LESOTHO

Change lives. **For good.**
actionaid

Lesotho is a small, land-locked country in Africa, which means it's completely surrounded by another country, South Africa. Lesotho's nickname is 'The Kingdom in the Sky' because everyone lives over 4,500 feet above the sea. Some villages can only be reached by aeroplane or on the back of a horse.
Local people in Lesotho called themselves 'Basotho'. The Basotho people have lived in southern Africa for hundreds of years, but the Kingdom of Lesotho was only created in 1966. Music is an important part of Basotho culture, so Lesotho has lots of music events and festivals. Traditional musical instruments include the lekolulo, a type of flute played by boys for herding goats, a harp men play in their mouths called a setolo-tolo and a stringed instrument women play called a thomo.

Capital
Maseru

Major Languages
Sesotho and English

Climate
Dry and humid in summer. Cold and dry in winter. Heavy snowfall is normal at the start and end of winter. Lesotho is at risk of both drought and flooding.

Money
Loti

Population
2,074,000

Population distribution
A quarter of people live in towns and three quarters live in the countryside.

Life expectancy
49 years (men), 50 years (women)

THE BIG ISSUES

Land & Food

70% of food is bought in from other countries because farms in Lesotho are so often damaged by floods.

Education

In 2010 the government of Lesotho announced that all children would go to school for free. Today **3 in 5 children** complete primary school.

Poverty

2 in 5 people live below the poverty line, which means they live on less than $1 a day.

Women's Rights

1 in 4 politicians are women.

ActionAid in Lesotho

ActionAid has been working in Lesotho since 2004, helping people access health care, clean water and education. We work with farmers, teaching them how make the soil better, save water and harvest more food and we help people dig wells and pipe clean water to their homes.

People in the UK sponsor over 1400 children in Lesotho through ActionAid, which helps the children, their families and their communities. For more information on our work in Lesotho visit: **http://po.st/LETUOT**

Sources from left to right. 1. BBC | 2. UNSECO | 3. BBC | 4. UNDP