

# Strengthening disability inclusion in the Kingdom of Eswatini's UNSDCF processes: Building Synergies between UN Mechanisms and the National Disability Plan of Action (2024-2028)

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UNCT Bimonthly Strategic and Policy Issues Meeting: Series #3

Hosted by: UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa



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# Key Findings

UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) hosted the Eswatini United Nations Country Team (UNCT) bimonthly strategic and policy issues session on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2024. The dialogue was centered on sensitizing the UNCT on the new National Disability Plan of Action [(NDPA)(2024-2028)] and creating possible synergies with the Eswatini Government. Further, the interactions were geared at build bridges between this new national disability framework and the current and the future UNSDCF and Common Country Assessment processes for the benefit of persons with disabilities.

Main highlights from the dialogue:

- The Deputy Prime Minister's Office, with funding support from UNESCO ROSA, through the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNPRPD) MPTF, developed the next 5-year National Disability Plan of Action (2024-2028).
- The National Disability Plan of Action provides was developed through a multistakeholder consultative process involving the Government, UN and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities.
- The Action Plan serves as a guiding framework for stakeholders to advance the implementation of the Disability Act of 2018 and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) ratified by the Government of Eswatini in 2012.
- Persons with disabilities in Eswatini, just like many other countries globally, continue to face bottlenecks/barriers in accessing

disability inclusive systems, programmes, services, or access to decision making platforms.

While the development of a disability inclusive framework showcases the Government's commitment to advancing disability rights, the UNCT is urged to adequately support its implementation through systematic integration of the priority disability inclusion interventions into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework mechanisms for the fulfilment of rights of all persons with disabilities.

The next 5-year National Disability Plan of Action builds on the gains of the previous NDPA and prioritizes the following 10 thematic areas that now need to be integrated in to the UNSDCF processes:

Thematic Area 1: National Coordination and Mainstreaming for Disability

Thematic Area 2: Advocacy and Awareness Raising

Thematic Area 3: Education and Training

Thematic Area 4: Health and Wellbeing

Thematic Area 5: Skills Development and the Open Labour Market

Thematic Area 6: Social Protection

Thematic Area 7: Gender Equality and Under-represented groups (cross cutting)

Thematic Area 8: Emergency situations, humanitarian action and Food Security

Thematic Area 9: Sports and Culture

Thematic Area 10: Infrastructure and the Environment

# Recommendations

Key recommendations made include the following:

## UN System:

1. Promote awareness raising of the UNDIS to UNCT staff for increased understanding and knowledge on disability inclusion within the UN systems leadership, programming and operations framework.
2. With leadership from the RCO, UNCT and UNSDCF Results Groups to systematically review the identified National Disability Inclusion Priorities and integrate them into current planning, implementation and reporting processes (UNSDCF Annual Reports to be checked on level of disability inclusion)
3. UN to support the Government of Eswatini's efforts to mobilize technical and financial resources to advance implementation of the National Disability Plan of Action in a coordinated manner.
4. UN to facilitate and support the meaningful engagement of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in CCA, UNSDCF and key national dialogue processes for strengthened disability inclusion.

## Government

1. Support costing of the National Disability Plan of Action and advocacy for optimal budget allocation in national fiscus.
2. DPMO to ensure that the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Mainstreaming Disability-Inclusion in Eswatini meets regularly (post the UNPRPD Round 4 project) for increased accountability and coordination of the NDPA implementation)
3. DPMO to support participation of persons with disabilities in Government and UN led processes to dialogue on UNSDCF processes.

## Conclusion

The successful implementation of the next 5-year National Disability Plan of Action and the above recommendations will rely on the UNCTs commitment to the implementation of the UN Disability inclusion Strategy. . As noted above, the UNDIS enables the UNCT to effectively support the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and any National Disability Inclusion Frameworks.

# Annex 1

	UNSDCF 2021-2025	National Disability Plan of Action (2024-2025) Priority AREAS	Specific Actions from NDPA	UN ENTITY examples
PRIORITY AREA 1: PROSPERITY	<b>Outcome 1: Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth</b>			
	<b>Output 1.1:</b> Development of policy, regulatory and incentive frameworks for an enabling environment for business supported	Thematic Area 5: Skills Development and the Open Labour Market  Thematic Area 7: Gender Equality and Under-represented groups (cross cutting)	Strengthen engagement of persons with disabilities in skills & labour market development, Supporting small-scale food producers with disabilities	ILO, WFP
	<b>Output 1.2:</b> Institutions and capacities for delivery of effective and responsive social protection systems strengthened	<b>NDPA Thematic Area 1: Priority interventions for National Coordination and mainstreaming for Disability</b>  Thematic Area 6: Social Protection  Thematic Area 7: Gender Equality and Under-represented groups (cross cutting)	<b>e.g.</b> 2.1 Strengthen Coordination of government Ministries on Mainstreaming, Development of MIS coordination, Support engagement of recently launched Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Mainstreaming and Coordination of Disability Issues chaired by DPMO.	UNESCO, & UNICEF, UNFPA
	<b>Output 1.3:</b> Economic data, including labour market statistics, and information systems and reporting on SDG Global Indicator Framework, strengthened.			
PRIORITY AREA 2: PEOPLE	<b>Outcome 2: Investing in Human Resources and Social Development</b>			
	<b>Output 2.1:</b> Institutional capacities to develop, costed policies and plans in health sector. strengthened	Thematic Area 1: National Coordination and Mainstreaming for Disability Thematic Area 2: Advocacy and Awareness Raising	Review of policy frameworks for disability inclusion, strengthen engagement of persons with disabilities in sports and physical education initiatives	WHO, WFP, UNFPA, UNESCO

		Thematic Area 9 Inclusive Sports, Culture & Recreation Activities		
	<b>Output 2.2:</b> Communities empowered to demand. quality and relevant health, nutrition, HIV and NCDs care	Thematic Area 3: Education and Training Thematic Area 4: Health and Wellbeing  Thematic Area 7: Gender Equality and Under-represented groups (cross cutting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve sign language in health facilities.</li> <li>• Hiring of sign language interpreters.</li> <li>• Ensure free health services for all in line with the National Health Policy</li> <li>• Provide services for persons with disabilities in national referral hospitals.</li> <li>• Training and deployment of health professionals with special skills (including sign language) to care for persons with disabilities.</li> <li>• Training of health care workers on issues pertaining to disabilities</li> <li>• Introduce pre-service curriculum issues of disability, Strengthen disability inclusion in education health &amp; well-being and SRHR initiatives.</li> </ul>	UNICEF, UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNFPA
	<b>Output 2.3:</b> Quality teaching and learning is improved and made. accessible including through diversified remote and web-based learning platforms at all levels	Thematic Area 3: Inclusive Education and Training	<b>Strengthen Inclusive Education and Training in line with CRPD Article 24</b> of the CRPD which obligates State Parties to ensure that persons with disabilities can access inclusive education and lifelong learning.	WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO

	<p><b>Output 2.4:</b> Policy and legislative environment is strengthened to provide multisectoral, coordination and financing for quality education &amp; health services at all levels</p>	<p>Thematic Area 3: Education and Training</p> <p>Thematic Area 4: Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Thematic Area 7: Gender Equality and Under-represented groups (cross cutting)</p>	<p>Review the existing Early Identification and Intervention (EI) Strategy for Children with Disabilities</p>	<p>WHO,UNAIDS,UNESCO</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3: Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights</b></p>				
	<p><b>Output 3.1</b></p> <p>The capacity of civil society organizations, oversight bodies and government at national and regional levels is strengthened for good governance and human rights.</p>	<p>Thematic Area 1: National Coordination and Mainstreaming for Disability</p> <p>Thematic Area 2: Advocacy and Awareness Raising</p> <p>Thematic Area 7: Gender Equality and Under-represented groups (cross cutting)</p>		<p>UNDP,UNICEF,UNWomen</p>
	<p><b>Output 3.2</b> The capacity particularly women, children and other vulnerable groups, to participate in decision making. processes, claim their rights, access. justice and seek redress is strengthened</p>	<p>Thematic Area 2: Advocacy and Awareness Raising</p> <p>Thematic Area 7: Gender Equality and Under-represented groups (cross cutting)</p>	<p>Raise awareness on disability inclusion as a human rights and development issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disseminate the disability policy, legislation, and National Plan of Action in accessible formats to public entities, NGOs, CSOs, Private Sector and FBOs. Health Centers, and other public facilities.</li> <li>Translate all key documents in the public domain into accessible formats.</li> <li>Activate media campaigns on disability rights.</li> <li>Support OPDs to advocate for the rights of</li> </ul>	<p>UNDP,UNICEF</p>

			persons with disabilities. Commemorate international days	
	<b>Output 3.3</b> Strengthened multi-sectoral capacity to prevent and respond to violence and discrimination against women, girls, boys and other vulnerable groups.	Thematic Area 7: Gender Equality and Under-represented groups (cross cutting)	Strengthen responses to GBV towards women, children & elderly with disabilities and vulnerable groups	UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNICEF , UNESCO
	<b>Output 3.4</b> The use of digital solutions to improve public services, transparency, accountability and other government functions in implementing the SDGs and eradicating corruption is increased.		Awareness Raising AND Meaningful engagement of OPDs	UNEP,WFP,UNICEF
<b>PRIORITY AREA 3: PLANET</b>	<b>Outcome 4: Strengthening natural resource management, climate resilience and environmental sustainability</b>			
	<b>Output 4.1:</b> Capacity of institutions to design and implement effective policies, strategies, and legal frameworks are strengthened, leading to improved access to and use of clean, reliable, and affordable energy for all		Awareness Raising AND Meaningful engagement of OPDs	UNEP,WFP,UNICEF
	<b>Output 4.2:</b> Capacity of institutions to manage water resources efficiently and to provide equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all citizens	Thematic Area 2: Advocacy and Awareness Raising	Review Disaster Risk and Management for disability inclusion, Promote participation of OPDs in decision making and implementation of water resources and Environment management	UNEP,WFP,UNICEF
	<b>Output 4.3:</b> National and sub-national institutions capacities to sustainably manage natural resources justly and benefit the most vulnerable and marginalized communities strengthened	Thematic Area 2: Advocacy and Awareness Raising  Thematic Area 8: Emergency situations, humanitarian action and Food Security  Thematic Area 10: Infrastructure and the Environment	Promote participation of OPDs in decision making and implementation	UNEP,WFP,UNICEF, UNESCO

	<b>Output 4.4:</b> Capacity of extension services, development actors and communities to implement climate smart agriculture interventions that promote household food and nutrition security strengthened	Thematic Area 2: Advocacy and Awareness Raising  Thematic Area 8: Emergency situations, humanitarian action and Food Security  Thematic Area 10: Infrastructure and the Environment		UNEP,WFP,UNICEF
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