
Building Hope, Creating Legacy: The Journey of Kota Area Programme

Remarks by: Mr. James Nkemba Chifwelu | National Director

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, and fellow colleagues,

I am truly honored to stand before you today as the National Director of World Vision International Lesotho to hand over this building to the Police, our partners whom we continue to work together jointly towards child protection and justice for children. Today, I would like to share some key insights about the history, the importance of our work to the community, and our partnerships that have been instrumental in our journey. But let us also take a moment to reflect on the profound impact we have had and the legacy we are leaving behind.

World Vision International Lesotho (WVIL) is a member of World Vision International, a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and their communities to overcome poverty and injustice. At World Vision we are intentional about serving all people, regardless of their religion, race, ethnicity, or gender; and we have been assisting communities all over the world with various interventions spanning across health, education, child protection & safeguarding, water & sanitation, livelihoods, advocacy and justice for the past 35 years.

Background: Kota Area Programme's Journey

Kota Area Programme, is not just a series of projects we have implemented in the area; but it is a testament to the enduring spirit of community development. It was established in 1996, building upon the foundation laid by Community Development Projects (CDPs) initiated in the late 1980s. Think about the lives that have been transformed over these years, the dreams that have been realized, and the hope that has been restored. Originally slated to phase out in 2011, the program's commitment to its mission and the community led to a significant extension of 12 years. This extension allowed us to complete crucial activities that were essential for the wellbeing of the community. It's a testament to our unwavering dedication to the people we serve.

Importance to the Community and Partner Priorities

World Vision recognizes that true development can only occur when communities are at the forefront of their own progress. To this end, forging partnerships with all community-based formations has been a cornerstone of our development approach. It's about empowering people to become the architects of their own future. In collaboration with various partners, we have made significant strides in empowering Kota Communities by imparting organizational skills. Think about the individuals who were once hesitant leaders but are now guiding lights in their communities. Our work has ignited a spark of leadership and empowerment.

World Vision is a global Christian, relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with the most vulnerable children, families and communities to overcome poverty and experience the fullness of life. We help children of all backgrounds, even in the most dangerous places, inspired by our Christian faith.

We firmly believe that partnering is a key driver of sustainability. World Vision has played a significant role in mobilizing other stakeholders in Kota AP to create a child-safe environment. This initiative included raising awareness among all stakeholders on child protection issues, with a special emphasis on orphans and vulnerable children. Think about the smiles we've brought to the faces of these children, the warmth we've added to their lives, and the protection we've provided.

In our quest to ensure that child protection initiatives continue even after our departure, we have identified the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) as a significant partner. It's about ensuring that the safety net we've created remains intact, that no child is left unprotected. Our partnership with LMPS is a lifeline for those who have no one else to turn to.

Kota AP's journey is a testament to the enduring spirit of community development and the power of partnerships. As we move forward, let us continue to build upon these foundations, working hand in hand with our community partners and stakeholders, to create a brighter and more secure future for the children and families we serve. Together, we can ensure that our legacy of positive change endures for generations to come.

So, as we reflect on our journey, let us also remember that the true measure of our success lies not just in numbers or statistics but in the lives we've touched, the dreams we've nurtured, and the hope we've ignited. Let this reflection drive us forward, to continue making a difference, one life at a time.

**Ke ea Leboha
Khotso.Pula.Nala**