

Empowering Futures, Sustaining Hope: A Celebration of Partnership and Progress in Sekameng

Remarks by: Mr. James Nkemba Chifwelu | National Director

Protocol:

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests, and beloved community members of Sekameng,

I stand before you today with a deep sense of gratitude and fulfilment as we gather here to mark a significant moment in the journey of transformation that World Vision, in collaboration with the Government of Lesotho, children, families has been on with the Sekameng community.

Today, we come together not just to hand over a site and a 3-roomed house but to celebrate the enduring spirit of partnership and shared commitment to the well-being of this community. The partnership between World Vision and the Government of Lesotho has been instrumental in the progress we've witnessed over the years in Sekameng. Our shared vision was to ensure continuous service delivery, even as the Sekameng Area Programme transitions.

The journey began in 1998 with a goal to contribute to reducing poverty among **25,162** people in Sekameng through a sustainable development process. As we bid farewell to the Area Programme in 2023, we reflect on the significant impact made on the lives of children, families, and the entire community.

In the realm of Child Sponsorship, the numbers speak volumes: 2925 parents and caregivers were oriented towards Child Sponsorship, ensuring child well-being. Birth registration, a crucial step in securing a child's identity and rights, has been facilitated for 963 children, empowering them with legal recognition.

In the domain of Celebrating Families workshops, 805 participants reported an improved understanding of their role in creating a nurturing environment for their children. Through community-based initiatives, we've seen 972 adolescents actively participating in projects, while 606 young advocates work towards ending violence against children.

In the critical areas of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), World Vision, in collaboration with the community, has achieved remarkable milestones. Over 4000 people now have access to basic drinking water services, with 26 water collection points completed in communities and four schools gaining access. The impact extends to over 6400 children gaining access to basic hygiene services at educational facilities.

Through Livelihoods and Resilience (L&R) programs, 33 functional Savings Groups and 11 Producer Groups have been established, empowering over 600 individuals. Disaster risk reduction training has

World Vision is a global Christian, relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with the most vulnerable children, families and communities to overcome poverty and experience the fullness of life. We help children of all backgrounds, even in the most dangerous places, inspired by our Christian faith.

reached 2484 individuals, including children. The tangible outcomes include the provision of livelihood assets and support to 1320 households.

Our partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security has been pivotal in achieving these milestones. The synergy between World Vision and the Ministry has been a beacon of hope, ensuring that even as the Area Programme concludes, the Ministry will carry the torch forward, continuing to address the needs of the community and working towards sustainable development.

As we move forward, let us reaffirm our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Together, World Vision and the Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security will continue working hand in hand, ensuring that no one is left behind. The journey of transformation doesn't end here; it evolves into a new chapter of collaboration, resilience, and shared prosperity.

In closing, I express my deepest gratitude to the Sekameng community, our dedicated staff, and the Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security for their unwavering commitment. May the spirit of partnership and progress continue to illuminate the path ahead for Sekameng.

**Ke ea Leboha
Khotso.Pula.Nala**