

Lesotho APRM Popular Sensitisation project (LAPS)

The Governance Institute for Sustainable Development (GISD) and the South Africa Institute for International Affairs (SAIIA) agreed on the establishment of a Lesotho APRM Popular Sensitisation Project (LAPS). The Lesotho APRM Popular Sensitisation Project (LAPS) was intended to conscientise Lesotho's non-state actors – CSOs, private sector and think-tanks on the need to resuscitate the NSA-led APRM in Lesotho. The LAPS has been able to build the capacity of civil society organisations, private sector and think-tanks so that they appreciate the APRM further. The above makes the GISD's work of establishing a LAPS easier as it will not start from the beginning to teach on APRM, but to remind CSOs, the private sector and the think-tanks.

Another critical objective of the LAPS was to facilitate co-creation of written submissions by the identified marginalised groups on key governance issues, as it will be discussed later. The LAPS brought together NSAs to prepare Lesotho for the second-generation country review. The APRM is not a new phenomenon in Lesotho, but due to lack of proper leadership and continuity on major developmental issues, the ball was dropped on the way.

The LAPS reinforced the existence of a CSO-driven APRM in Lesotho. The LAPS has been a vehicle that drives the APRM into action in Lesotho from the non-state actors' viewpoint. It facilitated wider sensitisation of the APRM in Lesotho to all corners of the country, with intent to re-energise, to re-ignite and to stimulate non-state actors to participate fully in the APRM. The Project mobilised the participation of youth, women, children, the unemployed and the diaspora to make their voices heard on critical governance issues that they found worthy to present to the government. The project further built the capacity of CSOs, foster better knowledge of the APRM and its rules and opportunities, and facilitates submissions on the key governance issues in Lesotho. The Project was intended to facilitate Lesotho's second generation review. The exercise was largely led by the NSAs, instead of a government-led process, and it rallied the CSOs to participate in the APRM, from the perspective of CSOs.

The GISD-SAIIA partnership was premised on sensitisation of the civil society, private sector and thinks-tanks on the APRM to participate fully in the APRM process. It was premised on developing an NSA-driven APRM in Lesotho and to identify critical governance issues. The LAPS investigated issues in the Political and Democratic Governance sphere. It facilitated other sectors – youth, women, children, unemployed and the diaspora to identify their governance issues that they want for review.