



Eswatini Gender Policy and Strategy on Ending Violence

UNCT Bimonthly Strategic and Policy Issues: Series #2

Hosted by: UNFPA



UNITED NATIONS
ESWATINI



Gender equality has been identified as a key accelerator for achieving the 2030 development agenda including sustainable development goals (SDGs). The 2030 Agenda has a dedicated goal of achieving Gender Equality and Empower all women – SDG 5). In this region, gender-based violence remains a barrier towards the achievement of this gender equality goal despite the existence of policies and good strategies.

Against this background, the UNCT organized a bimonthly meeting through its Gender Theme Group (GTG) for an engagement of UNCT and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office on the revised National Gender Policy (2023) and the National Strategy to End Violence and to leverage on UN's comparative advantage to contribute to the implementation of these national strategic documents.

The purpose of the meeting, hosted by UNFPA and led by the Department of Gender and Family Issues from Deputy Prime Minister's Office were:

1.

To share with UNCT, the revised National Gender Policy (2023) and the National Strategy on Ending Violence (2023-2027).

2.

Explore ways to mainstream the National Gender Policy and Strategy to End Violence in national planning processes and in UN Agencies Programmes/Cooperation strategies.

Summary of the discussions and take aways

1

The revised gender policy has twelve pillars which outlines the country 's vision for gender equality and is designed to provide guidance for stakeholders and institutions at all levels, on how to advance gender equality and equity and mainstream gender across all sectors. It emphasizes issues of economic empowerment and provides an institutional framework that partners can work on, including gender responsive budgeting which is a critical element in ensuring gender mainstreaming.

2

The revised strategy on ending violence is costed and has the following additional pillars:

- o Peace and security for preparedness prompted by the 2021 civil unrest. The country will also domesticate resolution 1325.
- o Gender responsive budgeting: an area that requires capacity development for key stakeholders including the government.
- o Information, Communication and Arts.
- o Environment and natural resources including climate change to cater for the drought and floods that the country has been facing. This also aims at engagement of women in the energy sector.

3

Gender based violence is lethal thus it should be addressed aggressively. Eswatini should aim to have an ambitious target of eliminating GBV by 2030 instead of the current target of reducing GBV by half by 2030.

4

The Gender Programme is developing a training module to build the capacities of more women on leadership across the country as a platform for promoting more women into leadership positions.

5

A gender mainstreaming framework or guidance note is being developed to inform implementation of the National Gender Policy and Strategy on Ending Violence including on Gender Responsive Budgeting.

6

A study on cross border trade by women is also recommended and or in the pipeline.

7

Efforts are underway to build specific partnerships for women's engagement in the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

- 1** GBV remains a priority and an accelerator for attainment of gender equality. Hence an aggressive and comprehensive resource mobilization drive for the Gender Policy and National Strategy on Ending Violence implementation should be undertaken led by DPMO.
- 2** A framework for rolling out the policy and strategy for ending violence with clear indicators must be prioritized (immediate, midterm and long-term) for the period 2024-2030 and integrated into all programmes in the country as a matter of urgency to facilitate implementation and tracking of results.
- 3** As part of translating the policy and strategy into implementation, the pillars of the national Policy and strategy for ending violence must be linked to the NDP implementation and development partners' programme outcomes. This will ensure proper reporting and accountability at the highest level.
- 4** Coordination of the GBV and gender programmes need to be prioritized. The Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DGFI) is advised to either strengthen existing coordination structures for GEWE or establish one which will be responsible for ensuring implementation and reporting on all matters of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. This will also strategically position the unit.
- 5** With the traction on GBV in the country now, it is important to declare Gender Based Violence as a national Disaster. This will help free up the needed resources to implement gender programmes across the country.



UNITED NATIONS
ESWATINI



www.eswatini.un.org