



National Workshop on Climate Change and Disaster-related Statistics

31 October – 2 November 2023 | Maseru, Lesotho

Workshop Report



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Summary

1. [Objectives of the workshop](#)

In response to an official request received from the Bureau of Statistics of Lesotho to provide technical assistance to their National Statistical Systems in developing Climate Change and Disaster-related statistics and improving the quality of data collection, a National Workshop on Climate Change and Disaster-related Statistics was held in Maseru, Lesotho on 31 October - 2 November 2023. This workshop was organized by the UNDRR Regional Office for Africa, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in collaboration with the Bureau of Statistics and Disaster Management Authority of Lesotho.

The workshop aimed to increase the technical capacity for climate change and disaster-related statistics in the country by bringing together and provide hands-on training on priority topics related to climate change and disaster to the various stakeholders in attendance such as but not limited to the Bureau of Statistics, Lesotho Meteorological Services, Ministry of Natural Resources, Maseru City Council, Ministry of Agriculture and other UN entities such as the UN RCO, WFP and FAO in Lesotho.

2. [Participants](#)



35 participants, out of which 13 were female and 22 were male, from the Bureau of Statistics Lesotho, the Lesotho Meteorological Services, the National Disaster Management Authority, the Maseru City Council as well as other relevant government entities and UN agencies based in Lesotho actively engaged in the training workshop, exchanged best practices, lessons learned and technical approaches towards climate change and disaster-related statistical frameworks. Notably, the participation of a representative from

Eswatini's National Disaster Management Authority on Eswatini's Data Collection Experience further enriched the learning process given the similar contextual disposition of the two countries.

The full list of participants is available in Annex 1.

3. [Outline of the workshop](#)

The three-day workshop was opened by the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and opening remarks have been provided by the Director of the Bureau of Statistics Lesotho and the Chief Executive Officer of the Disaster Management Authority. The remarks highlighted the need for collaboration on climate change and disaster-related statistics among relevant agencies in Lesotho and how this can inform national policies and contribute to international reporting obligations. Following the remarks, participants were walked through the 7 sessions of the workshop which focused on the following:

1. Session 1: Opening and Introduction
2. Session 2: International Requirements and National Experience in Environment and Disaster-related Statistics and Policy
3. Session 3: Data Collection, Compilation of Indicators and Quality Control
4. Session 4: Climate Change Statistics: Overview of International Statistical Frameworks and Guidelines
5. Session 5: Disaster-related Statistics: Overview of International Statistical Frameworks and Guidelines
6. Session 6: Data Governance and Available Sources of Scientific Information to Support Climate Change and Disaster-related Statistics
7. Session 7: Conclusions and Recommendations

Each session allowed for presentations on the topic, followed by either a panel or group discussion, and activities or a Q&A segment to help facilitate conversations around shared challenges, the exchange of best practices, and answers to questions. The last session focused on recommendations and next steps for increased collaboration.

The agenda is available in Annex 2.

4. [Main outcomes](#)

Session 2 on international requirements and national experience in environment and disaster-related statistics and policy began with an introduction to environment-related SDGs and multilateral environment agreements, UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. This was further supplemented by the UN World Food Programme (WFP) Lesotho's presentation on their project called "Improving Adaptive Capacity of Vulnerable and Food Insecure Populations in Lesotho (IACoV)". The project is supported by the Adaptation Fund, executed by Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS) and the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC), while WFP operates as the implementing entity to provide technical backstopping among other key functions to enhance the adaptive capacity and build the resilience of vulnerable and food insecure households and communities to the impacts of climate change on food security. This was followed by a Q&A session.

Session 2 continued with a national presentation on disaster-related legislation and data requirement at the national level in Lesotho by Ms. Tsepang Maama from the Disaster Management Authority followed by a national presentation on the state of environment and disaster-related statistics by Ms. Mantoa Mabele from the Bureau of Statistics.

This was then followed by a panel discussion consisting of national focal points for UNFCCC (Mr. France Mokoena), UNDRR (Mr. Retselisitsoe Molefe) and SDGs (Ms. Nyefolo Seboka). The panelists discussed the strengths and weaknesses of their respective agencies. Among the weaknesses shared were poor information management systems, lack of solid database, and data that is not shared, as well as difficulty in collecting information from different ministries and to harmonize the collection while competing with the mandates of the different ministries. Their strengths included having the Lesotho Quality Assessment Framework to guide on the definition of concepts and classifications, having High-Performance Computing equipment and the legal framework of the Statistics Act.

As the panel discussions concluded session 2, **session 3** introduced the Framework for Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) by UNSD, a multi-purpose conceptual and statistical framework that is comprehensive and integrative in nature and marks out the scope of environment statistics. Following presentations focused on data collection methods, compilation of statistics/indicators and quality control referencing the [Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics](#), the [Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical Systems — Capacity Development and the UN NQAF Manual \(of 2019\) \(UNSD — Methodology\)](#) This session was then complemented by a presentation by UNEP on implementation tools for FDES, introducing tools such as the Manual on Basic Set of Environment Statistics (BSES), Environment Statistics Self-Assessment Tool (ESSAT) and SDG + Basic Set (FDES) Matrix. Session 3 continued with a presentation on GIS and Earth Observation, relating to the role of geographic and geological statistics in the Manual on BSES. The subsequent presentation was by UNEP on the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting which focused on the SEEA Central Framework and the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting.

Session 4 began with an introduction to the global set on climate change statistics and indicators followed by the linkages of the global set with other global initiatives and frameworks as well as the implementation guidelines for the global set. This was followed by a panel discussion on Lesotho's readiness to provide climate change statistics and indicators based on the available tools with Mr. Hlabali Khalala from Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS) and Mr. Machitja Raphoto from Bureau of Statistics (BOS). It was shared that LMS works closely with the Department of Livestock to obtain Tier 2 data on livestock, specifically cattle, and works closely with the Department of Energy for data on energy balance while BOS through the division of Energy and Environment collects ozone depleting substances as primary data in collaboration with LMS and the secondary data on minimum and maximum temperature as well as precipitation from LMS. LMS and BOS stated that both their agencies are lacking a mechanism for quality control and that while BOS has an existing Quality Assessment Framework, it does not include climate change. Regarding dissemination of the data LMS and BOS share that information will be shared upon request while BOS's data is available on UNFCCC's websites, BOS's biennial report and the Lesotho Open-Data Portal supported by the African Development Bank.

UNSD proceeded to present the Introduction and the Live Demo of the Climate Change Statistics and Indicators Self-Assessment Tool (CISAT), after which, participants were then split into groups to undertake an exercise to fill in the CISAT with national information. Each group focused on one of the five policy areas defined by IPCC, namely drivers, impacts, vulnerability, mitigation and adaptation. The groups

completed the exercise using CISAT Part II, the objective of which was to assess the relevance of the globally proposed indicators, select those most needed for Lesotho and further discuss issues of data availability, sources of data, quality assurance and uses of climate change statistics. Each group then proceeded to present their findings in plenary as a result of which a number of indicators from the global set were identified as applicable in Lesotho and several additional ones were proposed to be included in a national set of climate change indicators. Key topics include: GHG emissions from LULUCF and energy, water, disasters, health, soil, biodiversity, agriculture (including subsistence), renewable energy, gender, official development assistance, and small-scale fisheries. Missing and important data includes the identification of population living in hazard zones, adaptation expenditures, women taking part in adaptation actions, etc.

Session 5 of the workshop was on disaster-related statistics and was initiated with a brief presentation on the international experience in the field of disaster-related statistics and the introduction of UNESCAP's Disaster-related Statistics Framework. Following a Q&A, UNDRR introduced the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 as well as the Sendai Framework targets and indicators and their links to SDGs. This segment of session 5 also expanded upon the milestones, roles, responsibilities and baseline data within the Sendai Monitoring platform.

A participant from Eswatini representing Eswatini's National Disaster Management Authority, Mr. Bonkhe Mchobokazi, presented on Eswatini's Data Collection Experience, which was well received by the participants of the workshop. Many participants have highlighted the good practices that can be drawn from Eswatini's experience and, thus, implementable in Lesotho.

Session 5 continued by participants undertaking a group activity to identify actors and institutions for data collection and sharing for Targets A – G of the Sendai Framework. Participants found this exercise useful as it enabled participants to identify and holistically view the data sources for Targets A-G. The exercise concluded with participants acknowledging that multiple sources of data are collecting similar data, and that more collaboration is needed between those entities. *The template of the package in Annex 3.*

The group activity served as an interactive introduction to the Targets of the Sendai Framework; namely Targets A&B (data on mortality and affected people) and Targets C&D (data on economic losses and disruption of services and infrastructure). The presentation session was followed by a hands-on, interactive workshop simulating data entry into the online Sendai Monitoring Training platform. Participants were divided into groups with each group comprising of participants from various different organizations and had the opportunity to explore the platform from a user perspective and better understand the input parameters of the platform, as well as raise inquiries regarding the functional components of the platform. As Lesotho has yet to report on the Sendai Framework Monitoring platform, this session was an essential catalyst to inform and encourage reporting on the Sendai Targets.



Session 6 explored data governance and began with an introduction to the data ecosystem which is comprised of data infrastructures, governance and usage of which more information can be found in UNSD’s Handbook on Management and Organization of National Statistical System. This was followed by a presentation on legal agreements to ensure the sharing of data, emphasizing cooperation and coordination instruments within national statistical organizations and beyond as well as data exchange mechanisms and data acquisition agreements. The floor was then open up for discussions on data sharing mechanisms used in Lesotho.

The **final session** focused on recommendations and next steps to advance climate change and disaster-related statistics in Lesotho (*The recommendations and next steps can be found in the following section of this report*).

Supporting materials and key documents on climate change and disaster-related statistics that were outlined during the workshop were disseminated via a GoogleDrive link to participants: [Link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t5M3Gg_jmFun8ZcFMnooBspENL5zplW1?usp=drive](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t5M3Gg_jmFun8ZcFMnooBspENL5zplW1?usp=drive)

The participants were also informed about an online evaluation survey that would be conducted after the workshop.

Closing remarks were provided by Ms. Malehloa Molato, the Director of the Bureau of Statistics Lesotho. Ms. Molato expressed the importance of the linkages between climate change and disaster-related statistics and subsequently, the cooperation and collaboration between different government agencies to streamline and improve data collection, consolidation, and synthesis. She also proceeded to thank UNDRR, UNEP and UNSD for facilitating the workshop and looks forward to working more collaboratively with other government and UN agencies to improve climate change and disaster-related statistics.

5. Recommendations

Prior to concluding the workshop, a five-part recommendation package was presented to the participants. The table below highlights the recommendations along with the suggested actions.

Step 1: Establish Collaboration Structures and Buy-In
Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resuscitate a working group on climate change and disaster-related statistics, which will include various national agencies providing data on relevant areas and coordinated by the Bureau of Statistics• Pursue high-level buy in (from Ministers and Directors, also as a mechanism to use statistics in policy decisions)
Step 2: Self-Assessment
Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using the Self-Assessment Tool on Climate Change Statistics (CISAT), identify list of relevant climate change and disaster indicators (existing or to be developed), and identify data providers at the national level while considering national needs and international reporting obligations (Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, and others)• Mapping of institutions which have the necessary data for each climate change and disaster-related (the Sendai Targets) statistics as well as the metadata, including the Bureau of Statistics and other relevant ministries, the private sector, academia, NGO and UN agencies• Mapping of existing and future projects from various partners that can leverage climate change and disaster-related data
Step 3: Coordination and Data Sharing
Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define ToRs for the working group on climate change and disaster-related statistics on the principles of collaboration and cooperation, overlapping areas and leverage existing strengths• Enhance data sharing processes between the Bureau of Statistics and other organizations, using existing national experience and the successful practices of other countries, for example through data collection agreements• Sustained involvement and the creation of formal, mutually advantageous collaborations with local universities and research institutions.• Further work on clarifying legal mandates is needed to identify the laws and regulations that could ensure accountability of each institution for data sharing, including the role of Bureau of Statistics and focal points in other relevant agencies• Continue working on the existing agreement on modalities for data sharing from local to national and across MDAs (online, offline, Excel tools, MoU, letters etc.)
Step 4: Dissemination Advocacy and Communication
Actions

- Organize public consultations on the national list of climate change and disaster-related indicators with the working group, including international organizations in the country, academia, NGOs, the private sector, the media and the public
- Improve advocacy for the use of climate change and disaster-related statistics together with focal points; contribute to international reporting (ETF, Sendai, CBD and SDGs)
- Explore possibilities to improve the dissemination including via National Spatial Data Infrastructure Leverage on existing and upcoming tools for data sharing and disseminations [Open Data Portal (existing), DMA LVAC dashboard (existing), LMS project on Capacity Building Initiative on Transparency (upcoming) and others]

Step 5: Funding and Capacity Building

Actions

- Develop funding proposal with action plan to fill data gaps and improve coordination (consultant may be needed for this; funding and resources are needed for running several surveys)
- Statistical capacity development for the key stakeholders, including private sectors, under the leadership of the Bureau of Statistics and the Disaster Management Authority
- Official requests for specific additional capacity building as needed through RCO together with development partners

Furthermore, the proposed next steps for the Disaster Management Authority in order to start the reporting in the SFM platform are to gather with key institutions to agree on the following:

- a. Hazard list as per the national DRR strategy to be aligned with international list of hazards
- b. Identify which institutions contribute to data on which hazards
- c. Define critical infrastructure and services
- d. Define the reporting scale (administrative level is currently available)
- e. Contextualize definitions to reflect reality on the ground

Other proposed next steps for the Disaster Management Authority include:

- retrieving past data,
- developing data as a business case,
- keep senior colleagues updated on the data and reporting requirements accordingly
- to leverage on the support of academic institutions in Lesotho.

The workshop also saw participants providing recommendations to UN agencies for effective future collaborations. Recommendations include UNSD and partners to focus more attention on standardizing and harmonizing definitions as well as improving methodology for climate change and disaster-related statistics. The participants also recommended that UN agencies can further explore ways to enhance South-South collaboration and exchange of lessons between countries facing similar challenges (e.g. Eswatini, South Africa, Namibia).

6. Actions Points and Tasks

- UNDRR ROA disseminates workshop reports to participants for input as well as all relevant workshop materials.
- UNDRR ROA to continue sharing case studies and experiences on SFM reporting process.

Annex 1: List of Participants

Name	Organization
Malehloa MOLATO	Bureau of Statistics
Neo MAKHALEMELE	Commission of Water
Makhosi MOREMI	Land Use Planning Unit
Mokitjima TSILANE	Department of Range
Mankuebe NKUEBE	Department of Energy
Makhojane NTSOLO	Natural Resource – Mining
Mochoni MOLEHI	Land Administration Authority
Monteng RAMAFIKENG	Maseru City Council
Tsepang MAAMA	Disaster Management Authority
France MOKOENA	Lesotho Meteorological Services
Tsepiso THABANE	Bureau of Statistics
Mantoa MABELE	Bureau of Statistics
Machitja RAPHOTO	Bureau of Statistics
Mamosebetsi HLONGOANE	Bureau of Statistics
Nyefolo SEBOKA	Bureau of Statistics
Molato MOLATO	Bureau of Statistics
Mabafokeng MASOPHA	Bureau of Statistics
Tipi SEETSI	Bureau of Statistics
Tsimane TISMANE	Bureau of Statistics
Lebohang MOLETSANE	Disaster Management Authority
Moeti MOHAPI	Ministry of Local Government
Potso SOFONIA	UN RCO
Masoai DENNIS	IOM – UN Migration
Mokotla NTELA	World Food Programme
Phakoe KUROANE	World Food Programme
Masahiro MATSUMOTO	World Food Programme
Lelahloane MOHAPO	Disaster Management Authority
Mafomo PHOLO	World Food Programme
Lesrato TLAKANE	World Bank
Motseoa PHUNYE	Bureau of Statistics
Ntsiuoa JAASE	Ministry of Finance and Development Planning
Hlabali KHALALA	Lesotho Meteorological Services
Rethabile MCHOBOKAZI	NDMA – Eswatini
Nkopo MATSEPE	World Food Programme
Kealeboha LENKA	Lesotho Meteorological Services
Ekaterina POLESHCHUK	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Emil IVANOV	United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
Roberto LOMORIELLO	UNDRR
Aneeshaa CHOUDHURY	UNDRR

Annex 2: Agenda

Agenda

| Avani Hotel, 31 October – 2 November 2023 |
| Maseru, Lesotho |

Day 1: 31 October 2023

Session 1: Opening & Introduction

08:00 –08:30 **Registration**

08:30 –09:00 **Welcome Remarks and introduction**

- Director of the Bureau of Statistics
- Director of the Disaster Management Authority
- Director of the Lesotho Meteorological Services
- Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

09:00 –09:20 **Objectives and Organization of the Workshop**

- Introduction of participants
- Presentation of agenda
- Q&A

Session 2: International Requirements and National Experience in Environment and Disaster-related Statistics and Policy

Moderator: Mamosebetsi Hlongoane, Bureau of Statistics

09:20- 10:40 **Introduction**

- Environment-related SDGs and Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Ekaterina Poleshchuk (UNEP)
- UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, Emil Ivanov (UNSD)
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Roberto Schiano Lomoriello (UNDRR)
- Presentation from UN World Food Programme Lesotho
- Q&A

10:40 – 11:00 *Coffee Break*

11:00– 12:50 **Continuation of Session 2: Experience of Lesotho by Tsepang Maama from the Disaster Management Authority and Mantoa Mabele from the Bureau of Statistics**

- Disaster-related legislation and data requirement at the national level, Tsepang Maama (DMA)
- State of Environment and Disaster-related statistics, Mantoa Mabele (BOS)
- Panel discussion with the national focal points on UNFCCC (France Mokoena), UNDRR (Retselisitsoe Molefe) and SDGs (Nyefolo Seboka), moderated by Ekaterina Poleshchuk (UNEP)
- Q&A

12.50-13.50 *Lunch*

Session 3: Data Collection, Compilation of Indicators and Quality Control

Moderator: Mamosebetsi Hlongoane, Bureau of Statistics

13:50 - 14:50 **Introduction**

- Framework for Development of Environment Statistics (FDES), Emil Ivanov (UNSD)
 - Data collection methods
 - Compilation of statistics
 - Quality control and validation
- Q&A

14:50 -15.10 *Coffee Break*

15:10 - 16:30 **Continuation of Session 3**

- Implementation tools, Ekaterina Poleshchuk (UNEP)

Open Discussion, Country Feedback

- GIS and Earth Observation, Emil Ivanov (UNSD)
- System of Environmental Economic Accounting, Ekaterina Poleshchuk (UNEP)
- Q&A

Day 2: 1 November 2023

Session 4: Climate Change Statistics: Overview of International Statistical Frameworks and Guidelines

Moderator: Mamosebetsi Hlongoane, Bureau of Statistics

08:30 – 10:50 **Introduction**

- Global set on climate change statistics and indicators, Emil Ivanov (UNSD)
- Linkages of the global set on climate change statistics and indicators with the other global initiatives and frameworks, Ekaterina Poleshchuk (UNEP)
- Implementation guidelines for the global set, Emil Ivanov (UNSD)
- Q&A
- Introduction of the Climate Change Statistics and Indicators Self-Assessment Tool (CISAT), Emil Ivanov (UNSD)
- Live Demo of assessing indicators, Emil Ivanov (UNSD)
- Panel discussion on Lesotho's readiness to provide Climate Change Statistics and Indicators based on the available tools with Mr. Hlabali Khalala from Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS) and Mr. Machitja Raphoto from Bureau of Statistics (BOS)
- Q&A
- Preparation for an exercise to fill in the CISAT with national information by splitting into two groups

10:50 – 11:10 *Coffee break*

11:10 – 12:45 **Continuation of Session 4**

- Group work
- Presenting and discussion of the results
- Q&A

12:45 – 13:45 *Lunch*

Session 5: Disaster-related Statistics: Overview of International Statistical Frameworks and Guidelines

Moderator: Mojabeng Mohloki, Disaster Management Authority

13:45 – 15:10 **Introduction**

- International experience in the field of Disaster-related Statistics, Ekaterina Poleshchuk (UNEP)
- Disaster-related Statistics Framework, Aneeshaa Choudhury (UNDRR)
- Q&A
- The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, Roberto Schiano Lomoriello (UNDRR)
 - Sendai Framework targets and indicators and their links to the SDGs
 - Sendai Framework monitoring: milestones, roles and responsibilities, baseline data
 - SFM getting familiar with the platform
- Q&A
- Eswatini experience on disaster risk reduction, Bonkhe Mchobokaz (Disaster Management Authority Eswatini)
- Q&A

15:10 – 15:30 *Coffee break*

15:30 – 16:30	Continuation of Session 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open discussion on plans for using the National Platforms for Sendai Framework monitoring and reporting, Roberto Schiano Lomoriello (UNDRR) • Group activity: Identify actors and institutions for data collection and sharing
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Day 3: 2 November 2023

Session 5: Disaster-related Statistics: Overview of International Statistical Frameworks and Guidelines (continuation)

08:30 – 10:20	Continuation of Session 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of targets A & B indicators and data: Data on mortality and affected people (relevant to Targets A & B of the Sendai Framework), Roberto Schiano Lomoriello (UNDRR) • Presentation of targets C & D indicators and data: Data on economic losses and disruptions of services and infrastructure, Roberto Schiano Lomoriello (UNDRR)
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10:20 – 10:40 *Coffee break*

10:40 – 12:30	Continuation of Session 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A • Group activity on data collection and disaggregation
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12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch*

Session 6: Data Governance and Available Sources of Scientific Information to Support Climate Change and Disaster-related Statistics

Moderator: Ekaterina Poleshchuk, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

13:30 – 15:00	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data ecosystem (infrastructures, governance, use), Ekaterina Poleshchuk (UNEP) • Q&A • Legal agreement to ensure the sharing of data, Ekaterina Poleshchuk (UNEP) • Open discussion on data sharing mechanisms used in Lesotho
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15:00 – 15:20 *Coffee Break*

Session 7: Conclusions and Recommendations

15:20 – 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussing recommendations and next steps to advance climate change and disaster-related statistics in Lesotho • Support materials and key documents for climate change and disaster-related statistics • Feedback on the workshop
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Annex 3: Excerpt of template used for Target A-G exercise

Exercise

	Mortality (Target A)	People affected (Target B)	Economic losses (Target C)	Critical infrastructu res & services (Target D)	Developme nt assistance (Target F)	EWS (Target G)
Data available	Yes but it is <u>fragmented</u> .	Yes.	Yes but it is fragmented.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Data sources (actual / potential)	Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Health, Home Affairs, Police, Civil Society Organizations	Ministry of Health, DMA, Bureau of Statistics	Various ministries, departments and agencies including Ministry of Works, Ministry of Agriculture	Department of Roads, Local Government, Ministry of Natural Resources and Department of Water Affairs and Rural Water Authority, Ministry of Health, Fire Rescue Section of the Ministry of Local Government, Police, Evacuation Centers via DMA and Red Cross, Ministry of Education,	Ministry of Finance, Red Cross, World Vision, Red Cross, WFP etc.	DMA, UN Agencies, NGO, Lesotho Met Office (LMS), BOS
Mandates	DMA	DMA	DMA	DMA and BOS	DMA and BOS	DMA and LMS