

Bridging the Gap: LESOTHO COUNTRY PROFILE

Mapping Gender Data Availability in Africa

Bridging the Gap: Mapping Gender Data Availability in Africa traces the availability and quality of data for 104 gender-relevant indicators across six key domains: health, education, economic empowerment, political participation, human security, and environment. The study covers 15 African countries.

Significant political support exists in Lesotho for improving collection and dissemination of gender data. Financial support for gender data also exists through the well-funded Lesotho Data for Sustainable Development Project.

Like other countries in this study, Lesotho lacks comprehensive gender data. Few health indicators exist at the national level, and few human security indicators exist at both national and international levels. Lesotho's civil registration and vital statistics system also needs improvement.

Lesotho lacks data on key aspects of women's lives

Bridging the Gap assesses indicators published online between 2010 and 2018 in international databases and in national databases maintained by the Lesotho Bureau of Statistics and other official sources. Gaps were identified in four dimensions.



AVAILABILITY

Lesotho's national databases include **55 out of the 104 gender indicators**.



DISAGGREGATION

13 gender indicators lack sex disaggregation in Lesotho's national databases.



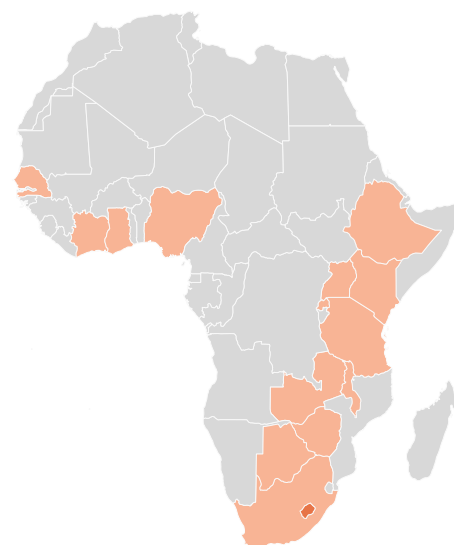
ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS

32 published gender indicators in Lesotho's national databases do not conform to internationally recommended definitions.



TIMELINESS

42 gender indicators in Lesotho's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



The 15 African countries included in this study.

Opportunities to improve gender data in Lesotho

Closing gender data gaps requires time, resources, and capacity. But there is a path to an improved gender data ecosystem:



Publish data from the *2014 Demographic and Health Survey* to strengthen the availability of indicators at the national level. Data are available from this survey through the DHS Stats Compiler website, but indicators derived from the survey are not available in national databases.



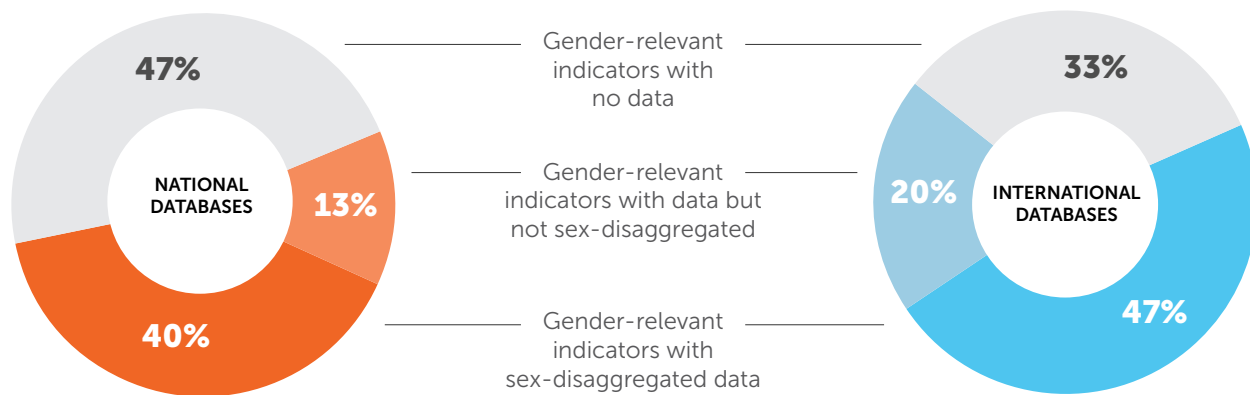
Produce indicators on human security, particularly on crime and violence, that conform to international standards with appropriate disaggregation.



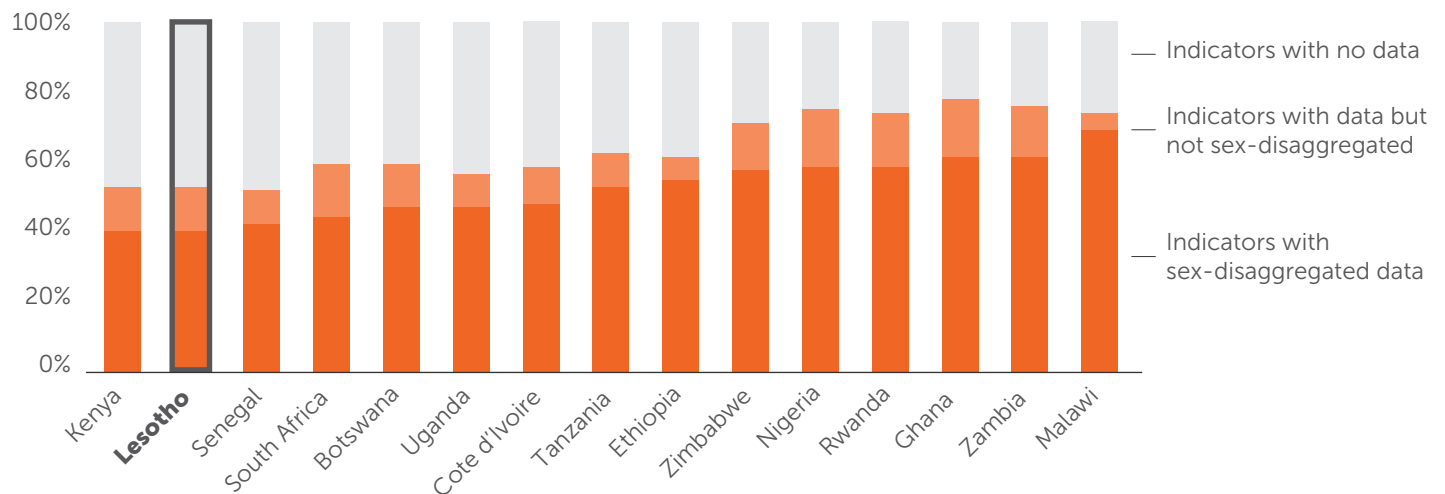
Develop labor force surveys to provide additional indicators on economic opportunities. Existing sources, such as the *Lesotho Demographic Survey 2011* and the *Continuous Multi-Purpose Survey 3rd Quarter 2014/15*, do not provide a complete set of labor force indicators.

A closer look at gender data gaps

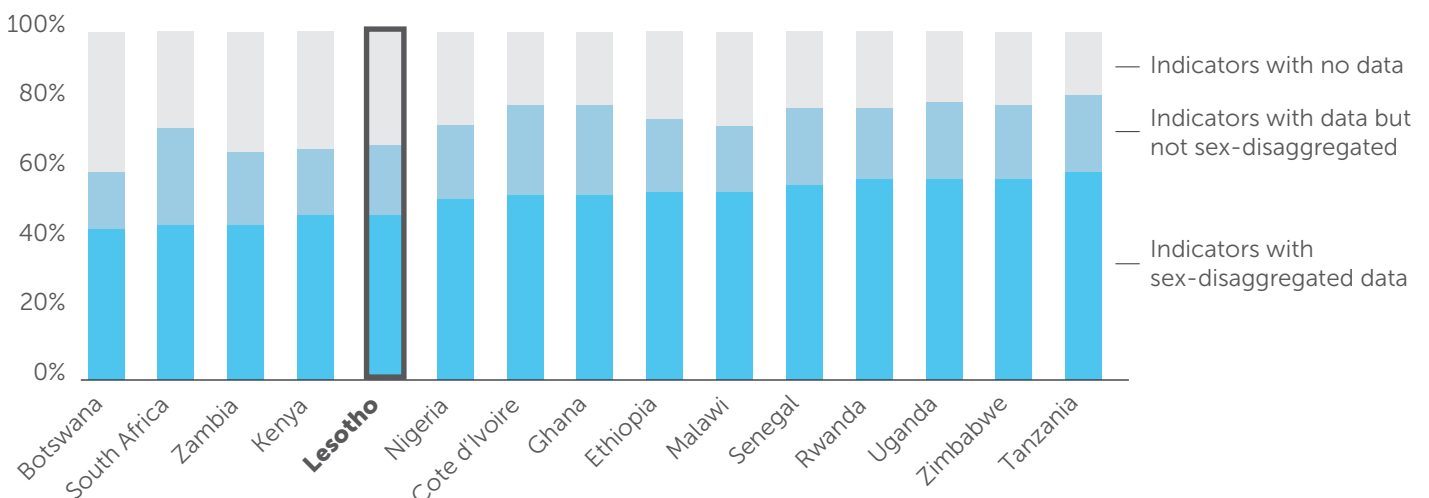
This study assesses data in both national and international databases. Lesotho's national databases lack data for 47 percent of the gender indicators reviewed. Databases maintained by international organizations have better coverage of Lesotho's gender indicators, but 33 percent are still missing.



Lesotho publishes a lower number of gender indicators in **national databases** compared to other countries included in the study.

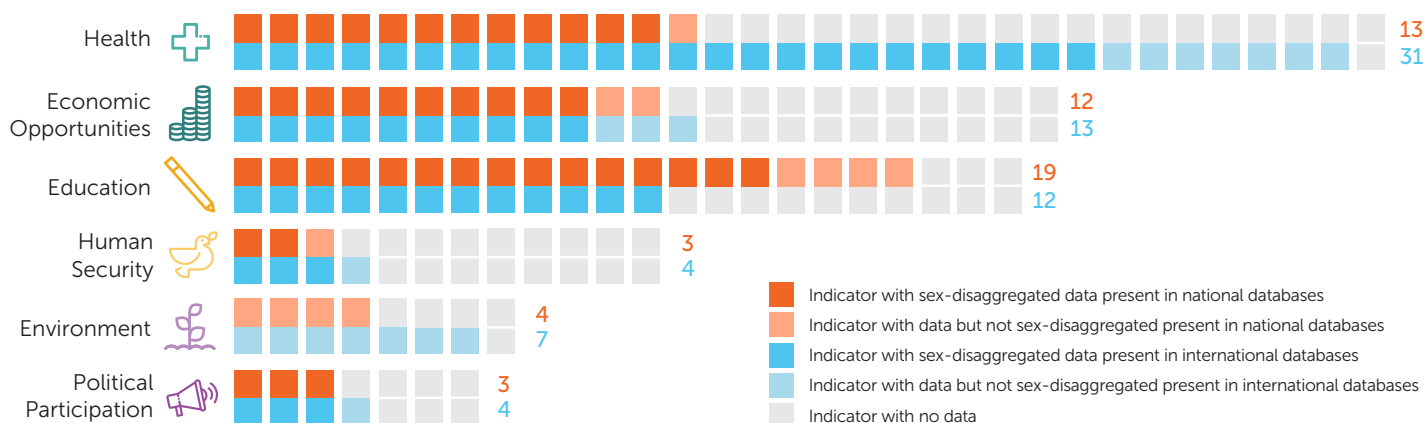


Lesotho publishes an average number of gender indicators in **international databases** compared to other countries included in the study.

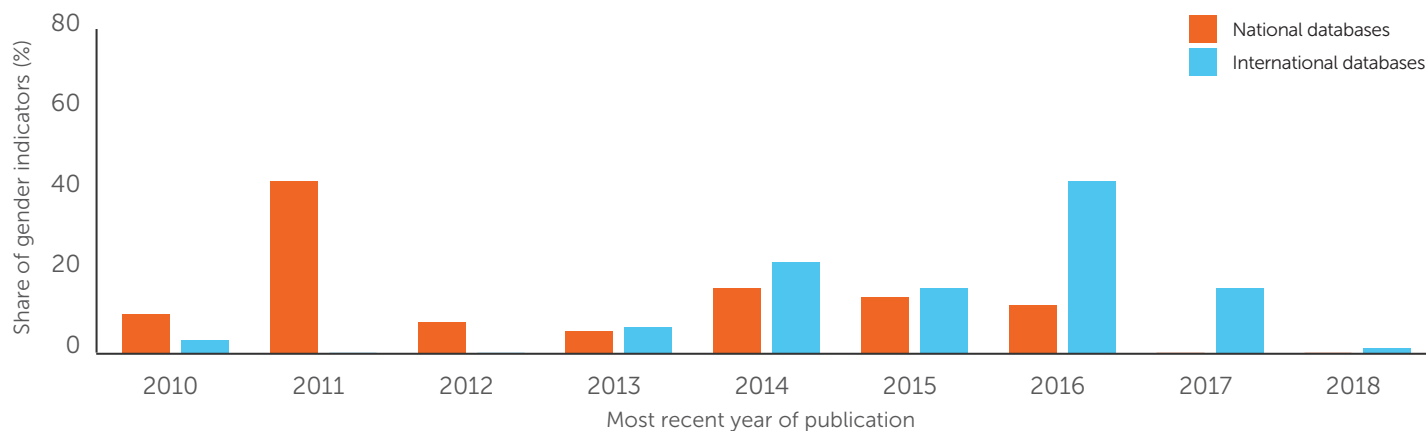


Data availability and timeliness

Health indicators for Lesotho are more available in international databases. Education indicators have the highest availability in national databases. However, there are large gaps in health in national databases and in human security across all databases. There is no sex disaggregation for any environmental indicator.

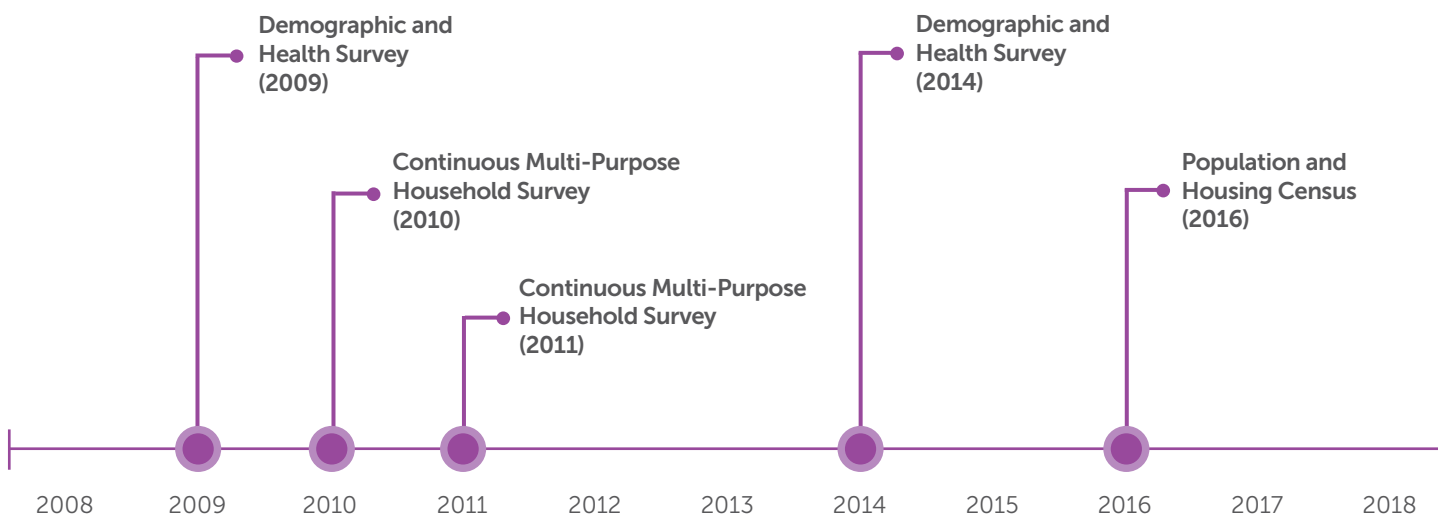


Seventy-six percent of gender indicators in Lesotho's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



Core systems to produce gender data

Many of the gender indicators in Lesotho are produced through surveys, though few surveys have been conducted in recent years. There is a particular need to develop labor force surveys.



Civil registration and vital statistics provide basic demographic and health information. This is especially important for women and children as the data are foundational and help to unleash opportunities and combat discrimination and exclusion. Birth registration rates in Lesotho remain far below the sustainable development goal (SDG) target of universal registration.

43% Children aged 0 to 4 years in Lesotho whose **births were registered**, of which

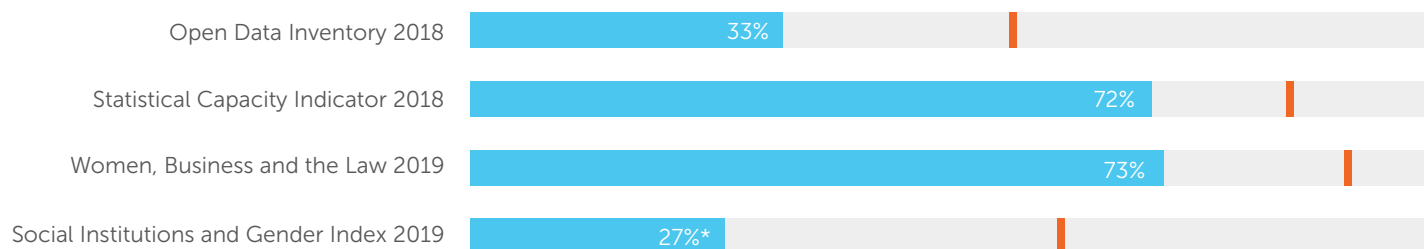
25% Children aged 0 to 4 years were **registered without a birth certificate**

18% Children aged 0 to 4 years were **registered with a birth certificate**

Source: 2014 DHS. The DHS Program STATcompiler. <http://www.statcompiler.com>.

Assessments of Lesotho's data ecosystem

Indexes of open data, statistical capacity, and gender equality provide a more complete picture of Lesotho's statistical and legislative environment.



* Percentile rank among 120 countries worldwide with scores.

Vertical orange line: Highest score for a Sub-Saharan African country

Plans, partnerships, and political support for gender data

Lesotho is taking steps to improve data availability by mainstreaming gender data into national plans, engaging in partnerships, and mobilizing finances.

- The Government of Lesotho has created the **Lesotho Data for Sustainable Development Project** to improve the dissemination of development data and build institutional support for data collection for the SDGs. This initiative has received financial support of 1.4 million USD from the European Union and United Nations Development Program.
- Lesotho's **Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the Agenda 2030** outlines investments made for collecting data for monitoring and evaluating development initiatives for the SDGs. The report mentions significant gaps in the disaggregation of data needed to monitor the SDGs, but does not highlight gaps in sex-disaggregation.
- The **Basotho Women and Men 2010-2012 Statistical Report** discusses the need for disaggregating data by age and sex to estimate population changes, economic dependency, social relationships, and other issues.

To access the full report, please visit bit.ly/BridgingtheGapTechnicalReport



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