

Reserved Women-Only Electoral Divisions — Lesotho's 2005 Local Government Gender Quota

Gender Equality · Good practice · Lesotho

Quality score: 74/100

Evidence strength: Quasi-experimental

Summary

Lesotho's 2005 Local Government Elections Act randomly reserved 30% of local council seats for women-only contests, pushing female representation to 58% that year — far above target — though it eroded to 49% (2011) and 40% (2017) as implementation was later diluted.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Transferability / replicability	2/3
Impact on gender equality	1/1
Effectiveness	1/1
Efficiency	0/1
Evaluated outcomes	1/1
Sustainability	0/1
Achievement / evidence	1/1
Gender-mainstreaming embedding	1/1
Curator validation	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-05

[Independent Electoral Commission of Lesotho / Ministry of Local Government](#) — accessed 2026-07-05

[Harvard Kennedy School Gender Action Portal — Electoral Gender Quotas and Attitudes Toward Traditional Leaders](#) — accessed 2026-07-05

[EISA — Transforming Women's Role in Local Government in Lesotho Through a Women's Quota](#) — accessed 2026-07-05

[EISA — Women's Representation in Lesotho's Legislative Bodies](#) — accessed 2026-07-05

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