



LNFOOD

Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOOD) strategy for COVID-19 and persons with disabilities (2020):

Vision:

LNFOOD envisions a Basotho society that is accessible and inclusive of all people, and that enables persons with disabilities to enjoy social, economic, cultural and political and human rights on an equal basis with others and enables persons with disabilities to realise their full potential in all aspects of life.

Mission:

The mission of LNFOOD is to advocate for, promote, protect and defend the human rights of persons with disabilities and their families through training, emotional support and by representing their needs and interests to government, development partners, private sector, and the wider community.

According to the Ministry of Education sector response plan, Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was declared by WHO as a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) and on March 11, 2020 a pandemic. There are currently no licensed treatments or vaccines for the COVID-19 virus. Experimental treatments and vaccines are under development. The epidemiology of COVID-19 is dynamically evolving with confirmation of the disease in different countries. The most up to date information on COVID-19 can be accessed here <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has disrupted learning for over 89% of the world's student population. For more than 1.5 billion children in 188 countries, education has been

interrupted. The gains in expanding access to education and improving the quality of education risks being permanently compromised. The loss of protection and other forms of support that schools provide including school-based health, nutrition and school-feeding are also compromising children's well-being. Vulnerable children, including the disabled, poor and other marginalized groups, are the most affected.

In Lesotho, the official number of confirmed case is currently sitting at seven hundred and eighteen people and 19 deaths. Worst of all, Lesotho is a land locked country surrounded by South Africa, the most affected country in Africa.

In addition, the Disability Rights Monitor states that, Evidence is emerging that, persons with disability are being disproportionately affected by the Coronavirus pandemic and emergency measures being taken by governments worldwide. As governments rush to respond to the virus, it is more critical than ever to guarantee that measures taken are fully inclusive of persons with disabilities and prevent human rights violations from taking place.

In order to curb the spread of COVID19 in Lesotho, government declared state of emergency and locked down the country in April, and the lockdown was eased on the 5 May 2020.

Ever since then, LNFOD has been advocating for the inclusive disability response to COVID19 pandemic in order to ensure that persons with disabilities are protected from contracting the virus and their lives and livelihoods are saved. However, the community, district and national decision making processes including the former national command centre and the current National COVID19 secretariat have not yet mainstreamed persons with disabilities in its activities and programs thereby, perpetuating isolation and discrimination against persons with disabilities.

In its quest to fight for disability inclusive COVID19 measures, LNFOD held several high-level advocacy initiatives with the senior government officials including the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Honourable Minister of Social Development highlighting the situation of persons with disabilities in relation to COVID19 and the measures which may be undertaken to extend sufficient protection to persons with disabilities. Nevertheless, these proposed initiatives have not yet been translated into concrete action.

LNFOD implemented (working from home) strategy in order to protect its staff in the month of April but could not sustain the strategy beyond April due to lack of resources and capacity.

However, the pandemic did not stop and Lesotho started to register coronavirus as of the 13 May thereby worsen the vulnerability of persons with disabilities in contracting this virus.

This situation forced LNFOD to postpone some of its key activities to the third quarter and provided face masks to the participants of its activities in order to protect them from potential harm of coronavirus.

Through the consultation with the representative organisations of persons with disabilities and, LNFOD has learned that most of the income generation established by persons with disabilities in their communities have collapsed leaving them with no alternative means to earn a living.

Through virtual meeting conducted in July, persons with disabilities have reported that, they are excluded from benefiting from the ongoing COVID19 interventions taking place in the communities on the basis that they receive social grant from the ministry of social development in which they receive M750 after every three months. It is worth noting that this grant does not take into account disability related cost a person with disability incur as a result of disability, and they do not take persons with disabilities out of poverty. Therefore,, the exclusion of persons with disabilities from the ongoing social relief donations from government and private sector perpetuate marginalization and discrimination against persons with disabilities and should be stopped with immediate effect.

In order to strengthen LNFOD advocacy on provision of inclusive services relating to COVID19, LNFOD will continue to advocate for the self-representation of persons with disabilities in the COVID19 decision making processes to government, development partners, private sector and the wider community.

LNFOD will design and distribute accessible COVID19 health related messages to all people with disabilities including men, women, boys, and girls of all types of disabilities to ensure that persons with disabilities are able to protect themselves from this pandemic.

LNFOOD will through the UNICEF support continue to support advocacy on education of learners with disabilities in the COVID19 and ensure that information is provided to all learners in accessible formats.

LNFOOD will continue to engage with its members and persons with disabilities to find solutions of the barriers facing persons with disabilities in terms of access to health, education and healthcare services since persons with disabilities are more likely to be discriminated in accessing health rights.

LNFOOD is calling upon the government, development partners, particularly the UN agencies, and private sector to consider the vulnerability of persons with disabilities in this trying time and support representative organisations of persons with disabilities to reach out to persons with disabilities with health related COVID19 messages and provide protective clothing to persons with disabilities and their personal assistants.

In an endeavor to curb the spread of COVID19 among persons with disabilities, LNFOOD will continue to mobilise resources to support representative organisations of persons with disabilities to reach out to persons with disabilities including through proposal writing, negotiations with donors.

LNFOOD has already started to encourage its members to develop accessible messages and distribute them among their individual members.

LNFOOD will continue to engage with government, development partners to support the initiatives undertaken by the representative organizations.

LNFOOD will continue to monitor government COVID19 programs and continue to demand effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the ongoing COVID19 measures.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AGAINST COVID 19

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES SPECIFIC TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES	
Sesotho Version	English Version
Batho ba nang le bokooa ba pono le kutlo le bathusi ba bona ba lokela ho hlapa matsoho ka sesepa metsing a phallang khafetsa kapa ba sebelise senyanyatsi sa matsoho (hand sanitizer) se nang le bonyane karolo ea mashome a ts'eletseng lekholong ea alcohol ho thibela sekahla sa ts'oaetso ea covid 19 'me ba roale li face mask nako eohle ha ba le 'moho	People with visual impairment and those with speech and hearing disabilities and their assistants should clean their hands more often with soap and running water. Alternatively they should apply their hands frequently with 60% alcohol based hand sanitizer
Batho ba nang le bokooa ba pono le bathusi ba bona ba lokela ho khohlella le ho thimolela feela pampiring e lahloang (Tissue/ toilet paper) eseng setsoe. Ba boetse ba khotlaetsoa ho sireletsa lifahleho ka ho roala li face mask ka nako eohle	Visually impaired people and their assistants should avoid at all times to cough in the flex of their elbows but in the clean toilet paper or tissue which should be disposed in a rubbish bin immediately after use. They should always wear their face masks all the times when in contact
Batho ba nang le bokooa ba lokela ho hlakola kapa ho ts'ela lithusa tsamao tsa bona joaloka wheelchair le melangoana ka se-boalea-likokoana-hlooko (disinfectants) khafetsa	Assistive devices (White canes, wheel chairs etc. should be disinfected regularly with clean water and soap or approved disinfectants (such as bleach)
Ela hloko ho hloekisa matsoho nako eohle pele o tshoara lithusa- tsamao (assistive devices)	People with disabilities and or their assistants should always clean their hands

	with soap and running water or hand sanitizers before touching assistive devices such as wheelchairs, white canes etc.
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PRESENTATIVE MEASURES FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Batho ba fanang ka lits'ebeletso tsa sechaba, batoloki ba puo ea matsoho ekasita le batho bohle ba buang le batho ba nang le bokooa ba puo le kutlo ba khotaletsa ho roala li face mask tse bonaletsang (Transparent)	
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People offering services consumed by the general public, sign language interpreters as well as everyone talking to deaf persons, deaf blind, persons with communication disabilities, are encouraged to wear transparent face masks

Sesotho Version	English
Sireletsa sefahleho ka mask oa bongaka kapa oa lesela nako eohle ha u na le motho kapa batho	Wear either a surgical or fabric face mask whenever you are with someone or with other people.
Qoba ho atamela motho kapa batho. Boloka sebaka sa bonyane meter le halofo lipakeng tsa hau le batho kapa motho	Avoid physical contact and be at least 1.5 meters away from a person or people near you.
Hloekisa matsoho ka sesepa le metsi a phallang nako ea metsotsoana e mashome a mabeli kapa u sebelise senyanyatsi sa matsoho (hand sanitizer) e nang le bonyane likarolo tse mashome a ts'eletseng lekholong tsa alcohol	Clean your hands frequently with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds. Alternatively apply a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol base frequently
Mask oa lesela o lokela ho hlatsua ka metsi le sesepa mme o anehoe letsatsing e le ho bolaea kokoana-hloko letsatsi le letsatsi	Wash your fabric Mask daily with water and soap and try under the sun in order to kill the germs
Se ke oa roala mask oa bongaka (o lahloang ha o ile oa sebelisoa) ho feta lihora tse nne	Do not wear a surgical Mask for more than 4 hours
Se ke oa alimana ka face mask kapa shield. Ke ea motho ka mong	Do not share either the fabric or surgical mask with anyone
Khohlella kapa thimolela bokahareng ba setsoe kapa ka hare ho pampiri mme o e lahlele sebakeng se bolokehileng joaloka rubbish bin hang- hang	Cough or sneeze in the flex of your elbow or a clean toilet paper or tissue and dispose it in the rubbish bin immediately
Hloekisa libaka tse tshoaroang hangata ka sesepa se bolaeang likokoana-hloko khafetsa.	Frequently disinfect frequently touched areas with disinfectants such as bleach or

	water and soap
Qoba ho ba libakeng tseo batho ba bakanang ka bongata mme u lule hae ha u khona	Avoid crowded places and stay home as much as you can and always take the above safety precautions whenever you leave home
Qoba ho ba sebakeng se nang le batho ba bangata se koetsoeng nako e telele.	If you happen to be in crowded closed places (with no or little ventilation) avoid being there for too long (e.g for more than an hour
Qoba ho ts'oara molomo, mahlo le nko (sefahleho)	Avoid touching your mouth ears and nose (face)