**Lesotho**

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| Institutional Partner | Ministry of Home Affairs |
| Project dates | March 31, 2021 – April 30, 2022 |
| Project Title | Excess Mortality due to COVID-19 |

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| **Project Objectives** | **Project Outcomes and Impact** |
| * Assess excess mortality in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic to evaluate the pandemic on all-cause mortality in the country.
* Build local capacity on collation and analysis of all-cause of death data to determine excess deaths attributable of the pandemic.
* Collaborate with the Ministry of Public Health on evidence-based decision making on the impact of COVID-19 on mortality.
 | * Organized a virtual training session on excess mortality calculation and rapid mortality surveillance for in-country staff and trained 92 district registration officers on death notification, registration, and reporting. These training sessions enhanced the ministry’s capabilities in reporting and analyzing excess mortality data.
* Collected excess mortality data and drafted a report analyzing excess mortality in Lesotho. Presented key findings of the report to CRVS stakeholders for review, validation, and dissemination.
* Implemented a newly created CRVS Monitoring and Evaluation Plan within the Ministry of Home Affairs as part of the ministry’s five-year Strategic Plan.
* Development of a dashboard that displays graphical representations of excess mortality analysis is currently underway. The dashboard will provide policymakers with mortality data in real-time to guide their decision-making processes.
* Drafted and published Verbal Autopsy SOPs that will be utilized by field officers.
* Strengthened ties between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Home Affairs as a result of the close collaboration on this project.
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| **Project Sustainability** |
| * The calculation of excess mortality in Lesotho contributes to evidence-based decision making within the government in formulating a response to COVID-19.
* District registration officers who gained skills in death notification and reporting will utilize their skillset in analyzing similar excess mortality exercises that go beyond the scope of this project.
* Following project closure, the Ministry of Health plans to conduct further analysis regarding excess mortality.
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| **Project Outputs** |
| * [Excess Mortality in Lesotho due to COVID-19](https://vital.box.com/s/k7xzty9tgavojt2fwp3322ix6ywdivna)
 | * [MOHA Monitoring and Evaluation Report](https://vital.box.com/s/u9klwtte1zmub9z38rkqambzbcgocojg)
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***“…The (excess mortality) report will in the future assist in fighting other pandemics in the country…***

*Tumelo Raboletsi, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs*

*Figure 1: CRVS stakeholders discuss report findings*