Lesotho

Institutional Partner | Ministry of Home Affairs
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Project dates | March 31, 2021 – April 30, 2022
Project Title | Excess Mortality due to COVID-19

### Project Objectives

- Assess excess mortality in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic to evaluate the pandemic on all-cause mortality in the country.
- Build local capacity on collation and analysis of all-cause of death data to determine excess deaths attributable of the pandemic.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Public Health on evidence-based decision making on the impact of COVID-19 on mortality.

### Project Outcomes and Impact

- Organized a virtual training session on excess mortality calculation and rapid mortality surveillance for in-country staff and trained 92 district registration officers on death notification, registration, and reporting. These training sessions enhanced the ministry’s capabilities in reporting and analyzing excess mortality data.
- Collected excess mortality data and drafted a report analyzing excess mortality in Lesotho. Presented key findings of the report to CRVS stakeholders for review, validation, and dissemination.
- Implemented a newly created CRVS Monitoring and Evaluation Plan within the Ministry of Home Affairs as part of the ministry’s five-year Strategic Plan.
- Development of a dashboard that displays graphical representations of excess mortality analysis is currently underway. The dashboard will provide policymakers with mortality data in real-time to guide their decision-making processes.
- Drafted and published Verbal Autopsy SOPs that will be utilized by field officers.
- Strengthened ties between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Home Affairs as a result of the close collaboration on this project.

### Project Sustainability

- The calculation of excess mortality in Lesotho contributes to evidence-based decision making within the government in formulating a response to COVID-19.
- District registration officers who gained skills in death notification and reporting will utilize their skillset in analyzing similar excess mortality exercises that go beyond the scope of this project.
- Following project closure, the Ministry of Health plans to conduct further analysis regarding excess mortality.

### Project Outputs

- Excess Mortality in Lesotho due to COVID-19
- MOHA Monitoring and Evaluation Report

“...The (excess mortality) report will in the future assist in fighting other pandemics in the country...

Tumelo Raboletsi, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs