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## **Foreword**

This report presents the findings of the 2016 Population and Housing Census (PHC). The Censuses are conducted decennially. The committee of Heads of National Statistics Officers from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries during the 6<sup>th</sup> 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 initial 2000-2010 round of Population and Housing Censuses (2000-2010 RPHC) programme. The 2016 PHC therefore falls within the auspices of 2015 – 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses programme.

The primary objective of the 2016 PHC is to provide up-to-date information for policy makers, 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 new agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) which is essentially recognizing women, girls, youth and adolescents in 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 socio-economic variables in order to make sure that no one is left behind. Hence the 2016 PHC results are presented at the best opportune time to form baseline for the some SDG targets.

The 2016 PHC therefore, collected information on education, economic activity characteristics, disability and albinism, fertility, mortality, water and sanitation, household amenities and possessions. The census generated indicators such as population counts up to ecological zone level including growth rates and population densities. Detailed analysis has been done to show other indicators such as life expectancy, childhood and adult (including maternal) mortality rates, fertility rates, migration, housing indicators, education, demographic structures and economic activity.

The 2016 PHC results present evidence of a steady rate of fertility decline and also there is an evidence of decreasing mortality resulting in increased life expectancy for both males and females. The BOS therefore hopes that users will find this report useful in planning, monitoring and evaluating the national and international development programmes.

The Ministry of Development Planning wishes to express its gratitude to the following international organizations which provided financial assistance and technical assistance for the successful execution of the census activities: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United States Census Bureau (US Census Bureau), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS). Their support contributed immensely to the successful completion of the census project.

**TLOHELANG AUMANE (MR)**  
**HONORABLE MINISTER-MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

## **Preface**

The 2016 Population and Housing Census (PHC) is a project undertaken in April 2016 by the Bureau of Statistics (BOS), the department under the Ministry of Development Planning (MDP). This was the sixth scientific census undertaken by Lesotho since that of 1966. Besides being scientific, like those of 1966, 1976, 1986 and 1996, the last two, 2006 and 2016 censuses applied the latest technology in demarcating the Enumeration Areas (EA's) for the preparation of data collection for the census. Moreover, the 2016 Population and Housing Census used advanced technology during both field mapping and data collection phases. These measures were put in place so that the 2016 census provides a more accurate population data benchmarks, as well as geographic frame for household based surveys and related statistical sample enquiries. The tablets were used for data collection, which resulted in quick release of the census findings because four census processes are done simultaneously to cut down the data processing time. These processes include data collection, primary editing, verification and capturing.

The census used the same questionnaire as that used in 2006, with some few modifications as this census had to be aligned with and serve as a tool for monitoring and evaluating government development programmes within frameworks such as the Vision 2020, Millennium Development Goals (MDG's), National Population Policy (NPP), National Strategic Development Plans (NSDP) and the new development framework named Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The BOS has therefore produced two volumes of census analytical reports. The first volume contains information on population dynamics while the second volume covers information on the socio-economic characteristics of the population and housing characteristics.

The Ministry appreciates the dedication of all who participated in census activities in different ways, both those from the BOS, other government ministries and private sector. For example: those who devoted a lot of time in the retrieval and packaging of the census material, application development, configuration of tablets, data collectors, supervisors, coordinators, editors, reviewers of the census chapters, auditors, human resources, finance team and drivers. Special thanks go to the census data analysis team and census data processing team for guidance, advice and support which lead to the production of the census reports.

Finally, the BOS wishes to extend its gratitude to the development partners that contributed to the success of the 2016 census with technical and financial backstopping. It also wishes to express appreciation to the Chiefs for their good hospitality, willingness and cooperation in providing the needed information. Gratitude is also due to people of Lesotho for cooperating by providing the valuable information, to the enumerators, supervisors, district officers, coordinators and to all others who contributed to the collection, processing and compilation of this valuable information in one way or another.

M. Molato  
Director, Bureau of Statistics

February, 2018

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS AND FAMILY COMPOSITION**

### **1.0 Introduction**

This chapter deals with household and family composition, and the analysis on household head characteristics, age and sex structure of the population, type of households, child headed households, and child population as well as child marriage will be covered. List of household members during data collection for 2016 Population and Housing Census (PHC) was defined by the following criterion:

- all persons, including visitors, who were present in the household on the census night;
- members of the household who did not sleep in the household during the reference night and were absent for less than six months and are elsewhere in Lesotho;
- usual members who were absent and were outside the country for less than three years (for those who are in institutions outside the country were included irrespective of the time).

In addition, it is further worth mentioning that the population living in institutions is not included in this chapter.

The 2001 Lesotho Demographic Survey (LDS) defines a household as a group of persons who live together and share common housekeeping arrangements. A household is also defined as a group of persons 'who eat from the same pot'. The household can therefore be described as a group of people who share living quarters and their principal meals. The household may consist of a group of individuals, whether related or not related, or one individual living by himself or herself.

Family and household do not mean the same thing; they therefore cannot be used interchangeably. Family means the people or members who are related to each other by birth, by marriage, by adoption or due to any other relationship like siblings. Immediate family members include parents, brothers, sisters, spouses, sons and daughters, (<https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-difference-between-family-and-household>); while extended family members may include grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, and in-laws.

### **1.1 Age and Sex of Household Population**

Age, as well as sex, composition of the population living in household is very important as their pattern reflect any factor that affects the society. For instance, any change in fertility, mortality and migration affects the age and sex structure of the population. Therefore, this section will discuss age and sex structure.

### 1.1.1 Sex Structure of Household Population

The *sex ratio* is defined as the number of males per 100 females. The distribution of the sex ratio according to each age group is analysed in Table 1.1; where the results show that, generally, for lower ages, with exception of age groups 05 to 09, 10 to 14 and 20 to 24, sex ratio was slightly above 100, indicating that there were more males than females. On the other hand, for all age groups beyond 40 to 44, the sex ratio was below 100. The observation, furthermore, indicated that during the 2016 population and housing Census, the general sex ratio in Lesotho was 95.8.

**Table 1.1: Population in Households by Age Group, Sex and Sex Ratio, 2016 PHC**

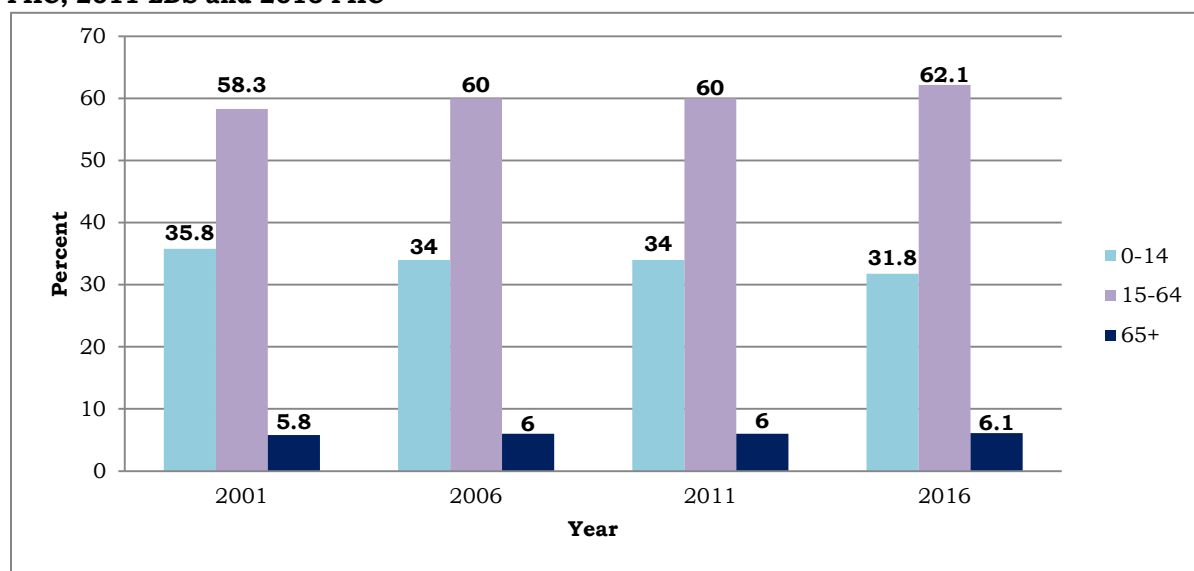
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Sex Ratio</b>
00 - 04	100,793	99,362	<b>200,155</b>	<b>101.4</b>
05 - 09	109,953	111,523	<b>221,476</b>	<b>98.6</b>
10 - 14	108,069	108,199	<b>216,268</b>	<b>99.9</b>
15 - 19	106,168	103,569	<b>209,737</b>	<b>102.5</b>
20 - 24	98,815	100,422	<b>199,237</b>	<b>98.4</b>
25 - 29	95,784	93,123	<b>188,907</b>	<b>102.9</b>
30 - 34	86,933	81,161	<b>168,094</b>	<b>107.1</b>
35 - 39	68,229	62,104	<b>130,333</b>	<b>109.9</b>
40 - 44	48,654	47,614	<b>96,268</b>	<b>102.2</b>
45 - 49	36,412	38,447	<b>74,859</b>	<b>94.7</b>
50 - 54	31,769	38,563	<b>70,332</b>	<b>82.4</b>
55 - 59	25,750	34,043	<b>59,793</b>	<b>75.6</b>
60 - 64	20,765	28,442	<b>49,207</b>	<b>73.0</b>
65 - 69	15,306	22,040	<b>37,346</b>	<b>69.4</b>
70 - 74	12,007	18,785	<b>30,792</b>	<b>63.9</b>
75 - 79	8,466	15,702	<b>24,168</b>	<b>53.9</b>
80 - 84	5,414	13,193	<b>18,607</b>	<b>41.0</b>
85+	2,846	8,776	<b>11,622</b>	<b>32.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>982,133</b>	<b>1,025,068</b>	<b>2,007,201</b>	<b>95.8</b>

### 1.1.2 Age Structure

Age structure of the population is very important as it explains some of the social as well as the economic factors, such as poverty, pandemic diseases, level of economic growth, etc in the society. The age structure of the population is categorized into three broad age groups: the lower age group (0 to 14) which is the proportion of child population, middle ages (15 to 64) which indicates working age population; while higher ages (65 and above) indicates proportion of older ages.

The distribution of the population living in households by age group from 2001 to 2016 is displayed in Figure 1.1; and the results show that the highest proportions were for persons aged 15 to 64, with proportions ranging from 58.3 in 2001 to 62.1 in 2016. On the other hand, proportions of persons in age group 0 to 14 decreased from 35.8 in 2001 to 31.8 in 2016. However, the proportions of persons in ages 65 and above increased from 5.8 in 2001 to 6.1 in 2016.

**Figure 1.1: Proportion of the Population Living in Households by Age Group for 2001 LDS, 2006 PHC, 2011 LDS and 2016 PHC**



### 1.1.3 Relationship in Household

The way the household is structured is important in the sense that, it explains the social and the economic well-being of the members. In addition, it can be used as one of the aspects that can be included in defining living arrangements of the household members.

The respondents, during the 2016 PHC were asked about their relationship to the head of the households. The categories included: Household head, spouse, cohabiting partner, son or daughter, son in law or daughter in law, step child, sibling, own parent, step parent, parent in law, grandmother or grandfather, grandchild or great grandchild other relative and a person who was not related to the head of the household. The results are shown in Table 1.2.

The Table indicates that, during the 2016 PHC, the majority of the members of the households were children, representing 34.2 percent of the total population in households, while those who responded as heads of the households constituted 26.8 percent. Generally, the results showed that, the majority of the household members were related; as the proportion of those who were not related was only 2.5 percent. Among males, those who responded that they were the heads of the households constituted 34.5 percent; as opposed to 19.4 percent of their female counterparts.

**Table 1.2: Proportion of Household Members by Relationship to the Head of the Households and Sex, 2016 PHC**

<b>Relationship to Head</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Household Head	34.5	19.4	<b>26.8</b>
Spouse	0.8	22.4	<b>11.8</b>
Partner(Cohabiting)	0.1	0.4	<b>0.3</b>
Son/Daughter	38.3	30.2	<b>34.2</b>
Son/daughter in-law	0.9	3.7	<b>2.3</b>
Step child	0.4	0.4	<b>0.4</b>
Sibling	2.6	2.3	<b>2.4</b>
Own Parent	0.1	0.8	<b>0.5</b>
Parent in-law	0.0	0.3	<b>0.2</b>
Grandmother/father	0.0	0.1	<b>0.1</b>
Grandchild/Great grandchild	14.2	12.7	<b>13.4</b>
Other relative	5.2	5.0	<b>5.1</b>
Not related	2.8	2.2	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>982,133</b>	<b>1,025,068</b>	<b>2,007,201</b>

#### **1.1.4 Persons Living in Households and Settlement**

During the past censuses and surveys, the settlement categories only focused on urban and rural residence, but for the 2016 PHC, the peri-urban was included. On the overall, the majority of the population in Lesotho were residing in rural areas, and represented 58.3 percent of the total population; while those who resided in Peri-urban and urban areas constituted 7.5 and 34.2 percent of the total population respectively.

Table 1.3 distributes the proportions of persons in households by age group and settlement type. The results show that the majority of persons residing in urban areas were aged 15 to 34 years, with percentages ranging from 10.8 percent to 11.0 percent in different age categories; while the proportion of other age groups ranged below 10 percent. On the other hand, the proportions of persons living in rural areas; from age group 05 to 09 (11.9 percent) up to age group 10 to 14 (11.7 percent) were higher compared to other age groups. The pattern did not differ much for peri urban settlement as the proportions of residents were, on the average, highest in ages ranging from 5 to 24 years.

**Table 1.3: Proportion of Population in Households by Age Group and Settlement Type, 2016 PHC**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Peri-Urban</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Total</b>
00 - 04	9.4	9.3	10.4	<b>10.0</b>
05 - 09	9.8	10.3	11.9	<b>11.0</b>
10 - 14	9.2	10.6	11.7	<b>10.8</b>
15 - 19	10.2	11.7	10.5	<b>10.5</b>
20 - 24	10.8	10.9	9.3	<b>9.9</b>
25 - 29	11.1	9.2	8.5	<b>9.4</b>
30 - 34	10.1	7.8	7.4	<b>8.4</b>
35 - 39	7.9	6.1	5.7	<b>6.5</b>
40 - 44	5.5	4.6	4.4	<b>4.8</b>
45 - 49	4.1	3.8	3.5	<b>3.7</b>
50 - 54	3.5	3.6	3.5	<b>3.5</b>
55 - 59	2.7	3.1	3.1	<b>3.0</b>
60 - 64	1.9	2.6	2.7	<b>2.5</b>
65 - 69	1.3	2.0	2.2	<b>1.9</b>
70 - 74	0.9	1.6	1.9	<b>1.5</b>
75 - 79	0.7	1.3	1.5	<b>1.2</b>
80 - 84	0.5	0.9	1.2	<b>0.9</b>
85+	0.3	0.6	0.7	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>685,938</b>	<b>151,263</b>	<b>1,170,000</b>	<b>2,007,201</b>

## **1.2 Households in Districts, Sex of Head and Household Size**

Economic consumption and living conditions are mainly determined by the household size. This section mainly focuses on discussing the average size of household members, sex of household head and distribution according to districts. The results for 2016 PHC show that, the average household size was 3.7 and this number had decreased from 4.4, which was reported during 2006 PHC.

The distribution of households according to districts, settlement type, sex of household heads and household size is displayed in Table 1.4. The Table shows that the district with the highest average household size was Quthing (4.4 members), followed by Qacha's Nek with 4.2 members. It was also observed that, the average household size in urban areas was lowest with 3.2 members as compared to peri-urban and rural areas with 3.5 and 4.2 members respectively.



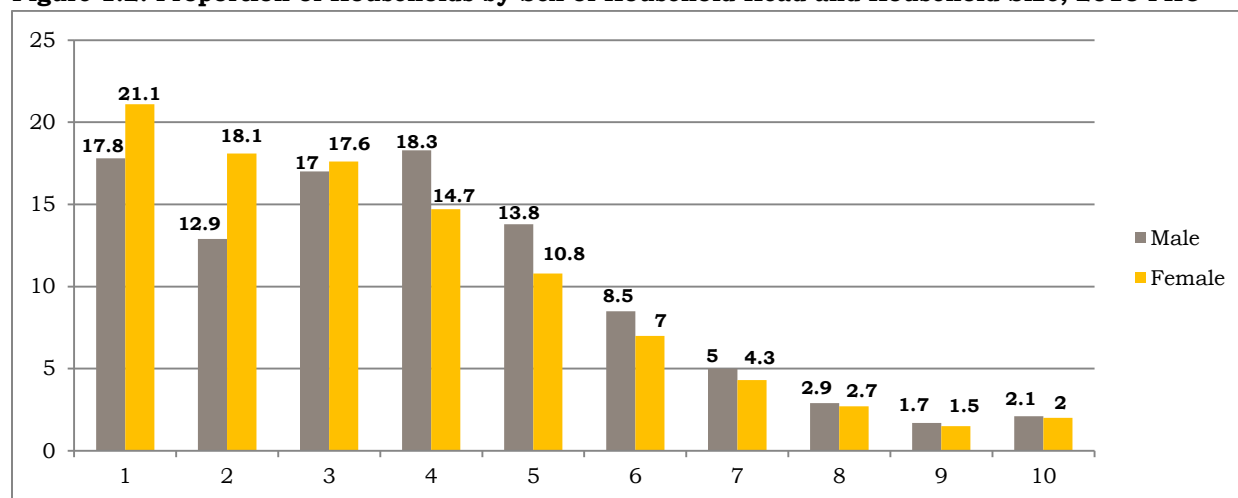
**Table 1.4: Proportion of Household Heads by District, Settlement Type, Sex and Household Size, 2016 PHC**

District	Male	Female	Total	Household Size
Botha-Bothe	5.6	5.6	5.6	3.9
Leribe	16.7	17	16.8	3.7
Berea	13.2	12.7	13	3.8
Maseru	29.5	29.1	29.4	3.3
Mafeteng	8.6	8.8	8.7	3.8
Mohale'sHoek	7.2	8.2	7.6	4.1
Quthing	4.7	5.2	4.9	4.4
Qacha's Nek	3.2	3.4	3.3	4.2
Mokhotlong	4.7	4.2	4.5	4.1
Thaba-Tseka	6.5	5.8	6.2	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>338,345</b>	<b>199,112</b>	<b>537,457</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Settlement</b>				
Urban	40.2	40.6	40.4	3.2
Peri Urban	7.8	8.6	8.1	3.5
Rural	51.9	50.7	51.5	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>338,345</b>	<b>199,112</b>	<b>537,457</b>	<b>3.7</b>

### 1.2.1 Household Size and Sex of Household Head

This section analyzes the size of the households by number of persons living in households, and this information is shown in Figure 1.2. As depicted by this figure, for smaller size of the households, that is those with 1, 2 and 3 members, the proportion of female headed households was higher as compared to that of males. Conversely, the proportions of male headed households were higher for households with 4 members and upwards. However, there was a common pattern for both male and female headed households; as the results revealed that generally, for lower size of the households there were larger proportions, and these proportions decreased as the size of the households increased.

**Figure 1.2: Proportion of Households by Sex of Household Head and Household Size, 2016 PHC**



### 1.2.2: Number of Households, Size of Population, Average Household Size and Sex of Head

Population living in households was distributed in relative to the sex of the head. This is indicated in Table 1.5 which portrays information on the number of households, size of the population, average household size with respect to the sex of the household head. The proportion of male headed households constituted 63.0 percent of the total households; while on the other hand, the proportion of female headed households represented 37.0 percent. With regard to population living in households, the table shows that about 64.9 percent of the population lived in male headed households, as compared to 35.1 percent of those who lived in female headed households.

**Table: 1.5 Number and Proportion of Household Heads by Sex and Average Household Size, 2016 PHC**

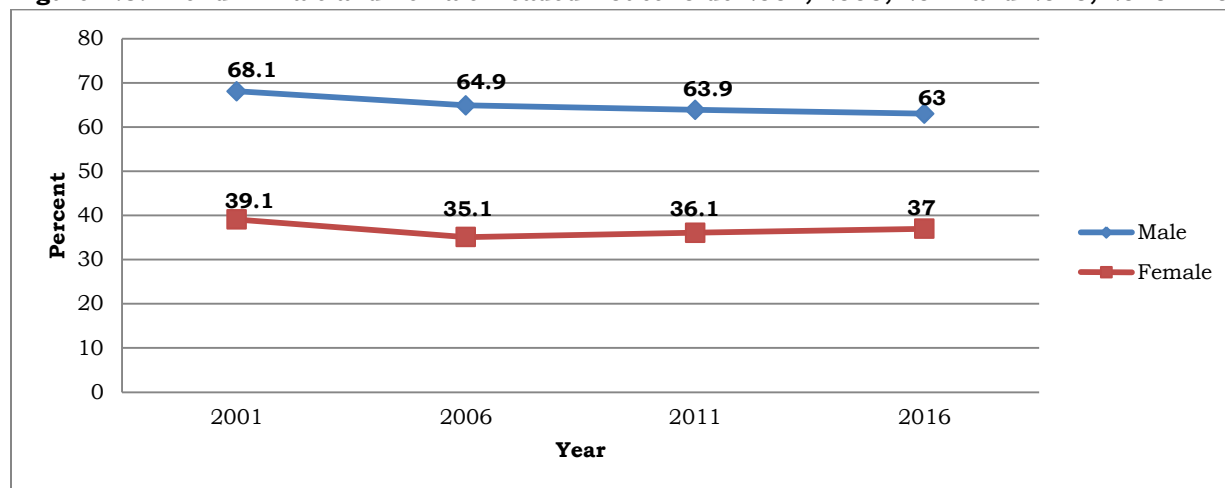
	<b>Male headed household</b>	<b>Female headed household</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male headed household</b>	<b>Female headed household</b>
Number of households	338,345	199,112	<b>537,457</b>	63	37
Size of population	1,302,848	704,353	<b>2,007,201</b>	64.9	35.1
Average household size	3.9	3.5	<b>3.7</b>		

### 1.2.3 Trend in Male and Female Headed Households

In the past, men were considered the only heads of the households, but in recent years, the households headed by females are becoming more common and seem to be increasing with time, while the proportions of households headed by men observed a decreasing trend. Hence, this analysis focuses on household heads by sex from 2001 Lesotho Demographic Survey (LDS) to 2016 PHC.

Figure 1.3 presents the trend in household heads by sex for the period 2001 to 2016. The observation from the figure showed an increasing trend for female headed households comparative to that of males. For instance, in 2001 the proportion of female headed households was 31.9 percent; it increased to 35.1 percent in 2006; while in 2016 it constituted a higher percentage of 37.0. On the other hand, the proportions of male headed households had been decreasing overtime, from 68.1 percent in 2001, 64.9 percent in 2006 and to a further decrease to 63.0 percent in 2016.

**Figure 1.3: Trend in Male and Female Headed Households 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016, 2016 PHC**

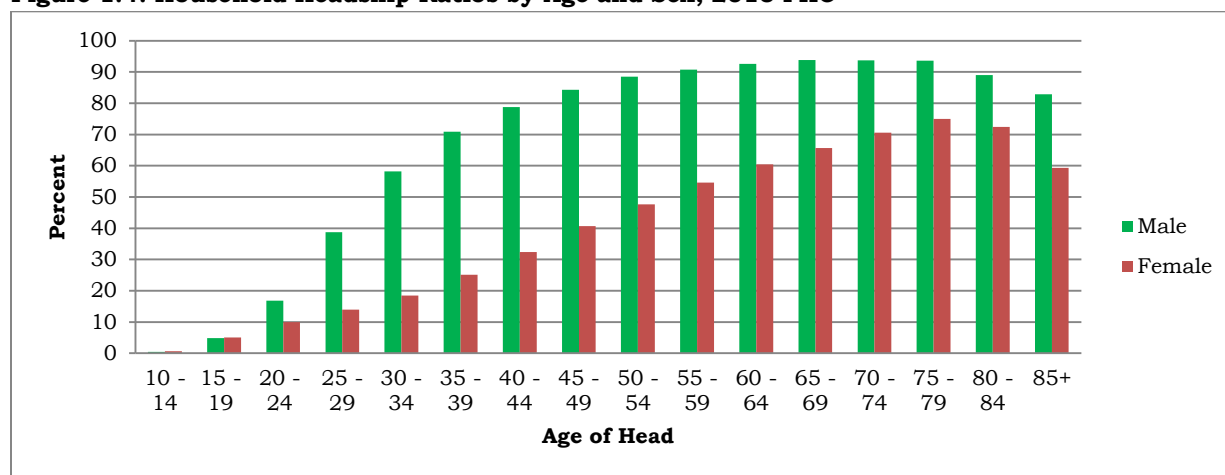


#### 1.2.4 Age and Sex Differentials in Household Heads

The household head is the person considered by members of the household as the most responsible person for the day-to-day running of the household (2001 LDS). Household headship is often measured by the household headship ratio, which is estimated as the number of persons who are household heads as a proportion of the total number of persons living in households in a certain age group. The ratio may be multiplied by 100, and estimated as the number of persons who are household heads; as a percentage of the total number of persons living in households for a specified age group.

Figure 1.4 displays household headship by age and sex. The results show that household headship increased with age for both males and females, although it stabilized around age groups 65 to 79 for males, it then dropped thereafter; while for females, it started to drop from age group 80 to 84.

**Figure 1.4: Household Headship Ratios by Age and Sex, 2016 PHC**



### 1.2.5 Marital Status of the Household Head

Marital status of the household heads is very important as marriage is one of the factors in life; that influences individuals to have families. Therefore, the analysis in this section, considers the inclusion of the marital status and sex of the household heads; and the information is displayed in Table 1.6. The results in this table show that, the highest proportion of persons who were heads of the households was monogamously married with 58.6 percent of the total; while the heads who were widowed and those who had never married constituted 18.7 and 15.3 percent respectively. The least proportion of household heads was for those who were living together with only 0.6 percent of the total heads.

**Table 1.6: Number and Percentage Distribution of Household Heads by Marital Status and Sex, 2006 PHC**

Marital Status	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Never married	42,568	39,547	<b>82,115</b>	12.6	19.9	<b>15.3</b>
Monogamously married	253,999	60,726	<b>314,725</b>	75.1	30.5	<b>58.6</b>
Polygamously married	9,288	2,516	<b>11,804</b>	2.7	1.3	<b>2.2</b>
Living together	2,565	839	<b>3,404</b>	0.8	0.4	<b>0.6</b>
Separated	8,958	9,466	<b>18,424</b>	2.6	4.8	<b>3.4</b>
Divorced	2,250	4,335	<b>6,585</b>	0.7	2.2	<b>1.2</b>
Widowed	18,717	81,683	<b>100,400</b>	5.5	41	<b>18.7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>338,345</b>	<b>199,112</b>	<b>537,457</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### 1.2.6 Educational Level of the Household Head

It is considered essential to include the analysis on educational level of the household heads in this section; as it influences some of the aspects of life and decision making in relation to: health, education and employment etc. of the members of the households. The distribution of household heads by educational attainment and sex is portrait by Table 1.7. The table shows that more heads, irrespective of sex, had attained primary and secondary levels of education, representing 48.7 percent and 28.1 percent respectively, as compared to other educational levels.

**Table 1.7: Proportion of Household Heads by Educational Attainment and Sex, 2016 PHC**

Educational Attainment	Male	Female	Total
Pre School	0.4	0.3	<b>0.4</b>
Primary	44.7	55.5	<b>48.7</b>
Secondary	28.1	28.1	<b>28.1</b>
Non Formal	2.1	0.6	<b>1.5</b>
Dip/Cert After Primary	0.2	0.3	<b>0.2</b>
Dip/Cert After Sec	4.6	5.5	<b>4.9</b>
Vocational	0.6	0.3	<b>0.5</b>
Graduate	4	3.7	<b>3.9</b>
No Attainment	0.6	0.3	<b>0.5</b>
Never	14.8	5.4	<b>11.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>338,345</b>	<b>199,112</b>	<b>537,457</b>

### 1.2.7 Employment Sector of the Household Head

Employment sector of the head of the households may determine the economic level of the households, which in turn may influence the living conditions of the households. Therefore, more details on employment sector and sex of the heads of the households are discussed in Table 1.8. As portrait by this table, most heads of the households formed the majority, irrespective of sex, under housewife and regular wage/salary earner sectors; representing 34.1 and 31.0 percent respectively, of the total heads. Furthermore, both male and female heads who worked as own account worker/farmer constituted 12.1 percent of the total heads, with male heads contributing 15.6 percent. Comparatively, male heads contributed the highest proportion (34.7 percent) under regular wage/salary sector; while female heads represented the highest percentage (51.2 percent) as housewife.

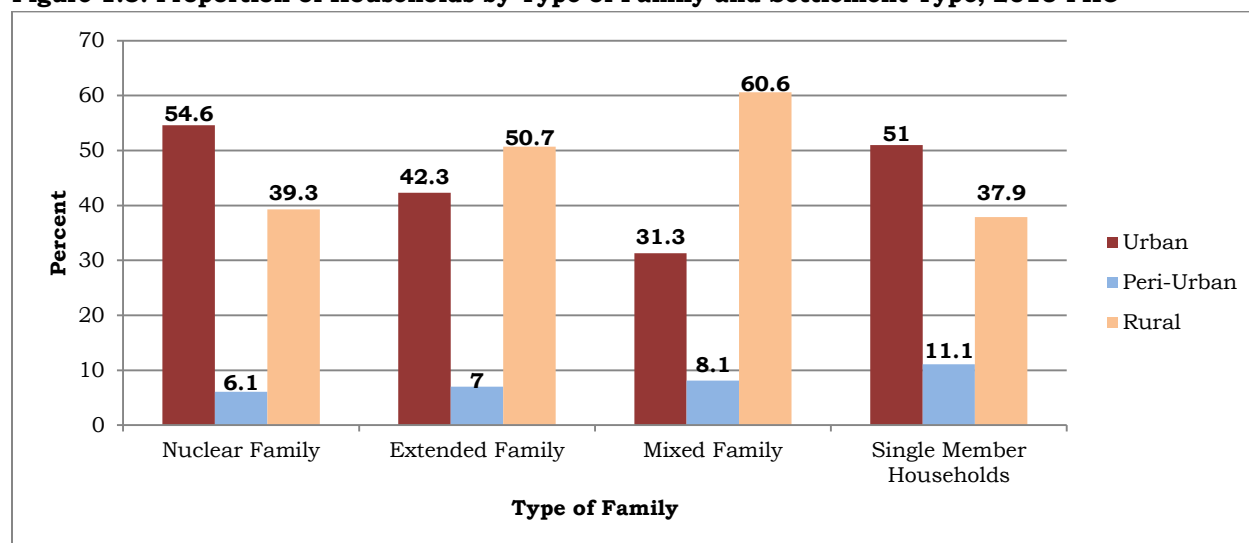
**Table 1.8: Proportion of Household Heads by Employment Sector and Sex, 2016 PHC**

<b>Employment Sector</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Employer	0.9	0.5	<b>0.7</b>
Own account worker/farmer	15.6	6.3	<b>12.1</b>
Regular wage/ salary earner	34.7	24.7	<b>31</b>
Casual worker	7.4	3.2	<b>5.8</b>
Unpaid family worker	2.6	0.5	<b>1.8</b>
Job seeking	4.2	1.7	<b>3.3</b>
Job seeking for the first time	1.8	0.6	<b>1.4</b>
Homemaker	1.8	2.7	<b>2.1</b>
Housewife	24.1	51.2	<b>34.1</b>
Retired	3	2.2	<b>2.7</b>
Student	3.9	6.3	<b>4.8</b>
Other	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>338,345</b>	<b>199,112</b>	<b>537,457</b>

### 1.2.8 Type of Household

In this section, households are analysed by type of family and settlement type. The households are categorized into four types; these are: Nuclear Family, Extended Family, Mixed member household and Single member household. The results as demonstrated in Figure 1.5 show that in urban areas, the modal type of household was Nuclear family (54.6 percent), while the single member household was second with 51.0 percent. The situation was different in the rural areas, where the proportion of mixed member household was highest with 60.6 percent, and the least type of household was single member household (37.9 percent). The Peri-Urban represented the lowest percentages of households, with the highest being single member family with 11.1

**Figure 1.5: Proportion of Households by Type of Family and Settlement Type, 2016 PHC**



### 1.2.9 Type of Household and Sex of Household Head

Table 1.9 presents the distribution of household heads by sex and type of family. According to the results presented in this table, more male heads were found in extended families (42.5 percent) as compared to other types. As for females, more heads were observed in the mixed member families at 49.5 percent compared to other types. In general, nuclear family constituted the least of the households with 7.9 and 0.8 percent for both male and female headed households respectively.

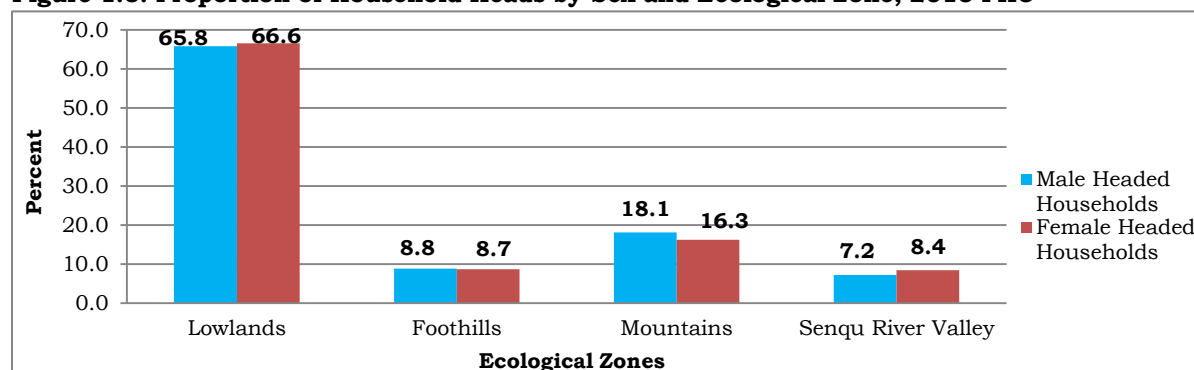
**Table 1.9: Number and Proportion of Household Heads by Sex and Type of Family, 2016 PHC**

Household heads	Nuclear Family	Extended Family	Mixed Member	Single Member	Nuclear Family	Extended Family	Mixed Member	Single Member	Total
Male Head	26,775	141,926	109,497	60,147	7.9	42.5	31.8	17.8	100
Female Head	1,519	55,232	100,127	42,234	0.8	28.5	49.5	21.2	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,294</b>	<b>197,158</b>	<b>209,624</b>	<b>102,381</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100</b>

### 1.2.10 Sex of the Households Head and Ecological Zone

The distribution of households by sex of the household head and ecological zone is as presented in Figure 1.6. According to the figure, the results show a general pattern across all the ecological zones for both male and female headed households. For example, the highest proportions of male and female headed households were observed in the lowlands with 65.8 and 66.6 percent respectively; while the lowest proportions were observed from the Senqu River Valley with 7.2 and 8.4 percent; for male and female headed households respectively.

**Figure 1.6: Proportion of Household Heads by Sex and Ecological Zone, 2016 PHC**



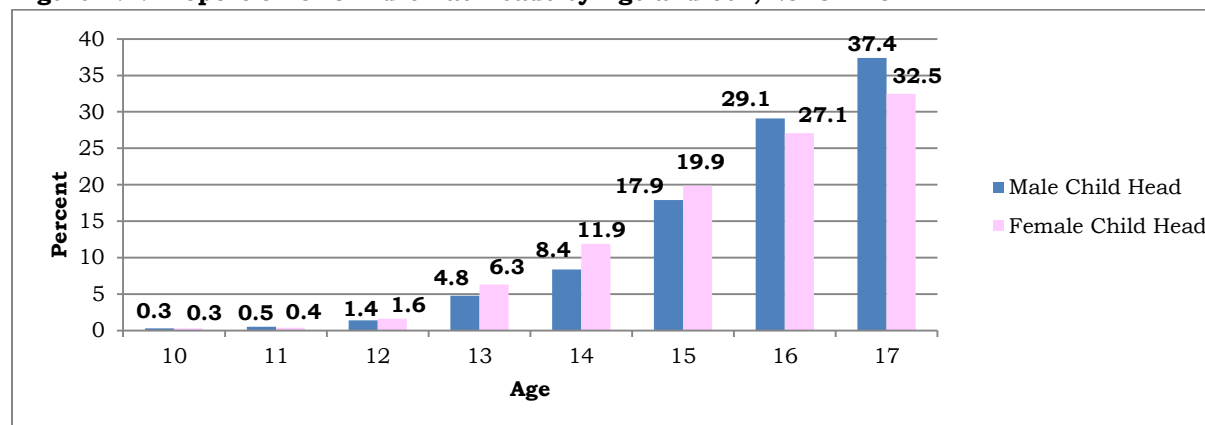
### 1.3. Child Headed Households

Due to the growing pandemic of HIV, most children tend to become heads of the households at their younger ages. According to some literature, the number of children heading families is growing in developing countries, and this situation is mostly common in Africa, ([https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child-headed\\_family](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child-headed_family)). Of all the households in Lesotho, the proportion of child headed households were estimated at 1.2 percent (6,205), indicating that in every 100 households, about one household was headed by a child. Therefore, this section concentrates on characteristics of children as heads of the households.

#### 1.3.1 Age and Sex of Children's Heads

In this section, Child headed households are distributed according to the age and sex of the household head. The analysis is based on children aged 10 to 17 years who were heads of the households during the 2016 PHC. According to Figure 1.7, the proportions of both male and female child headed households were increasing as the age increased. At the most, the proportions were higher for male child heads than female child heads at ages 16 and 17; constituting 29.1 and 37.4 percent of the total households within the respective ages respectively.

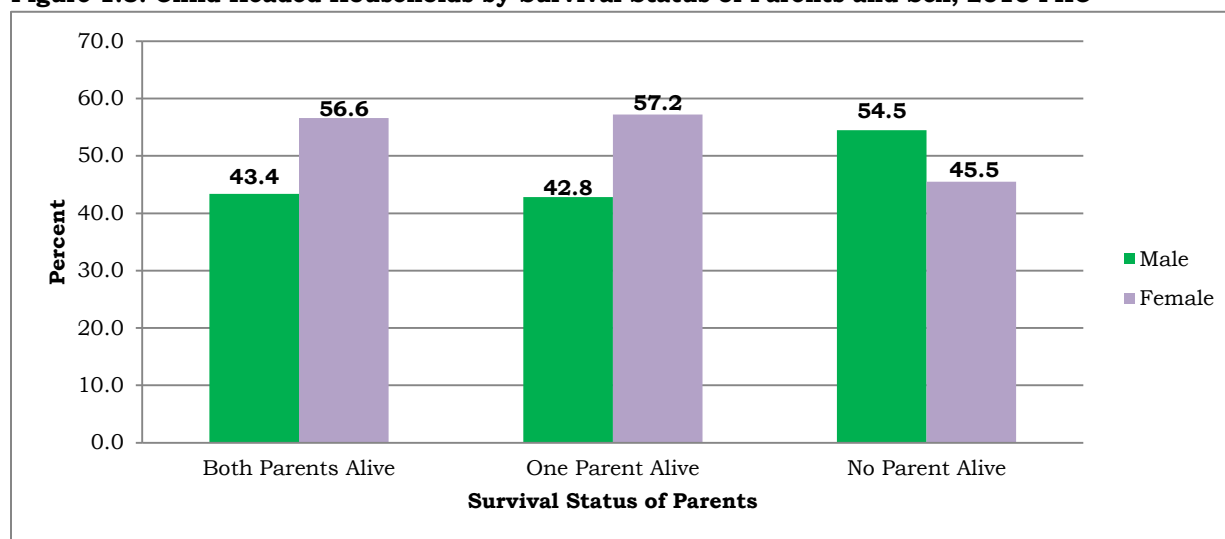
**Figure 1.7: Proportion of Children as Heads by Age and Sex, 2016 PHC**



### 1.3.2 Child Heads and Survival Status of Parents

The discussion in this section will be based on information collected on children who were heads of the households in 2016 PHC, and the survival status of their parents. Survival status of parent was categorized into three categories, and these included: parents alive, one parent alive and no parent alive. The sex of the child as head was also considered in the analysis. According to the results, as displayed in Figure 1.8, the proportion of female child heads was higher than that of male heads under the category where there was at least one parent alive at 57.2 percent. On the other hand, the proportion of male child heads was higher under the category where there was no parent alive with 54.5 percent.

**Figure 1.8: Child Headed Households by Survival Status of Parents and Sex, 2016 PHC**



### 1.3.3 Child Heads and Employment Status

The proportions of children as heads of the households were also distributed according to employment sector and sex; as shown in Table 1.10. The table indicates that the highest proportions (91.0 percent) of children who were heads of the households were student, implying that the remaining share of 9.0 percent were not at school. About 4.5 percent reported that they were housewives; while 1.5 responded that they were regular wage/salary earners.

The disparities by sex, on the other hand, indicated that, about 87.7 percent of male child heads were students as against 93.6 percent of their female counterparts. For the own account worker or farmer sector, male child heads represented 1.6 percent of males, while their female counterparts constituted 0.2 percent of females.



**Table 1.10: Proportion of Child Headed Households by Employment Sector and Sex, 2016 PHC**

Employment Sector	Male	Female	Total
Own account worker/farmer	1.6	0.2	<b>0.8</b>
Regular wage/ salary earner	2.3	0.9	<b>1.5</b>
Casual worker	1	0.2	<b>0.6</b>
Unpaid family worker	1.6	0.1	<b>0.7</b>
Job seeking	0.7	0.2	<b>0.4</b>
Job seeking for the first time	0.6	0.2	<b>0.4</b>
Homemaker	0.1	0.1	<b>0.1</b>
Housewife	4.4	4.5	<b>4.5</b>
Student	87.7	93.6	<b>91</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,772</b>	<b>3,433</b>	<b>6,205</b>

### 1.3.4 Population in Child Headed Households

Population in child headed households is displayed in Table 1.11. During the 2016 PHC, the total number of persons living in child headed households was estimated at 10,661. This figure constituted 0.5 percent of the total population.

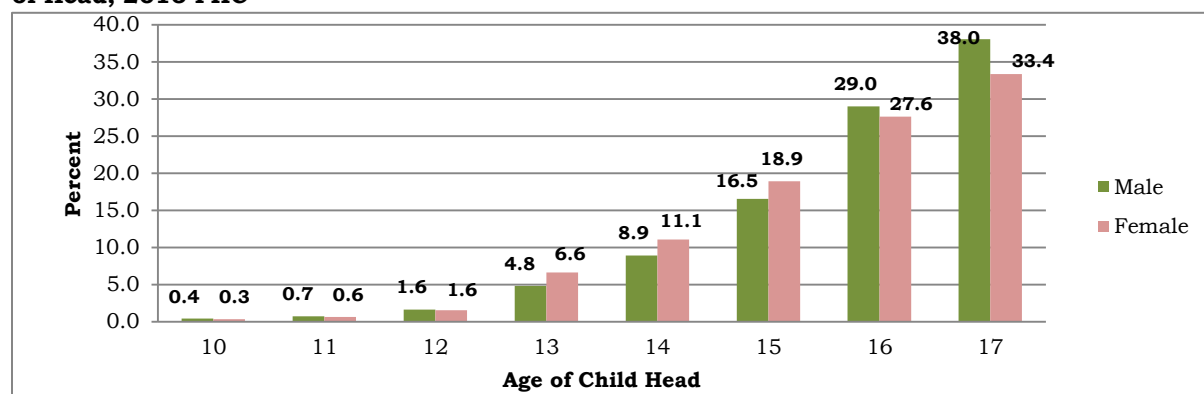
The table further indicates that, the population living in child headed households was mainly concentrated in the age groups 10 to 14 and 15 to 19; with the proportions of 27.7 and 60.6 respectively, of the total population of child headed households.

**Table1.11: Number and Proportion of Children as Heads, by Population Living in Child Headed Households, Age Group and Sex, 2016 PHC**

Age group	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
00 - 04	70	72	<b>142</b>	1.5	1.2	<b>1.3</b>
05 - 09	324	344	<b>668</b>	7.0	5.7	<b>6.3</b>
10 - 14	1,180	1,769	<b>2,949</b>	25.7	29.2	<b>27.7</b>
15 - 19	2,836	3,627	<b>6,463</b>	61.7	59.8	<b>60.6</b>
20 - 24	96	101	<b>197</b>	2.1	1.7	<b>1.8</b>
25 - 29	34	26	<b>60</b>	0.7	0.4	<b>0.6</b>
30 +	59	123	<b>182</b>	1.3	2.0	<b>1.7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,599</b>	<b>6,062</b>	<b>10,661</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Figure 1.9 shows the percentage distribution of the population in child headed households by age and sex of head. On the overall, the pattern of population living in child headed households in relation to the age of the head was almost the same for both male and female child heads. It was also observed that for households headed by younger children there were fewer numbers and the number increased as the age of the child head increases. However, for ages 16 and 17 years, there were larger proportions of population residing in male child headed households, as compared to that of females.

**Figure 1.9: Percentage Distribution of the Population in Child Headed Households by Age and Sex of Head, 2016 PHC**



### 1.3.5 Child Population

Some scholars have shown that, knowing the number of children is critical to effective policy and planning efforts. The number of children results in demand for schools, health care, and other services for children and their families. Society makes substantial public and private investments in children in all areas of life, including health and safety, education and training, recreation, and social development, (<https://www.childtrends.org/indicators/number-of-children/>). A child is defined as any person under the age of 18. As a proportion of the national population, children accounted for 38.1 percent. This proportion has decreased from 41.6 percent in 2006. Population of children aged 0 to 17 by sex is displayed in Table 1.12. The results, as shown in this table, indicate that, there was not much variation between males and females across all the age groups. On the overall, the proportion of children across all ages ranged from 4.9 percent to 5.9 percent of the total children.

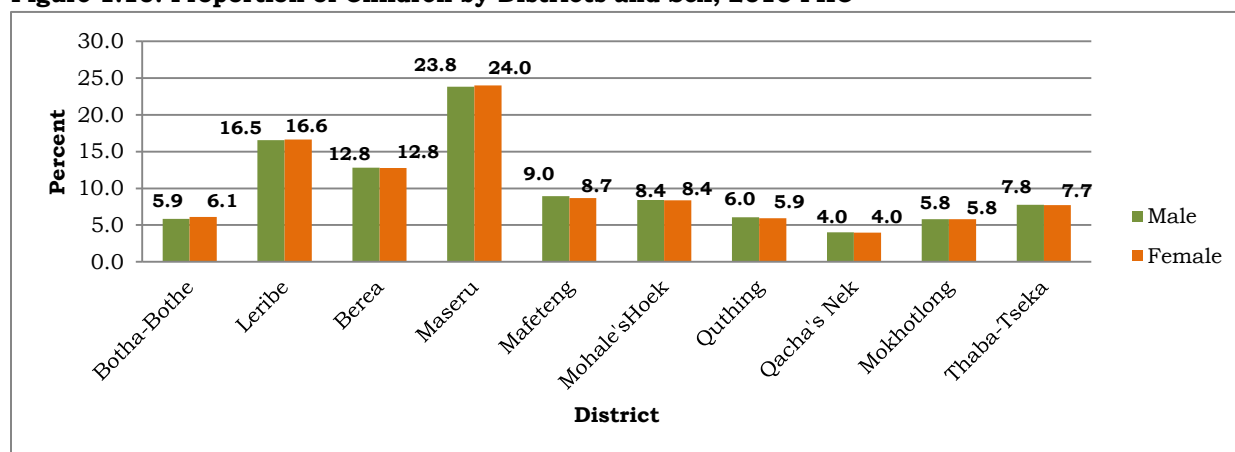
**Table 1.12: Number and Percentage Distribution of Children Aged 0 to 17 Years by Age and Sex, 2016 PHC**

Age of a child	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0	18,970	18,580	37,550	4.9	4.9	4.9
1	19,434	18,680	38,114	5.1	4.9	5.0
2	20,451	20,377	40,828	5.3	5.3	5.3
3	20,884	21,083	41,967	5.4	5.5	5.5
4	21,054	20,642	41,696	5.5	5.4	5.4
5	21,868	22,067	43,935	5.7	5.8	5.7
6	21,724	21,524	43,248	5.7	5.6	5.6
7	22,260	22,748	45,008	5.8	6.0	5.9
8	22,280	22,840	45,120	5.8	6.0	5.9
9	21,821	22,344	44,165	5.7	5.8	5.8
10	22,611	22,517	45,128	5.9	5.9	5.9
11	21,764	22,458	44,222	5.7	5.9	5.8
12	22,137	21,537	43,674	5.8	5.6	5.7
13	21,692	21,440	43,132	5.7	5.6	5.6
14	19,865	20,247	40,112	5.2	5.3	5.2
15	21,733	21,051	42,784	5.7	5.5	5.6
16	21,891	21,401	43,292	5.7	5.6	5.7
17	20,953	20,686	41,639	5.5	5.4	5.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>383,392</b>	<b>382,222</b>	<b>765,614</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 1.3.6 Population of Children in Districts

It is considered necessary under this section to base the discussion on population of children by sex and districts. Figure 1.10 portrays the proportion of children aged 0 to 17 years by district and sex. The pattern for child population was found not to be of much difference from that of the overall population. For instance, Maseru had the highest share of the children 0 to 17, and followed by Leribe and Berea for both Males and Females. The least share of child population was observed in Qacha's Nek. It can be concluded that, there was a slight variation among males and females in all the districts. For instance, Maseru reported 23.8 and 24.0 percent of males and females respectively, while Leribe recorded 16.5 and 16.6 percent for both males and females respectively.

**Figure 1.10: Proportion of Children by Districts and Sex, 2016 PHC**



### 1.3.7 Children and Type of Household

The type of households from which the children live in is very crucial and needs to be included in the analysis of the census data. This is because the type of household can contribute to the social well-being of a child; let it be education, employment or health, and so on. For example, a child living in an extended or mixed family may be more socially or economically challenged in many aspects of life, such as education, employment, health and so on, compared to a child who lives in a nuclear family; as his or her needs may be compromised greatly.

The distribution of children aged 0 to 17, as against the type of household and sex of a child is discussed in Table 1.13. The table indicates that more than half (58.4) percent of children in Lesotho lived in mixed member households, followed by those who lived in extended family with 41.1 percent. The least proportions were for those who lived in nuclear families and single member households; with the proportions of 0.05 and 0.4 percent respectively. This situation is almost the same for both male and female children.

**Table 1.13: Number and Percentage Distribution of Children Aged 0 to 17 by Type of Household and Sex, 2016 PHC.**

Type of Household	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Nuclear family	32	342	<b>374</b>	0.01	0.1	<b>0.05</b>
Extended family	158,633	156,022	<b>314,655</b>	41.4	40.8	<b>41.1</b>
Mixed member Household	222,974	224,220	<b>447,194</b>	58.2	58.7	<b>58.4</b>
Single Member Household	1,753	1,638	<b>3,391</b>	0.5	0.4	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>383,392</b>	<b>382,222</b>	<b>765,614</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### 1.3.8 Child's Relationship to the Head of the Household

The analysis in this section includes the distribution of relationship of a child to the head of the household and sex of a child. The results are as presented in Table 1.14. According to the table, the highest proportions of children were for those who related to the head of the household as children, and they constituted 54.6 percent of the total children. Those who were grandchildren or great grandchildren constituted 30.0 percent. The step children represented about 0.9 percent; and the least proportions were for those who reported themselves as spouses to the head with 0.1 percent. The difference was not much when comparing males and females in this regard.

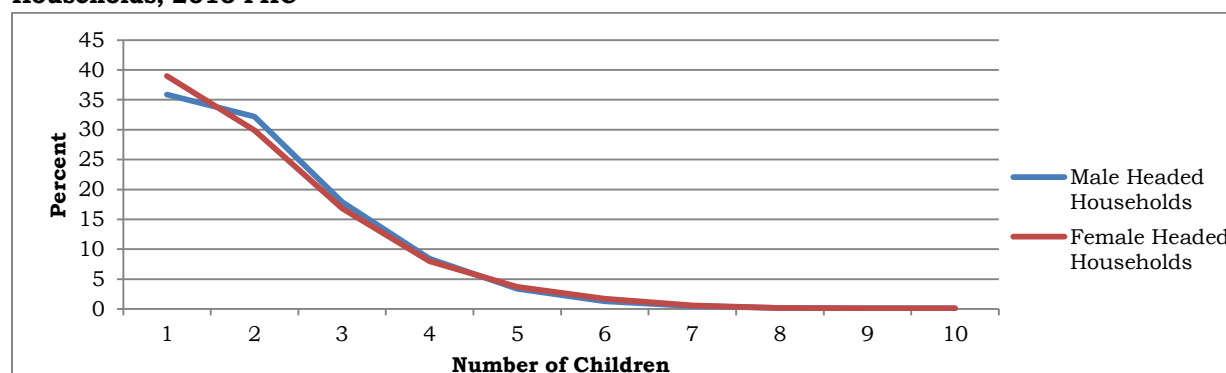
**Table 1.14: Proportion of Children Aged 0 to 17 by Relationship to Household Head and Sex, 2016 PHC**

Relationship to household head	Male	Female	Total
Household Head	0.7	0.9	<b>0.8</b>
Spouse	0	0.2	<b>0.1</b>
Son/Daughter	55.1	54.1	<b>54.6</b>
Son/daughter in-law	0.8	1.1	<b>1</b>
Step child	0.8	0.9	<b>0.9</b>
Sibling	1.9	2	<b>2</b>
Grandchild/Great grandchild	30.2	29.9	<b>30</b>
Other relative	8.2	8.8	<b>8.5</b>
Not related	2.3	2.1	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>383,392</b>	<b>382,222</b>	<b>765,614</b>

### 1.3.9 Sex of Household Head and Number of Children

Figure 1.11 shows that, on the average, the percentage difference of the number of children between male and female headed households was marginal. However, there were more female headed households with a single child than in male headed households. More male headed than female headed households had between two and three children, whereas for households with higher numbers of children in the households (4 and above) there was no significant difference between both male and female headed households. The graph shows, however, that fewer households (less than ten percent) had four children or more.

**Figure 1.11: Proportion of Household Heads by Sex and Number of Children (0 to 17 years) in Households, 2016 PHC**



### 1.3.10 Households Living with Children

The distribution of households with respect to whether there were children (0-17) or there were no children in the households is discussed in Table 1.15. The analysis also includes the sex of the household head and the districts where these households were located according to the status of availability of children. In all the districts, the proportions of male headed households with children (41.2 percent), or without children (21.8 percent) were higher than those of the female headed households, which constituted 24.1 and 13.0 percent of the female headed households respectively.

The disparities by districts did not show any significant difference between both sexes, for both households with children or without children.

**Table 1.15: Proportion of Households With or Without Children by District and Sex of Household Head, 2016 PHC**

District	Households with children		Households without children		
	Male headed Households	Female headed Households	Male headed Households	Female headed Households	Total Households
Botha-Bothe	43.3	25.5	19.5	11.8	30,169
Leribe	41.6	24	20.9	13.5	90,313
Berea	42	23.6	22	12.4	69,999
Maseru	37.3	21.3	26	15.4	157,810
Mafeteng	41.8	26.1	20.5	11.6	46,563
Mohale's Hoek	41.2	27.5	19	12.3	40,756
Quthing	41.1	28.1	19.4	11.4	26,345
Qacha's Nek	42.7	27	18.8	11.5	17,584
Mokhotlong	48	25.4	17.4	9.2	24,362
Thaba-Tseka	48.3	24.3	17.3	10	33,556
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>537,457</b>

### 1.3.11 Out of School Children

The Government of Lesotho is concerned about the out of school children. Although Free Education initiative has been introduced for more than 10 years, there are some children who are still out of school, hence the importance of this section. The respondents, during 2016 PHC, were asked questions on school attendance, and the

questions were asked from respondents who were three years and above. However, the analysis in this section will cover children aged 3 to 17 years. Furthermore, it is worth noting that out of school children category included those who had never attended and those who had left school. The analysis has also taken into consideration the sex of the out of school children.

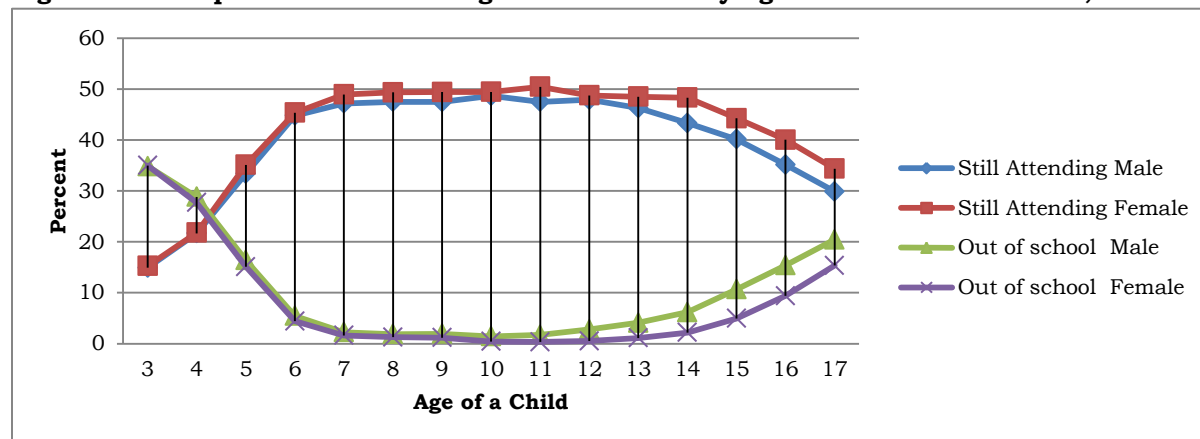
### 1.3.12 Out of School Children by Age and Sex

The results on out of school children as from 2016 PHC show that, out of the total of 649,122 children who were aged 3 to 17 years during the 2016 PHC, about 116,704 (18.0 percent) of them were out of school. The proportions of males and females who were out of school were estimated at 10.1 and 7.9 percent respectively of the total children in this age category. The distribution of children aged 3 to 17 years by age, sex and school attendance is displayed in Figure 1.12.

The results show that the proportions of both males and females, at early ages 3 to 7 years, who were attending school, were increasing; while the school attendance proportions for both males and females 7 to 12 years were almost constant. The graph also shows the drastic drop beyond 12 years. Generally, the pattern for both males and females did not differ much, except that from age 12 onwards the drop out of school for males was higher as compared to that of females. For instance, the proportions of school attendance for males ranged from 47.9 to 29.8 percent, as against 38.7 to 34.3 percent for females.

On the other hand, the graph for out of school children shows the different pattern as compared to the school attendance pattern. For earlier ages (3 to 7 years), the proportions for both males and females who were out of school dropped, then became slightly constant for ages 7 to 12 years; from there, the behaviour of the graph started to rise for ages beyond 12 years. Under normal circumstances, the years beyond 12, are normally when most of the children move from primary level of education to secondary level.

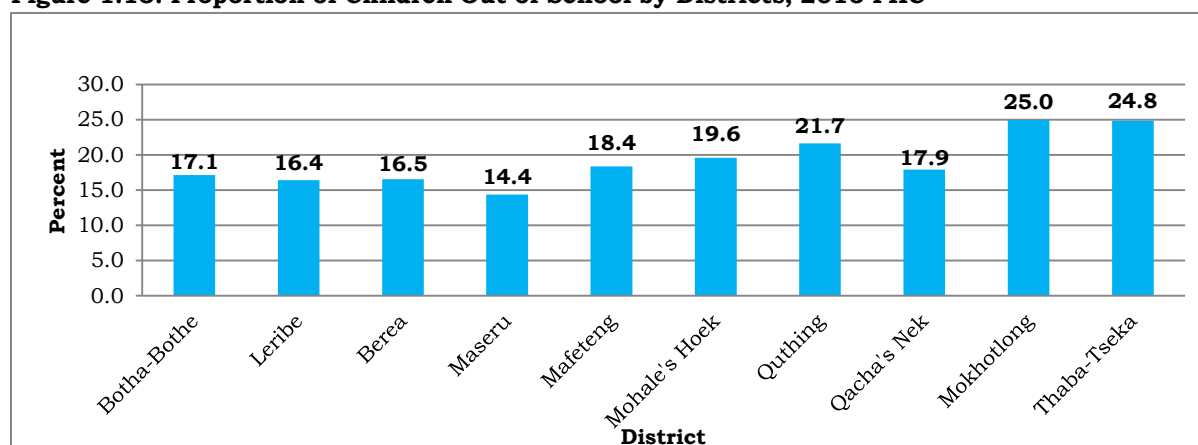
**Figure 1.12: Proportion of Children Aged 3 to 17 Years by Age and School Attendance, 2016 PHC**



### 1.3.13: Out of School Children and Districts

As indicated earlier, the Government of Lesotho is concerned about children who are not attending school. Therefore, it was found necessary in this section to include the analysis that will show the disparity of these children by districts. The results show the districts which had the highest proportions of out of school children. Figure 1.13 reveals that, almost a quarter of children who resided in Mokhotlong (25.0 percent) were out of school. Other highest proportions were reported in Thaba-Tseka (24.8 percent) and Quthing (21.7 percent). The remaining districts rated less than 20.0 percent, and Maseru was the lowest with 14.4 percent of children who were not attending school.

**Figure 1.13: Proportion of Children Out of School by Districts, 2016 PHC**



### 1.3.14 Child Marriage

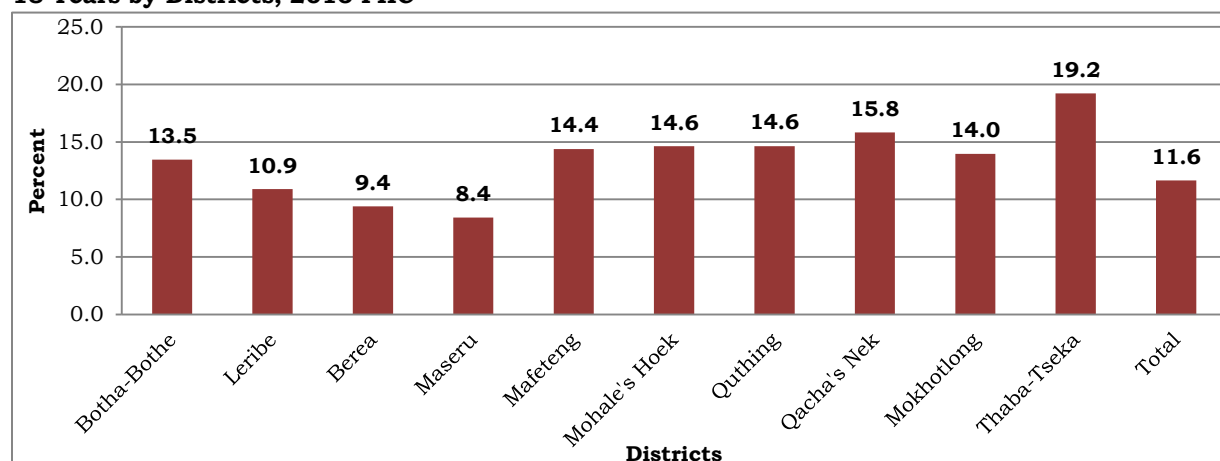
Child marriage is a global problem that cuts across countries. Parsons et.al, 2015 stated that child marriage has a substantial negative development impacts in the areas of education, labour force participation, health, violence and empowerment.

Child marriage is defined as the marriage that takes place before the age of 18. In many countries, even though the minimal age for marriage is set at 18, there are some children, both boys and girls who marry before reaching the age of 18. This practice affects both boys and girls negatively. It is furthermore added that child marriage affects girls in far greater numbers than boys (UNICEF, 2014). The status of child marriage in Lesotho has over the years not been clear, hence why information relating to child marriage is included in this analysis.

Child marriage is measured using the proportion of women aged 20 to 24 years who were married before the age of 18; to the total number of women aged 20 to 24 years. For the 2016 PHC data, the results showed that, about 11.6 percent of women, who were aged 20 to 24 years, reported that they were married while they were under the age of 18 years.

The analysis on child marriage by districts is included in this section in order to have an overview of the situation within different districts. Figure 1.14 demonstrates the proportion of women aged 20 to 24 years who were married before reaching the age of 18 years by districts. In general, the results showed that occurrence of child marriage were higher than 10 percent in 8 districts; with Thaba-Tseka representing the highest proportion with 19.2 percent. Maseru and Berea were the only districts which scored below 10 percent.

**Figure 1.14: Proportion of Women Aged 20 - 24 Years who were Married before Reaching the Age of 18 Years by Districts, 2016 PHC**



### 1.3.15: Current Marital Status of Children

It is equally important to discuss the marital status of the children, who were 10 to 17 years during the 2016 PHC, by sex. Therefore, Table 1.16 presents the number and percentage distribution of children aged 10 to 17 years by marital status and sex. The results showed that, among all children aged 10 to 17 years; the proportion of children who were currently married in 2016 constituted 0.5 percent. The interpretation of this proportion was that; in every 1,000 children in Lesotho, who were aged 10 to 17 years, there were 5 children who were married. The results also showed that, there was a very small proportion, close to zero, of children who had ever been married (divorced, separated or widowed) and the overwhelming majority were girls.

**Table 1.16: Number and Proportion of children Aged 10 to 17 Years by Marital Status and Sex, 2016 PHC**

Marital Status	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Never Married	383,181	378,810	761,991	99.9	99.1	99.5
Currently Married	199	3,316	3,515	0.1	0.9	0.5
Ever Married	12	96	108	0.0	0.03	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>383,392</b>	<b>382,222</b>	<b>765,614</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>



## **1.4 Summary**

The results from the 2016 PHC indicated that, the general sex ratio in Lesotho was 95.8. The results also showed that the majority of persons who resided in urban areas were aged 15 to 34 years, with percentages ranging from 10.1 (age group 30 to 34) to 11.1 (age group 25 to 29); while the proportions of other age groups ranged below 10.0 percent. On the other hand, the proportions of persons who resided in the rural areas; from age group 05 to 09 (11.9 percent) up to age group 10 to 14 (11.7 percent) were higher as compared to other age groups.

It was also observed that, the members of the households were mostly children with the proportion of 34.2 percent, while those who responded as heads constituted 26.8 percent. In addition, the households headed by females were more common comparative to those of males, and seemed to be increasing overtime, while the proportions of households headed by males observed a decreasing trend. On the other hand, child headed households constituted 0.01 percent of the total households.

The results from the 2016 PHC further indicated that, out of school population constituted 10.1 percent. In the absence of reasons why children were not at school, it is recommended that there is a need to build more opportunities for children to be able to attend schools. Furthermore, in depths studies are needed to find out why children are not in schools; and try to address those hindrances. Additionally, the results from the 2016 PHC data indicated that there were 11.6 percent of women, who were aged 20 to 24 years, who reported that they were married while they were under the age of 18.

According to some literature, ending child marriage will help break the intergenerational cycle of poverty; by allowing girls and women to participate more fully in society, UNICEF, 2014. Hence, the Government of Lesotho is urged to continue with the interventions and initiatives it has conducted to end child marriage.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

Housing is considered as one of the basic needs that enable human beings to live a decent life. To narrow it down to an individualistic aspect; a human being needs a home or a place of abode to live a decent life. Governments and or Nations have taken housing to even a higher level than that of a need, but rather to that of a right. Lesotho is not exceptional, as in its Constitution, a home has been considered as one of the fundamental human rights. It is stated that, “Every person shall be entitled to respect for his private family life and his home” (Constitution of Lesotho (1993) Section 11(1)). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) Article 25(1) (1948) to which Lesotho is also a party to, postulates that “Everyone has the right to standard of living, adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including: food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services”.

In its broader sense, housing refers to a collection of houses in which people live. “It equally recognizes profound influence it has on the health behavior efficiency of man and the Nation as a whole” 2011 Lesotho Demographic Survey (2011 LDS). As per the United Nation Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), housing extends to all those components of physical environment with which an individual or a community comes into contact with, and which are used on the regular basis for a whole range of human activities: the individual dwelling and its related services, the dwellings immediate surroundings, community facilities, transportations and housing as human settlements are planned, designed and implemented on land.

The objective of this chapter is to provide the results or information on data collected during the 2016 Lesotho Population and Housing Census (PHC) on: housing characteristics, tenancy of dwelling, land acquisition, type of dwelling, land tenure, number of housing units and rooms occupied by household members as well as main material used in the construction of walls, floors and roofs.

#### **2.1 Land Tenure**

Land tenure is the way in which people have access to use land and natural resource. In the case of Lesotho; the land tenure system is such that land is owned by people as a whole, with its administration being in the hands of chiefs on behalf of the king. It therefore indicates that the land in Lesotho belongs to Basotho Nation. This has ever been the traditional view point since prior to colonialism as encapsulated in the laws of Lerotholi. The view thus prevails and it has been echoed through statutes which were promulgated to address the land tenure, allocation and administration of land in Lesotho. The constitution also emphasizes this cardinal rule that, land belongs to

Basotho Nation and is held by the king in trust for the Nation, (Article 7 & 8 of Constitution of Lesotho 1993), The Lesotho Land Act (2010) also indicates the same sentiments.

Land tenure is often categorized as private, communal, open access, and state. In Lesotho, the members of the community have common rights to independently use the holdings. An individual can be allocated arable land to meet his family's subsistence, but he has exclusive rights only to crops and the land reverts to communal use after harvesting. For instance, members of a community may have the right to graze cattle on a common pasture. The land tenure system in Lesotho is leasehold. This presupposes that, the allottee of land only holds use rights as opposed to ownership of the land itself. The title to use of land is certified by a Lease and a Form C documents. Some people still hold Title Deeds even though the current statute (Lesotho Land Act 2010) does not provide for it. It was once used as a document entitling a person to use land.

Table 2.1 presents percentage distribution of households in occupied housing units by settlement type, district and type of land tenure. The table reveals that persons who resided in rural areas had high proportion (55.9 percent) of households with Form C. This also indicated that in Lesotho, most households (40.8 percent) were holding Form C than other forms of land tenure. The table further shows that, Maseru and Leribe had high proportions of households with leasehold, constituting 37.9 and 17.7 percent respectively of the total households, compared to Title Deed which was reported by 2.3 and 4.6 percent respectively of the total households. There were some Respondents (visitors, relatives and those who lived in rented private housing (Malaene) who indicated that they did not know the title the household was holding for the land, and they accounted for 12.6 percent in Lesotho.

**Table 2.1: Number and Percentage Distribution of Households in occupied Housing Units by District, Settlement Type and Type of Land Tenure, 2016 PHC**

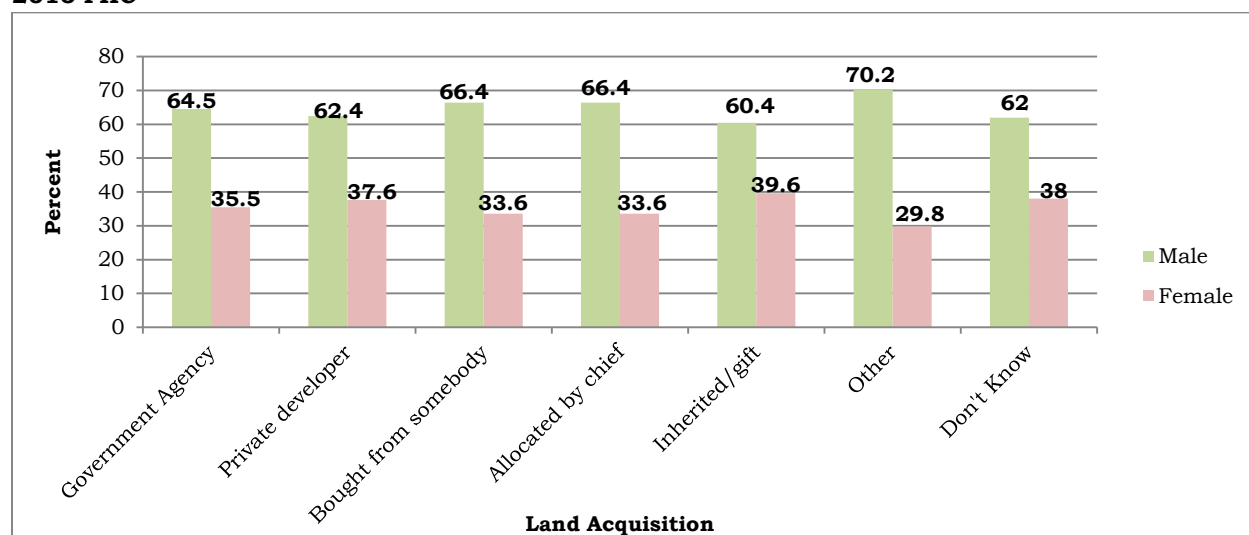
<b>Settlement type</b>	<b>Type of Land Tenure</b>						<b>Total</b>
	<b>Leasehold</b>	<b>Title deed</b>	<b>Form C</b>	<b>No title</b>	<b>No legal right</b>	<b>Don't know</b>	
Urban	36.7	2.9	19.2	15.3	2.0	23.9	<b>217,034</b>
Peri-Urban	8.0	3.0	52.5	19.8	2.5	14.2	<b>43,710</b>
Rural	2.0	4.2	55.9	30.0	4.4	3.4	<b>276,713</b>
<b>District</b>							
Botha-Bothe	2.2	1.8	53.4	35.4	4.4	2.8	<b>30,169</b>
Leribe	17.7	4.6	43.2	25.5	2.9	6.1	<b>90,313</b>
Berea	12.4	3.4	45.0	23.2	4.1	11.9	<b>69,999</b>
Maseru	37.9	2.3	25.7	12.5	1.9	19.6	<b>157,810</b>
Mafeteng	2.8	3.9	53.4	22.5	3.2	14.2	<b>46,563</b>
Mohale's Hoek	1.6	5.0	47.7	27.8	3.8	14.1	<b>40,756</b>
Quthing	2.0	2.9	49.5	31.4	4.5	9.7	<b>26,345</b>
Qacha's Nek	2.2	3.5	41.9	31.3	3.1	18.0	<b>17,584</b>
Mokhotlong	1.9	6.4	56.5	25.0	4.8	5.4	<b>24,362</b>
Thaba-Tseka	1.3	4.8	40.2	40.9	5.6	7.1	<b>33,556</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>537,457</b>

## 2.2 Land Acquisition

There are different ways of acquiring land in Lesotho; traditionally people acquired land through allocation made by chiefs and inheritance. However, the prerogative of land allocation by chiefs was cancelled by statutes. The current statute (Lesotho Land Act 2010) provides that, allocation of land is made by a local authority having jurisdiction in the area (Section 14 and 15 of the Lesotho Land Act (2010). Other ways of acquiring land can be through: Government Agency, such as Lesotho Housing and Land Development Corporation (LHLDC), Mabote project, Maseru City Council (MCC), Private developer and purchasing it from other individuals.

Out of 537,457 households in Lesotho, about 240,960 of them had their land allocated by chief. About 66.4 percent of male headed households acquired land through either allocation by chief or bought from somebody. Most of the female households, representing 39.6 percent, inherited the land or received it as a gift as illustrated in Figure 2.1. In general, male headed households who acquired land constituted around 70.0 percent while female headed households had around 40.0 percent.

**Figure 2.1: Percentage Distribution of Households According to Type of Land Acquisition by Sex, 2016 PHC**



The results in Table 2.2 show that, household heads who resided in rural areas had high proportion (61.7) of households that acquired land through allocation by chiefs; as compared to urban and Peri-urban areas with 22.3 and 49.9 percent respectively. The most dominating method of land acquisition was allocation by chief with 44.8 percent of all the households. Similarly, in all the districts, the highest proportions of households had acquired land through the chief followed by inheritance and bought from somebody. Mokhotlong had the highest proportion (61.9 percent) of households that acquired land through allocation by Chiefs.

**Table 2.2: Number and Percentage Distribution of Households by Settlement Type, District and Land Acquisition, 2016 PHC**

Settlement/ District	Land acquisition							Total
	Government Agency	Private developed	Bought	Allocated by chief	Inherited /gift	Other	Don't Know	
			from somebody					
Settlement type								
Urban	16.8	3.7	18.1	22.3	9.6	0.1	29.4	217,034
Peri-Urban	3.7	2.2	10.3	49.9	19.9	0.1	13.9	43,710
Rural	3.3	0.4	4.5	61.7	27.6	0.1	2.5	276,713
District								
Botha-Bothe	7.2	2.6	8.3	49.2	26.4	0.0	6.3	30,169
Leribe	8.7	2.5	11.6	45.7	21.1	0.0	10.4	90,313
Berea	6.7	1.9	11.9	41.4	22.0	0.1	16.0	69,999
Maseru	15.7	2.6	15.8	30.1	13.7	0.1	22.0	157,810
Mafeteng	3.5	0.9	7.4	53.0	21.7	0.0	13.5	46,563
Mohale's Hoek	2.0	0.3	6.2	57.8	22.3	0.0	11.4	40,756
Quthing	3.1	0.6	5.9	61.6	20.3	0.0	8.6	26,345
Qacha's Nek	8.8	0.4	5.8	51.3	19.5	0.1	14.1	17,584
Mokhotlong	5.6	1.5	3.8	61.9	19.9	0.1	7.2	24,362
Thaba-Tseka	5.3	0.8	2.1	58.8	26.3	0.2	6.6	33,556
Total	8.8	1.8	10.5	44.8	19.7	0.1	14.3	537,457

## 2.3 Definition of Housing units

Housing is one of the human needs that have impact on the health, welfare, social attitudes and economic productivity of the individual. It is also one of the indicators of a person's standard of living and his or her place in society (Uganda NPHC, 2014). The types of housing units covered during the 2016 PHC were: Rontabole or Mokhoro, Optaka, Polata, Heisi, Malaene, Bungalow or Mansion, Apartment or Town house and Temporary structure, Mok'huk'hu or Parkhome and their definition have been appended in the Annex.

### 2.3.1 Housing Units

Data on the types of housing units was also provided during the 2016 PHC. Table 2.3 depicts the percentage distribution of households according to type of housing unit by district, ecological zone and type of settlement.

The results revealed that 66.1 percent of housing units were mostly found in the lowlands. The Senqu River Valley (SRV) had the smallest percentage of 7.7. It further shows that, the highest percentages of the housing units was observed from the rural areas (51.5 percent) than urban areas (40.4 percent); and those in the Peri urban constituted only 8.1 percent. Maseru had 29.4 percent of the total housing units in the country; while Qacha's Nek had the smallest proportion of housing units constituting 3.3 percent.

On the other hand, most of the housing units represented by high proportions in Maseru included Malaene (55.7 percent,) Apartment (57.6 percent), Temporary structure (28.1 percent), Polata and Bungalow with share of 27.5 percent each. Thaba-

Tseka had the largest share of Rontabole type of housing unit with 19.7 percent as compared to other districts. Contrarily, Heisi was mostly found in Leribe with 32.2 percent.

**Table 2.3: Percentage Distribution of Households According to Type of Housing Units by Ecological Zone, Type of Settlement and District, 2016 PHC**

	Rontabole/M okhoro	Heisi	Polata	Malaene	Optaka	Apart ment/ Town House	Bungalow/M ansion	Tempor ary Structu re/Mok' huk'hu	Total
<b>Ecological zone</b>									
Lowlands	17.2	69.3	76.4	91.2	78.1	85.8	89.7	82.3	<b>66.1</b>
Foothills	18.9	17.1	7.8	0.3	4.7	2.7	4.6	8.3	<b>8.8</b>
Mountains	50.3	8	7.9	6.1	8.7	7.3	3.7	6.1	<b>17.5</b>
Senqu river valley	13.5	5.6	7.9	2.4	8.5	4.2	2	3.3	<b>7.7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>127,790</b>	<b>21,513</b>	<b>182,622</b>	<b>107,300</b>	<b>50,365</b>	<b>7,421</b>	<b>27,364</b>	<b>13,083</b>	<b>537,457</b>
<b>Settlement type</b>									
Urban	3.9	16.2	33.7	89.8	47.4	73.4	54.1	49.9	<b>40.4</b>
Peri-Urban	4.7	6.4	10.3	7.7	9.3	9.6	9.8	9.2	<b>8.1</b>
Rural	91.4	77.4	56	2.5	43.3	17	36.1	40.9	<b>51.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>127,790</b>	<b>21,513</b>	<b>182,622</b>	<b>107,300</b>	<b>50,365</b>	<b>7,421</b>	<b>27,364</b>	<b>13,083</b>	<b>537,457</b>
<b>District</b>									
Botha-Bothe	8.4	14.1	4.9	2.4	5.4	1.2	5.7	3.6	<b>5.6</b>
Leribe	12.5	32.2	18.4	13.9	18.9	6.1	21.9	22.9	<b>16.8</b>
Berea	6.8	19.9	15.9	10.6	13.8	16.1	20.4	22	<b>13</b>
Maseru	12.7	14.8	27.5	55.7	25.6	57.6	27.5	28.1	<b>29.4</b>
Mafeteng	3.4	4.6	12.8	6	12.9	4.4	13.2	8.4	<b>8.7</b>
Mohale's Hoek	8.9	5	8.5	3.9	9.5	5.9	7.9	8.7	<b>7.6</b>
Quthing	7.7	2.9	5.4	2.1	6.1	2.9	0.4	2.5	<b>4.9</b>
Qacha's Nek	6.5	2.6	2.7	1.5	3.5	1.9	0.6	1.1	<b>3.3</b>
Mokhotlong	13.3	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.3	1.4	1.1	<b>4.5</b>
Thaba-Tseka	19.7	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.5	1	1.5	<b>6.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>127,790</b>	<b>21,513</b>	<b>182,622</b>	<b>107,300</b>	<b>50,365</b>	<b>7,421</b>	<b>27,364</b>	<b>13,083</b>	<b>537,457</b>

## 2.4 Ownership Status of Dwelling

Every individual needs to occupy a habitable dwelling, either in a form of a structure or a discrete space with a structure intended for people to live in. Therefore, ownership status of dwelling is a related concept associated with privileges, rights and responsibilities, (BOS, 2013).

Table 2.4 presents number and percentage distribution of households according to ownership status of head of the household by sex. About 68.9 percent of the households headed by males resided in free private housing. The least percentage for female headed households recorded 31.1 percent as opposed to their male counterparts. The least percentage (60.0 percent) of males resided in free government housing but on the overall, most Basotho lived in their own households.

**Table 2.4: Number and Percentage Distribution of Households According to Ownership Status of Household Head by Sex, 2016 PHC**

<b>Ownership Status</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Owned by household	63.1	36.9	<b>424,098</b>
Free government housing	60.0	40.0	<b>2,540</b>
Free Private housing	68.9	31.1	<b>6,811</b>
Subsidized government housing	67.7	32.3	<b>2,196</b>
Subsidized private housing	65.2	34.8	<b>1,344</b>
Rented by government	65.0	35.0	<b>2,097</b>
Rented private housing	61.6	38.4	<b>98,319</b>
Other	65.4	34.6	<b>52</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>537,457</b>

Table 2.5 shows that the majority of the settlements were occupied by their own household members, and they were mostly in the rural areas, representing 96.8 percent of all the settlements. This was as opposed to 2.0 percent of those who resided in rented private housing in the rural areas. On the other hand, the majority of urban households; constituting 56.5 percent; lived in their own households as opposed to 39.0 percent who lived in rented private housing. Moreover, 33.0 percent of the households that lived in Maseru occupied rented private housing. On the overall, the highest proportion (78.9 percent) of the housing units was owned by the households, followed by rented private housing with 18.3 percent.

**Table 2.5: Number and Percentage Distribution of Households According to Ownership Status of Household Head by Type of Settlement and Districts, 2016 PHC**

Household head by type of settlement and district, 2010-11								
Settlement Type/district	Type of housing							Total
	Owned by household	Free government housing	Free Private housing	Subsidized government housing	Subsidized private housing	Rented by government	Rented private housing	
Settlement type								
Urban	56.5	0.7	1.7	0.9	0.3	0.8	39	217,034
Peri-Urban	77	0.7	2	0.2	0.6	0.6	18.9	43,710
Rural	96.8	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.0	276,713
District								
Botha-Bothe	89.1	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	9.2	30,169
Leribe	82.6	0.3	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	15.1	90,313
Berea	81.3	0.2	1.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	16.6	69,999
Maseru	63.2	0.4	1.5	0.8	0.4	0.7	33	157,810
Mafeteng	86.2	0.4	1.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	11.3	46,563
Mohale's Hoek	87.8	0.7	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	9.8	40,756
Quthing	84.6	1.2	1.3	0.5	0.1	0.5	11.7	26,345
Qacha's Nek	84.6	1.2	1.3	0.5	0.1	0.5	11.7	17,584
Mokhotlong	88.3	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.1	0.2	9.5	24,362
Thaba-Tseka	91	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.3	6.7	33,556
Total	78.9	0.5	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	18.3	537,457

## 2.5 Number of Rooms

Number of rooms in a housing unit is an indicator of the size of the housing unit as well as quality of life pertaining to various households. During the 2016 PHC, rooms were defined to include only the rooms used for living purposes, excluding bathrooms,

toilets, garages and the rooms used as storage. The rooms like garage were considered as habitable rooms if they were used for sleeping or living purposes.

Table 2.6 presents the percentage distribution of the number of rooms by main type of housing units. The table shows that within each type of housing units, most of the structures were smaller with two rooms or less. The main house with the smallest number of rooms was the temporary structure (87.9 percent) followed by Heisi (74.1 percent) and Malaene with 69.9 percent. The main type of housing unit which had more than seven rooms was Bungalow/Mansion with 59.1 percent for eight rooms, 1.9 percent for nine rooms and 1.0 percent for ten rooms and more. On the other hand, Optaka and Polata were also likely to have more than seven rooms. For example, among Optaka and polata houses, about 1.4 percent and 0.3 percent of them had eight rooms respectively.

**Table 2.6: Percentage Distribution of Number of Rooms by Main Type of Housing unit, 2016 PHC**

Type of Housing unit	Number of rooms									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
<b>Rontabole/Mokhoro</b>	56.5	35.0	7.3	1.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Heisi</b>	74.1	18.2	5.6	1.3	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Polata</b>	32.0	32.7	15.8	10.4	5.6	2.3	0.8	0.3	0.0	0.0
<b>Malaene</b>	69.9	30.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Optaka</b>	6.7	10.8	14.8	27.1	24.9	10.6	3.6	1.4	0.0	0.0
<b>Apartment/Town House</b>	0.0	11.1	13.1	75.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Bungalow/Mansion</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.7	12.3	59.1	1.9	1.0
<b>Temporary Structure</b>	87.9	12.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>236,411</b>	<b>147,726</b>	<b>47,138</b>	<b>42,197</b>	<b>23,474</b>	<b>16,435</b>	<b>6,593</b>	<b>16,726</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>262</b>

### 2.5.1 Main Material Used for the Construction of the Wall

The material used in the construction of the housing unit reflects its quality. This quality can be assessed using the material used for the construction of walls for a housing unit. Good quality materials of construction of walls are good for the safety and health of occupants.

Table 2.7 shows the percentage distribution of households by main type of house and main material used for construction of walls. The results show that 42.7 percent of households lived in housing with walls constructed with sand or concrete blocks. Stone with mud followed at 29.9 percent; where approximately 78.1 percent of Rontaboles and 47.1 percent of Heisi had walls constructed with stone and mud. Most of the Malaenes in Lesotho recording 74.7 percent, were built with sand or concrete blocks.



**Table 2.7: Number and Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Type of House and Main Material Used for Construction of Walls, 2016 PHC**

Main type of house	Main material used for construction of walls												Total
	Cane/ Tree trunks	Stick and mud	Masonite / Cardboard	Stone with mud	Burned Mud Bricks	Mud Bricks	Stone with lime/ cement	Advanced Stone	Sand/ Concrete Blocks	Advanced Burned Bricks	Corrugate d Iron/ Metal sheets	Other	
Rontabole/Mokhororo	1.2	10.6	0.0	78.1	0.3	3.7	3.7	0.1	2.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	<b>127,790</b>
Heisi	0.8	8.3	0.0	47.1	1.1	7.7	12	0.5	20.5	1.5	0.0	0.0	<b>21,513</b>
Polata	0.2	2.5	0.0	24.2	2.2	3.8	15	0.6	49.2	2.1	0.0	0.0	<b>182,622</b>
Malaene	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.9	3.6	1.8	12	0.7	74.7	3.7	0.0	0.0	<b>107,300</b>
Optaka	0.0	0.2	0.0	6.9	3.1	1.5	14	1.7	63.7	8.5	0.0	0.0	<b>50,365</b>
Apartment/Town House	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13	3.4	51.8	31.5	0.0	0.1	<b>7,309</b>
Bungalow/Mansion Temporary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11	3.3	61.1	24.2	0.0	0.0	<b>27,299</b>
Structure/Mok'huk' hu	0.0	0.0	11.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	88.3	0.0	<b>14,267</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>537,457</b>

### 2.5.2 Main Material Used for the Construction of the Roofing

The type of materials used for roofing is a measure of the economic well-being of households because they affect the health status of household members. The majority of houses in Lesotho were roofed with corrugated iron, recording 66.7 percent of all the main roofing materials. The housing units roofed with thatch or grass straw constituted 26.8 percent; while all temporary structures in Lesotho were roofed with corrugated iron. In general, most of the Rontabole or Mokhorro type of housing unit was roofed with Thatch, grass or straw, and constituted 99.2 percent of all roofing materials, while the majority of Heisi type of housing unit represented 79.2 percent as shown in Table 2.8.

**Table 2.8: Number and Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Type of House and Main Material Used for Roofing, 2016 PHC**

Main type of house	Main Roofing Materials					Total
	Thatch/grass straw	Corrugated Iron/Metal sheets	Corrugated roof tiles	Ceramic/clay tiles	Slab	
Rontabole/Mokhorro	99.2	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	<b>127,790</b>
Heisi	79.2	8.4	11.5	0.9	0.0	<b>21,513</b>
Polata	0.0	99.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>182,622</b>
Malaene	0.0	97.5	2.2	0.2	0.1	<b>107,300</b>
Optaka	0.0	75.9	21.3	2.8	0.0	<b>50,365</b>
Apartment/Town House	0.3	57.3	33.8	7.3	1.4	<b>7,421</b>
Bungalow/Mansion	0.9	47.8	43.6	7.3	0.4	<b>27,364</b>
Temporary Structure/Mok'huk'hu	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>13,082</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>537,457</b>

### 2.5.3 Main Material Used for the Construction of the Floor

The type of materials used for the construction of the floor of a house affects the appearance, quality and health status of a house. Some floors are easily contaminated and are difficult to clean.

About 37.3 percent of housing units had floors made up of cement as shown in Table 2.9. Mud or dung was second to cement as the most dominant material used for construction of floor, and represented 29.5 percent of all materials used for construction of floors. In Lesotho, mud or dung was the most dominant material used for construction of floor in thatched roofed houses, such as Rontable or Mokhorro, at 82.4 percent of all materials used for construction of floors for this type of house.

**Table 2.9: Number and Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Type of House and Main Material used for Construction of Floor, PHC 2016**

Main materials used for construction of floor											
Main type of house	Plastic /Sail	Mud or Dung	Lamin ated board	Brick tiles	Tiles	Cement	Viny l/Li nole um	Carpet	Wood	Other	Total
Rontabole/Mokhorro	0.0	82.4	0.1	0.1	0.7	8.3	6.1	2.2	0.1	0.0	<b>127,790</b>
Heisi	0.0	42.4	0.3	0.7	7.8	24.3	18.0	6.3	0.2	0.0	<b>21,513</b>
Polata	0.0	20.3	0.2	1.1	12.9	42.1	16.7	6.7	0.1	0.0	<b>182,622</b>
Malaene	0.0	1.9	0.1	0.7	13.6	69.8	9.7	4.1	0.1	0.0	<b>107,300</b>
Optaka	0.0	4.5	0.8	4.1	34.1	35.0	13.5	7.0	1.0	0.0	<b>50,365</b>
Apartment/Town House	0.0	0.0	1.3	5.7	51.7	20.9	8.6	9.3	2.5	0.0	<b>7,421</b>
Bungalow/Mansion Temporary	0.0	0.0	1.5	7.0	45.6	28.4	9.6	6.5	1.5	0.0	<b>27,364</b>
Structure/Mok'huk'hu	0.4	22.2	0.4	0.2	2.8	45.2	17.8	9.4	1.4	0.2	<b>13,082</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>537,457</b>

## 2.6 Summary

The observation from the data collected from 2016 Population and Housing Census is that, land acquisition and land tenure system in Lesotho has not differed much from the previous years. Changes realized and or made seemed much on the authority to allocate land and nothing much. Furthermore, corrugated iron still ranks the highest roofing material preferred by Basotho though in the highlands thatch is the most preferred mode of roofing. Similarly, data available suggest that there has also been a change in the material used in the construction of floor and roofing, leading to an improvement in the quality of housing. There is a significant increase in the proportion of housing units having cemented floor from 32.7 percent (2006 Census) to 37.3 percent (2016 Census); while proportion of housing units having Mud and Dung floor has decreased from 35.2 percent in 2006 to 29.5 percent in 2016. There has been a general improvement in the quality of material used especially for the construction of floor and roof. In general, the majority of housing units in the Country has remained small with 1 to 2 rooms. There are very few housing units with at least five rooms in Lesotho.

## CHAPTER 3

### HOUSING AMENITIES

#### 3.0 Introduction

Amenities play an important role in providing a sense of live ability for households. In order to test household's live ability, the 2016 PHC covered the following; household possessions and housing characteristics, sources of energy for lighting as well as sources of energy used for heating and cooking .

The 2016 PHC gathered information on the main source of fuels used for lighting, heating and cooking. The information on various types of fuels is vital in assessing energy planning decisions, energy conservation programs and in developing marketing strategies. It is also useful in monitoring supply and demand requirements for alternative fuels. Furthermore the information is relevant for monitoring the country's achievement of sustainable development strategy (SDG) goal number 7 which states; ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

#### 3.1 Main source of fuel for lighting

The proportion of households with access to electricity can provide planners with useful indication of areas where community lighting needs to be extended and hence plan for power installations. Data on sources of types of fuel can be analyzed to forecast future demands for various sources of energy.

Figure 3.1 displays the percentage distribution of households by source of fuel used for lighting. Electricity can be obtained or generated from four different sources, namely; by mains supply (grid), generator, solar and battery. Forty eight percent of the households use paraffin as their main source of lighting, while very few (0.2 percent) use Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

**Figure 3.1: Percentage Distribution of Households by Source of Fuel for Lighting, 2016 PHC**

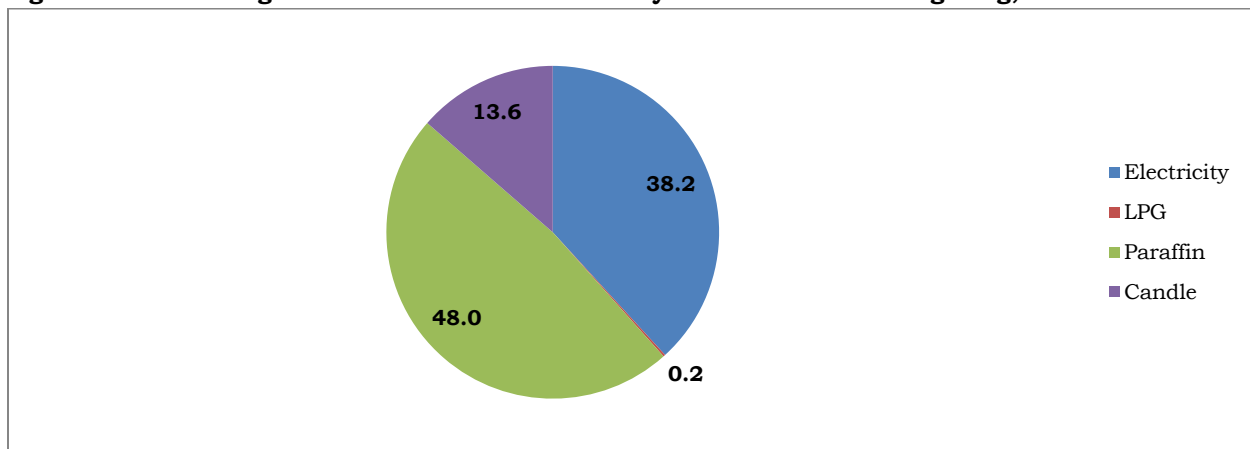


Figure 3.2 depicts the percentage distribution of households using electricity grid as the main source of lighting by district. The results show that few households in Lesotho use electricity as the main source of lighting, with the highest (42.0 percent) percentage of the households located in Maseru and the lowest (1.5 percent) in Mokhotlong and Thaba- Tseka.

**Figure 3.2: Percentage Distribution of Households Using Electricity Grid as the Main Source of Lighting by District, 2016 PHC**

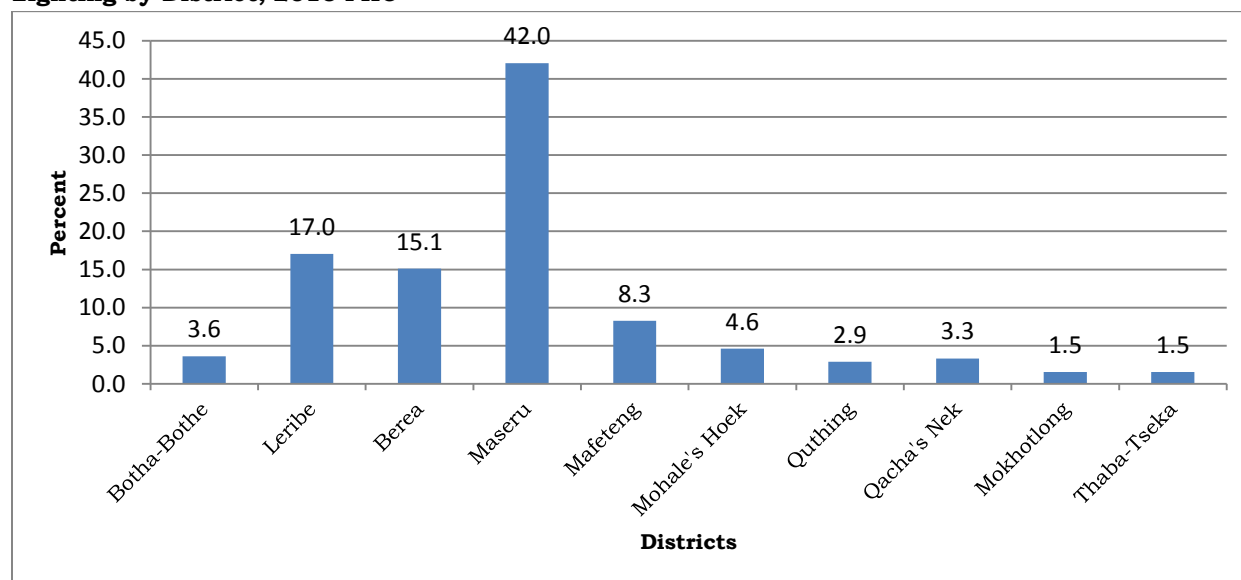


Table 3.1 presents the percentage distribution of households by settlement type and main lighting fuel. About 60 percent of the households in the urban areas use electricity grid as the main source of lighting compared to 52.3 percent in the peri-urban areas. In the rural areas 62.3 percent of the households use paraffin as the main source of lighting, whereas 19.5 percent of households use candles.

**Table 3.1: Percentage Distribution of Households by Settlement Type and Main Lighting Fuel, 2016 PHC**

Energy Source	Urban	Peri-Urban	Rural	Total
Electricity Grid	59.7	52.3	14.2	191,874
Electricity Generator	0.0	0.0	0.0	175
Electricity Solar	0.8	1.5	3.4	11,759
Battery	0.2	0.2	0.3	1,333
LPG	0.2	0.1	0.1	886
Paraffin	32.7	34.4	62.3	258,214
Candle	6.4	11.4	19.5	72,851
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	21
Wood	0.0	0.0	0.1	179
None	0.0	0.0	0.0	165
<b>Total (N)</b>	<b>217,034</b>	<b>43,710</b>	<b>276,713</b>	<b>537,457</b>

Table 3.2 shows that generally the proportion of households who use electricity as the main source of lighting has increased from 1996 to 2016 regardless of type of housing. The highest increase of 43.0 percent is observed from 2006 to 2016

**Table 3.2: Percentage Distribution of Households Using Electricity as Mains Source of Lighting by Census Year and Type of House, 2016 PHC**

Census Year	Rontabole	Heisi	Polata	Malaene	Optaka	Apartment	Bungalow	Temporary	Other
2016	5.5	19.6	35.6	53.6	59.1	81.9	70.5	22.6	-
2006	0.6	1.0	7.8	17.4	16.1	66.3	39.8	6.6	-
1996	0.7	1.1	2.7	6.2	12.4	40.7	-	-	7.1

Table 3.3 presents percentage distribution of households by settlement type, main type of housing and main fuel for lighting. Most of the households in the urban areas whose type of housing is Apartment or Town House use electricity grid as the main source of lighting, with 91.5 percent. On the contrary, 75.4 percent of the rural dwellers whose type of dwelling is Rontabole or Mokhorro use paraffin compared to 59.4 percent of those who reside in peri-urban.

**Table 3.3: Percentage Distribution of Households by Settlement, Main Lighting Fuel and Main Type of Housing, 2016 PHC**

Main Type of Lighting	Rontabole / Mokhorro	Heisi	Polata	Malaene	Optaka	Apartment / Town House	Bungalow / Mansion	Temporary Structure / Mok'huk'hu
<b>Urban</b>								
Electricity Grid	16.3	49.0	58.6	52.8	82.4	91.5	91.9	28.3
Electricity Generator	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Electricity Solar	2.0	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.4	1.2
Battery	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4
LPG	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Paraffin	62.3	34.6	31.5	40.4	13.9	6.8	6.3	55.8
Candle	18.9	14.5	8.6	5.6	2.8	0.8	1.1	13.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,008</b>	<b>3,478</b>	<b>61,586</b>	<b>96,052</b>	<b>24,304</b>	<b>5,706</b>	<b>14,372</b>	<b>6,528</b>
<b>Peri-Urban</b>								
Electricity Grid	22.4	37.9	47.6	67.4	73.4	78.0	80.6	27.2
Electricity Generator	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0
Electricity Solar	1.7	0.9	1.6	0.8	1.5	2.2	1.6	1.8
Battery	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2
LPG	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
Paraffin	59.4	38.4	36.6	24.4	19.1	16.1	14.0	55.2
Candle	16.1	22.6	13.8	7.0	5.5	2.9	3.0	15.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,987</b>	<b>1,389</b>	<b>18,825</b>	<b>8,231</b>	<b>4,778</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>2,558</b>	<b>1,210</b>
<b>Rural</b>								
Electricity Grid	4.2	12.0	19.6	38.6	30.4	38.3	36.7	14.5
Electricity Generator	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.0
Electricity Solar	3.6	2.5	2.9	3.1	5.1	6.5	6.0	2.4
Battery	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.4
LPG	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
Paraffin	75.4	58.9	53.4	45.9	48.1	45.2	43.4	60.3
Candle	16.3	26.1	23.6	11.3	15.7	9.4	13.0	22.1
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,805</b>	<b>16,669</b>	<b>102,245</b>	<b>2,679</b>	<b>22,427</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>9,247</b>	<b>5,346</b>

### 3.2 Main Source of Fuel for Heating

While most African countries need **fuel** primarily for cooking, in **Lesotho** it is essential for **heating**, and is used in large quantities for this purpose by the majority of rural households. Lesotho is a very cold and mountainous country with some of localities residing at altitudes of 1,800 meters or more with night temperatures often falling below freezing point during winter. For purposes of analysis in this section, electricity has combined electricity from grid, generator, solar and battery while gas has combined LPG and biogas.

Table 3.4 shows the distribution of households by main source of fuel for heating. It is indicated that 38.8 percent (208,452) and 36.8 percent (197,719) of the households use paraffin and wood as the main source of fuel for heating. Only 0.1 percent (591) of the households used crop waste for heating.

**Table 3.4: Number of Households by Main Source of Heating, 2016 PHC**

Main Heating Fuel	Number of Households
Electricity	30,431
Gas	9,309
Paraffin	208,452
Coal	4,183
Wood	197,719
Animal dung	23,916
Crop waste	591
Straw/shrubs/grass	17,384
Other	22
None	45,450
<b>Total</b>	<b>537,457</b>

Table 3.5 presents the percentage distribution of households by ecological zones and main source of fuel for heating. Wood is the commonly used source of fuel for heating for the majority of households residing in foothills, Senqu River valley and mountains with 75.5, 56.4 and 51.4 percent respectively. In the lowlands 50.1 percent of the households use paraffin as the main source for heating.

**Table 3.5: Percentage Distribution of Households by Ecological Zones and Main Heating Fuel, 2016 PHC**

Settlement	Lowlands	Foothills	Mountains	Senqu river valley
Electricity	7.8	0.8	1.8	1.5
Gas	2.2	0.8	0.8	1.0
Paraffin	50.1	11.9	16.2	23.4
Coal	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6
Wood	25.5	75.5	51.4	56.4
Animal dung	2.2	1.4	15.4	2.6
Crop waste	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1
Straw/shrubs/grass	0.5	5.6	9.7	9.0
None	10.6	3.3	4.1	5.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>355,251</b>	<b>47,271</b>	<b>93,792</b>	<b>41,143</b>

### 3.3 Main Source of Energy for Cooking

More than two billion people rely on wood fuel as the main source of fuel for cooking, particularly in households in developing countries. It represents the only available and affordable source of energy (FAO, 2014). Majority of rural households in Lesotho used wood as the main fuel for cooking. Electricity in this case has combined electricity from grid, generator, solar and battery. Gas has combined LPG and biogas.

Table 3.6 presents percentage distribution of households by main source of energy for cooking and type of housing. It is observed that 73.6 percent of the households staying in the Rontabole or Mokhorro and 66.1 percent of the households staying in the Heisi use wood as main type of cooking fuel. One in five households (49.2 percent) living in the Malaene type of dwelling use gas as their main source of cooking. There is a very small proportion (0.1 percent) of households who reported not having any source of energy for cooking.

**Table 3.6: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source of Energy for Cooking and Type of Housing, 2016 PHC**

Main Source of Energy for Cooking	Rontabole / Mokhorro	Heisi	Polata	Malaene	Optaka	Apartment / Town House	Bungalow / Mansion	Temporary Structure / Mok'huk'hu
Electricity	0.9	5.4	10.7	29.0	21.5	45.7	29.8	7.6
Gas	4.5	16.5	29.9	<b>49.2</b>	43.3	42.6	46.4	37.7
Paraffin	2.9	6.8	10.4	20.9	5.2	2.6	2.6	21.8
Coal	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Wood	73.6	66.1	43.1	0.6	24.9	7.8	18.3	29.5
Animal dung	5.5	1.7	3.1	0.0	3.1	0.7	2.2	1.1
Crop waste	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Straw / shrubs/ grass	12.1	2.9	2.3	0.0	1.6	0.4	0.6	1.8
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
None	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>127,800</b>	<b>21,536</b>	<b>182,656</b>	<b>106,962</b>	<b>51,509</b>	<b>7,733</b>	<b>26,177</b>	<b>13,084</b>

Table 3.7 displays the percentage distribution of households by main source of energy for cooking by settlement type. Wood was predominantly used in the rural areas (65.1 percent) compared to urban areas (7.0 percent) the reverse was true for electricity. Moreover, in the urban areas, 49.2 percent of the households use gas as the main source of energy for cooking. One in three households residing in the peri-urban areas use wood and gas as the main source for cooking.



**Table 3.7: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source of Energy for Cooking by Settlement Type, 2016 PHC**

Main Source of Energy for Cooking	Urban	Peri- urban	Rural
Electricity	27.4	19.0	3.1
Gas	49.2	32.7	13.8
Paraffin	15.6	10.4	5.3
Coal	0.1	0.1	0.2
Wood	7.0	33.1	65.1
Animal dung	0.4	2.1	4.9
Crop waste	0.0	0.2	0.3
Straw/shrubs/grass	0.2	2.2	7.3
None	0.1	0.1	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>217,034</b>	<b>43,710</b>	<b>276,713</b>

Table 3.8 shows the percentage distribution of households by main source of energy for cooking by district. The results indicates that wood dominates as the main source of cooking in all the districts with 57.8 percent in Thaba-Tseka while majority of the households in Maseru use gas with 40.8 percent.

**Table 3.8: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source of Energy for Cooking by District, 2016 PHC**

District	Electricity	Gas	Paraffin	Coal	Wood	Animal dung	Crop waste	Straw/ shrubs / grass	None	Total (N)
Botha-Bothe	10.3	20.6	9.1	0.3	55.8	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	<b>30,169</b>
Leribe	13.2	29.3	11.5	0.3	44.1	0.8	0.1	0.6	0.0	<b>90,313</b>
Berea	17.2	29.4	8.3	0.2	42.8	0.8	0.1	1.1	0.0	<b>69,999</b>
Maseru	23.6	40.8	12.0	0.2	22.0	0.5	0.0	0.9	0.1	<b>157,810</b>
Mafeteng	8.6	27.5	10.2	0.1	38.7	12.2	0.6	2.1	0.0	<b>46,563</b>
Mohale's Hoek	6.5	26.0	7.7	0.1	36.3	1.5	0.1	21.8	0.0	<b>40,756</b>
Quthing	6.3	24.0	9.7	0.2	57.6	1.4	0.1	0.7	0.1	<b>26,345</b>
Qacha's Nek	10.9	19.6	8.8	0.2	54.4	5.9	0.0	0.3	0.0	<b>17,584</b>
Mokhotlong	3.6	16.1	6.5	0.1	47.3	14.0	0.4	12.0	0.0	<b>24,362</b>
Thaba-Tseka	3.2	12.8	4.4	0.2	57.8	5.4	0.3	15.8	0.0	<b>33,556</b>

### 3.4 Household possessions

The household possession is a useful indicator of household socio-economic level and certain services are known to have certain benefits. Respondents were asked about ownership of some household goods or assets which are still in the working condition including radio, television etc; as an indicator of access to media and exposure to innovative ideas, cell phone and landline telephone; as an indicator of social interaction, refrigerator; for food storage, cars for transportation and an indicator on access to services within and outside the local area.

Table 3.9 presents percentage distribution of households' possessions by settlement type. It is observed that households in the urban areas have the largest proportion of all possessions compared to other settlements except for tractor, scotch cart and generator.

**Table 3.9: Percentage Distribution of Households' Possession by Settlement Type, 2016 PHC**

Households' Possessions	Urban	Peri- urban	Rural	Total
Radio	60.2	50.3	45.6	<b>51.8</b>
Telephone	3.7	1.8	0.7	<b>2.0</b>
Cell phone	89.9	85.6	73.8	<b>81.3</b>
Television	45.8	31.3	14.5	<b>28.5</b>
Tractor	0.7	1.1	0.9	<b>0.8</b>
Stove	75.5	68.6	44.8	<b>59.1</b>
Scotch cart	1.8	7.4	10.3	<b>6.7</b>
Matress/bed	93.3	91.7	83.2	<b>88.0</b>
Computer	16.9	14.5	2.1	<b>9.1</b>
Internet	29.8	31.9	11.2	<b>20.4</b>
Car	16.4	9.1	4.3	<b>9.6</b>
Generator	2.8	3.8	6.1	<b>4.6</b>
Refrigerator	38.2	27.5	9.0	<b>22.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>217,034</b>	<b>43,710</b>	<b>276,713</b>	<b>537,457</b>

Table 3.10 shows the percentage distribution of type of household possessions by district. The data reveals that 88.0 percent of the households in Lesotho own a bed/mattress. Most of the households have access to current news and information since 81.3 percent of the households own a functioning cell phone and 51.8 percent of the households own a functioning radio.

Berea district has the highest proportion of households who own a radio and a car with 58.7 percent and 14.4 percent respectively. Households in Maseru district possess large proportions (bed or mattress with 92.2 percent) while Thaba-Tseka is the district with the least of household possessing a car with 3.1 percent.

**Table 3.10: Percentage Distribution of Households' Possession by District. 2016 PHC**

Possessions	Botha- Bothe	Leribe	Berea	Maseru	Mafeteng	Mohale's Hoek	Quthing	Qacha's Nek	Mokhotlong	Thaba- Tseka	Total
Radio	49.3	57.6	58.7	57.8	52.9	44.6	38.4	30.1	35.3	37.8	<b>51.8</b>
Telephone	1.6	1.2	2.7	3.3	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.1	0.8	<b>2.0</b>
Cell phone	81.8	85.6	82.9	86.7	79.0	73.5	72.1	75.4	72.2	69.2	<b>81.3</b>
Television	21.4	30.8	36.5	38.7	25.3	18.4	15.9	20.0	10.0	8.7	<b>28.5</b>
Tractor	0.9	1.2	1.4	0.7	1.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	<b>0.8</b>
Stove	54.0	65.1	64.2	69.9	62.0	48.3	43.5	46.5	33.7	33.1	<b>59.1</b>
Scotch cart	9.4	10.8	10.0	4.3	12.5	5.1	1.8	1.0	0.7	2.4	<b>6.7</b>
Bed/Mattress	86.7	91.2	89.4	92.2	87.8	84.3	80.2	81.0	78.8	78.6	<b>88.0</b>
Computer	5.4	5.8	12.7	16.5	5.0	3.7	3.5	4.1	2.7	2.4	<b>9.1</b>
Internet	24.3	18.9	24.3	21.7	27.4	17.6	17.6	21.4	11.0	8.7	<b>20.4</b>
Car	8.0	8.9	14.4	13.0	7.8	6.1	6.0	5.3	3.3	3.1	<b>9.6</b>
Generator	6.7	6.4	6.0	3.1	5.5	4.5	4.7	2.7	2.3	2.7	<b>4.6</b>
Refrigerator	15.8	22.4	30.0	32.3	19.5	14.1	11.2	12.3	5.4	4.4	<b>22.3</b>
<b>Total (N)</b>	<b>30,169</b>	<b>90,313</b>	<b>69,999</b>	<b>15,7810</b>	<b>46,563</b>	<b>40,756</b>	<b>26,345</b>	<b>17,584</b>	<b>24,362</b>	<b>33,556</b>	<b>537,457</b>

### **3.5 Summary**

Majority of the households in Lesotho use paraffin as the source of lighting with 48.0 percent. About 62.3 percent of the households use paraffin as the main source for lighting in the rural areas. Less than 40.0 percent of the households in Lesotho rely on Electricity grid for lighting. Electricity is mainly used by the households in the urban areas with the proportion of 59.7. Paraffin and Wood are the fuels which most of the households in Lesotho use as the main source for heating. Paraffin is mostly used in the lowlands while wood is mostly used in the foothills, mountains and Senqu River valley.

Most of the households in remote areas of Lesotho rely on biomass fuel such as wood, strew, shrubs or grass and animal wastes for cooking. In the urban areas, most households rely on electricity and LPG for cooking since they are easily accessible and biomass is scarce. In Lesotho most of the households own bed or mattress (88.0 percent) and a working cellphone (81.3 percent). Very few (0.8 percent) households own a tractor.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

Education is the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life (Dictionary.com). It is a vital human right, every girl and boy should have the right to a quality education so that they can have more chances in life, including employment opportunities, high income, lower poverty and better health.

According to Lesotho Vision 2020 document, education and training has been identified as one of the seven pillars of development. The government committed to attaining a healthy and well developed human resource base by the year 2020.

Education plays an important role across all sustainable development goals (SDGs), driving progress towards sustainable development, its Goal 4 further indicates to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunity for all.

The 2016 census provides information on school attendance and educational attainment to literacy and area of specialization.

#### **4.1 School Attendance**

School attendance is defined as regular attendance at any regular accredited educational institution or programme, public or private, for organized learning at any level of education at the time of the census or survey. In the 2016 census, respondents aged 3 years and above were asked whether they have ever attended school. The response codes were; never attended, still attending and left school.

Table 4.1 illustrates comparison between the 2006 and 2016 censuses results. Generally, the proportions of those aged 6 to 24 years that had never attended school declined between 2006 and 2016. Likewise, the proportion of those who left school declined from 35 in 2006 to 29.4 in 2016 while on the contrary, the proportion of those still attending school increased from 60.0 in 2006 to 68.6 in 2016.

**Table 4.1: Percentage Distribution of Population 6 to 24 Years by School Attendance, 2016 PHC**

Age	2006 Census			2011 LDS			2016 Census		
	Never Attended	Still Attending	Left School	Never Attended	Still Attending	Left School	Never Attended	Still Attending	Left School
<b>6</b>	14.0	84.9	1.0	12.3	86.8	1.0	8.2	90.1	1.7
<b>7</b>	5.8	74.9	19.3	6.5	92.2	1.3	2.2	96.1	1.6
<b>8</b>	3.8	88.1	8.1	3.5	95.3	1.1	1.4	96.8	1.7
<b>9</b>	2.9	92.2	5.0	2.4	96.1	1.5	1.1	96.9	2.0
<b>10</b>	2.9	93.7	3.8	2.1	95.1	2.8	0.8	98.1	1.1
<b>11</b>	2.2	93.9	3.9	1.7	94.9	3.4	0.8	97.9	1.3
<b>12</b>	2.5	93.0	4.4	2.3	94.1	3.6	0.9	96.7	2.4
<b>13</b>	2.6	91.5	5.9	1.6	92.6	5.8	1.0	94.8	4.2
<b>14</b>	2.6	86.8	10.6	2.3	89.0	8.7	1.0	91.6	7.4
<b>15</b>	3.2	78.0	18.7	2.4	83.9	13.8	1.3	84.4	14.3
<b>16</b>	3.5	66.7	27.8	2.5	72.6	24.9	1.6	75.2	23.2
<b>17</b>	4.0	52.6	43.5	2.5	65.9	31.7	1.7	64.2	34.1
<b>18</b>	4.5	40.3	55.2	3.7	48.9	47.4	1.8	50.4	47.8
<b>19</b>	5.1	29.7	65.2	3.1	42.6	54.2	1.8	39.7	58.5
<b>20</b>	5.7	21.6	72.8	4.0	31.7	64.3	2.3	31.9	65.8
<b>21</b>	5.8	15.5	78.6	3.9	27.8	68.3	2.0	26.3	71.7
<b>22</b>	6.3	10.7	83.0	4.8	19.7	75.5	2.2	20.1	77.7
<b>23</b>	6.7	7.6	85.7	4.2	15.5	80.3	2.3	16.0	81.7
<b>24</b>	6.9	5.2	88.0	5.0	11.1	83.9	2.7	11.9	85.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>29.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>30,500</b>	<b>548,172</b>	<b>238,658</b>	<b>15,647</b>	<b>551,142</b>	<b>235,994</b>

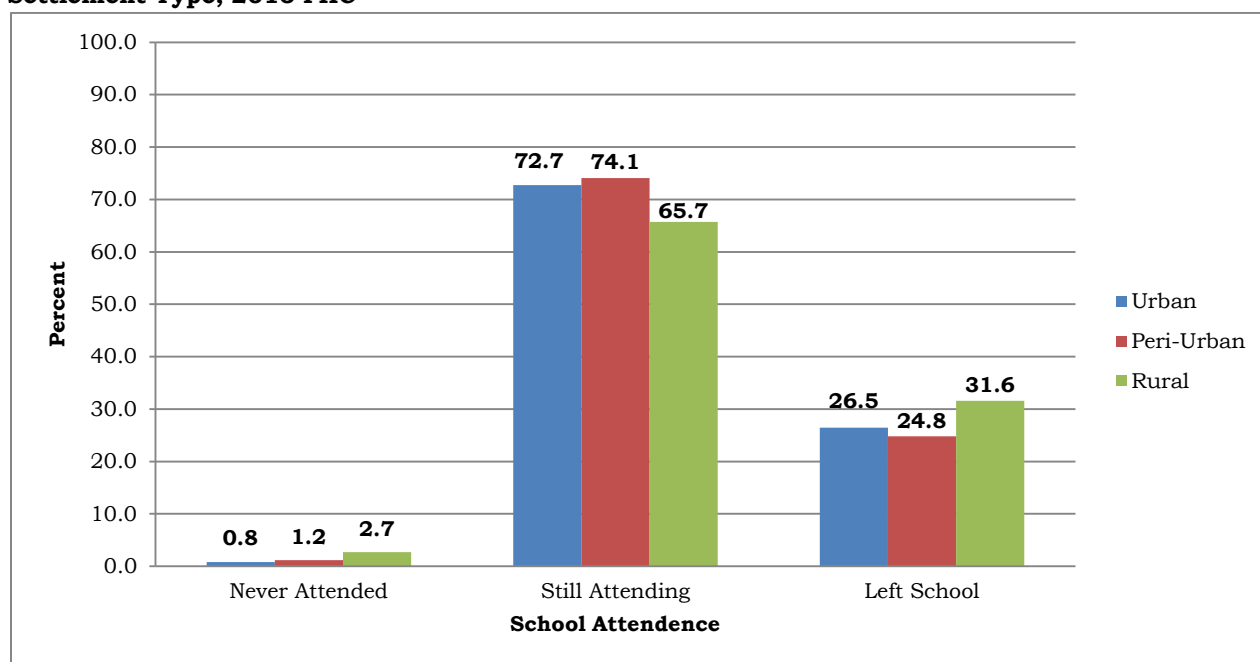
Two in 3 persons aged 6 to 24 years in almost all districts was still attending school (Table 4.2). Thaba-Tseka and Mokhotlong had the majority of the population that never attended school with 4.5 and 4.4 percent respectively. Furthermore, the highest proportions of 32.1 and 31.0 of the population who left school were residing in Thaba-Tseka and Quthing.

**Table 4.2: Percentage Distribution of Population 6 to 24 Years by District and School Attendance, 2016 PHC**

District	Never Attended	Still Attending	Left School	Total
Botha-Bothe	1.1	69.8	29.0	<b>46,977</b>
Leribe	1.0	68.5	30.5	<b>133,698</b>
Berea	1.1	70.8	28.2	<b>102,815</b>
Maseru	1.4	70.9	27.7	<b>199,891</b>
Mafeteng	1.6	68.5	29.8	<b>70,895</b>
Mohale's Hoek	3.1	66.5	30.4	<b>66,994</b>
Quthing	3.0	66.1	31.0	<b>47,863</b>
Qacha's Nek	2.1	69.1	28.7	<b>31,286</b>
Mokhotlong	4.4	65.7	29.9	<b>44,199</b>
Thaba-Tseka	4.5	63.4	32.1	<b>58,165</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,647</b>	<b>551,142</b>	<b>235,994</b>	<b>802,783</b>

Figure 4.1 displays the percentage distribution of population aged 6-24 years by school attendance and settlement type. In peri urban areas, children aged 6 to 24 were more likely than their rural counterparts to be still attending school (74.1 percent versus 65.7 percent). The reverse is true for rural dwellers where 31.6 percent left school and 2.7 percent never attended school.

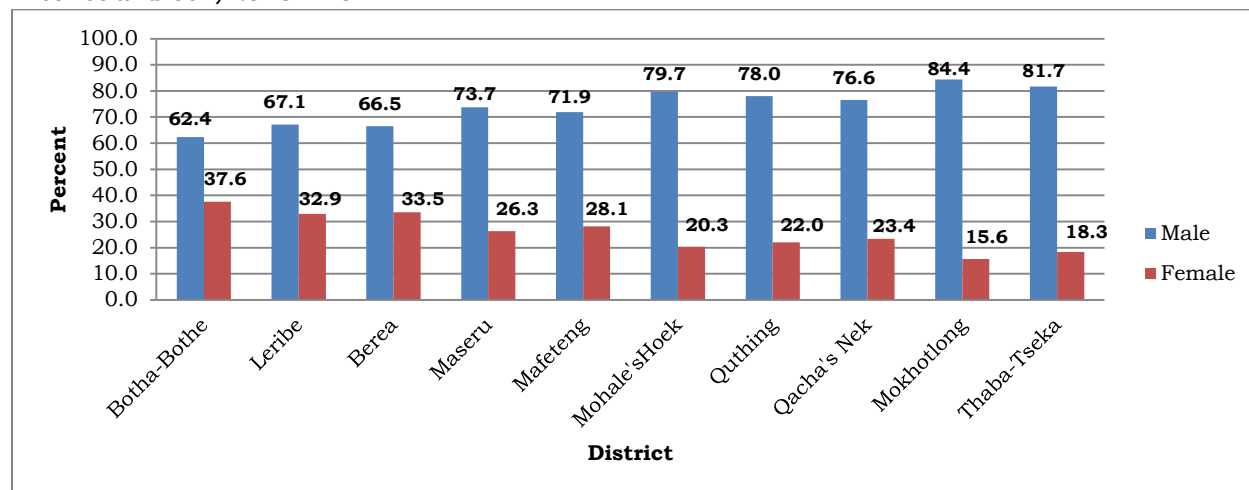
**Figure 4.1: Percentage Distribution of Population 6 to 24 Years by School Attendance and Settlement Type, 2016 PHC**



### 4.2.1 Population Never Attending

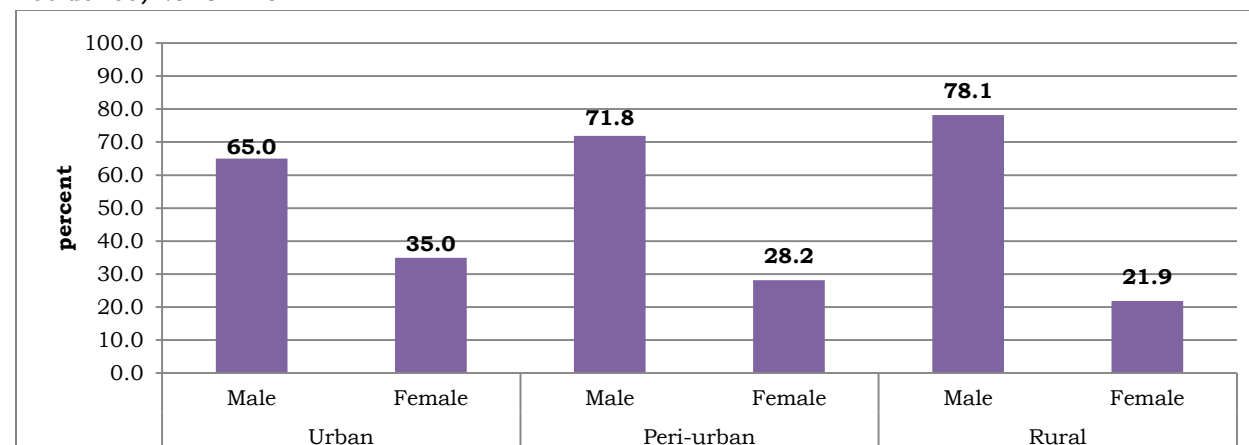
Figure 4.2 portrays the percentage distribution of population aged 6 to 24 years who had never attended school. Males are more likely to have never attended school than females. The proportion of males of school-going age that never attended school ranged from 84.4 percent in Mokhotlong to 62.4 percent in Botha-Bothe. For females, the proportions ranged from 37.6 percent in Botha-Bothe to 15.6 percent in Mokhotlong district.

**Figure 4.2: Percentage Distribution of Population 6 to 24 Years who had Never Attended School by District and Sex, 2016 PHC**



The proportion of male population who had never attended school is higher than those of female in all the settlement areas (Figure 4.3). For instance, 78.2 percent of male residing in the rural areas had never attended school compared to 21.8 percent of females.

**Figure 4.3: Percentage Distribution of Population 6 to 24 Years who had Never Attended School by Residence, 2016 PHC**



### 4.2.2 Population Still Attending

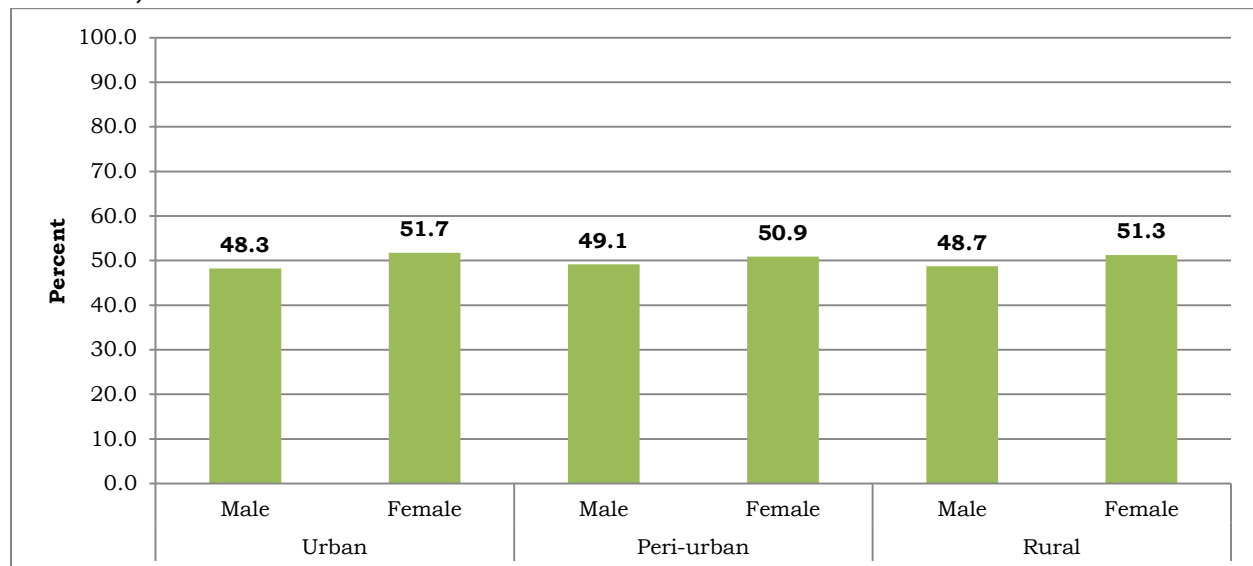
Table 4.3 presents the proportion of those still attending school by district. More females than males were still attending school with 51.4 and 48.6 percent respectively. One in two (about 50 percent) of female population were still attending school within all districts compared to their male counterparts.

**Table 4.3: Percentage Distribution of Population 6 to 24 Years who are Still Attending School by District, 2016 PHC**

District	Male	Female
Botha-Bothe	48.3	51.7
Leribe	49.2	50.8
Berea	49.3	50.7
Maseru	48.9	51.1
Mafeteng	49.7	50.3
Mohale's Hoek	48.2	51.8
Quthing	48.6	51.4
Qacha's Nek	48.7	51.3
Mokhotlong	45.4	54.6
Thaba-Tseka	46.3	53.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>51.4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>267,842</b>	<b>283,300</b>

Figure 4.4 illustrates percentage distribution of population aged 6 to 24 years who are still attending school by settlement type. School attendance was slightly low for males regardless of type of settlement, where less than 50 percent of males of school going age were still attending school.

**Figure 4.4: Percentage Distribution of Population 6 to 24 Years who are Still Attending School by Residence, 2016 PHC**





### 4.2.3 Population Left School

Table 4.4 presents information on the proportions of the school going age population that had left school by district and sex. Persons who had left school had either completed a certain level of schooling or had dropped out of school. About 51.4 percent of males and 48.6 percent of females aged 6-24 years had left school. The proportion of males of school-going age that had left school ranged from 47.1 percent in Maseru to 56.3 percent in Thaba Tseka. For females, the proportions ranged from 43.7 percent in Thaba-Tseka to 52.9 percent in Maseru.

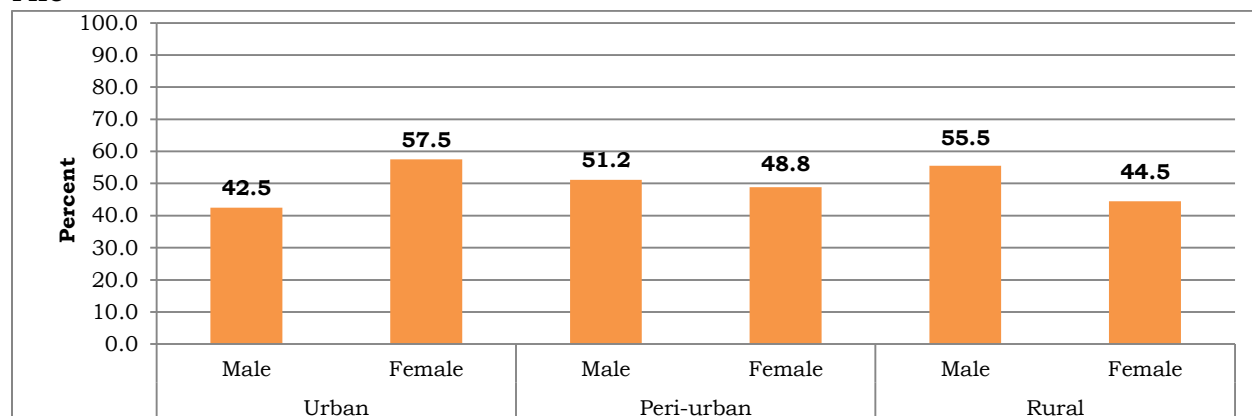
**Table 4.4: Percentage Distribution of Population 6 to 24 Years who Left School by District, 2016**  
PHC

District	Male	Female	Total
Botha-Bothe	50.5	49.5	13,642
Leribe	50.5	49.5	40,750
Berea	51.8	48.2	28,953
Maseru	47.1	52.9	55,430
Mafeteng	54.5	45.5	21,150
Mohale's Hoek	52.9	47.1	20,363
Quthing	52.5	47.5	14,815
Qacha's Nek	53.4	46.6	8,986
Mokhotlong	56.0	44.0	13,226
Thaba-Tseka	56.3	43.7	18,679
<b>Total</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,394</b>	<b>114,600</b>	<b>235,994</b>

The proportion of the female school going age population that had left school was higher in urban than in rural areas (Figure 4.5). The estimates were 57.5 and 42.5 percent respectively.

Slightly more males in rural (44.5 percent) than in urban areas (42.5 percent) had left school. It was 51.2 percent of males and 48.8 percent of females for the peri urban area dwellers.

**Figure 4.5: Percentage Distribution of Population 6 to 24 Years who Left School by District, 2016**  
PHC

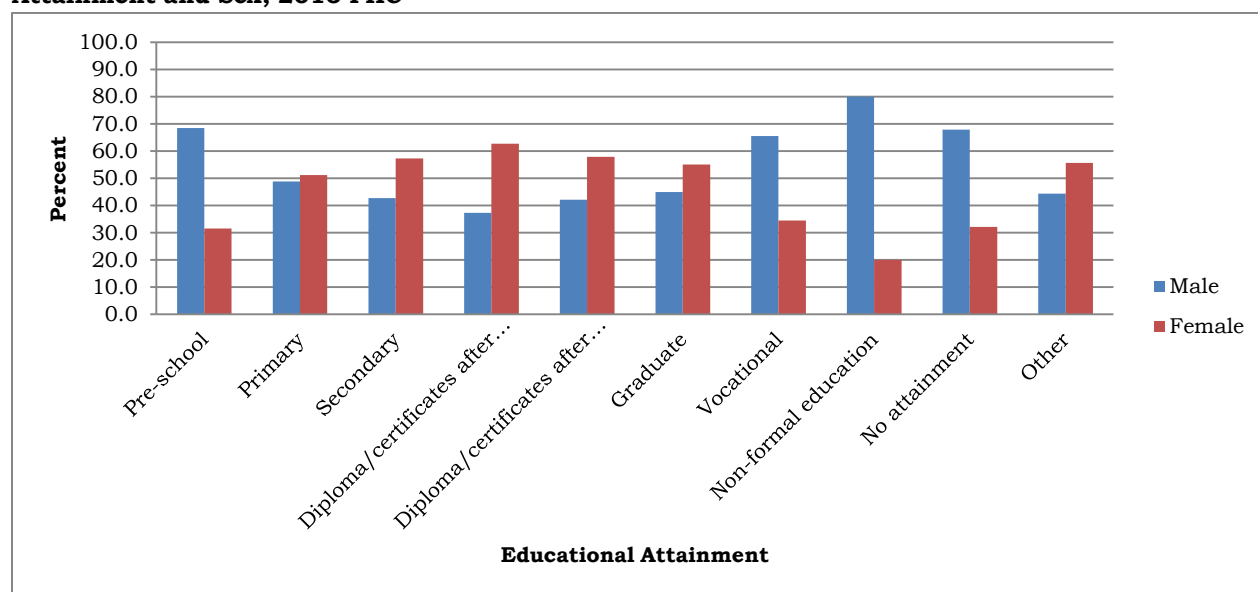


### 4.3 Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is an important indicator of the society's stock of human capital and level of socio economic development and refers to the highest level of education that an individual has completed.

In the 2016 census, the educational attainment of the population was measured by investigating about the respondents highest level of education successfully completed. Figure 4.6 displays the percentage distribution of population 15 years and above by educational attainment and sex. It is indicated that there were more males than females that had reported non-formal education as the highest level completed. It was 80.0 percent for males and 20.0 percent for females. Whereas the majority of those who had completed primary, secondary diploma/certificate after primary and secondary, tertiary and other level, were females with the percentage of over 50.0.

**Figure 4.6: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and Above by Educational Attainment and Sex, 2016 PHC**



In all the settlement areas, the proportion that had completed primary school was higher for females than for males (table 4.5). For the urban population aged 15 years and over, 52.4 percent of females had completed primary school, compared to 47.6 of males. In the peri-urban areas, more (79.9 percent) males had attained non-formal education compared to 20.1 percent of females. It is further illustrated that more female rural dwellers had attained tertiary as their highest level of education compared to males with 56.0 and 44.0 percent respectively.

**Table 4.5: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and Above by Educational Attainment and Residence, 2016 PHC**

<b>Highest Education Level</b>	<b>Urban</b>			<b>Peri-urban</b>			<b>Rural</b>		
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Pre-school	60.4	39.6	<b>722</b>	62.3	37.7	<b>212</b>	71.4	28.6	<b>2,496</b>
Primary	47.6	52.4	<b>155,024</b>	48.4	51.6	<b>43,199</b>	49.4	50.6	<b>432,734</b>
Secondary	43.6	56.4	<b>244,508</b>	45.0	55.0	<b>46,845</b>	41.2	58.8	<b>234,434</b>
Diploma/certificates after primary	39.9	60.1	<b>880</b>	33.5	66.5	<b>212</b>	35.6	64.4	<b>811</b>
Diploma/certificates after secondary	43.2	56.8	<b>36,227</b>	41.3	58.7	<b>5,085</b>	39.0	61.0	<b>12,119</b>
Graduate	45.0	55.0	<b>30,920</b>	46.8	53.2	<b>3,349</b>	44.0	56.0	<b>7,224</b>
Vocational	64.9	35.1	<b>3,235</b>	67.3	32.7	<b>453</b>	66.4	33.6	<b>1,382</b>
Non-formal education	75.6	24.4	<b>2,239</b>	79.9	20.1	<b>680</b>	81.2	18.8	<b>8,841</b>
None	63.2	36.8	<b>1,546</b>	63.1	36.9	<b>393</b>	71.0	29.0	<b>2,834</b>
Other	43.0	57.0	<b>107</b>	36.0	64.0	<b>25</b>	49.3	50.7	<b>73</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>215,527</b>	<b>259,642</b>	<b>475,169</b>	<b>46,888</b>	<b>53,355</b>	<b>100,243</b>	<b>328,415</b>	<b>371,831</b>	<b>700,246</b>

Table 4.6 shows the percentage distribution of population aged 15 years and above by educational attainment and district. There is a small proportion of population that had reported pre-school as their highest level of education within all the districts. District wise comparisons further reveal that primary level attainment was highest with proportions of 50.8, 54.3 and 56.6 for Mohale's Hoek, Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka districts respectively. Maseru and Berea reported comparatively higher proportion of graduates' population with 5.2 and 4.4.

**Table 4.6: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and Above by Educational Attainment and Districts, 2016 PHC**

<b>District</b>	<b>Pre-school</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>	<b>Diploma /certificates after primary</b>	<b>Diploma/certificates after secondary</b>	<b>Graduate</b>	<b>Vocational</b>	<b>Non-formal education</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Botha-Bothe	0.2	47.6	39.6	0.1	3.0	2.2	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.0	<b>74,834</b>
Leribe	0.3	45.7	43.1	0.1	2.9	2.2	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.0	<b>221,524</b>
Berea	0.2	43.3	41.2	0.2	5.3	4.4	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.0	<b>173,739</b>
Maseru	0.2	37.8	44.6	0.1	6.1	5.2	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.0	<b>349,933</b>
Mafeteng	0.3	52.1	35.4	0.1	2.5	1.8	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.0	<b>114,765</b>
Mohale's Hoek	0.3	50.8	32.6	0.1	2.7	1.6	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.0	<b>100,563</b>
Quthing	0.3	51.3	30.5	0.2	2.2	1.7	0.3	1.1	0.4	0.0	<b>68,111</b>
Qacha's Nek	0.3	49.3	33.2	0.2	3.3	1.6	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.0	<b>43,901</b>
Mokhotlong	0.3	54.3	26.1	0.1	2.1	1.3	0.2	2.1	0.6	0.0	<b>55,163</b>
Thaba-Tseka	0.4	56.6	23.0	0.1	1.9	1.0	0.2	1.9	0.4	0.0	<b>73,125</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>627,958</b>	<b>525,672</b>	<b>1,901</b>	<b>53,405</b>	<b>41,488</b>	<b>5,068</b>	<b>11,760</b>	<b>4,772</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>1,275,658</b>

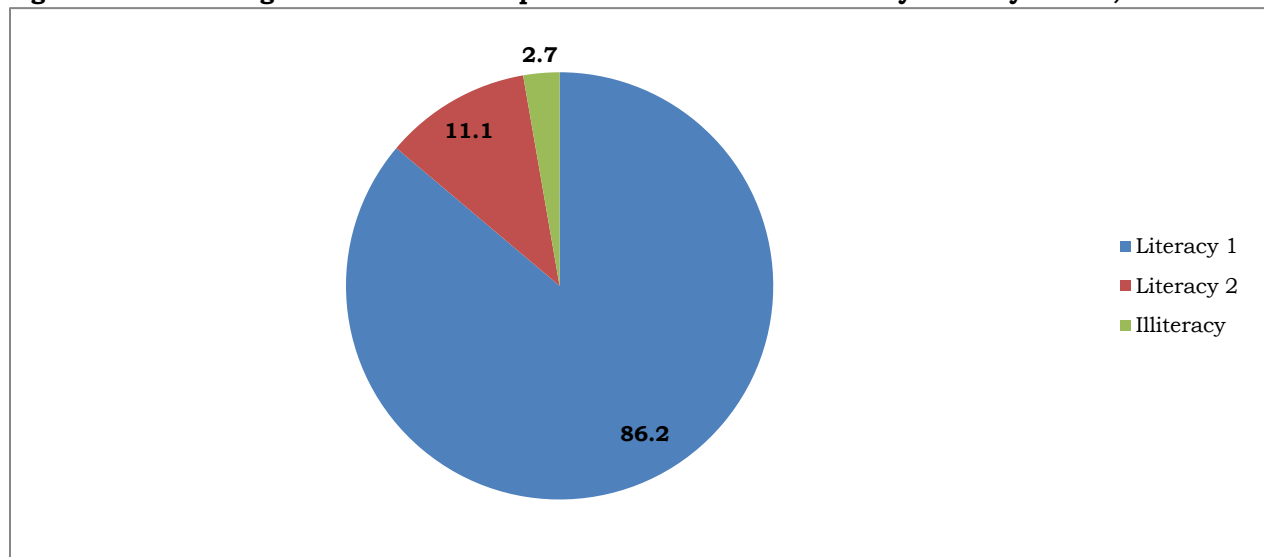
#### 4.4 Literacy

Literacy is defined as the ability to both read and write with understanding. In the 2016 census, literacy was measured by providing literacy cards (either written in Sesotho or English) to the eligible respondents who had reported their highest level of education as standard 1 up to 7, non-formal and no education at all. The respondents were asked two questions; where the first question probed whether they knew how to read in Sesotho or English. The listed pre-coded response categories were “yes with ease”, “yes with difficulty” and “not at all”. The second question inquired about the knowledge on how to write in Sesotho or English and the answers expected were the same as the above mentioned.

For 2016 census, literacy has been apportioned into two groups; Literacy 1 which composed of the persons who knew how to read and write in Sesotho or English or both with ease. The second group was of those who knew how to either read or write Sesotho only or English only, or can either read or write Sesotho and English or both with difficulty, they were classified under Literacy 2. Lastly, a group of those who did not know how to read and write in Sesotho or English at all were categorized under Illiteracy.

The results provided the estimates of Literacy 1 as 86.2, 11.1 for literacy 2. About 2.7 percent of the population aged 15 years and above were illiterate in 2016.

**Figure 4.7: Percentage Distribution of Population 15 Years and Above by Literacy Status, 2016 PHC**



The proportions of population who knew how to read and write in Sesotho or English with easy (literacy1) decreased with an increase in age (Table 4.7). A similar pattern was observed for those who knew how to either read or write in Sesotho or English with difficulty (literacy 2) where the percentages ranged from 1.9 for 85+ years to 11.7 for the age group 15-19. For literacy 1, the proportion of both males and females were

higher in the age group 15-34 years. While regarding literacy 2, there were more males than females with the percentages of 15.4 percent for age group 15-19 declining to 9.8 for ages 35-39 years. For the illiterate male population the proportion was 12.6 percent for age group 30-34 and 10.7 for those aged 35-39.

**Table 4.7: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and Above by Literacy Status and Age, 2016 PHC**

Age Group	Literacy 1			Literacy 2			Illiteracy		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
15 - 19	16.3	15.7	<b>16.0</b>	15.4	6.5	<b>11.7</b>	11.7	4.1	<b>9.5</b>
20 - 24	15.3	15.2	<b>15.2</b>	13.4	6.3	<b>10.5</b>	11.3	4.6	<b>9.4</b>
25 - 29	14.7	13.9	<b>14.3</b>	13.5	7.9	<b>11.2</b>	11.8	5.1	<b>18.9</b>
30 - 34	13.2	11.8	<b>12.4</b>	12.8	9.2	<b>11.3</b>	12.6	6.7	<b>11.0</b>
35 - 39	10.3	9.0	<b>9.6</b>	9.8	7.4	<b>8.8</b>	10.7	5.5	<b>9.3</b>
40 - 44	7.2	6.8	<b>7.0</b>	7.8	6.2	<b>7.1</b>	9.0	5.1	<b>20.2</b>
45 - 49	5.4	5.5	<b>5.5</b>	5.7	5.1	<b>5.5</b>	6.4	4.5	<b>5.8</b>
50 - 54	4.7	5.3	<b>5.0</b>	5.2	6.9	<b>5.9</b>	6.0	6.5	<b>6.1</b>
55 - 59	3.8	4.5	<b>4.2</b>	4.3	7.9	<b>5.8</b>	4.6	6.9	<b>12.0</b>
60 - 64	3.0	3.6	<b>3.3</b>	3.6	7.7	<b>5.3</b>	4.5	8.1	<b>5.5</b>
65 - 69	2.2	2.7	<b>2.5</b>	2.7	6.5	<b>4.3</b>	3.2	6.7	<b>4.2</b>
70 - 74	1.7	2.1	<b>1.9</b>	2.3	6.8	<b>4.2</b>	3.1	8.8	<b>9.7</b>
75 - 79	1.1	1.7	<b>1.5</b>	1.7	6.2	<b>3.6</b>	2.4	8.8	<b>4.2</b>
80 - 84	0.7	1.4	<b>1.1</b>	1.0	5.5	<b>2.8</b>	1.7	10.0	<b>4.0</b>
85+	0.4	0.9	<b>0.6</b>	0.5	3.9	<b>1.9</b>	1.1	8.7	<b>8.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>547,449</b>	<b>632,269</b>	<b>1,179,718</b>	<b>88,895</b>	<b>63,252</b>	<b>152,147</b>	<b>26,974</b>	<b>10,463</b>	<b>37,437</b>

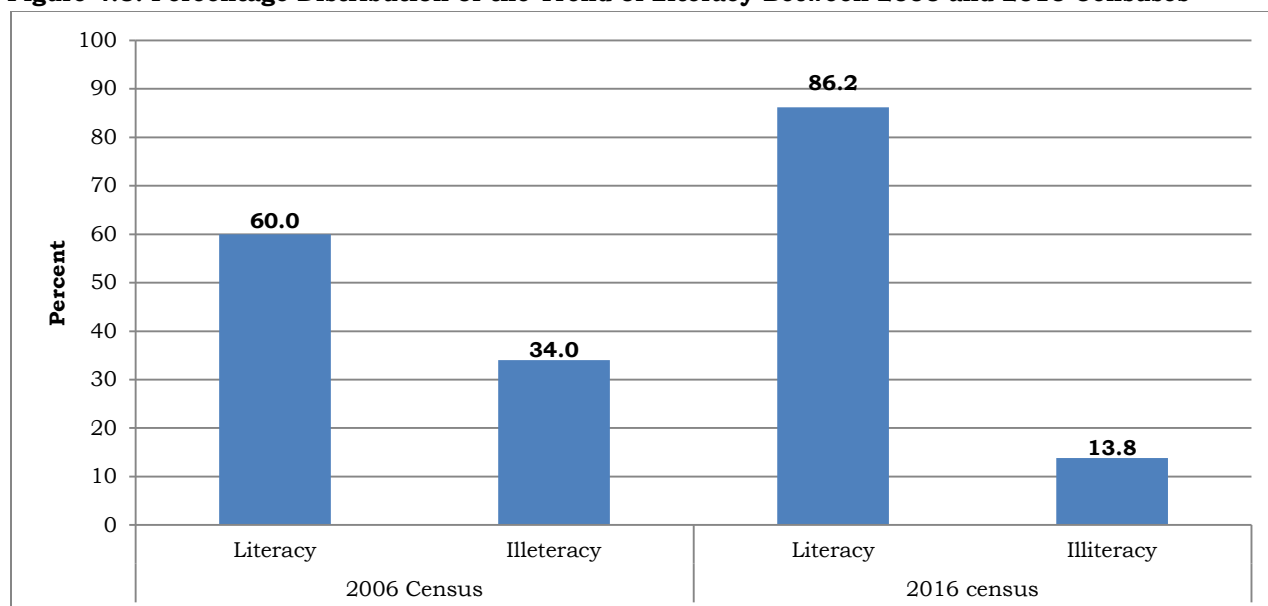
Table 4.8 shows the percentage distribution of 15 years and above by literacy status, settlement type and sex. On the overall, the distribution of population for the three level of literacy status by sex indicates that females had higher percentages compared to their male counterparts. The results further reveal that in those three areas, the majority of females were in literacy 1 category with the percentages of 54.7, 53.2 and 52.8 for urban, peri-urban and rural respectively. It is also observed that males were more likely to be illiterate regardless of settlement area with 67.2 percent (urban area), 68.7 percent (Peri-urban area) and 73.2 percent (rural area).

**Table 4.8: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and Above by Literacy Status and Residence, 2016 PHC**

Literacy	Urban			Peri-Urban			Rural		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Literacy 1	45.3	54.7	<b>452,770</b>	46.8	53.2	<b>93,900</b>	47.2	52.8	<b>633,048</b>
Literacy 2	56.2	43.8	<b>32,755</b>	58.3	41.7	<b>9,549</b>	59.1	40.9	<b>109,843</b>
Illiteracy	67.2	32.8	<b>5,431</b>	68.7	31.3	<b>2,058</b>	73.2	26.8	<b>29,948</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>490,956</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>105,507</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>772,839</b>

Figure 4.8 portrays the trends of Literacy between the 2006 and 2016 Census. It is indicated that literacy increased from 60.0 to 86.2 percent while illiteracy has dropped from 34.0 to 13.8 percent.

**Figure 4.8: Percentage Distribution of the Trend of Literacy Between 2006 and 2016 Censuses**



#### 4.5 Field of Specialization

Information on persons by field of specialization in education is important for examining the match between the supply and demand for qualified workers with specific specializations within the labour market. It is equally essential for planning and regulating the production capacities of different levels, types and branches of educational institutions and training programmes.

Table 4.9 presents the percentage distribution of population aged 15 years and above by educational field of specialization and age. Teaching and business and administration seemed to be more widespread fields of specialization with 28.9 percent and 26.9 percent. On the reverse, lower proportions were observed in the fields of librarians, archivists and curators, legal and physical and earth science professionals with the percentages of 0.5, 2.3 and 2.4 respectively.

Age wise, 15.9 percent of those in age group 15-19 years were in the field of engineering while age group 15-34 composed of business and administration fields with percentages ranging from 27.4 to 34.5. In addition, 61.3 percent and 59.8 percent of those aged 80-84 and 85 years and above reported to be in field of teaching.

**Table 4.9: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and Above by Field of Specialization and Age, 2016 PHC**

Age	Physical and earth science professionals	Social and religious professionals	Librarians, archivists and curators	Life science professionals	Engineering professionals	Architects, planners, surveyors and designers	Health professionals	Teaching professionals	Business and administration professionals	Information and communications technology professionals	Legal professionals	Other
15 - 19	1.5	4.3	0.8	4.1	15.9	12.8	12.5	12.3	27.6	6.6	0.5	1.0
20 - 24	3.0	5.6	0.5	4.1	13.0	5.9	8.3	16.1	34.8	7.2	1.1	0.4
25 - 29	2.6	6.4	0.5	3.9	11.5	4.7	7.6	22.4	30.8	7.6	1.4	0.5
30 - 34	2.5	5.5	0.5	3.6	10.2	4.3	8.1	28.1	27.4	6.6	2.8	0.5
35 - 39	2.0	5.6	0.4	3.5	10.7	4.7	8.0	30.5	25.8	5.4	2.8	0.5
40 - 44	2.2	5.3	0.5	3.3	12.4	5.2	7.5	30.0	26.0	4.2	2.8	0.5
45 - 49	2.3	5.3	0.6	3.6	13.7	4.9	7.4	32.9	23.1	3.1	2.6	0.4
50 - 54	2.5	4.5	0.5	3.5	10.7	4.4	9.0	38.1	21.3	2.3	2.8	0.4
55 - 59	1.7	3.9	0.6	4.6	10.2	4.3	9.8	40.5	19.1	1.8	3.1	0.3
60 - 64	1.8	3.7	0.6	3.7	8.7	3.2	8.2	46.6	19.9	1.2	1.9	0.5
65 - 69	2.0	3.6	0.5	3.5	6.2	2.6	8.0	52.9	17.4	1.3	1.6	0.2
70 - 74	1.8	4.1	0.4	4.4	7.3	5.4	4.7	52.5	14.2	2.1	2.8	0.4
75 - 79	1.9	5.2	0.7	4.0	5.7	2.8	7.1	56.8	11.7	1.2	2.4	0.3
80 - 84	1.8	4.1	0.9	3.2	3.2	4.1	9.4	61.3	10.0	0.6	1.5	0.0
85+	2.1	2.1	5.8	4.8	2.1	5.3	9.0	59.8	5.8	0.0	3.2	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,437</b>	<b>5,572</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>3,804</b>	<b>11,351</b>	<b>4,817</b>	<b>8,153</b>	<b>29,558</b>	<b>27,474</b>	<b>5,622</b>	<b>2,317</b>	<b>468</b>



Figure 4.9 displays the percentage distribution of population aged 15 years and above by field of specialization and sex. Males were more likely to specialize in engineering than any other field with 88.0 percent while females seemed to dominate in field of health with 73.3 percent.

**Figure 4.9: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and Above by Field of Specialization and Sex, 2016 PHC**

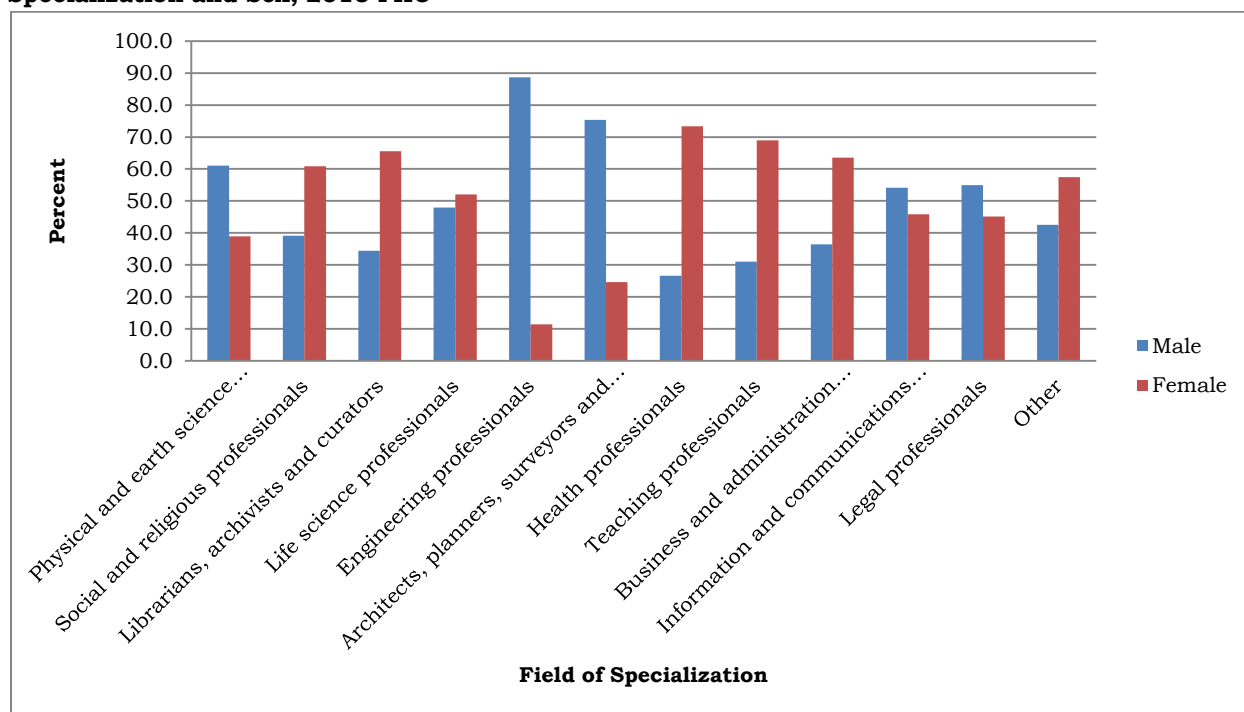


Table 4.10 portrays the percentage distribution of population aged 15 years and above by field of specialization and district. Mokhotlong, Botha-Bothe and Thaba-Tseka districts had the highest proportion of persons that are in the field of teaching with the percentages of 48.0, 45.9 and 45.2 respectively. The field of business and administration was common in Maseru and Berea district with 32.3 and 31.5 percent respectively.

**Table 4.10: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and Above by Field of Specialization and District, 2016 PHC**

District	Physical and earth science professionals	Social and religious professionals	Librarians, archivists and curators	Life science professionals	Engineering professionals	Architects, planners, surveyors and designers	Health professionals	Teaching professionals	Business and administration professionals	Information and communications technology professionals	Legal professionals	Other	Total
Botha-Bothe	1.3	3.4	0.4	3.2	8.7	4.0	10.0	45.9	17.7	3.5	1.6	0.2	<b>4,410</b>
Leribe	2.5	4.2	0.4	3.6	10.5	4.9	7.7	39.2	20.4	4.7	1.8	0.2	<b>12,858</b>
Berea	2.3	5.8	0.4	3.7	12.6	4.3	7.2	22.9	31.5	6.1	2.5	0.6	<b>18,699</b>
Maseru	2.7	6.4	0.7	3.6	11.9	5.0	7.9	19.6	32.3	6.7	2.7	0.6	<b>43,900</b>
Mafeteng	1.5	4.3	0.3	4.6	9.4	4.2	6.7	44.9	18.4	3.6	1.7	0.3	<b>5,783</b>
Mohale's Hoek	2.3	5.8	0.3	4.4	9.9	4.6	7.6	38.7	21.0	3.6	1.5	0.4	<b>5,321</b>
Quthing	1.7	3.8	0.3	4.8	11.5	6.1	8.2	43.3	15.2	3.0	1.7	0.2	<b>3,396</b>
Qacha's Nek	2.9	3.8	0.3	3.4	8.6	3.5	9.0	42.1	20.0	4.3	1.9	0.2	<b>2,619</b>
Mokhotlong	2.3	3.3	0.1	4.1	6.7	4.4	9.0	48.0	15.9	4.2	1.9	0.1	<b>2,332</b>
Thaba-Tseka	2.1	4.7	0.3	3.4	6.7	3.9	13.9	45.2	15.1	3.2	1.4	0.2	<b>2,748</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,437</b>	<b>5,571</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>3,801</b>	<b>11,346</b>	<b>4,815</b>	<b>8,153</b>	<b>29,549</b>	<b>27,460</b>	<b>5,620</b>	<b>2,317</b>	<b>102,066</b>

#### **4.6 Summary**

The 2016 Census revealed that out of the population aged 6 to 24 years, 68.6 were still attending school, 29.4 percent left school and only 1.9 percent had never attended school. The national literacy rate is estimated at 86.2 percent. Teaching and business and administration seemed to be more widespread fields of specialization with 28.9 percent and 26.9 percent.

Lesotho has been progressing well towards achieving universal access to education. As it was mentioned, comparing 2006 and 2016 census, proportions of school attendees have increased from 60.0 to 68.7. The proportions of those that had never attended school declined between 2006 and 2016. Likewise, the proportion of those who left school declined from 35.0 in 2006 to 29.4 in 2016. About 2.7 percent of the population were illiterate in 2016, a decline of about 30.0 percentage point from 2006.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

The United Nations Principles and Recommendation manual asserts 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 underutilization of its population”.

This chapter highlights the economic activity status of the population in Lesotho. The analysis focuses on employment status, labour force participation rates, occupational as well as industrial status. In addition information on unemployed population and their characteristics as well as children in employment will be discussed. The discussion will also include measures of the economic activity which are crude economic activity rates, general economic activity rates, age-sex-specific activity rates and dependency ratio. Trend analysis will be done on some of the economic activity characteristics.

#### **5.1 Data Source and Scope**

The 2016 Population and Housing Census (PHC) collected data on economic activity status for population aged 10 years and above which is in line with international recommendations on Labour Statistics set by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Conferences of Labour Statistics (ICLS). The scope of economic activity status covers population that was economically active and inactive during the time reference.

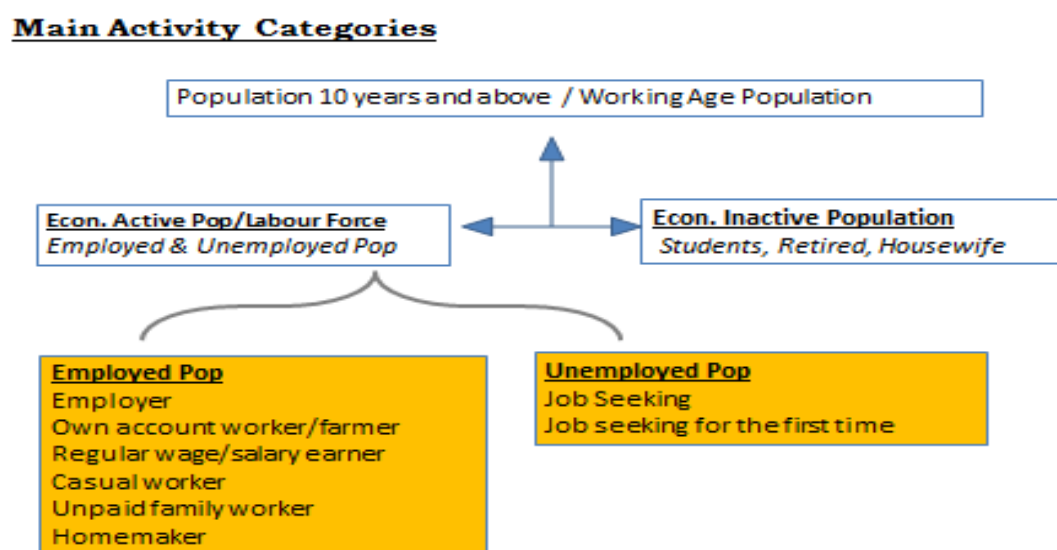
#### ***Definition of Economic Activity Terms and Concepts***

This subsection outlines and defines some of the measures which are used to describe the economic activity status of persons in Lesotho. These measures follow the ILO recommendations and the graphic explanation is displayed in Figure 5.1.

- **Economically active population or Labour force:** The two economic concepts are used interchangeably to refer to people within a specified age group who supply and those who are willing to supply their labour for the production of marketable goods and services. Those who supply their labour are classified as the employed population and those who are willing to supply their labour are categorized as the unemployed or job seekers. The 2016 PHC used two reference periods, namely the short reference period which is “last week” (past 7 days) to identify currently economically active population and the long reference period which is “past twelve months” to identify the usually economically active population aged 10 years and above.

- **Economically inactive** or, preferably, persons not in the labour force, comprises all persons who were neither employed nor unemployed during the short reference period used to measure current activity, including persons below the minimum age specified for measurement of the economically active population.
- **Employed population:** This category consists of people aged 10 years and above who during the specified reference period were either working for pay or profit, or had a job but were not currently at work for various reasons, or were unpaid family workers who assist in the operation of either a farm or a family business usually run by the household head.
- **Unemployed population:** This category consists of people aged 10 years and above, who during the reference period, were not working and were actively seeking job, having declared their availability and willingness to work for pay or profit if a job would be available. This group also comprises of persons aged 10 years and above who were either temporarily or indefinitely laid off from work during the specified reference period.
- **Occupation:** This term is used to refer to the type of work done in a job by the person employed (or the type of work done previously, if the person is currently unemployed) irrespective of the industry or the employment status. The 2016 PHC used International Standards Classification of Occupations (ISCO 08) manual during the data collection phase. This manual has a detailed and comprehensive list of occupations which is categorized by the main tasks and duties of the work.
- **Industry:** International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC Rev. 4) defines industry as an activity or product or service of the establishment in which an employed person worked during the time reference period. The 2016 census utilized this manual during the data collection phase.

**Figure 5.1: Chart Showing Main Activity Categories as Defined by ILO**



## 5.2 Measures of Economic Activity

As was the case in the 2006 Population and Housing Census, 2001 and 2011 Lesotho Demographic Surveys, the 2016 Population and Housing Census adopted the following measures of economic activity to estimate activity rates of population in Lesotho;

- **Crude Economic Activity Rate (CEAR):** It is the proportion of the economically active persons to total population within the country. The crude economic activity rate is an economic activity measure which is used for comparison of number of persons in a population who are in the labour force. The 2016 PHC results suggest that the overall CEAR as 32.7 percent indicating that for every 100 persons, 33 economically active persons. Males are represented by 41.3 and females 24.5 percent.
- **General Economic Activity Rate (GEAR):** It is the number of economically active persons as a percent of the working age population. In Lesotho, the working age is defined as the population 10 years and above. The results for 2016 PHC reflect the overall CEAR as 41.4 percent implying that, for every 100 working age population, 41 are economically active. The males estimated at 56.2 and females 30.9 percent.
- **Age-Sex Economic Activity Rate:** These are the economic activity rate calculated for a specific age-sex groups. These rates are also referred to as labour force participation rates when the labour force concept is used (refer to Table 5.6 for results).

- **Economic Dependency Ratio:** The economic dependency ratio is the ratio of the economically inactive persons (0 to 14 years together with those aged 65 years and above) to the economically active persons (15 to 64yrs). The dependency ratio explains the burden of working age group. The results show that the age dependency ratio for the 2016 Population and Housing Census was 60.9 indicating that; for every 100 working age persons, there were 61 persons who depended on them.

### **5.3 Economic Activity Characteristics**

Analysis of the current economic activity status of the population in Lesotho is based on the data derived from the question

**“What was (Name’s) main activity in the last seven days?”**

The 2016 PH also included an additional question which inquired about the usual economic activity status. That question was as follows;

**“What was (Name’s) main activity in the past twelve months?”**

The analysis on the economic characteristics of the population is confined to people who were aged ten years and above who responded to the question on main activity in the seven days prior to the 2016 PHC data collection.

#### **5.3.1 Age and Sex Structure of Labour Force**

Examination of the age structure of population in the working age plays an important role in planning for the current cohorts with respect to creation of job opportunities. Table 5.1 demonstrates distribution of population comprising the labour force by sex and age group. The table reveals that population in the labour force has the majority of representation in age group 10 to 34 years still confirming a fact that Lesotho comprises mainly of young population. Generally, the proportions range from 10.6 to 13.6 percent. Among males about 13.8 percent is the highest at age 15 to 19 years while for females its 13.3 percent at age group 10 to 14 years. In age groups 35 years and above the percentages of population comprising the labour force was smaller ranging below 10.0 percent for both sexes.

**Table 5.1: Distribution of Population in the Labour Force by Sex and Age Group, 2016 PHC**

Age group	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Total	Percent
10 – 14	108,069	14.0	108,199	13.3	216,268	13.6
15 – 19	106,168	13.8	103,569	12.7	209,737	13.2
20 – 24	98,815	12.8	100,422	12.3	199,237	12.6
25 – 29	95,784	12.4	93,123	11.4	188,907	11.9
30 – 34	86,933	11.3	81,161	10.0	168,094	10.6
35 – 39	68,229	8.8	62,104	7.6	130,333	8.2
40 – 44	48,654	6.3	47,614	5.8	96,268	6.1
45 – 49	36,412	4.7	38,447	4.7	74,859	4.7
50 – 54	31,769	4.1	38,563	4.7	70,332	4.4
55 – 59	25,750	3.3	34,043	4.2	59,793	3.8
60 – 64	20,765	2.7	28,442	3.5	49,207	3.1
65+	44,039	5.7	78,496	9.6	122,535	7.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>771,387</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>814,183</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>1,585,570</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 5.4 Trend in Size and Growth of Labour Force

Table 5.2 presents the total population aged 10 years and above and the labour force for the years 1986 to 2016. The table shows that the size of the population in the labour force has been increasing over time from 1,392,724 in 1996 to 1,448,918 in 2006 and further to 1,585,570 in 2016. The difference in census years showed a decline from 21.6 percent for the period 1986 to 1996 to about 4.0 percent for the period 1996 to 2006 and an increase to 9.4 percent for the period 2006 to 2016.

The labour force (employed and unemployed) size has been fluctuating throughout the census years. It increased from 504,121 in 1986 to 573,064 in 1996. It then declined to 551,989 in 2006 and then increased to 655,702 in 2016. The difference was 13.7 percent from 1986 to 1996 and it declined to 3.7 percent in 1996-2006. The 2016 PHC suggests a 20.0 percent increase of population in the labour force in the period 2006 to 2016.

**Table 5.2: Total Population Aged 10 Years and above by Total Labour Force and Census Year, 1986 – 2016, 2016 PHC**

	Census Year				Difference in Census Years		
	1986	1996	2006	2016	1986-1996	1996-2006	2006 -2016
<b>Total Population</b>							
Pop. 10 yrs & above	1,145,714	1,392,724	1,448,918	1,585,570	247,010	56,194	136,652
Percent difference					21.6%	4.0%	9.4%
Economically active Pop.	504,121	573,064	551,989	656,809	68,943	-2,078	104,820
Percent difference					13.7 %	-3.7%	20.0%

Table 5.3 shows the population aged 10 years and above by census years and sex. According to this table the proportions for males constituting the labour force increased from 1986 to 1996 and it declined from 1996 to 2006, with proportions ranging from 66.6 percent in 1986, to 56.7 percent in 1996 and 49.8 percent in 2006. The 2016 PHC results suggest that the proportion of males in the labour force increased to 52.6 percent. Similarly, proportions of females in the labour force had

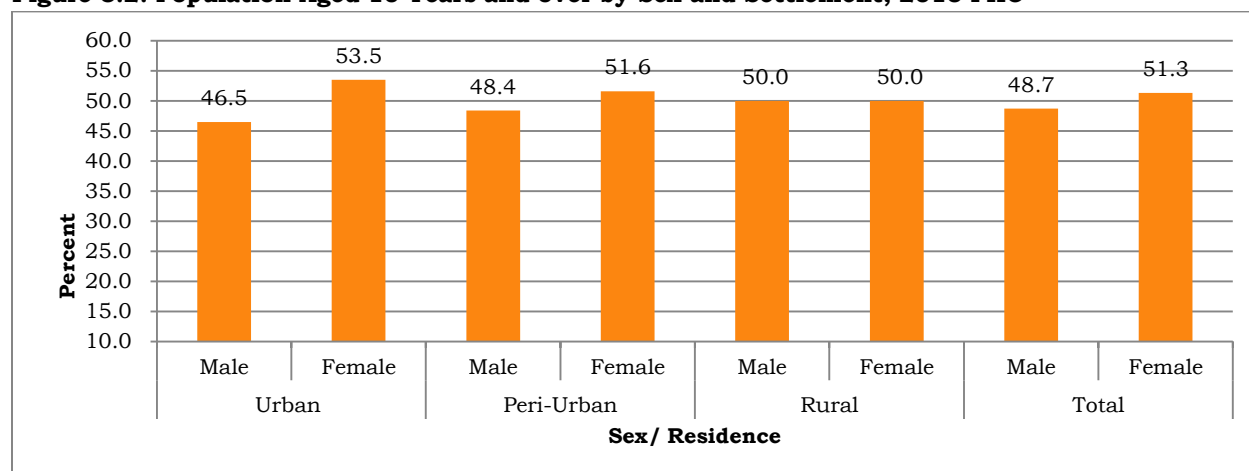


been increasing since 1986 until 2016. For instance, in 1986 the proportion was estimated at 22.9 percent, 26.6 percent in 1996, 26.9 percent in 2006 while in 2016 it declined slightly to 25.9 percent. The table further shows that even though proportions for males in labour force were fluctuating from 1986 to 2006, they were relatively higher than those of their female counterparts. It can also be concluded that the proportion of population in labour force had been declining over time from 44.0 percent in 1986 to 38.1 percent in 2006. The 2016 PHC reveals an increased share of 41.3 percent of population in labour force.

**Table 5.3: Population Aged 10 Years and above by Census Years and Sex, 1986 – 2016, 2016 PHC**

<b>Census Year</b>	<b>Sex</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	
<b>1986</b>			
Pop. 10 yrs & above	552,314	593,400	<b>1,145,714</b>
Economically active	367,961 (66.6%)	136,148 (22.9%)	<b>504,121 (44.0 %)</b>
<b>1996</b>			
Pop. 10 yrs & above	672,635	720,089	<b>1,392,724</b>
Economically active	381,298 (56.7%)	191,766 (26.6%)	<b>573,064 (41.1 %)</b>
<b>2006</b>			
Pop. 10 yrs & above	696,300	752,618	<b>1,448,918</b>
Economically active	347,000 (49.8%)	204,989 (26.9%)	<b>551,989 (38.1 %)</b>
<b>2016</b>			
Pop. 10 yrs & above	771,387	814,183	<b>1,585,570</b>
Economically active	405,575 (52.6 %)	211,254 (25.9 %)	<b>656,809 (41.3 %)</b>

Figure 5.2 shows the percentage distribution of population aged 10 years and above who were enumerated and were in labour force by sex and settlement. The figure indicates that out of 1,585,570 population in the labour force, about 57.3 percent were residing in Rural, 35.0 percent in Urban while 7.7 percent in the Peri-urban. The 2016 PHC results show that females comprise 51.3 percent of the population in labour force and male comprise 48.7 percent. This pattern is observed in all residential settlements. For instance; in urban settlement, females recorded 53.5 percent and males 46.5 percent. In the Peri-urban female's share was 51.6 percent and male was 48.4 percent. It is only in rural settlement where equal share of 50.0 percent was observed for either sex.

**Figure 5.2: Population Aged 10 Years and over by Sex and Settlement, 2016 PHC**

## 5.5 Marital Status

Table 5.4 represents the percentage distribution of population in the labour force by age group and marital status. According to this table, over half (56.5 percent) of population in labour force were currently married, slightly less than a third (31.9 percent) were never married while over a tenth (11.5 percent) were ever married. This table further indicates that unmarried population in the labour force had recorded the highest share of 27.9 percent in the age group 20 to 24 years, while married ones constituted 19.5 percent as the highest share in the age group 30 to 34 years. Those who were ever married recorded the highest proportion of 14.7 percent for the age group 35 to 39 years.

**Table 5.4: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 10 years and over in the Labour Force by Age group and Marital Status, 2016 PHC**

Age group	Marital Status			Total
	Never Married	Currently Married	Ever Married*	
10 - 14	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.7
15 - 19	15.9	0.6	0.2	5.4
20 - 24	27.9	6.2	2.7	12.7
25 - 29	23.7	15.5	8.7	17.4
30 - 34	14.2	19.5	13.9	17.1
35 - 39	7.5	16.7	14.7	13.5
40 - 44	3.9	12.1	13.2	9.6
45 - 49	2.0	9.1	11.6	7.1
50 - 54	1.3	7.6	11.1	6.0
55 - 59	0.8	5.3	8.9	4.2
60 - 64	0.4	3.2	6.2	2.7
65+	0.4	4.2	8.8	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Divorced and Widowed Persons

Table 5.5 represents percentage distribution of population aged 10 years and above in the labour force by age, sex and marital status. On the overall, the table indicates that as far as marital status is concerned, males in the labour force recorded higher

percentages than their female counterparts in the first two marital status categories. For instance, unmarried male population recorded 21.3 percent while unmarried female population in labour force accounted for 10.6 percent. The currently married male population accounted for 36.5 percent while currently married female population recorded 20.0 percent. Finally the ever married female population in the labour force outnumbered their male counterparts with 7.6 percent against 3.9 percent respectively.

**Table 5.5: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 10 Years and Over in the Labour Force by Age group, Sex and Marital Status, 2016 PHC.**

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Male</b>			<b>Female</b>		
	<b>Never Married</b>	<b>Currently Married</b>	<b>Ever Married</b>	<b>Never Married</b>	<b>Currently Married</b>	<b>Ever Married</b>
10 - 14	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0
15 - 19	18.3	0.3	0.1	11.1	1.0	0.3
20 - 24	29.7	4.8	1.8	24.3	8.7	3.2
25 - 29	24.2	14.2	8.5	22.8	17.9	8.8
30 - 34	13.1	19.3	14.9	16.3	19.8	13.4
35 - 39	6.0	17.3	15.8	10.5	15.6	14.1
40 - 44	2.8	12.6	13.4	6.2	11.3	13.0
45 - 49	1.4	9.5	11.4	3.2	8.3	11.7
50 - 54	0.8	7.8	10.2	2.2	7.2	11.5
55 - 59	0.5	5.5	8.1	1.4	4.9	9.3
60 - 64	0.2	3.5	6.2	0.8	2.8	6.3
65+	0.2	5.2	9.6	0.7	2.5	8.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>7.6</b>

## 5.6 Labour Force Participation

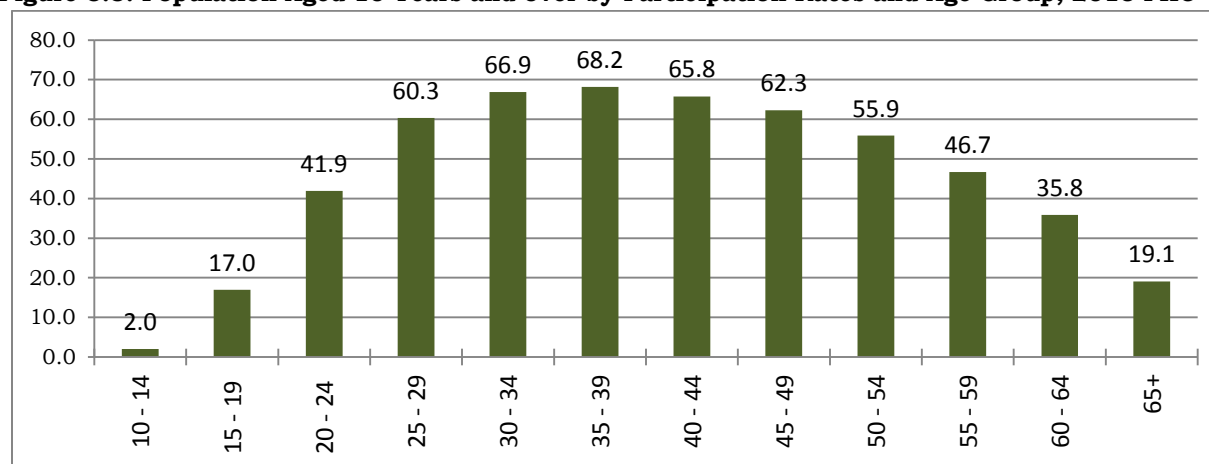
Labour force participation rate is a measure of economic activity often referred to as age sex-specific activity rate. Table 5.6 presents the labour force participation rates (LFPR) by age and sex. This table shows that the labour force participation rates are increasing with age from an overall estimate of 2.0 percent at age 10 to 14 years to 68.2 at age 35 to 39 years and an observed decline to 19.1 at age 65 and over. Examination of labour force participation rates by sex reveals the same pattern for both sexes with the peak of 79.2 for males and 56.2 for females at age group 35 to 39 years. Furthermore, it shows that generally males recorded higher participation rate (52.6 percent) than their female counterparts who recorded 30.9 percent, implying that mostly males assume responsibilities of providing basic needs for the households.

**Table 5.6: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 10 Years and over by Participation Rates, Age group and Sex, 2016 PHC**

Age Group	Sex		Both Sexes
	Male	Females	
10 - 14	3.7	0.3	2.0
15 - 19	24.9	8.9	17.0
20 - 24	54.2	29.8	41.9
25 - 29	73.2	47.1	60.3
30 - 34	78.6	54.3	66.9
35 - 39	79.2	56.2	68.2
40 - 44	77.4	53.9	65.8
45 - 49	75.9	49.4	62.3
50 - 54	71.0	43.4	55.9
55 - 59	61.6	35.3	46.7
60 - 64	49.4	25.9	35.8
65+	34.7	10.3	19.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>41.4</b>

Figure 5.3 also reveals that at age 10 – 14 years, participation is very minimal because this is the age bracket of persons who are expected to be enrolled in schools. There is a noticeable peak at age group 35-39 years, which is a clear indication that most people who are part of the labour force and actively participating fall in this age cohort.

**Figure 5.3: Population Aged 10 Years and over by Participation Rates and Age Group, 2016 PHC**



## 5.7 Employment Characteristics

This sub-section reviews the dynamics of the employed population in Lesotho. As noted earlier, employed population refers to population in the labour force who were either employer, own account worker/farmer, casual worker, unpaid family worker or homemaker. The section focuses on the demographic characteristics of the employed population based on age, sex, settlement type and district of residence. The 2016 PHC data shows that out of 655,702 population constituting the labour force (employed or unemployed) only 568,751 were employed and this number constitute 86.7 percent of total population in the labour force.

### 15.7.1 Employed Population and Employment Status

Employment status refers to the status of economically active persons with respect to their employment. This variable was derived from a question in census that sought employment status of a person seven days prior to the census night. The pre-assigned response categories are presented in Table 5.7. For all males aged ten years and above, the category of student had the highest proportion of 25.2 percent while the lowest was that of employers which accounted for 1.0 percent. Females were mostly represented in the housewife category with 42.5 percent.

**Table 5.7: Percentage Distribution of Population Aged 10 Years and Over by Employment Status and Sex, 2016 PHC**

Employment Status	Sex		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Employer	0.53	0.34	0.43
Own account worker/farmer	9.14	3.58	6.29
Regular wage/ salary earner	23.90	18.35	21.05
Casual worker	6.28	2.69	4.44
Unpaid family worker	4.18	0.56	2.32
Job seeking	4.27	2.04	3.12
Job seeking for the first time	3.15	1.61	2.36
Homemaker	1.13	1.68	1.41
Housewife	20.84	42.54	31.99
Retired	1.41	0.87	1.13
Student	25.15	25.73	25.45
Other	0.01	0.00	0.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>771,387</b>	<b>814,183</b>	<b>1,585,570</b>

### 5.7.2 Employed Population and Age

Table 5.8 presents the percentage distribution of employed population aged 10 years and above by age and sex. It indicates that, on the overall, a greater share (61.2 percent) of employed population aged 10 years and above was for males while females constituted about 38.8 percent. The age differentials indicate that in general, employed population increases with an increase in age from 0.7 percent at age group 10 to 14 years and reaches peak of 17.3 at age group 30 to 34 years, and declines to 14.1 at age group 35 to 39 years. Furthermore, the table shows that employed males recorded higher proportions compared to their female counterparts in all age groups.

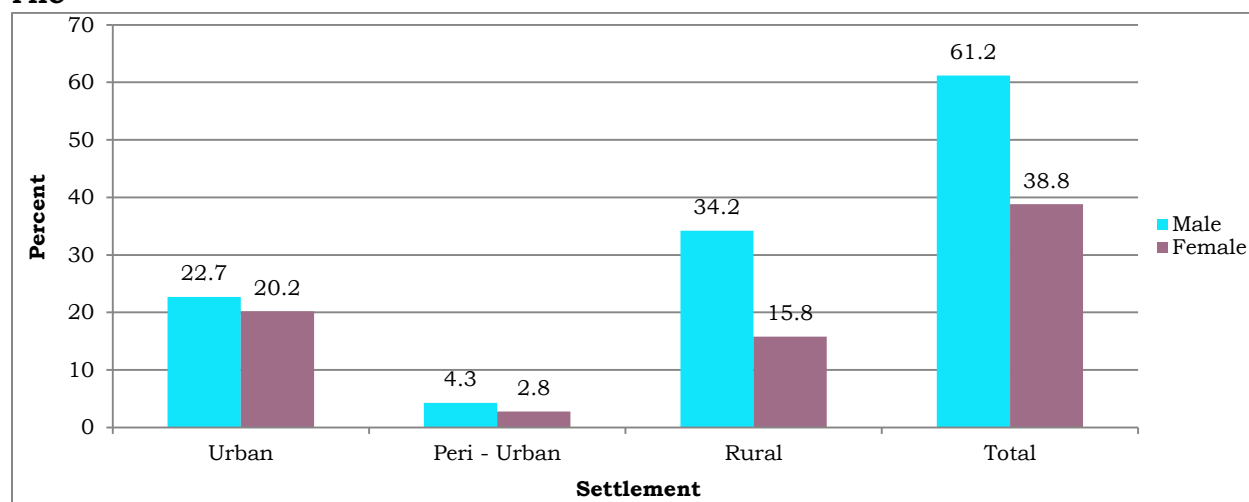
**Table 5.8: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population Aged 10 Years and Above by Age and Sex, 2016 PHC**

Age group	Male	Female	Total
10 – 14	0.6	0.1	0.7
15 – 19	3.7	1.0	4.7
20 – 24	7.1	3.9	11.0
25 – 29	10.0	6.5	16.5
30 – 34	10.3	7.0	17.3
35 – 39	8.4	5.7	14.1
40 – 44	6.0	4.2	10.2
45 – 49	4.4	3.2	7.6
50 – 54	3.7	2.8	6.5
55 – 59	2.6	2.0	4.6
60 – 64	1.7	1.2	2.9
65+	2.5	1.4	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	<b>348,346</b>	<b>221,521</b>	<b>569,867</b>

### 5.7.3 Employed Population and Settlement Type

Figure 5.4 presents the percentage distribution of employed population aged 10 years and above by settlement type and sex. In general, the table shows that half (61.2 percent) of employed population aged 10 years and above were males while females constituted 38.8 percent. The picture is true for the three settlement types, with males dominating females, with the margin much more pronounced for the rural area settlement between the two sexes.

**Figure 5.4: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population by Settlement Type and Sex, 2016 PHC**



### 5.7.4 Employed Population in Districts

Results regarding the distribution of employed population aged 10 years and above by districts and sex are presented in Table 5.9. According to this table, about 30.1 percent of employed population resides in Maseru district and 16.9 percent reside in Leribe district. Only 3.6 percent of the employed population resides in the district of Qacha's Nek. The sex distribution reflects Maseru as the district with the highest

proportion of employed persons for both males and females constituting 16.9 and 13.2 percent respectively. The district with the lowest figures is Qacha's Nek with 2.3 for males and 1.3 percent for females.

**Table 5.9: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population Aged 10 Years and over by District and Sex, 2016 PHC**

District	Male	Female	Total
Botha-Bothe	3.3	1.8	5.1
Leribe	9.8	7.1	16.9
Berea	7.7	5.1	12.8
Maseru	16.9	13.2	30.1
Mafeteng	5.4	2.8	8.2
Mohale's Hoek	4.8	2.6	7.4
Quthing	3.9	2.0	5.9
Qacha's Nek	2.3	1.3	3.6
Mokhotlong	3.3	1.4	4.7
Thaba-Tseka	3.8	1.6	5.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	<b>348,346</b>	<b>221,521</b>	<b>569,867</b>

#### 5.7.5 Employed Population and Sector of Employment

Fig 5.5 portrays employed population aged 10 years and over by sector of employment in Lesotho. This figure shows that most (62.0 percent) of the population aged 10 years and above were employed in Private sector implying that private sector absorbs the majority of labour force. Those who were employed in Private Household sector accounted for 22.0 percent while Government employees recorded 14.0 percent. This figure also depicts that about 2.0 percent of the employed population were employed in the Parastatal sector.

**Figure 5.5: Employed Population Aged 10 Years and above by Employment Sector, 2016 PHC**

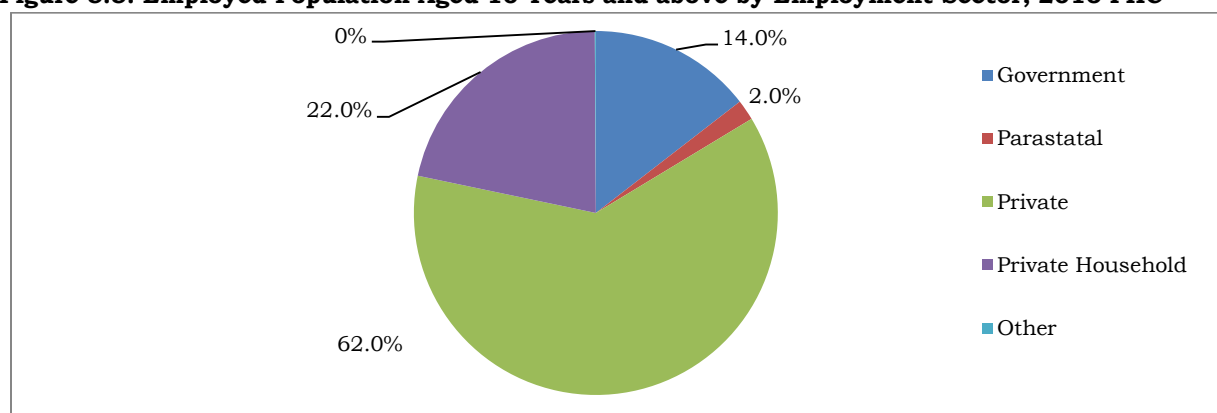


Table 5.10 further shows that the majority of people whether male or female prefer working in the Republic of South Africa with 27.4 percent for males and 24.9 percent for females. Self-employment is second dominant sector for both males and females while about 25.5 and 18.5 percent respectively.

**Table 5.10: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population Aged 10 Years and over by Sector of Employment and Sex, 2016 PHC**

Sector	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Government	8.8	14.4	62,771
Parastatal	1.3	1.7	8,365
Private	16.2	15.1	89,874
Manufacturing	3.4	14.3	43,483
Self-employed	25.5	18.5	129,921
Private Household	17.0	11.0	83,752
RSA	27.4	24.9	150,766
Other countries	0.0	0.0	126
Other	0.2	0.1	809
<b>Total</b>	<b>348,346</b>	<b>221,521</b>	<b>569,867</b>

### 5.7.6 Occupation of Employed Population

Data on occupation provides insight on economic characteristics relating to the type of work done during the defined time period. Table 5.101 displays percentage distribution of employed population by type of occupation and sex. Data suggests that the majority representing 40.2 percent of the working population are absorbed in the Elementary occupations. The picture is the same for both males and females. The second most popular type of occupation for males is Agricultural, forestry and fishery type of occupation while females are mostly found in Service and sales work with 19.9 percent representation.

**Table 5.11: Percentage Distribution of Employed Population by Occupation and Sex, 2016 PHC**

Occupation	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Managers	3.4	2.6	3.1
Professionals	5.8	12.4	8.4
Technicians and associate professionals	3.5	2.9	3.3
Clerical support workers	1.6	3.9	2.5
Service and sales workers	11.2	19.9	14.6
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	14.0	4.0	10.1
Craft and related trades workers	9.7	8.8	9.3
Plant and machine operators, and assemblers	8.3	4.8	6.9
Elementary occupations	40.2	40.0	40.2
Armed forces occupations	2.2	0.6	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>348,346</b>	<b>221,521</b>	<b>569,867</b>

### 5.7.7 Industry of Employed Population

Table 5.11 presents the proportions of the economically active population by section of employment and employer. The results reveal that, for those who were employed by Government, Education section had the highest proportion (27.4 percent), followed by those in Public Administration and defence (18.8 percent). Proportion of the economically active population of those who were in Manufacturing section was 89.0 percent. On overall, people who were working in RSA had the highest proportions of 26.4 percent followed by those who were self-employed by 22.8 percent.



**Table 5.12: Population Distribution of the Economically Active Population by Section and Employer, 2016 PHC**

Section	Employer									Total
	Govern ment	Parasta tal	Private	Manufa cturing	Self- employ ed	Private Househol d	RSA	Oth er cou ntri es	Oth er	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	4.4	5.6	6.1	1.1	42.7	43.1	12.4	16.0	28.3	118,920
Mining and quarrying	0.5	4.1	2.1	0.5	0.2	0.1	17.9	10.4	1.3	29,840
Manufacturing	0.7	9.3	8.4	89.1	3.8	1.0	3.8	2.4	2.0	58,759
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.3	3.9	1.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.3	3,019
Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.6	4.2	0.6	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	-	0.3	1,755
Construction	2.5	6.7	14.5	2.2	7.2	6.5	20.8	8.0	1.9	61,890
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	0.2	1.4	4.7	0.4	3.2	1.2	1.2	-	0.1	11,567
Transportation and storage	1.7	2.6	7.2	0.3	2.3	3.7	2.1	2.4	1.1	17,048
Accommodation and food service activities	1.2	2.5	4.7	0.3	3.2	2.2	3.5	2.4	1.9	16,526
Information and communication	3.0	1.9	1.5	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	1.6	0.8	4,038
Financial and insurance activities	2.5	6.8	3.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	2.4	0.4	5,677
Real estate activities	1.2	1.1	0.8	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.6	3,788
Professional, scientific and technical activities	3.4	2.3	1.2	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.3	4.8	0.8	4,648
Administrative and support service activities	5.6	5.9	2.5	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	4.0	0.5	7,392
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	18.8	2.4	3.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	1.6	0.8	15,397
Education	27.4	9.1	4.3	0.0	1.0	0.5	0.4	1.6	2.0	24,070
Human health and social work activities	8.2	8.6	4.0	0.1	1.1	0.8	1.0	19.2	1.6	13,146
Arts, entertainment and recreation	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.2	-	0.6	2,574
Other service activities	15.1	17.1	24.7	4.2	24.3	23.8	21.3	16.0	46.4	118,261
Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own u	0.9	2.5	3.6	0.6	6.3	14.9	12.6	5.6	7.8	43,749
Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies	1.5	1.6	1.5	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	-	0.8	4,619
<b>Total (%)</b>	11.0	1.5	15.8	7.7	22.8	14.7	26.4	0.0	0.1	
<b>Total (N)</b>	<b>62,587</b>	<b>8,316</b>	<b>89,508</b>	<b>43,364</b>	<b>129,076</b>	<b>83,129</b>	<b>149,778</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>566,682</b>

## 5.8 Unemployment

The 2016 PHC collected information on population aged 10 years and above whose main activity was job seeking or job seeking for the first time. These people also form part of the labour force and are referred to as unemployed population. This section examines the demographic characteristics of this population with respect to age, sex, marital status and settlement type.

As it was indicated earlier labour force comprises of both employed and unemployed population, and out of 655,702 total population in the labour force, 86,951 were unemployed and this number constitutes 13.6 percent of total population in the labour force. Table 5.11 indicates that on the overall, there are more unemployed males accounting for 65.8 percent than unemployed females with 34.2 percent. This table generally, shows that the proportion unemployed increases from 0.7 at age group 10 to 14 years and reaches the peak at age group 20 to 24 years with 23.9 percent. A gradual decline is observed from age group 25 to 29 years up to age group 60 to 64 years with 1.1 percent. It can also be noticed that proportions of unemployed male population were higher than those of their female counterparts in all age groups.

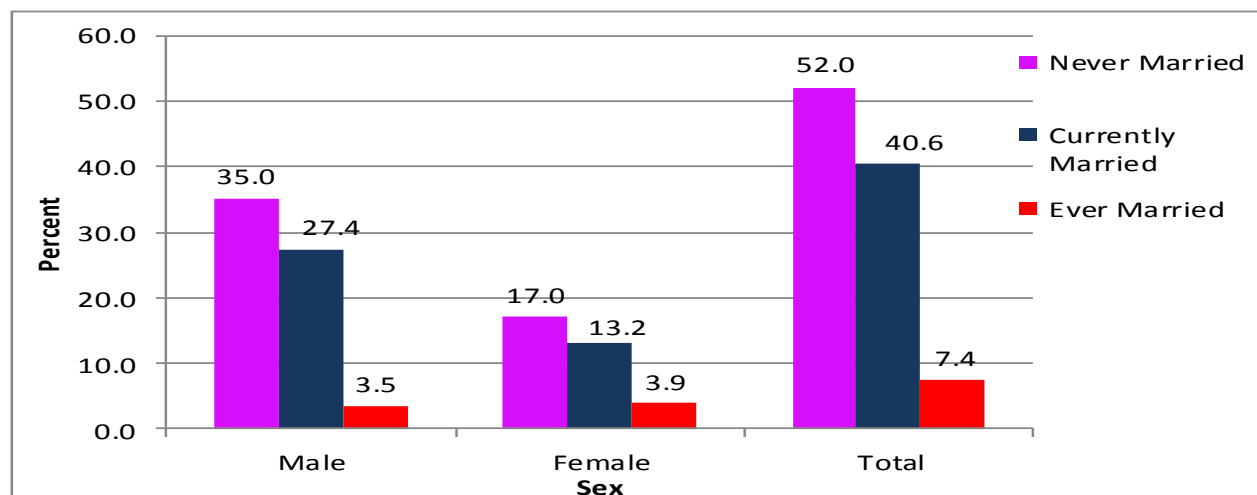
**Table 5.13: Percentage Distribution of Unemployed Population Aged 10 Years and over by Age and Sex, 2016 PHC**

Age	Male	Female	Total
10 - 14	0.5	0.2	0.7
15 - 19	6.2	3.8	10.1
20 - 24	14.9	9.0	23.9
25 - 29	15.0	8.1	23.1
30 - 34	10.7	5.1	15.8
35 - 39	6.9	2.9	9.8
40 - 44	4.2	1.9	6.1
45 - 49	2.8	1.0	3.8
50 - 54	1.9	0.7	2.6
55 - 59	1.2	0.4	1.6
60 - 64	0.7	0.4	1.1
65+	0.8	0.5	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	<b>57,229</b>	<b>29,713</b>	<b>86,942</b>

### 5.8.1 Marital Status of Unemployed Population

Marital status differentials of the unemployed population aged 10 years and above who were in labour force were also taken into consideration. The results are presented on Figure 5.6. In general, 2016 PHC data shows that more than half (52.0 percent) of unemployed population were never married, about two fifths (40.6 percent) were currently married and less than a tenth (7.4 percent) were ever married. Furthermore, it can be noticed from this table that for both sexes, unemployed persons are mostly never married.

**Figure 5.6: Percentage Distribution of Unemployed Population Aged 10 Years and over by Sex and Marital Status, 2016 PHC**



Examination on settlement type for the unemployed population in the labour force was also studied. The results are presented Table 5.13. According to this table unemployed population is mostly pronounced in rural settlement with about 56.3 percent with the urban population accounting for 36.8 percent. Of the male population, the majority is represented by the rural dwellers with 39.8 percent. Females are also mostly represented by rural dwellers with 16.5 percent. The sex distribution in the Peri-urban reflects male domination with 4.6 percent while females are 2.2 percent.

**Table 5.14: Percentage Distribution of Unemployed Population Aged 10 Years and over By Sex And Settlement Type, 2016 PHC**

Settlement Type	Male	Female	Total
Urban	21.4	15.4	36.8
Peri-Urban	4.6	2.2	6.8
Rural	39.8	16.5	56.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 5.8.2 Education of Unemployed Population

The educational differentials of unemployed population show that persons with primary level of education had recorded the largest share of 43.1 percent of unemployed population aged 10 years and above. The least represented is for those with vocational level of attainment with just 1.0 percent. This could translate into a fact that vocational training has some advantages in that, with it, it's easy to be self-employed. There are more (6.3 percent) males who have no level of education who are unemployed as compared to females with 0.6 percent.

**Table 5.15: Percentage Distribution of Unemployed Population Aged 10 Years and over by Sex and Education, 2016 PHC**

<b>Educational Attainment</b>	<b>Sex</b>		<b>Total</b>
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	
Pre-school	0.2	0	0.2
Primary	31.4	11.7	43.1
Secondary	23.3	16.5	39.8
Vocational	0.6	0.4	1.0
Higher education	4.1	5	9.0
No education	6.3	0.6	6.9
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,229</b>	<b>29,713</b>	<b>86,942</b>

## 5.9 Economically Inactive Population

The economically inactive population is defined as population who reported their main activity as housewife, retired, student and other activity which do not include provision or supply of services or goods. In this section, the characteristics of the economically inactive population are discussed with respect to main activity, age, and sex and settlement type.

### 5.9.1 Economically Inactive Population and Main activity

Table 5.15 displays percentage distribution of population aged 10 years and above that was economically inactive in Lesotho by sex and main activity. According to this table more females than males were economically inactive with 60.6 percent relative to 39.4 percent males. This table also shows that at national level, over a half (54.4 percent) of inactive population were housewives while 43.9 percent falling in the category of “housewife”. The retired population constituted 1.9 percent. The differentials by sex show that there were more females represented in “housewife” category with 61.5 percent. For males, the highest proportion is that of “student” category with 53.1 percent.

**Table 5.16: Percentage Distribution of Economically Inactive Population Aged 10 Years and above by Main Activity and Sex, 2016 PHC**

<b>Main Activity</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Housewife	43.9	61.5	<b>54.6</b>
Retired	3.0	1.3	<b>1.9</b>
Student	53.1	37.2	<b>43.5</b>
	<b>39.4</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>365,812</b>	<b>562,949</b>	<b>928,761</b>

### 5.9.2 Economically Inactive Population and Age

Table 5.16 displays the percentage distribution of the economically inactive population aged 10 years and above by age and sex. According to this table, the inactive population is more pronounced for the females with estimated 60.6 percent as against 39.4 for males. An inactivity rate increases with an increase in age and gradually declines in elderly age groups. From age group 10 to 14 years the rate is lower at 50.9 percent for females reaches the highest at age 65 and above with 71.0 percent. The

proportions for males are ranging within the thirties for almost all the age groups. This implies that males, are mostly engaged in the economic activities as compared to their female counterparts who are mostly inactive.

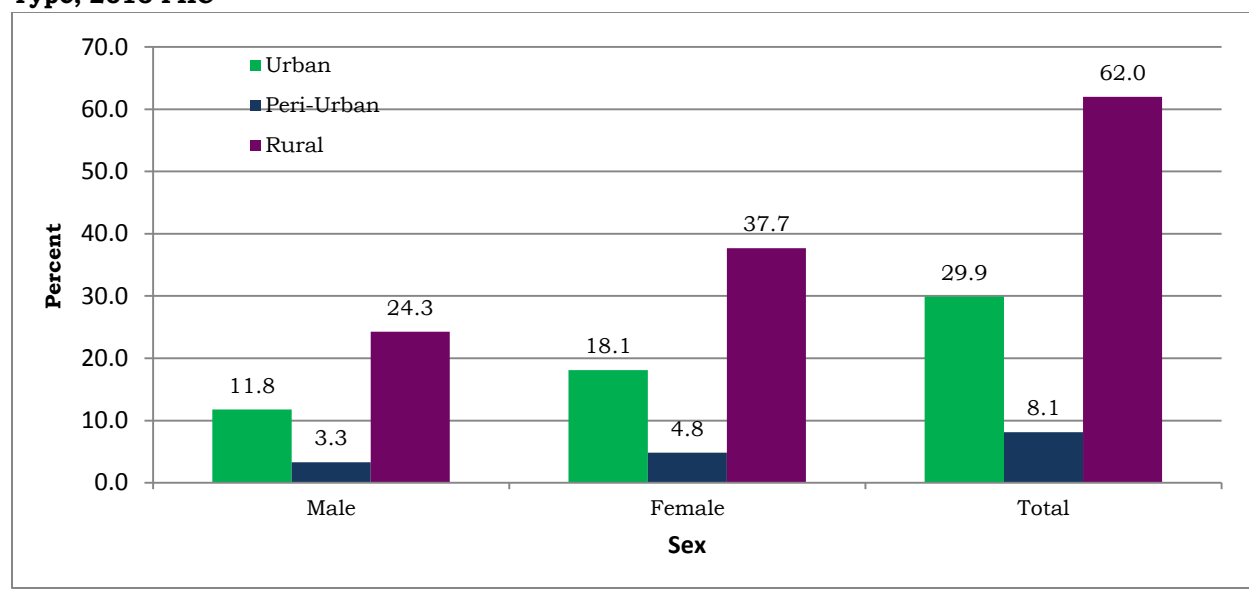
**Table 5.17: Percentage Distribution of Economically Inactive Population Aged 10 Years by Age and Sex, 2016 PHC**

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
10 - 14	49.1	50.9	211,889
15 - 19	45.8	54.2	174,135
20 - 24	39.1	60.9	115,743
25 - 29	34.2	65.8	74,956
30 - 34	33.5	66.5	55,709
35 - 39	34.3	65.7	41,449
40 - 44	33.4	66.6	32,958
45 - 49	31.1	68.9	28,256
50 - 54	29.7	70.3	31,036
55 - 59	31.0	69.0	31,894
60 - 64	33.3	66.7	31,573
65+	29.0	71.0	99,163
<b>Total</b>	<b>39.4</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>928,761</b>

### 5.9.3 Economically Inactive Population and Settlement Type

Figure 5.7 portrays the percentage distribution of economically inactive population by sex and settlement type. According to this figure the settlement differentials show that at national level, 62.0 percent of inactive population were residing in the rural areas, 30.0 percent in urban areas while 8.0 percent were in the peri – urban areas. Across all sexes the rural still dominates and it's followed by urban area.

**Figure 5.7: Percentage Distribution of Economically Inactive Population by Sex and Settlement Type, 2016 PHC**



## 5.10 Children in Employment

Children in employment entail all children who were reported as participating in what was regarded as work. This is explained on the grounds that a child is engaged in one or more hours on a regular basis, to earn a livelihood for themselves and for others as indicated by ILO.

The distribution of employed children aged 10 to 17 years by employment sector is presented in Table 5.17. It is observed that the highest proportion of employed children was in the Private Households recording 63.9 percent and the least were observed in Government with 0.2 percent. The self-employed category is the second highest with 22.8 percent of children who participates in this sector of employment. This essentially should attract concern to the policy makers in that, this is the group of population that is expected to be in the learning institutions, yet they are engaged in the economic activities. It's a clear indication that these children are assuming household responsibilities at a very young age.

**Table 5.18: Distribution of Employed Children Aged 10 – 17 Years by Employment Sector, 2016 PHC**

Age	Employer								Total
	Government	Parastatal	Private	Manufacturing	Self-employed	Private Household	RSA	Other	
10	0	1	10	1	90	176	8	7	293
11	0	0	9	2	77	247	8	4	347
12	0	0	29	3	162	459	17	1	671
13	0	3	72	6	224	659	12	11	987
14	0	6	99	3	346	970	27	10	1,461
15	6	12	173	18	604	1,875	85	12	2,785
16	11	13	302	18	886	2,500	167	15	3,912
17	22	14	458	51	1,187	3,099	392	27	5,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>63.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	<b>39</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>3,576</b>	<b>9,985</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>15,706</b>

## 5.11 Summary

The chapter shows that the labour force size has increased since the last census. It was also observed that the larger proportion of this labour force is indicated as males compared to their females counterparts. The reverse is true hence the economically inactive population has more females than males. This economically inactive population is dominated by those who were classified as housewives. As for the child labour differentials children engaged under private household employment sector show dominium for all the sectors.

## **Chapter 6**

### **Water and Sanitation**

#### **6.0 Introduction**

Water, sanitation and hygiene are considered to be some of the most basic needs for human health and survival, and having enough water for drinking and personal hygiene is essential (Bayon, 2015). Access to water, sanitation and hygiene is a human right which is crucial to health status of household members; yet there are challenges accessing the most basic services (United Nations, 2016). Policies and coordination mechanism are put in place to address water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation as they negatively impact food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities for poor families across the world.

Water and sanitation have been acknowledged as Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 to guarantee their sustainable management and availability. As the goal indicates, water and sanitation are essential components for sustainable development which is vital for the wellbeing of both humans and the planet. Therefore, the SDG aims to ensure continuity and to expand water and sanitation's scope focusing more on access, quality, efficiency, management and restoration.

As stated in the Lesotho Water and Sanitation Policy Paper (Ministry of Natural Resource, 2007) "the Government of Lesotho has the duty to ensure, that the water resource is used in a sustainable manner and to the benefit of all users, and the responsibility to provide security of access to water sources and improved sanitation". There is a need therefore to measure the indicators related to water and sanitation; such as the proportion of population using safely managed drinking water and sanitation services; in order to monitor the progress of the country's development agenda.

In order to measure water and sanitation variables and indicators, data that will support effective development progress, to provide the means to track progress and assess the impact of water and sanitation policy are needed. It is only with reliable water and sanitation statistics that the country's goal can be achieved; "statistics describe and provide the evidence required to develop and monitor effective development policies" (Paris21, 2007).

#### **6.1 Water Supply and Sanitation**

This chapter covers the main source of water for drinking, the types of toilet facilities, and disposal of waste or garbage for households. Poor sanitation and inadequate access to safe water are public health concerns because they create conditions conducive to the spread of diseases. In order to meet the criteria for a safely managed drinking water services (SDG 6.1), people must use an improved source meeting the following criterion;

- It should be accessible on premises or round trip, and to collect water should take 30 minutes or less.
- Water should be available when needed
- The water supplied should be free from contamination

## 6.2. Main Source of Water

This section covers the main source of water for drinking. Information on access to water is classified into ‘improved’ and ‘unimproved’ sources of water. Improved drinking water sources are defined by the nature of its construction, whether it is protected from outside contamination with faecal matter and can be safely managed. Improved water sources include: piped water into dwelling into plot or yard, piped water into neighbour’s plot, public tap or standpipe, borehole and protected spring. While unimproved drinking water sources include: unprotected spring, surface water (river, dam, lake, pond, stream, canal, and irrigation channels), tanker truck water, cart with small tank or drum, rainwater harvest and others.

As depicted by Figure 6.1, most of the households in Lesotho accessed water from improved water sources constituting 81.1 percent. About three quarters (75.4 percent) of them had access to piped water located either on their premises or from community supply. The households that reported the use of protected springs and Boreholes constituted 5.4 percent and 7.2 percent respectively. A small percentage of households used catchment tank (0.5 percent) and surface water such as: river, dam, pond, lake, stream, canal, and irrigation channel (0.8 percent) as their main sources of drinking water.

**Figure 6.1: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source of Drinking Water, 2016 PHC**

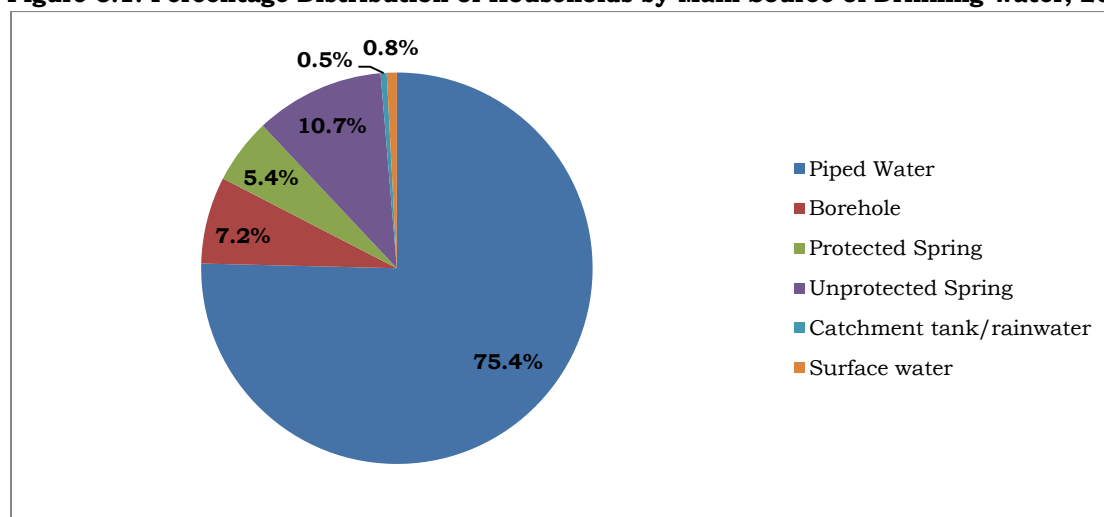


Table 6.1 presents the percentage distribution of households by sources of drinking water for the 2006 Population and Housing Census (PHC), 2011 Lesotho Demographic Survey (LDS) and 2016 PHC. An estimated 56.9 percent of the households had access to piped water in 2006; it increased to 61.7 percent in 2011 and to a further increase



of 75.4 percent in 2016. It is also observed that; there was a decline in the proportion of households using unprotected spring from 22.1 percent in 2006 to 19.4 percent in 2011 and to a further decline of 10.7 percent in 2016.

**Table 6.1: Percentage Distribution of Households by Sources of Drinking Water for the 2006 PHC, LDS 2011 and 2016 PHC**

Sources of Drinking Water	2006	2011	2016
Piped Water	56.9	61.7	75.4
Borehole	10.7	8.1	7.2
Protected Spring	6.3	3.8	5.4
Unprotected Spring	22.1	19.4	10.7
Catchment tank/Rainwater	1.6	1.8	0.5
Surface water	2.4	5.3	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### 6.2.1. State of Access to Improved Water Sources

Access to improved water sources refers to the percentage of the households or population using improved drinking water sources and access to safe drinking water on the other hand. This is estimated by the percentage of the households or population using improved drinking water sources.

The results as shown in Table 6.2 revealed that out of the total households in Lesotho, 88.1 percent had access to improved water sources in the form of piped water inside or outside their dwellings, or from public piped taps or boreholes or someone's else's yard or protected springs; 69.4 percent of them resided in the Lowlands areas while 15.3 percent resided in the Mountain areas. Households, with access to improved water sources, in both the Foothills and Senqu River Valley areas represented 7.8 percent each of the total households.

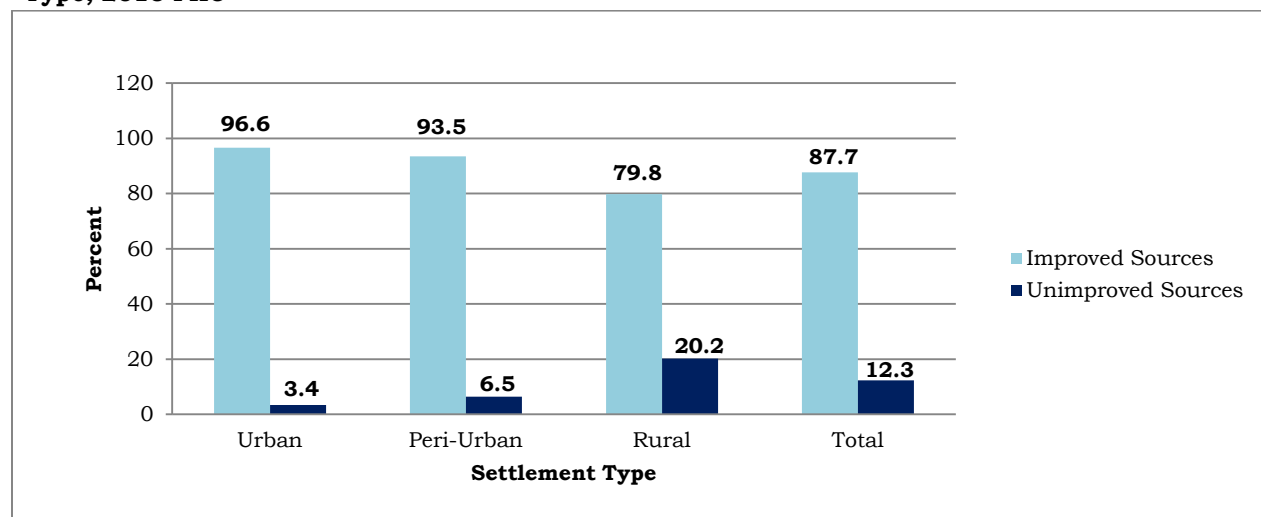
The report further indicated that piped water sources were commonly used in the Lowlands areas with estimated 69.1 percent. The use of borehole water sources in the Foothills (4.5 percent), mountains (8.3 percent), and Senqu River Valley (3.2 percent) areas was minimal in 2016 PHC.

**Table 6.2: Percentage Distribution of Households by Ecological Zones and Improved Sources of Drinking Water, 2016 PHC**

Ecological Zones	Improved sources of drinking water			Total
	Piped Water	Borehole	Protected Spring	
Lowlands	69.1	8.4	49.8	69.4
Foothills	7.6	4.5	14.6	7.8
Mountains	15.1	8.3	27.0	15.3
Senqu river valley	8.2	3.2	8.6	7.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>405,198</b>	<b>38,392</b>	<b>27,932</b>	<b>471,522</b>

Figure 6.2 shows the percentage distribution of households by sources of drinking water and settlement type. An estimated 87.7 percent of the households in Lesotho had access to improved sources of water. The results showed that most of the households in both Urban and Peri-Urban areas had access to improved drinking water sources, representing 96.6 percent and 93.5 percent of the total households in their respective areas. On the other hand, about 79.8 percent of rural households accessed water from improved sources.

**Figure 6.2: Percentage Distribution of Households by Sources of Drinking Water and Settlement Type, 2016 PHC**



### 6.2.2 Settlement Type Differentials in Access to Drinking Water

An estimated 35.3 percent of the households had access to Public tap/stand pipe in 2016 PHC, while 27.5 percent had access to piped water into yard/plot as reflected in Table 6.3. The households that reported to rely on unprotected springs, on the other hand, constituted 10.7 percent of the total households. About 6.9 percent of the households accessed water from neighbours/someone else's yard. The households accessing water from public (communal) borehole and protected springs represented 6.1 percent and 5.2 percent respectively. Only 5.7 percent of the households accessed water from piped water into their dwellings. On the other hand, most of the households located in the rural areas (55.5 percent) had access to improved water source.

**Table 6.3: Percentage Distribution of Households by Settlement Type and Main Source of Drinking Water, 2016 PHC**

Main Type of drinking water	Settlement Type			Total
	Urban	Peri-Urban	Rural	
Piped water into dwelling	11.5	6.1	1.1	<b>5.7</b>
Piped water into yard/plot	58.0	28.9	3.3	<b>27.5</b>
Piped into someone else's yard/plot	12.8	9.0	2.0	<b>6.9</b>
Borehole into yard/plot	1.1	2.6	0.8	<b>1.1</b>
Rainwater harvesting at home	0.1	0.1	0.2	<b>0.1</b>
Rainwater harvesting, neighbor	0.4	0.1	0.2	<b>0.2</b>
Public tap/standpipe	9.7	34.6	55.5	<b>35.3</b>
Public borehole	1.8	8.3	9.1	<b>6.1</b>
Protected spring	1.8	4.0	8.0	<b>5.2</b>
Unprotected spring	2.5	5.6	17.9	<b>10.7</b>
Surface water	0.2	0.3	1.4	<b>0.8</b>
Cart with small tank/drum	0.1	0.1	0.2	<b>0.1</b>
Tanker-truck	0.1	0.2	0.3	<b>0.2</b>
Other	0.0	0.1	0.0	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>217,034</b>	<b>43,710</b>	<b>276,713</b>	<b>537,457</b>

### 6.2.3. Time Taken to Get Water

This sub-section provides information on time taken to fetch water and come back walking, and it concerns the households which do not have access to water in their yards/dwelling (Piped water into dwelling, piped water into yard and Borehole into yard and rainwater harvesting at home). Time taken to fetch water includes time to fetch water and come back and the waiting time to get water. According to WHO (2003) the measure of access to water is determined by distance travelled to get water 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. For the 2016 PHC, data was collected on time taken to fetch water and come back walking.

Table 6.4 shows that 44.1 percent of the households in all the ecological zones walked between 00-14 minutes to fetch water and come back walking; followed by the households that walked between 15-29 minutes with 26.0 percent, summing up the households spending less than 30 minutes to fetch water and come back to 70.1 percent. Approximately 4.5 percent of the households in all the ecological zones walked between 60-119 minutes, and 2.6 percent walked for more than 120 minutes to fetch water and come back walking; summing up the households spending more than an hour, in all the ecological zones, to fetch water and come back walking to 7.1 percent.

In all the ecological zones; as distance increased the percentage of households that get water, and come back walking decreased.

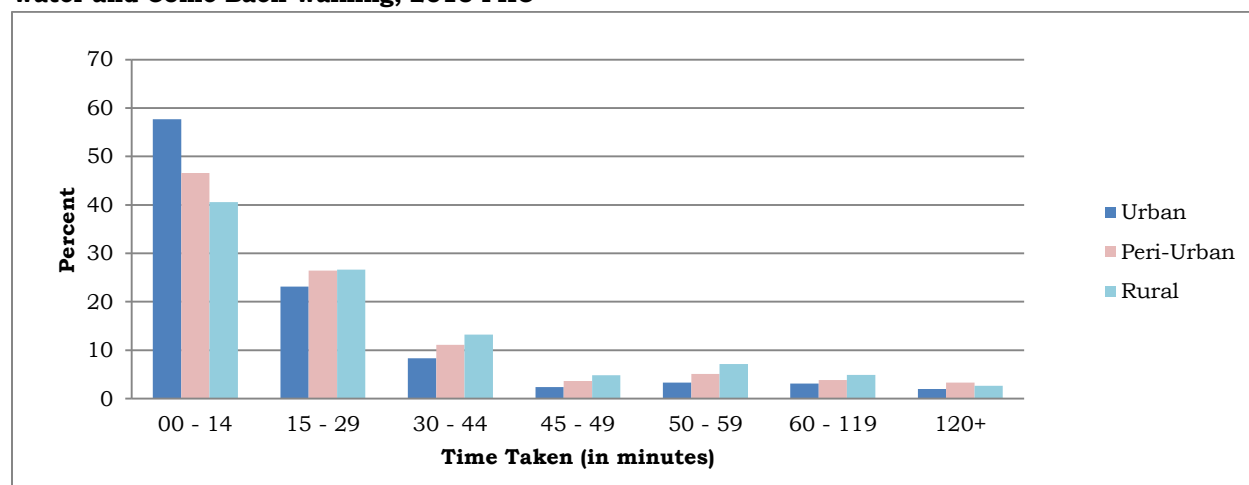
**Table 6.4: Percentage Distribution of Households by Ecological Zones and Time Taken to Get Water and Come Back Walking, 2016 PHC**

Time Taken	Ecological Zones				Total
	Lowlands	Foothills	Mountains	Senqu River Valley	
00 - 14	43.2	42.0	43.5	53.6	<b>44.1</b>
15 - 29	25.1	28.0	27.2	25.0	<b>26.0</b>
30 - 44	12.1	14.0	12.3	9.9	<b>12.2</b>
45 - 49	4.2	4.8	4.8	3.0	<b>4.3</b>
50 - 59	6.7	5.9	6.5	4.2	<b>6.3</b>
60 - 119	5.3	3.6	3.8	2.9	<b>4.5</b>
120+	3.4	1.7	1.9	1.4	<b>2.6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>189,043</b>	<b>45,236</b>	<b>82,996</b>	<b>35,208</b>	<b>352,483</b>

Figure 6.3 portrays percentage distribution of households by time taken to fetch water and come back walking. More urbanized households walked for less time to fetch water and come back walking. As shown in figure 6.3, about 57.7 percent of the households, in urban areas, walked between 00-14 minutes to fetch water and come back walking, and 23.1 percent walked between 15-29 minutes. Only 2.0 percent of the urban households walked for more than 2 hours (120+) to fetch water. The Peri-urban and rural areas walked for more time to fetch water. For instance; about 46.6 percent of the households in peri-urban areas walked between 00-14 minutes to fetch water; while the households in rural areas walked for 00-14 minutes, and constituted 40.6 percent.

In all the settlement types; as the time taken to fetch water increased, the percentage of households getting water and coming back walking decreased. Generally, more urbanized households walked for less time to fetch water as compared to those who resided in peri-urban and rural areas; implying that the water resources are more in urban areas than any other areas.

**Figure 6.3: Percentage Distribution of Households by Settlement Type and Time Taken to Fetch Water and Come Back Walking, 2016 PHC**



### **6.3. Sanitation**

Sanitation generally refers to the provision of facilities and services for the safe disposal of human urine and faeces. It can be understood as interventions that reduce human exposure to diseases by providing a clean environment in which we live (UNICEF, 2015). Inadequate sanitation is a major cause of disease world-wide, and improving sanitation is known to have a significant beneficial impact on health, both in households and across communities.

Adequate sanitation facility (Toilet facility) is a facility that safely separates human waste from human contact. Basic sanitation facility is access to a toilet which is:

- safe
- reliable
- environmentally sound
- easy to keep clean
- provides privacy and protection against the weather
- well ventilated
- keeps smells to a minimum
- prevents the entry and exit of flies and other disease-carrying pests

The word sanitation also refers to the maintenance of hygienic conditions, through services such as garbage collection (solid waste disposal). Solid waste disposal is all the activities and actions required to manage waste from its inception to its final disposal; that is the usual manner of disposal. This includes amongst other things: collection, transport, treatment and disposal of solid waste together with monitoring and regulation.

Waste management (Solid waste disposal types) practices are not uniform among districts, ecological zones and settlement types (urban, peri-urban and rural areas).

Adequate methods of garbage disposal are the ones which are;

- collected by authorized collectors (Municipal)
- collected by self-appointed collectors (communal)
- Refusal dump by self-appointed collectors (communal/Own refusal dump)

While inadequate methods of solid waste disposal are;

- Burning
- Burying
- Dispose into river/sea/creek/pond
- Roadside dumping

#### **6.3.1 Toilet Facilities**

Access to sanitary means of excreta disposal is estimated by the percentage of the population using improved toilet facilities. Most of the households in Lesotho used Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine (VIP) and Unimproved Pit Latrine toilets with 39.6 percent and 31.1 percent respectively. A very small proportion of households reported

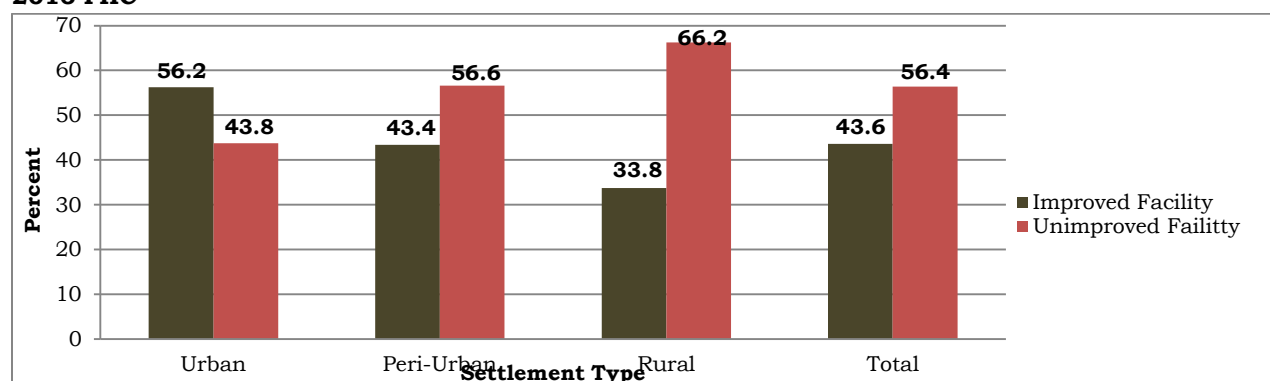
that they were using flushing toilets; whether it was flushing to pipe sewer system (2.5 percent), to septic tank (1.1 percent) or to pit latrine (0.4 percent). About 19.6 percent of the households in the country practiced open defecation (Bush/fields), while 33.5 percent of them resided in rural areas.

**Table 6.5: Number and Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Type of Sanitation and Settlement Type, 2016 PHC**

Main Type of Sanitation	Total	Settlement Type			Total
		Urban	Peri-Urban	Rural	
Flush to piped sewer system	13,433	5.4	3.0	0.2	2.5
Flush to septic tank/Biogas digester	5,808	2.4	0.7	0.1	1.1
Flush to pit latrine	2,317	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.4
Ventilated Improved Pit latrine (VIP)	212,943	47.7	39.2	33.4	39.6
Unimproved Pit latrine	167,402	35.9	39.4	26.1	31.1
Bucket toilet	940	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Public/Neighbour toilet	29,240	4.1	5.8	6.4	5.4
Open Defecation (Bush/field)	105,374	3.5	11.2	33.5	19.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>537,457</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Urban and Peri-urban areas had the majority of households with access to adequate/improved toilets. Approximately 56.4 percent of the households in Lesotho lacked access to improved toilet facilities; while only 43.6 percent had access to improved facilities. In comparison, 56.2 percent of urban households had access to improved toilet facilities, 12.8 percent higher than the households that resided in rural locations, and 21.4 percent higher than those in peri-urban locations. On the other hand, the majority of households that resided in rural areas used unimproved toilet facilities (66.2 percent), while in peri-urban areas, the proportion using unimproved sanitation was 56.6 percent.

**Figure 6.4: Percentage Distribution of Households ('000) by Toilet Facility and Settlement Type, 2016 PHC**



### 6.3.2 Water and Sanitation

As depicted by Table 6.6, most of the households with hygienic sanitation had access to improved drinking water. For example, 73.5 percent of Lesotho households using flush to piped sewer system type of sanitation had access to piped water into dwelling;

while 22.9 percent had access to piped water into yard/ plot. About 58.8 percent of the households reported as using flush to septic tank/Biogas digester type of sanitation, and had access to piped water into dwelling; while 35.9 percent had access to piped water into yard/plot. Most of the households using inadequate type of sanitation had access to improved water sources mainly from public sources, implying that they had to walk some distance to fetch water.

**Table 6.6: Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Type of Sanitation and Sources of Water, 2016 PHC**

Main Source of Drinking Water	Main Type of Sanitation								Total
	Flush to piped sewer system	Flush to septic tank/Biogas digester	Flush to pit latrine	Ventilated Improved Pit latrine (VIP)	Unimproved Pit latrine	Bucket toilet	Public/Neighbour toilet	Open Defecation (Bush/field)	
Piped water into dwelling	73.5	58.8	24.8	5.1	3.4	4.7	1.4	0.0	<b>5.7</b>
Piped water into yard/plot	22.9	35.9	52.8	39.6	31.5	14.3	8.9	1.4	<b>27.5</b>
Piped into someone else's yard/plot	1.3	1.2	6.2	5.7	10.9	8.1	14.5	1.9	<b>6.9</b>
Borehole into yard/plot	1.0	2.3	6.0	1.4	1.2	1.7	0.4	0.1	<b>1.1</b>
Rainwater harvesting at home	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	<b>0.1</b>
Rainwater harvesting, neighbor	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.1	<b>0.2</b>
Public tap/standpipe	0.8	1.1	6.2	32.6	31.4	47.2	45.4	50.8	<b>35.3</b>
Public borehole	0.0	0.1	1.2	4.8	7.7	9.8	10.6	5.9	<b>6.1</b>
Protected spring	0.1	0.1	0.6	4.0	4.5	3.8	5.8	9.6	<b>5.2</b>
Unprotected spring	0.1	0.0	1.6	5.5	7.9	9.6	10.8	27.8	<b>10.7</b>
Surface water	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.9	1.8	<b>0.8</b>
Cart with small tank/drum	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	<b>0.1</b>
Tanker-truck	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	<b>0.2</b>
Other	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>
	<b>13,433</b>		<b>2,317</b>	<b>212,943</b>					
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5,808</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>167,402</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>29,240</b>	<b>105,374</b>	<b>537,457</b>

Table 6.7 presents percentage distribution of households by sanitation facility and source of water. The 2016 PHC results showed that 40.8 percent of the households in Lesotho had access to improved water sources as well as improved sanitation facilities; these are the households considered using safe water sources and hygienic sanitation (improved toilet facilities). Only about 9.6 percent of the households accessed water from unimproved sources and use inadequate/unimproved toilet facilities.

**Table 6.7: Percentage Distribution of Households by Sanitation Facility and Source of water, 2016 PHC**

Sources of Water	Sanitation Facility		Total
	Improved Facilities	Unimproved Facilities	
Improved Water Sources	40.8	47.0	<b>87.7</b>
Unimproved Water Sources	2.7	9.6	<b>12.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**6.3.3. Solid Waste Management (Garbage Disposal)**

The method through which households dispose off their solid waste can pose a risk to the public health and the impact on the environment is a critical point of concern. Its management can reduce adverse effects on health and the environment. Waste management practices are not uniform among settlement types (Urban, Peri-Urban and Rural areas) in Lesotho.

The 2016 census results present the usual manner of collection and disposal of solid waste/garbage by households. The results, according to Table 6.8, revealed that majority of the households in Lesotho disposed their garbage inadequately; half of them (50.1 percent) disposed the household garbage by burning. Burning was the most commonly used method of garbage disposal in Urban and Peri-urban areas with 67.8 percent and 59.1 percent of the households respectively. In Rural areas, most households (55.7 percent) dumped their household garbage (Own refuse dump) followed by households that disposed their garbage by burning with 34.9 percent.

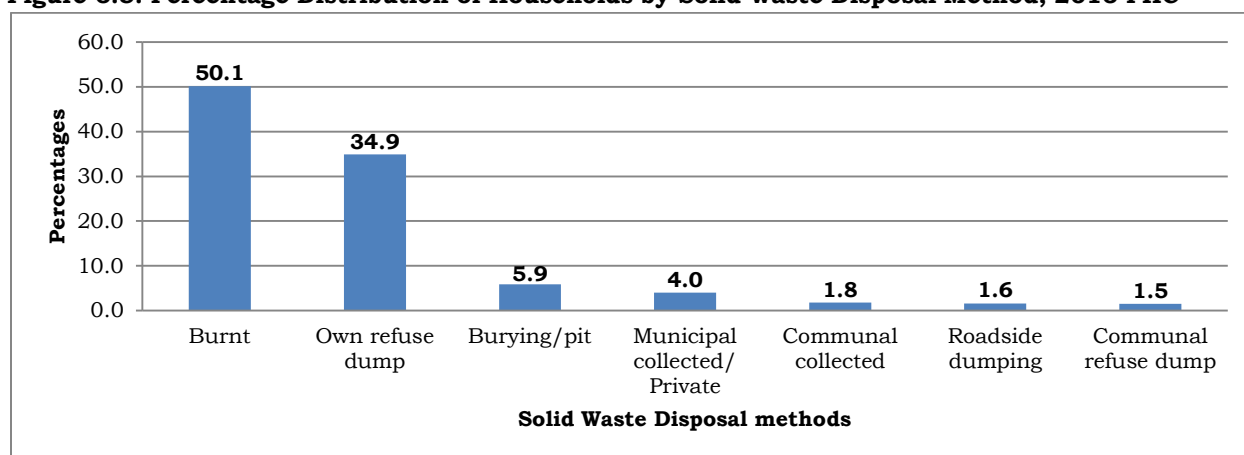
**Table 6.8: Percentage Distribution of Households by Method of Solid Waste Disposal and Settlement Type, 2016 PHC**

Disposal of Rubbish or Refuse	Settlement Type			Total
	Urban	Peri-Urban	Rural	
Municipal collected	9.6	0.8	0.0	<b>4.0</b>
Communal collected	4.2	0.9	0.2	<b>1.8</b>
Communal refuse dump	2.2	1.7	1.0	<b>1.5</b>
Roadside dumping	2.3	1.5	1.1	<b>1.6</b>
Burnt	67.8	59.1	34.9	<b>50.1</b>
Burying/pit	4.0	7.9	7.1	<b>5.9</b>
Own refuse dump	9.7	27.7	55.7	<b>34.9</b>
Other	0.1	0.2	0.1	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>217,034</b>	<b>43,710</b>	<b>276,713</b>	<b>537,457</b>

As depicted by Figure 6.5, burning garbage was the most (50.1 percent) commonly used method of garbage disposal in 2016, followed by own refuse dump method which was practiced by 34.9 percent of the households. The rest of the methods that were used by households to dispose off their garbage constituted less than 10 percent.



**Figure 6.5: Percentage Distribution of Households by Solid Waste Disposal Method, 2016 PHC**



#### **6.4. Summary**

The results of the 2016 PHC indicated that an estimated 88.1 percent of the households had access to improved water sources. Most (75.4 percent) of the households used piped water as their main source of drinking water and only 34.3 percent accessed water from the yard/dwelling. An estimated 53.7 percent of the households had access to improved drinking water source but had to walk some distance. The rural areas lagged behind in relation to the improved sources of drinking water; therefore there is a need for improvement and to provide water services to the affected communities.

The commonly used types of sanitation in Lesotho were Ventilated Improved Pit latrine (VIP) with estimated 39.5 percent of the households that used it, and unimproved pit latrine with 31.2 percent. About 44.0 percent of the households were reported as using adequate sanitation facilities (Toilets), implying that half of the households lagged behind in terms of toilet facilities. About 50.1 percent of the households burned their garbage and 34.9 percent dumped their household garbage (Own Refuse Dump). The households in Lesotho used inadequate methods to dispose their garbage, implying that there was no proper management put in place for disposal. There should be a proper monitoring and regulation of collection, transportation, treatment and disposal of solid waste in order to reduce adverse effects of waste on health and environment.

## **Annex 2.1**

### **TYPES OF HOUSING UNITS**

#### **Rontabole/Mokhorro**

A single storey round building with a pitched thatched, tiled or corrugated iron roof and walls of local materials such as sandstone, rubble or mud brick and render. Floors are normally earth but can also be cement. There is normally no ceiling.

#### **Heisi**

A rectangular building with a thatched roof and walls of sandstone, rubble, mud, sand, cement, brick and render. Internally the heisi is normally finished as for the rontabole and the number of rooms is usually three or less.

#### **Polata**

A rectangular building with a flat corrugated iron roof and walls of concrete blocks, sandstone, rubble, burnt or mud bricks. This type of dwelling may be rendered and decorated externally. The level of internal finish is highly variable from flooring of earth or concrete covered by linoleum or vinyl tiles and ceiling either not installed or of decorated rhino board. It usually has three rooms or less.

#### **Malaene**

A rectangular building normally of concrete blocks or local bricks with corrugated iron roof or tiles which normally comprises single or double rooms for rent to individual household. The standard of internal is highly variable. The definition of habitable rooms in the Malaene accepted that the norm is to combine living, cooking, eating and sleeping arrangements in a single room.

#### **Optaka**

A single storey house of a rectangular, L or T design with a double-pitched roof of corrugated iron sheets or thatch. Walls are normally of sandstone, rubble, brick or concrete blocks. Internal finishes are highly variable. The Optaka is considered to have five or less habitable rooms.

#### **Bungalow/ Mansion**

A single or multiple storey house of variable design with either flat or double-pitched roof of corrugated iron sheets, tiles or thatch. Walls may be of sandstone, first grade brick or rendered and decorated concrete block. The level of internal finishes normally includes cement flooring and rhino board ceiling.

#### **Apartment/Town house**

A single or multi-storey complex of self-contained dwelling units built of modern construction materials such as concrete block or first-grade brick with flat or double-pitched roof of corrugated iron sheets or tiles. These housing units are normally rented out. The factor which distinguishes the apartment/town house units from Malaene is the number of habitable rooms and the level of services.

**Temporary structure/Mok'huk'hu/Park-home**

Informal housing structure commonly built of old and disused roofing materials. They don't normally have defined space and are characterized by inhabitable living conditions. In addition, a park-home is characterized by a very tight and limited room space.

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