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REPORTING PERIOD-10 DEC 2024-07 FEBRUARY 2025



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Bacha Re Bacha Youth Forum (BRB) is a Non-profit and Non-Governmental Community Based youth development Organization. BRB is a youth network organization which exists to transform communities through youth capacity building and empowerment in the following thematic areas, i) Youths and democratic governance, ii) Youths and Health and ii) Sustainable Livelihoods. BRB is a registered organization with the Kingdom of Lesotho under the Societies Act of 1966.

EXECUTIVE SAMMARY

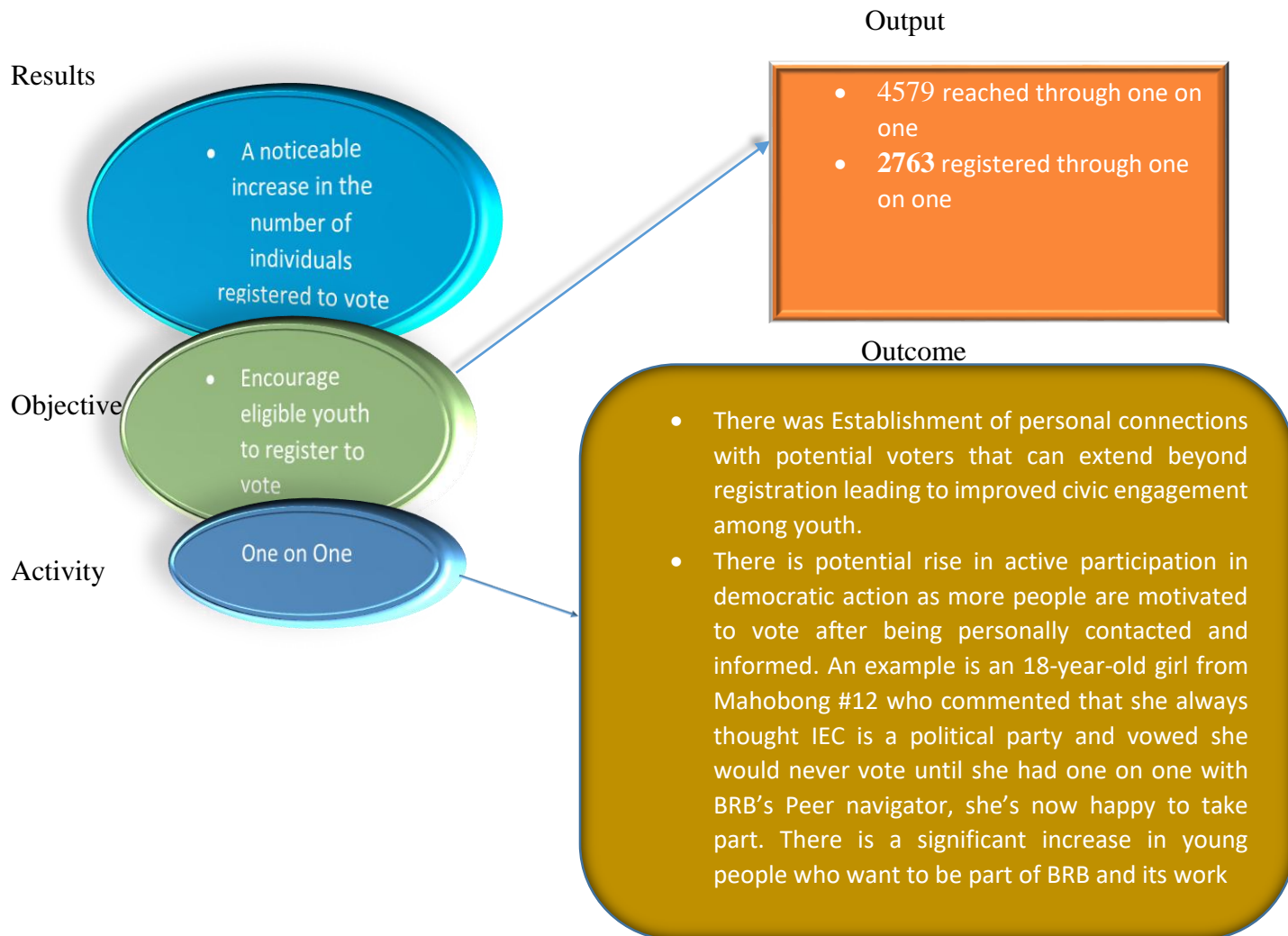
Bojaki is the Youth Voter mobilization project that aims to increase voter registration and civic participation among young people. Recognizing the critical role of youth in shaping the future of governance, this initiative engages, educate and empower young voters through strategic outreach, digital campaigns and Community events. Our approach includes One on One, small groups, Bonanza's, Social media campaigns and radio and television sessions. By combining grassroots efforts with digital outreach, Bacha Re Bacha aims to register thousands of young voters, foster a culture of civic responsibility, and ensure that youth voices are represented in the democratic processes. The project key goal is to register more than **10 000** youth voters within the four months of project implementation period. The project seeks to bridge the gap between youth and governance ensuring young people are active participants in shaping policies and leadership in Lesotho.

DEFINING A PROBLEM

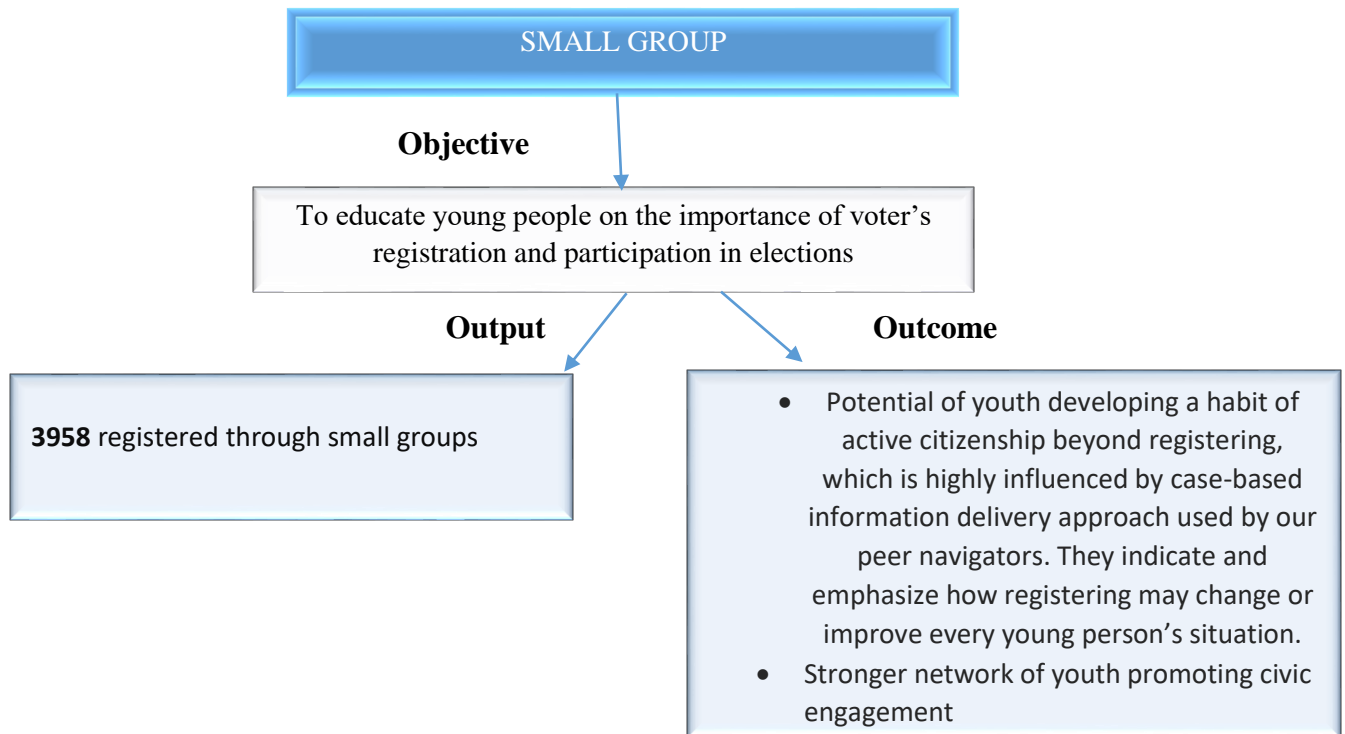
In Lesotho's 2022 National Assembly elections, the overall voter turnout was recorded at 37% according to Electoral Institute of Sustainable Democracy in Africa. Which automatically suggests low voter turnout among youth as majority citizens. This could be a result of a number of issues including the fact that many young people feel disconnected from politics and ultimately believing their votes would not make any difference. Other young people genuinely lack knowledge about electoral process, registration deadlines and the impact of their votes. There is also a lot of myths and misinformation about elections, which greatly discourage youth to vote and participate in democratic processes. Lastly there is definitely limited civic education on civic duties which make young people less prepared to engage in elections. Bojaki is therefore an initiative designed to address all these challenges and barriers, sustainably increasing voter registration, participation and political engagement among young people.

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

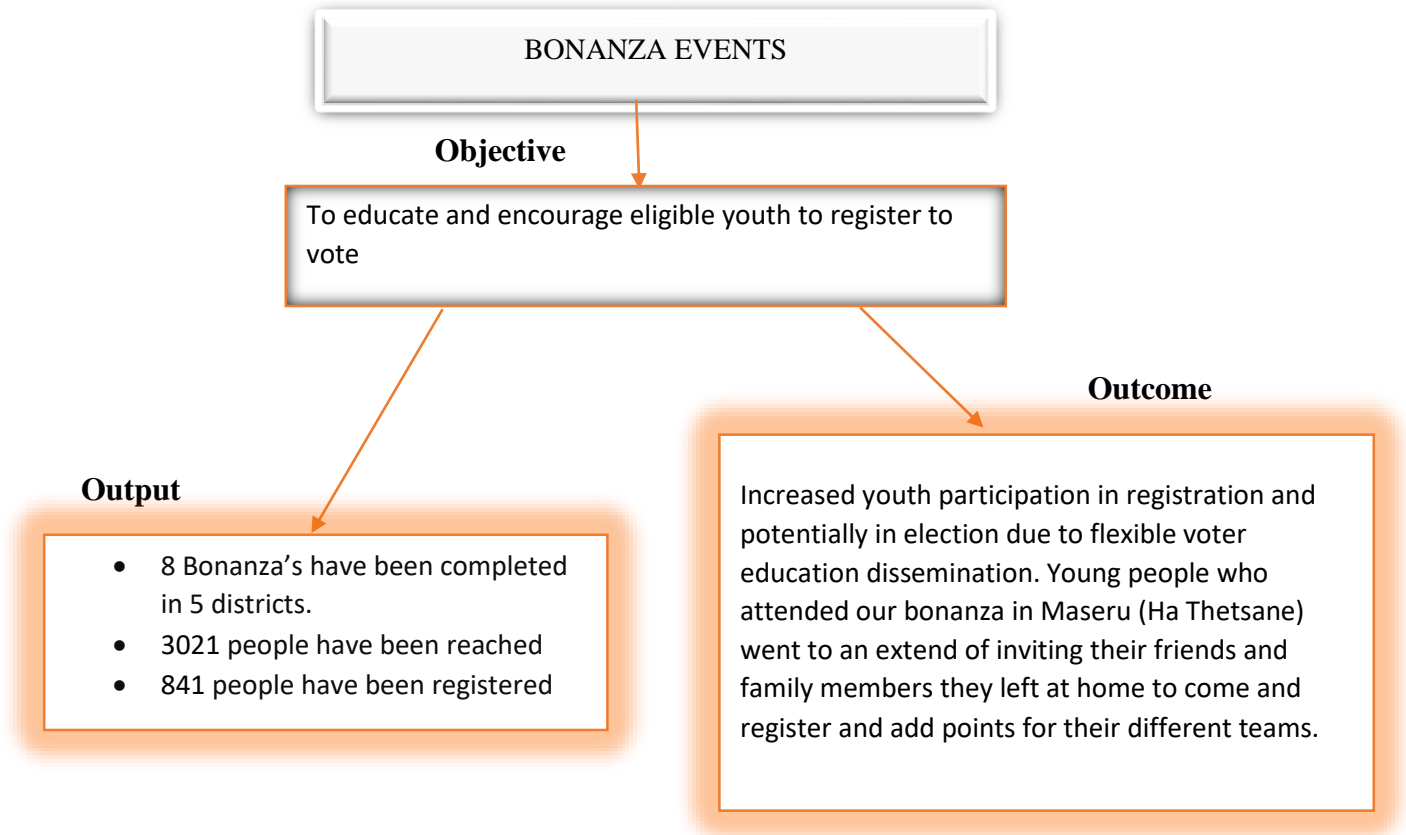
- a. **Training-**Eighteen Peer Navigators across the five districts attended a two days training with the aim to equip them with fundamental skills, knowledge and strategies to mobilize youth for voter registrations. The goal was to increase youth participation in elections by ensuring they understand the importance of registering and the process itself. The European Union (Head of EU Delegation to Lesotho) and IEC officials graced the event with their presence, as a result the training became a great success. Peer navigators were thereafter given a platform to showcase their understanding of the project by giving out presentations on what they have learned.
- b. **Stakeholder Consultations-** Four stakeholder consultations meeting have been held in four districts being Leribe, Butha-Buthe, Berea and Mokhotlong. The objective of stakeholder consultation meeting is to ensure the involvement and support of key partners who can influence and facilitate youth voter registrations. It assisted in engaging relevant stakeholders who helped develop a collaborative strategy for successful project implementation. Officials from National Identity and Civic Registry(NICR), Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), IEC, Passport office, Community councils, Chieftainship and District Administration were identified as the key stakeholders who were invited for the meetings. They are therefore all uniquely, contributing to achieving project goals.
- c. **One on One-** A series of one-on-one sessions were held over a period of two months at local communities and outreach locations. Each session lasted approximately 10-15 minutes. Peer navigator facilitated educational discussions with youth on one-on-one bases with the aim to encourage them to register with IEC. They addressed questions and cleared confusion on registration process to individual youth voters targeted in different communities. The activity has thus far (2 months) reached 4579 youth in 5 five district and youth **2763** have therefore registered with IEC.



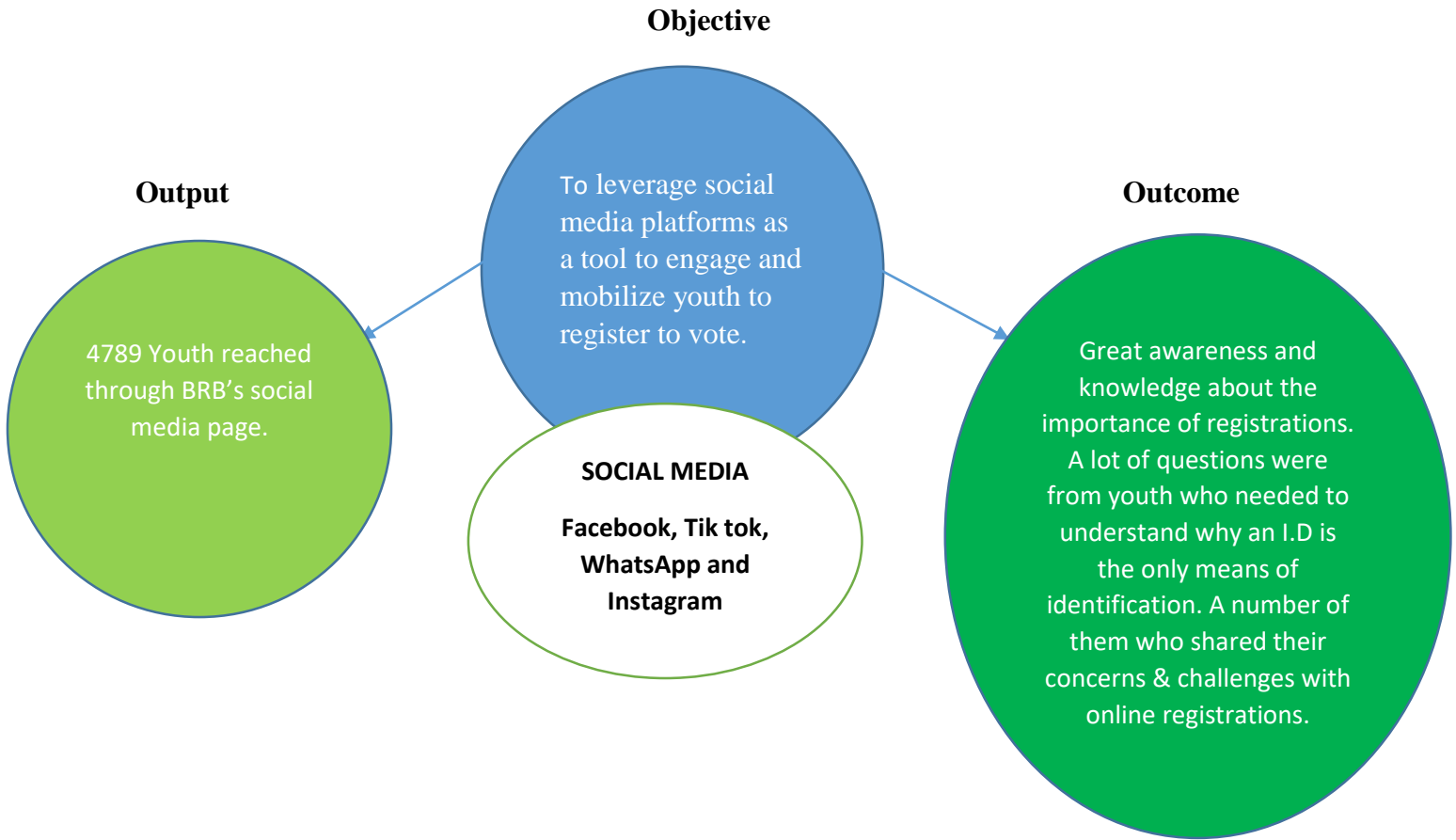
d. Small Groups-A well trained group of peer navigators facilitated educational group discussions on voter's education, as well as encouraging youth to register to vote with IEC. These were both existing and newly initiated groups in different constituencies of the five districts. The main objective of small groups is to educate youth on the importance of voter registration and participation in elections. This activity is thus far the most effective because many myths around re- registration process were cleared and a number of questions were addressed. As result more young people were reached and registered through small groups. It is a unique platform for snow-ball effect of our civic education at community level. The diagram below summarizes the activity and the progress.



- e. **Bonanza-** A series of engaging and interactive crowd pulling events were held in the five districts where Bacha Re Bacha is currently implementing. Peer Navigators and IEC registering officers work hand in hand to mobilize and register young people during the events. The events are designed to create excitement around voter registration. These events include live performances, games, discussions, and mostly soccer tournaments. They are tailored to reach young people through a fun and community-driven approach. Eight (8) Bonanza events have been held and thus far reached 3021 young people in the five districts and **841** of them registered with IEC.

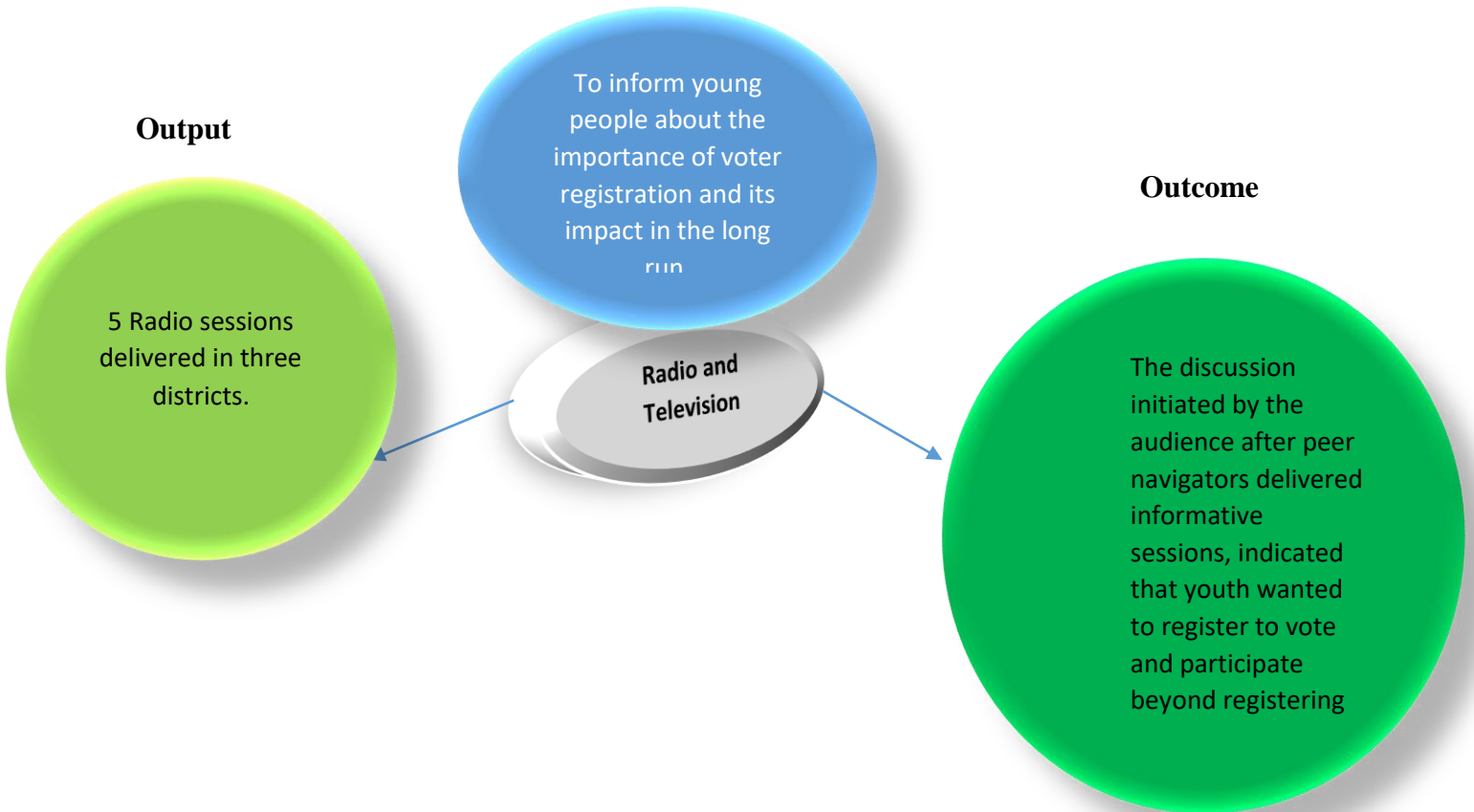


f. Social Media- The primary objective of this campaigns is to leverage social media platforms as a tool to engage and mobilize youth to register to vote, fostering greater political participation among the younger demographic. The focus is on raising awareness about the importance of voting and providing accessible information on how to register. Social media is the most convenient way to reach young people. BRB's peer navigators created their own posts using relatable trending hashtags on their personal platforms and tag the main organization's page, Informative posts are also created on BRB's page to allow for direct engagements, social media challenges and sponsored posts are also key in ensuring more reach. We have therefore reached 4789 Individuals through the Bacha re Bacha page only.



g. T.V/Radio Session- Five (5) Radio sessions have been administered in three districts, being Maseru, Leribe and Butha-Buthe. The objective is to inform young people about the importance of voter registration and its impact in the long run. The sessions have however not only benefitted our target audience. Older people also engaged in our on air discussions. The power of radio platforms was felt through the powerful questions from the audience and their willingness to register. The diagram below summarizes the activity.

Objectives



Key Monitoring Indicators

The table below demonstrates key performance indicator targets against current cumulative achievements.

a.

Indicator	Target	Baseline	Remarks
1. Number of people reached	10 000	14 750	Exceeded
2. Number of people who	5 000	7 460	Exceeded

applied for Registrations			
3. Number of people who did not register	3 000	7 290	Not reached

NB 1431 (20% of people did not register) were recorded to not have identity documents which are the primary requirement to get eligible youth to register.

b. **Below is the presentation of output for every key activity against targets.**

The targets set were for the four months of project life. While the cumulative achievement only recorded a two months' project progress.

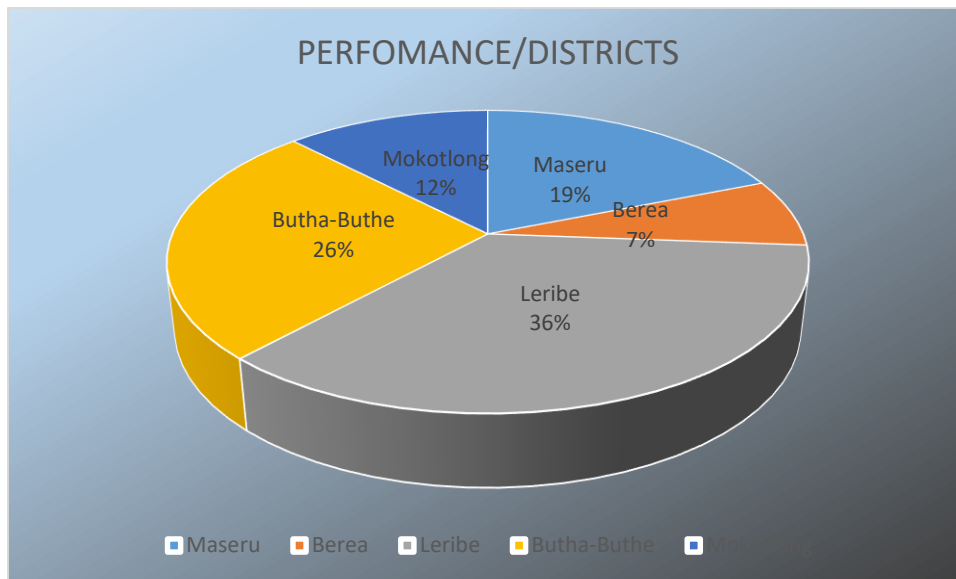
Activities	Outputs	cumulative achievement (baseline)	Targets
1. Training	# of people who attended trainings	22	22
2. Stakeholder Consultation Meeting	# of Stakeholder consultations held	4	5
3. Bonanza	# of Bonanzas held	8	25
4. One-on-One	# of people who applied for registration through One on One mobilization	2763	3333
5. Small Groups	# of people who applied for registration through Small groups mobilization.	3958	3333
6. Radio/TV	# of TV/ Radio sessions held	5	10
7. Social Media	#of people who engaged through Social Media	4789	10000

Below is the visual presentation of the above data in a bar chart



PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS PER DISTRICTS

In the two months of reporting period, Leribe is the leading district in terms of number of people reached and who applied for registration. A number of strategies were put in place by peer navigators working in Leribe which include among others targeting places in town that seemed to be over populated during the day, one of them being Passport office, National Identity and Civil Registration offices, Money markets etc. It goes without a doubt that Maseru is not performing as it should, as one of the most highly populated districts, one of the reason is the struggle to put together a stakeholder consultation meeting since the District Administrator could not assist in putting it together, however, Bacha Re Bacha is planning to organize one regardless.



CHALLENGES

- 20% of people who did not register, do not have Identity documents. This therefore suggests that lack of I. Ds pose as barrier to young people registering with IEC.
- IEC MROUs only want to stay in one place where their Gazebos are situated specifically those of Maseru Central and stadium area
- Voter's Distrust-People feel disengaged with political processes due to dissatisfaction of government or the believe that their participation does not make a difference.
- Voters misinform our teams and say they have already registered with IEC to avoid talking to peer educators.
- Incompatible working schedule between the BRB's Peer Navigators and IEC MROU.
- Reaching voters in rural areas with no infrastructure was also a challenge for peer Educators
- Politicizing of the process by some significant people



MITIGATION ACTIONS

- Conduct short educational sessions to highlight the importance of re-registering with IEC and participating in civic engagement activities.
- Meeting IEC district officers during the inception to discuss schedules and align them to the BRB's
- Partner with MROUs for registrations after mobilizations, this also mitigated the transportation challenges to reach inaccessible areas.
- Peer navigators showed transparency and build trust by explaining clearly how the processes is going to benefit the interest of voters.
- Peer Navigators probed voters who refused to re-register with an excuse that they have already registered.

CONCLUSION

The project has made significant strides in increasing voter registrations among young people. Through targeted outreach, community engagement, and digital campaigns, we have successfully raised awareness about the importance of civic participation. The project's impact is evident in the increasing number of registered youth voters, demonstrating a growing commitment to active citizenship. While significant progress has been made, challenges such as misinformation, voter apathy and logistical barriers remain. Moving forward, strengthening partnerships and expanding outreach will be crucial and in sustaining momentum. By building on these successes, we can ensure that more young people are not only registered but also motivated to participate in future elections, strengthening democratic processes and youth representation in governance.