



Social Development Sub-Committee Tour Mohale Projects



The Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) Sustainable Development Sub-Committee (SUB-COM) undertook a tour of the Mohale catchment on the 18th of September 2024. The objective of the tour was to observe progress and get feedback of the affected communities' developmental projects.

The Sub-Com plays a critical role in ensuring that the social and developmental aspects of the project are successfully addressed, and the affected communities are empowered and supported throughout the project lifecycle as per Treaty obligations.

The tour commenced with the inspection of the Ha Thetsane communities' houses renovation project. The Ha Thetsane communities have been relocated due to the construction of the Mohale Dam major works. There are 24 households under revamp, and some of these families are currently placed at rented houses at LHDA costs to enable renovation of the 26 houses which are reported to be in worst state of disrepair due to construction faults and other environmental issues discovered by LHDA while monitoring their living conditions. The refurbishment is currently at 95% completion stage. The plan is that the communities will start moving back to their home's week-ending September 2024.

The second leg was the visit to the Ha Phaloane on-going water supply project, R&D Senior Officer – Project Planning & Co-ordination Mr Naleli Martins explained that one reason for the project to be behind schedule emanates from issues of Ha Tumahole and Ha Phaloane communities where the Ha Tumahole communities want to benefit from water project because the tank is proposed to be placed within their area. He however indicated that LHDA is in talks with Ratau community council to resolve the conflict.

The third round of this tour by the Sub-Com was a Ha Seoehlana water and sanitation project in which 310 ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines construction is completed. A total of 310 private water standpipes are also under construction for the same number of households. The standpipes are metered so this means that each household will be billed so that electricity purchases will not be interrupted since this is a pumping system where water is pumped from two sources at lower elevations to two reservoirs at higher elevations above the sprawling village. The combined capacity of the storage tanks is 80 m³. The project is almost complete what remains is for LEC to connect electricity and test the pumping system for the main tank supply.

The tour was closed with the inspection of the ongoing rehabilitation works at Ha Mohale and Ha Motloang. To ensure protection and conservation of rehabilitated areas the rehabilitation works are coordinated by the two grazing associations at Ha Mohale and Ha Motloang, after getting their wages the two associations have introduced self-taxation where the funds collected will be used to start livelihoods projects to ensure sustainability of the association.

