



ACTION LESOTHO

Humanitarian and Development Aid
from Ireland to the Kingdom of Lesotho

SUMMARY of STRATEGIC PLAN 2011- 2014

Lesotho is a small landlocked country in Southern Africa with a population of under 2 million people. As a consequence of HIV/AIDS it has an increasingly large number of orphans and vulnerable children, and much of the arable land lies neglected. Since 2006 Action Lesotho (previously Twinning the Kingdoms) has been working with local committees to provide food and health-care to orphans and those suffering from HIV/AIDS in a number of rural communities near Maputsoe in north-western Lesotho.

The Board of Directors of Action Lesotho has approved a Strategic Plan for the period 2011 to 2014, the focus of which is to develop the capacity of the local community to meet the humanitarian needs of the most disadvantaged from within their own resources as far as possible, and to access whatever help is available from government sources. **Our objective is to develop a low cost sustainable model of support that can be replicated in other areas of Lesotho in the future.** A key feature will be the development of management skills to oversee and operate all aspects of these projects.

Therefore the Board decided to consolidate its operations in Lesotho and focus on three main areas:

a) Building up the capacity of our Basotho team to manage all our projects in Lesotho. For this purpose, we appointed Pippa Kearon from Waterville as our Management Consultant on a contract funded mainly by Irish Aid, to provide management training to our team and to our volunteer committees.

b) Moving the emphasis from humanitarian aid to development aid, with the objective of building the capacity of the local community to produce more food and generate more income for themselves, so that in the long term they will be able to meet the humanitarian needs of their community from their own resources, and become less dependent on foreign aid. In the meantime, we will, of course, continue to provide the present level of humanitarian assistance as long as it is required.

c) Developing a sustainable model of food security and community development in the Leribe district, that can be replicated in other areas of Lesotho and managed by Basotho.



The plan will be delivered through three pieces of infrastructure which we have put in place over the last few years, or which we are developing at present:

i) A Community Development Centre from which humanitarian aid will be delivered by local committees, where training programmes can be carried out, and where community activities can take place.

ii) A Tillage Farm and Mill which will produce home-grown food for the disadvantaged members of the community from previously neglected land, and will act as a demonstration model of how local farmers can move from subsistence to commercial farming, and thus become less dependent on imported food.

iii) An Enterprise Development Centre through which local people can be trained and facilitated in starting their own small businesses.

It is our hope that each of these centres of activity will be self-financing by the end of the three-year programme. In the meantime, we will need to put in place funding for the salaries of a number of key Basotho employees who will run these operations, and we are looking for corporate sponsorship for this purpose.



Food security



Enterprise development



Community building

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