



# LESOTHO

2,281,000

POPULATION\*

\$2,569

GDP (PPP)\*



4,000

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY\*



59.4/100

VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY\*



\*Global Slavery Index 2023 data. For more information on their findings, visit [GlobalSlaveryIndex.org](https://www.GlobaSlaveryIndex.org)

## TRAFFICKING IN LESOTHO

### INTERNAL

Both sex and labor trafficking occur in Lesotho. Basotho children are often made domestic servants or animal herders. Orphans are especially targeted for sex trafficking within the nation.

### CROSS-BORDER

In South Africa, Basotho men are exploited in the agriculture and mining industries while female migrants are often forced to work in the sex industry. There are anecdotal reports of female victims from Lesotho traveling to South Africa based on false promises of getting jobs; when they arrive, they are drugged and exploited in sex trafficking and as drug mules in international crime syndicates.

### TRAFFICKING ROUTES

Lesotho is surrounded by South Africa on all sides. The borders between the two nations are extremely porous, and individuals often cross the borders in plain sight with children. Lesotho's geographical positioning in relation to South Africa is seen as making it a convenient transit point for trafficking victims and perpetrators from other countries to South Africa.

Sources:

\*Trafficking in Persons Report June 2019. Department of State: United States of America 2019. <https://estimes.com/basotho-top-list-of-trafficking-victims-in-sa/>  
<https://lescj.org/2018/08/03/poverty-blamed-for-lesotho-sa-trafficking/> \*Trafficking in Persons Report June 2019. Department of State: United States of America 2019.



## LJI LESOTHO IMPACT SINCE 2018

532

INTERCEPTS

3

STATIONS

11

STAFF

## OUR TIMELINE

2020

Love Justice begins its work in Lesotho during our COVID-19 Global Relief Effort. Through trusted partners, we find and feed more than 440 individuals facing starvation due to the economic consequences of the pandemic.



2021

The Lesotho team intercepts two individuals in March, their first month of operation. The team is trained and poised to expand our work on the border, as there is tremendous potential to make an impact there!

