

Knowledge Institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020

Lesotho

Introduction

This report about the development of the knowledge institutions in Lesotho was made as part of the preparations for the AfricaKnows! Conference (2 December 2020 – 28 February 2021) in Leiden, and elsewhere, see www.africaknows.eu.



Reports like these can never be complete, and there might also be mistakes. Additions and corrections are welcome! Please send those to dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl

Highlights

- 1 Lesotho's population increased from 0.8 million in 1960, via 1.7 million in 1990 to 2.1 million in 2020.
- 2 The country's literacy rate was 77% in 2014, but much better for women (85%) than for men (68%). Mean Years of Schooling for Adults went up from 4.4 years to 6.4 years for the country as a whole.
- 3 Net primary school enrolment is high (93% in 2017), and net secondary school enrolment as well (41% in 2016, for women even 50%). Expected Years of Schooling for Children increased from 9.6 years in 1990 to 11.0 years in 2010, but deteriorated afterwards to 10.7 years in 2018.
- 4 The capital city Maseru almost always had the best results for all three indicators (for Mean Years of Schooling it was Bera in 2010, and for Expected Years of Schooling Butha-Buthe in 1990-2000) , while Thaba-Tseka always had the worst results, in 2018 shared with Mokhotlong. Regional inequality was either stable or decreased somewhat.
- 5 Gross enrolment for tertiary education is 10% (women 12%), and the number of students in Lesotho's higher education institutions is 21,000, with an additional 3,000 students studying abroad.
- 6 There are nine public and two private tertiary knowledge institutions in the country, and before Independence in 1966 there already were six public ones.
- 7 With one exception all tertiary knowledge institutions can be found in Maseru.
- 8 We listed one think tank and two museums in Lesotho.

Part 1: The Story

Lesotho’s demographic and education development

The Kingdom of Lesotho is located in Southern Africa. Lesotho is an enclaved country within the borders of South Africa.

Lesotho was a British colony from 1869 onwards under the name of Basutoland. The country became independent in 1966 as the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Lesotho’s population increased from 837,270 in 1960 to 2.1 million in mid-2020. In 1960, only 3.6% of the Lesothian population lived in cities (only 29,906 people), while the urban population has increased to 31.5% or 674,092 in 2020. Lesotho’s largest city is Maseru .

Lesotho’s life expectancy increased from 43.6 years for males and 52.7 years for females in 1960 to 52.5 years for males and 58.9 years for females currently. The median age first decreased from 17.6 years in 1960 to 16.9 years in 1985. Since then, it started to increase and is presently 24.0 years. In 1960 an average woman gave birth to 5.9 live-born children. Since then, the fertility rate is decreasing and currently an average woman gives birth to 3.2 live-born children¹.



Source: geology.com

¹ <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/lesotho-population/>

Enrolment and literacy

Lesotho's literacy rate was assessed to be 77% in 2014, with women having much better literacy abilities than men (85% for women, and 68% for men). Of the youth (15-24 years old) 43,000 males and 13,000 females were regarded as illiterate in 2014. For the adult population as a whole these figures are 212,000 for males and only 105,000 for females.

In Lesotho, education is compulsory from age 6 to 12, a total of seven years. Lesotho's population of primary school age children (6-12 years) is about 0.3 million children². Currently, 93% of the primary school age group attend primary school. Children with the age to attend secondary school (13-17 years) are 0.2 million. 41% are attending secondary school according to the latest figures (2016): males 33% and females leading at 50%. Finally, 212,000 people are in the age category to attend tertiary education (people between 18 and 22). The gross enrolment rates for tertiary education was 10% in 2018, with females at 12%, and males at 8%, again, lagging behind. The total number of students in the country's higher education institutions is 21,000. In recent years, ca 3,000 students from Lesotho study abroad, but that was between 4,000 and 4,500 around 2010³.

Regional differentiation of education results in Lesotho, 1990-2018

The information provided by the Globaldatalab about the subregional human development index, its components and its indicators (<https://globaldatalab.org/shdi>) provides data for the period between 1990 and 2018, and uses ten regions. Between 1990 and 2018 the population of Lesotho as a whole increased with 124%, but regional differences are considerable: from 144 in Mokhotlong in the northeast to 100% in Mafeteng in the southwest and Qasha's Nek in the southeast.

The Globaldatalab provides data about the education index (one of the three indexes that together form the Human Development Index), and about two relevant indicators: mean years of schooling, showing the average education level of the adult population per region, and expected years of education, showing the expected number of years current children will attend schools.

We present the data for the years 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2018 (the latest year available at the moment). See table 1-4 in part 2.

Education index

The education index is one of the elements of the human development index, and for Lesotho as a whole it increased steadily from .415 in 1990 to .510 in 2018. Also all ten regions show a steady increase, with Berea in the northwest the fastest improvements, and Butha-Buthe in the north the slowest. The region with capital city Maseru always had the best results. The region with the worst results was first Thaba-Tseka, in centre-east, and in 2018 Mokhotlong. Regional inequality was more or less stable.

² <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/ls>

³ <https://tradingeconomics.com/lesotho/total-outbound-internationally-mobile-tertiary-students-studying-abroad-all-countries-both-sexes-number-wb-data.html>

Mean Years of Schooling for Adults

According to UNESCO, ‘Mean Years of Schooling’ is an indicator about the “average number of completed years of education of a country's population aged 25 years and older, excluding years spent repeating individual grades”⁴. In Lesotho this indicator steadily increased from 4.4 years in 1990 to 6.4 years in 2018. The fastest improvements happened in Berea, and the slowest in Mochali's Hoek in the southwest. With the exception of 2010, Maseru always was the best region (in 2010 it was Berea), while Thaba-Tseka showed the worst results (and in 2018 this bottom position was shared with Mokhotlong). Regional inequality was quite high in 1990 and 2000, but improved somewhat afterwards.

Expected Years of Schooling for Children

UNDP defines the ‘expected years of schooling’ as the: “Number of years of schooling that a child of school entrance age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates persist throughout the child's life”⁵. In Lesotho there was a steady increase for the country as a whole, and for all its ten regions between 1990 and 2010, but between 2010 and 2018 the situation deteriorated for the country as a whole and in seven of its ten regions. For Butha-Buthe it even meant that 2018 had a lower figure than 1990. For African standards figures are quite high, though: for the country as a whole they improved from 9.6 years in 1990 to 11.0 years in 2010, to fall back to 10.7 years in 2018. The best region was first Butha-Buthe, and that position shifted to Maseru in and after 2010. The worst position was and is for Thaba-Tseka, in 2018 shared with Mokhotlong. The fastest (but modest) improvements have happened in Qasha's Nek. Regional inequality is low, and more or less stable for this indicator.

Lesotho's tertiary knowledge development

Lesotho currently has 11 universities or other tertiary institutions. There are 9 public ones and 2 private ones, a few of them with a religious background. University education already started in 1905. The number of private tertiary institutions started to grow from 2010 onwards. Almost all tertiary institutions in Lesotho are located in or near the capital city Maseru. The only exception is the Maluti Adventist College which is located in the city Mapoteng. There are also some think tanks and museums in Lesotho (more spread out in the country). The 4icu ranking of African universities lists none of the Universities in Lesotho as among the 200 top universities of Africa. See tables 5 and 6 in part 2.

Historically the development of the number of universities is as given in the following table.

Lesotho's universities and other tertiary institutions 1960 – 2020

Type	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Public	5	6	7	8	8	8	8	9	9	9
Private	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
Total	5	6	7	8	8	8	8	10	11	11

⁴ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/glossary-term/mean-years-schooling>

⁵ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/expected-years-schooling-children-years>

Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (<https://www.4icu.org/bj/>), and <https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/>), World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); and the websites of the institutions, if available.

Public and private universities in Lesotho



(Public) National University of Lesotho⁶



Lesotho College of Education⁷

Think tanks and other knowledge institutions in Lesotho

According to the 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report, there are 4 think tanks or research institutes in Lesotho, outside the university system, but only for one of them further details have been given. See table 7 in part 2. According to UNESCO there were ca 120 employed researchers in the country in 2015 (57/million; 37% female); 80% of them worked in higher education, and 20% in (other) government positions. In 2009 there were more than 200⁸.

Museums in Lesotho



Lesotho National Museum: <https://moma.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/lesothonationalmuseum1-1024x568.png>

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https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/56/National_University_of_Lesotho_Administration_Block.jpg

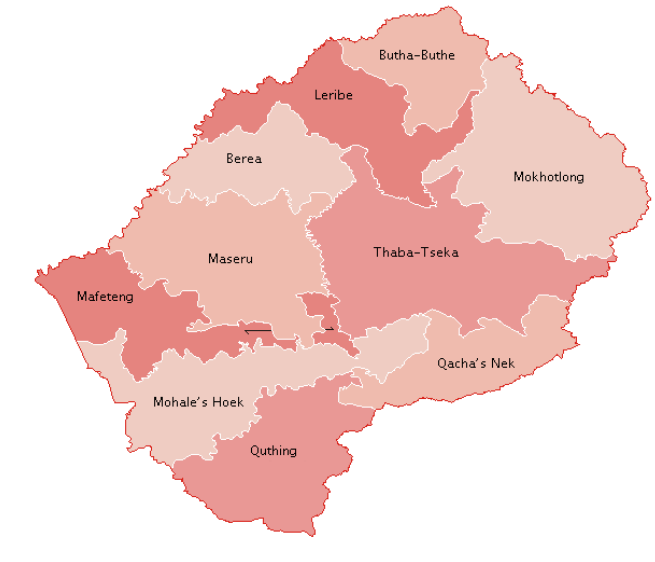
⁷ <https://free-apply.com/en/university/1042600001>

⁸ <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/ls?theme=science-technology-and-innovation>

Most museums in Lesotho are historical cultural museums, and with locations in various parts of the country. In table 8, part 2, we listed two museums, one in Maseru and one in Morija.

Part 2: The Data

Map and Table 1: Regions in Lesotho, and population 1990 and 2018

Map	Region	Population x 1000		'18/'90
		1990	2018	
	Berea	190	260	1.37
	Butha-Buthe	110	130	1.18
	Leribe	230	330	1.43
	Mafeteng	190	190	1.00
	Maseru	410	480	1.17
	Mohali's Hoek	170	220	1.29
	Mokhotlong	90	130	1.44
	Qasha's Nek	70	70	1.00
	Quthing	120	130	1.09
	Thaba-Tseka	120	170	1.42
	Total Lesotho		1700	2110

Source: <https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0

Map: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/97/Lesotho.geohive.gif>

Table 2: Lesotho: Education index 1990-2018⁹

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Berea	411	445	543	554	1.35
Butha-Buthe	440	477	494	489	1.11
Leribe	434	471	497	520	1.20
Mafeteng	402	436	472	511	1.27
Maseru	464	504	547	573	1.23
Mohali's Hoek	390	423	447	464	1.19
Mokhotlong	355	385	429	417	1.17
Qasha's Nek	364	395	465	489	1.34
Quthing	380	412	448	474	1.25
Thaba-Tseka	344	373	396	418	1.22
Total	415	450	492	510	1.23
Inequality	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	

<https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0

Table 3: Lesotho, Regional data for 'mean years of schooling for adults'

⁹ The HDI data, and its components go from 0 (worst level) to 1 (best level). We present the figures x 1000. The inequality figure is the highest value divided by the lowest value in a particular year.

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Berea	4.1	4.6	6.6	7.3	1.78
Butha-Buthe	4.4	4.9	5.5	6.0	1.36
Leribe	4.6	5.1	5.9	6.5	1.41
Mafeteng	4.2	4.7	5.3	6.3	1.50
Maseru	5.6	6.2	6.5	7.6	1.36
Mohali's Hoek	4.0	4.4	4.8	5.3	1.33
Mokhotlong	3.4	3.7	4.5	4.7	1.38
Qasha's Nek	3.7	4.1	4.8	5.6	1.51
Quting	3.6	4.0	4.4	5.3	1.47
Thaba-Tseka	3.2	3.5	4.0	4.7	1.47
Total	4.4	4.9	5.6	6.4	1.45
Inequality	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6	

<https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0

Table 4: Lesotho, Regional data for 'expected years of schooling for children'

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Berea	9.9	10.6	11.6	11.2	1.13
Butha-Buthe	10.6	11.3	11.1	10.4	0.98
Leribe	10.1	10.8	10.8	10.9	1.08
Mafeteng	9.4	10.1	10.6	10.8	1.15
Maseru	10.0	10.7	11.9	11.5	1.15
Mohali's Hoek	9.3	9.9	10.3	10.4	1.12
Mokhotlong	8.7	9.4	10.1	9.4	1.08
Qasha's Nek	8.7	9.3	11.0	10.9	1.25
Quting	9.3	10.0	10.8	10.7	1.15
Thaba-Tseka	8.6	9.2	9.4	9.4	1.09
Total	9.6	10.3	11.0	10.7	1.11
Inequality	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	

<https://globaldatalab.org> 4.0

Table 5: Public Universities in Lesotho

University	Year of establishment	Location
Lerotholi Polytechnic (https://www.lp.ac.ls/)	1905	Maseru
National University of Lesotho (http://www.nul.ls/) (4icu rank: 1 in Lesotho)	1945	Maseru
Police Training College (https://worldscholarshipforum.com/lesotho-mounted-police-service-recruitment/)	1946	Maseru
Lesotho Agricultural College (http://www.che.ac.ls/lesotho-agricultural-college-profile/#)	1954	Maseru
Maluti Adventist College (https://www.mac.co.ls/index.php/en/)	1958	Mapoteng
Scott College of Nursing (http://www.scottcon.ac.ls/)	1961	Maseru
Lesotho College of Education (http://www.lce.ac.ls/) (4icu	1975	Maseru

rank: 2 in Lesotho)		
National Health Training College (NHTC) (http://www.che.ac.ls/national-health-training-college-accredited-programmes/)	1989	Maseru
Lesotho Boston Health Alliance	2007	Maseru

Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (<https://www.4icu.org/bj/>), and <https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/>), World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); and the websites of the institutions, if available.

Table 6: Private Universities in Lesotho

University	Year of establishment	Location	Religious affiliation
Limkokwing University of Creative Technology (https://www.limkokwing.net/)	2008 (1991)	Maseru	No
Botho University (https://lesotho.bothouniversity.com/)	2015 (1997)	Maseru	No

Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (<https://www.4icu.org/bj/>), and <https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/>), World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); and the websites of the institutions, if available.

Table 7: Think tanks and other knowledge institutions in Lesotho

Think tanks	Year of establishment	Location
Policy Analysis and Research Institute of Lesotho (https://www.facebook.com/parilesotho/about/)	2012	Maseru

(Sources; https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=think_tanks (for: 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report); <http://africathinktanks.org/think-tanks>)

Table 8: Museums in Lesotho.

Museums	websites	Location
Morija Museum & Archives	http://www.morija.co.ls/museum/	Morija
Lesotho National Museum	https://moma.org/directory/lesotho-national-museum/	Maseru

source: Wikipedia: Museums, and other sources, like <https://www.arts-store.com/mus%C3%A9es-museums-world-1/>). Not included: cultural centres

This report was made by Anne van Gent, African Studies Centre Leiden, and extended by Ton Dietz (also ASCL).