2021 LESOTHO DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY

ANALYTICAL REPORT, Volume IIIB Socio-economic Characteristics

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Kingdom of Lesotho

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Maseru, January 2023

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The 2021 Lesotho Demographic Survey results are presented in the following three reports:

- ✓ Volume I Population Dynamics Report and
- ✓ Volume II Socioeconomic Characteristics
- ✓ Volume IV Gender Based Violence Report

This report is divided into six chapters which are meant to provide a detailed analysis of the findings from the survey on the following themes:

- Household Size and Family Composition
- Housing Characteristics
- Housing Amenities
- Educational Characteristics of the Population
- Economic Activities
- Water and Sanitation

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PREFACE

This report presents the findings of the 2021 Lesotho Demographic Survey (LDS). This survey is conducted decennially five years after every census. The committee of Heads of National Statistics Officers from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries during the 6th Meeting held in South Africa took a decision that all SADC member countries should conduct Population and Housing censuses at regular intervals, and share technical expertise. This resulted in the 2000, 2010 and 2020 Rounds of Population and Housing Censuses (RPHC) programs. However, in view of the fact that countries like Lesotho, could not afford the costs of conducting national population censuses in 5-year periods, it was agreed that a large-scale intercensal survey should be conducted during that stipulated time.

The primary objective of the 2021 LDS is to provide up-to-date information for policymakers, planners, researchers, and programme managers that would provide guidance in the development, monitoring, and evaluation of national programs and projects. Lesotho is a country cognizant of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which essentially recognizes the aged, women, girls, youth and adolescents relating to their rights and in the investment towards their well-being. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a universal agenda that calls for sound data disaggregation by age, sex, wealth, geography, disability and other vulnerabilities to ensure that no one is left behind. Therefore, the 2021 LDS results are presented at the best opportune time to inform progress as far as the SDG targets are concerned.

The BOS therefore hopes that users will find this report useful in planning, monitoring and evaluating national and international development programmes. The Ministry of Finance and Development Planning wishes to express its gratitude to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for providing financial assistance for the successful execution of the pilot survey training. Their support contributed immensely to the successful completion of that activity.

Our sincere gratitude also goes to the Local Authorities (District Council Secretaries, District Administrators, Heads of Departments and Chiefs) in areas that were selected for the survey; these individuals contributed to the success of the survey in many ways. The Ministry appreciates the dedication shown by the survey coordinators, supervisors, and other field staff, who all worked tirelessly till the end of the survey. Special thanks and recognition go to the respondents who openheartedly gave their time to provide the needed information.

Malehloa C. Molato
Director-Bureau of Statistics

CHAPTER 1

HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND FAMILY COMPOSITION

1.0 Introduction

Global demographic developments marked by transitions to low levels of fertility, smaller families and ageing populations, as well as increasing urbanization and international migration, are changing the household contexts in which people live (UN, 2019). The most basic demographic characteristics of a household is the number of members it contains.

The household, defined as a group of persons who make common provision of food, shelter and other essentials for living, is a fundamental socio-economic unit in human societies. Households are the centres of demographic, social and economic process. Decisions about childbearing, education, health care, consumption, labour force participation, migration and savings occur primarily at the household level (UN, 2017).

The composition or membership of households has important consequences for the well-being of families and individuals (UN, 2019). Understanding the differences between populations in patterns of household composition and associated changes over time are relevant for efforts to achieve 2030 Agenda for SDG 1 (to end poverty in all its forms everywhere), as well as SDG 3 (to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) as reflected in UN (2017).

Household composition is therefore determined by the people living together and their relationships to one another. The structure of the household determines a person's household size. One person may live in another's household but not be part of his or her household composition or household size.

1.1 Household Type

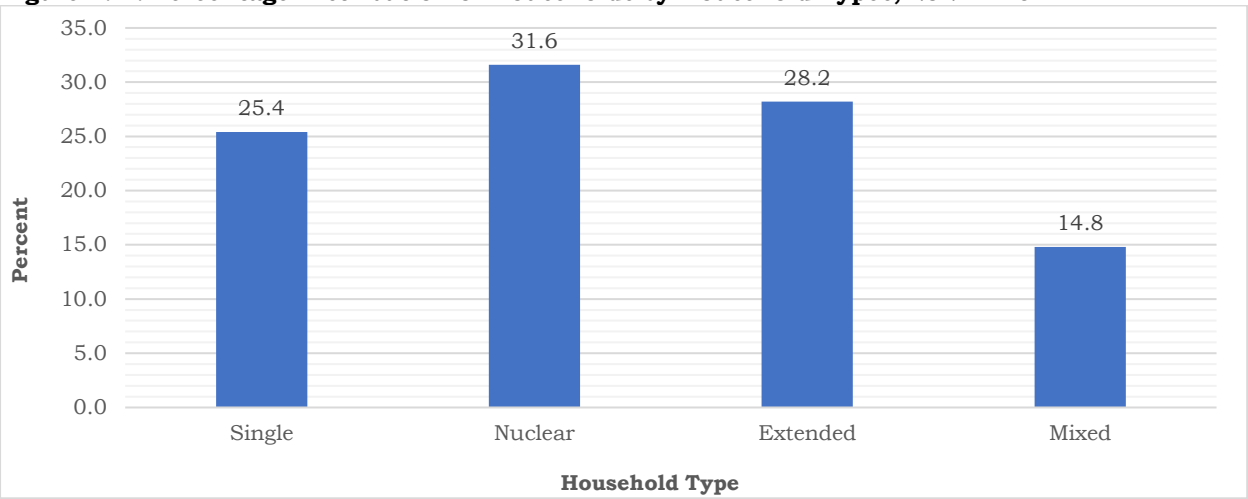
A household is a group of persons who make common provision of food, shelter and other essentials for living and this group of persons is often referred to as family. Family is defined as a group of one or more persons related by birth, marriage or adoption who live together as a unit. The role and responsibilities of a family is to perform various valuable functions for its members. Thus, it provides for emotional and psychological security, particularly through warmth, love and companionship that living together generates between spouses and in turn between them and their children. Additionally, family provides such other socially beneficial functions as the rearing and socialisation of children, along with such humanitarian activities as caring for its members when they are sick and disabled. Lastly, the family provides food, shelter, clothing and physical security for its members, some whom may be too young or old to provide for the basic necessities of life themselves.

There are four household types defined as follows; single member households are those that have only one member who was listed as head of the household. Nuclear family consists of parent(s) and their children if any, typically living in one home residence. Extended family refers to a household with two or more members including a head and at least one member recorded as a relative other than spouse

or children. Mixed family sometimes referred to as blended family comprise of a nuclear or extended family and at least one unrelated member.

Figure 1.1 implies that of the total number of households in Lesotho estimated at 569,631, the majority of households comprised of nuclear families constituting 31.6 percent. However, the structure of the families also encompasses members other than partners and children in the household, with the extended family type accounting for 28.2 percent and mixed family type with 14.8 percent.

Figure 1. 1: Percentage Distribution of Households by Household Types, 2021 LDS



All household types are common in the country except for the fact that peri-urban has least proportions of less than 20 percentage points in all types irrespective of headship. Regardless of sex with respect to single and nuclear families' heads of households in the urban area were above 50 percent. Contrarily, male and female heads in mixed families were also more in rural areas with nearly 50 percent than other settlement types.

Table 1.1: Percentage Distribution of Households by Sex, Settlement Type and Household Type, 2021 LDS

		Household Type			
Sex	**Settlement Type**	**Single**	**Nuclear**	**Extended**	**Mixed**
Male	Urban	49.1	52.5	40.4	40.9
	Peri Urban	17.8	8.4	9.1	8.6
	Rural	33.1	39.1	50.5	50.5
	Total	**72,117**	**155,610**	**75,289**	**52,541**
Female	Urban	51.8	64.7	42.1	33.4
	Peri Urban	16.6	8.3	9.0	13.2
	Rural	31.5	27.0	48.9	53.4
	Total	**72,574**	**24,529**	**85,202**	**31,768**

1.2 Demographic Characteristics of Household Head

The household head is a person designated by other household members as the main decision maker within the household, and it could either be an adult or a child, regardless of socio-economic status.

1.2.1 Household Head's Age and Sex

It is observed from Table 1.2 that, the majority of household heads are males with 62.4 percent representation. The table further reveals that young heads aged 10 to 14 years were mostly females estimated at 57.2 percent. Furthermore, from age 15 to 64 years, the household headship is mostly dominated by males. The opposite scenario is observed for ages 65 years and above whereby female heads outnumber their male counterparts.

Table 1. 2: Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by Age Group and Sex, 2021 LDS

Age Group	Male	Female	Both Sexes
10 - 14	42.8	57.2	0.2
15 - 19	50.8	49.2	1.5
20 - 24	56.1	43.9	5.3
25 - 29	72.9	27.1	8.0
30 - 34	77.1	22.9	10.4
35 - 39	73.8	26.2	11.9
40 - 44	72.8	27.2	11.5
45 - 49	71.0	29.0	9.4
50 - 54	62.3	37.7	8.2
55 - 59	57.4	42.6	7.9
60 - 64	50.6	49.4	7.3
65 - 69	47.6	52.4	6.0
70 - 74	43.3	56.7	4.6
75 - 79	40.6	59.4	3.5
80 - 84	31.7	68.3	2.5
85+	29.2	70.8	1.9
Total	**62.4**	**37.6**	**569,631**

1.2.2 Educational Level of Household Head

Education is recognized as one of the important means of fighting poverty, by enabling a broader scope of employment possibilities and the opportunity of earning a higher income. Table 1.3 indicates that generally, most household heads had reached the primary and high school level for both sexes with 44.5 and 32.7 percent respectively. About 9.3 percent of household heads had never attended school.

Table 1.3: Proportion of Household Heads by Educational Level and Sex, 2021 LDS

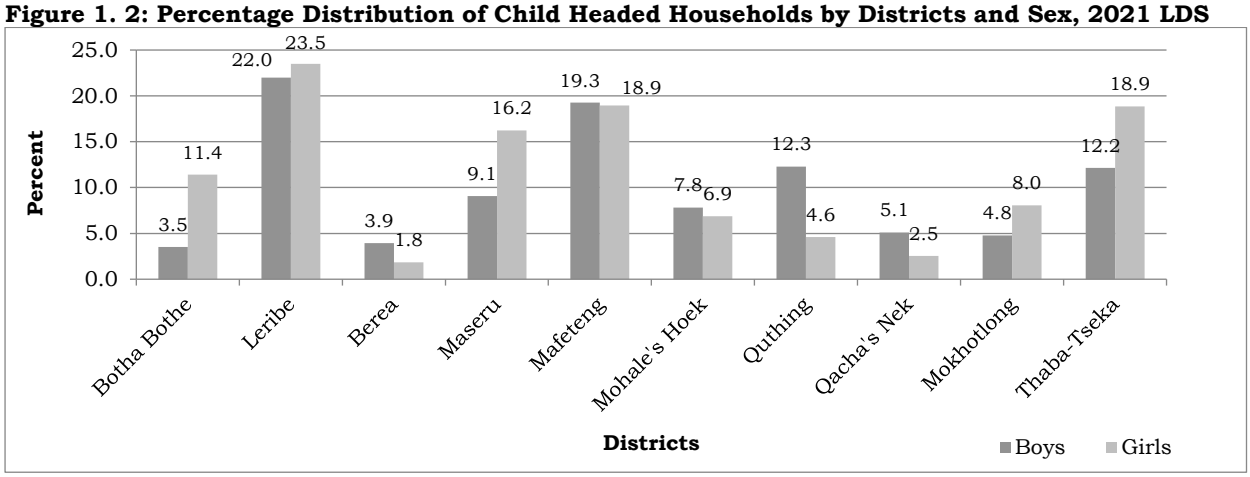
Educational Level	Male	Female	Both Sexes
None	70.3	29.7	0.9
Primary	57.6	42.4	44.5
High School	62.2	37.8	32.7
Diploma after primary	25.5	74.5	0.2
Diploma after secondary	56.9	43.1	6.0
Vocational after primary/sec	83.0	17.0	0.1
Vocational after High	78.8	21.2	0.5
Non-Formal Education	88.0	12.0	1.0
Graduate	65.5	34.5	4.7
Other (Specify)	38.7	58.1	0.0
Never Attended	84.4	15.6	9.3
Don't know	67.9	32.1	0.3

1.2.3 Child Headed Households

The child headed households refers to the situation whereby major decisions within the household are made by a person aged below 18 years. Over the past decades, there has been general consensus among researchers that child and female headed households do exist (KZN Human Settlement, June 2010). Moreover, it is assumed that households headed by both women and children suffer greater poverty than those in households which conform with a more common male headed arrangement (Chant, 2007).

Children aged under 18 years are still assuming responsibility of taking care of their families. Among the child headed households consisting of 4,763 households, 53 percent were girls while 47 percent were boys. Figure 1.2 portrays that, the district of Leribe regardless of sex had the majority of households headed by children, with girls leading by 23.5 percent and boys with 22.0 percent. All the districts had child headed households, though Berea district recorded the least with a small proportion below 4 percent for each sex.

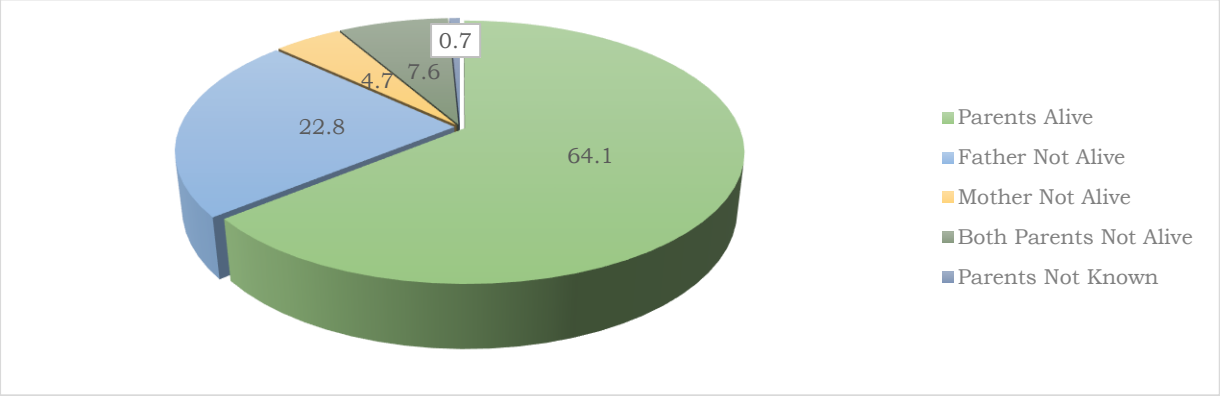
Figure 1. 2: Percentage Distribution of Child Headed Households by Districts and Sex, 2021 LDS



1.2.4 Parental Survival Status of Child Headed Households

Out of 4,763 child headed households, 64.1 percent declared survivorship of their parents as reflected in Figure 1.3. About 23 percent indicated that their fathers' were not alive. The proportions 0.7 and 7.6 respectively were for children that did not know where their parents lived and those whose parents were no longer alive.

Figure 1.3: Percentage Distribution of Child Headed Households by Parent Survival Status, 2021 LDS



1.3 Household Size

A household size refers to the number of persons in a dwelling unit varying in size and composition. The household size is the average number of usual residents (household members) in an occupied private household or dwelling. The size and composition of households are intertwined with multiple socio-economic processes, such as childbearing, demand for education and health care, spending priorities and consumption patterns including demand for housing among other goods (UN, 2019).

Persons who reside in a household typically share not only a dwelling, but also the budget, responsibilities for supporting and maintaining the household unit. A household/family is considered as one of the basic groups of social aggregation. A family has two components, namely; number of children and number of adults in the household. This distinct is important as observed patterns of change in overall family size may be attributable to one component or the other, as it may have effects of overall family size. As indicated in Figure 1.4, most households had an average household size of 2 to 3 and 4 to 5 members with a representation of 32.1 and 27.3 percent respectively.

Figure 1.4: Percentage Distribution of Households by Household Size, 2021 LDS

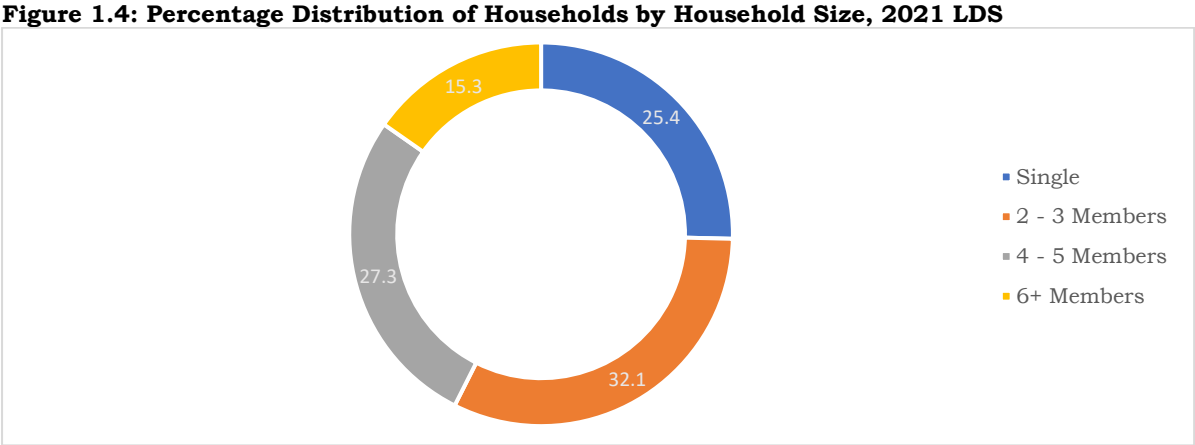
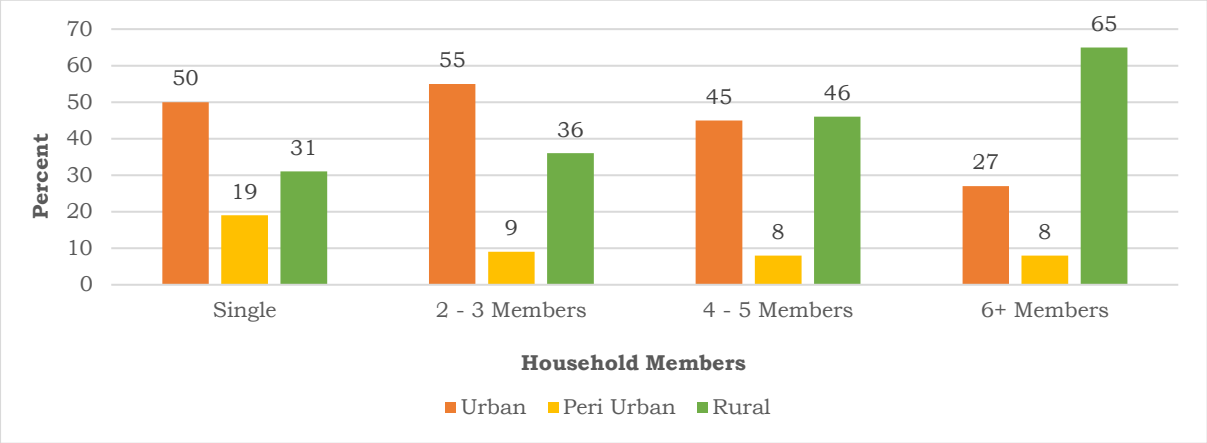


Figure 1.5 reflects that the households composed of 2 to 3 members residing in urban areas constituted a considerable share of 55 percent. In addition, it is noticed that most single member households were popular in urban areas accounting for 50

percent while on the contrary households with 6+ members are more common in the rural areas with 65 percent.

Figure 1.5: Percentage Distribution of Households by Total Household Members and Settlement Type, 2021 LDS



The distribution of total households, population and average households size by districts is presented in Table 1.4. The total number of households in Lesotho was estimated at 569,631 with the population of 2,076,669 and giving an average household size of 3.6 persons per household. According to the table, Qacha's Nek had the least number of households in the country but the average number of persons living in those households was estimated at 4.1 which is above the national average. However, average household size was observed to be highest in Quthing recording 4.3 persons per household.

Table 1.4: Distribution of Population, Households and Average Households Size by Districts, 2021 LDS

Districts	Number of Households	Percent	Population	Average Household Size
Botha-Bothe	30,626	5.4	122,500	4.0
Leribe	97,056	17.0	361,595	3.7
Berea	73,874	13.0	269,290	3.6
Maseru	177,500	31.2	566,377	3.2
Mafeteng	46,447	8.2	170,061	3.7
Mohale's Hoek	41,039	7.2	159,137	3.9
Quthing	25,713	4.5	110,645	4.3
Qacha's Nek	18,597	3.3	77,152	4.1
Mokhotlong	24,585	4.3	101,845	4.1
Thaba-Tseka	34,194	6.0	138,066	4.0
Total	**569,631**		**2,076,669**	**3.6**

1.4 Summary

The total number of households in Lesotho is estimated at 569,631 where the majority of households were found to be nuclear type of families constituting 31.6 percent. The average household size was estimated to be 3.6 persons per household. These households were mostly headed by males with 62.4 percent representation. Out of 4,763 child headed households, 53 percent were girls while 47 percent were boys. Among the child headed households, 64.1 percent declared that their parents were still alive. While about 23 percent indicated that their fathers were not alive. Data suggest that most households had an average number of members ranging between 2 to 3 members with a representation of 32.1 percent.

CHAPTER 2

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

2.0 Introduction

Housing is one of the basic human needs that have impact on the health and welfare of individuals. It provides physical security and protection from other harsh conditions such as rain, wind, heat, cold and dust hence, it is a place of safety, comfort and belonging (LDS, 2011). It is also one of the indicators of a person's standard of living in society.

This chapter presents data on the land acquisition, land tenure, type of dwelling, main material used in the construction of walls, floors and roofs and ownership of the occupied dwelling. Information on housing conditions in this chapter relates to household population only.

2.1 Land Acquisition

Land acquisition refers to the power of individuals or government and other relevant parties when obtaining private land for public or personal use and compensate original owner and other affected persons due to such acquisition. As stipulated in the land Act of 2010, local authorities allocate land in their area of jurisdiction in consultation with the Chiefs. Tenancy and security of tenure legislation are offered at national municipal levels in line with the Act. According to SDG 3 which states that, "undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws", there are legislatures endorsed by relevant authorities protecting women in land acquisition.

Land acquisition is a prerequisite to setting up infrastructure for households. Figure 2.1 indicates that male household heads account for a larger share of regularised land irrespective of the issuer, with a total estimate of 62.4 percent while females constituted 37.6 percent. The figure shows that for all issuers, males dominate females.

Figure 2. 1: Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by Land Acquisition and Sex, LDS 2021

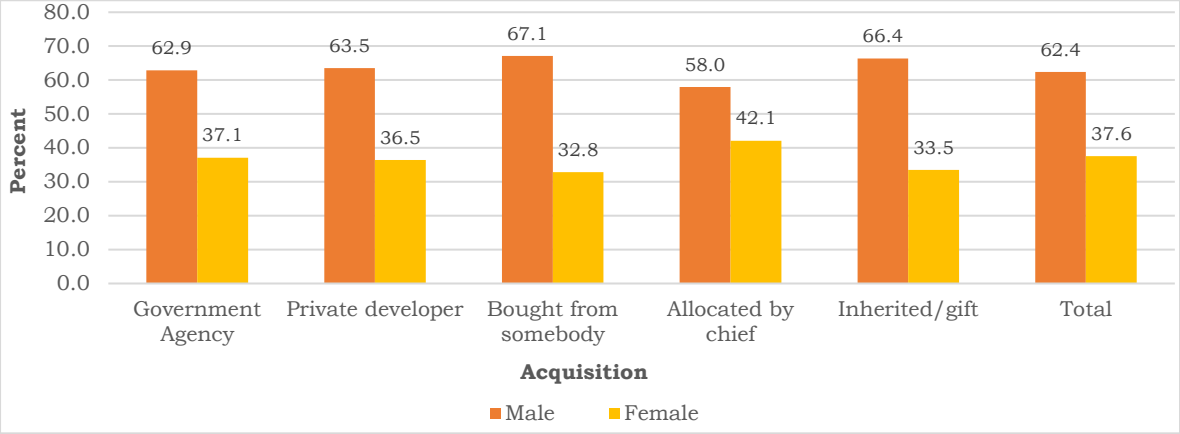


Table 2.1 shows the percentage distribution of households' heads by district and where/how land was acquired. An observation across the districts reflects a long standing practice where land allocation was largely led by the Chiefs with the national estimate of 44.4 percent. The Government Agencies which are mandated to regularise land acquisition account for 8.5 percent. Maseru district, where the process of land regularisation was first piloted under the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) support was estimated at 17.1 percent.

Table 2.1: Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by District and Land Acquisition, LDS 2021

	Land Acquired from					
District	**Government Agency**	**Private developer**	**Bought from somebody**	**Allocated by chief**	**Inherited/gift**	**Other**
Botha-Bothe	6.0	2.3	13.3	48.0	30.4	0.0
Leribe	7.0	0.7	18.9	38.7	34.7	0.0
Berea	7.9	3.2	18.8	42.1	28.0	0.0
Maseru	17.1	1.9	22.1	35.0	24.0	0.0
Mafeteng	3.9	0.5	11.8	48.4	35.3	0.0
Mohale's Hoek	2.2	0.3	14.7	52.6	30.2	0.0
Quthing	7.0	0.1	8.9	55.3	28.7	0.1
Qacha's Nek	5.9	0.2	9.9	54.1	29.9	0.0
Mokhotlong	6.4	0.0	5.4	57.9	30.4	0.0
Thaba-Tseka	1.1	0.2	4.4	58.0	36.3	0.0
Total (%)	**8.5**	**1.3**	**16.0**	**44.4**	**29.9**	**0.0**
Total (N)	**47,295**	**7,042**	**88,775**	**247,004**	**166,049**	**16**

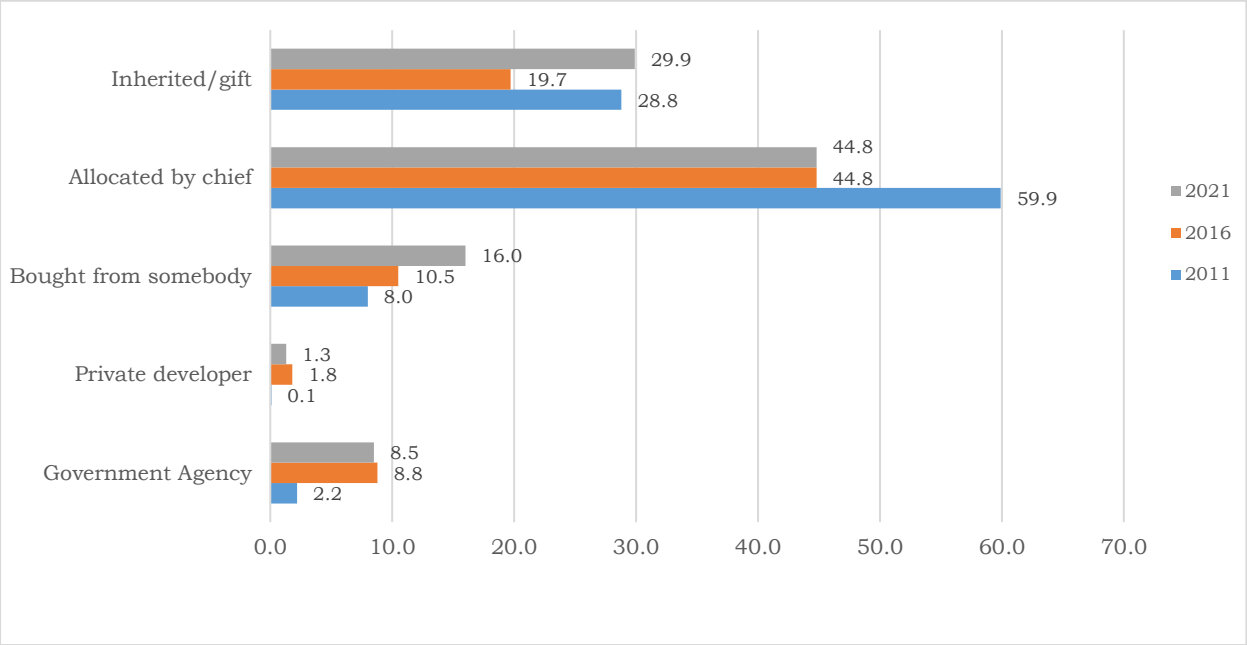
Table 2.2 illustrates distribution of household heads by settlement and how they acquired land in their possession. The findings portray that, in urban settlement the majority of household heads acquired their land through buying from somebody with 31.4 percent representation while for Peri-Urban and Rural settlement household heads mostly acquired land from the Chiefs with estimated 47.7 and 54.9 percent respectively.

Table 2.2: Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by Settlement and Land Acquisition, 2021 LDS

	Land Acquired from					
Settlement	**Government Agency**	**Private developer**	**Bought from somebody**	**Allocated by chief**	**Inherited/gift**	**Other**
Urban	17.5	3.1	31.4	27.4	20.7	0.0
Peri Urban	5.0	0.4	13.9	47.7	33.0	0.0
Rural	3.2	0.2	6.3	54.9	35.3	0.0
Total (%)	**8.5**	**1.3**	**16.0**	**44.4**	**29.9**	**0.0**
Total (N)	**47,295**	**7,042**	**88,775**	**247,004**	**166,049**	**16**

Figure 2.2 shows trend relating to acquisition of land by the households. In comparing the findings for three successive data collection exercises, it is revealed that a significant drop in the proportion of land acquired through the Chief declined between 2011 to 2016 (during the land regularisation program roll out). A notable increase in the proportion of households who reported to have inherited land, and those who bought land from somebody was observed between 2016 and 2021.

Figure 2.2: Percentage Distribution of Households by Land Acquisition for 2011, 2016 and 2021, 2021 LDS

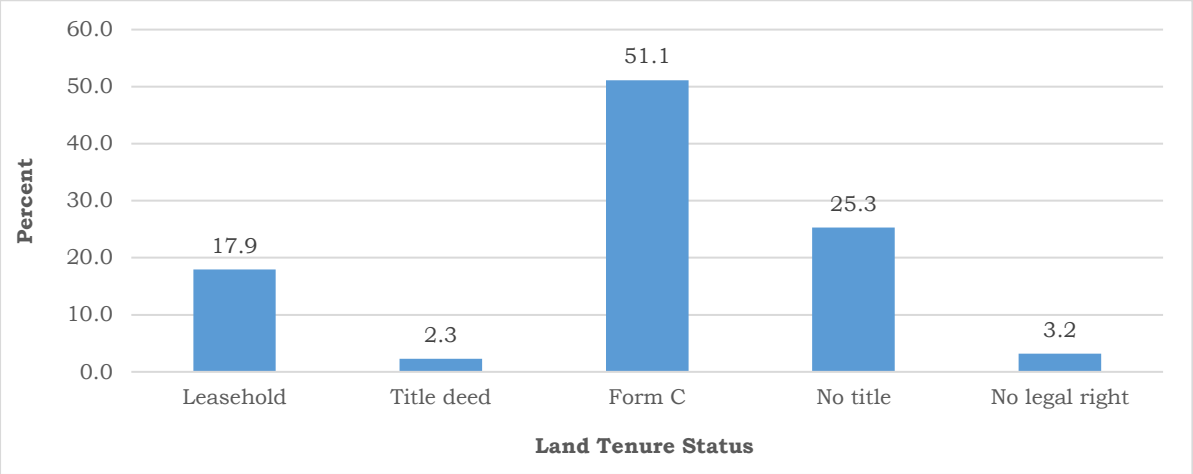


Source: 2011 LDS, 2016 Census and 2021 LDS

2.2 Land tenure

Land tenure can be described as the terms and conditions on which land is held, used and transacted (Adams et al, 1999). In Lesotho, irrespective of the increasing efforts towards regularising land acquisition from old system, Form C still continues to dominate. The majority of household heads hold Form C with 51.1 percent while Lease-holding accounts for 17.9 percent as illustrated in Figure 2.3.

Figure 2.3: Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by Land Tenure Status, 2021 LDS



The dominance of Form C is still observed across the majority of districts as reflected in Table 2.3. However, there still exists a notable share of households owning leases, especially in the district of Maseru with 41.0 percent and the northern districts (Berea with 19.0% and Leribe with 18.7%). This pattern could be attributable to the structure which was set-up by the MCC that was geared towards regularising land tenure in Lesotho. The programme was implemented between 2012 and 2014, and currently facilitated by different government structures such as Land Administration Authority (LAA).

Table 2.3: Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by District and Land Tenure Status, LDS 2021

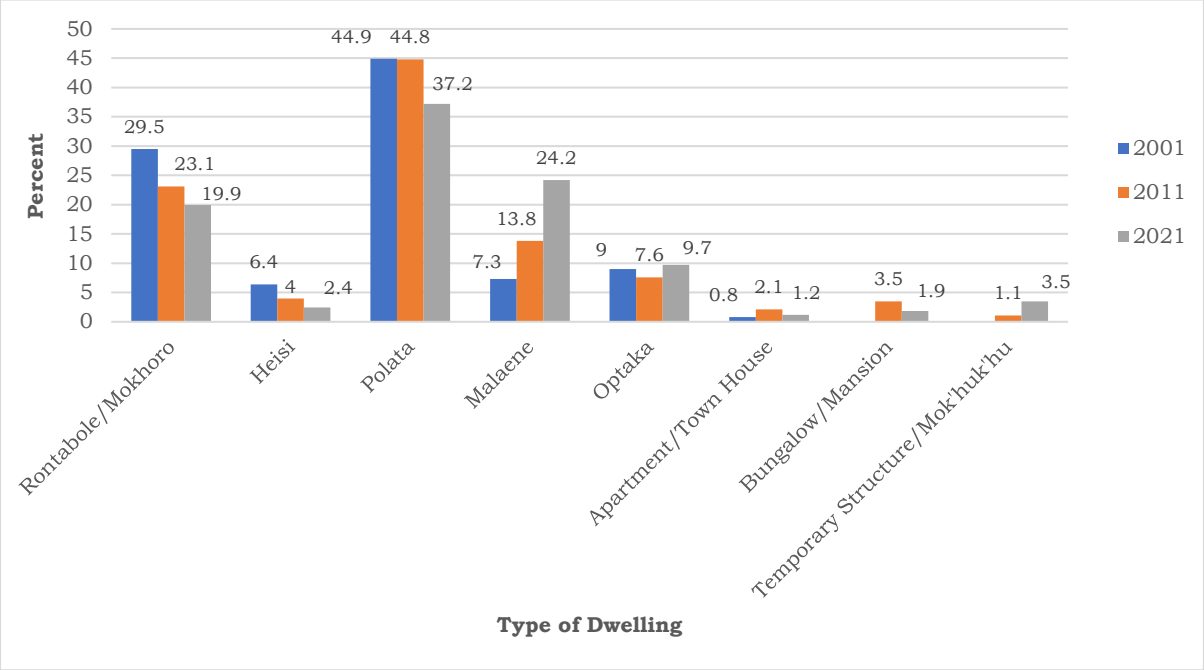
	Land Tenure Status							
District	**Leasehold**	**Title deed**	**Form C**	**No title**	**No legal right**	**Other**	**Chief/Family's Letter**	**Total**
Botha-Bothe	5.7	2.2	63.5	28.0	0.6	0.0	0.1	100.0
Leribe	18.7	1.2	55.6	19.4	4.8	0.0	0.3	100.0
Berea	19.0	1.6	57.5	17.5	4.3	0.0	0.0	100.0
Maseru	41.0	1.6	39.9	15.5	1.9	0.0	0.1	100.0
Mafeteng	4.4	4.1	62.5	25.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	100.0
Mohale's Hoek	3.3	7.7	51.8	35.5	1.4	0.0	0.2	100.0
Quthing	3.2	3.8	55.0	35.1	2.8	0.0	0.1	100.0
Qacha's Nek	4.4	2.2	49.5	43.1	0.7	0.0	0.0	100.0
Mokhotlong	2.3	0.3	48.4	47.3	1.3	0.3	0.2	100.0
Thaba-Tseka	0.8	0.8	43.3	46.9	8.2	0.0	0.1	100.0
Total (%)	**17.9**	**2.3**	**51.1**	**25.3**	**3.2**	**0.0**	**0.1**	**100.0**
Total (N)	**102,150**	**13,025**	**291,249**	**144,159**	**18,231**	**120**	**697**	**569,631**

2.3 Type of Dwelling

A dwelling is a shelter in which people live. In Lesotho, the commonly documented types of dwelling units include: Rontabole/Mokhoro, Heisi, Polata, Malaene, Optaka, Apartment, Bungalow, Mansion and Mok'huk'hu. The 2021 LDS provides an update in the number of dwellings as well as their characteristics. Figure 2.4 portrays the percentage distribution of household heads by main type of housing for three consecutive surveys. The majority of household heads have Polata as their main housing unit as compared to other types of dwelling units. Household heads using

Malaene as their main dwelling increased from 7.3 percent in 2001 to 13.8 percent in 2011 and further increased with 10.4 percentage points from 2011 to 2021. Furthermore, results reveal that the use of Rontabole/Mokhoro decreased as the years progressed from 2001 to 2021.

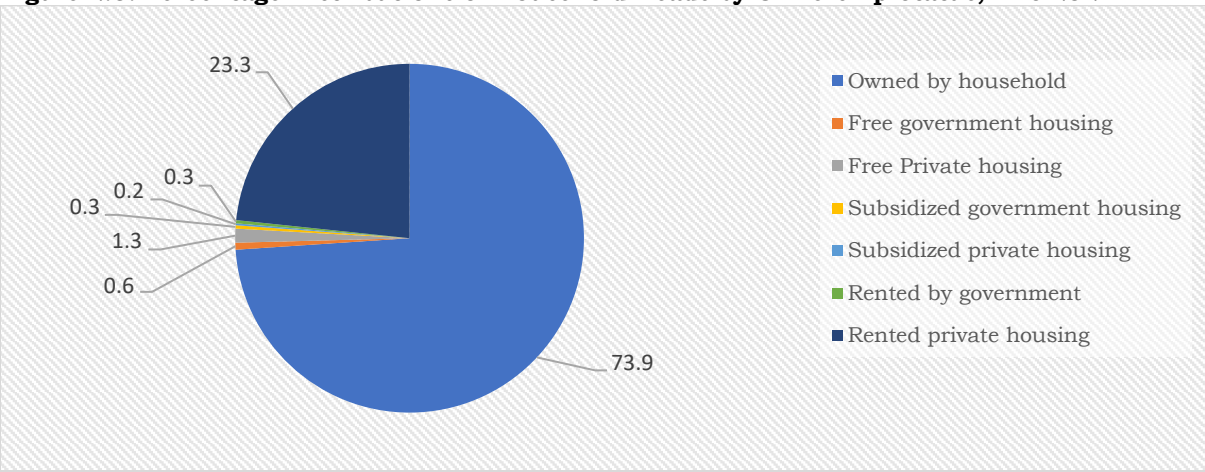
Figure 2.4: Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by Settlement and Main Type of Dwelling, LDS 2021



2.4 Ownership of Dwelling

Ownership of a dwelling is the state or fact of legal possession and control over property which is an asset which could be owned, rented and/or offered free. Figure 2.5 illustrates that the majority of household heads owned dwellings with 73.9 percent followed by privately rented households with 23.3 percent.

Figure 2.5: Percentage Distributions of Household Heads by Ownership Status, LDS 2021



2.5 Housing Construction Material

The design and structure of the dwelling unit may change due to globalisation, urbanisation and other social, economic and demographic factors. The quality and durability of a dwelling unit largely depends on the type of material used for house construction.

In Lesotho, there are different types of materials used for wall construction of the dwelling units. According to Figure 2.6, sand and concrete blocks were popular with 51.3 percent followed by stone with mud accounting for 24.5 percent. The non-durable materials (masonite or cardboard) were the least used wall construction materials with only 0.1 percent representation.

Figure 2.6: Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by Type of Housing and Main Material Used for Wall Construction, 2021 LDS

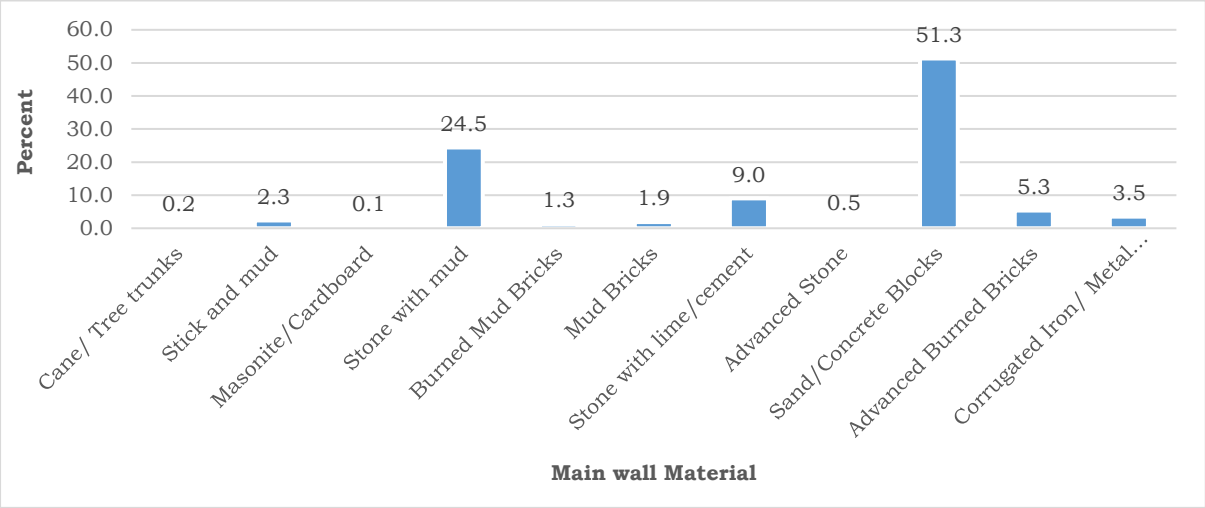


Figure 2.7 indicates the percentage distribution of the household heads by type of material of roofing used for the main housing unit. The most dominant roofing material is corrugated Iron/metal sheets with 72.7 percent.

Figure 2.7: Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by Type of Material Used for Roofing Construction of Main Housing Unit, LDS 2021

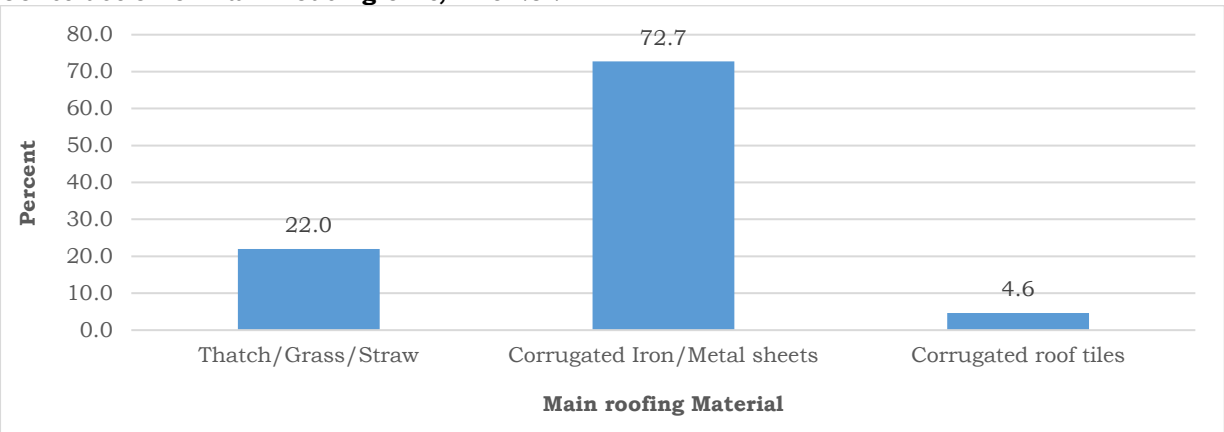
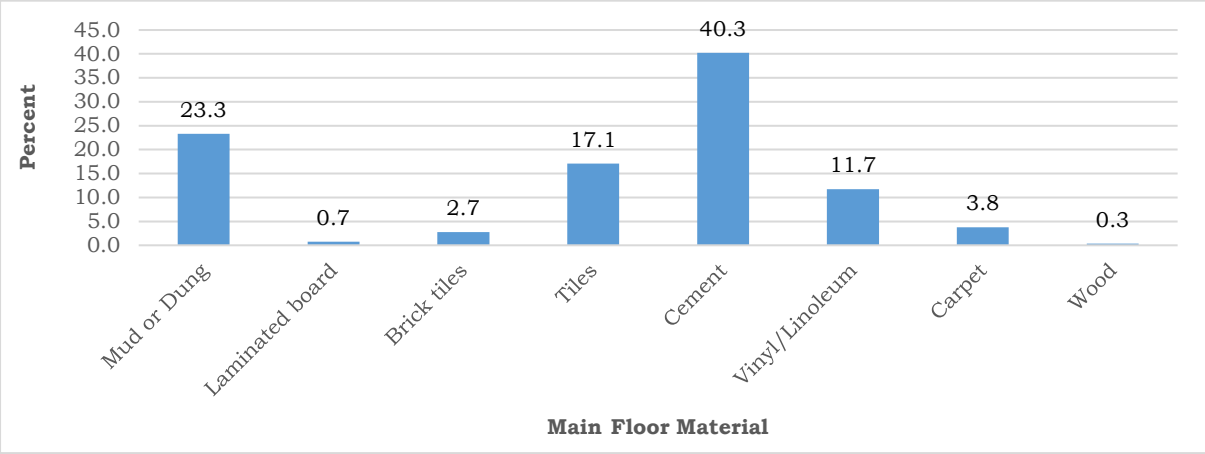


Figure 2.8 portrays the percentage distribution of household heads by type of material used for construction of floor of the main housing unit. The figure displays that, Cement is the most popular material with 40.3 percent while the least used material was wood with 0.3 percent.

Figure 2.8: Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by Type of Material Used for Floor Construction of Main Housing Unit, LDS 2021



2.6 Summary

More than half of the household heads hold Form C as their land tenure status with both peri-urban and rural areas estimated at 64.6 and 59.6 percent respectively while in urban area the most common land tenure status used was Lease holding.

The larger share of the land was allocated by the Chiefs with 44.4 percent to the household heads while 8.5 percent acquired their land through government agency. The majority of the household heads owned their dwellings with 73.9 percent.

The most dominant roofing material for the main housing unit was corrugated iron/metal sheets with 72.7 percent of the households; it also indicated that 40.3 percent of the dwellings had floors made of cement.

CHAPTER 3

HOUSING AMENITIES

3.0 Introduction

The households' possessions and type of fuel used in households are three of the most basic and important household activities such as lighting, cooking and heating. The type of fuel used in households reflects not only the standard of living but also an indicator of poverty.

Lesotho is among countries that are signatory to the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDG 7 states that countries should deliver affordable, reliable and modern energy for all. Therefore, information on the main source of lighting, heating and cooking is relevant for monitoring progress towards achieving its milestones as far as energy is concerned.

The 2015-2025 Energy Policy aims at increasing reliability, affordability and accessibility of energy. This will ultimately improve livelihoods, promote economic growth and investment, ensure energy security and contribute to environmental protection including climate change.

3.1 Main Source of Fuel

The primary energy sources of different forms that are used for day to day activities are essential in understanding the socio-economic characteristics of the households.

3.1.1 Fuel for Lighting

The main sources of fuel used for lighting in households by districts and settlement types are analysed in this section. It further highlights on electricity generated from the grid as the main source of fuel used for lighting in order to provide a clear picture of electrification and access to electricity in Lesotho.

Electricity can be obtained or generated from four different sources, namely; by mains supply (grid), generator, solar and battery. Table 3.1 shows the percentage distribution of households by main source of lighting by districts. In general, electricity generated from the grid dominated in usage as the main source of lighting with 51.7 percent followed by the use of paraffin with 39.7 percent. The results further show that, most of the households in Leribe and Berea used electricity grid for lighting with 60.6 and 63.1 percent respectively. Additionally, most households in Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka used paraffin as the main source of lighting with 65.4 and 67.6 percent respectively.

Table 3.1: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source of Energy for Lighting by District, 2021 LDS

District	Electricity Grid	Electricity Generator	Electricity Solar	Battery	LPG	Paraffin	Candle	Other	None	Total
Botha Bothe	43.4	0.1	1.9	1.5	0.0	41.0	12.1	0.1	0.0	**30,626**
Leribe	60.6	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.1	31.3	6.9	0.0	0.0	**97,056**
Berea	63.1	0.0	0.6	1.0	0.1	26.8	8.3	0.0	0.1	**73,874**
Maseru	59.2	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.3	34.8	4.6	0.0	0.0	**177,500**
Mafeteng	52.0	0.1	1.7	1.2	0.2	39.5	5.3	0.1	0.0	**46,447**
Mohale's Hoek	37.7	0.1	1.9	2.7	0.5	51.9	5.2	0.0	0.0	**41,039**
Quthing	36.0	0.0	0.9	1.3	0.0	56.8	4.9	0.0	0.0	**25,713**
Qacha's Nek	48.2	0.0	1.1	1.3	0.0	45.8	3.6	0.1	0.0	**18,597**
Mokhotlong	20.5	0.0	1.9	2.6	0.2	65.4	9.1	0.3	0.1	**24,585**
Thaba Tseka	22.7	0.0	2.5	1.3	0.2	67.6	5.0	0.7	0.0	**34,194**
Total (%)	**51.7**	**0.0**	**0.9**	**1.1**	**0.2**	**39.7**	**6.2**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**100.0**
Total (N)	**294,553**	**230**	**5,172**	**6,441**	**1,085**	**226,423**	**35,193**	**392**	**143**	**569,631**

The percentage distribution of households by main source of lighting and settlement type are reflected in Table 3.2. The majority of households in the urban and peri urban areas used electricity generated from the grid as the main source of lighting, with 73.4 and 68.9 percent respectively. Whereas, in the rural area, most households (61.2%) used paraffin as the main source of lighting. The use of candle is portrayed as the third most popular source of lighting.

Table 3.2: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source of Energy for Lighting by Settlement Type, 2021 LDS

Main Source of Energy for Lighting	Urban	Peri Urban	Rural
Electricity Grid	73.4	68.9	24.7
Electricity Generator	0.1	0.0	0.0
Electricity Solar	0.2	0.7	1.7
Battery	0.5	1.1	1.8
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	0.2	0.2	0.2
Paraffin	22.9	24.5	61.2
Candle	2.7	4.6	10.2
Other	0.0	0.0	0.1
None	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**262,060**	**59,350**	**248,221**

Figure 3.1 shows the percentage distribution of households using electricity generated from the grid for lighting by districts. The results reveal that in Lesotho, the use of electricity as the main source of energy for lighting is minimal in most of the districts, whereby Maseru is the highest (35.7%) and Mokhotlong is the least (1.7%). Moreover, mountainous districts, namely Mokhotlong, Qacha's Nek and Thaba-Tseka are the most disadvantaged in the use of electricity.

Figure 3. 1: Percentage Distribution of Households Using Electricity Generated from Electricity Grid for Lighting by District, 2021 LDS

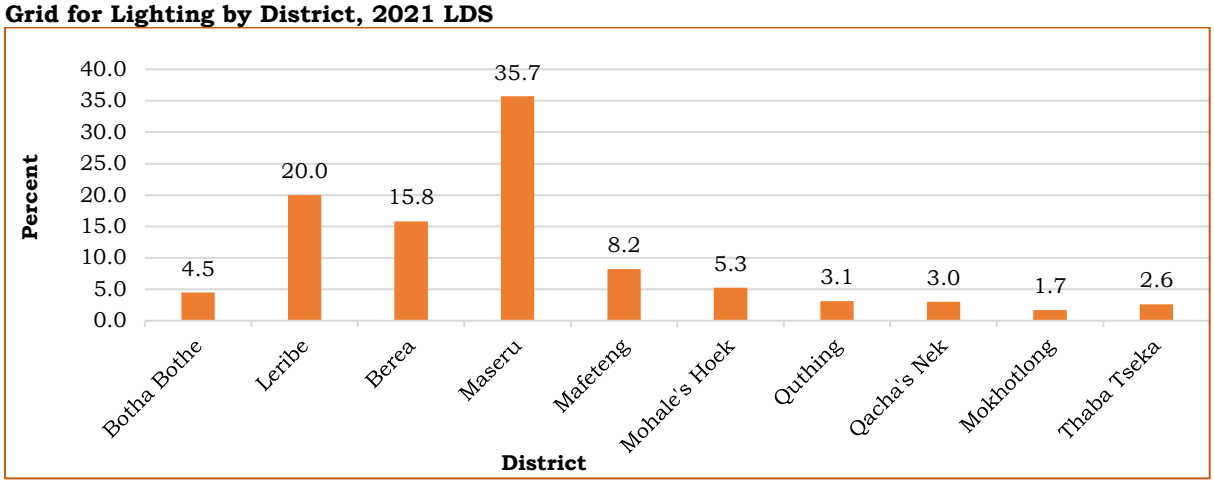
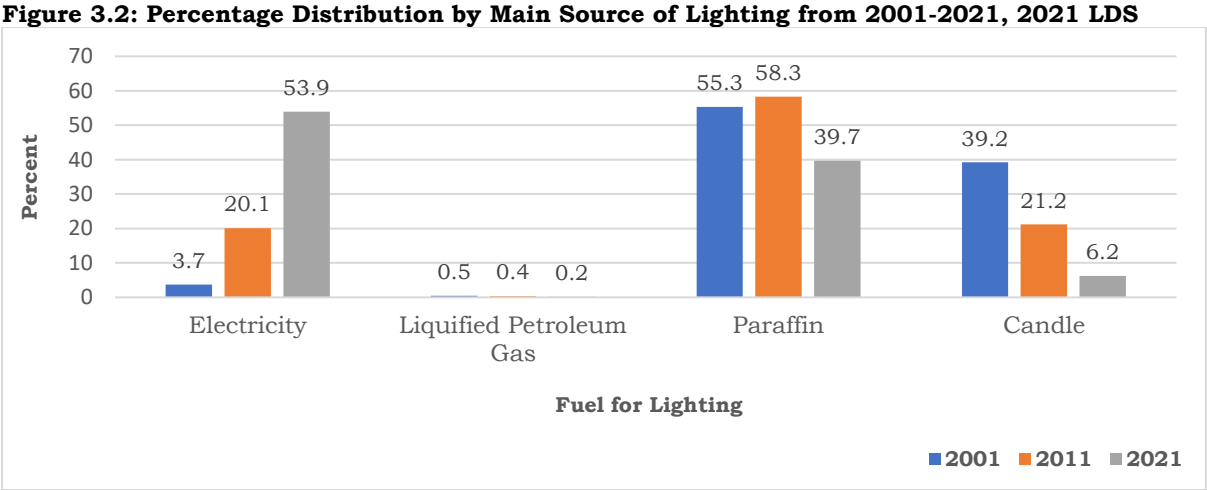


Figure 3.2 shows that the use of electricity for lighting in households increased significantly from 3.7 percent in 2001 to 53.9 percent in 2021. From 2001 to 2011, the majority of households used paraffin (55.3 to 58.3%) for lighting, followed by candles with 39.2 and 21.2 percent respectively. Thereafter, a drastic increase was observed whereby most households used electricity as their principal source of lighting with an estimate of 20.1 percent in 2011 to 53.9 percent in 2021. Contrarily, the use of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in households for lighting has never been significant over years declining from 0.5 percent estimated in 2001 to 0.2 percent in 2021.

Figure 3.2: Percentage Distribution by Main Source of Lighting from 2001-2021, 2021 LDS



3.1.2 Fuel for Heating

Lesotho is characterised by localities positioned at altitudes of 1,000 meters or more with night temperatures often falling below freezing point during winter. Hence, the reason most households need fuel for heating and the rural households use it in large quantities for this purpose. Table 3.3 shows percentage distribution of households by main source of heating and districts. The most common source of heating was paraffin in Maseru with 57.1 percent and Leribe with 50.0 percent. Wood was mostly used in Quthing accounting for 54.0 percent and Botha-Bothe with 53.0 percent for heating purposes. Generally, paraffin was the most popularly used source of fuel for heating with 45.7 percent.

Table 3.3: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source of Energy for Heating by District, 2021 LDS

District	Electricity	LPG	Bio gas	Paraffin	Coal	Wood	Animal dung	Crop waste	shrubs	Other	None
Botha-Bothe	4.6	0.8	0.3	35.6	0.9	53.0	1.7	0.0	0.2	0.0	3.0
Leribe	4.5	1.0	0.1	50.0	0.5	33.3	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.0	8.9
Berea	6.2	1.0	0.1	48.8	0.5	34.4	0.6	0.1	1.5	0.0	6.8
Maseru	8.2	1.4	0.1	57.1	0.3	21.0	0.7	0.0	0.2	0.0	11.0
Mafeteng	3.5	1.0	0.4	41.8	0.1	37.4	6.3	0.2	0.6	0.0	8.7
Mohale's Hoek	2.8	0.7	0.2	38.4	0.4	49.5	2.0	0.1	1.4	0.0	4.4
Quthing	2.6	1.0	0.0	36.3	0.3	54.0	1.7	0.0	0.5	0.0	3.7
Qacha's Nek	3.0	0.8	0.0	33.1	0.2	47.8	4.6	0.1	5.4	0.0	5.0
Mokhotlong	2.3	0.6	0.0	23.5	0.3	42.6	20.2	0.1	7.6	0.1	2.9
Thaba-Tseka	1.4	0.3	0.0	21.3	0.1	51.4	12.3	0.2	9.3	0.0	3.8
Total (%)	**5.2**	**1.0**	**0.1**	**45.7**	**0.4**	**35.1**	**3.0**	**0.1**	**1.7**	**0.0**	**7.7**
Total (N)	**29,954**	**5,746**	**725**	**260,457**	**2,123**	**199,766**	**17,147**	**371**	**9,463**	**22**	**43,857**

The percentage distribution of households by main source of heating and settlement type is presented in Table 3.4. In urban areas, paraffin was widely used as a principal source of fuel for heating with 70.9 percent. Additionally, most households in the rural area used wood as the main source of fuel for heating with 65.8 percent.

Table 3.4: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source of Energy for Heating and Settlement Type, 2021 LDS

Main Source of Energy for Heating	Urban	Peri Urban	Rural
Electricity	7.2	13.6	1.1
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	1.5	1.3	0.4
Biogas	0.2	0.1	0.1
Paraffin	70.9	45.2	19.3
Coal	0.2	0.4	0.5
Wood	7.8	27.3	65.8
Animal dung	0.4	1.7	6.1
Crop waste	0.0	0.1	0.1
Straw/shrubs/grass/paper	0.3	1.0	3.2
None	11.4	9.3	3.4
Total	**262,060**	**59,350**	**248,221**

3.1.3 Fuel for Cooking

Cooking is a practice or skill and ability of using heat to prepare food for consumption. This heat may be used using different sources of fuel. Table 3.5 shows percentage distribution of households by main source of fuel used for cooking and by district. Nationally, wood was the most popular fuel used by households for cooking with 36.6 percent followed by LPG with 29.5 percent. For households that used electricity as source of cooking, Maseru dominated with 23.4 percent.

Table 3.5: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source of Energy for Cooking and District, 2021 LDS

District	Electricity	LPG	Biogas	Paraffin	Coal	Wood	Animal dung	Crop waste	Shrubs	Other	None
Botha-Bothe	13.3	19.1	5.7	6.8	0.1	53.1	1.8	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Leribe	15.0	31.5	6.4	10.7	0.1	34.6	0.7	0.1	0.9	0.0	0.0
Berea	18.1	30.8	3.1	6.7	0.3	38.7	0.5	0.0	1.6	0.0	0.0
Maseru	23.4	37.9	4.5	11.3	0.1	21.8	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1
Mafeteng	11.6	22.1	9.1	9.7	0.1	40.0	5.8	0.3	0.8	0.0	0.4
Mohale's Hoek	9.6	26.6	3.3	6.6	0.1	50.9	1.0	0.1	2.0	0.0	0.0
Quthing	9.8	22.3	6.4	8.6	0.2	51.1	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Qacha's Nek	10	25.3	3.4	6.8	0.0	45.8	2.7	0.0	5.8	0.0	0.2
Mokhotlong	5.7	17.9	2.1	5.0	0.1	47.1	12.2	0.1	9.5	0.1	0.1
Thaba-Tseka	3.7	15.9	0.0	6.6	0.0	55.0	7.1	0.1	11.3	0.0	0.2
Total (%)	**15.8**	**29.5**	**4.7**	**9.1**	**0.1**	**36.6**	**2.1**	**0.1**	**2.0**	**0.0**	**0.1**
Total (N)	**90,020**	**168,041**	**26,611**	**51,668**	**677**	**208,659**	**11,899**	**420**	**11,165**	**22**	**449**

LPG was the most popular fuel used for cooking in urban areas represented by 29.6 percent of households followed by wood and electricity with 28.4 percent each as presented in Table 3.6. However, in the peri-urban, the majority of the households represented by 69.8 percent used wood and only 12.2 percent used LPG for cooking. The same pattern is observed in the rural areas whereby most of the households (36.6 percent) used wood and 29.5 percent used LPG for cooking.

Table 3. 6: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source of Energy for Cooking and Settlement Type, 2021 LDS

Main Source of Energy for Cooking	Urban	Peri-Urban	Rural
Electricity	28.4	3.5	15.8
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	29.6	12.2	29.5
Biogas	3.0	1.8	4.7
Paraffin	7.8	4.4	9.1
Coal	0.1	0.2	0.1
Wood	28.4	69.8	36.6
Animal dung	1.0	4.2	2.1
Crop waste	0.1	0.1	0.1
Straw/shrubs/grass/paper box	1.2	3.8	2.0
None	0.3	0.0	0.1
Total (N)	**262,060**	**59,350**	**248,221**

3.2 Household Possessions

This refers to households' belongings or items owned or controlled by either one or more members of the household. These items were expected to be in working conditions. Table 3.7 displays that most households in Maseru have working computers (desktop and laptops) and telephone lines with 50.7 and 48.4 percent respectively. Regarding household possessions, Mokhotlong was the least district represented by 1.5 percent. Tractors were common in Berea than in any other districts with household ownership of 28.3 percent. It is further noticed that scotch carts were mostly found in Leribe with 32.9 percent as compared to other districts.

Table 3.7: Percentage Distribution of Households Possessions by Districts, 2021 LDS

Possessions	Botha-Bothe	Leribe	Berea	Maseru	Mafeteng	M-Hoek	Quthing	Qacha's Nek	Mokhotlong	Thaba-Tseka
Generator	9.0	26.8	19.8	18.9	5.5	4.8	4.7	4.7	2.2	3.7
Gas Stove	4.6	20.2	16.7	33.8	9.3	5.6	3.0	3.1	1.7	2.1
Television	5.0	19.7	17.6	36.0	8.7	4.8	2.6	2.8	1.4	1.4
Telephone Line	0.5	10.0	20.6	48.4	9.8	6.0	0.6	2.6	1.0	0.6
Tractor	5.0	28.1	28.3	17.0	9.2	4.6	5.3	1.5	0.4	0.7
Scotch Cart	5.2	32.9	22.4	11.0	19.2	4.3	1.3	0.6	0.2	3.0
Vehicle	5.7	15.8	19.9	37.9	7.9	4.3	3.2	2.5	1.7	1.1
Refrigerator	4.8	19.2	17.5	37.7	8.4	4.9	2.4	2.7	1.3	1.0
Cellular Phone	4.9	19.9	16.7	33.4	9.4	5.1	3.2	3.3	1.7	2.5
Computer	3.5	11.4	19.9	50.7	6.2	2.5	1.4	1.9	1.6	0.9
Radio	4.7	20.3	17.6	33.9	9.7	4.7	2.8	2.8	1.4	2.1
Bed and/Mattress	4.7	20.3	17.6	33.9	9.7	4.7	2.8	2.8	1.4	2.1
Access to Internet	3.8	19.9	15.7	37.6	9.2	4.4	2.9	3.3	1.4	1.9
Gas Stove	4.6	20.2	16.7	33.8	9.3	5.6	3.0	3.1	1.7	2.1
Total (%)	**4.7**	**19.6**	**17.2**	**35.0**	**9.2**	**4.9**	**2.9**	**3.0**	**1.5**	**2.0**
Total(N)	**63,854**	**266,386**	**233,332**	**475,510**	**124,220**	**66,320**	**39,257**	**40,679**	**20,818**	**26,538**

3.3 Summary

The main sources of fuel that were used by households for cooking, heating and lighting were determined during the survey. In general, electricity generated from the grid dominated in usage as the main source of lighting with 51.7 percent followed by the use of paraffin with 39.7 percent. The most used source of fuel for heating was paraffin (45.7%) and wood was commonly used by households for cooking with 36.6 percent.

Regarding household possessions, the majority of households residing in Berea and Leribe owned tractors with 28.1 and 28.3 percent respectively. Households living in Maseru had most of computers (desktop and laptops) and telephone lines as the means of communication.

CHAPTER 4

EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION

4.0 Introduction

Education is the process by which societies deliberately transmit their accumulated information, knowledge, understanding, attitudes, values, skills competencies and behaviors across generations. It involves communication designed to bring about learning (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2011).

Education plays a fundamental role to personal and social development and wellbeing in the overall development of the nations. The Lesotho government has recognized the important role of education as a result it is committed to provision of equitable basic education to all Basotho as a key development goal. In the year 2000, Lesotho introduced a policy of Free Primary Education (FPE) which provided access to basic education for every Mosotho. As a follow-up, Inclusive Education Policy was introduced in 2019, which entails a process of addressing and responding to diverse needs of all learners through increasing participation in learning, cultures among communities and reducing exclusion within and from education, (Ministry of Education, 2019).

The government is also striving towards achieving SDG 4 that is, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, (Ministry of Education, 2019). Therefore, the main aim of this chapter is to measure and monitor progress towards achieving this goal. The chapter will further focus more on school attendance, educational attainment, literacy and field of specialisation to view whether goal 4 of sustainable development will be achieved.

4.1 School Attendance

School attendance is referred to as a regular attendance at any accredited educational institution or program, public or private, for organised learning at any level of education at the time of the census and surveys. For this sub-section the survey questions administered targeted population aged 3 years and above. However, the focus of analysis will mainly be on population aged 6 to 24 years which is the conventional school going age group that was estimated at 818,418.

The percentage distribution of population aged 6 to 24 years by school attendance and districts is demonstrated in Table 4.1. Out of the total population aged 6 to 24 years, 65.3 percent were still attending school, 33.2 percent had left school and 1.5 percent had never attended school. In all the districts, population who were still attending school ranged from 55.5 to 68.4 percent.

Table 4.1: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 6 - 24 Years by School Attendance and Districts, 2021 LDS

Districts	Never Attended	Still Attending	Left School	Total
Botha-Bothe	1.0	65.9	33.1	48,354
Leribe	1.1	66.2	32.7	140,566
Berea	0.9	65.7	33.4	102,242
Maseru	1.0	67.2	31.8	220,344
Mafeteng	1.1	68.4	30.5	65,457
Mohale's Hoek	2.1	65.0	32.9	60,286
Quthing	2.1	64.0	33.9	44,726
Qacha's Nek	1.6	65.6	32.7	30,771
Mokhotlong	3.8	55.5	40.7	45,450
Thaba-Tseka	3.2	60.2	36.6	60,222
Total	**1.5**	**65.3**	**33.2**	**818,418**

Figure 4.1 displays the percentage distribution of population aged 6 to 24 years who ever attended school. The figure reveals that in the urban area the majority of males constituting 54.9 percent have never attended school, while females recorded 45.1 percent. Regardless of settlement type, females who were still attending school dominated their male counterparts even though with a small margin. In the rural area, there is a considerable gap between males and females for the never attending school with males outstandingly high at 77.6 percent while females were only 22.4 percent.

Figure 4.1: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 6 - 24 Years by Sex, Settlement Type and School Attendance, 2021 LDS

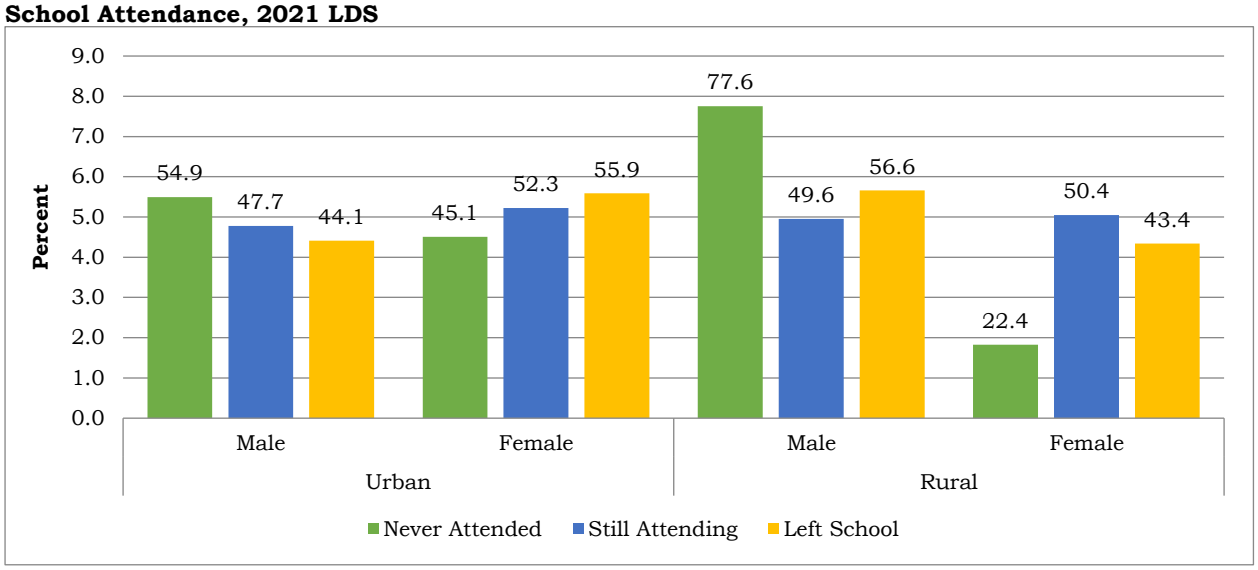
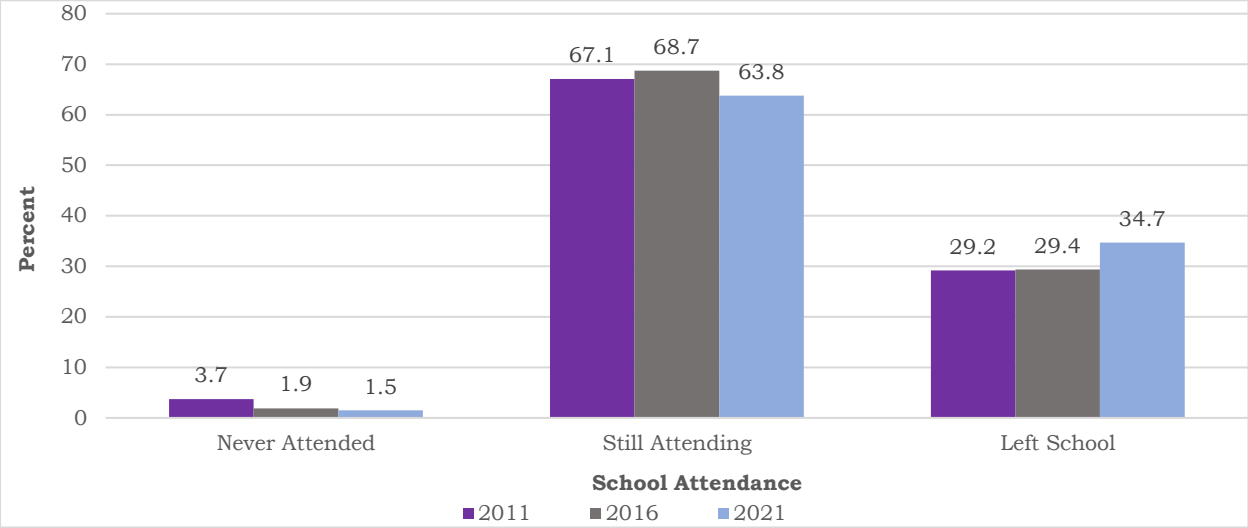


Figure 4.2 presents population age 6 to 24 years by school attendance from 2011 to 2021. In 2011 those who were still attending school recorded 67.1 percent and declined to 63.8 percent in 2021. Those who left school increased over survey years from 29.2 to 34.7 percent. Contrarily, the reverse relationship is observed for those who never attended school with proportions declining from 3.7 to 1.5 percent.

Figure 4.2: Trend of Population Aged 6 - 24 Years by School Attendance, 2021 LDS



4.2.1 Never Attended School

Never attended refers to the condition whereby an individual has never at any time in their lifetime joined a formal education programme. According to Table 4.2, a total of 12,142 persons never attended school comprising 71.0 percent for males while females accounted for 29.0 percent. The distribution by districts shows that of the total 956 persons who never attended school in Quthing, 85.5 percent were males.

Table 4.2: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 6 - 24 Years Who Never Attended School by District and Sex, 2021 LDS

District	Male	Female	Total
Botha-Bothe	56.2	43.8	**468**
Leribe	54.8	45.2	**1,498**
Berea	63.4	36.6	**946**
Maseru	71.9	28.1	**2,126**
Mafeteng	66.1	33.9	**729**
Mohale's Hoek	75.1	24.9	**1,279**
Quthing	85.5	14.5	**956**
Qacha's Nek	66.9	33.1	**498**
Mokhotlong	84.6	15.4	**1,721**
Thaba-Tseka	85.4	14.6	**1,922**
Total	**71.0**	**29.0**	**12,142**

4.2.2 Still Attending

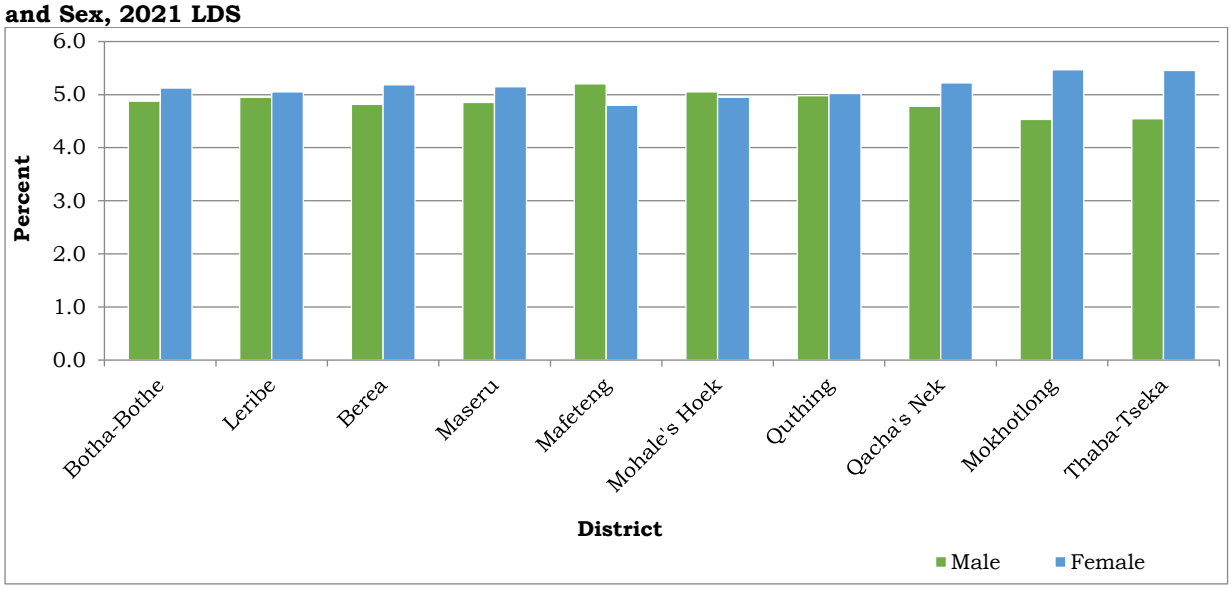
This refers to persons who are regular attendants at any accredited educational institution or program, public or private, for organised learning at any level of education. Table 4.3 illustrates percentage distribution of the school going age population who were still attending school by settlement type, age and sex. Nationally, for those who were still attending school, females accounted for 51.2 percent while males recorded 48.8 percent. Females who were still attending school were more than males regardless of settlement type.

Table 4. 3: Percentage Distribution of School Going Population Still Attending School by Age, Settlement Type and Sex, 2021 LDS

	Urban		Rural		Total	
Age	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**
6	47.7	52.3	54.9	45.1	52.2	47.8
7	47.7	52.3	52.0	48.0	50.3	49.7
8	50.3	49.7	51.1	48.9	50.8	49.2
9	51.0	49.0	49.6	50.4	50.2	49.8
10	50.3	49.7	50.1	49.9	50.2	49.8
11	47.1	52.9	50.5	49.5	49.2	50.8
12	48.5	51.5	50.7	49.3	49.9	50.1
13	49.7	50.3	50.9	49.1	50.5	49.5
14	46.1	53.9	45.5	54.5	45.8	54.2
15	43.9	56.1	46.5	53.5	45.4	54.6
16	47.2	52.8	47.5	52.5	47.3	52.7
17	49.9	50.1	48.1	51.9	49.0	51.0
18	45.1	54.9	46.6	53.4	45.8	54.2
19	44.1	55.9	46.3	53.7	45.0	55.0
20	46.5	53.5	48.1	51.9	47.3	52.7
21	47.8	52.2	50.5	49.5	48.9	51.1
22	44.0	56.0	38.2	61.8	41.1	58.9
23	44.5	55.5	45.4	54.6	44.9	55.1
24	39.3	60.7	46.4	53.6	42.1	57.9
Total	**47.7**	**52.3**	**49.6**	**50.4**	**48.8**	**51.2**

Figure 4.3 presents percentage distribution of population still attending school by district and sex. According to this figure, it is observed that the majority of females were still attending school. Even though females dominate in all the districts, Mafeteng and Mohale's Hoek were exceptional as males outnumbered females.

Figure 4.3: Percentage Distribution of School Going Population Still Attending School by District and Sex, 2021 LDS



4.2.3 Left School

This refers to the state where persons were out of school either due to completion of desired level or dropped out. Table 4.4 presents percentage distribution of persons who were out of school by highest level of education attained. The majority of persons who left school attained standard 7 and form 5 with 19.2 and 17.4 percent respectively.

Table 4. 4: Percentage Distribution of Population Who Left School by Highest Level of Education, 2021 LDS

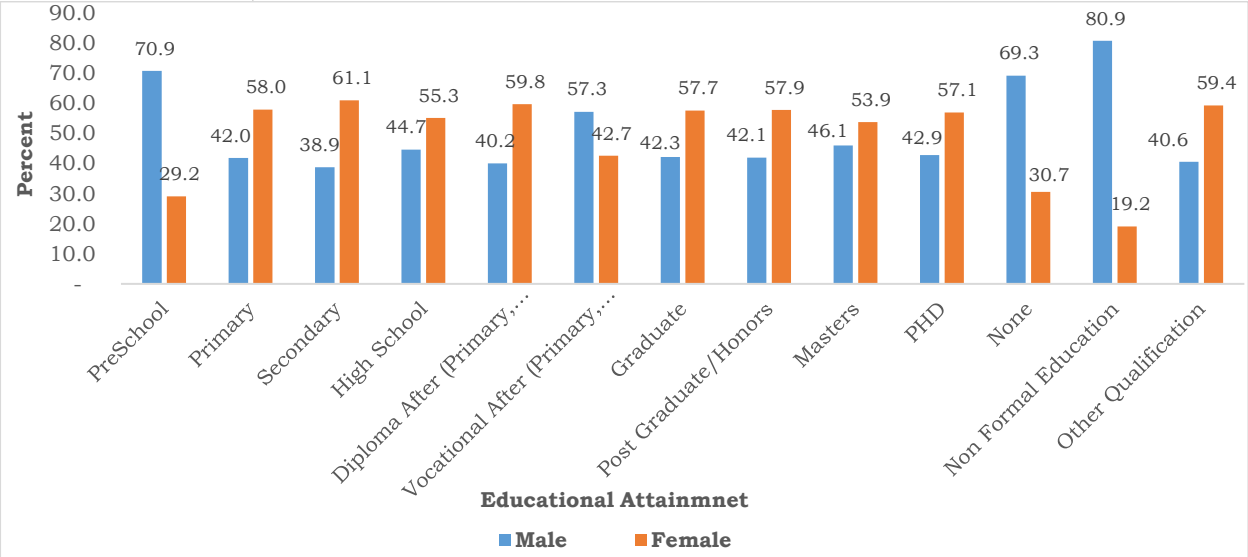
Highest Education Level	Percent (%)	Number
Pre School	0.7	1 863
Standard 1	1.6	4 231
Standard 2	2.8	7 627
Standard 3	3.1	8 311
Standard 4	4.0	10 969
Standard 5	5.3	14 451
Standard 6	7.4	20 045
Standard 7	19.2	52 139
Form 1	11.0	29 979
Form 2	11.9	32 234
Form 3	8.9	24 093
Form 4	3.8	10 223
Form 5	17.4	47 287
None	0.4	1 095
Non-Formal Education	0.0	106
Diploma/certificate after primary	0.0	103
Vocational and technical after primary	0.0	98
Diploma /certificate after secondary	0.1	309
Vocational and technical after secondary	0.0	67
Diploma /certificate after high school	1.3	3 405
Vocational and technical after high school	0.1	247
Graduate	0.7	1 863
Post graduate Diploma/Honors	0.2	571
Total		**271 316**

4.3 Educational Attainment

Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education that an individual has completed. It is an important indicator of the society's stock of human capital and level of socio-economic development. This sub-section will concentrate on population aged 15 years and above estimated at 1,437,895.

Figure 4.4 displays the proportion of males and females aged 15 years and above by educational attainment. The figure reveals that for the highest level of education, the majority of males attained pre-school, vocational after (primary, secondary and High school) and non-formal education when compared to their female counterparts. Moreover, for those with no education at all males (69.3%) still outnumber females (30.7%).

Figure 4.4: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and Above by Educational Attainment and Sex, 2021 LDS



4.4 Literacy

Literacy is defined as the ability to both read and write with understanding a short statement on everyday life. The main purpose of adult literacy is to show the accumulated achievement of primary education and literacy programs in imparting basic literacy skills to the population. This is meant to enable them to apply such skills in daily life and to continue learning and communicating using the written words. It also represents a potential for further intellectual growth and contribution to economic-socio-cultural development of society, (UNESCO, 2009).

Literacy has been categorised into three groups; Literacy 1 which comprise of the persons who knew how to read and write in Sesotho or English or both with ease. Literacy 2 includes those who knew how to either read or write Sesotho or English only, or can either read or write both with difficulty. Lastly Illiteracy involves persons who did not know how to read and write in Sesotho or English at all. Therefore, this topic focuses on adult literacy which is estimated for persons aged 15 years and above.

The total literacy rate is estimated at 96.9 percent as reflected in Table 4.5. The literacy rate for those who can read and write with ease accounted for 85.5 percent. Mokhotlong district had the highest proportion of individuals who were illiterate with 10.5.

Table 4.5: Percentage Distribution of Population 15 Years and Above by Literacy Level and Districts, 2021 LDS

District	Literacy 1	Literacy 2	Illiterate	Total
Botha-Bothe	79.6	14.7	5.8	83,258
Leribe	90.1	8.0	1.9	252,337
Berea	89.2	9.1	1.8	186,968
Maseru	89.9	8.5	1.6	404,278
Mafeteng	82.8	14.4	2.7	117,287
Mohale's Hoek	78.2	18.6	3.2	110,808
Quthing	80.0	17.0	3.0	74,995
Qacha's Nek	84.6	11.3	4.1	52,179
Mokhotlong	73.8	15.7	10.5	65,590
Thaba-Tseka	76.7	16.0	7.3	90,195
Total	**85.5**	**11.4**	**3.1**	**1,437,894**

The percentage distribution of persons aged 15 years and above by literacy level and sex is displayed in Figure 4.5. Females had a higher literacy (1 and 2) rate estimated at 98.5 percent as compared to their male counterparts who had 95.3 percent.

Figure 4.5: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and Above by Literacy Level and Sex, 2021 LDS

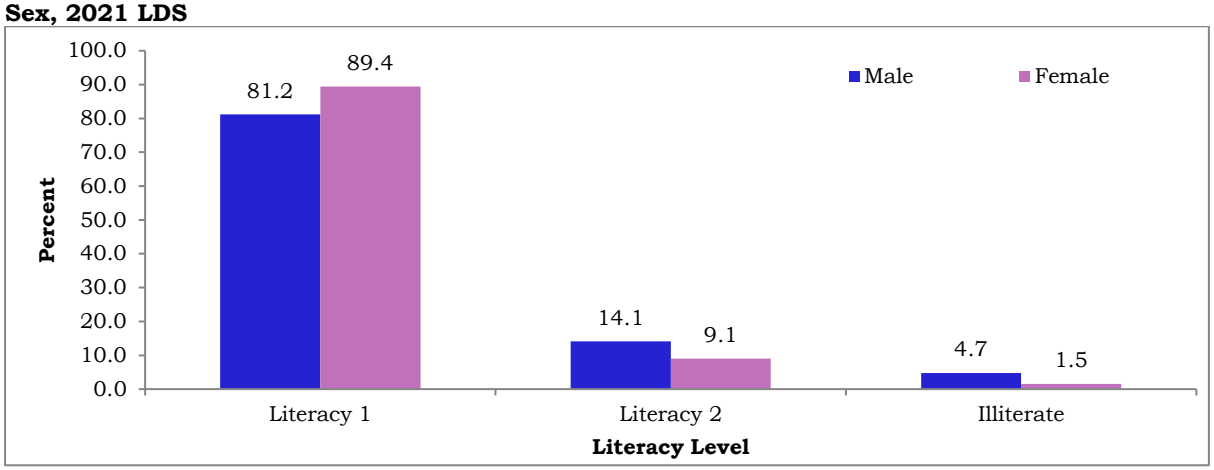
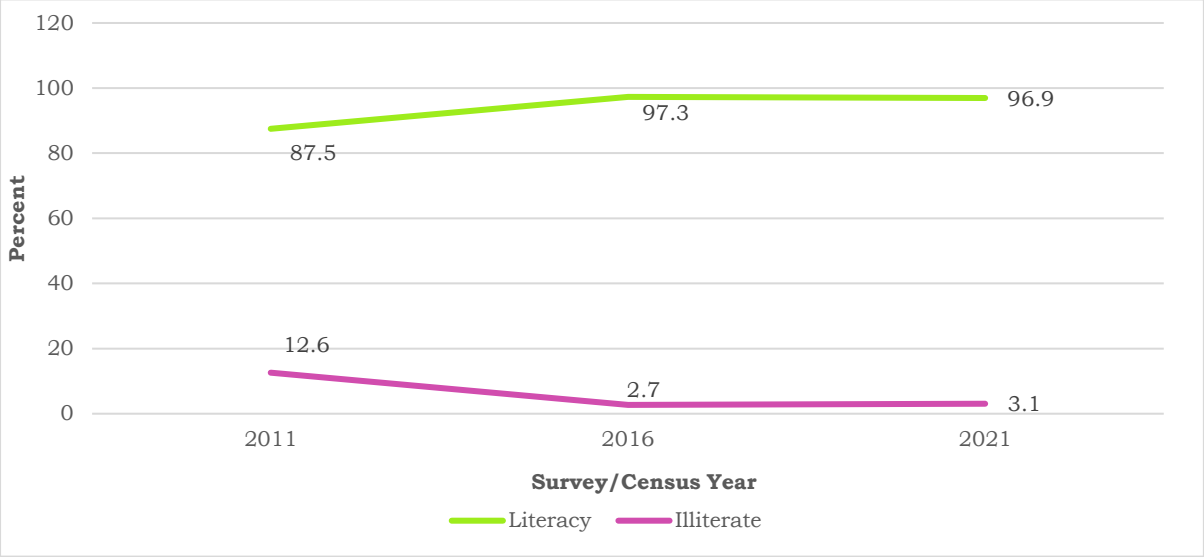


Figure 4.6 shows the trend from 2011 to 2021 survey periods with percentage distribution of individuals aged 15 years and above by literacy level. Literacy rate in 2011 recorded 87.5 percent and has been improving till 2021 to 96.9 percent. The trend analysis illustrates that, there is an insignificant difference in relation to 2016 and 2021 literacy level.

Figure 4.6: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and Above by Literacy Status, 2021 LDS



4.5 Field of Specialization

This refers to a specific type of field or area of training whereby a person specialises in, as part of his or her major in an institution or a specific area of a job if it is job-related. According to Table 4.6, for engineering professions males were mostly dominant with 87.5 percent when compared to their female counterparts. Regarding health-related professions, females were mostly leading with 73.7 percent.

Table 4.6: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and Above by Field of Study and Sex, 2021 LDS

Field of Specialisation	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Total
Physical and earth science professionals	56.3	43.7	2.4	3,128
Life science professionals	43.4	56.6	4.8	6,184
Engineering professionals	87.5	12.5	10.5	13,593
Architects, planners, surveyors and designers	67.8	32.2	5.7	7,385
Health professionals	26.3	73.7	7.3	9,444
Teaching professionals	28.2	71.8	27.1	35,225
Business and administration professionals	35.8	64.2	27.0	35,127
Information and communications technology professionals	51.5	48.5	5.9	7,704
Legal professionals	55.2	44.8	1.7	2,144
Librarians, archivists and curators	41.1	58.9	0.8	1,003
Social and religious professionals	29.5	70.5	6.7	8,688
Other	80.4	19.6	0.2	275
Total	**54,698**	**75,203**	**100.0**	**129,901**

4.6 Summary

Generally, the 2021 LDS result depicts that population aged 6 to 24 years was estimated at 818,418. Out of this population, 65.3 percent were still attending school, 33.2 percent had left school and 1.5 percent had never attended school. The decline in still attending noticed between 2011 (67.1%) and 2021 (65.3%) should trigger a concern for the government.

The total literacy rate was estimated at 96.9 percent in 2021 and has been improving since 2011. For the field of specialisation, the most dominant professions were teaching and Business with administration professions recording 27.1 and 27.0 percent respectively.

CHAPTER 5

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

5.0 Introduction

The United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (2017) states that, information on the productive activities of persons is vital to establish a comprehensive picture of the economic structure of a country, and the work patterns, labour market participation and extent of labour underutilisation of its population. Additionally, one of the priorities of Lesotho highlighted in the NSDP II is to enhance inclusive and sustainable economic growth and private sector job creation.

The aim of this chapter is to highlight the economic activity status of the population in Lesotho. Most people are involved in economic activities in order to achieve and experience a certain acceptance level of consumption of goods and services. The general wellbeing and the economy are influenced by participation of people in economic activities.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) considers the standard age limit as 15 years and allows individual countries to decide on the minimum age of entry into the labour force as per the prevailing national laws. As a result, the minimum age of eligibility for this survey was set at 10 years and above in order to establish whether children participate in economic activities. Furthermore, the introduction of an upper age limit could result in incomplete coverage, loss of valuable information and unavailability of data for evaluating the success of government policies aimed at encouraging prolonged labour force participation.

5.1 Main Activity Status

Main activity refers to an act of producing, purchasing and selling of goods and services. It is any type of work undertaken by an individual to earn a living whether paid in cash or in kind. Population aged 10 years and above was estimated at 1,674,835 with females represented by 51.8 percent and males by 48.2 percent. The results reveal that, the majority of population were housewives accounting for 28.9 percent with over representation of females estimated at 39.3 percent. Most males were regular wage or salary earners constituting 23.5 percent. In addition, males (23.5%) were more likely to own businesses than their female (19.4%) counterparts.

Table 5.1: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 10 Years and Above by Main Activities and Sex, 2021 LDS

Main Activity	Male	Female	Total
Employer	0.2	0.1	0.2
Own account worker/farmer	15.3	7.2	11.1
Regular wage/ salary earner	23.5	19.4	21.4
Casual worker	6.6	2.6	4.5
Unpaid family worker	4.6	0.6	2.5
Job seeking	4.2	2.4	3.3
Job seeking for the first time	2.4	1.4	1.9
Homemaker	0.4	1.0	0.7
Housewife	17.7	39.3	28.9
Retired	1.0	0.9	1.0
Student	24.2	25.1	24.6
Total	**807,237**	**867,598**	**1,674,835**

5.2 Working Age Population

Working age population refers to persons aged 10 years and above who are employed or unemployed during the reference period. Of the total eligible population 673,811 persons comprising 40.2 percent reported to be employed while around 60 percent were not employed as depicted in Figure 5.1. About 70 percent of females were not employed which is contrary to males whereby 51 percent of them were employed.

Figure 5.1: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 10 Years and Above by Employment Status and Sex, 2021 LDS

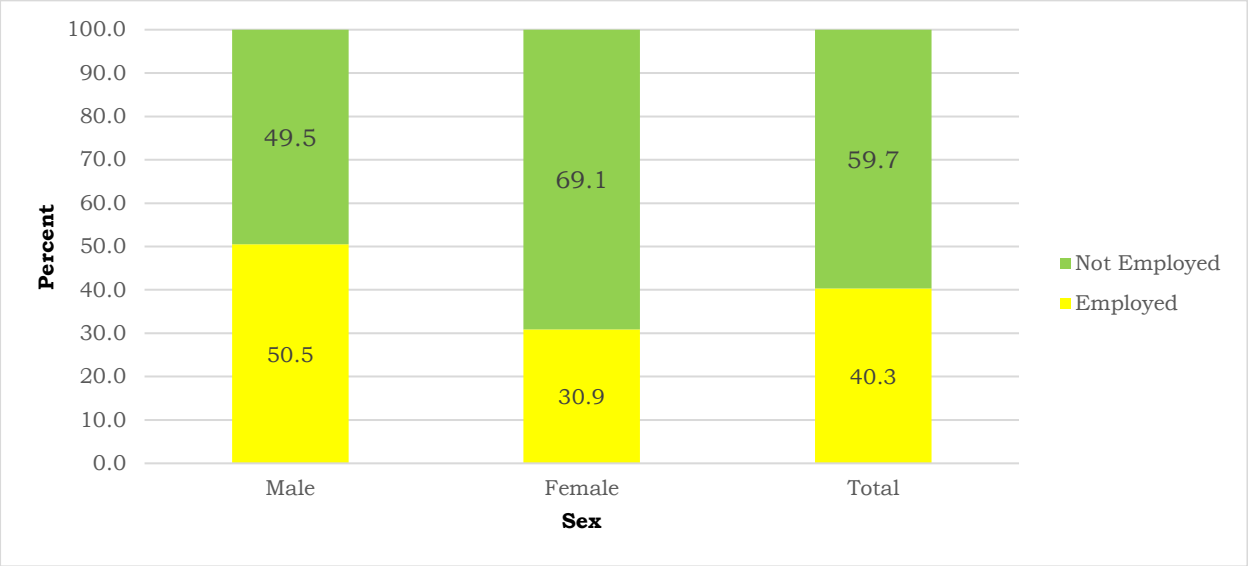
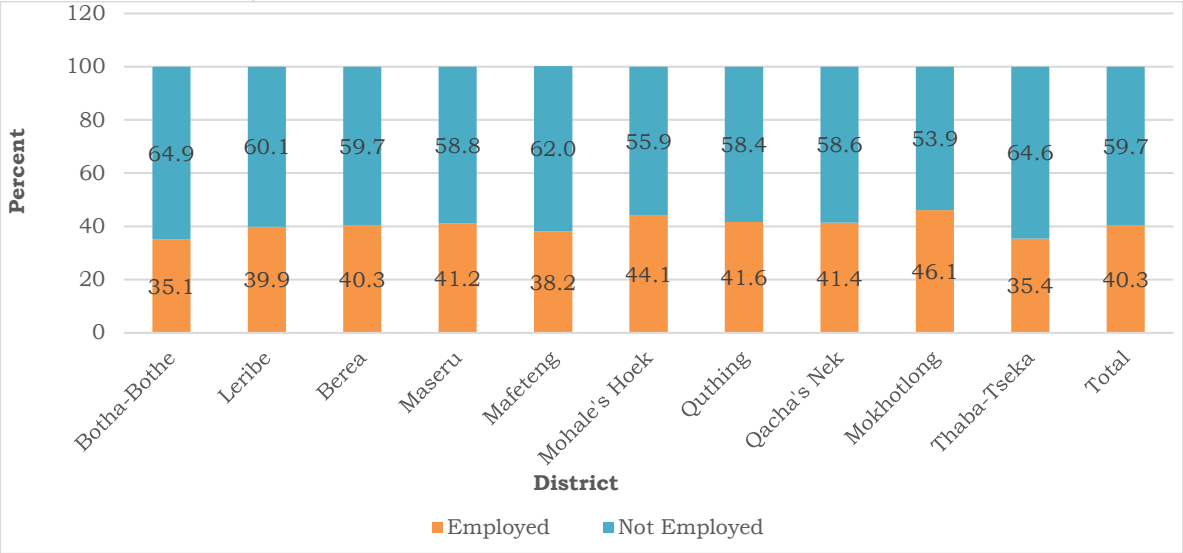


Figure 5.2 shows the percentage distribution of population aged 10 years and above by employment status and districts. Across all the districts, the unemployed population ranges from 53.9 percent in Mokhotlong district to 64.9 percent in Botha-Bothe.

Figure 5.2: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 10 Years and Above by Employment Status and Districts, 2021 LDS



5.3 Employment

Employment refers to work for pay or profit-making. It includes employers, own-account workers, regular wage/salary earners, unpaid family workers, home makers, and casual workers. Table 5.2 shows that the highest number of employed persons was males while females had lower numbers. Regarding employment categories, more than 50 percent of the employed population were regular wage/salary earners. Furthermore, with regard to the same category, females constituted 62.7 percent and males had 46.5 percent.

Table 5.2: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population Aged 10 Years and Above by Main Activity and Sex, 2021 LDS

Main Activity	Male	Female	Total
Employer	0.4	0.5	0.4
Own account worker/farmer	30.2	23.2	27.4
Regular wage/ salary earner	46.5	62.7	52.9
Casual worker	13.0	8.4	11.2
Unpaid family worker	9.0	2.0	6.2
Homemaker	0.8	3.3	1.8
Total	**406,518**	**267,293**	**673,811**

The results presented in Table 5.3 reflect that, concentration of employed persons is mostly at ages 20 to 49 years for both sexes. Females' economic activity participation reaches a peak at age group 30 to 39 years while that of males was mostly at age group 25 to 34 years. Children aged 10 to 14 years constituted 231,216 of which 5,016 were employed accounting for 0.7 percent of the total employed population.

Table 5.3: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population Aged 10 Years and Above by Age Group and Sex, 2021 LDS

Age-Groups	Male	Female	Total
10 - 14	1.2	0.1	0.7
15 - 19	6.9	2.0	4.9
20 - 24	11.3	8.0	10.0
25 - 29	13.8	13.8	13.8
30 - 34	14.6	15.8	15.1
35 - 39	13.4	16.2	14.5
40 - 44	11.7	13.4	12.4
45 - 49	8.6	8.9	8.7
50 - 54	6.0	7.3	6.5
55 - 59	4.6	6.0	5.2
60 - 64	3.2	4.2	3.6
65+	4.7	4.4	4.6
Total	**406,518**	**267,293**	**673,811**

According to Table 5.4, a considerable proportion of females that was employed resided in the urban areas accounting for 55.0 percent. Contrarily for males, a high percentage constituting 51.1 of the employed persons mostly resided in the rural areas.

Table 5.4: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population Aged 10 Years and Above by Settlement Type and Sex, 2021 LDS

Settlement Type	Male	Female	Total
Urban	40.7	55.0	46.4
Peri Urban	8.2	8.6	8.4
Rural	51.1	36.4	45.3
Total	**406,518**	**267,293**	**673,811**

5.3.1 Educational Background

Education provides a foundation for development, the groundwork on which much of the economic and social wellbeing is built. It is further indicated that, educational characteristics present a role that education plays in the labour market of every country because education is an important variable accounting for demographic behaviour and social characteristics of the population, (BOS, 2011).

Table 5.5 shows that for both sexes, 31.9 percent of the employed population had attained primary level of education. The second most highly represented level of education is high school with 27.3 percent for males and 24.4 percent for females.

Table 5.5: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population Aged 10 Years and Above by Educational Attainment and Sex, 2021 LDS

Educational Attainment	Male	Female	Total
Pre-school	0.2	0.1	0.2
Primary	33.3	30.3	31.9
Secondary	13.7	17.6	15.6
High School	27.3	24.4	25.9
Vocational after Primary/Secondary/High School	1.6	1.1	1.4
Diploma after Primary/Secondary/High School	11.0	14.0	12.4
Graduates	9.4	12.2	10.7
Non Formal	2.2	0.2	1.2
None	1.3	0.1	0.7
Total	**188,580**	**172,564**	**361,144**

Table 5.6 shows that in urban areas, more than 30 percent of employed population had attained high school level of education. Additionally, a high percentage constituting 51.8 of the employed population who were from the rural areas had attained primary level of education.

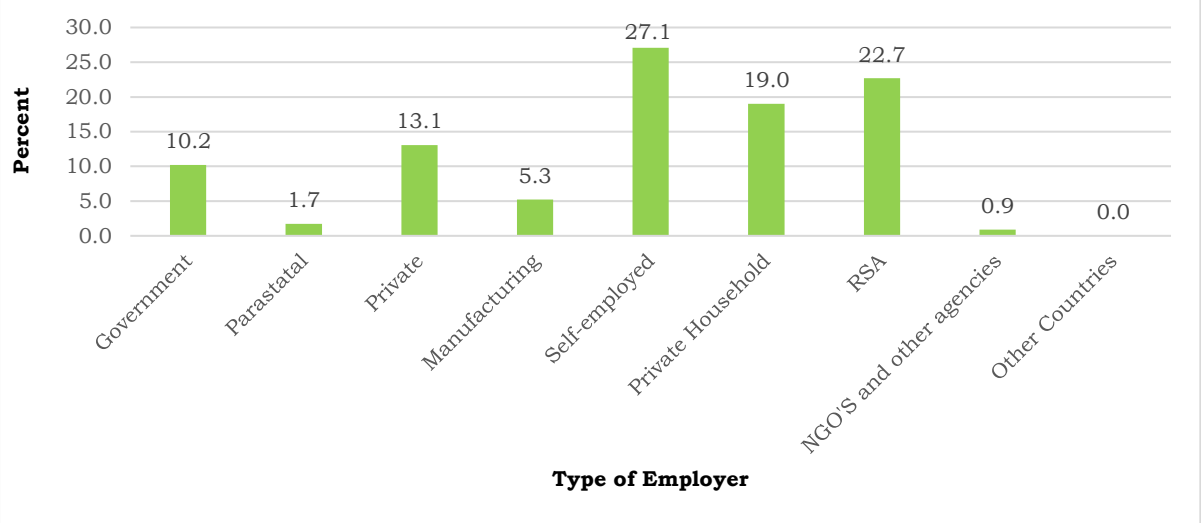
Table 5.6: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population Aged 10 Years and Above by Educational Attainment and Settlement Type, 2021 LDS

Educational Attainment	Urban	Peri-Urban	Rural	Total
Pre school	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
Primary	20.7	32.3	51.8	31.9
Secondary	16.0	15.4	14.8	15.6
High School	30.5	25.9	17.8	25.9
Vocational after Primary/Secondary/High School	1.6	1.6	0.8	1.4
Diploma after Primary/Secondary/High School	15.4	13.2	6.8	12.4
Graduates	15.1	10.1	3.2	10.7
Non Formal	0.3	0.8	3.1	1.2
None	0.3	0.5	1.5	0.7
Total	**211,644**	**31,478**	**118,023**	**361,144**

5.3.2 Type of Employer

Employer is a person, firm or other entity which pays for or hires the services of another person. The 2021 LDS classified the type of employer into government, parastatal, private, manufacturing, self-employed, private household, and those employed in RSA[1] or other countries. Figure 5.3 illustrates that, a significant share of the population was self-employed accounting for 27.1 percent, followed by those employed in RSA with 22.7 percent. The least popular employers are NGOs and other agencies as well as parastatals.

Figure 5. 3: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population by Type of Employer, 2021 LDS



As reflected in Table 5.7, a considerable percentage of both males and females reported to be self-employed, though the proportion for males (29.0%) in the same category was higher than that of females (24.2%). Moreover, persons who were employed in NGOs and other agencies were minimal.

[1] It should be noted that RSA and other countries are included in the type of employer to capture labour migration.

Table 5.7: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population Aged 10 Years and Above by Type of Employer and Sex, 2021 LDS

	Sex		
Type of Employer	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Government	7.5	14.4	10.2
Parastatal	1.4	2.2	1.7
Private	13.6	12.3	13.1
Manufacturing	2.5	9.4	5.3
Self-employed	29.0	24.2	27.1
Private Household	23.3	12.5	19.0
RSA	22.0	23.7	22.7
NGO'S and other agencies	0.7	1.2	0.9
Total	**406,518**	**267,293**	**673,811**

Table 5.8 displays percentage distribution of employed population by type of employer and main activity engaged in seven days prior to the survey. The table shows that, more than 80 percent of own-account workers/farmers and homemakers were self-employed. Also, about 90 percent of unpaid family workers were employed by private households.

Table 5.8: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population by Type of Employer and Main Activity Status, 2021 LDS

	Main Activity Status							
Type of Employer	**Employer**	**Own account worker/farmer**	**Regular wage/ salary earner**	**Casual worker**	**Unpaid family worker**	**Homemaker**	**Other**	**Total**
Government	0.0	0.0	18.4	4.1	0.0	0.0	55.2	10.2
Parastatal	2.3	0.0	2.6	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7
Private	18.5	0.0	19.7	18.8	7.7	0.0	26.0	13.1
Manufacturing	1.5	0.0	9.2	2.5	1.7	0.0	0.0	5.3
Self-employed	19.4	93.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	81.4	0.0	27.1
Private Household	23.6	0.0	15.7	41.4	89.8	18.6	18.8	19.0
RSA	33.2	6.8	32.9	28.9	0.7	0.0	0.0	22.7
NGO'S and other agencies	1.0	0.0	1.5	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9
Other Countries	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	**2,926**	**184,743**	**356,681**	**75,300**	**42,090**	**11,955**	**117**	**673,811**

5.3.3 Occupational Characteristics

Data on occupation provides information on economic characteristics relating to the type of work done during the specified time period. Changes in occupational distribution from one survey to the other reflect the changes occurring in the economic and social structure of the country.

Table 5.9 shows the percentage distribution of employed population aged 10 years and above by occupation and sex. More than 50 percent of employed persons participated in elementary occupations. For males, the second highest percentage of employed persons was engaged as skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers with 18.5 percent. For females the second highest was service and sales workers with 14.5 percent.

Table 5. 9: Employed Population Aged 10 Years and Above by Occupations and Sex, 2021 LDS

Occupation	Male	Female	Total
Armed forces occupations	2.7	0.8	2.0
Managers	1.9	1.6	1.8
Professionals	5.2	11.8	7.8
Technicians and associate professionals	2.3	1.5	2.0
Clerical support workers	1.2	3.2	2.0
Service and sales workers	8.7	14.5	11.0
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	18.5	7.7	14.2
Craft and related trades workers	4.7	5.5	5.0
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	3.0	1.1	2.3
Elementary occupations	51.8	52.3	52.0
Total	**406,518**	**267,293**	**673,811**

Table 5.10 presents a total number of 441,217 and 673,811 employed persons in 2011 and 2021 respectively. During 2011, most employed persons were Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers, while in 2021 most were engaged in Elementary occupations.

Table 5.10: Employed Population 10 Years and Above by Occupations and Sex, 2021 LDS

	2011 LDS			2021 LDS		
Occupation	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Armed forces occupations	0.5	0.1	0.4	2.7	0.8	2.0
Managers	2.6	2.8	2.7	1.9	1.6	1.8
Professionals	1.9	3.5	2.5	5.2	11.8	7.8
Technicians and associate professionals	1.4	4.8	2.6	2.3	1.5	2.0
Clerical support workers	2.7	7.5	4.5	1.2	3.2	2.0
Service and sales workers	9	15.7	11.5	8.7	14.5	11.0
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	48.2	15.1	35.9	18.5	7.7	14.2
Craft and related trades workers	14	18.6	15.7	4.7	5.5	5.0
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	7.1	2.6	5.4	3.0	1.1	2.3
Elementary occupations	12.6	29.3	18.8	51.8	52.3	52.0
Total	**277,600**	**163,617**	**441,217**	**406,518**	**267,293**	**673,811**

5.3.4 Industrial Characteristics

Industrial characteristics demonstrate the distribution of employed population by economic activities which illustrate their contribution in different industries. It is important to establish which industries mostly absorb the labour in order to inform the government accordingly. The industries include among others, agriculture, mining and quarrying, manufacturing, electricity and water, construction and others.

Figure 5.4 reveal that, more than 50 percent of the employed persons (both sexes) worked in the tertiary sector with females contributing 70.6 percent. Nevertheless, the picture is different for males, as most of them constituting 41.9 percent were engaged in the primary sector of the economy.

Figure 5.4: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population by Industrial Sectors and Sex, 2021 LDS

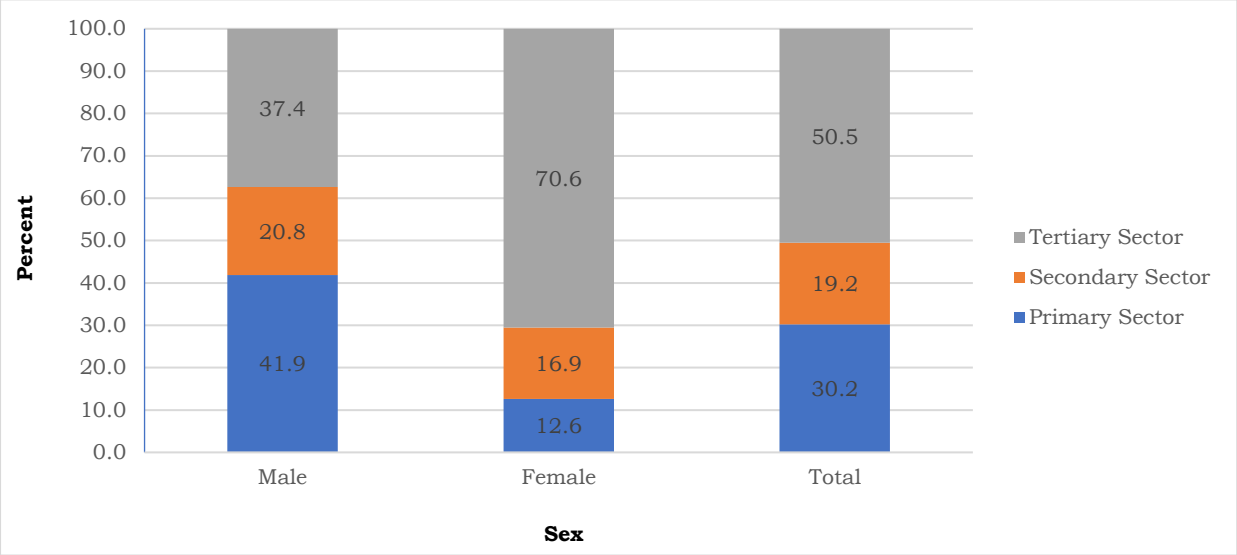


Table 5.11 displays that for the year two consecutive survey periods (2011 and 2021), the majority of employed persons worked in agricultural industry, which forms part of the primary sector of the economy. However, the proportion of persons involved in agriculture has been declining from 2011 to 2021. The proportion of employed population in manufacturing had dropped by around 3 percentage points from 2011 to 2021.

Table 5.11: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population by Industries and Sex, 2021 LDS

	2011 LDS			2021 LDS		
Industries	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Agriculture	51.6	16.3	38.4	37.4	12.1	27.3
Mining and Quarrying	3.3	0.4	2.2	4.5	0.5	2.9
Manufacturing and Processing	5.2	22.5	11.7	4.1	15.9	8.8
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.9	0.3	0.6
Water supply, waste management and remediation activities	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Construction	10.5	1.9	7.3	15.5	0.5	9.5
Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	7.9	16.1	11	5.1	7.1	5.9
Transport, storage and Communication	5.4	0.5	3.6	4.0	0.3	2.5
Accommodation and food service activities	0.5	1.9	1	1.4	5.7	3.1
Information and communication	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.4
Financial and Insurance activities	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	1.2	0.7
Real estate activities	0	0	0	0.2	0.3	0.2
Professional, scientific and technical activities	0.6	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.5
Administrative and support service activities	3.4	2.8	3.2	0.4	0.6	0.5
Public administration and defence, compulsory social security	3.3	2.8	3.1	9.4	14.6	11.5
Education	2.2	9.9	5.1	0.3	1.6	0.8
Human health and social work activities	1.5	4.2	2.5	0.8	2.2	1.3
Arts, entertainment and recreation	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4
Other service activities	0.7	1.9	1.2	6.7	12.1	8.8
Activities of households as employers, undifferentiated goods- and services- producing activities of households for own use	1.4	15.2	6.5	6.7	22.0	12.8
Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.7	1.6	1.1
Total	**271,413**	**161,094**	**432,508**	**406,518**	**267,293**	**673,811**

5.4 Summary

Population aged 10 years and above was estimated at 1,674,835 with females represented by 51.8 percent and males by 48.2 percent. Data suggest that, of the total eligible population, 40.2 percent reported to be employed and more than 50 percent of the employed population were regular wage/salary earners. Children aged 10 to 14 years were 231,216 and the results show that 5,016 children were employed accounting for 0.7 percent of the total employed population.

A considerable proportion of employed population had attained primary level of education (31.9%). The majority of both males and females reported to be self-employed. Additionally, more than 50 percent of employed persons participated in elementary occupations. Regarding sectors, tertiary absorbed more than 50 percent of the employed persons. Though manufacturing has been noted as the stronghold for employment in Lesotho, the proportion employed in this industry has dropped by around 3 percentage points from 2011 to 2021.

CHAPTER 6

WATER AND SANITATION

6.0 Introduction

Domestic water supplies are some of the fundamental requirements for human life. Without water, life cannot be sustained beyond a few days and lack of access to adequate water supplies leads to the spread of diseases, (WHO, 2003). Safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are crucial to human health and well-being. Safe WASH is not only a prerequisite to health, but contributes to good quality livelihoods, school attendance, dignity and helps to create resilient communities living in healthy environments, (WHO, 2018). The Ministry of Natural Resources (2007) stated that, Basotho are entitled to have access to sustainable supply of portable water and to the provision of basic sanitation services.

The Ministry of Water is mandated to develop, update and monitor the implementation of water policy, water and sanitation legislations and strategy. This includes preparation and coordination of all water sector management activities as well as international waters. The Ministry further states that, Lesotho has water as its most important natural resource hence the government is duty-bound to ensure that this resource is used in a sustainable manner and to benefit all users. Additionally, it has the responsibility to provide security of access to water sources and improved sanitation.

Basic sanitation is defined as having access to facilities for the safe disposal of human waste, as well as having the ability to maintain hygienic conditions, through services such as garbage collection, industrial/hazardous waste management and waste water treatment and disposal. Sanitation and hygiene are critical to health, survival, and development. Many countries face challenges in providing adequate sanitation for their entire populations, leaving people at risk for diseases related to water, sanitation and hygiene (cdc.gov/healthywater/global/sanitation/index.html).

This chapter will contribute in informing SDG 6 which aims to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

6.1. Main Source of Drinking Water

Drinking water is referred to as water that is safe to drink or use for food preparation. The amount of drinking water required to maintain good health varies and depends on physical activity level, age, health-related issues, and environmental conditions.

The percentage distribution of households by main source of drinking water is presented in Figure 6.1. About 82 percent of the households had access to piped water that is considered as clean water. The results reveal that, there were some households that still relied on surface water for drinking accounting for 0.5 percent.

Figure 6.1: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source of Drinking Water, 2021 LDS

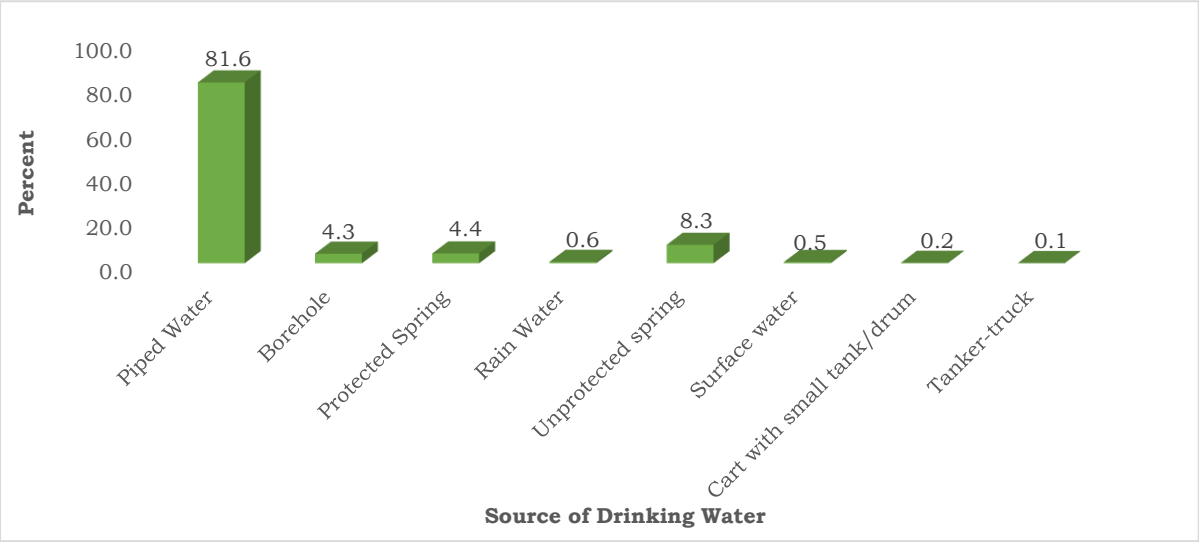


Table 6.1 shows the percentage distribution of households by sources of drinking water for survey years. The proportion of households using piped water increased from 61.7 percent in 2011 to 81.6 percent in 2021. Regarding those who were using Unprotected Spring, a decline was observed from 19.4 percent in 2011 to 8.3 percent in 2021. Hence this implies that SDG 6.1 is indicating progress towards achieving its success.

Table 6.1: Percentage Distribution of Households by Sources of Drinking Water for Survey Years, 2021 LDS

	Year		
Water Source	**2011**	**2016**	**2021**
Piped Water	61.7	75.4	81.6
Borehole	8.1	7.2	4.3
Protected Spring	3.8	5.4	4.4
Rain Water	1.8	0.5	0.6
Unprotected spring	19.4	10.7	8.3
Surface water	5.3	0.8	0.5

Source: 2011 LDS, 2016 PHC

6.1.1. Access to Improved Water Sources

An improved water source is defined by nature of its construction or through active intervention and it is likely to be protected from outside contamination, in particular faecal matter. Indicator 6.1.1 of SDG 6 is "Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services". The safe water sources are referred to as securely managed drinking water services which are defined as drinking water from an improved water source located on premises, available when needed and free from faeces and priority chemical contamination (www.worldbank.org).

Percentage distribution of households by improved source of drinking water and settlement type is presented in Table 6.2. It is observed that generally, 90.3 percent of the households had access to improved water sources. Piped water source constituting 81.6 percent was the most popular source across all settlements with

93.5 percent usage by urban households, 88.2 percent in peri-urban and 67.4 percent in the rural areas.

Table 6.2: Percentage Distribution of Households by Improved Source of Drinking Water and Settlement Type, 2021 LDS

Safe Water	Settlement Type			Total
	Urban	Peri Urban	Rural	
Piped Water	93.5	88.2	67.4	81.6
Borehole	1.9	2.4	7.3	4.3
Protected Spring	1.4	3.3	7.8	4.4
Total	**96.8**	**93.9**	**82.5**	**90.3**

Table 6.3 indicates percentage distribution of households by district and improved source of drinking water. Generally, most households had access to improved drinking water sources with the least proportion observed in the district of Thaba-Tseka with estimated 78.6 percent. It is evident that piped water was the most popular source of drinking water ranging from 67.9 percent in Thaba-Tseka to 87.3 percent in Maseru district. Usage of boreholes and protected springs was minimal with less than 10.5 percent of the households throughout the districts.

Table 6.3: Percentage Distribution of Households by District and Improved Source of Drinking Water, 2021 LDS

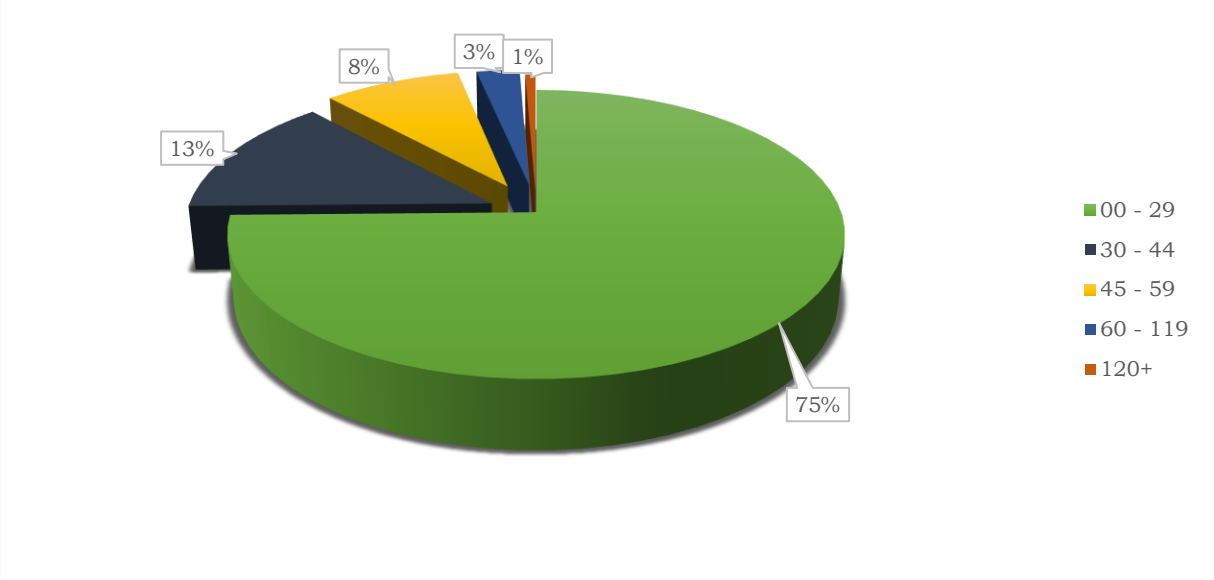
District	Improved Source of Drinking Water			Total
	Piped Water	Borehole	Protected Spring	
Botha-Bothe	79.3	0.9	5.5	85.6
Leribe	71.8	6.1	7.8	85.7
Berea	82.8	4.5	3.8	91.1
Maseru	87.3	3.7	2.1	93.1
Mafeteng	82.8	5.2	3.2	91.1
Mohale's Hoek	72.0	9.1	10.4	91.6
Quthing	78.2	7.6	3.6	89.4
Qacha's Nek	85.4	2.3	3.4	91.1
Mokhotlong	76.4	1.4	6.4	84.1
Thaba-Tseka	67.9	2.5	8.2	78.6

6.1.2. Duration of Time to Get Water

This refers to the time taken to fetch water including a trip to and from the source as well as waiting time to get water. According to WHO (2003), the measure of access to water is determined by distance travelled and time taken to get water and also reliability and the cost of water. The basic access requirement for fetching water is a walking distance between 100m and 1000m; or 5 to 30 minutes total collection time. In 2021 LDS, only households that drew water from outside their yards/premises were asked about time taken to draw water.

Figure 6.2 depicts percentage distribution of households by time taken to get water. The majority of households that fetched water from outside their yards had basic access to drinking water, since about 75 percent of them took between 0 to 29 minutes to fetch water. There is still a concern about the 1 percent of the households that reported to take about 120 minutes and above to get drinking water.

Figure 6.2: Percentage Distribution of Households by Time Taken to Get Water, 2021 LDS



Percentage distribution of households by time taken to get water and ecological zone is shown in Table 6.4. Generally, 44.6 percent of the households took less than 15 minutes to get drinking water. Moreover, in the Senqu River Valley the percentage is above the national estimate constituting 52.4 of the households that took less than 15 minutes to fetch drinking water and a very insignificant proportion took 120 and more minutes. On the overall, households that took over 120 minutes to get drinking water constituted 0.6 percent.

Table 6.4: Percentage Distribution of Households by Time Taken to Get Water and Ecological Zone, 2021 LDS

Time	Ecological Zone				Total
	Lowlands	Foothills	Mountains	Senqu River Valley	
00 - 14	44.5	40.3	44.2	52.4	44.6
15 - 29	29.5	26.3	32.7	31.7	30.1
30 - 44	13.9	15.5	12.8	9.9	13.5
45 - 49	4.6	7.3	4.2	2.8	4.7
50 - 59	3.8	6.4	3.1	2.5	3.9
60 - 119	2.9	3.4	2.6	0.8	2.7
120+	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.6
Total	**171,144**	**43,316**	**84,053**	**30,257**	**328,770**

Table 6.5 shows percentage distribution of households by time taken to get water for the survey years. It is observed that proportion of the households travelling for less than 15 minutes showed a minor increase from 43.8 percent estimated in 2011 to 44.6 percent in 2021. For households that reported 120 and more minutes, there is a noticeable decline from 1.5 percent in 2011 to 0.6 percent in 2021, which indicates positive future outcomes.

Table 6.5: Percentage Distribution of Households by Time Taken to Get Water, 2021 LDS

Time Taken to Get Water	Year		
	2011	2016	2021
00 - 14	43.8	44.1	44.6
15 – 29	29.4	26.0	30.1
30 - 44	14.8	12.2	13.5
45 - 49	4.1	4.3	4.7
50 - 59	2.8	6.3	3.9
60 - 119	3.5	4.5	2.7
120+	1.5	2.6	0.6

Source: 2011 LDS and 2016 PHC

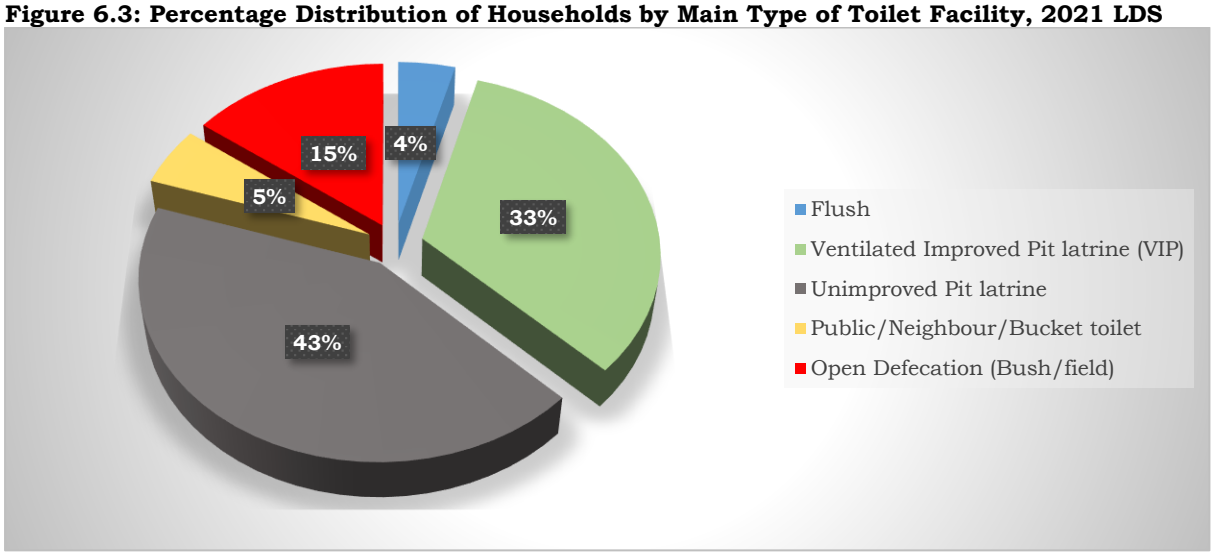
6.2 Sanitation

The right to sanitation entitles everyone to have physical and affordable access to sanitation in all spheres of life that is; safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable which provides privacy and ensures dignity.

6.2.1 Toilet Facilities

Figure 6.3 depicts the percentage distribution of households by the main type of toilet facility. It is evident from the graph that, there is still a lot of challenges with sanitation since 43 percent of the households still use unimproved pit latrine and 15 percent use open defecation. For households that used improved facilities, 33 percent used VIP and 4 percent used flushing toilets.

Figure 6.3: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Type of Toilet Facility, 2021 LDS



According to Table 6.6, the commonly used toilet facility was unimproved pit latrine with 46.9 percent in the urban, 42.3 percent in the peri urban and 38.5 percent in the rural areas. Open defecation (28.3%) was still common in the rural areas signalling some contribution to environmental pollution.

Table 6.6: Percentage Distribution of Households by Toilet Facility and Settlement Type, 2021 LDS

Sanitation Facility	Settlement Type			Total
	Urban	Peri Urban	Rural	
Flush to piped sewer system	4.3	0.0	0.0	2.0
Flush to septic tank/Biogas digester	2.1	2.3	0.2	1.3
Flush to pit latrine	1.5	0.9	0.3	0.9
Ventilated Improved Pit latrine (VIP)	39.0	38.3	25.5	33.0
Unimproved Pit latrine	46.9	42.3	38.5	42.8
Bucket toilet	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Public/Neighbour toilet	3.4	4.3	7.0	5.0
Open Defecation (Bush/field)	2.6	11.9	28.3	14.8
Total	**262,060**	**59,350**	**248,221**	**569,631**

The trend from 2011 to 2021 as reflected in Table 6.7 shows that the majority of the households in 2011 had no toilet facilities since 37.5 percent reported to be using open defecation. Contrarily, in 2016 most of the households used VIP (39.6%), followed by 31.1 percent that used unimproved pit latrine. The dominant toilet facility in 2021 was unimproved pit latrine with 42.8 percent of the households and VIP with 33.0 percent.

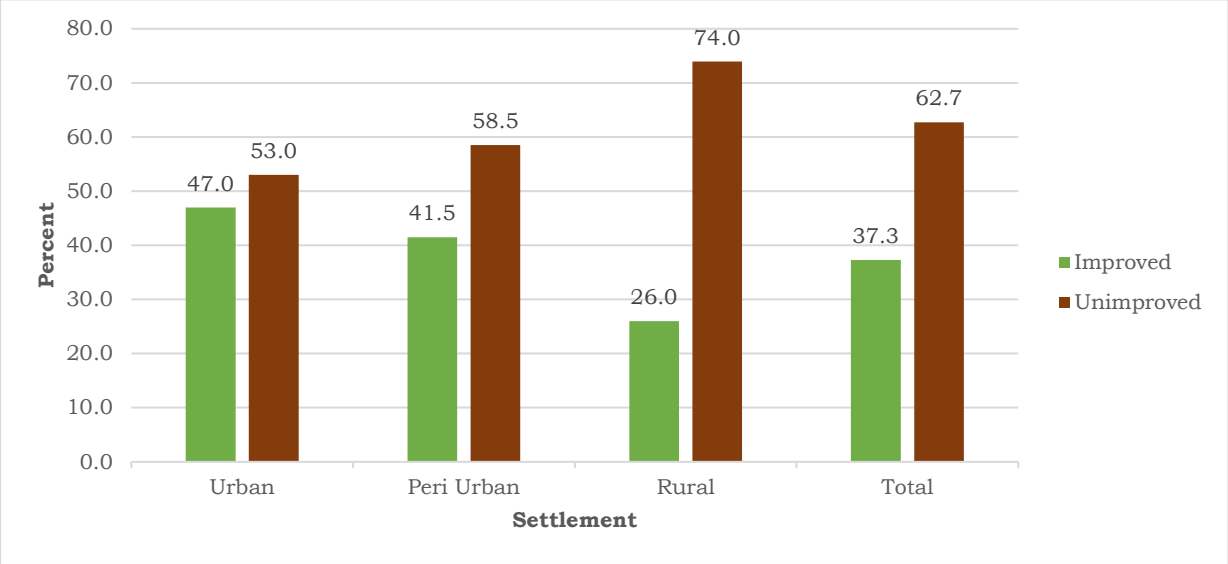
Table 6.7: Percentage Distribution of Households by Toilet Facility for the 2011, 2016 and 2021 LDS

Sanitation Facility	Year		
	2011	2016	2021
Flush to piped sewer system	2.3	2.5	2.0
Flush to septic tank/Biogas digester	0.5	1.1	1.3
Flush to pit latrine	-	0.4	0.9
Ventilated Improved Pit latrine (VIP)	27.1	39.6	33.0
Unimproved Pit latrine	31.6	31.1	42.8
Bucket toilet	0.3	0.2	0.2
Public/Neighbour toilet	0.6	5.4	5.0
Open Defecation (Bush/field)	37.5	19.6	14.8

Toilet facilities can be classified as improved and unimproved facilities. Improved sanitation facilities are defined as the ones that hygienically separates human excreta from human contact. They include flush/pour flush, VIP, pit latrine with slab and compost toilet. Shared or public-use sanitation facilities are not considered to be improved. Also, flush or pour-flush to elsewhere, pit latrines without slabs or open pits, bucket latrines, hanging latrines or open defecation are not considered to be improved sanitation (www.who.int).

The usage of unimproved toilet facilities was dominant with 62.7 percent as illustrated in Figure 6.4. The challenge of using unimproved toilet facilities was more pronounced in the rural areas with 74.0 percent of the households and 58.5 percent in the peri-urban. For the Urban households, there was a minor variance between improved (47.0%) and unimproved with 53.0 percent sanitation facilities.

Figure 6.4: Percentage Distribution of Households by Improved and Unimproved Toilet Facilities, 2021 LDS

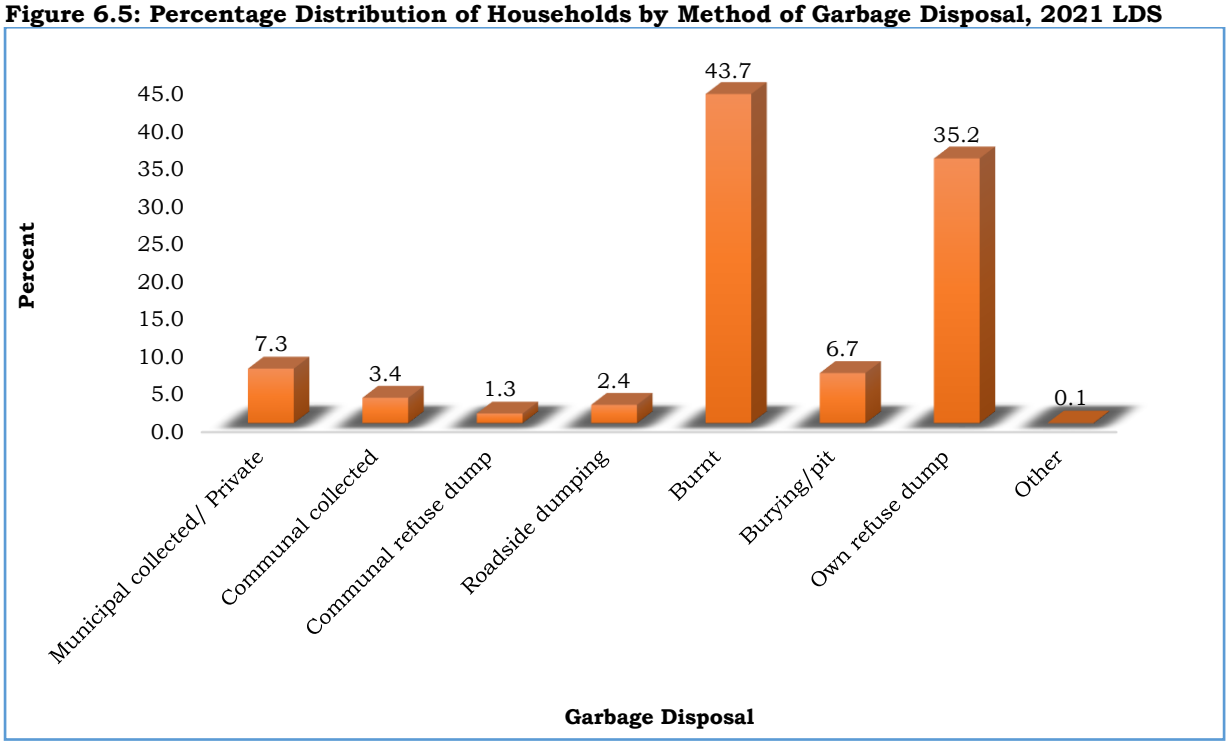


6.3. Garbage Disposal

The improper disposal of waste has a serious and dangerous impact on a wide range of areas. Garbage thrown in the street or in open spaces creates a public health hazard, while waste dumped near rivers, lakes and streams contaminates the water supply. Rubbish that is burned in the open rather than disposed off properly, creates pollution and releases toxic fumes into the environment. Garbage dumped in the countryside is not simply an eyesore but the entire landscapes are ruined and unique habitats for flora and fauna are lost (Zeb, 2013).

Figure 6.5 depicts that households did not properly manage their garbage, reflecting 43.7 percent that burnt their garbage while 35.2 percent used their own refuse dump. Contrarily, 7.3 percent of the households used municipal or private collectors while 3.4 percent used communal collection, which are considered as safe or proper garbage disposal methods.

Figure 6.5: Percentage Distribution of Households by Method of Garbage Disposal, 2021 LDS



Households reported various ways of disposing off their garbage. Burning garbage was a dominant practice for households in the urban (49.5%) and peri urban (57.6%) areas as indicated in Table 6.8. In the rural areas, the majority of households used own refuse dump to dispose their garbage with 55.9 percent.

Table 6.8: Percentage Distribution of Households by Garbage Disposal Method and Settlement Type, 2021 LDS

	Settlement Type		
Garbage Disposal Method	**Urban**	**Peri Urban**	**Rural**
Municipal collected/ Private	15.4	1.1	0.1
Communal collected	7.0	0.9	0.1
Communal refuse dump	2.3	0.4	0.4
Roadside dumping	3.4	1.0	1.8
Burnt	49.5	57.6	34.3
Burying/pit	6.1	6.5	7.3
Own refuse dump	16.2	32.5	55.9
Other	0.1	0.0	0.1
Total	**262,060**	**59,350**	**248,221**

6.4 Summary

Most of households constituting 90.3 percent used water from improved water sources. The dominantly used source of drinking water by the households was piped water (81.6%). About 75.0 percent of the households whose source of water was outside their yards took less than 30 minutes to fetch drinking water.

The majority of households used unimproved pit latrine (42.8%), followed by 33.0 percent that used VIP toilets. There still exist households without toilet facilities with about 15 percent that used open defecation. Nearly two in three (62.7%) households used unimproved toilet facilities while 37.3 percent used improved toilet facilities. The commonly used garbage disposal methods were burning (43.7%) and own refuse dump (35.2%). The results suggest that there is a serious need for government to institute some developmental interventions that will improve sanitation for the entire nation for good quality of life.

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