



**CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT
IN SOCIAL JUSTICE**
A People-Centered Development

CDSJ INSTITUTIONAL SNAPSHOT

Centre for Development in Social Justice

A Lesotho-based African institution advancing public health, gender justice, human rights, governance, and access to justice

The Centre for Development in Social Justice (CDSJ) is an African development and social justice organisation headquartered in Maseru, Lesotho, with a wider continental outlook. CDSJ was created to advance people-centred, rights-based, and evidence-informed transformation by linking community realities with institutional strengthening, policy engagement, research, and accountability.

Why CDSJ was established

CDSJ emerged in response to a visible gap that widened after the withdrawal of USAID support, when many civil society organisations weakened, downsized, or closed and there was a real risk that hard-won gains at community level would be lost. In that context, CDSJ was built as a practical and values-driven institutional platform to help preserve development gains, strengthen systems, and carry forward justice-centred and African-led responses to complex social challenges. The organisation began informally as a self-funded initiative in April 2025 and was formally registered in April 2026.

At a glance

- **Headquarters:** Maseru, Lesotho
- **Started informally:** April 2025
- **Formally registered:** April 2026
- **Institutional character:** African, people-centred, rights-based, evidence-informed
- **Core approach:** Linking community realities with systems strengthening, policy engagement, research, and accountability

Guiding commitments

Gender equality and social inclusion •
Safeguarding • Community participation •
Human dignity • Evidence-informed
programming • Accountable institutional
practice

CDSJ is being built as a credible African platform for long-term social justice and inclusive development

work.
People-centred. Rights-based. Evidence-informed.



HOW CDSJ WORKS

Integrated pillars, accountable governance, and a clear contact point for partnership.

Six integrated thematic pillars

Public Health

Equitable and resilient health systems, HIV and AIDS, SRHR, infectious diseases, community health, mental health, nutrition, and health systems accountability.

Socio-Economic Empowerment

Livelihoods, resilience, social protection, economic inclusion, and stronger pathways for women, young people, and vulnerable communities.

Governance, Gender, and Human Rights

Accountable governance, inclusive participation, gender justice, rights awareness, democratic culture, and legal and policy reform.

Child Protection and GBV Prevention and Response

Prevention, survivor-centred approaches, community engagement, protection systems strengthening, referrals, and advocacy.

Research, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

Evidence generation, organisational learning, accountability, adaptive practice, and informed action.

Access to Justice, Accountability, and Institutional Strengthening

Legal empowerment, referral systems, community justice pathways, oversight structures, and stronger institutional responsiveness.

Governance architecture

Constitutional Governance Structure

Provides the formal foundation for legitimacy, accountability, and institutional oversight.



Global Strategic Advisory Board

Offers strategic guidance, independent perspective, and high-level institutional support.



Secretariat

Leads day-to-day implementation, operational management, programme delivery, and partnership engagement.

Contact and institutional details

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