

News from the DLN



Another year has passed by. The Christmas Holiday and 2014 are approaching quickly. It is time to reflect upon what has happened the passed year and to look ahead. In DLN we are looking forward to another year of cooperation with all our partners in Lesotho. 2013 has been very fruitful and we hope 2014 will be even better. It is a great wish for us that our partners contribute to DLN's newsletter. Brief or long articles - please share it with us! In DLN we think a lot about our partners in Lesotho, but we also hope our Danish members are satisfied with the newsletter and we would like to receive your contributions and feedback. You can send your comments to: ann@nrnd.dk

In addition, please let us know if you change your email address (in Lesotho as well as Denmark). DLN would like to keep in contact with you and give you opportunity to read the newsletter. It is therefore important to have the correct emails so we can keep in contact.

Endnu et år er næsten gået. Samtidigt med, at julen nærmer sig, nærmer der sig også et nyt år. Det er tid til at se sig tilbage og også til at se frem. I DLN ser vi frem til endnu et år med samarbejde med vore partnere i Lesotho. Vi har haft et godt samarbejde i 2013 og håber, at 2014 bliver endnu et godt samarbejdsår. Det er et stort ønske, at partnere i Lesotho eller andre, der modtager nyhedsbrevet, bidrager til nyhedsbrevet med indlæg. Kort eller langt. Skriv løs!

DLN arbejder meget i at tænke på partnerne i Lesotho, men vi håber, at danske medlemmer er glade for at få nyhedsbrevet. Er der nogen danskere, der har noget på hjerte – ris eller ros - hører vi gerne om det. Vi modtager ligeledes meget gerne indlæg til nyhedsbrevet. Alle indlæg bedes sendt til: aan@nrnd.dk.

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Membership of DLN

Samtidigt skal det siges, at det er vigtigt at melde ud, når nogen får en ny e-mail adresse Det gælder både i Lesotho og i Danmark. DLN vil meget gerne holde kontakten og give mulighed for at læse nyhedsbrevet. Derfor beder vi jer give os de rigtige kontaktoplysninger.

DLN afholder sin næste generalforsamling lørdag den 22. marts 2014 i Aarhus

HUSK at sætte KRYDS i kalenderen

News from the Executive Board

By: Anne Andersen

Congratulations! CISU has approved a new project in 2014 carried out by Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) and DLN. The group has worked hard and it has been very fruitfull. Thank you for the great work. Anne-Marie will elaborate on the project below in this newspaper.



Marie and Lisbet just came home from Maseru where they evaluated the project DLN is carrying out together with Development of Peace Education (DPE) in 2013. A lot of activities are going on and other have been carried out already. It is therefore decided to apply for a new three year project period in the beginning of 2014.

Somebody has hacked into DLN's website. It happened just after the last newsletter was send out. If somebody has tried to search for

Nyt fra bestyrelsen

Af: Anne Andersen

Hurraaaaaa. Ruaral Self-help Development Association (RSDA) og DLN har fået en ny bevilling til et projekt mere i 2014. Gruppens store arbejde har båret frugt. Tillykke og tak for det fine stykke arbejde. Anne-Marie skriver mere om det et andet sted i nyhedsbrevet.

Marie og Lisbet har lige været i Maseru for at evaluere det projekt DLN har kørt sammen med Development of Pease Education (DPE) i indeværende år. Meldingerne derfra er, at der er gang i en masse, og at der er positivt aktivitet. Det er besluttet at bruge begyndelsen af 2014 til at arbejde på at få en ny treårig projektperiode med DPE.

DLN har fået hacket sin hjemmeside. Det skete lige efter, at det sidste nyhedsbrev blev sendt ud. Hvis nogen af jer har forsøgt at finde oplysninger om DLN den vej, vil I have mødt først en tom side og siden en forklarende side. Det er ret surt, for siden skal skabes forfra. Lisbet og Andreas er i gang med processen i deres fritid.

DLN har et CVR-nummer. Derfor skal DLN, ligesom alle andre virksomheder og foreninger have en e-boks, så det offentlige kan sende e-post. Det har vi lige fået i november.

Tidligere på året var der annonceret en turistrejse til Lesotho. Den måtte desværre aflyses. Der var kun tilmeldt en deltager. Der

information about DLN, they would have been met with an empty page and an explanation. It means that the page needs to be recovered, and Lisbet and Andreas are working on it in their spare time.

Earlier this year a tourist trip to Lesotho was advertised. Unfortunately only one participant signed up and the trip was cancelled. There need to be around 10 or 20 to make a trip. So if you know anybody who could be interested please let us know in the DLN board.

The board has carried out a financial MANGO test of DLN as an organisation. This is a tool showing the degree of financial strength of Non-Governmental Organisations. DLN will also introduce this test to all our partners. DPE in Lesotho has already completed the test as a part of Marie and Lisbet's visit. The result of the testing of DLN showed room for a few improvements, and the board will work on that in the nearer future.

A new project period for the DLN and RSDA partnership

Written by: Anne-Marie Erikstrup Hansen

A new project period for the partnership between Denmark Lesotho Network and Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) has just been approved by CISU (Civil Society in Development).

RSDA and DLN have earlier implemented the project: "Building capacity of small scale farmers through water harvesting and

skal være tæt på 10 eller tæt på 20 personer, for at det er muligt at lave en rejse, der er til at betale for deltagerne. Er der nogen af jer, der læser dette nyhedsbrev, der synes, at det er en god ide at arrangere en ny rejse, vil bestyrelsen meget gerne høre om det.



Bestyrelsen har MANGO-testet sig selv. Det er en test, der skal vise i hvor høj grad DLN er en sund forening. Samtidig er det en test, DLN fremover vil udsætte partnerne for. Faktisk er DPE blevet udsat for den nu, mens Lisbet og Marie evaluerede. Da DLN blev testet, var der nogle punkter, der kunne forbedres. Det vil bestyrelsen indarbejde i den kommende tid.

Ny projektperiode for partnerskabet mellem DLN og RSDA

Af: Anne-Marie Erikstrup Hansen

Denmark Lesotho Network og Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) har netop fået godkendt en ny projektperiode ved CISU (Civil Society In Development).

RSDA og DLN har tidligere implementeret projektet "Building capacity of small scale farmers through water harvesting and vegetable production" (2005-2007) samt projektet

vegetable production" (2005-2007) and the project: "Strengthening small scale farmer producer groups in Lesotho" (2011-2013).

In August 2013 RSDA and DLN submitted a new application for a partnership activity titled: "Strengthening RSDA skills/Political influence of smallholder farmers in Lesotho" and the 13th November the news arrived, that CISU had approved the application.

It is DLN and RSDA's wish to build on their experience with capacity building of farmer groups in Lesotho. Signe and Anders Hedegaard from the Danish DLN visited Lesotho during the winter, where they drafted the guidelines for the following project



together with RSDA. The shared mission is to support the farmer groups in Lesotho in their efforts to influence their livelihood. The vision is to create farmer organisations across Lesotho, which can affect local and national policymakers, similar to powerful Danish agricultural organisations. This is an ambitious vision which requires persistence, stability and improved capacity.

The new partnership activity will improve RSDA's capacity to support the farmer groups and umbrella organisations. The cooperation between RSDA and the farmer groups will be

"Strengthening small scale farmer producer groups in Lesotho" (2011 – 2013).

I august blev der så indgivet ansøgning om en partnerskabsindsats gældende for 2014 med titlen "Strengthening RSDA skills / Political influence of smallholder farmers in Lesotho", og den 13. november kom den gode nyhed om, at bevillingen blev godkendt.



Hos DLN og RSDA var der et fælles ønske om at bygge videre på partnerskabet omkring kapacitetsopbygningen af landsmandsgrupper i Lesotho. Signe og Anders Hedegaard fra den danske del af projektgruppen tog derfor af sted til Lesotho i sommer, hvor de sammen med RSDA udarbejdede retningslinjerne for det kommende projekt. Den fælles mission er at understøtte landmandsgrupper i Lesotho i deres bestræbelser på at få indflydelse på egne levevilkår. Visionen er landboorganisationer på tværs af Lesotho som, i lighed med danske (magtfulde) landboorganisationer, gør deres indflydelse gældende overfor lokale og nationale beslutningstagere. En ambitiøs vision som kræver vedholdenhed, stabilitet og kapacitet.

Partnerskabsinterventionen skal fremme RSDAs kapacitet til at understøtte landmandsgrupperne og deres paraplyorganisationer. RSDAs strategi i forhold til samarbejdet med disse landmandsgrupper vil blive analyseret og

analysed and adapted the current need of the farmer groups. The basis of this analysis will be the experiences from the previously two projects in the RSDA-DLN partnership.



The new project has a budget of 498.000 DKK for the 12 months period and it is the hope that the coming project will add another phase after 2014.

Evaluation visit at DPE

Below you can see the programme for Lisbeth and Marie's evaluation visit at DPE in Lesotho. Lisbeth took a lot of photos on the trip, but unfortunately she lost her mobile phone on the way home with all the pictures. They have just returned to Denmark, and did not have time to share their experiences with Lumela.dk yet. But hopefully the programme will give a good expression of the hard work DPE and DLN have done during the visit.

Draft programme for DLN-DPE project visit, 16-23 November 2013

Lisbet Stjerneklar and Marie Villumsen

Date/Time	Activity	Participants
Saturday 16 th November	Arrival	Lisbet, Marie

tilpasset landmandsgruppernes aktuelle behov. Grundlaget vil være erfaringerne fra de forudgående 2 projekter i RSDA-DLN partnerskabet.

Det nye projekt har et budget på DKR 498,000 for den 12 måneder lange periode. Det er håbet, at det kommende projekts kapacitetsopbygningen af RSDA som organisation og forretning, fører videre til endnu en fase i RSDA-DLN partnerskabet efter 2014.



Evalueringsbesøg i DPE

Nedenfor ses det program, Lisbet og Marie har lagt for en uges arbejde med at evaluere DPE. Lisbet har taget en del billeder, men har på hjemvejen mistet sin mobiltelefon med alle billederne på. Dersom de først lige er kommet tilbage, har det ikke været muligt for dem at skrive til Lumela.dk med deres egen beretning om oplevelserne. Forhåbentlig giver programmet et godt indblik i, at der virkelig bliver arbejdet igennem, når der er besøg fra Danmark.

Sunday 17th November	Briefing with National Coordinator	Shale, Lisbet, Marie
Monday 18th November		
10.00 – 11.00	Briefing with DPE team (update on the context and project)	Entire DPE team, Lisbet, Marie
13.00 – 14.00	Briefing with organisational/HR coach (also on evaluation)	Coach, Accountant, Shale, Lisbet, Marie
14.00 – 15.00	Briefing with financial coach	Coach, Accountant, Shale, Lisbet, Marie
15.00 – 16.00	Briefing with M&E coach	Coach, Shale, Peace Education Reserachers, Lisbet, Marie,
Tuesday 19th November		
10.00 – 12.00	Briefing with the external evaluation consultant	Consultant, Shale, Lisbet, Marie
13.00 – 16.00	Discussion/evaluation on DPE capacity building (coaching, baseline, evaluation, M&E tools etc.)	DPE team, Lisbet, Marie
Wednesday 20th November		
09.00 – 11.00	Finance meeting + maybe auditors	Accountant, Lisbet
11.00 – 16.00	Future partnership/strategy (brainstorming/discussion about a potential new project phase)	DPE team, Lisbet, Marie
Thursday 21st November		
10.00 – 11.00	Finance meeting	Accountant, Lisbet
11.00 – 16.00	MANGO test	Shale, representatives from Ex-Com (treasurer/finance responsible), Accountant, Lisbet, Marie
Friday 22nd November		
9.00 – 11.00	Meeting with auditor	Auditor, Accountant, Lisbet
14.00 – 16.00	Briefing of DPE Ex-Com	Ex-Com, Shale, Lisbet, Marie
Saturday 23rd November	Departure	Lisbet, Marie

Correction:

The Embassy in Dublin has drawn attention to page 6 of the newsletter (37) on Lesotho Independence Day 4th October mainly line 6 under the same heading where it is said, '**The Embassy will be paying for everything for this event**'. Kindly note that this statement is incorrect as the Embassy has not made this kind of commitment.

News from Lesotho:

Lesotho Times

news without fear or favour

Tšepong workers mull strike over pay

By [Lestimes](#) On 21 Nov, 2013



By *Mantoetse Maama*

MASERU — Tšepong employees yesterday threatened to go on strike if their management does not review their salaries to match those of their counterparts serving in the public sector.

They want their salary adjustments to match the new public service salaries which were

increased by six percent across the board in April.

The lowest paid registered nurse in government earns M9 500, while the entry level salary for a similar grade for nurses at Tšepong is M6 500.

Tšepong staff comprise health workers at Queen Mamohato Memorial Hospital and workers at filter clinics around Maseru, which are run by the private health care group, Netcare.

The national organiser of Lesotho Workers Union (Lewa), Hlalefang Seoaholimo, said Tsepong health workers want to have salary increases to match those of their counterparts in the public service and to have the increments backdated to April when civil servants salaries were adjusted.

“In case management does not give us a positive response, we have already made an urgent application in the labour court to determine whether employees under essential services cannot go on strike,” Seoaholimo said.

“Once the court has found out that not all employees are offering essential services we will apply for a court order that will instruct the Directorate of Dispute Prevention and Resolution (DDPR) to issue a set down for conducting a vote for those who want to go on strike,” he said.

The management of Tšepong said they are still negotiating with the government to provide funds for salary adjustments for its employees.

Limpho Seeiso, Tšepong's Public Relations Officer, said all the staff received their annual increments in April.

"The hospital is in discussions with the Ministry of Health to provide additional funds for salary adjustments to match the new public service salary scales," she said.

"The hospital is classified as an essential service and a strike will therefore be illegal. The recognition agreement with the trade union also prohibits a strike."

FROM: ALLAFRICA

Lesotho: Statement at the Conclusion of an IMF Staff Visit to Lesotho

18 November 2013

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team led by Mr. David Dunn visited Lesotho during November 11-18, 2013, for preliminary discussions on economic policies ahead of the upcoming Article IV consultation.¹ The team met with the Honorable Ministers of Finance, Development Planning, and Health, the Governor of the Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL), Honorable Members of Parliament serving on the Public Accounts Committee and Economic Cluster, other senior government and CBL officials, as well as representatives of the financial sector and development partners.

At the conclusion of the visit, Mr. Dunn issued the following statement:

"The IMF team appreciates this opportunity for initial discussions with the Lesotho authorities on their policy agenda to address a number of pressing economic issues.

The team was informed that after having successfully completed their recent economic program that was supported by a three-year credit arrangement under the IMF's Extended Credit Facility (ECF), the authorities see the need to pursue an economic policy agenda that, in addition to securing macroeconomic stability, further strengthens growth, employment, and poverty reduction - in line with the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP).

"The IMF team will return in January 2014 for the Article IV consultation with Lesotho. The Article IV consultation will allow for a comprehensive dialogue on policies to maintain medium-term economic stability and strengthen growth, including follow-up discussions on issues raised during our current visit.

One such issue is the challenge of managing highly volatile government revenues - such as those from the Southern African Customs Union - to ensure that resources are available in a timely manner for planned public investment.

Other issues for discussion during the Article IV consultation will include Lesotho's international competitiveness, the adequacy of its official international reserves, the financial sector, and debt sustainability.

"The IMF team thanks the authorities for candid and constructive discussions and expresses its appreciation for the excellent support during its visit."

1 Under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the IMF holds bilateral discussions with members, usually every year.

A staff team visits the country, collects economic and financial information, and discusses with officials the country's economic developments and policies.

On return to headquarters, the staff prepares a report, which forms the basis for discussion by the Executive Board. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Managing Director, as Chairman of the Board, summarizes the views of Executive Directors, and this summary is transmitted to the country's authorities.

Lesotho: U.S. Effort Helps Improve Health Care in Lesotho

1 NOVEMBER 2013

Washington — The services Mahlape receives at her community health clinic have drastically improved her health - and possibly even saved her life, she said. She receives regular checkups and antiretroviral treatments to battle her HIV. The treatments and immunizations have provided her infant son with a better chance at a more productive future.

And with the recent opening of a new clinic, whose construction was funded by the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation, Mahlape, who uses one name, is hopeful even more people from her eastern Lesotho community will benefit, MCC said in a press release.

"It's not cold like the old clinic," Mahlape said in mid-May, the first time the 19-year-old visited the new clinic in Samaria. "The roof doesn't leak. It's much more comfortable. And it can hold more people. I think more people will come here."

Linking more people with health care is a cornerstone of MCC's five-year, \$363 million compact with Lesotho. The Health Sector Project aims to reduce the negative economic impacts of poor maternal health, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases by substantially strengthening Lesotho's health care infrastructure and building the capacity of those who work in the field, MCC said.

Mahlape's community clinic in Samaria is one of 138 health centers rehabilitated or built under the project. MCC is also funding the staff housing at each clinic along with the construction of 14 hospital outpatient departments, a blood transfusion center, a central laboratory, and residences to accommodate students and staff at the National Health Training College.

Health care is a major concern in Lesotho. Almost a quarter of adults age 15-49 are infected with HIV/AIDS, the third-highest rate in the world. HIV/AIDS and other diseases have dragged down the country's economy and stifled its attempts to reduce poverty, MCC said.

MCC's health investments support the government of Lesotho's efforts to provide HIV-battling antiretroviral therapy by improving a clinic network that can deliver this and other essential health services throughout the country.

The goal is to extend the productive years for Basotho citizens living with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other debilitating diseases so they can contribute to the economy.

Mahlape and her son rely on the clinics to stay alive. She receives free antiretroviral treatment from the clinic each month. Her son's father had died of complications due to AIDS. Her son received treatment during childbirth to prevent the HIV transmission. He has also received his regular immunizations from the clinic.

Several hundred yards from where Mahlape and her son sat in the new clinic's waiting room stands the dilapidated building that previously served the community. The plaster on the walls is discolored and cracking. Glass is missing from some of the windowpanes. It lacks running water inside the building,

meaning doctors and nurses needed to head outside to wash their hands at a standpipe between procedures. During the brutal mountain winter, the temperature inside the clinic would plunge below freezing. One patient, 38-year-old Mathabiso Matsoele, just assumed this was how a rural health clinic operated - until the Health Sector Project. "I used the old clinic often and I used to think it was OK," she said. "But now I know better."

What is Denmark Lesotho Network?

The NGO Denmark Lesotho Network (DLN) was founded in 2002 by former Danish development workers in Lesotho and other good friends of the tiny mountain kingdom in Southern Africa. DLN aims at supporting NGO's in Lesotho in their work to develop civil society. DLN uses its network of people and organisations in Lesotho to pinpoint beneficiaries of DLN's support – and to keep an eye on that funding is used according to agreements made. DLN wishes to enhance knowledge of the living conditions in Lesotho and to seek funding from foundations, business enterprises and organisations for actual projects in Lesotho.

Membership of DLN

Anyone, who can support the aims of DLN, can achieve a membership. Members contribute to support initiatives in Lesotho that develop and better living conditions in the country. Members will receive an electronic newsletter four times a year and be invited to DLN's annual general assembly. The cost of a membership is 100 Danish kroner yearly. For membership contact cashier Karen Steffensen, tel.: +45 98677185, cell: +45 23880099, e-mail: karen.steffensen@mail.dk
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KHOTSO – PULA – NALA

