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# Does foreign aid make a difference? a case study of the Boseele Association in Northern Lesotho.

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# DOES FOREIGN AID MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

# A CASE STUDY OF THE BOSEELE ASSOCIATION IN NORTHERN LESOTHO

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A research report submitted to the Wits School of Education,
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## Abstract

Lesotho is a country plagued by underdevelopment and poverty. This research is a case study of an indigenous community organisation in the northern district of Botha-Bothe in Lesotho. Boseele is a rural development organisation which attracted international donor investment in the aftermath of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. The study aims at investigating the impact of capacity development processes on Boseele and its members. The study identified capacity building landmarks over a period of ten years. A case study approach was used within a qualitative research design. Data was collected through individual and group interviews, observations, story-telling and transect walks. The results were analysed through thematic, chronological, narrative and document analysis. Boseele's successes with CIDA funding reflect positive foreign aid contributions towards the work of civil society organisations in Lesotho. However, setbacks and lack of continuity by a nursery project funded by MS-Lesotho show that the empowerment process is vulnerable where social and economic problems of individual members and communities are not fully addressed.



**TEN KEY WORDS:** capacity building; foreign donor interventions; community; rural development; human capital theory; empowerment; conscientisation; networks and collaboration; sustainable development.

# Declaration

I, Lineo Rose Johnson, am a student registered for M.Ed., in 2008–2011.

I hereby declare that plagiarism is wrong. I confirm that this research report is my own unaided work except where I have explicitly indicated and have followed the required conventions in referencing the thoughts and ideas of others.

I understand that the University of the Witwatersrand may take disciplinary action against me if there is a belief that this is not my own unaided work or that I have failed to acknowledge the source of the ideas or words in my writing.

Signature: L.R. Johnson……

Date: June, 2011

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## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

| | |
|---|---|
| CIDA | Canadian International Development Agency |
| CSOs/NSAs | Civil Society organisations/Non-State Actors |
| - CBOs | Community-Based Organisations |
| - NGOs | Non-Governmental Organisations |
| - FBOs | Faith-based Organisations |
| DDLO | District Development Liaison Office/r |
| DVS/MS-Lesotho | Danish Volunteers Service known as MS-Lesotho |
| ECD | Early Childhood Development |
| EDA-L | European Development Agencies in Lesotho |
| ETDP | Education, Training and Development Practice/Practitioner |
| EU – EC - LGNSP | European Union - European Commission - Local Governance and Non State Actors Programme |
| GoL | Government of Lesotho |
| GTZ | Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Technische Zusammenarbett |
| HIV and AIDS | Human Immunodeficiency Virus – Acquired Immuno deficiency Syndrome |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| LCN | Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations |
| LHWP | Lesotho Highlands Water Project |
| MoU-MoA | Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement |
| NUL-IEMS | National University of Lesotho - Institute of Extra Mural Studies |
| SCIL - | Strengthening Civil Society in Lesotho |
| SMMEs | Small and Medium Enterprises |
| UK - DfID | United Kingdom - Department for International Development |
| UN - MDGs | United Nations - Millennium Development Goals |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| USAID | United States of America International Development Aid |
| WV-ADPs | World Vision Area Development Projects |