



Lesotho Basic Education Strengthening Project (BESP) (P175065)

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA | Lesotho | IBRD/IDA | Investment Project Financing (IPF) | FY 2022 | Seq No: 7 |
Archived on 01-Mar-2025 | ISR03448

Implementing Agencies: Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Gender, Sports, Youth and Social Development

1. OBJECTIVE

1.1 Development Objective

Original Development Objective (Approved as part of Approval package on 25-Feb-2022)

To improve student retention and teaching quality in junior secondary schools in targeted community councils of Lesotho and support the roll out of a new curriculum to strengthen ECCD service delivery.

Has the Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

No

2. COMPONENTS

Name

Component 1: Improving student retention in junior secondary education:(Cost 5,000,000.00)

Component 2: System strengthening to improve ECCD service delivery:(Cost 1,400,000.00)

Component 3: Project management, capacity building and technical assistance:(Cost 700,000.00)

3. OVERALL RATINGS

Name	Previous	Current
Progress towards achievement of PDO	● Moderately Satisfactory	● Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	● Moderately Satisfactory	● Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	● Substantial	● Substantial

4. KEY ISSUES & STATUS



4.1 Implementation Status and Key Decisions

The Basic Education Strengthening Project (BESP) closed on February 28, 2025 as planned. The project achieved the set development objectives which include: (a) reducing the dropout rate from 27 percent to 19.8; (b) 87 percent of the secondary education teachers completed the in-service teacher training program; the five-year old children attending the targeted Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centers increased their literacy and numeracy skills by 14.0 and 13.6 percentage points respectively, with marginal gender differentials. The gains are to be sustained through several strategies including the follow-on project (Lesotho Education Improvement Project - LEIP) and integration of the activities in the ongoing Government education program.

5. SYSTEMATIC OPERATIONS RISK-RATING TOOL

Risk Category	Rating at Approval Approval Package - 25 Feb 2022	Last Approved Rating ISR Seq. 06 - 13 Dec 2024	Proposed Rating
Political and Governance	● Substantial	● Substantial	● Substantial
Macroeconomic	● Substantial	● Substantial	● Substantial
Sector Strategies and Policies	● Moderate	● Moderate	● Moderate
Technical Design of Project or Program	● Moderate	● Moderate	● Moderate
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	● Substantial	● Substantial	● Substantial
Fiduciary	● Moderate	● Substantial	● Substantial
Environment and Social	● Moderate	● Moderate	● Moderate
Stakeholders	● Moderate	● Moderate	● Moderate
Overall	● Substantial	● Substantial	● Substantial



6. RESULTS

6.1 PDO Indicators by PDO Outcomes

Improved student retention at junior secondary level in targeted community councils								
Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Previous)		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
PDO Indicator 1: Dropout rate at junior secondary level (Grade 8-9) in targeted community councils (Percentage)	27	Dec/2021	23	15-Nov-2024	19.80	26-Feb-2025	22	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		Achieved. The dropout rate has improved from 27% to 19.8%, representing an overall reduction of 7.2 percentage points.					
Female dropout rate in junior secondary level (Grade 8-9) in targeted community councils (Percentage)	20	Dec/2021	19.20	15-Nov-2024	14.80	26-Feb-2025	19	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		Percentage of female dropout rate decreased by 5.2					
Male dropout rate at junior secondary level (Grade 8-9) in targeted community councils (Percentage)	29	Dec/2021	28.90	15-Nov-2024	27.20	26-Feb-2025	28.00	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		Percentage of male dropout rate decreased by 1.8					
Increased teaching quality in math and science in targeted junior secondary schools								
Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Previous)		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
PDO Indicator 2: Percentage of teachers who received an online math and science	0.00	Dec/2021	0.00	15-Nov-2024	87	26-Feb-2025	50.00	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		Achieved: 87% of Teacher's enrolled in the online training successfully completed the					



teacher training completion certificate (Percentage)		<p>course. The detailed SLP completion status is as follows:</p> <p>EDF: 84% pass rate with 7 dropouts MKT: 87% pass rate with 0 dropouts SPK: 89% pass rate with 1 dropout STPK: 94% pass rate with 3 dropouts MTPK: 78% pass rate with 1 dropout PSKT: 85% pass rate with 0 dropouts MPK: 86% pass rate with 1 dropout LSKT: 91% pass rate with 6 dropouts</p>
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Scaled up implementation of a new ECCD curriculum and improved ECCD service delivery

Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Previous)		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
PDO Indicator 3: Percentage of 5-year-old children with improved literacy skills in targeted ECCD centers and reception classrooms (Percentage)	71.06	May/2023	71.06	15-Nov-2024	85.10	26-Feb-2025	73.06	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		Achieved. 14% improvement in learner performance from the 2023 baseline to the 2024 endline assessment of the new ECCD curriculum.					
Percentage of 5-year-old male children with improved literacy skills in targeted ECCD centers and reception classrooms (Percentage)	71.41	May/2023	71.41	15-Nov-2024	85.40	26-Feb-2025	71.41	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		Male percentage increased by 14.00					
Percentage of 5-year-old female children with improved literacy skills in targeted ECCD	71.71	May/2023	71.71	15-Nov-2024	71.40	26-Feb-2025	71.71	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		Female percentage increased by 13.04					



centers and reception classrooms (Percentage)								
PDO Indicator 4: Percentage of 5-year-old children with improved numeracy skills in targeted ECCD centers and reception classrooms (Percentage)	63.60	May/2023	63.60	15-Nov-2024	77.20	26-Feb-2025	65.60	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		Achieved. 13.58% improvement in learner performance from the 2023 baseline to the 2024 endline assessment of the new ECCD curriculum.					
Percentage of 5-year-old male children with improved numeracy skills in targeted ECCD centers and reception classrooms (Percentage)	63.30	May/2023	63.30	15-Nov-2024	77.80	26-Feb-2025	63.30	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		There is a 14.5 percentage increase among males in numeracy					
Percentage of 5-year-old female children with improved numeracy skills in targeted ECCD centers and reception classrooms (Percentage)	63.90	May/2023	63.90	15-Nov-2024	76.50	26-Feb-2025	65.90	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		There is a 12.5 percentage increase among females in numeracy					

6.2 Intermediate Results Indicators by Components

Component 1: Improving student retention in junior secondary education				
Indicator Name	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	Closing Period



	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
IRI 1: Number of students benefitting from the bonus payment through the CGP (Number)	0.00	Dec/2021	20,233	15-Nov-2024	20,750	26-Feb-2025	15,000.00	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		Project has exceeded its target by 5750					
Number of female students benefitting from the bonus payment through the CGP (Number)	0.00	Dec/2021	11,846	15-Nov-2024	11,846	26-Feb-2025	7,500.00	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		Number of female students who receive the bonus payment through the CGP					
IRI 2:Percentage increase in junior secondary school enrollment in target community councils (Percentage)	0.00	Dec/2021	2.50	15-Nov-2024	22.20	26-Feb-2025	3.00	Feb/2025
Percentage increase in junior secondary school female enrollment in target community councils (Percentage)	0.00	Dec/2021	5.30	15-Nov-2024	25.50	26-Feb-2025	3.00	Feb/2025
IRI 3:Number of junior secondary students joining support groups/student groups in targeted community councils (Number)	0.00	Dec/2021	3,484	15-Nov-2024	3,484	26-Feb-2025	2,000.00	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		Achieved. All 69 targeted schools have established 259 youth clubs and 69 master clubs, with a total of 3,484 learners participating, 1,264 of whom are in master clubs. Girls account for 68 5 of membership.					
Number of female junior secondary students joining support groups/student clubs in targeted	0.00	Dec/2021	2,377	15-Nov-2024	2,377	26-Feb-2025	1,000.00	Feb/2025



community councils (Number)								
IRI 4: Student learning assessment in math and science conducted in targeted community councils (Yes/No)	No	Dec/2021	No	15-Nov-2024	Yes	26-Feb-2025	Yes	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		Achieved. Two checkpoint assessments have been completed, comparing learning outcomes in Biology, Maths and Physical Science for Grade 8, 9, and 10 learners. The results are currently under analysis.					
IRI 5: Pedagogical skills of at least 10% of math and science teachers who participated in the online teacher training measured (Yes/No)	No	Dec/2021	No	15-Nov-2024	Yes	26-Feb-2025	Yes	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		Achieved. 97% of the learners enrolled for online training participated in the assessments.					
Teachers recruited or trained (Number)	0.00	Dec/2021	1,601	15-Nov-2024	1,661	26-Feb-2025	620.00	Feb/2025
Students benefiting from direct interventions to enhance learning (Number)	0.00	Dec/2021	27,144	15-Nov-2024	40,569	26-Feb-2025	32,000.00	Feb/2025
Component 2: System strengthening to improve ECCD service delivery								
Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Previous)		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
IRI 8: Percentage of ECCD teachers and practitioners receiving training and ongoing support focused on pedagogical knowledge to implement the new curriculum in targeted centers (Percentage)	0.00	Dec/2021	81	15-Nov-2024	81	26-Feb-2025	60.00	Feb/2025



IRI 9: Costed strategy for ECCD expansion is developed (Yes/No)	No	Dec/2021	No	15-Nov-2024	Yes	26-Feb-2025	Yes	Feb/2025
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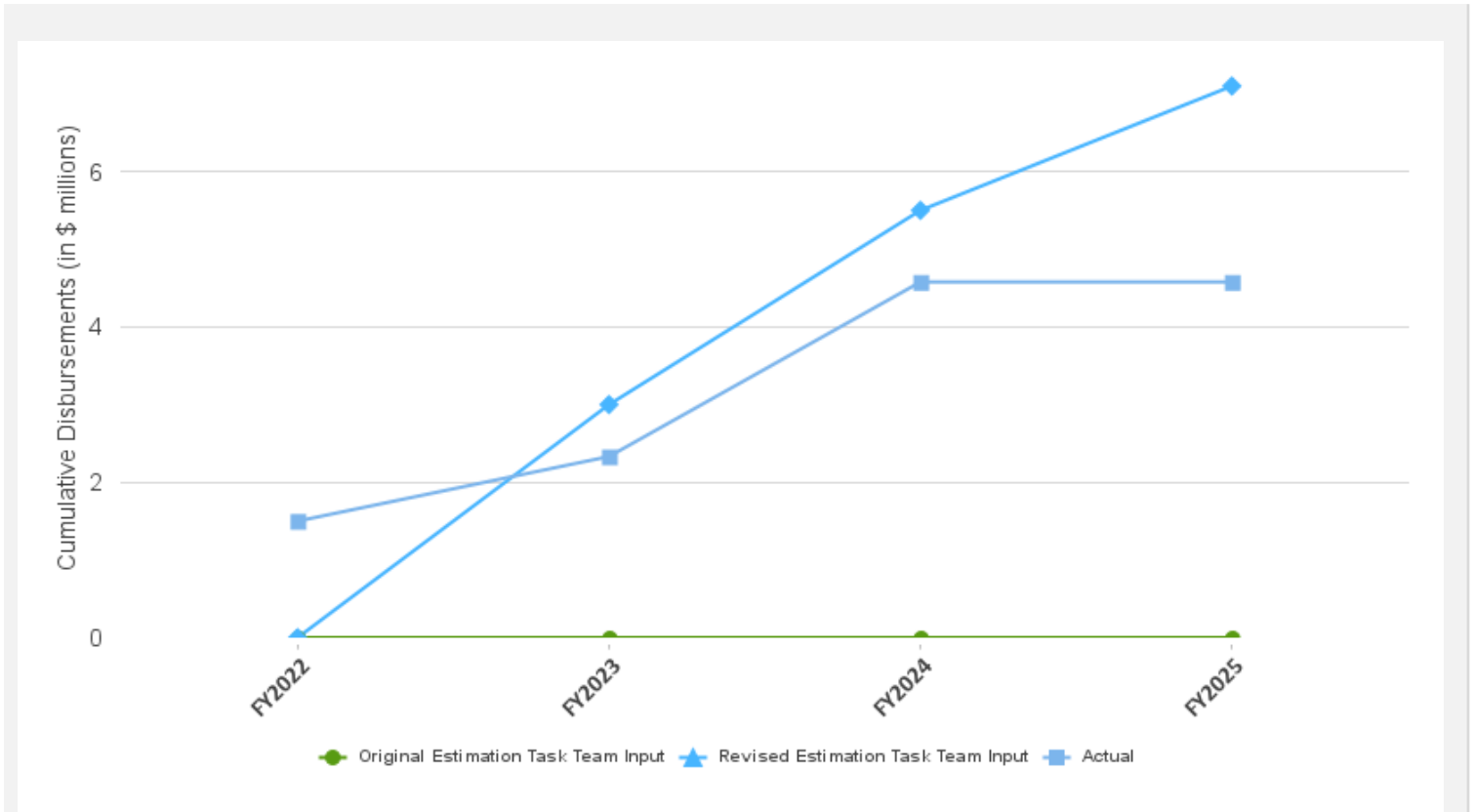
Component 3: Project management, capacity building and technical assistance

Indicator Name	Baseline		Actual (Previous)		Actual (Current)		Closing Period	
	Value	Month/Year	Value	Date	Value	Date	Value	Month/Year
IRI 10: Share of grievances addressed within a certain time period (Percentage)	0.00	Dec/2021	0.00	08-Jul-2024	89	26-Feb-2025	70.00	Feb/2025
	Comments on achieving targets		The grievance pertains to the omission of 543 beneficiaries from the payment list. Verification of payments for the omitted beneficiaries is ongoing.					



7. DATA ON FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

7.1 Cumulative Disbursements



7.2 Disbursements (by loan)

Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
TF-B7784	Closed	7.10	7.10	0.00	7.10	0.00	100.00 %

7.3 Key Dates (by loan)

Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval	Signing	Effectiveness	Orig. Closing	Rev. Closing
TF-B7784	Closed	25-Feb-2022	28-Feb-2022	28-Feb-2022	28-Feb-2025	28-Feb-2025

8. KEY DATES



Key Events	Planned	Actual
Approval	24-Feb-2022	25-Feb-2022
Effectiveness	28-Feb-2022	28-Feb-2022
Mid-Term Review No. 01	29-Jan-2024	30-Jan-2024
Operation Closing/Cancellation	28-Feb-2025	28-Feb-2025

9. RESTRUCTURING HISTORY

Restructuring Level 2 Approved on 09-Jul-2024

10. ASSOCIATED OPERATION(S)

There are no associated operations