium	High	Continued awareness raising on the benefits at high level, combined with performance targets for staffing levels and recurrent budgets. Raise profile of sector through communication of the results. Assistance to the Bureau of Statistics, foreseen under MIP (annual action plan for 2022).
Planning, processes and systems	Rural WASH activities (market), starting with water supply, in Lesotho are viewed (and confirmed historically) to offer low returns, hampering cost-recovery whether by public or private entities.	High	Medium	The action is structured to address chronic challenges in the WASH sector by harmonising with the national decentralisation process. Community and District Councils are capacitated to conduct WASH planning and approve Water Service Providers, who in turn improve service delivery to for compliance with the ‘consumer pays’ principle. Government cadres are capacitated to WASH themes. The action maintains a strong focus on rural WASH cost recovery and sustainability, which requires equal vigilance by government entities.
Planning, processes and systems	Chronic operations & maintenance shortfalls, often result in premature retirement of WASH assets and poor cost recovery	High	High	This action supports the ‘bottom-up’ WASH sector restructuring. Water Service Authorities (WSAs) and Water Service Providers (WSPs) shall be capacitated for O&M as per the decentralisation-compatible strengthening of Local Councils and District Councils.
People and the organisation	Professional capacity in key sectors not adequate for effective implementation of the programme. Reduced cost efficiency of investments.	Medium	High	Incentives in employment contracts for attracting scarce skills; Flexibility and mobility for highly experienced staff; Cooperation with universities and training institutions; Support to professional associations.
Gender equality	A gender-blind, neutral, or negative context and problem analysis could reinforce existing gender inequalities and non-realisation of human	Medium	High	Knowledge and tools of gender mainstreaming are available. Gender-sensitive monitoring, use of sex-disaggregated data, and gender-sensitive indicators. Gender

	rights in the sector and hinder the efficiency and sustainability of the action.			mainstreaming is applied in all phases of the project cycle.
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Lessons Learnt:

The following lessons are recorded as relevant for the current action, based on initiatives supported under the 11th European Development Fund as well as stakeholder consultations carried out during the formulation phase.

For Component 1 - WASH:

- System design: WASH facilities, including the piped water supply systems, should incorporate robust (sustainable), standard WASH designs, to enable rapid and straight-forward operations & maintenance, interchangeable parts and spares for standard procurement;
- Operations & Maintenance: to apply throughout the action robust and regular contract management procedures, with training addressing construction quality standards, works supervision procedures and operations & maintenance. Development of handbooks that incorporate assessment management;
- Apply holistic, community-based inclusive WASH approach, to promote ownership and avoid vandalism and inappropriate use patterns, whereby foreseen interventions include all the following elements: School WASH facilities (gender equity and peoples with disability), operationalise' water supply systems in respective communities, realise a public WASH facility (gender equity and peoples with disability) at a community gathering point; provide hygiene education and sanitation promotion for households to invest in sanitation and handwashing facilities.

For Component 2 - ReNoka:

- ReNoka conducted an overview and analysis of the main interventions on sustainable natural resources management in Lesotho over the past 50 years. The latter indicated that a vital aspect for Lesotho's natural resources and ICM is establishing a permanent authority-institution with powers and resources to develop and monitor the implementation a long-term programme that donors and other entities can support, as opposed to piecemeal, short-term projects³⁰. ReNoka is currently perusing this approach and it will be sustained during this action. Working in silos by governmental department or line-ministries is another identified constraint that is being paid attention to through ReNoka.
- A regulatory framework needs to be put in place. Currently ReNoka is looking into the revision of the Water Act which will help to anchor the ICM structure as well as regularise the ICM catchment planning approaches.
- ICM measures take time to bear fruits, and communities do not see a direct benefit-impact. To work in behavioural change aspects but in parallel with support to livelihoods alternatives for communities.
- The compendium of measures designed by ReNoka relate to the key aspects of preventing and rehabilitating erosion and sedimentation, and are grouped under the following themes: soil and land conservation, water conservation, runoff management, erosion and sediment control and sustainable utilisation of resources. Each control measure includes a series of detailed interventions for implementation, using mainly nature-based solutions.
- To establish a National Fund to be able to diversify sources of income on support to ICM including private sector. There is already interest to contribute from water users and industry in South Africa (Sasol Limited, Rand Water, Aranda blankets, etc.), but there is not yet an entity which could manage the funds. Interest is faster than structural systems in place.

³⁰ ReNoka Interventions for Sustainable Natural Resource Management in Lesotho Meta Review 1970-2020: https://renoka.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/BRIEF_Meta-Review-Interventions-for-Sustainable-Natural-Resource-Management-in-Lesotho-1970-2020.pdf

For Component 3 - Cadre capacity building in water management:

- For the interventions proposed and anticipated outcomes to be achieved, greater water sector co-ordination is required;
- Capacity development support to rights-holders needs to be provided over a long-term period, avoidance of a piece-meal approach of isolated expert-consultant inputs;
- Support should be tailored to developing cadre capacities in the water sector institutions to maintain and further develop evidence-based decision-making outputs. The assistance should be based on the institution's matching staffing expertise at an appropriate level to sustain the systems;
- Strengthen cooperation within regional entities, such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM), explore the potential benefits of the UNECE Water Convention for Lesotho;
- Establish research opportunities in water resources management, leveraging the capacities, faculty and students of Lesotho's Universities;

Data Collection and Management: Set-clarify official roles and responsibilities for data collection and management; satisfy entity specific data needs combined with data sharing of core WASH and WRM relevant elements (indicators, maps); focus on 'monitoring and evaluation', data collection and interpretation, and regular output generation for improved 'evidence-based decision-making'; set range of compatible hardware and software type for common web-based platform.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action addresses two levels of Lesotho's water sector: first, at the community and local government level, the logic is to increase access of Lesotho's rural population to water-sanitation-hygiene facilities - and in parallel utilise the infrastructure implementation process as a vehicle to re-capacitate the responsible local government entities from the bottom-up, consistent with the national decentralisation process and ICM already existing decentralised structures; second, at the national government level, the logic is to improve cadre capacities across a broad range of WASH and water resources themes, using data management as a common denominator to track key factors and improve evidence-based decision-making, so as attain more sustainable water resources exploitation, for benefits within and beyond Lesotho.

Component 1 – WASH will follow a pragmatic approach to affect the required long-term adjustments facing the water sector. Rural WASH and governance support will commence on an 'emergency basis' via the selection of rural schools and clinics which lack an operational water supply. These will become candidates for installation of WASH facilities. In tandem, the respective rural communities will become candidates to receive functional water supply systems, whether via rehabilitation of dilapidated systems or installation of a new system. Local communities will be involved throughout the process in order to participate in the selection of the 'preferred system type' of water supply delivery (community stand pipe, yard standpipe or household connection). The system type will also be guided by household affordability for the selected water supply delivery. Commitment to the selected service, by household, and community-wide commitment to regular 'after-care' services to support basic operations & maintenance of the selected system will also be a criteria to be taken into consideration. In parallel, the 'governance' element of the action will address WASH decision-making and implementation at the Local Council and District Council levels. As designated Water Service Authorities, these local government entities will be capacitated in the detailed procedures of planning for approving WASH facilities-water supply systems and selecting/approving Water Service Providers. As such the national goal of returning such mandates to the community level will be attained. To affect and attain the transition to a 'decentralised' WASH sector, a new 'bottom up' type capacity building is required across the entire sector and covering the full spectrum of services, starting with WASH planning by Community and District Councils and extending to operations & maintenance by service providers over the facilities' life-cycle.

Component 2 - ReNoka will build on the ongoing ICM programme and extend catchment measures in further national sub-catchments. The implementation of activities will transition from using contractors to more and more ICM measures implemented through government-led ICM financing mechanisms and in cooperation with the communities. ICM strategic catchment development plans will receive additional support for their implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Development of projects identified by the community, following the water-energy and

natural resources nexus will be supported. Incentives towards communities' engagement in their protection of their natural resources and infrastructure (water systems) will also be pursued through commercial livelihood support interventions. The implementation of a national ICM fund will be a pillar for the programme long-term sustainability, and allow the programme to attract further finance (from government funds, private sector to other climate funds-development partners). The ReNoka situational analysis of investment landscape had pre-identified payment for ecosystem services as a potential financing mechanism for Lesotho and as an important climate change adaptation strategy for the country.

Component 3 - Cadre capacity building in water management will address professional capacities in national government entities by focusing on data management and establishing a water dashboard as vehicles to improve sector entity performance and water guidance on national and transboundary issues, in consideration of environment-habitat quality, climate resilience and food security. The cadres of the two main institutions will participate in a series of integrated water resource management (IWRM) and WASH type modules. The key focus of the modules is to improve evidence-based decision-making capacities in the water sector; institutions will develop 'evidence-based' outputs, with the aim to track the status of key IWRM and WASH factors, based on collecting data ranging from performance levels to river water flows & quality; associated monitoring stations and hardware will be procured. A 'data management task force' will be established across the sector entities engaged in data collection and, accordingly, a national water dashboard will be developed to share (on a 'need to know' basis) and track water sector developments.

A primary lesson-learnt in the water sector is incorporated in the intervention logic: secure matching contributions from the partner country on an annual basis during the entire EU investment to confirm common aims, direction, and future sustainability. Furthermore, the action is structured in an open manner to foster sector-wide cooperation and gain in synergies from the relevant sector actors and ongoing-planned initiatives and investments.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention. On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action. The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (Ⓐ): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (Ⓐ): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years ³¹)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To ensure access to sustainable water and sanitation for all as a means for green and resilient growth and promoting peace and security in Lesotho and the region	1) Proportion of population using basic water service ³² , disaggregated by place of residence (rural/urban) 2) Proportion of population using basic sanitation service, disaggregated by place of residence (rural/urban) 3) Number of jobs created in Lesotho as a result of improved access to water and sanitation (disaggregated by sex) 4) Degree of implementation of integrated water resource management in Lesotho (SDG 6.5) 5) Transboundary basin area has an operational arrangement for water cooperation (SDG 6.5)	1) 79.4% ³³ 2) 56 % ³⁴ 3) 0 4) 45% 5) 50%	1) 95% 2) 70% 3) 1,250 for rural communities 4) 75% (Agenda 2030) 5) 75% (Agenda 2030)	1) sdg6data.org (6.1.1) / JMP reports 2)sdg6data.org (6.2.1a)/ JMP reports 3) Bureau of Statistics 4, 5) sdg6data.org (6.5.1) and (6.5.2)	<i>Not applicable</i>

³¹ Target years- The target year will be defined once the starting date of the different actions is known- still to be defined.

³² This action on school and rural WASH will contribute mainly on access to 'basic' and not 'safely managed' access to water services

³³ Multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS)- UNICEF 2018

³⁴ MICS- UNICEF2018

³⁵ GERF Methodology used: <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/parau/eu-rfi>

³⁶ Indirect benefits can be assigned to part of population in Lesotho e.g. profiting from longer lifespans of reservoirs in large dams resulting in better services (e.g. more water security for Maseru) and also in the form of more royalties and fees paid to the Government. Indirect benefits can even be trans border.

Outcome 1	Increase access to safe, sustainable and affordable water, sanitation, and hygiene systems in rural communities, schools and clinics, through decentralised structures integrating a gender based approach.	<p>1.1) Number of additional persons (disaggregated by sex) with access to improved drinking water source with EU support (at least 50% women and girls) - <i>GERF 2.38</i></p> <p>1.2) Number of District Councils sustainably managing WASH</p> <p>1.3) Number of Community Councils established as Water Service Authorities</p>	<p>1.1) 0</p> <p>1.2) 0</p> <p>1.3) 0</p>	<p>1.1) 125,000</p> <p>1.2) 10</p> <p>1.3) 20</p>	<p>1.1, 1.2 & 1.3) Project reports, mid-term and final evaluation</p>	<p>Necessary WASH legislation is approved</p> <p>Government staff interest in capacity development and M&E tools</p> <p>Decentralisation Act is implemented</p>
Outcome 2	Lesotho sustainably manages its water and land resources comprising the water-energy and natural resources nexus and advances its climate resilience with an inclusive approach.	<p>2.1) Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under (a) protection, (b) sustainable management with EU support (ha) [<i>NDICI-Global Europe</i>][<i>SP</i>][‡] (ha)³⁵</p> <p>2.2) Number of people benefiting indirectly³⁶ from ICM –improved resilience to climate variability (disaggregated by sex)</p>	<p>2.1) 630 000 has (after ReNoka phase 1)</p> <p>2.2) 1 000 000 (ReNoka 1)</p>	<p>2.1) 1 200 000 has</p> <p>2.2) 1 500 000</p>	<p>2.1) ReNoka project data</p> <p>2.2) Project reports, end-term evaluation</p>	<p>Water Act is approved</p>
Outcome 3	Strengthen national water sector capacities to improve services and cooperation at community, catchment and transboundary levels	<p>3.1) Percentage of implementation of water sector plans defined under Long-Term Water and Sanitation Strategy (or updates)</p> <p>3.2) Proportion of Lesotho water institutions producing regular evidence-based outputs (disaggregated by sex)</p>	<p>3.1) 0%</p> <p>3.2) 0%</p> <p>3.3) 0</p>	<p>3.1) 50%</p> <p>3.2) 50%</p> <p>3.3) 15</p>	<p>3.1, 3.2), Project reports, mid-term evaluation</p> <p>3.3) government gazette, sector reports</p>	<p>Government interest in capacity development and M&E tools</p> <p>Coordination within the water sector is in place</p>

		3.3) Number of new policies, regulations, frameworks and/or standards developed- (gender and climate change responsive).				
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 Inclusive WASH facilities are implemented in rural schools and clinics without operational water supply, and in their communities	1.1.1) Number of primary and post primary schools with built WASH facilities, with EU support 1.1.2) Number of communities and health facilities with safe, suitable and affordable water supply system built 1.1.3) Number of public WASH facilities (1 per settlement) in communities, with EU support 1.1.4) Extent to which schools monitor the provision of safe water and sanitation facilities for menstrual hygiene management (GAP III)	1.1.1) 0 1.1.2) 0 1.1.3) 0 1.1.4) 0	1.1.1) 125 – including 15 clinics 1.1.2) 250 1.1.3) 125 1.1.4) 125	1.1.1 , 1.1.2 & 1.1.3, 1.1.4) Project reports, mid-term and final evaluation	DRWS standards are followed
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	1.2 A conducive decentralised framework for rural WASH is developed and approved	1.2.1) Regulatory framework and bylaws approved and disseminated for operationalising the Water Service Providers (WSP) - being gender responsive.	1.2.1) Not in place	1.2.1) Established	1.2.1) Project reports, mid-term and final evaluation	Decentralisation Act is implemented
Output 3 relating to Outcome 1	1.3 National, district and local departments in charge of water supply are capacitated to implement the rural WASH framework with a focus on women and persons with disabilities	1.3.1) Number of Community Councils with WASH Services Plans 1.3.2) Number of Water Service Providers (WSPs) for rural communities, legally established and capacitated to manage, operate, and maintain water services 1.3.3) Number of District Councils Integrating the environmental health and district education aspects in WASH plans 1.3.4) Number of DRWS and District Council WASH offices using M&E, GIS data and planning tools 1.3.5) Number of WASH awareness campaigns in communities and schools	1.3.1) 0 1.3.2) 0 1.3.3) 0 1.3.4) 0 1.3.5) 0	1.3.1) 20 1.3.2) 250 1.3.3) 10 1.3.4) 10 1.3.5) at least 125	1.3.1) Plans 1.3.2, 1.3.3, 1.3.4) Project reports, mid-term and final evaluation 1.3.5) Campaigns reports	Decentralisation Act is implemented

<p>Output 1 Relating to Outcome 2</p>	<p>2.1 The Integrated Catchment Management approach is implemented across the sub-basins of Lesotho for improved stewardship of water and land resources</p>	<p>2.1.1) Number of Sub-catchments supported by the Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) strategic framework. 2.1.2) % of Local Councils (LCs) in supported sub-catchments which implemented > 75% of their ICM Plans (*, 1.1.2) 2.1.3) Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land [NDICI-Global Europe][SP]† (GERF 2.1)</p>	<p>2.1.1) 6 of 74 (8%) sub-catchments in 2022 2.1.2) 25% 2.1.3) 139</p>	<p>2.1.1) 37 2.1.2) 80% 2.1.3) 500</p>	<p>2.1.1) Annual Water sector reports 2.1.2) Annual programme reports BoS / line ministries reports 2.1.3) Smallholders annual reports</p>	<p>Political commitment to the ICM framework remains</p>
<p>Output 2 Relating to Outcome 2</p>	<p>2.2 ICM financing mechanisms are implemented in sub-catchments as multi-stakeholder partnerships to build long-term resource sustainability</p>	<p>2.2.1) Proportion/absolute value of ICM annual/ projects financing for sub-catchments secured from non-traditional sources and new partnerships (%) with EU support.</p>	<p>2.2.1) 0</p>	<p>2.2.1) tbc</p>	<p>2.2.1) Reports from the Water Security Investment Programme of the ICM framework-MoW ICM Unit</p>	<p>Autonomous decision-making status of financing mechanism secured</p>
<p>Output 3 Relating to Outcome 2</p>	<p>2.3 The integration and implementation of the water-energy-natural resources nexus is strengthened under the ICM programme</p>	<p>2.3.1) Nexus Cooperation Framework in place and disseminated at multisectorial, country and transboundary Levels with EU support. 2.3.2) Number of water -energy –natural resources nexus flagship projects approved with EU support.</p>	<p>2.3.1) Not in place 2.3.2) 0</p>	<p>2.3.1) Framework approved and shared 2.3.2) At least 3</p>	<p>2.3.1) Framework and dissemination report 2.3.2) Project documents</p>	
<p>Output 1 relating to Outcome 3</p>	<p>3.1 Capacities of government cadres for water management, at technical and diplomatic level, are enhanced</p>	<p>3.1.1) Functional Analysis of cadre capacities in water management and WASH capacities 3.1.2) Number of learning by doing capacity-building (CB) programmes implemented (% gender responsive) 3.1.3) Number of government cadre members in water management completing capacity building modules (% of women participation)</p>	<p>3.1.1) Not in place 3.1.2) 0 3.1.3) 0</p>	<p>3.1.1) Analysis completed 3.1.2) 10 – (50% gender responsive) 3.1.3) 50 3.1.4) 10</p>	<p>3.1.1) Functional analysis report 3.1.2/3/4/5) Project reports, mid-term and final evaluation</p>	<p>Government staff interest in capacity development and M&E tools Attracting and retaining professional</p>

		3.1.4) Number of water resources research reports produced 3.1.5) Number of sector-wide dialogues and activities to promote Lesotho's water sector multi-level cooperation among users, stakeholders and levels of government	3.1.4) 0 3.1.5) 0	3.1.5) At least 6		staff in the government
Output 2 relating to Outcome 3	3.2 Policy-relevant and water related data (including climate and sex-disaggregated) and information is produced, updated and shared timely and consistently for accountability	3.2.1) Functional Analysis of data management capacities of M&E entities 3.2.2) Data Management Task Force operationalised, under CoW authority (disaggregated by sex) 3.2.3) Sector database system in place (disaggregated by sex/place of residence) with EU support 3.2.4) Number of reports, maps, diagrams, observatories shared, including via online platform (with sex disaggregated data when possible)	3.2.1) Not in place 3.2.2) Not in place 3.2.3) Not in place 3.2.4) 0	3.2.1) Analysis completed 3.2.2) task force in place 3.2.3) System in place 3.2.4) 100	3.2.1/2/3/4/) Project reports, mid-term and final evaluation 3.1.4 Reports from Water sector/ Bureau of Statistics, Universities, or others.	Coordination within the water sector is in place Data quality standards accepted by Government and endorsed by Water Sector

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 96 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer in duly justified cases.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures³⁷.

4.3.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) level of co-financing that may be mobilised; (ii) overall technical and institutional capacities; (iii) experience and presence (or willingness to establish presence) in Lesotho; (iv) experience and demonstrated capacities and results in WASH implementation, institutional strengthening, data-base management systems and programme management.

The implementation by this entity entails a contribution to Outputs 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3

4.3.2 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) level of co-financing that may be mobilised; (ii) overall technical and institutional capacities; (iii) experience and presence (or willingness to establish presence) in Lesotho; (iv) experience and demonstrated capacities and results in ICM - Water Resource Management implementation, institutional strengthening, data-base management systems and programme management.

The implementation by this entity entails a contribution to Outputs 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3

4.3.3 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) level of co-financing that may be mobilised; (ii) overall technical and institutional capacities; (iii) experience and presence (or willingness to establish presence) in Lesotho; (iv) experience and demonstrated capacities and results in water sector governance support, institutional strengthening, data-base management systems and programme management.

The implementation by this entity entails a contribution to Outputs 3.1 and 3.2

³⁷ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.4. Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

Should the indirect management modality described in section 4.3.1 prove to not be possible for reasons outside of the Commission's control, then the Action would be implemented under direct management as follows:

1) Indirect management modality described in section 4.3.1 be implemented through:

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Potential applicants would be all legal persons including non-governmental organisations (including universities and research institutes), private companies, public sector bodies and local authorities, established in a Member State of the European Union or in Lesotho or any other eligible country as stipulated in the NDICI-GLOBAL Europe regulations, or an international (inter-governmental) organisation as defined by Article 156 of the EU Financial Regulation, with experience and demonstrated capacities and results in WASH implementation (hardware), water sector decentralised institutional strengthening and programme management.

2) Indirect management described in section 4.3.3 be implemented through:

Direct Management (Procurement)

Procurement to contribute to Outputs 3.1 and 3.2

4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Component 1 – WASH composed of 1.1, 1.2, and 1, 3	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity- cf. section 4.3.1	15 000 000
Component 2 – ReNoka composed for outputs 2.1, 2.2, 2.3	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity- cf. section 4.3.2	10 000 000
Component 3 – Cadre capacity building in water management composed of 3.1 and 3.2	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity- cf. section 4.3.3	1 700 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2	300 000
Audit – cf. section 5.3	
Totals	27 000 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The EU Delegation and the implementing partners will agree upon the appropriate formats for the steering committees of the programme component under the respective components. The implementing partners will be responsible of the day-to-day management of the agreements and the implementation of activities.

The EU Delegation will ensure that any form of steering committee encompasses a wide variety of stakeholders to ensure the representation of people in vulnerable situations, including rights holders such as groups in vulnerable situations and marginalised groups.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support). An internal annual performance review system should be part of the M&E system, by which funding can be steered. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the rights-based approach and gender equality.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

The entities selected to implement the different programme's components will be responsible for the collection and dissemination of data on the programme's logical framework. During the inception phases of the contracts resulting from this action, the EU Delegation and selected implementing partners will carry out the necessary studies and surveys to establish refined baselines and targets.

All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach, and rights of persons with disabilities including inclusion and diversity Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex.

The Distributional Impact Assessment tool (DIA) could be applied, as a data source whenever other sources (national, regional, local data) are not available to monitor whether expected outputs have, to a large extent, benefited socio-economically disadvantaged groups, households and individuals.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term and final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the innovative aspect of the action.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 30 days in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the

evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

All evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment and disability. The inclusion of expertise on human rights, disability and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The evaluation plan (or component in the foreseen evaluation) might assess the distributional impact of activities undertaken on the socio-economically disadvantaged individuals, households or groups. This can be done through the Distributional Impact Assessment tool (DIA)³⁸. The DIA analysis looks at the effective targeting of beneficiaries of development interventions, identifying if more than 40 per cent of beneficiaries are at the bottom two quintiles of the income or wealth distribution. It also allows to evaluate whether effective targeting has been done towards women, children and youth or other disadvantaged groups (e.g. ethnic minorities) or at territorial level .

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

Evaluation services may be contracted under a framework contract.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 "[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)", it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

³⁸ European Commission Inequality Marker Guidelines for the Application and Scoring of Interventions, pp 15-17 and Guidelines for mainstreaming the reduction of inequality in interventions (Vol. 3, Annex, p. 39)

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;

Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);

Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as:

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 .and/or 3.1, 3.2 – Rural WASH and governance and Capacities in water management, national and transboundary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Outputs 2.1,2.2, 2.3 and/or 3.1, 3.2 – Lesotho sustainably manages its water and land resources (ICM 2) and Capacities in water management, national and transboundary