



**CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT
— IN SOCIAL JUSTICE —**

A People-Centered Development

WHY INVEST IN CDSJ NOW

Why CDSJ, Why Now

An early opportunity to back a serious African institution
built for justice, systems strengthening, and long-term impact

CDSJ is emerging at a time when Lesotho and the wider region are facing overlapping challenges in public health, gender inequality, weak protection systems, governance exclusion, limited accountability, and restricted access to justice. These challenges are deeply connected, yet they are often approached through fragmented programming that does not sufficiently link community experience with institutional reform. CDSJ was established precisely to respond to this gap through an integrated model that connects public health, socio-economic empowerment, governance and human rights, child protection, gender equality, research, and accountability.

Why the moment matters

There is also a strong timing case for investing in CDSJ now. The organisation was created in the wake of major donor withdrawal that exposed how fragile community gains can become when institutions contract and frontline structures lose support. CDSJ's founding response was not to retreat, but to build a new institution capable of holding on to impact, strengthening systems, and creating a more durable platform for justice-centred development. That origin gives the organisation both practical relevance and moral clarity, while also positioning it to respond to real gaps affecting communities and public systems.

Investment case at a glance

- **Problem:**
Fragmented responses to deeply linked social justice and public systems challenges
- **Timing:**
A moment of institutional contraction has exposed the fragility of community gains
- **Response:**
CDSJ was built to hold on to impact, strengthen systems, and create a durable platform
- **Readiness:**
Clear governance, strategic direction, and a multidisciplinary leadership base
- **Potential:**
Early support can shape a credible local institution with long-term relevance

Why CDSJ is investment-ready

- Organisational profile and formal governance charter already developed
- Long-term strategic direction in place across priority areas
- Governance model combines constitutional oversight, advisory support, and executive management
- Built intentionally as a credible local institution, not a short-term project vehicle

An early investment in CDSJ can do more than fund a single project.

It can help shape a credible local institution built intentionally, governed seriously, and positioned for long-term systems relevance.



WHAT EARLY SUPPORT CAN BUILD

A practical entry point for backing local leadership, institutional strength, and durable social justice impact.

Four reasons CDSJ is a strong early investment

Integrated response

CDSJ links public health, socio-economic empowerment, governance and human rights, child protection, research, and accountability instead of treating them as isolated issues.

Timely institutional response

The organisation was created in response to a moment when donor withdrawal exposed how fragile community gains can become when institutions weaken and frontline structures lose support.

Disciplined foundations from the outset

CDSJ is not beginning as an idea without structure. It already has an organisational profile, a formal Board Governance and Oversight Charter, and long-term strategic direction.

Local leadership with long-term relevance

CDSJ offers a Lesotho-based African platform built for long-term systems relevance, practical partnership, and justice-centred development across communities and institutions.

What support at this stage can enable

Institutional systems

Consolidation of governance systems, operational capacity, safeguarding, finance, and learning architecture.

Pilot programming

Design and launch of focused pilots that connect community realities with institutional strengthening.

Strategic partnerships

Deeper collaboration with foundations, technical partners, intermediaries, and aligned regional actors.

A platform for long-term impact

A stronger local institution capable of contributing to gender justice, public health, governance, and rights over time.

For foundations interested in local leadership, social justice, institutional credibility, and durable change, CDSJ offers an opportunity to invest at the point where strategic support can have outsized value.

Contact and institutional details

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Support at this stage can help strengthen institutional systems, advance pilot programming, support strategic partnerships, and build a platform capable of contributing meaningfully to gender justice, human rights, public health, accountable governance, and inclusive development across Africa.