

	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-B2022-14.020122-C1-INTPA Total estimated cost: EUR 8 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 8 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1. and 4.3.2 Additionally, part of the action will be implemented by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The European Union's cooperation strategy with Lesotho, the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027, focusses on two priority areas: (1) green and resilient economy and (2) good governance, peaceful and just society. Under the first priority area, EU cooperation aims to facilitate Lesotho's move towards a circular economy that becomes increasingly sustainable and self-sufficient with regard to energy generation and consumption and that provides affordable access for all to energy, water and sanitation. Under the second priority area, EU cooperation supports the process of national reforms undertaken by Lesotho and the improvement of service delivery to the citizenry, particularly social protection.

Equitable Lesotho will contribute to the second priority area by reducing multidimensional poverty in Lesotho. Its specific objectives are to improve the well-being and development for children under five, enhance the effectiveness of social assistance, and ensure that policies and programmes designed and implemented by the government and international partners are based on quality data and statistics and address the needs of those living in the most vulnerable situations. It will contribute to the overall strategy to 'Leave no Mosotho behind', informing all actions under the MIP.

The action foresees two components. The first component will strengthen social assistance and, following a "cash plus" approach, help link cash transfers with additional services such as access to energy, education on nutrition and health, or birth registration. It will also support the Government of Lesotho in the management and updating of the National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA), which has been established with EU funding under the European Development Fund. Innovative and real-time solutions will be supported to update and maintain the system's information.

The second component will support the National Statistical System (NSS), which includes all institutions involved in the development of data and statistics, mainly the Bureau of Statistics (BoS). In the absence of up-to-date legal