



UNITED NATIONS  
ESWATINI



*“A prosperous, just and resilient Eswatini  
where no one is left behind”*

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
COOPERATION FRAMEWORK (UNSDCF)

2021-2025







# ACRONYMS

AFCFTA	Africa Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	Africa Development Bank
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CANGO	Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organizations
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CPD	Country Programme Document
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DaO	Delivering as One
DCO	Development Coordination Office
DP	Development Partner
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FF	Funding Framework
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Fund
GoE	Government of Eswatini
GNI	Gross National Income
GTG	Gender Theme Group
HDR	Human Development Report
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HoA	Head of Agency
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
J-NSC	Joint National Steering Committee
JP	Joint Programme
JWP	Joint Workplan
LMIC	Lower Middle-Income Country
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEPD	Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
MNH	Maternal and Neonatal Health
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution

NDP	National Development Plan
NDS	National Development Strategy
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NSC	National Steering Committee
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMT	Operations Management Team
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PPSG	Policy and Programmes Support Group
PSG	Peer Support Group
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
RG	Results Group
RMNCAH	Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
RRF	Results and Resources Framework
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TBC	To Be Confirmed
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCG	United Nations Communications Group
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDS	United Nations Development System
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNPT	United Nations Partnership Task Tea
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UPR	Universal Peer Review
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization



<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Chapter 1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Chapter 2. UN Development System Support to the 2030 Agenda .....</b>	<b>16</b>
2.1 Theory of Change .....	16
2.2 Strategic Priorities .....	18
2.3 Intended Development Results .....	20
2.4 Outcomes and Partnerships .....	22
2.5 Sustainability.....	46
2.6 Synergies .....	47
2.7 UN Development System Comparative Advantage .....	48
<b>Chapter 3. Cooperation Framework Implementation Plan .....</b>	<b>50</b>
3.1 Implementation Strategy and Strategic Partnerships .....	50
3.2 Governance .....	52
3.3 Resource Mobilization .....	55
<b>Chapter 4. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan .....</b>	<b>56</b>
4.1 Overview.....	56
4.2 Evaluation Plan .....	59
<b>Annexes .....</b>	<b>60</b>
1 Eswatini SDG Progress .....	64
2 Vulnerability Assessment of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Eswatini .....	60
3 UNSDCF Monitoring and Evaluation Calendar .....	66
4 UNSDCF Results and Resources Framework .....	70
5 Joint National Steering Committee Terms of Reference .....	86
6 UN Country Team .....	87
7 Policy and Programmes Support Group Terms of Reference .....	88
8 Results Groups Terms of Reference .....	90
9 Operations Management Team Terms of Reference .....	91
10 UN Communications Group Terms of Reference.....	92
11 Gender Theme Group Terms of Reference .....	94
12 Eswatini Network on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Terms of Reference .....	96
13 Legal Annex .....	98





This United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) articulates the collective vision of the UN Development System (UNDS) in Eswatini for 2021-2025. This is Eswatini's first UNSDCF, and it has been prepared in the context of a system-wide response to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Eswatini in March 2020 has further exacerbated pre-existing socio-economic inequalities; it thus poses a threat not only to economic growth – at the local, regional and international levels - but also to the realization of the 2030 Agenda pledge to leave no one behind (LNOB).

Responding effectively to this unprecedented crisis and building back better will require continued partnerships and shared intent between the United Nations, the Government of Eswatini, development partners, the academia, the private sector, civil society and other key stakeholders, as well as between UN agencies. The UNSDCF provides a platform for these partnerships and a framework through which recovery and development can be realized.

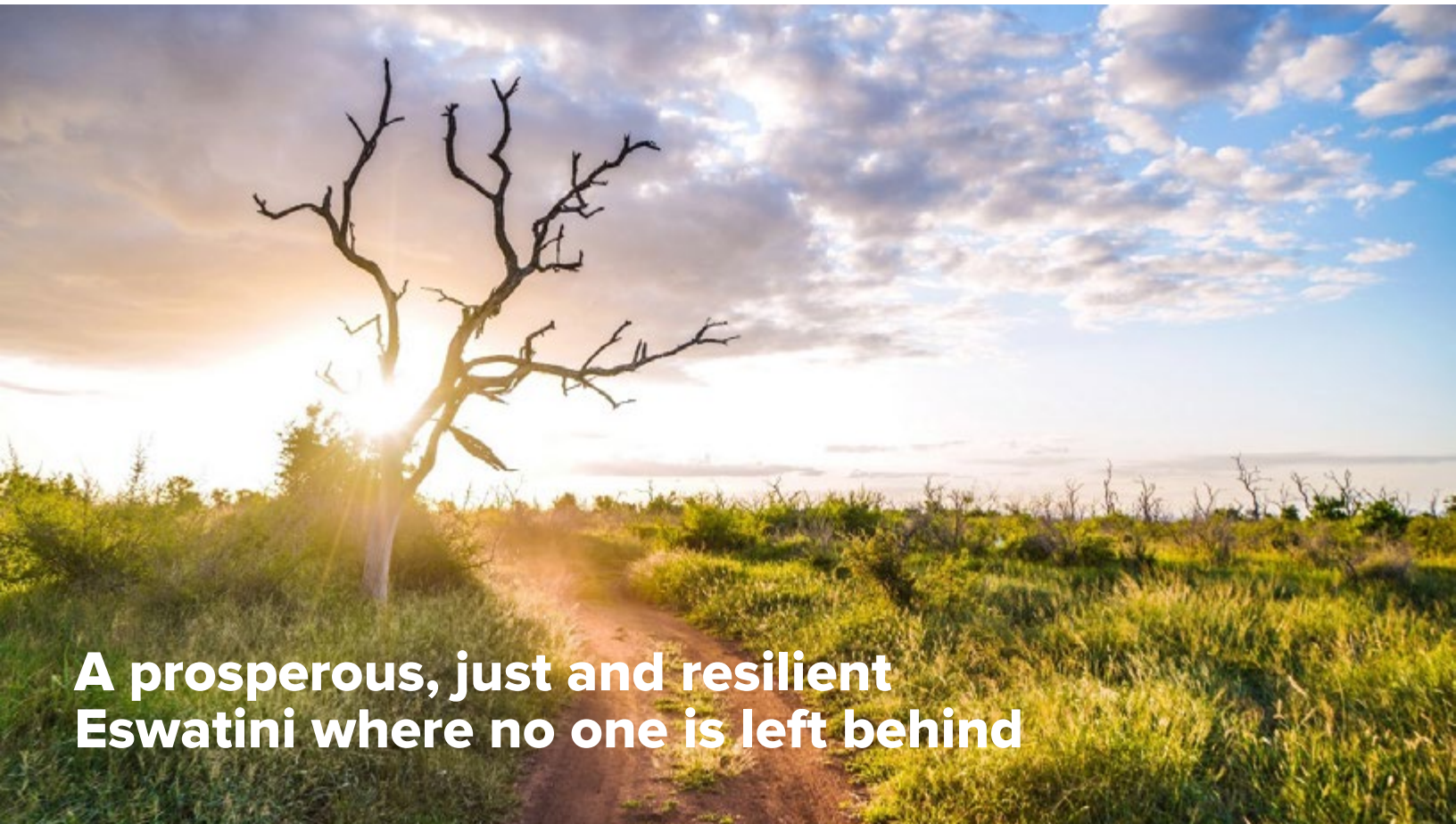
Eswatini UNSDCF has been developed through a highly participatory process, including consultations with Government entities, civil society, academia, non-

governmental organizations and the private sector, between April 2019 and August 2020. It is fully aligned to the public service, natural resource, human and social development and economic recovery and growth priorities highlighted in Eswatini's 2019-2021 National Development Plan (NDP) and its 2019-2021 Strategic Road Map (SRM).

The NDP and the SRM provide the national vision to guide the development of 2021 – 2025 UNSDCF.

Moreover, the Cooperation Framework is substantively based on the 2019/2020 UN Eswatini Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly its **Prosperity, People, Planet** (3 Ps Out of 5) components, which also serve as strategic priorities for the Cooperation Framework.

The overall goal of the UNSDCF 2021-2025 is to support **“A prosperous, just and resilient Eswatini where no one is left behind”**. Through its Prosperity, People and Planet priority areas, the UNSDCF presents the UN's offer to the people and the Government of Eswatini for 2021-2025 through four interlinked Outcomes:



**A prosperous, just and resilient Eswatini where no one is left behind**



## Priority I: Prosperity

The overarching themes of this strategic priority are enabling environment; private sector investment; small and medium sized enterprise creation; sustainable agriculture; job creation including a just transition into new sectors that address climate change, decent work, food security and social protection

**Outcome 1:** Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth

**Outcome Statement:** By 2025, women, men and youth, including marginalized persons, contribute to and benefit from economic progress, through greater access to decent employment, equitable social economic opportunities, sustainable enterprise opportunities as well as resilient, financially sustainable social protection systems



## Priority II: People

The overarching themes of this strategic priority are health; education and vocational training; accountable governance, gender equality and human rights

**Outcome 2:** Investing in Human Resources and Social Development

**Outcome Statement:** By 2025, boys, girls, women and men, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from equitable access to inclusive, gender transformative, effective and efficient quality social services, life-long learning and market-relevant skills

**Outcome 3:** Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights

**Outcome Statement:** By 2025, oversight bodies and government institutions at national and regional levels operate in an independent, participatory and accountable manner, ensuring equal access to justice and services, with a systematic, participatory implementation and reporting mechanism for human rights obligations and SDGs, with a focus on leaving no one behind



## Priority III: Planet

The overarching themes in this strategic priority area are climate change resilience and adaptation; water management; food security and renewable energy; and just transition to environmental sustainability

**Outcome 4:** Strengthening Natural Resource Management, Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability

**Outcome Statement:** By 2025, Eswatini is on an inclusive low-carbon development pathway that is resilient to climate change and in which natural resources are managed sustainably, and community adaptation to climate change is enhanced, for improved livelihoods, health and food security, especially for vulnerable and marginalized communities.



The identification of the outcomes for the 2021-2025 UNSDCF was informed by the priorities articulated in the Government's National Development Plan and sector strategies and plans; the goals and targets of the SDGs; the UN overall normative agenda; the Comparative Advantages of UN agencies; the findings of the 2020 UN-commissioned Common Country Analysis (CCA) and the 2018 mid-term evaluation of the current UNDAF; the international commitments and instruments to which the Government of Eswatini is a signatory; and the UN's consultations with the Government, development partners, the private sector, the academia, civil society and other stakeholders during the UNSDCF formulation period.

Economic recovery and growth, including a dynamic private sector, is among Eswatini's highest development priorities, and it is the key multi-sectoral issue addressed singly and synergistically in each of the CF's four outcomes. Each UNSDCF outcome leverages the comparative advantages of different United Nations agencies to address this issue; and each is synergistic with other outcomes. For example, while interventions under Outcome 1 focus on unlocking the potential for sustainable and inclusive economic growth, Outcome 2 highlights building the necessary human and social capital for that economic transformation. Outcome 3 focuses on developing the necessary enabling conditions both for reducing inequality and facilitating good governance, and it thus synergizes with the social protection, job creation

and economic growth programmes under Outcome 1, as well as Outcome 4's resilience-building interventions. Outcome 4 focuses on strengthening climate resilience and natural resource and environmental sustainability which, in turn, reinforces the agriculture and other strategic economic growth and job creation activities under Outcome 1.

The UN in Eswatini is both well-positioned and well-qualified to support the GoE towards the achievement of its economic and other development priorities, including its national SDGs, through its demonstrated comparative advantages. Moreover, the UN's wide-ranging, high level technical expertise, its convening power and its advocacy for and in support to the achievement of the SDGs were also validated by local and national stakeholders at the consultations held during the UNSDCF formulation.

The UNDS will implement the Cooperation Framework in close partnership with a wide range of national, local, regional and international stakeholders, including Government, traditional leaders, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, development partners and international financial institutions. The cornerstone for the achievement of the UNSDCF's anticipated outcomes is the UN ongoing strategic partnership with Eswatini's national leadership. The critical role that the Government must have in the planning, the implementation and monitoring of the UNSDCF was also confirmed by participants at the CF stakeholder consultations.

The UN Eswatini's implementation strategy for the 2021-2025 UNSDCF will also involve Joint Programmes as well as joint programming between multiple agencies in critical areas, such as economic transformation, human resource development, resilience building, food security and environmental sustainability, while leveraging the comparative advantages of specific agencies, funds and programmes. Indicative activities will include:

- Developing new mechanisms for climate financing, including access to international sources of climate finance.
- Supporting the development of policies, regulations and incentive frameworks to create a more enabling environment for business and to catalyse responsible private sector investment
- Strengthening health surveillance systems to detect and respond to emergencies.
- Strengthening policies and systems for effective, equitable and inclusive life-long learning and skills development.
- Supporting climate-smart agriculture interventions that promote household food and nutrition security.

All interventions under the UNSDCF will contribute to the national priorities stressed in Eswatini's NDP and SRM, and which are: economic recovery, financial stability and growth and improved quality of life, with the areas of education and ICT; mining and energy; tourism; manufacturing, agro-processing and agriculture.

The Government of Eswatini and the United Nations Development System in Eswatini will coordinate closely and in partnership during the implementation, the monitoring and the evaluation of the 2021-2025 UNSDCF. The Ministry of Economic Planning and Development will be the primary national counterpart for the UNSDCF. The UN Resident Coordinator will be the UN primary counterpart for the UNSDCF. UNSDCF processes at the macro level will be led by both the UN Resident Coordinator and the Minister of Economic Planning and Development, who are jointly accountable for the strategic oversight of UNSDCF results. The UNSDCF will be operationalized by Results Groups which will be jointly led by Heads of UN agencies and by the Principal Secretaries from a lead Government Ministry.

The UNCT will develop a Funding Framework, based on a financial landscape analysis, which will serve as the main financial planning and resource mobilization tool for the UNSDCF. The Funding Framework will present a breakdown of the funds required and expected, and will be reviewed annually and adjusted as required.

# UNSDCF 2021-2025





## COUNTRY CONTEXT

As stated in His Majesty King Mswati III's Vision 2022, the southern African Kingdom of Eswatini aspires to be among "...the top 10% of the medium human development group of countries founded on sustainable economic development, social justice and political stability". The country's Human Development Index (HDI) value grew steadily from 0.545 in 1990 to 0.608 in 2018. Eswatini is therefore currently classified as a middle human development country, with a rating of 138 out of 187 countries in the 2019 human development index. Eswatini is thus already positioned in the middle of the medium human development group. However, when this HDI value is discounted for inequality, it decreases to 0.430.

Through its geographical position as a landlocked country bordered by South Africa and Mozambique, Eswatini's economy is closely intertwined with that of its immediate neighbours; and approximately 40% of the country's revenue is dependent upon Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) revenues. Textile manufacture, mining and agriculture provide most of Eswatini's domestically-generated revenue, with the exports of sugar and fruits concentrates contributing about 70%, textile 8% and forestry 5%, respectively, to the country's GDP.

Eswatini has been called a monarchical democracy in which absolute power is vested in its King. Customary and parliamentary systems run concurrently and, although its 2005 Constitution provides for three separate organs of the State. The powers of all three are vested primarily in the King. As Eswatini has a dual governance structure, the country's justice system includes courts based on Roman-Dutch law, as well as traditional courts using customary law.

The country has a predominantly young population and, given current trends, Eswatini should be able to benefit from its youth-based demographic dividend until at least 2050, if the skills which are taught in school align with the skills required by the labour market. The country's youth could therefore play a key role in the achievement of its national development goals.

Over the past decade, Eswatini's development gains have included, among others, a decrease in the HIV/AIDs rate and in the maternal mortality ratio from 593/100,000 in 2012 to 452/100,000 in 2017. Moreover, there has been an increase in the percentage of children completing primary education from 93.5 % in 2014 to 106.1 % in 2016, as well as an increase in secondary education completion rates from 49.6% to 61.5 %. There was also an increase in the percentage of households nationally with access to electricity, from 69% in 2014 to 80% in 2019. Fiscally, Eswatini is classified as a lower middle-income country (LMIC), with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita of \$3,930 in 2018. This represents an increase of 34.7% between 1990 and 2017/2018, and an increase of 9.47% from 2017 to 2018.

Eswatini launched its current economic blueprints, the 2019-2023 National Development Plan (NDP) and the 2019-2021 Strategic Road Map, in 2019. Both stress the priorities of economic recovery, financial stability and growth and improved quality of life, with the areas of education and ICT; mining and energy; tourism; manufacturing, agro-processing and agriculture promoted as strategic sectors for growth. However, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, growth projections have been reduced to below 1 percent for this year.



## SDG PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

In support of its goal to raise its HDI rating, Eswatini has confirmed its commitment to the achievement of the global 2030 Agenda and to its inclusive partnership approach for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The country has identified ten national SDG priorities to guide its development plans and policies during the coming decade: SDG 1 (no poverty); SDG 2 (zero hunger); SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing); SDG 4 (quality education); SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation); SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy); SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth); SDG 13 (climate action); SDG 16 (peace and justice, strong institutions); and SDG 17 (global partnership). To date, progress has been made on SDGs 3, 7, 13, and 17. However, the country's other prioritized goals (SDGs 1, 2, 4, and 6) show either little improvement or some regression. (Additional details from Eswatini's 2019 Voluntary National Review Report are presented below in **Annex 1**)





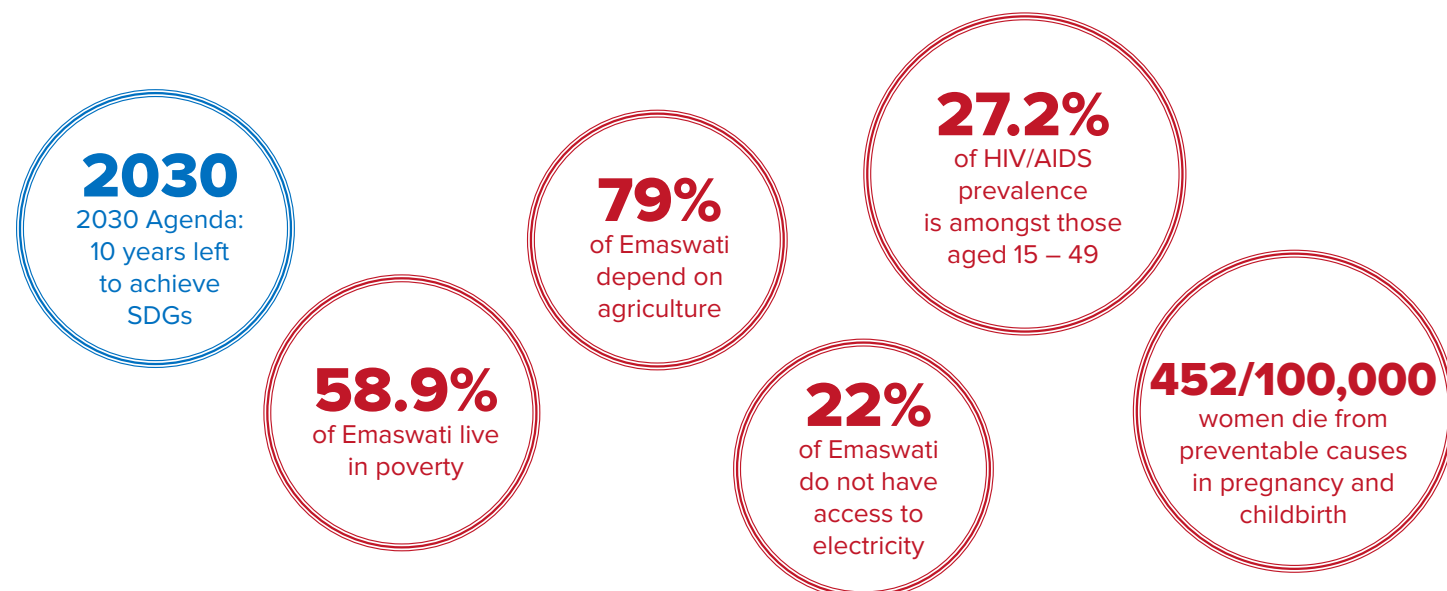
Threats to Eswatini's SDG achievements include fiscal challenges, such as, a slow GDP growth rate, an overdependence on fluctuating SACU revenues, and a diminishing rate of private sector participation in the economy. The country is also prone to environmental and climate change-induced hazards, including prolonged droughts and, consequently, to food, water, and nutrition insecurity. The 79% of eSwatini's rural population that depends upon agriculture for their livelihood and subsistence are particularly vulnerable to such disasters. The most recent catastrophic example of this was the 2016-2017 regional drought resulting from El Nino. Environment and climate change, including food insecurity and disaster risk reduction, have both national and regional dimensions that increase the vulnerabilities of all population groups.

Regarding governance challenges, as identified in Eswatini's NDP, a poor governance and justice system can weaken the country's socio-economic development, and hamper the delivery of public services as well as the enjoyment of human rights by all people. An accountable, efficient and transparent governance system that combats corruption and ensures the protection of human rights, rule of law and equal access to justice is, therefore, critical for achieving the SDGs.

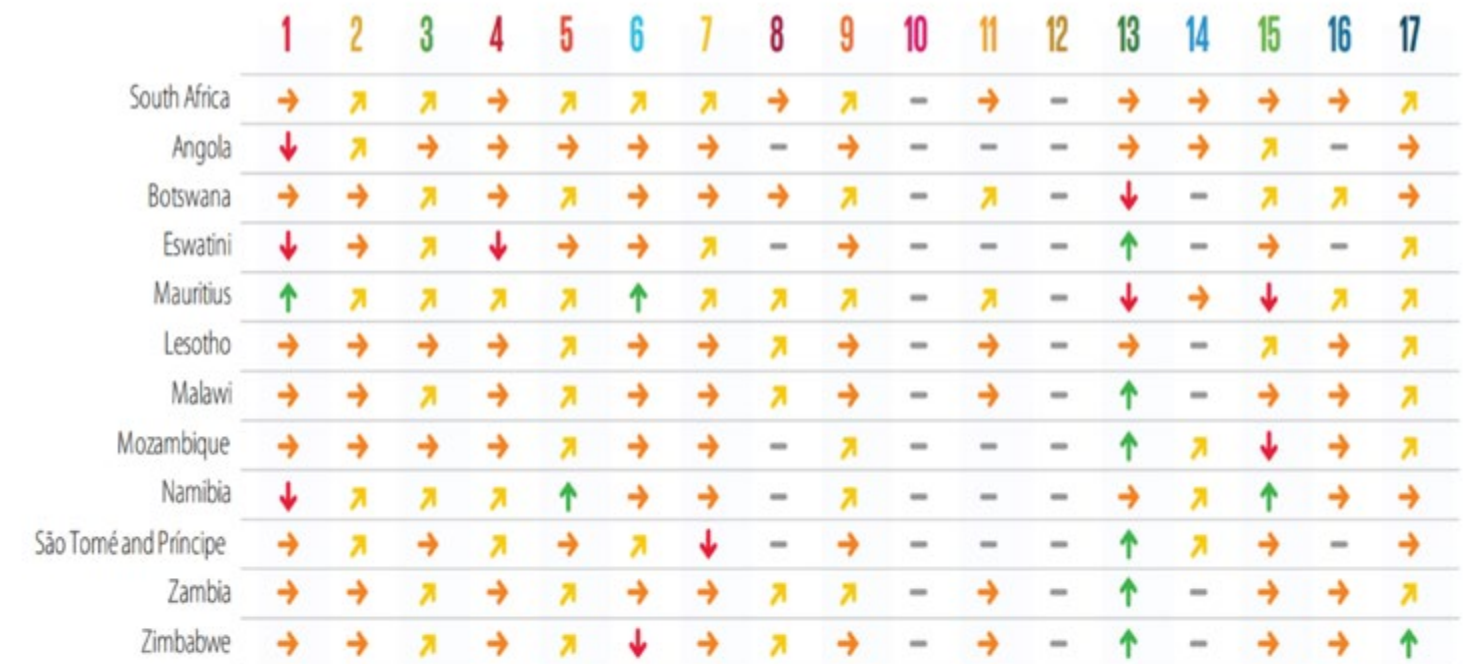
Eswatini also faces other significant development challenges. Its economy is not yet diversified. Moreover, it is estimated that 59% of Eswatini's population still lives below the national poverty line, with some 20.1% living below the extreme poverty line. This relates to the labour market, which is highly informal in nature. Moreover, joblessness remains high, particularly among women and youth. Furthermore, HIV/AIDS prevalence in the country remains the highest globally, at 27.2% among adults between the ages 15-49. Additionally,

gender-based violence and gender inequality are still pervasive in the country, and they are exacerbated by strong patriarchal traditions, values and norms. Finally, government revenues are not yet adequate to provide all essential services. For example, support from partners is currently estimated at 24% of the country's total health expenditures. Notwithstanding the country's high levels of poverty and vulnerability, there is as yet no comprehensive social protection system in place; and existing programmes are fragmented. For example, maternity and sickness protection are provided only through employer liability; and the existing Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) grant programme covers very few children. Existing security provisions largely exclude people in the informal economy; and there is no unemployment protection scheme in place.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Eswatini in March 2020 has further exacerbated socio-economic inequalities; and it thus poses a threat not only to the country's planned economic recovery, but also to the realization of the 2030 Agenda pledge to leave no one behind (LNOB), particularly vulnerable groups. The UN Rapid Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic in Eswatini identified several categories of vulnerable people, as well as the multi-dimensional vulnerabilities for which they are at risk (see **Annex 3**); and the CCA identified groups who were already vulnerable before the pandemic. High levels of poverty and vulnerability thus challenge the country's economic and human development potential. Mitigating the multi-dimensional impact of COVID-19, as well as addressing the country's pre-existing development challenges, will therefore be crucial to Eswatini's SDG progress.



## SDG Trends in Southern Africa





**2.1 THEORY OF CHANGE:**

**IF** there are effective partnerships between the Government, the private sector, civil society, and development partners to collectively invest in reducing poverty; improving equitable access to productive economic resources, health and education; increasing environment, water and climate change adaptation, and to promote effective and accountable governance structures and systems as well as fundamental human rights by strengthening the capacity of

institutions, systems, policy and legislative structures, and to facilitate catalytic investments in productive sectors,

**THEN** there will be more inclusive access to and benefit from social, economic and productive resources, health care services, education and learning and a more climate resilient society, as well as private sector driven economic growth, and an improved accountable justice and human rights system, ensuring that no one is left behind.



**A PROSPEROUS, JUST AND RESILIENT  
ESWATINI WHERE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND**



**IF** there are effective partnerships between Government, the private sector, civil society, and development partners to collectively invest in reducing poverty; improving equitable access to productive economic resources, health and education; increasing environment, water and climate change adaptation, and to promote effective and accountable governance structures and systems as well as fundamental human rights by strengthening the capacity of institutions, systems, policy and legislative structures, and to facilitate catalytic investments in productive sectors,  
**THEN** there will be more inclusive access to and benefit from social, economic and productive resources, health care services, education and learning and a more climate resilient society, as well as private sector driven economic growth, and an improved accountable justice and human rights system, ensuring that no one is left behind.





## 2.2 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

As a framework to guide the UN's support to the achievement of Eswatini's SDGs, as well as to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and address existing development challenges, the 2021-2025 UNSDCF is structured around three Priorities and four Outcomes. The three Priorities of Prosperity, People and Planet are among the six essential elements of the post-2015 agenda presented in the Road to Dignity by 2030<sup>1</sup>; and they also correspond to the three economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

### Priority I: Prosperity

The overarching themes of this strategic priority are enabling environment; private sector investment; small and medium sized enterprise creation, sustainable agriculture, job creation including a just transition<sup>2</sup> into new sectors that address climate change, decent work, food security and social protection

Outcome 1: Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth

<sup>1</sup> As described in the Secretary General's Road to Dignity by 2030, December 2014, pp. 21-23: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/562094dee4b0d00c1a3ef761/t/56cf7826f850828b7a38ba94/1456437287044/RoadtoDignityby2030.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> A just transition is about achieving decent work for all and eradicating poverty through a growing inclusive economy that can meet the needs of a country's current and future population, while also protecting the environment and natural resources upon which its economy and society depend



### Priority II: People

The overarching themes of this strategic priority are health; education and vocational training; accountable governance, gender equality and human rights:

Outcome 2: Investing in Human Resources and Social Development

Outcome 3: Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights

### Priority III: Planet

The overarching themes in this Outcome are climate change resilience and adaptation; water management; food security, renewable energy and just transition to environmental sustainability

Outcome 4: Strengthening Natural Resource Management, Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability

The alignment of the four UNSDCF outcome areas to National Development Priorities (NDPs) is presented in the table below:





## 2.3 INTENDED DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

The UN Development System will support the acceleration of Eswatini's national development priorities and progress towards the SDGs in an integrated manner, with a commitment to leave no one behind, to human rights and other international standards and obligations, through the following strategic actions:

**Economic Growth.** Economic recovery and a dynamic private sector supporting sustainable and inclusive growth are among Eswatini's highest development priorities. The UNDS in Eswatini will support the country's poverty reduction efforts by focusing on two key areas: i) increasing economic growth – including a just transition into new sectors that address climate change and environmental degradation – through supporting inclusive access to social, economic and productive resources (SDG8), and ii) strengthening the social protection system (SDGs: 1.3, 5.4, 8.5 and 10.4). Reducing poverty (SDG1), with a particular focus on sustainable smallholder agriculture, will also reduce food insecurity (SDG2), especially among poorer communities.

**Human and Social Development.** Enhanced social and human capital development is a priority outcome in the NDP. The country faces challenges in providing quality basic services to its communities. Despite achievements in the provision of health care services, a high maternal mortality ratio, under-five mortality rate, shortage of commodities and supplies and the prevalence of HIV in the country indicate concerns over the quality of healthcare. The country provides free primary education. However, due to its low quality, the education system struggles with low primary level completion rates, and thus the transition rate to secondary education is also low; and it worsens at the tertiary level. In addition, a curriculum which is not geared to market needs hinders students' school to work transition, thus contributing to unemployment and poverty. UNDS will support the Government to improve service quality in both health (SDG3) and education (SDG 4), with a focus on reaching the most vulnerable, especially the poorer populations living in remote and rural areas. These efforts, in combination with the above-mentioned poverty reduction interventions, which will focus on the most vulnerable, will contribute to the reduction of inequalities (SDG10) and to the strengthening of the human capital required for sustainable economic growth and increased resilience.

### **Governance, Gender Equality and Human Rights.**

Eswatini's dual judicial system can result in inconsistencies in the interpretation of human rights. Moreover, women's access to justice is hindered by the lack of a comprehensive legal aid scheme to support, particularly, the most disadvantaged women. Furthermore, the lack of enabling legislation for the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration also hampers the protection of human rights. To further strengthen the rule of law and to better protect vulnerable groups, the UN system will: i) support the capacity development of oversight bodies such as the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration and government to operate independently and in an accountable manner; ii) support the strengthening of a mechanism for the implementation of and reporting on human rights obligations as well as on the SDGs; iii) support strengthening of multi-sectoral capacity to prevent and address violence against women, children and/or other vulnerable groups.

These efforts will strengthen the country's ability to achieve improved SDG results, particularly for SDG 16, which is an enabler for all of the other goals. Finally, equality, and more specifically gender equality and the principle of non-discrimination (SDGs 5 and 10), will be mainstreamed into all UN Eswatini interventions.

### **Natural Resources, Climate Change and Energy.**

Some of Eswatini's communities do not yet have access to clean water, and at least 22 percent of the population do not have access to electricity; and improvements in both were referenced by stakeholders in their vision of Eswatini in five years' time at the recent UNSDCF consultations. Moreover, although normative and policy frameworks have been developed to address climate change and disaster risk reduction issues, they have not as yet been fully implemented. Consequently, some communities, especially those in the country's drought-affected southern region, experience food, water and nutrition insecurity. UN support to the country will therefore focus upon: i) improving access to renewable sources of energy and clean water; ii) improving the management of natural resources for sustainable agriculture and greater manufacturing productivity. These will collectively contribute to improvements in SDGs 2, 6, 7, and 13.



**UN Programming Principles and Cross-cutting Issues.** The four integrated UN programming principles of human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment; sustainable development and resilience; leave no one behind; and accountability are intended to guide UNSDCF planning, as well as to focus the UN's support to national development priorities. They will be mainstreamed across the UNSDCF's four outcome areas and applied to all phases of programme design and management, including monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the principle of accountability is referenced in each UNSDCF outcome statement, in the links between duty-bearers and rights-holders.

In addition to the programming principles, other cross-cutting themes such as data and youth will also feature in the CF. There is a critical requirement for timely, accurate data to inform evidence-based policy and development programming, as well as to track and document SDG progress. Efforts by the UN to strengthen data feature in each CF outcome area, and they are further detailed in the joint concept paper.

In recognition of Eswatini's predominantly young population, and the fact that youth employment readiness and job creation are currently national priorities, youth feature as beneficiaries in interventions under each of the Outcome areas. Capacity building, which is one of the approaches for delivering the Integrated Programming Principles, is as well an important theme, and it also features in activities planned under each of the CF outcomes.



## 2.4 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES AND PARTNERSHIPS

### 2.4.1 Outcome 1: Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth

#### 2.4.1.1 Outcome Statement

By 2025, women, men and youth, including marginalized persons, contribute to and benefit from economic progress, through greater access to decent employment, equitable social economic opportunities, sustainable enterprise opportunities as well as resilient, financially sustainable social protection systems.



#### PRIORITY AREA 1: PROSPERITY



#### Outcome 1: Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth



**Output 1.1:** Development of policy, regulatory and incentive frameworks for an enabling environment for business supported



**Output 1.2:** Institutions and capacities for delivery of effective and responsive social protection systems strengthened



**Output 1.3:** Economic data, including labour market statistics, and information systems and reporting on SDG Global Indicator Framework, strengthened



**Output 1.4:** Institutional capacities of Government at national and subnational levels to plan, implement and monitor policy frameworks as well as to deploy incentives and measures to stimulate investment in the economy strengthened





### Rationale and Expected Results

Economic recovery and growth, including a dynamic private sector, are among Eswatini’s highest development priorities. However, challenges in the areas of labour, land and credit, among others, as well as a lack of ease of doing business, hinder private sector engagement and economic growth in the country. This CF outcome will therefore offer both upstream and downstream solutions for economic growth. For example, to stimulate inclusive and just economic growth, particularly through private sector engagement and investment, activities under this outcome will include upstream policy support for the development of a more enabling environment for business, e.g. technical assistance for the development of public-private partnership regulations. Downstream activities will include strengthening agricultural value chains and facilitating access to innovative digital and financial solutions.

Industrialisation is critical for Eswatini if it is to achieve its economic transformation goal: industrialisation would accelerate poverty reduction and support inclusive and sustainable development. Related interventions under this Outcome will therefore include the promotion of industrial development to address poverty reduction, foster inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability. With the aim of building back better, an initial step will be a feasibility study on establishing and building a domestic industrial base to promote inclusive economic resilience and local entrepreneurship in the COVID era.

With regard to decent work, although Eswatini has ratified 31 International Labour Conventions, including all eight

core conventions, two equality C. Nos 100 and 111) and one tripartite consultation convention (C. No 144), the country still faces challenges on domestication of the conventions. UN support under this Outcome will therefore include technical assistance to strengthen Government’s capacity for policy implementation.

Finally, considering the different types of vulnerabilities and vulnerable groups in the country, for example, female-headed households, child headed households, the high prevalence of HIV, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, a functional social protection system is required to reduce multi-dimensional poverty and to provide for equal opportunities for all. The UN system will therefore support the Government’s efforts towards a comprehensive social security system to provide protection over the life cycle, including the conversion of the existing provident fund to a pension fund to provide better protection in old age and introduction of short-term benefits (including maternity, sickness and unemployment) and work injury benefits.

The UN system will also support the Government’s COVID-19 response action to establish an inclusive unemployment benefit fund, as part of a comprehensive national social security system and building resilience for future pandemics. Unemployment protection will help vulnerable people access decent and productive employment, in addition to providing income security. Moreover, the UN system will also support the implementation of the National Social Security Policy 2019 and its Implementation Action Plan and Strategy.

### Theory of change

**IF** an enabling policy and regulatory environment is created with robust data and risk-informed to catalyse responsible private sector investment, if women have equal access to opportunities which can drive economic transformation and sustainable growth; if small -and medium-sized enterprises are supported to generate greater financial value and to increase decent jobs and; if agricultural and rural livelihoods are strengthened; and if the government is capacitated to provide workers and vulnerable groups with financially-sustainable social protection systems; **THEN** people from all walks of life will contribute to and benefit from economic transformation.



**2.4.1.2 Focal Areas of the UN Support and Contribution to This Outcome Area Will Include:**

1. Institutional strengthening and capacity development, including
  - Strengthening capacities in the national social protection system to deliver inclusive, shock resilient and financially sustainable programmes
  - Strengthening systems for labour market statistics and information through the application of international statistical standards and the SDG Global Indicator Framework
2. Policy advice, including
  - Supporting the development of policy, regulatory and incentive frameworks for an enabling environment for business
3. Technical assistance, including
  - Supporting the establishment of processes or mechanisms for inclusive, multi-sectoral, tripartite social dialogue
  - Creating broad-based support for and implementation of development policies and strategies to ensure a just transition for all
4. Research and data innovation, including
  - Advising on SDG-centric data collection to inform development policies, plans, systems and financing
5. Direct service delivery, including
  - Supporting small-scale food producers to adopt inclusive commercial value chain approaches in agriculture and allied sectors
  - Upscaling investment in out-of-school youth empowerment programmes, including technical skills, apprenticeships and entrepreneurial and business management skills;

**2.4.1.3 Key SDGs, National Development Priorities, and International Framework Linkages include:**

Government Priority Areas	SDGs	International Treaties and Legal Frameworks
Good Governance, Economic Recovery and Fiscal Stability		The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; International Human Rights Treaties  Beijing Platform for Action
Enhanced and Dynamic Private Sector Supporting Sustainable and Inclusive Growth		
Enhanced Social and Human Capital Development		
Well Managed Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability		
Efficient Economic Infrastructure Network		
Enhanced Efficient Public Service Delivery that Respects Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law		
Equality		



**2.4.1.4 Partnerships**

The UNDS in Eswatini will seek to leverage private sector financing as well as pursue partnerships with bilateral and multilateral partners, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB), European Union (EU), COMESA, SADC, GEF, GCF and the World Economic Forum. Given the importance of regional alliances for economic transformation, the UNDS will develop institutional partnerships with, for example, AfCFTA and A-etrade. The UNDS system will also cooperate with the World Bank Group and the EU Delegation in strengthening Eswatini’s social protection system. There are also promising indications of possible IMF engagement in social protection in Eswatini.



## 2.4.2 Outcome 2: Investing In Human Resources and Social Development

### 2.4.2.1 Outcome Statement:

By 2025, boys, girls, women and men, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from equitable access to inclusive, gender transformative, effective and efficient quality social services, life-long learning and market-relevant skills.



PRIORITY AREA 2: PEOPLE



Outcome 2: Investing in Human Resources and Social Development



**Output 2.1:** Institutional capacities to develop costed policies and plans in health sector strengthened



**Output 2.2:** Communities empowered to demand quality and relevant health, nutrition, HIV and NCDs care



**Output 2.3:** Quality teaching and learning is improved and made accessible including through diversified remote and web-based learning platforms at all levels



**Output 2.4:** Policy and legislative environment is strengthened to provide multisectoral, coordination and financing for quality education services at all levels





### Theory of Change:

**IF** the quality of health care is improved, with special focus on the main causes of mortality such as HIV, RMNCAH and noncommunicable diseases; and **IF** the quality and scope of education is improved and increased to reduce the economic cost of repetition and low learning outcomes, with a focus on market relevance; and **IF** social sector budget performance is strengthened to increase efficiency; and **IF** social services are expanded in scope and coverage; and **IF** the risks of crises such as climate change and pandemics on the continuity of social services are identified and mitigated;

**THEN** more people will benefit from equitable quality social services and human capital will be increased.

### Rationale and expected results for this Outcome:

To fulfil its obligations in terms of basic health and education services provision, as well as to combat extreme poverty and address inequalities, Eswatini requires a healthy and well-educated workforce. Indeed, the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic in Eswatini has only underscored the importance of a responsive and resilient health system. The UN Development System will therefore invest in supporting health and education services as two major components of human development to directly contribute to the country's economic growth and poverty reduction.

In the health sector, although over 85 percent of the population are within a radius of 8km of the nearest health facility, Eswatini suffers from a high disease burden and mortality, especially among children and women of reproductive age who are either pregnant, or women who have recently given birth. Mortality is highest among infants at 50 deaths per 1000 live births, whilst maternal mortality ratio is around 452 deaths per 100 000 live births, mostly due to preventable causes.

HIV and AIDS remains a public health challenge, and HIV incidence levels are highest among women age 15-49 at 1.99 percent, whilst the rate is 0.99 percent among men in the same age category. There is also an increase in non-communicable diseases, and these primarily affect the elderly population. The situation is expected to worsen over the short to medium term, as health sector funds have been prioritized towards the fight against COVID-19.

In the education sector, Eswatini's education system is characterized by a high level of repetition (repetition rate of 15 per cent across grades 1 to 7), high level of drop out and, therefore, a low transition to secondary education at 94 per cent NER at Primary Education and 32.3 per cent at the lower secondary level. Teenage pregnancy continues to be the main reason for school drop- out among girls.

In addition, unemployment among youth is high: about half of all young people in Eswatini are unemployed; and less than 20 per cent of the TVET graduates have the acceptable skill level demanded by the industry. These all indicate fundamental problems with the quality and the relevance of the education offered.

Noting that education is a basic human right, and considering the well-documented link between the quality of education and economic growth, employability, health and other measures of human development, and that investments in education are SDG accelerators, the UN in Eswatini will focus its support on improving the quality of education. UN agencies will contribute both individually and jointly to education interventions under this Outcome, including through joint programming towards improved learning outcomes through school feeding programmes, and to specific life-skills-based education programmes.





**2.4.2.2 Focal Areas of the UN’s Support and Contribution to this Outcome will include:**

Institutional and capacity development, including

- Strengthening institutional capacities to develop costed policies and plans in the health sector
- Improving the quality of education, both teaching and learning

Policy advice, including

- Strengthening multisectoral policy, legislative environment, coordination and financing for quality healthcare and education

Technical assistance, including

- Supporting inter-sectorial programmes for improving sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the inclusion of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education in the school curricula.

- Supporting curriculum reform with a focus on 21st Century Skills and competencies

Advocacy, including

- Providing evidence-based advocacy and policy advice on scaling up quality of care with health policy actors, technocrats, regulatory and professional councils, academia and CSOs.
- Advocacy for the implementation of the national youth policy, population policy and other development policies


Research and data innovation, including

- Strengthening systems for data generation, reporting and utilization for evidence-based policy and programme planning, budgeting and implementation

Direct service delivery including

- Supporting programmes improving school to work transition

**2.4.2.3 Key SDG, National Development Priorities, and International Framework Linkages include:**

Government Priority Areas	SDGs	International Treaties and Legal Frameworks
Good Governance, Economic Recovery and Fiscal Stability		<p>Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Convention on the Rights of the Child Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women</p> <p>International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination</p> <p>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</p> <p>Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</p> <p>African Charter on Human and People’s Rights</p> <p>Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)</p> <p>African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child</p> <p>Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher education Qualifications Convention against Discrimination in Education Safe Schools Declaration Maternity Protection Convention 2016 UN Political Declaration on ending AIDS by 2030</p>

**2.4.2.4 Partnerships**

For the health interventions under this Outcome, the primary Government partner will be the Ministry of Health; other implementing partners include local and international NGOs and academia. Moreover, the Outcome will receive support from local academic and research institutes, particularly in areas such as evidence generation and capacity building. The World Bank Group, especially its Human Development Initiative, and particularly its “Health System Strengthening for Human Capital Development in Eswatini”, is a major stakeholder in this outcome. Financial and technical support for this Outcome will be sought from the European Union Delegation and PEPFAR.

For the education interventions under this Outcome, the primary Government partner will be the Ministry of Education and Training, while the Ministry of Labour will collaborate in areas related to school-to-work transition and TVET. Local and international NGOs, including World Vision, Save the Children and Red Cross, among others, will contribute to the achievement of this Outcome where goals and objectives align. The Global Partnership for Education plays a major role in policy advocacy and financing of the education sector, as does the Education Can Not Wait Foundation, and the Generation Unlimited. Other major stakeholders in this Outcome area include the World Bank Group Human Development Initiative and the European Union Delegation.





## 2.4.3 Outcome 3: Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights

### 2.4.3.1 Outcome Statement

By 2025, oversight bodies and government institutions at national and regional level operate in an independent, participatory and accountable manner, ensuring equal access to justice and services, with a systematic, participatory implementation and reporting mechanism for its human rights obligations and SDGs with a focus on leaving no one behind.



### PRIORITY AREA 2: PEOPLE



### Outcome 3: Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights



**Output 3.1**  
The capacity of civil society organizations, oversight bodies and government at national and regional levels is strengthened for good governance and human rights.



**Output 3.2** The capacity of rights-holders, particularly women, children and other vulnerable groups, to participate in decision-making processes, claim their rights, access justice and seek redress is strengthened.

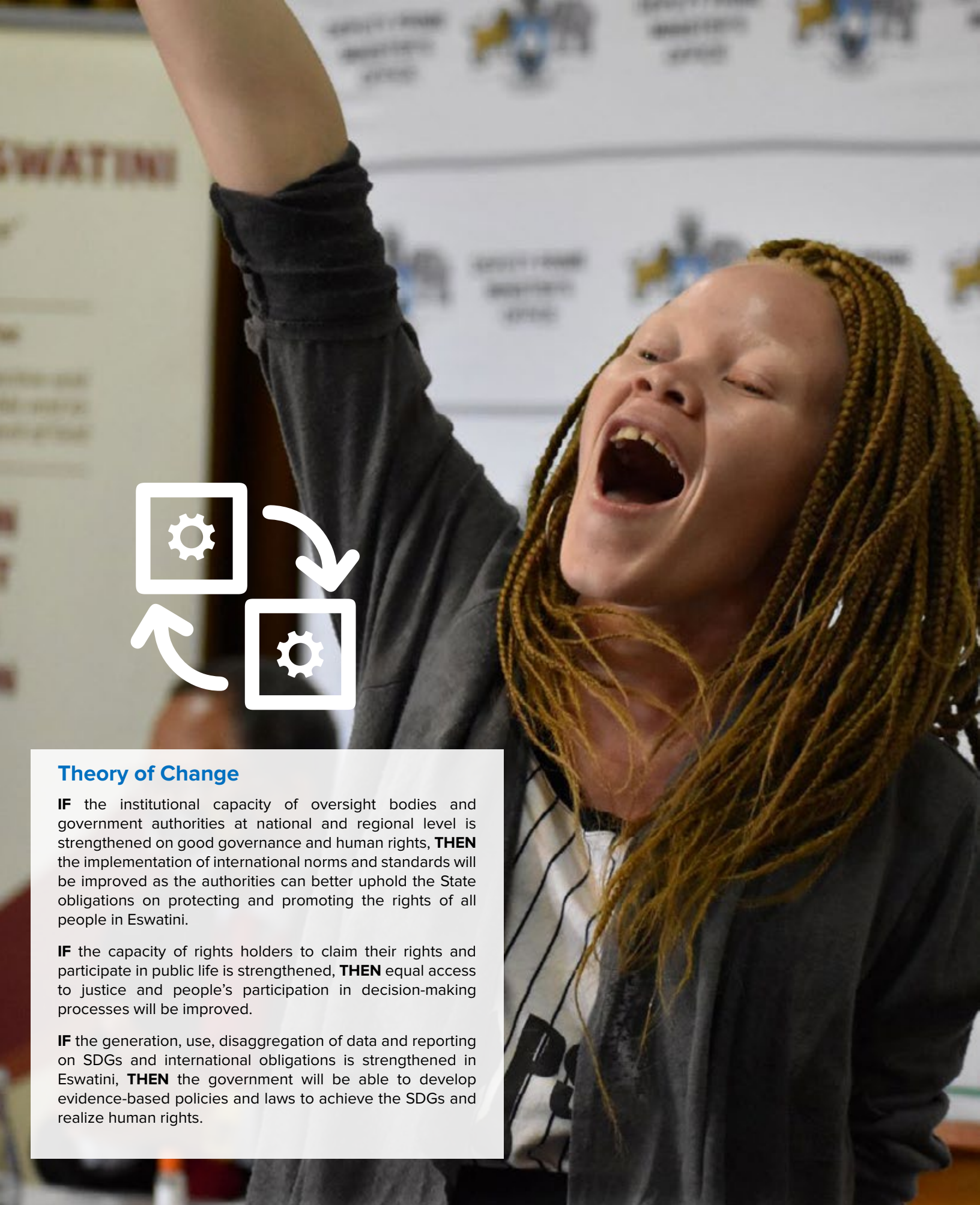


**Output 3.3** Strengthened multi-sectoral capacity to prevent and respond to violence and discrimination against women, girls, boys and other vulnerable groups.



**Output 3.4** The use of digital solutions to improve public services, transparency, accountability and other government functions in implementing the SDGs and eradicating corruption is increased.





### Theory of Change

**IF** the institutional capacity of oversight bodies and government authorities at national and regional level is strengthened on good governance and human rights, **THEN** the implementation of international norms and standards will be improved as the authorities can better uphold the State obligations on protecting and promoting the rights of all people in Eswatini.

**IF** the capacity of rights holders to claim their rights and participate in public life is strengthened, **THEN** equal access to justice and people’s participation in decision-making processes will be improved.

**IF** the generation, use, disaggregation of data and reporting on SDGs and international obligations is strengthened in Eswatini, **THEN** the government will be able to develop evidence-based policies and laws to achieve the SDGs and realize human rights.

### Rationale and Expected Outcomes

The UNSDCF’s Governance priority area, outcomes and outputs are closely aligned with the Eswatini National Development Plan 2019-2022, which aims at ensuring an efficient public service delivery that respects human rights, justice and the rule of law (National Outcome 4).

The NDP acknowledges that *“more remains to be achieved to ensure an accountable, transparent and responsible governance system that respects human rights and fosters the application of law and order, to the management and performance of the public service.”*<sup>3</sup>

The NDP also states that *“the country seeks to operate within a modernised justice framework that ensures confidence in the judicial system thus contributing to socioeconomic development through zero tolerance to corruption; improved access to justice for all and adherence to human rights principles.”*<sup>4</sup> With regard to Eswatini’s reporting obligations on the implementation of international and regional human rights instruments, the NDP seeks to ensure that *“reports to treaty bodies are developed and submitted timely.”*<sup>5</sup>

Key human rights challenges in Eswatini include the incomplete domestication of international and regional human rights treaties, as well as inconsistencies between customary law and statutory law. Eswatini’s discharge of reporting obligations to UN Treaty Bodies is also a challenge.

In this regard, Eswatini has ratified seven core international human rights treaties. Through the strengthening of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, the UN could support Eswatini in meeting its reporting obligations to UN Treaty Bodies.

Moreover, although Eswatini has established an Anti-Corruption Commission and developed a National Anti-corruption Policy (2012), corruption in Eswatini continues to pose a challenge for social service delivery.<sup>6</sup>

Furthermore, Eswatini has been urged to adopt a legislation that allows the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration to legally undertake activities as a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in accordance with the Paris Principles. Currently, the Commission operates as an extension of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, rather than as an independent institution also accredited by the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions. In addition, the Commission continues to face challenges in terms of human and financial resources to fulfil its mandate, establish an effective complaints mechanism and to ensure that cases are promptly investigated and resolved, with full reparation to victims. Therefore, the UN seeks to strengthen the institutional capacities of oversight bodies regarding good governance, anti-corruption efforts, realization of human rights and equal access to justice.

The UNDS will therefore provide technical support to the Government’s reporting and implementation commitments on SDGs and human rights, including strengthening the Inter-Ministerial Committee that serves as a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up (NMRF) on the country’s human rights commitments, and enhancing the NMRF’s collaboration with civil society, the national statistical office and the national SDG coordination structure.

<sup>3</sup> Eswatini’s National Development Plan 2019-2022, page 106.

<sup>4</sup> Eswatini’s National Development Plan 2019-2022, pages 108-109.

<sup>5</sup> Eswatini was reviewed in the 25th session of Universal Periodic Review (second UPR cycle), in May 2016. Eswatini received in total 181 recommendations, and most of the recommendations made to Eswatini relate to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality): Eswatini CCA 2020.

<sup>6</sup> Eswatini ranks 113 out of 180 on the Corruption Perceptions Index.



**2.4.3.2 Focal Areas of UN Support to this Outcome will include:**

Institutional strengthening and capacity development, including

- Developing capacities across the whole of government and Parliament to integrate SDGs and human rights, including gender equality, into national planning, budgeting and implementation.
- Improving institutional capacity to coordinate the generation and use of disaggregated data and human rights/international instruments and SDGs
- Strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations and oversight bodies to engage in international and regional SDG and human rights mechanisms.

Technical assistance, including

- Strengthening the capacity of rights holders, particularly women, girls and vulnerable groups to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes, claim their rights, access justice and seek redress.

Research and data innovation, including

- Supporting the use of digital solutions to improve public services, transparency, accountability and other government functions in implementing the SDGs and eradicating corruption.



**2.4.3.4 Key SDGs, National Development Priorities, and International Frameworks Linkages include:**

Government Priority Areas	SDGs	International Treaties and Legal Frameworks
Efficient Public Service Delivery That Respects Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law		International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment Convention on the Rights of the Child Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities African Charter on Human and People's Rights Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
Enhanced Social and Human Capital Development		Beijing Platform for Action
Good Governance, Economic Recovery and Fiscal Stability		

**2.4.3.4 Partnerships**

The UN Development System's key partners in this Outcome will include the Office of the Prime Minister, the Office of the Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of Public Service; the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Central Statistical Office; the Parliament, the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; the Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration & Development; the Eswatini Anti-Corruption Commission; the Commission for Human Rights and Public Administration; the Police; the African Development Bank (AfDB); the Royal Science and Technology Park; and the Lawyer's Association, as well as local government and civil society organisations.



## 2.4.4. Outcome 4: Strengthening Natural Resource Management, Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability

### 2.4.4.1 Outcome Statement

By 2025, Eswatini is on an inclusive low-carbon development pathway that is resilient to climate change and in which natural resources are managed sustainably, and community adaptation to climate change is enhanced, for improved livelihoods, health and food security, especially for vulnerable and marginalized communities



### PRIORITY AREA 3: PLANET



### Outcome 4: Strengthening natural resource management, climate resilience and environmental sustainability



**Output 4.1:** 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



**Output 4.2:** Capacity of institutions to manage water resources efficiently and to provide equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all citizens, strengthened

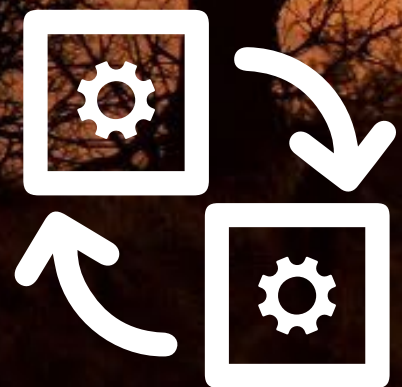


**Output 4.3:** National and sub-national institutions capacities to sustainably manage natural resources justly and benefit the most vulnerable and marginalized communities strengthened



**Output 4.4:** Capacity of extension services, development actors and communities to implement climate smart agriculture interventions that promote household food and nutrition security strengthened





### Theory of Change

**IF** climate proofed infrastructure and renewable energy resources are developed, and **IF** natural resources are sustainably managed and climate-smart agriculture practices are adopted, **THEN** more citizens will have increased access to clean and reliable energy and water, resulting in more resilient, healthy and food secure communities.

### Rationale and Expected Results

The risks of climate change are well documented, and its impacts already affect both people and ecosystems. Climate change has a major impact on a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation, a healthy environment, an adequate standard of living, housing, property, self-determination, development and culture. Meeting the climate challenge requires that industries and institutions — both public and private — be able to assess and understand climate change, to design and implement adequate policies and to work towards resource efficient societies and low emission growth. Additionally, decoupling natural resource use and environmental impacts from economic growth is a key prerequisite for overcoming the pressing challenge of growing resource consumption levels.

As recognized by the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, States have legal obligations to prevent and alleviate climate change: *"all peoples shall have the right to a general satisfactory environment favourable to their development"*.<sup>7</sup> The adverse impacts of climate change disproportionately affect people living in poverty who do not have resources to protect themselves or to adapt to the negative changes. Therefore, it is important to ensure that mitigation and adaptation measures are grounded in the human rights principles of substantive equality, non-discrimination, participation and

<sup>7</sup> African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Article 24.

empowerment, accountability, access to justice, transparency and rule of law. It is critical to systematically include women, marginalized communities and those most affected by climate change in policies, planning and decision-making related disaster risk reduction and climate change.

In Eswatini, climate change is linked to the increased frequency of extreme events such as droughts, and it impacts negatively on livelihoods and key sectors of the economy. The problem is manifested through environmental degradation, reduced agricultural productivity, the reduced availability and inefficient use of water, as well as reduced access to energy. The UNDS aims to support Eswatini to achieve an inclusive, just low-carbon development pathway that is resilient to climate change and in which natural resources are managed sustainably; and community adaptation to climate change is enhanced for improved livelihoods, health and food security, especially for vulnerable and marginalized communities. To achieve this goal, two areas must be supported (i) Climate proofed infrastructure and renewable energy resources are developed, so that citizens have increased access to clean and reliable energy and water by 2025 and (ii) By 2025, natural resources are sustainably managed and climate-smart practices are adopted resulting in more resilient, healthy and food secure communities



### 2.4.4.2 Focal Areas of UN Support

#### to this Outcome will include:

Institutional strengthening and capacity development, including

- Strengthening the capacity of institutions to design and implement effective policies, strategies, and legal frameworks for improved access to and use of clean, reliable, and affordable energy for all citizens, especially vulnerable and marginalized communities,
- Strengthening the capacity of institutions to manage water resources efficiently and to provide equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all citizens,
- Strengthening national and sub-national institutions' capacities to sustainably manage natural resources justly and to the benefit the most vulnerable and marginalised communities, and

- Strengthening the capacity of extension services, development actors and communities to implement climate smart agriculture interventions that promote household food and nutrition security.

Technical assistance, including

- Providing technical assistance to Government and other relevant stakeholders to implement Eswatini's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Supporting the development of policies and incentive frameworks which facilitate and enable natural resource users in the productive sector to learn new technologies and best practices on adaptive capacities and resilience

The UNDS will also support Government in these activities through an integrated approach targeting the most vulnerable and marginalized communities and groups, especially women and youth.



### 2.4.4.3 Key SDGs, National Development Priorities and International Framework Linkages include:

Government Priority Areas	SDGs	International Treaties and Legal Frameworks
Well Managed Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability		UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) UN Convention to Combat Desertification (1994) Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
Improved Management & Access to Safe Drinking Water & Sanitation (Water resources management and supply)		International Decade for Action on Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028
Improved Land Use Planning & Management (Access and Productivity)		UN Convention on biological diversity UN Convention on combating desertification and land degradation United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030
Equitable, Inclusive & Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (energy access and efficiency)		UN Decade for Sustainable Energy for All (2014-2024)
Improved National & Community Resilience to Natural Disasters (Early warning systems)		UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; Paris Agreement on Climate Change Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
Clean & Safe Environment (Low carbon development)		Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm conventions on chemicals and waste management UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; Paris Agreement on Climate Change
		African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights <sup>1</sup>

### 2.4.4.4 Partnerships

Achieving this outcome will require robust partnerships at the local, national, regional and global levels. Partnerships will be sought at the national level with key sector-lead ministries such as Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MTEA), Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (MNRE), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, as well as with key Government directorates and entities that provide specialised expertise such as Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC), Eswatini Environment Authority (EEA), Department of Water Affairs (DWA), National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), Climate Change Unit, Meteorology Department (MET) and the Electricity authority. At the local level, partnerships with local Governments, CSOs – particularly those that work on environmental matters in Eswatini, including indigenous peoples - farmers' organisations, CANGO and academia and other research institutions will be pursued. Regional and international partnerships will be sought with SADC, COMESA, and international financial institutions, the Green Climate Fund, Global Environmental Facility and other global platforms. Additional partnerships will be pursued to advocate for and support sustainable natural resource management, the use of renewable and clean energy and climate change adaptation.



## 2.5 Sustainability

UNSDCF priorities and outcomes have strong linkages to Eswatini's national SDG and development priorities, and this bodes well for the sustainability of development gains achieved under the CF. The UN Development System, in partnership with the Government, local governments, non-State stakeholders and other development partners, will also support the strengthening of national and local capacities and institutional arrangements, including the mobilization of human, technical and financial resources as needed to maintain SDG progress, in order to effectively manage, scale-up and sustain Cooperation Framework results. Towards these objectives, institutional strengthening and capacity building feature in each CF outcome. Moreover, through the CF, the UNDS will also build national and local partners' evaluation competencies through workshops and trainings on a planned, regular basis (**Annex 3**).

The UNDS will also provide technical advice on the integration of global norms into national legislation, thereby supporting the adoption and perpetuation of these principles, which are at the core of Eswatini's development policies. This will ensure their sustainability through subsequent national cycles. Moreover, the UN will work with government agencies to improve the integrity of data quality and statistics administered by national organisations.

An additional strategy for ensuring the sustainability of CF outcomes will be the brokerage of multi-stakeholder partnerships and dialogue platforms with national and local actors, including the private sector, in order to further raise stakeholders' awareness of the roles they can play in Eswatini's development, as well as to catalyse grassroots support for SDG-focused investments.



## 2.6 Synergies Between Cooperation

### Framework Outcomes

Economic recovery and growth, including a dynamic private sector, is among Eswatini's highest development priorities, and it is the key multi-sectoral issue addressed singly and synergistically in each of the CF's four outcomes. Each UNSDCF outcome leverages the comparative advantages of different United Nations agencies to address this issue; and each is synergistic with other outcomes. For example, while interventions under Outcome 1 focus on unlocking the potential for sustainable and inclusive economic growth, Outcome 2 highlights building the necessary human and social capital for that economic transformation.

Outcome 3 focuses on developing the necessary enabling conditions both for reducing inequality and facilitating growth; it thus synergizes with the social protection, job creation and economic growth programmes under Outcome 1, as well as Outcome 4's resilience-building interventions.

Outcome 4 focuses on strengthening climate resilience and natural resource and environmental sustainability which, in turn, reinforces the agriculture and other strategic economic growth and job creation activities under Outcome 1. These synergies are intended to reinforce the UN's efforts towards addressing the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, as well as some of Eswatini's persistent development challenges, including low economic growth, high inequalities, vulnerability to environmental and climate change and weak governance.

Moreover, given the importance of regional factors on SDG progress, UNSDCF interventions will intentionally link with and complement initiatives under regional and sub-regional instruments such as the African Continental Free Trade Area and the African -Trade Group, and socio-economic cooperation and integration within the Southern African Development Community (SADC), as well as global opportunities presented through the African Growth and Opportunity Act.



## 2.7 UN Comparative Advantage

The UN Development System in Eswatini is both well-positioned, and well-qualified to support the GoE towards achieving its development priorities, including its national SDGs, through UN demonstrated comparative advantages. During the June and July 2020 UNSDCF stakeholder consultations, civil society, NGO, Government, private sector, development partners and other stakeholders validated several of the UN's comparative advantages. Most stakeholders agreed that the UN has its greatest comparative advantage in its wide-ranging, high level technical expertise, including its ability to create linkages and partnerships in exchange of knowledge.

Additional comparative advantages validated by the participants of the consultation include the UN's advocacy for and support to the achievement of the SDGs: the SDGs are a corporate priority for the UN, and the UN has leveraged its comparative advantage in this area in support of the 2030 Agenda in Eswatini, (for example, in the localization of the SDGs).

Advocacy on sensitive issues is another comparative advantage of the UN Development System. The UN has proven its ability to advocate strongly and consistently on sensitive issues such as gender equality and human rights, and this has contributed to the enactment of several policies and pieces of legislation. The UN is also considered by stakeholders to be an honest, neutral broker with strong convening power and the capacity to manage multi-dimensional partnerships. For example, as demonstrated through the ongoing COVID-19 response and the recent UNSDCF stakeholder consultations, the UN has the capacity to convene, as well as support the Government to convene, a wide range of development and humanitarian partners<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> For example, during the 22 – 26 June 2020 UNSDCF stakeholder consultations, representatives from Government, NGO, civil society, academia, research institutions, the private sector, multilateral and bilateral development partners: UNSDCF Stakeholder Consultations: Summary Report, 22 July 2020, Annex 2, "List of Participants".





## 3.1 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

As noted above in section 2.4, **Cooperation Framework Outcomes and Partnerships**, the UNDS will implement the Cooperation Framework in close partnership with a wide range of national, local, regional and international stakeholders, including Government, traditional leaders, NGOs, CSOs, academia, the private sector, development partners and IFIs. These stakeholders may act variously as funders, implementors, beneficiaries and counterparts.

The cornerstone for the achievement of the UNSDCF’s anticipated outcomes is the UN’s continued strategic partnership and shared intent with Eswatini’s national leadership. The critical role that Government must have in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the UNSDCF was also detailed and confirmed participants in the June 2020 CF stakeholder consultations<sup>9</sup>. In this regard, and through Eswatini’s 2019 Development Cooperation Policy, the UN will work to deliver on the CF’s strategic People, Planet and Prosperity priorities in order to support Government in the realization of its development goals. The UNDS will also support Government in the adjustment of its current NDP to address new, post-pandemic recovery and development challenges and to build back better to increase the country’s resilience to future crises.

Through the Cooperation Framework, the UN Eswatini will also further strengthen regional and international partnerships that offer the country additional opportunities for support for trans-border concerns such as trade, climate change, public health emergencies, resource use and migration, for example, through the African Continental Free Trade and Africa E-Trade group initiatives, as well as through the African Growth and Opportunity Act and the EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement, among others.

<sup>9</sup> Stakeholder Consultations Summary Report, p. 8

During the CF cycle, the UN will also again work with another key international partner, the World Bank, through the Bank’s “Health System Strengthening for Human Capital Development in Eswatini” initiative. Additional international partners will include the EU, ADB, IMF and GPE, through their various initiatives in the country.

Additionally, building on the successes of its South-South cooperation engagements with, among others, Senegal and South Africa in the area of data for development<sup>10</sup>, and with the Brazil Centre of Excellence for the home-grown school feeding pilot,<sup>11</sup> the UN Eswatini will also actively pursue additional opportunities for learning and exchange through SSTC.

As part of its operational strategy in support both of the CF and of the planned UN global common back office – a key feature of the ongoing UN reform agenda -, the UN Eswatini will implement the UN’s global Business Operations Strategy (BOS). The BOS focuses on common services, including logistics, administration, human resources, finance, procurement and ICT, that can be implemented jointly or delivered by one UN entity on behalf of other UN entities. It is therefore a critical instrument to reinforce the link between efficient business operations and more effective programmes. The BOS is thus intended to create efficiencies and productivity gains, as well as reduce transaction costs, in UN operations, particularly in the implementation of the UNSDCF<sup>12</sup>. Oversight for implementation of the BOS is provided by the Operations Management Team (OMT)

<sup>10</sup> CCA, p. 47

<sup>11</sup> CCA, p. 4

<sup>12</sup> For additional details on the BOS and its links to the CF, see UNSDG, Business Operations Strategy Guidance, New York, 2019.

In addition to these key partnerships, the UN Eswatini’s implementation strategy for the 2021-2025 UNSDCF will also be based upon the Delivering as One (DaO)<sup>13</sup> approach; and it will involve both Joint Programmes as well as joint programming<sup>14</sup>, including collaborations based on the Common Chapter framework (see below, “Joint Programmes”).

**Joint Workplans.** Joint workplans (JWPs), including Cooperation Framework outcomes, outputs, resources, SDG Targets and indicators, as well as gender equality and human rights and other agreed system wide markers, will be prepared for each CF outcome area on an annual basis. All UNCT members, regardless of their physical presence, will be involved in the preparation of Joint Work Plans for the Outcomes to which they contribute.

**Joint Programmes.** Opportunities for joint programmes, which involve the contributions of two or more UN entities to the same CF output, for example, the HIV Joint Programme in the current UNDAF, may be identified by the UN, including the UNCT, PPSG, GTG and the Results Groups, during the CF cycle. Joint Programmes can serve as SDG accelerators whereby multiple agencies can address several Goals through one intervention. Joint programmes will be developed, implemented, monitored and evaluated by the UN in close collaboration with its national partners. Humanitarian actors as well as other stakeholders may also be engaged in joint programmes with UN agencies under the CF Potential themes for joint programme development under the UNSDCF 2021-2025 which would build on synergies between agencies’ comparative

<sup>13</sup> Delivering as One approach to joint and complementary programming and implementation

advantages include food security, RMNCAH, education, data for development, GBV, social protection, and green jobs and sustainable and social enterprises.

Joint programming, whereby two or more UN agencies agree to collaborate towards the delivery of CF outcomes without establishing a formal JP structure, is another DaO modality; and it can also serve as a vehicle for SDG acceleration. An example of joint programming under the current UNDAF is the collaboration of UNICEF, WFP and FAO in nutrition/school feeding interventions. A suggested joint programming initiative is the H6 partnership for maternal, neonatal and child health which would complement other partnerships to support Eswatini to meet its commitments to the new Global Strategy for Women’s Children’s and Adolescents’ Health and the related Sustainable Development Goals.

Joint programming may also involve other actors as seen, for example, in the involvement of both humanitarian and development agencies, NGOs and CSOs in the COVID 19 emergency response under the leadership of the National Disaster Management Agency.

The CF implementation strategy will also include quarterly meetings of the Results Groups; a quarterly review of the CCA to maintain its timeliness and relevance; annual or bi-annual meetings of the National Steering Committee; an annual UNSDCF Report; and continuous monitoring, evaluation and learning through the online UN INFO platform. Moreover, the CF implementation strategy will also involve the development of evaluation capacity for national and local partners (**Annex 3**).





### 3.2 Governance: Management and Coordination Arrangements and Operational Support

A two-tiered, external and internal coordination and implementation structure is envisaged for the 2021-2025 UNSDCF.

**The Joint National Steering Committee:** The Joint National Steering Committee (JNSC) will be responsible for the strategic direction and overall coordination of the UNSDCF's implementation, including the interaction between GoE partner entities and the UNDS, and in alignment with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) principles of country ownership and leadership. It will be co-chaired by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and the UN Resident Coordinator. Core NSC membership includes designated representatives from the Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Principal Secretaries from Ministries that are aligned to the CF result areas, and civil society representatives. The extended Joint National Steering Committee (J-NSC) membership includes the World Bank, bilateral development partners/donors, or representatives from private sector, including national small and medium enterprises, civil society, youth, and other specific population groups. (Annex 5).

**The UNCT:** The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is the highest level inter-agency coordination and decision-making body of the United Nations System in Eswatini. It is responsible for ensuring the delivery of results in support of Eswatini's national development priorities and the UNSDCF. The UNCT is chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, and its membership includes the Heads/ Representatives of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes accredited in Eswatini, whether based in or outside Eswatini. The Operations Management Team (OMT) and the UN Communications Group (UNCG) report directly to the UNCT (Annex 6).

**The Policy and Programmes Support Group (PPSG)** is intended to have a quality assurance role. It is established to provide policy advice to the UNCT, as well as technical guidance to the RGs to ensure that planned interventions align to the UNSDCF's expected results. The PPSG is also tasked with identifying areas for effective integration and joint programming in line with agencies' comparative advantages and mandates. The chair of the PPSG is a Head of Agency who will be selected by the RC on an annual basis (Annex 7).

**Results Groups:** The UNSDCF will be operationalized by Results Groups established by the Government and the UNCT. A Results Group (RG) will be established for each of the four CF Outcomes. Each Results Group will develop a Joint Work Plan for its Outcome Area, and each will include an M&E focal point<sup>15</sup> who will monitor and report on the implementation of the JWP and contribute to the annual One UN Report. The membership of each RG includes the

UN agencies, both resident and non-resident, that contribute to the achievement of its outcomes and outputs, as well as government and non-government stakeholders.

Each RG is co-chaired by a Principal Secretary from a lead Government Ministry and the Head of a lead UN agency, as detailed below (Annex 8).


<sup>15</sup> M&E focal points M&E Group

#### UNSDCF 2021-2025 Results-Groups (at outcome level) and subgroups (at output level)

Outcome Area	Results groups Co-Leads and Alternates		Sub-Groups Co Leads	
	Government of Eswatini	UN Agency	Government of Eswatini	UN Agency
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth	Ministry of Economic Planning and Development  Alternate: Ministry of Finance	UNDP  Alternate: WFP	Private sector	
			MICT	FAO
			Social Protection	
			MLSS	ILO
<b>Outcome 2:</b> Investing in Human Resources and Social Development	DPMO  Alternate: MTAD	UNFPA  Alternate: UNAIDS	Health	
			MOH	WHO
			Education	
			MOET	UNICEF
<b>Outcome 3:</b> Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs  Alternate: MTAD	UNICEF  Alternate: OHCHR	Violence	
			DPMO	UNFPA
			Protection	
			Royal Eswatini Police	IOM
<b>Outcome 4:</b> Strengthening natural resource management, climate resilience and environmental sustainability	MNRE  Alternate: MTEA	WFP  Alternate: UNEP	Environment	
			Eswatini Environmental Authority	FAO
			Energy	
			MNRE Energy Department	UNDP







**Operations Management Team (OMT)** – The Operations Management Team (OMT) advises the UNCT on operations and management matters, and it aims to increase efficiency and reduce transaction costs associated with the implementation of the UNSDCF, in alignment with the UN’s global Business Operations Strategy (BOS). Its membership consists of all UN agencies’ Operations Managers, or unit heads for Finance, Administration and/or Human Resources of all agencies that are operational in the country, and and/or alternates designated by the heads of agencies. The Chair of the OMT is a HoA designated by the UNRC on an annual basis (Further details on the role and responsibilities of OMT are presented below in **Annex 9**).

**The UN Communications Group (UNCG)** plays a key role in promoting One Voice Communicating as One principle. It is intended that the UNCG, in collaboration with UNCT, will pursue a communication strategy that is based on supporting national development priorities, the UNSDCF and other joint programming documents. Through the Resident Coordinator System, the UNCG is responsible for identifying new and innovative ways to highlight how UN programmes are delivering results; promoting coherent communication; serving as an Advisor to UNCT on strategic media and communication matters; and facilitating the communication of UN strategic policy decisions. The UNCG is chaired by a Head of Agency designated by the Resident Coordinator, and its membership includes the communications focal points of all United Nations Agencies. (Further details on the role and responsibilities of the UNCG, see below, **Annex 10**).

### 3.3 Resource Mobilization

The UN Development System in Eswatini will develop a Funding Framework as the UNCT’s main financial planning and resource mobilization tool for the CF. The Funding Framework and SDG financing strategy will be based on a financial landscape analysis. A detailed resource mobilization strategy will be developed at that time.

As part of its resource mobilization strategy, the UN may support

- The establishment of an SDG Partnership Platform (SDGPP) with GoE, as a joint advocacy and policy dialogue tool to broker and maintain partnerships with national, local and international stakeholders, including the private sector, development partners and non-traditional funders;
- The development of a financing instrument, in collaboration with the financial sector, to bridge the SDG funding gap. It would target traditional and non-traditional donors, including the private sector, international philanthropic organizations, foundations and other funders who are keen in financing SDGs outside the fiscus. Examples of the type of instrument to be developed include a UN Country Coordination Fund or an Eswatini Multiparter Trust Fund (EMPTF),
- The establishment of an Eswatini chapter of the UN Global Compact to coordinate direct and indirect contributions from the private sector towards the SDGs, for example, by integrating ESG and other responsible business principles into their operations

These platforms could be coordinated through the National Steering Committee with the GoE.

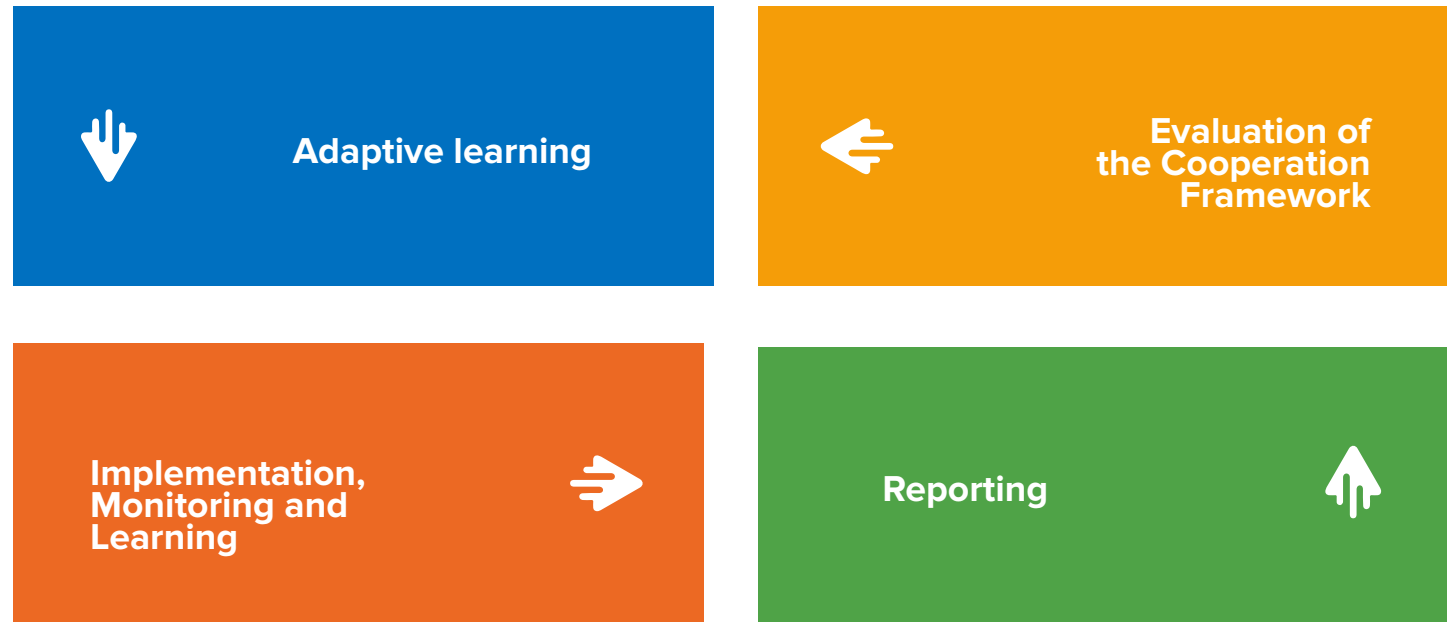


## 4.1. OVERVIEW

The UNSDCF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan will focus on four inter-related activities:

- Adaptive programming
- Monitoring and Learning
- Reporting
- Evaluation of the Cooperation Framework

Given Eswatini's fluid operating environment, the UNSDCF MEL plan will employ an adaptive approach, based on continuous learning and evidence, to allow for programmatic flexibility and operational nimbleness. The CF RRF will therefore be developed to reflect the strategic priority areas (SPAs) only at the outcome level. UNSDCF reporting will be conducted on an annual basis, with a monitoring of milestones, allowing for learning and the improvement of implementation.





### 4.1.1 Risks and Opportunities

During the formulation of the CF, various risks to its implementation and the achievement of its planned results were identified. These include:

- **Disaster-related risks:** Eswatini is vulnerable to dramatic climate events, particularly drought, and it is now responding to the COVID-19 emergency. One risk for the CF is if the UN would not be able to quickly readjust its programming to respond to changes in the country context, for example, to a humanitarian emergency such as the COVID-19 pandemic, or a climate event such as the El Nino-induced drought in 2016-2017.<sup>16</sup> A further pandemic-related concern is that its impact on socio-economic indicators has not yet been measured; and one risk to the CF is that the baselines for its outcomes and outputs, particularly those which are poverty-related, may be less accurate than anticipated. Both the ongoing monitoring of multi-dimensional poverty indicators, as well as an outcome-based CF, which has a limited number of priorities and outcomes and which allows more programmatic flexibility, will reduce these risks.

<sup>16</sup> “MTR found out that stakeholders feel that the UNDAF design and implementation of various interventions show limited flexibility to adapt to new and emerging issues. Stakeholders from both the public sector and CSO indicated that in the last 2.5 years, ONE UN has not been flexible enough to address emerging priority issues that were not included in the UNDAF, for example, mainstreaming human rights in development and social projects, and even designing a joint programme.

“The exception was the UN support to drought emergency that was caused by El Nino of 2016-2017. UN family collectively paid sufficient attention and supported the Government in responding to the emergency. But this was at the cost of the implementation of UNDAF activities, where resources and efforts were shifted to the drought emergencies response”, Eswatini UNDAF MTR 2018, p. 27.

- **Risks related to the economy:** The Government of Eswatini has projected a 6% decline in economic growth due to COVID-19; and this may slow UNSDCF implementation and hinder the achievement of its planned results. As noted above, an outcome-based CF, such as the 2021-2025 Eswatini UNSDCF, allows programmatic flexibility, including the option of adjusting activities, and thereby reduces this risk.
- **Risk of reduced partner support:** Adequate financing, mobilized through a grounded Funding Framework, will be essential to the realization of the CF’s expected results. One risk to this is the forecasted reduction in partner support, which may in part be related to Eswatini’s LMIC status. The UN will mitigate this risk by moving beyond traditional donors and partners, for example, to broker partnerships with non-traditional funders to pursue additional regional and international South-South Cooperation initiatives; and to establish financial and non-financial alliances with the private sector, among others (see also above, **Resource Mobilization**).
- **Sustainability risks:** As noted above in **Sustainability**, the UN will aim to mitigate risks to the sustainability of CF results through 1) the focused institutional strengthening and capacity building of its national and local partners, and 2) fostering grassroots support for SDG-focused investments.
- **Project-related financial risks:** To manage procurement and project-related financial risks, the UN will utilize the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), a risk-based tool for transferring cash to government and non-government implementing partners and vendors (**Annex 12**)

Frequent monitoring and tracking of risks and the identification of solutions collaboratively with the Government, local partners, funders and other stakeholders will also be key to mitigation and to adapting and contributing to change.

- **Opportunities:** A significant opportunity, which will be leveraged in support of the CF’s strategic priorities lies in Eswatini’s predominantly young population<sup>17</sup>. As noted above, given current trends, Eswatini should be able to benefit from its youth-based demographic dividend<sup>18</sup> until at least 2050, if the skills which are taught in school align with the skills required by the labour market. This youth bulge could therefore drive rapid economic growth in the country; and Eswatini’s youth could thus play a key role in the achievement both of its prioritized SDGs and of its national development goals. This trend has been referenced in the CF, where youth feature as a cross-cutting theme across all of its outcomes.

<sup>17</sup> The current median age of Eswatini’s population is 21.7 years.  
<sup>18</sup> Rapid economic growth caused by an increase in the proportion of the working-age population relative to the dependent population

### 4.1.2 Cooperation Framework Review and Reporting

Reviews and the reporting of CF results and implementation will be undertaken annually, in collaboration with Government of Eswatini, and led by Results Groups, with technical guidance from the RGs’ monitoring and evaluation focal points and the PPSG. Any adjustments to the CF strategies, priorities or activities will also be guided by the annual reviews of the CCA.

### 4.2 EVALUATION PLAN

An evaluation of the Cooperation Framework will be conducted by an independent consultant(s) in the penultimate year of the CF cycle (2024). The CF evaluation will adhere to UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) norms and standards; follow OECD-DAC evaluation criteria; and utilize a GEHRB approach. While the CCA will be updated annually, the CF assessed and adjusted accordingly.





# ANNEXES





Eswatini has identified the following ten national SDG priorities to guide its development plans and policies during the coming decade.<sup>1</sup> The country's progress towards the achievement of its prioritized SDGs is summarized in the table excerpted from its 2019 Voluntary National Review Report,<sup>2</sup> below:

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, Voluntary National Review Report, June 2019: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/docu-](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24651Eswatini_VNR_Final_Report.pdf)

[ments/24651Eswatini\\_VNR\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24651Eswatini_VNR_Final_Report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Op. cit., pp. v-vii



Goal No.	Goal	Progress
SDG 1	No Poverty	The proportion of population living below the poverty line improved from 63% in 2010 to 58.9% in 2017. Poverty is most pronounced in rural areas at 70.2% than urban area 19.6% (2017) and slightly more females (59.4 percent) than males (58.4 percent) are poor. and is highest in the Shiselweni and Lubombo regions at 1.5% and 67.3% respectively (2017).
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	The prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age has declined from 25.5% to 19.9%. The country is now within the world food security requirement of below 20%.
SDG 3	Good Health and Well Being	The maternal mortality rate declined from 593/100,000 in 2012 to 474/100,000 in 2018 which reflects a small and slow decline if the country is to meet the target of 120/100,000 maternal deaths in 2022. Also, of concern is the slow decline in the under 5 mortality rate from 80/1000 in 2012 to 67/1000 live births in 2018. The incidence of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis has stabilized, but non-communicable diseases have risen to 12% of deaths between 2013 and 2017.
SDG 4	Quality Education	The country introduced free primary education programme as a means to ensure that all children have equal access to quality primary education. As a result, the proportion of children that completed primary education increased from 93.5 % in 2014 to 106.1 % in 2016 and secondary education increased from 49.6% to 61.5 % respectively. The national literacy rate was 95.3% for women and 91.8 % for men in 2014.
SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation	The national coverage of nationally managed water resources for households was 72% in 2014 (96% urban population and 63% rural populace.) The increase in access to clean water in rural areas was promoted by the establishment of micro water schemes in communities. The proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, at national level was 53% which comprises of 78% in the rural areas and 94% in urban populace. However, there are discrepancies between coverage and access to the services
SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy	The Rural electricity programme increases access to clean energy for people living in both urban and rural areas. The proportion of household with access to electricity nationally increased from 69% in 2014 to 78% in 2018.
SDG 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	According to Labour Force Survey reports, the proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture sector nationally increased from 54.3% in 2013 to 65.2% in 2016. The 2016 Financial Inclusion Strategy has improved access to finance for MSME including the informal sector.
SDG 13	Climate Action	The 2016 National Climate Change Policy and Strategy, the 2014-2019 National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and the 2017-2021 National Resilience Strategy and Disaster Risk Reduction Plan of Action were developed.
SDG 16	Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	Eswatini has very insignificant cases of conflict-related deaths of about 0.0017%. However, the number of intentional homicide victims per year in the country increased by 8.9%, from 112 in 2016 to 123 in 2018; and the reported cases of domestic abuse increased by 26.4% from 7729 cases in 2015 to 10504 in 2016
SDG 17	Global Partnership	The Aid Policy of 2000 was revised to inform development of the 2019 National Development Cooperation Policy. The policy will guide all relevant agencies of Government, development partners, civil society organizations and other stakeholders on coordination and management of development cooperation resources.



## VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN ESWATINI

A summary of the UNDS Rapid Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Eswatini prepared by the Multi-Agency UNSDCF Drafting Team)

Multidimensional vulnerabilities are reinforced by existing economic, social, environmental and governance factors, including:

### Dimension 1 – Slow economic growth

Eswatini entered COVID-19 from a low economic growth position. The NDP indicates that a minimum growth rate of 5 percent is essential for the country's socio-economic progress. However, even prior to COVID-19, the Eswatini's GDP growth was only 1.4% in 2019, down from 2.4% in 2018. With high expectations that COVID-19 will push the economy into recession, vulnerability to sustain progress on SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10 has increased.

This line of vulnerability is further complicated by the regional dimension of volatile SACU revenues. SACU confirms to a monthly loss of R7 Billion in customs per month to the member states due to COVID-19<sup>1</sup>. With close to 40 percent of Eswatini's revenue derived from SACU revenue, this vulnerability will also impact significantly on SDG progress.

#### Most vulnerable Groups:

People living in extreme poverty; People living with disability; elderly, women and youth, People living with HIV and AIDS.

### Dimension 2 – Poor agricultural production and productivity among the 70% of rural poor who rely on agriculture as a livelihood, as well as a reliance on food imports

<sup>1</sup> Press report on SACU Press Conference (as reported in press) <https://www.msn.com/en-za/news/other/sacu-covid-19-costing-members-states-r7bn-in-revenue-every-month/ar-BB13pkPp>

A significant portion of rural households are not transformed i.e. their incomes are lower than the poverty level; they do not operate commercially; nor do they invest on the farm including purchasing commercial inputs, including hired labor, in significant quantities, and nor do they adopt new technologies on a regular basis. Moreover, Eswatini is also a net importer of food. This is further compounded by the devastating impact of climate extremes, especially drought. With supply disruptions induced by COVID-19 and the country without a grain reserve, the ability to cover necessary supplies to support agriculture revival is greatly limited. This line of vulnerability directly impacts food security in the country, as well as increases the population in need of social protection. This line of vulnerability impacts the progress on SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 12, SDG 13 and SDG 15.

- **Most vulnerable Groups:** People living in extreme poverty; People living with disability; elderly, women and youth, People living with HIV and AIDS.

### Dimension 3 – skewed health spending focus

With 80 percent of the population within 8 kilometre radius to a health facility, access to health is a significant progress of Eswatini. Allocation of health spending is however focused upon tertiary care. COVID-19 will impact the status quo, as it is the primary level care that is of most significance to addressing spread of virus. Clinical evidence also establishes that the biggest spread of pandemic is in Manzini Region, the commercial nerve-centre of the country<sup>2</sup> and is showing a clear trend of high prevalence in productive labour age bracket. COVID-19 impact on the health systems and the consequent impact on labour force is a key line of vulnerability which will impact progress on SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 8.

<sup>2</sup> Draft Report, Rapid Socio-Economic Assessment Report of COVID-19

This line of vulnerability is further complicated with WASH factors. Impact of El Nino induced drought of 2015/16 which led to diminishing ground water sources and near complete drying off surface water resources<sup>3</sup> is still not completely mitigated. This comes on top of 2016 drought assessment findings which showed that nearly 28% of improved water sources in rural areas were non-functional and only 4 % were partially functional.

While washing hands with soap is considered as the most effective preventive measure for spread of pandemic, diminishing water reserves coupled with already existing development challenge of one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world, the vulnerability of Eswatini to COVID-19 health impact is high. This line of vulnerability has implications for progress on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 13.

- **Most vulnerable Groups:** People living in extreme poverty; People living with disability; elderly, women and youth, People living with HIV and AIDS, frontline employees especially health care workers.

### Dimension 4 – closure of learning and feeding

Eswatini has achieved near universal net enrolment in primary education. However, a high proportion of adolescents are excluded from secondary education system<sup>4</sup>. Only 20 percent of students who attend primary school move to secondary and only 5 percent reach tertiary

<sup>3</sup> Op. cit., p. 2

<sup>4</sup> Draft Report – UN CCA

level<sup>5</sup>. COVID-19 induced lockdowns compound this existing landscape in the form of lockdown and closure of schools as schools in Eswatini are both institutions of learning and a key element in the safety net as feeding centres for the children. Government implements a national school feeding programme which was impacted owing to school closures. Hunger increases the vulnerability of children and youth to discontinue learning and forced to take up work. Impact on learning will be pronounced in the form of limited skilled labour for sustaining progress on economic growth. This line of vulnerability will be critical to progress on SDGs 2, 3, 4 and 5.

- **Most vulnerable Groups:** Children

### Dimension 5 – crowding out of private sector in economy

Size of sectors as percent of GDP between 2000 and 2017 establish that there is no private sector led growth in the economy<sup>6</sup>. This is a major line of vulnerability as no economy can grow sustainably without the private sector. This developmental trend is further compounded by the disruption of supply chains and MSMEs from the pandemic.

- **Most vulnerable Groups:** Unskilled and less skilled workers; entrepreneurs; young people

<sup>5</sup> Op. cit., p 4

<sup>6</sup> MEPPD, National Development Plan 2019/20-2021/22 establishes the economic structural shifts between 2000-2017 as follows: In 2000 - Agriculture, Forestry and Mining - 13 percent; Manufacturing – 35 percent; Public sector – 11 percent; Services – 36 percent; Construction and Utilities – 5 percent. In 2017 - Agriculture, Forestry and Mining - 9 percent; Manufacturing – 32 percent; Public sector – 17 percent; Services – 37 percent; Construction and Utilities – 4 percent.



## ANNEX 3: MONITORING AND EVALUATION CALENDAR

Description of activities	Main objective	Parties responsible	Timeline					
			2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Monitoring								
Baseline data for outcome/output indicator	Establish baseline data for all indicators	All outcome results groups.	Q1 Outcome/output indicator baselines		Q1 Outcome/output indicator baselines.	Q1 Outcome/output indicator baselines.	Q1 Outcome/output indicator baselines.	Q1 Outcome/output indicator baselines.
Output quarterly milestones established	Establish quarterly output indicator milestones	All outcome results groups.	Q1 Output indicator milestones.		Q1 Output indicator milestones.	Q1 Output indicator milestones	Q1 Output indicator milestones.	Q1 Output indicator milestones.
Develop bi-annual joint workplan	To develop and approve biannual workplan	outcome results groups.	Q1 Joint bi-annual joint workplan		Q1 Joint bi-annual joint workplan	Q1 Joint bi-annual joint workplan	Q1 Joint bi-annual joint workplan	Q1 Joint bi-annual joint workplan
Conduct quarterly monitoring of milestones	To establish progress towards achieving milestone results	All outcome results groups.	Quarterly progress reports <sup>1</sup>		Quarterly progress reports	Quarterly progress reports	Quarterly progress reports	Quarterly progress reports.
Annual revision and update of CCA	To update CCA with current available information	All outcome results groups.	Q4 Updated CCA report <sup>2</sup>		Q4 Updated CCA report	Q4 Updated CCA report	Q4 Updated CCA report	Q4 Updated CCA report
Conduct M&E Retreat	M&E retreat for capacity and mentorship building on M&E.	UN M&E group	Q1/Q2 M&E Retreat held		Q1/Q2 M&E Retreat held	Q1/Q2 M&E Retreat held	Q1/Q2 M&E Retreat held	Q1/Q2 M&E Retreat held
Review and reporting								
Cooperation Framework Annual Performance Review meetings	Undertake joint review meetings to measure progress towards annual results	All outcome results groups.	Q4 joint Annual performance review meetings <sup>3</sup>		Q4 joint Annual performance review meetings	Q4 joint Annual performance review meetings	Q4 joint Annual performance review meetings	Q4 joint Annual performance review meetings
Preparation of annual results report	Provide overview of Cooperation Framework achievements at the outcome level	All outcome results groups.	One UN results report produced <sup>4</sup>		One UN results report produced	One UN results report produced	One UN results report produced	One UN results report produced
Reporting on UN INFO	Online mapping and tracking of results and resources planned, expenditure and gaps.	All outcome results groups.	Online platform established		Online reporting updated at quarterly intervals <sup>5</sup>	Online reporting updated at quarterly intervals	Online reporting updated at quarterly intervals	Online reporting updated at quarterly intervals



Description of activities	Main objective	Parties responsible	Timeline					
			2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
UN Treaty Bodies reporting								
Universal Periodic Review (UPR)	A review cycle is a four-and-half year period within which all UN Member states' human rights records are reviewed.	All outcome results groups.	Eswatini's 3 <sup>rd</sup> cycle UPR will be in November 2021.					
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It conducts country reviews or follow ups.	All outcome results groups.						
Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	Country is due for country review this year (2020)	All outcome results groups.						
Evaluation								
Conduct evaluation of the CF <sup>5</sup>	Evaluate the Cooperation Framework with a specific focus on the achievement of outcomes. This process can include conduct of a separate evaluability assessment	All results groups established as per outcome area	-	-	-		UNSDCF evaluation <sup>7</sup>	UNSDCF evaluation initiated Management response template developed
Conduct individual agency evaluations / Mid Term reviews	Evaluate the work of a single agency at the country, programme or project level.	Individual agencies	UNAIDS annual workplan Formative Evaluation Study of the National GBV Response Programme, SRH and HIV/AIDS.		WHO Mid-Term review UNAIDS annual workplan UNFPA CPD (2021-2025) Evaluability Assessment	UNICEF Agency Mid-Term Review WHO Final Mid-term review UNDP CPD Outcome evaluation UNAIDS annual workplan	UNICEF Country Programme Evaluation UNFPA Country Programme Evaluation UNAIDS annual workplan FAO Country Programme evaluation ILO Country Programme evaluation	End of year agency evaluation / review conducted
Learning								
Collectively analyse lessons gathered throughout programme cycle	Apply lessons learnt to the programme cycle	M & E Committee	Collection /analysis of lessons learnt <sup>8</sup> Half yearly reports issued		Collection / analysis of lessons learnt Half yearly reports issued	Collection / analysis of lessons learnt Half yearly reports issued	Collection / analysis of lessons learnt Half yearly reports issued	Collection / analysis of lessons learnt Half yearly reports issued
Establish a learning mechanism/ process through which lessons are made available across the UN System	Cross-fertilize agency specific and joint programmes with lessons learned	All results groups established as per outcome area	Quarterly reports disseminated Half yearly workshops held to reflect interlinkages between individual agency and joint programmes		Quarterly reports disseminated Half yearly workshops held to reflect interlinkages between individual agency and joint programmes	Quarterly reports disseminated Half yearly workshops held to reflect interlinkages between individual agency and joint programmes	Quarterly reports disseminated Half yearly workshops held to reflect interlinkages between individual agency and joint programmes	Quarterly reports disseminated Half yearly workshops held to reflect interlinkages between individual agency and joint programmes
National Evaluation Capacity Development on Evaluation	National Evaluation capacity building TA and support including partners attendance to training, workshops, as well as other capacity development activities for partners.	M & E Committee			Biennially jointly with UN System, Government of Kingdom of Eswatini, Civil Society Organization, Development Partners		Biennially jointly with UN System, Government of Kingdom of Eswatini, Civil Society Organization, Development Partners	





## PROSPERITY

### 4.1 PROSPERITY

**Impact:** By 2025, reduce extreme poverty for all people of Eswatini from 20.1% to 17% (NDP, 2019-2022)

**Impact Indicators: SDG1 indicators:** Proportion of population living in extreme poverty, by sex and age, Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex. **SDG8 indicators:** Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita, Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex, Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities, Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities, Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training, Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age, Total government spending in social protection and employment programmes as a proportion of the national budgets and GDP. **SDG2 indicators:** Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size, Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status. **SDG9 indicators:** Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita, Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment, CO2 emission per unit of value added.

**National development priority: Outcome 1:** Good Governance, Economic Recovery and Fiscal Stability; **Outcome 2:** Enhanced and Dynamic Private Sector Supporting Sustainable and Inclusive Growth; **Outcome 3:** Enhanced Social & Human Capital Development; Well Managed Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability; Efficient Economic Infrastructure Network ; Enhanced Efficient Public Service Delivery that Respects Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law; Equality

**Sectoral Outcome:** Reduced Poverty Rates in all its Forms at national and regional levels and across all groups of Swazis.

**REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS:**

**ILO Abidjan Declaration – Advancing Social Justice:**

Shaping the future of work in Africa: implementation plan on e.g. creating an enabling environment for sustainable business measures to enhance productivity growth ;skills development; enhancement of competitiveness and sustainability of formal sector enterprises; progressive extension of social protection coverage; addressing gender inequality and discrimination; comprehensive measures for a just transition; decent work and reduction of inequalities. (The mid-term review of the declaration’s implementation plans to take place in 2021 on the margins of the 4th Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment to be held in Eswatini)

**AU Agenda 2063:**Key Transformational Outcomes include improvements in living standards (income increases, job opportunities, reduction of hunger); transformed, inclusive and sustainable economies (GDP growth, labour intensive manufacturing, ICT penetration, climate resilient production systems); empowered women, youth and children (women’s access to and control of productive assets, reduced youth unemployment, end of child labour exploitation, trafficking and soldiering)

**SADC:** including SADC Employment & Labour Policy Framework and SADC Labour Law Guide platform

**African Continental Free Trade Area**

**SDGs and targets:**

- 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.a;
- 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4;
- 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all: 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5,8.6;
- 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation: 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4





Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (year)	Target	Source/ MoV	Assumption Statement	Partners	UN Agencies
Outcome 1: By 2025, women, men and youth, including marginalized persons, contribute to and benefit from economic progress, through greater access to decent employment, equitable social economic opportunities, sustainable enterprise opportunities as well as resilient, financially sustainable social protection systems	Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age (SDG 1.2.1)	58.9% Men: 67% Women: 59.4% (2017)	50% (2025)	Eswatini Household Income & Expenditure Survey (SHIES)	Assuming that investments on poverty reduction strategies will intensify and that periodic national household surveys will be conducted to provide outcome level updates. Assuming that government and development partners including the UN will provide technical and financial support for social protection systems for vulnerable persons.	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry; Ministry of Labour; World Bank Group; EU, COMESA, SADC, GEF, GCF; WEF, AfCFTA; A-etrade.  If the agricultural sector is commercialised subsistence farmers will enter the MSME sector	UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNIDO, ILO, IOM, UNHCR, WHO, UNFPA, FAO, UNAIDS,
	Multi-dimensional poverty [MPI] rates disaggregated by sex, location, age, income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status and location (SDG 1.2.2)	56% (child multi-dimensional poverty, 2018)	28%	Multiple Cluster Indicator survey (MICS)			
	Unemployment rate by sex (SDG 8.5.2)	Total: 23% (2017) Men: 21.4% Women: 24.8% Youth: 47.4% (2017)	Less than 20%	Labour Force Survey (LFS)			
	Proportion of the working poor by sex	Total: 38%? (2017)	34%	Labour Force Survey (LFS)			
	Proportion of working age population who are employed in MSMEs	16% (2017)	30%	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Survey			
	Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture sector	65.2% (2016)	75%	Labour Force Survey			
	Proportion of businesses that are MSMEs	10% (2017)	30%	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Survey			
	Ease of Doing Business Index	121/190 (2019)	110 (2025)	Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and Business Eswatini Reports			
	Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disaster per 100,000 population	18,331 (2019)	Less than the global average per 100,000 population	World Health Organization			
	Proportion of vulnerable population covered by social protection systems disaggregated by sex. (SDG 1.3.1)	20% (2019)	80%	DPMO Reports			
	Proportion of total government spending on social protection (modified SDG 1.a.2)	Social protection:3%	5% to (2020/21)	Ministry of Finance, National budget Estimates			
	Percentage of emerging business owners who do not save	17% (2017)	8%	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Survey			
Number of vulnerable populations, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, new-borns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable, covered by at least one social protection benefit (modified SDG1.3.1)	OVC- 55,572 Elderly- 65,773 Disabled pops. - 4,641 (2016/7)		VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORT  DPMO REPORT				





## PEOPLE

### 4.2 PEOPLE

**IMPACT:** Reduced morbidity and mortality and increased literacy among all people in the Kingdom of Eswatini  
Mo Ibrahim Index and Freedom House Index

**Impact indicators**

Maternal mortality ratio, Neonatal mortality rate, Under 5 mortality rate, AIDS-related deaths, HIV incidence, Stunting rates among under five, total adolescent birth rate, TB incidence, mortality rate attributable to NCDs, birth registration rate among children under five years, Open Defecation free rates, malaria incidence rate, Malaria related deaths, deaths due to road traffic injuries  
Improved literacy among the young people, men and women.

**National development priority:** Outcome: Enhanced social and human capital development.

Sectoral outcome: Improved to quality health and health services

**National development priority:** Outcome: Good Governance, Economic Recovery & Fiscal Stability

Sectoral Outcomes: Clarity on the Role of the Public Sector Restored

**REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS**

SADC protocol on health: health as a prerequisite for sustainable development aim: attainment of an acceptable standard of health for all people in the Kingdom of Eswatini  
AU Agenda 2063: steep reduction in malnutrition, maternal, child and neonatal deaths, and universal access to antiretroviral drugs for those afflicted by HIV/AIDS

**SDGS AND TARGETS**

2. Zero hunger:2.2. 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d4. Quality education; 4.1 – 4.2 – 4.3 – 4.4 – 4.5 5. Gender equality; 5.1, 8 Decent work and economic growth, 8.6  
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls: 5.1, 5.5, 5.6, 5a, 5b, 5c6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all: 6.1, 6.2, 6a, 6b17. Partnerships for the goals: 17.1,17.6,17.9  
16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; 16.6, 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; 5.5

Impact indicators: Literacy rate disaggregated by age and sex.

National development priority:

Outcome 3 Enhanced Social and Human Capital Development  
-Sectoral Outcome: (i) Improved Access to Quality, Relevant & Inclusive Education & Lifelong Learning Opportunities  
- (ii) Youth and Other Vulnerable Groups Empowered with Adequate Skills and Opportunities to Live Meaningful Lives and to Actively Participate in the Economy

**REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS**

African Union agenda 2063 – goal #2 Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation – Priority Education and Science, Technology and Innovation skills driven revolution.







Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (year)	Target	Source/ MoV		Assumption Statement	Partners	UN Agencies
<p>Outcome 2: By 2025, all children, adolescent, young people, men and women including marginalized persons, benefit from equitable, effective and efficient quality social services, life-long learning and market-relevant skills.</p>	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who received a health check while in facility or at home following delivery, or a post-natal care visit within 2 days after delivery of their most recent live birth	88% (2014)	95%	MICS		<p>Significant reduction in ODA due to LMIC status Financial and social instability after COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>Natural disasters</p> <p>Significant support and advocacy from national governments, civil society, programme beneficiaries Peace and security will be maintained Economic and fiscal situation as it borders on availability of resources and capacity</p>	<p>Ministry of Education and Training; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Health; Local and international NGOs; World Bank Group; EU; local and international NGOs; civil society and academia</p>	<p>UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, WFP</p>
	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who received a health check while in facility or at home following delivery, or a post-natal care visit within 2 days after delivery of their most recent live birth	87.2%	95%	MoH Annual Reports	<p>External environmental conditions – pandemics, like the Cov-19</p>			
	Percentage of women age 15-49 years who are currently married or in union who are fecund and want to space their births or limit the number of children they have and who are not currently using contraception	15.2%	10%	MoH Annual Reports	<p>Health financing Continuous government and partners' commitment to education financing</p>			
	Proportion of new-borns receiving postnatal care within two/seven days of childbirth	70.1% (2014)	80%	MICS	<p>World trade/economic growth is strong</p>			
	Percentage of people living with HIV (receiving ART) who have suppressed viral loads (disaggregated by age and gender)	All ages 92% (2020)	95%	HIV estimates	<p>Capacity of the government and partners to manage humanitarian crises (natural disasters, health outbreaks)</p>			
		0-14 years 76% (2020)	95%		<p>Peace and security are maintained</p>			
		Female 15+ years 97% (2020)	100%					
	Male 15+ years 87% (2020)	95%						
Proportion of children under age of 1 year who receive DPT3/Penta3	91% (2018)	95%	MoH Annual Reports					
Proportion of children exclusively breastfed by age of six months	58% (2018)	95%	MoH Annual Reports					





	TB treatment success rate among bacteriologically confirmed TB patients	89% (2018)	95%	MoH Annual Reports			
	Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population (SDG 3.3.2)	329 (2018)		World Health Organization, Global Tuberculosis Report and MoH Annual Reports			
	Proportion of women aged 30 to 49 years who had ever had a screening test for cervical cancer	41% (2019)	80%	Cancer registry			
	Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education) (SDG 4.1.2)			Annual Education Census/MICS	Continuous government and partners' commitment to education financing		
	Primary completion rate Secondary completion rate	90.9% 74%	100% 100%		World trade/economy growth is strong		
	Proportion of youth and women with relevant technical and vocational skills	24%	50%	Ministry of Labour and Social Security reports	Capacity of the government and partners to manage humanitarian crises (natural disasters, health outbreaks)		
	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex (SDG 4.2.2) (Enrolment rate in early learning (grade 0)):	M: 79% F: 78%	M: 95% F: 95%	MICS	Peace and security are maintained		
	Percentage of young people (15 to 24 years) not in employment, education, or training (SDG 8.6.1)	M: 34.7% F: 32.5% (2016)	M: 20% F: 20%	Labour Force Survey (LFS)			
	Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age (SDG 2.2.1)	19.9%- ALL Boys-22.1% Girls-17.5% (2018)	15%	MoH annual report			
Proportion of migrants that report to have accessed healthcare system regardless of their migratory status (SDG Target 10.7)	TBD	TBD	Ministry of Health				



Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (year)	Target	Source/ MoV	Assumption Statement	Partners	UN Agencies
Outcome 3: By 2025, oversight bodies and government institutions at national and regional levels operate in an independent, participatory and accountable manner, ensuring equal access to justice and services, with a systematic, participatory implementation and reporting mechanism for human rights obligations and SDGs, with a focus on leaving no one behind.	Proportion of the population satisfied with their experience of public services, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, type of service and governorate. (SDG 16.6.2)	30%	60%	Perception survey	<p>Government commitment to update systems and scale up service delivery, improve access to justice, improve services to enhance ease of doing business and is open to innovation in public sector services</p> <p>Justice sector is prioritizing updating its systems and performance such as the case management system, access to legal aid, improve capacity of staff, committed to the implementation and enforcement of laws and to improve in World Bank ease of doing business indicators</p> <p>Government demonstrates effort to improve its anticorruption indicators, adopt new technologies to enhance transparency (SRM pillars on Culture of Excellence, ICT etc.)</p> <p>Parliament is interested in improving its research capacity, digitalization, and is more engaged on the SDGs, government is keen on providing data on the SDGs, generation of disaggregated data will lead to evidence-based policy development and realization of human rights and SDGs Legal frameworks exist to enable women's participation, women groups are expressing interest for support</p> <p>Government is committed to honour its human rights obligations,</p>	<p>Office of Prime Minister, Office of Secretary to Cabinet and Head of Public Service; Central Statistical Agency; Parliament ; Ministry of Economic Planning and Development; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration &amp; Development; Eswatini Anti-Corruption Commission; Commission for Human Rights and Public Administration, the African Development Bank; ITU Royal Science and Technology Park; Lawyer's Association and Local Government</p>	<p>OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNODC, UNFPA, ILO, IOM</p>
	Proportion of total Government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection) as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar) (SDG 16.6.1)	Health 15.4% Education 9.8% Social Protection 3%	20% 15% 5%	Government audit report			
	Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments (SDG 5.5.1)	23%	40%	Election Reports			
	Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring (SDG 17.18.1)	No	Yes	Government of Eswatini, Ministry of Economic planning and Development SDGs reports			
	Corruption Perceptions Index	34/100 (2019)	45/100				
	Mo Ibrahim Index	48.7/100 (Mo Ibrahim Index) (2018)	50/100	Mo Ibrahim Index Report			
	Freedom House Index	19/100 (2020)	30/100	Freedom House Index and democracy Report			
	Proportion of population subjected to either (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months by age and sex (16.3.1)	33%	0%	DPMO			
	National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) on human rights is functional	Inter-Ministerial Committee with a Secretariat within the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs	Functional NMRF with designated membership from Government Ministries and a permanent secretariat	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs			
	Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles (SDG 16.a.1)	No	Yes (A-status NHRI)	Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions Sub-Committee on Accreditation			
	Proportion of boys and girls that report to have been protected against Trafficking in Persons in Eswatini (SDG target 5.2)	10	20	Office of the Prime Minister			





## PLANET

### 4.3 PLANET

**Impact:** Livelihoods and well-being, especially for vulnerable and marginalized communities improved.

**IMPACT INDICATOR:**

Child mortality, adult mortality, life expectancy, Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture (SDG indicator 2.4.1)

**NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY:**

**Outcome 5:** Well Managed Natural Resources & Environmental Sustainability Sectoral Outcomes: Improved Management & Access to Safe Drinking Water & Sanitation Equitable, Inclusive & Sustainable Management of Natural Resources Improved National & Community Resilience to Natural Disasters Clean & Safe Environment

**REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS:**

The comprehensive Framework of climate change programmes in Africa facilitated by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), including the Durban Declaration on taking action for environmental sustainability and prosperity in Africa. SADC Southern Africa Sub - Regional Framework of Climate Change Programmes

**SDGS AND TARGETS:**

2. End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture: 2.4.1  
 6. Clean Water and Sanitation: 6.1 – 6.2 – 6.3 – 6.4 – 6.5 – 6.6 – 6.a – 6.b,  
 7. Affordable and Clean Energy: 7.1 – 7.2 – 7.3– 7.a – 7.b,  
 13. Climate Action 13.1 – 13.2 – 13.3,  
 15. Life on Land: 15.1 – 15.2 – 15.3 – 15.4 – 15.5 – 15.6 – 15.7 – 15.8 – 15.9– 15.a – 15.b– 15.c







Results	Performance Indicators (disaggregated)	Baseline (year)	Target	Source/ MoV		Assumption Statement	Partners	UN Agencies
Outcome 4: By 2025, Eswatini is on an inclusive low-carbon development pathway that is resilient to climate change and in which natural resources are managed sustainably, and community adaptation to climate change is enhanced, for improved livelihoods, health and food security, especially for vulnerable and marginalized communities.	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (SDG 6.1.1)	National: 69.8% Urban: 90.2% Rural: 63%		SHIES/Comprehensive survey				
	2. Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water (SDG 6.2.1) (c) Proportion of wastewater safely treated (SDG 6.3.1)	68.3% (2017) 72.4% (2017) 75%		SHIES  Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MENR) Annual Reports,		Government and development partners including the UN will provide technical and financial support for climate change adaptation and mitigation.	Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (MNRE), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC), Eswatini Environment Authority (EEA), Department of Water Affairs (DWA), National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), Climate Change Unit, Meteorology Department (MET), Electricity authority; local governments, CBOs; CANGO; academia; SADC, COMESA, IFIs; Green Climate Fund, Global Environmental Facility	UNDP, FAO, WFP, UNEP, ILO, UN Women, IAEA,
	3. Proportion of sectors which have adopted and implemented national disaster risk reduction strategies	65%	80%	MICS		Government agrees to further prioritize its climate change/environment related international commitments		
	4. Proportion of population with access to electricity (SDG 7.1.1)	2020: 80%	90%	MNRE-Energy surveys, Eswatini Electricity Company Annual Reports		Financial and social instability continues after COVID-19 pandemic, particularly affecting private sector investment		
	5 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (SDG 7.2.1)	2018: 64%	75%	MNRE-Energy surveys, Eswatini Electricity Company Annual Reports		Government resources are limited due to COVID-19 response and recovery		
	6. Percentage increase in use of climate resilient seed varieties	Xxx	Xxx	Ministry of Agriculture				
	7. Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture (SDG 2.4.1)	10.2 %	15%	Ministry of Agriculture				
	8. Percentage of rural and urban populations under 5 years who are malnourished	Urban-4.3% Rural-6.2% (2014)	Urban-2% Rural-2%	MICS and MOH Annual Reports				
	9.Forest area as a proportion of total land area	34.3%	35%	Ministry of Agriculture				



## JOINT GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE (J-NSC)

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### PURPOSE

The Joint Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini/United Nations Steering Committee (J-NSC) is established to provide strategic guidance and oversight in the implementation of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and is established at a strategic level under the leadership of the Government and the United Nations in Eswatini.

#### FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Steering Committee will carry out the following functions:

Provide strategic advice on policy direction to the Results Groups, which are co-chaired by the Government and the UN. This will strengthen coherence and strategic partnership between the Government and the UN in delivering the results of the UNSDCF;

- Perform an advisory role and lead in the implementation of the UNSDCF in line with global frameworks and national priorities for achieving Agenda 2030 and the Eswatini Strategic Roadmaps, as well as Eswatini National Development Plans;
- Provide strategic direction and oversight for the UNSDCF, ensuring alignment with national, regional and international development processes, mechanisms and goals and links with high level global and national reviews for joint contributions to meeting national priorities and the 2030 Agenda;
- Convene for the periodic review of the UNSDCF and oversee the work of results groups, ensuring alignment to existing government structures including sector working groups; oversee monitoring progress, challenges, opportunities and accountability; and steer direction of implementation;
- Reviews the One UN Country Results Report.
- Support resource mobilisation for the UNSDCF, as well as developing finance opportunities; and

- Establish advisory committees to support their work as required.

#### LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- The Joint Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini/United Nations Steering Committee (J-NSC) will be co-chaired by the Minister of Economic Planning and Development and the UN Resident Coordinator;
- The Results Group Co-Chairs will be accountable to the -J-NSC co-Chairs

#### STANDING MEMBERSHIP

In addition to the J-NSC co-Chairs:

- 3 Government Officials (Minister/PS level);
- 2 Representatives of Civil Society Organizations;
- 2 Representatives of Development Partners;
- 2 Representatives of the Private sector;
- 3 Members of the UN Country Team.

#### MEETING FREQUENCY AND MODUS OPERANDI

- Meetings of the J-NSC at the strategic level will take place twice a year while meetings at the technical level will take place on a quarterly basis;
- The quorum for any meeting of the J-NSC Committee shall be half of its standing membership, including either the Chair or the co-Chair.

#### SECRETARIAT

- The RCO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, will provide secretariat support.

## UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM (UNCT) (MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT AND RESIDENT COORDINATOR SYSTEM – UNSDG – JUNE 2019)

The UNCT is the main interagency mechanism in country for inter-agency coordination and decision-making. It is led by the Resident Coordinator and composed of the representatives of the United Nations entities carrying out operational activities for development in the respective country. The UNCT can also include representatives of the wider UN system, for example, the Bretton Woods institutions. The relationship between UNCT members, including the Resident Coordinator, is based on the principles of leadership for an integrated response to SDG-related needs and priorities, and mutual accountability for results.

UNCT members have two interrelated sets of accountabilities: firstly, to their respective entities on individual mandates; and, secondly, to their respective RC for results as defined in the UN Cooperation Framework and other inter-agency agreements of the UNCT.

A strengthened UN Cooperation Framework, agreed with the government, is the most important instrument for the planning and implementation of UN development activities in each country, and as such, is the point of departure in defining the activities and composition of each UNCT and the specific focus of respective country programmes of each agency. The UNCT's membership should be defined at the outset of each UN Cooperation Framework cycle, in consultation with the government, facilitated by the RC, and subject to the mandates and budgetary appropriations by individual agencies, and in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the UN and United Nations norms and standards (A/Res/72/279 OP2 and OP3).

UNCT member entities are those that carry out operational activities for development in support of countries, irrespective of where the UN entity is physically located, including entities with a project presence and, as such, all are required to sign the UN Cooperation Framework. [...]

With the support of the RCO, mechanisms should be established to ensure all members can fully participate in UNCT consultations and decision-making processes and are informed through regular communications and information sharing. [...]

UNCT members actively support the RC within the context of the UN Cooperation Framework results framework, including in policy and technical support, and normative standards and human rights (including advocacy), as appropriate and within available means to achieve agreed UNCT results,

and in analysis, planning, tracking and reporting processes, information management, communication and advocacy in the context of UN Cooperation Framework implementation and in support of the 2030 Agenda. [...]

The UNCT is responsible for overseeing implementation of the collective PSEA strategy and action plan in-country in countries where there is no Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). This includes actively addressing PSEA issues when raised in UNCT meetings, and establishing and supporting a PSEA Network, and ensuring that the UNCT has a strategy to provide assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. [...]

Mutual performance appraisals will allow RCs to appraise the performance of UN country team heads based on results towards joint UN activities, as set out in the UN Cooperation Framework and other agreed interagency commitments and activities. UN country team heads will also inform the performance assessment of RCs (through 3600 appraisals). RCs are appraised on their substantive performance by the Secretary-General, with inputs from the Regional UNSDG Team, in a process managed and facilitated by UN DCO.

UN Country Teams will also provide annual reporting to governments, through the RCs, on the UNCT collective performance in supporting the 2030 Agenda.

The RC makes decisions through a consultative process with the UNCT. In the absence of consensus within the UNCT regarding the strategic objectives in the UN Cooperation Framework or related allocation of UNCT-wide pooled funding, for example, the RC will take the final decision, in line with the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR). The RC also has the prerogative to ensure the finalization and promulgation of key UNCT documents should there be undue delays.

UNCTs should meet regularly, generally at least once a month. Each UNCT will agree on the specific parameters of UNCT working arrangements, including – with support from the RC - the establishment of coordination mechanisms that report to the UNCT, such as UN Cooperation Framework results groups, Operational Management Team and Communications Group, or other such mechanisms as required. Ideally UN Cooperation Framework results groups are co-chaired by one or two UNCT members and where possible by a high-level Government official with periodic reporting to the RC/UNCT on progress.



## POLICY AND PROGRAMMES SUPPORT GROUP (PPSG)

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### PURPOSE

Established under the auspices of the Resident Coordinator, the PPSG serves as the main 'think tank' and technical advisor to the UNCT. The PPSG is responsible for coordinating technical aspects of interventions under the UNSDCF and will serve as the interface between agencies, Results Groups and the UNCT.

#### FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide support in the annual revision of the UNSDCF and identify emerging policy realignment/ coherence with national priorities;
- Advise the UNCT strategic partnerships and resource mobilisation opportunities for enhanced programming and collaboration beyond the UN System;
- Provide strategic guidance to the UNCT on the implementation of the UNSDCF 2021-2025;
- Provide strategic advice on working modalities; liaise and ensure connectedness with other relevant coordination bodies, such as the government, civil society, private sector and development partners;
- Provide technical platform to respond to ad hoc issues and shift in national priorities (i.e. response to drought, response to pandemic);
- Provide technical guidance on joint M&E efforts, such as UNSDCF review processes, ensuring that reporting quantifies and qualifies UN action, including budget allocations and disbursements;
- Coordinate activities of Results Groups and provide support to the Resident Coordinator in the oversight of the operations of the Results Groups;
- Provide technical and or policy advisory support to UNCT in its interactions with the National Steering Committee.
- Establish a partnerships task team within the PPSG to coordinate partnerships, resource mobilization, opportunities and technical advice, with traditional and non-traditional partners, for financing SDGs in Eswatini (Please, see annex below)

#### LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The PPSG is chaired by a Head of Agency designated by the Resident Coordinator in consultation with the UNCT to serve on an annual basis.

#### STANDING MEMBERSHIP

The PPSG is comprised of senior policy and programme officers of the UN in Eswatini and the Team Leader of the Resident Coordinator's office and is chaired by a Head of Agency designated by the Resident Coordinator in consultation with the UNCT to serve on an annual basis. Meetings will be held on a monthly basis.

#### MEETINGS AND FREQUENCY

- Meetings of the PPSG are held on a monthly basis. The Chair can call for additional meetings if required or suggested by the UNCT.
- Minutes of the PPSG meetings will produced by the secretariat- RCO.
- Through the Chairperson, provide briefings and progress reports at monthly UNCT meetings.

#### SECRETARIAT

The RCO offers secretariat support to the PPSG

## POLICY AND PROGRAMMES SUPPORT GROUP (PPSG) PARTNERSHIPS TASK TEAM

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### BACKGROUND

The UN Partnerships Group ("UNPT") is a technical working group set up under the Policy & Programs Support Group (PPSG) to drive partnerships for SDGs in Eswatini with traditional and non-traditional partners. The UNPT will draw on lessons and recommendations from Eswatini Common Country Analysis, UNDAF 2016 – 2020 and its midterm review, the 2016 UN Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy, as well as UNSDCF guidelines to carry out the activities below.

#### MANDATE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The UNPT serves as the main task team for the coordination of partnerships and resource mobilization strategies, programmes, opportunities and technical advice on financing SDGs within the UN Eswatini.

Established under the PPSG, it will be responsible to:

1. Develop and strengthen partnerships with government, development partners/donors, implementing partners, civil society as well as non-traditional partners including the private sector, academic and research institutions, and other special interest groups.
1. Assist the UNCT in identifying and gaining access to funding and knowledge networks.
2. Coordinate all work/initiatives around the UNSDCF Funding and Financing Framework, specifically:
  - Facilitate the drafting of the multi-year overall Cooperation Framework finance plan.
  - Prepare the annual budget of CF programmatic activities for review by the UNCT.

3. Develop a Joint Resource Mobilization Strategy for the UNSDCF.
5. Carry out an annual mapping and report on financing and partnership for SDGs.
6. Carry out a broad Development Finance Assessment (DAF) of SDG financing with GoEs and development partners.

#### WORK MODALITIES

- Meetings of the UNPT will be held on a monthly basis under the PPSG agenda. The Chair of the PPSG will call for additional meetings, as required.
- Meetings of the UNPT will be documented in the minutes of the PPSG meetings.
- The secretariat will support the chair of the UNPT in following up on action points and ensuring compliance with deadlines.
- UNPT progress reports will be submitted to the UNCT on a quarterly basis through briefings.

#### SECRETARIAT

The RCO offers secretariat support to the PPSG



## UNSDCF 2021-2025 RESULTS GROUPS (RG)

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### PURPOSE

Each Cooperation Framework strategic priority must have a corresponding results group. The results group will improve internal coordination and ensure a coherent UN system-wide approach to a strategic priority. The results group will make UN Eswatini Development System a more effective partner and reduce transactions costs for stakeholders. Established under the auspices of the Minister of Economic Planning and Development and the UN Resident Coordinator, the results group will serve as the coordination mechanism for ensuring effective and efficient development, implementation, coherence and consistency of the UNSDCF through their respective Priority Areas. The Results Groups will prepare joint annual or biennial work plans, which will provide specific details on the implementation of the UNSDCF and will be approved by the National Steering Committee (NSC) after validation at the UNCT. The Results Groups will each be co-chaired by a Head of Agency and Principal Secretary from the Government or selected Government Representative. The Results Groups are the platforms that will reinforce national ownership and leadership, they will also reflect a whole of society approach based on inclusion of private sector and civil society, in addition to the Government. The Results Group will also be the platform to ensure timely progress in achieving the agreed outputs and activities under each thematic area; the platform to track progress towards the realization of UNSDCF outcomes in order to identify gaps, challenges and opportunities.

#### FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Result Groups lead and support efforts to attain the following outputs:

- Development and implementation of Joint Work Plans (JWPs);
- Monitoring and reporting on implementation of JWPs, towards joint outputs, including through the managing of information on UN INFO;
- Provide periodic inputs to update the CCA;
- Preparation of reports for the National Steering Committee.
- Contribution to Annual One Report;
- Specific responsibilities of the Result Groups are to:

1. Guide the implementation of the One Programme by priority area for enhanced joint planning, programming and M&E;
2. Propose areas for joint programming to reach optimal level of collaborative action to enhance synergies and harmonise actions in line with comparative advantages and mandates;
3. Contribute to joint M&E efforts, such as review processes through bi-annual meetings, ensuring that reporting quantifies and qualifies UN action, including budget allocations and disbursements.

#### LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Results Group Co-Chairs will be accountable to the -J-NSC co-Chairs

#### STANDING MEMBERSHIP

Composition under UNSDCF 2021-2025: Four Results Groups, each is composed of UN Agencies that contribute to the outcomes of the Results Groups;

Government line ministries or departments that contribute to the outcomes of the Results Groups; Representatives of Private Sector; Philanthropy; Civil Society & Academia/ Research

#### MEETING FREQUENCY AND MODUS OPERANDI

Frequency of Meetings: Once every two months (in preparation for National Steering Committee meetings).

#### SECRETARIAT

UN Result Group leads will be provided by the secretariat of their respective UNSDCF 2021-2025 Result Group, ensuring its proper functioning, coordination and supporting all preparations. The secretariat is responsible for proposing the meeting agenda to ensure that issues proposed allow for optimal results in line with the development agenda of UNCT Eswatini. The secretariat is responsible for documenting and following up on meeting outcomes. The secretariat supports the Chairs in following up on action points and ensuring compliance on deadlines.

## OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TEAM (OMT)

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### PURPOSE

In line with the broad elements of the UN reform and more particularly the undg strategic priorities for 2010 -2011, the Eswatini's Operations Management Team (OMT)'s mission is to reform its business practices through joint collaboration by adopting harmonization and simplification processes and tools including the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT), Common services such as Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and procurement; and Common Premises in order to facilitate and strengthen cost savings, harmonization of procedures, and implementation of efficient and cost effective support .

#### FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Support and advise the UNCT in finding and implementing solutions to obstacles hindering closer collaboration in the field of administration and operations;
- Develop a common services program that would result in the reduction of administrative costs;
- Support the implementation of programme activities at country level, and coordinate the administrative capacity of the UN System in Eswatini to respond to challenges.

#### LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The chairperson of the OMT is a head of agency that will be selected by UNCT on an annual basis

#### STANDING MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the group will include the Operations Managers, or unit heads for Finance, Administration and/or Human Resources of all agencies that are operational in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

#### MEETING FREQUENCY AND MODUS OPERANDI

The OMT is expected to perform the following tasks:

- Meet on a monthly basis
- Identify priority activities to be included in its annual work plan and ensure approval by the UNCT;

- Implement the UNCT approved OMT work plan in an open and transparent manner and encourage participation of as many agencies as possible;
- Develop the UN System common services programme while maintaining a continuous dialogue between agencies;
- Implement measures to harmonize and simplify procedures while seeking to comply with the regulations and procedures of each agency;
- Provide support to other coordination groups, with the objective of ensuring optimal use of available resources;
- Ensure that any contract negotiated by the OMT is covered by an MOU between participating agencies;
- Give effect to decisions taken by the UNCT on operational issues
- Oversee the work of UNSDCF ICT Group and that of the HACT
- Through the chairperson, provide briefings at monthly UNCT meetings on the harmonization initiatives of the OMT.
- Logistical support will be provided by the RCO when required.

#### SECRETARIAT

Minutes of the OMT meetings will produced by the secretary appointed from the staff of the chairing agency.



## UNITED NATIONS COMMUNICATIONS GROUP (UNCG)

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### PURPOSE

The United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) is the common communications platform of the United Nations Development System in Eswatini. Established under the auspices of the Resident Coordinator and chaired by a Head of Agency designated in consultation with the UN Country Team (UNCT), it comprises the communication and information officers of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes operating in the country. The Group serves as a mechanism for inter-agency coordination of UN communications and advocacy.

The main purpose of the UNCG is to strengthen inter-agency cooperation in the field of communications and advocacy and increase the public profile of the activities/ programmes/ interventions of the United Nations. The UNCG will promote Agenda 2030 and advocate for SDGs attainment. The UNCG will also serve as a platform to attract and build partnerships with a wide range of partners while making the optimal use of agencies tools and networks.

#### FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

UNCG Eswatini will seek to strengthen inter-agency cooperation in the field of communications and to increase the public profile of United Nations activities at the national, regional and/or global level by:

1. providing technical advice and services in communications to the UN Country Team.
2. identifying new and creative ways to show how UN programmes are delivering results (emphasizing inter-agency collaboration).
3. promoting a coherent image of the United Nations.
4. promoting the Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

It will be chaired by a Head of Agency or the most senior Communications Officer of any UN agency represented in the country. The UNCG chairperson will be appointed by the UN Resident Coordinator and shall serve on a rotational basis.

#### STANDING MEMBERSHIP

UNCG Eswatini will be comprised of communications focal points of all United Nations entities operating in the country. Recognizing that communications specialists are present in only a few UN agencies, communications focal points will be appointed by UN agencies, as they may find appropriate. Alternate Focal Points may also be appointed, as possible.

#### MEETING FREQUENCY AND MODUS OPERANDI

UNCG-Eswatini will issue a briefing and progress report on communication activities in a monthly UNCT meeting. An annual review and evaluation of the Group's activities will be conducted, which will form the basis of an annual progress report. This report will be forwarded to the UNCG secretariat at UN Headquarters for sharing with all UNCG members and for posting on the global UNCG website.

#### Activities

Depending on local needs, expertise and availability of resources, UNCG Eswatini will carry out various activities, such as:

**i. Meetings:** The Communications Group will meet a monthly basis to discuss common communications issues and challenges, devise common responses and undertake collective planning and action. Summaries or action points will be prepared and circulated among all communications staff in the country for sharing of information, good practices and coherence in interventions.

**ii. Communications strategies:** UNCG-Eswatini will develop an annual communications strategy and plan to undertake national communication activities on UN priority issues, adapting and localizing public information mandates to take into account the national media environment and local needs.

**iii. Press releases:** While each member of UNCG-Eswatini will continue to issue individual press releases pertaining to individual organization's activities, joint press releases will be produced on key UN priority issues and activities, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN reform and humanitarian responses. These press releases issued

through/by UNRCO will help the public better understand the integrated nature of the work carried out by UN organizations at the country level.

**iv. Calendar of media and public events:** To avoid scheduling conflicts and with a view to better planning UNCT events, the Communications Group will prepare and circulate every month a calendar of activities. This will include public events, such as seminars and other public gatherings and, to the extent possible, media-related activities, such as press conferences, visits by senior UN officials and launch of reports. The UNRCO will be responsible for producing the calendar, with inputs from all UNCG members.

**v. Field Missions for Media** – UNCG Eswatini will periodically organize joint field missions for members of the local media to showcase coordinated UN system activities in specific areas (e.g. visit to a community project to underline the work of several agencies).

**vii. Radio and TV Programmes** – In the event that the UN Eswatini has its own radio and television programmes (in collaboration with partners), UNCG Eswatini members will be invited to contribute stories and news items to radio and television programmes. UN Eswatini will retain editorial control, but programme contents will be discussed in advance with UNCG Eswatini and its guidance will be sought on future programming. A similar approach will be taken with regard to producing TV programmes where such possibilities exist.

**viii. Newsletter:** - In order to highlight the inter-related nature of UN work and the extent of its involvement at the national level, UNCG Eswatini will circulate a newsletter at regular intervals, aimed at opinion leaders (Government officials, journalists, academics, NGO representatives etc). By providing highlights of current activities and informing readers about upcoming activities/events, the newsletter will serve as a clearing house of information and ideas. The UN Communications Group will coordinate regular submissions to the UNRCO, which will centralize contributions, package them and disseminate the final product electronically and in hard copy, as feasible.

**ix. UN System Information kit** - The Communications Group will create a common press kit, which will include fact sheets dedicated to the work of each UNCT member, covering the most important elements related to their activities. It will also include contact details of all communications focal points and will be offered to all visitors and media representatives.

**x. Website** – The UNRCO, in close collaboration with AFPs, will maintain a UNCT website, providing access to the sites of individual agencies and highlighting collaborative activities of the UN System in the country. The website will offer a gateway to UN activities in the country and provide a platform for interaction with partners.

**xi. Social media** – The UNRCO, in close collaboration with AFPs, will create and manage social media accounts, providing access to individual agency accounts through cross-postings and tagging.

**xii. Common observances of important dates and special occasions** – Observance of UN Day (24 October) and other commemoration days provides excellent opportunities to showcase the work of the United Nations and rally greater support for the Organization at the country level. The Communications Group will encourage relevant Government bodies to take leadership in recognizing and leading the celebration of key days, e.g. Human Rights Day, AIDS Day, World Health Day, etc. A working group created by UNCG-Eswatini will work directly with the concerned governmental agencies and ensure the involvement of as many UN agencies as possible. In order to better coordinate inter-agency cooperation, an annual calendar of special days/ events will be prepared by UNCG secretariat in consultation with the UNCT and posted on UNCT website.

#### SECRETARIAT

UNRCO Communications Officer will act as the Secretariat for the UNCG



## UN GENDER THEME GROUP (UNGTG)

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### PURPOSE

Established under the auspices of the Resident Coordinator, the Gender Theme Group is mandated to promote and support the mainstreaming of gender as a cross cutting issue in the UN Development System programmes and activities, and to promote a deeper understanding and commitment to gender-responsive development programming and implementation in Eswatini. It aims to develop a common and coherent UN Agency approach to gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNSDCF and support to Eswatini.

#### FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The key tasks and responsibilities of the GTG are as follows:

- Providing support to integrate gender in SDG processes, including nationalization and localization processes, implementation and M&E;
- Supporting the integration of a gendered perspective in the United Nations Strategic Development Cooperation (UNSDCF), including the common country analysis, strategic prioritization, results framework and M&E;
- Strengthening and monitoring the UNCTs accountability to gender equality, including promoting the implementation of the UNCT SWAP-Scorecard and gender audit;
- Promoting a multiple-track approach to gender mainstreaming throughout the UNCTs work;
- Providing via the GTG Chair, a coherent vision for the UNCT's support to GEWE through timely intelligence and analysis of substantive gender equality issues;
- Support the identification, development and dissemination of tools for the collection of gender and sex disaggregated data for and from the work of UN Agencies and other interested parties;
- Collect, document and disseminate best practices for addressing gender concerns in the thematic areas of UNSDCF;
- Collect, document and disseminate best practices and share gender resources with UN Agencies, Government Ministries and civil society;

- Promote cooperation and coordination between UN Agencies, donor agencies and humanitarian organisations to support and build capacity of the Department of Gender and Family issues in the Deputy Prime Ministers office, Line Ministries and civil society in the area of gender;
- Identify opportunities for advocacy, and provide leadership for gender equality and equity, by the UN System in Eswatini as outlined in international legal instruments;
- Support implementation of recommendations from reporting bodies such as CEDAW, CSW and Beijing Platform for Action;
- Undertake any other responsibilities/tasks at the request of the RC/UNCT.

#### LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The GTG will be chaired or co-chaired by a Head of Agency designated by the RC in consultation with the UNCT. The responsibilities of the Chair/s will include, among others, the following:

- Be responsible for the overall performance of the GTG and will be accountable for the coordinated achievement of the results stipulated in the joint Work plan;
- Provide leadership to the GTG on GEWE matters and its integration into the UN system
- Chair the quarterly and ad hoc GTG meetings, and prepare the meeting agendas in consultation with team members;
- Be spokesperson of the GTG to the UNCT and other external bodies;

#### STANDING MEMBERSHIP

- Membership will include representatives from RC's office and all UN agencies signatories of the UNSDCF;
- Members should have technical expertise on gender equality or be supported to develop this expertise through trainings;
- Members should be able to devote adequate time to support GTG work, which must be reflected in their work plans and staff annual performance assessment;
- In addition, the GTG may consider the possibility of extending membership to non-UN partners such as government, civil society and donor/development partners, through a recommendation of the GTG submitted by the Chair of the GTG to the Resident Coordinator for decision in consultation with the UNCT;
- The extended Gender theme group may include: The Department of Gender and Family issues, the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) –Disaster management, the Child welfare office, The Gender Consortium chair, CBOs representative e.g. Lutsango Lwaka Ngwane, Imbali Regiment representative, business sector representative, Women Parliamentary Caucus representative, Coordinating Assemble of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO); Development partners such as EU, World bank, WaterAID and Partners working in GBV programmes such as SWAGAA and the Royal Eswatini Police - Domestic Violence Unit;

#### MEETING FREQUENCY AND MODUS OPERANDI

The GTG will develop an annual work plan (AWP) based on national gender equality development priorities, participating agencies' priorities and UNSDCF priorities on GEWE. For each action or task under the AWP, the GTG will identify a responsible participating agency and/or individual, as well as the required budget and time frame for implementation. The AWP actions may include, as appropriate:

- Research and analysis on GEWE;
- Systematic support to UNSDCF development and implementation;
- Actions to support UNCT gender mainstreaming;
- Processes to promote accountability of the UNCT on Gender equality;
- The development and implementation of Joint programmes and joint funding proposals;
- Policy and normative work;
- Capacity development on gender mainstreaming across the UN;
- Joint advocacy and communication campaigns;
- Schedules, plans and additional relevant materials for each GTG meeting will be prepared jointly by members of the GTG under the guidance of the Chair of the group.
- The GTG will report on a monthly on progress and achievements in monthly UNCT meetings, and on a quarterly basis on the Annual Work Plan to the Resident Coordinator and the UNCT;
- The GTG will be required to develop and submit quarterly and annual reports on the implementation of the Annual work plan to the RC and UNCT;
- Minutes of all GTG meetings will be documented by designated members

#### SECRETARIAT

The secretariat for the GTG should be provided by the agency chairing or co-chairing the group; in some cases, this role maybe undertaken jointly by the chairs and the Resident Coordinator's office. CO Communications Officer will act as the Secretariat for the UNCG



## THE ESWATINI NETWORK ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (SEA IN-COUNTRY NETWORK)

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### PURPOSE

The United Nations Secretary-General report on Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), was launched in 2017 which brought to the fore a new approach to addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA).

In May 2018, the Principals of the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) deliberated on strategic directions on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment and abuse against aid workers (SHA) and built a consensus on zero tolerance to sexual harassment, bullying, and any abuse of authority across the humanitarian/development sector. Implication of this deliberation were three-fold. First, Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse is critical to the accountable delivery of humanitarian and development programs. Secondly, the role of UN Agencies and UN staff to act with the highest standards of integrity and conduct always in their private lives as well as when on duty is critical towards prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. To this end, the UN in Eswatini will consider the implementation of PSEA but also the prevention of sexual harassment and abuse. Thirdly, it is of utmost importance that each staff member is knowledgeable on PSEA policies.

#### FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Eswatini Network on Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation (SEA) and code of conduct will serve as the primary body for coordination and oversight on the prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse of members of the beneficiary population by international or national personnel or agents (e.g. staff, consultants, UNVs, interns, contractors) of the UN or affiliated organizations. The network will have additional responsibility of addressing UN code of conduct misdemeanors.

#### LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Established under the auspices of the Resident Coordinator:

- The Network will be chaired by a Head of Agency, who will report to the Resident Coordinator.

#### STANDING MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall entail at least one staff member from each UN Agency, Fund or Programme

#### MEETING FREQUENCY AND MODUS OPERANDI

- The Network will hold regular meetings once a month, and minutes will be circulated to all members;
- Job descriptions, terms of reference and/or performance appraisal plan of staff who are also Focal Points will include their PSEA/SHA responsibilities;
- Ad-hoc meetings may be called on an as needed basis;
- All minutes of the Network must be kept confidential and stored securely;
- Names of subjects and victims should never be recorded in minutes, nor shared during meetings;
- Breaches of confidentiality may lead to members of the Network being relieved of their responsibilities;
- Members of the Network will notify the Chair of the Network on any issues of concern which arise during their work (e.g. regarding discipline or misconduct), including SEA prevention and response for further action.
- Training, sensitization and community information campaigns;
- Develop staff training plan on the Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the SG's Bulletin), and the UN code of conduct;
- Network to sensitize or train all staff, Focal Points and managers on prevention and handling complaints on SEA and SHA. This will include staff in main offices, sub offices and field workers recruited by UN, Implementing Partners, beneficiaries.
- Ensure widespread dissemination, through appropriate media, of materials explaining rights of beneficiaries, standards of conduct expected of UN personnel and channels of recourse for beneficiaries of UN programs and funds.

- Sharing information on prevention and best practice;
- Conduct situational analysis to assess gaps in prevention and response to SEA/SHA, share information on achievements, best practice and effective mechanisms in addressing SEA, and make recommendations to relevant agencies for action. Develop plan for monitoring implementation of recommended actions;
- Establish local policies, procedures and/or inter-agency arrangements to ensure that adequate prevention measures are in place, and that robust complaints and investigation mechanisms are implemented and operated effectively by all relevant agencies;
- Reporting to the RC on prevention and best practices;
- Gather and consolidate complaints received either through Head of agencies, supervisors, the network or external parties;
- Submit to the RC quarterly updates on PSEA implementation plan with focus on achievements, challenges and lessons learnt;
- Submit to the RC quarterly statistics and analysis of any complaints received (excluding names of complainants, victims or accused persons) to ensure reporting from the network, accountability at all levels, follow up in actions and enhancement of prevention and protection;
- Annually reporting, through the RC to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group, on progress made toward preventing and responding to sexual abuse and exploitation and conforming to the UN code of conduct;
- Keep data on reported incidents for general reporting and further development of efforts to address SEA;
- Keep management up to date on PSEA measures taken

and plans for future action;

- Disseminate lessons learned from annual reports;
- Develop management response on prevention and response strategies from the annual reports and evaluations;
- Share best practices, tools and guidelines;
- Dealing with 'In-the-air' allegations;
- Network to convene on rumored or 'in-the-air' allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse received by Focal persons against UN personnel and develop a proposal outlining a strategy for assessing the veracity of these rumors and share with the RC for further action.

#### SECRETARIAT

Minutes of the PSEA meetings will be produced by the secretary appointed from the staff of the chairing agency.



## LEGAL ANNEX

### 13.1 Partnerships, Values and Principles

Whereas the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini (hereinafter referred to as “the Government”) has entered into the following:

a) WHEREAS the Government and the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) which was signed by both parties on 28th October 1977. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision, this UNSDCF together with the Joint Work Plan 2016-2017 and subsequent work plans (which shall form part of this UNSDCF, and are incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.

b) With the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) concluded between the Government and UNICEF in 8th March 1995.

c) With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Basic Agreement concluded between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme on 28 October 1977 (the “Basic Agreement”) mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of UNFPA, in accordance with the agreement concluded by an exchange of letters between UNFPA and the Government which entered into force on 7 March 2007. This UNSDCF together with any work plan concluded hereunder, which shall form part of this UNSDCF and is incorporated herein by reference, constitutes the Project Document as referred to in the Basic Agreement.”

d) With the World Food Programme (WFP), a Basic Agreement concerning assistance from the World Food Programme,

which Agreement was signed by the Government and WFP on 27th May 2005.

e) With the World Health Organization (WHO), an Agreement concerning the provision of technical advisory assistance was signed by the Government and WHO on the 11th July 1973.

f) With the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, an Agreement for the opening of the FAO Representation in Swaziland was signed on the 28th July 1983. The FAO Sub-Regional Office located in Harare Zimbabwe provides overall oversight.

g) With UN Joint Programme of Support on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), a basic agreement establishing a Joint UN Coordinated HIV Programme Secretariat in 1999, providing technical and financial support to the HIV and AIDS response through the UN Joint Programme of Support implemented by the Joint Team on AIDS.

h) With the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland and the International Organization for Migration, signed on 18 May 2018.

For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency’s governing structures as appropriate.

The UNSDCF will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

The Government will honour its commitments in accordance with the provision of the cooperation assistance agreements outlined in paragraph on the Basis of the Relationship.

Without prejudice to these agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the “General Convention”) or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the “Specialized Agencies Convention”) to the Agencies’ property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission. The Government shall also accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privilege, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the Government. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or the use by the Government.

a) “Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privilege or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising out of this Agreement.”

b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1946, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.



## LEGAL ANNEX 13.2

## HARMONIZED APPROACH TO CASH TRANSFERS (HACT) CLAUSES

All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Work Plans (WPs<sup>1</sup>) agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner:

- a) Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
  - b) After activities have been completed (reimbursement);
1. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner;
  2. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred to the [national institution] for forwarding to the Implementing Partner:
  - a) Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
  - b) After activities have been completed (reimbursement).
1. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner.
2. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.

Where cash transfers are made to the Central Bank of Eswatini, the Central Bank of Eswatini shall transfer such cash promptly to the Implementing Partner.

<sup>1</sup> Refers to Results Groups' or agency specific annual, bi-annual or multiyear work plans

<sup>30</sup> For the purposes of these clauses, "the UN" includes the IFIs.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts.

Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN30 Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that [UN organization] will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner. Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the work plans (WPs) only.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UN organization] within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to UNDP, UNFPA or UNICEF within three months after receipt of the funds.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from UNDP, UNFPA or UNICEF will provide UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:

- all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by
- UNDP, UNFPA or UNICEF, together with relevant documentation;
- all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.
- The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and UNDP, UNFPA or UNICEF. Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:
  - Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors
  - Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI), on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner in three days.

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within 30 days.

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third party vendor.

Where the UN system agencies and other UN system agency provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

The Supreme Audit Institution may undertake the audits of Government Implementing Partners. If the SAI chooses not to undertake the audits of specific Implementing Partners to the frequency and scope required by the UN system agencies, the UN system agencies will commission the audits to be undertaken by private sector audit services<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Seen through a South-South lens, the capacity assessment process presents an opportunity to identify capacity assets that a particular country could offer to other developing countries and the capacity gaps that could be filled by other developing countries. For UNDP, the audit of NGO or nationally implemented projects can be assigned to the national Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) only on the condition that the institution has a demonstrated capacity to carry out the audits in an independent manner. To this effect, the Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) has made available on its Intranet site guidance on the assessment of SAIs along with a questionnaire that will need to be properly completed, signed and communicated to OAI to support that due diligence has been exercised prior to opting for having such audits undertaken by the national SAI. Please refer to OAI Intranet site for further details.



**ANNEX 13.3****RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

The UN system agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities within the Cooperation Framework, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of the UN system entities' support may be provided to non-governmental and civil society organizations as agreed within the framework of the individual workplans and project documents.

Additional support may include access to UN organization-managed global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies' country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and access to the support provided by the network of UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes. The UN system agencies shall appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the UN system agencies' funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the Cooperation Framework. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the workplans and project documents. By mutual consent between the Government and the UN development system entities, funds not earmarked by donors to UN development system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

The Government will support the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds required to meet the needs of this Cooperation Framework and will cooperate with the UN system agencies including: encouraging potential donor Governments to make available to the UN system agencies the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the programme; endorsing the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector both internationally and in Eswatini; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Eswatini to support this programme which will be tax exempt for the Donor, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

**ANNEX 13.4****MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Implementing Partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies. To that effect, Implementing Partners agree to the following:

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/ contracts with the UN system agencies,
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,
3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.









# SIGNATURES: Cabinet Ministers




**HRH Princess Sikhanyiso**  
Minister of ICT



**Hon. David Ngcamphalala**  
Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration



**Senator Peter Bhembe**  
Minister of Natural Resources and Energy



**Senator Manqoba Khumalo**  
Minister of Commerce and Trade



**HRH Princess Lindiwe**  
Minister of Home Affairs



**Hon. Makhosi Vilakati**  
Minister of Labour and Social Security




**Senator Lizzy Nkosi**  
Minister of Health



**Her Excellency Thulisile Dladla**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and International Cooperation



**HRH Prince Simelane**  
Minister of Housing and Urban Development



**Hon. Moses Vilakati**  
Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs



**Hon. Pholile Shakantu**  
Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs



**Hon. Dr Thambo Gina**  
Minister of Economic Planning and Development



**Chief Ndaluhla Ndwandwe**  
Minister of Public Works & Transport



**Hon. Harries Madze Bulunga**  
Minister of Sports, Culture & Youth Affairs



**Hon. Jabulani Mabuza**  
Minister of Agriculture



**Senator Themba Masuku**  
His Excellency, the Deputy Prime Minister



**Hon. Lady Howard Mabuza**  
Minister of Education and Training



**Hon. Christian Ntshangase**  
Minister of Public Service



**Hon. Neal Rijkensberg**  
Minister of Finance



**His Excellency,  
Mandvulo Ambrose Dlamini**  
The Right Honourable Prime Minister



# SIGNATURES: UN Country Team



**Hubert Gijzen**  
UNESCO Regional Director and Representation  
for Southern Africa  
Represented by **Phumzile Hlophe**  
Secretary General,  
Eswatini National Commission for UNESCO



**Rose Craigie**  
UNAIDS Country Director



**Cecilia Njenga**  
UNEP, Head of Office in South Africa  
and Regional Coordinator Southern Africa



**Dr Cornelia Atsyor**  
WHO Representative



**Abigail Noko**  
OHCHR Regional Representative



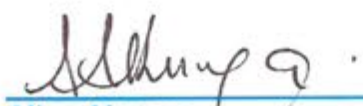
**Leonard Zulu**  
UNHCR South Africa, Representative



**Ms Zhuldyz Akisheva**  
UNODC Regional Representative  
for Southern Africa



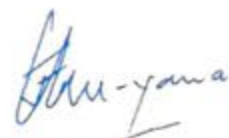
**Patrice Talla**  
FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for Southern Africa  
and Representative in Zimbabwe and Eswatini  
Represented by **Khanyisile Mabuza**  
FAO Assistant Representative



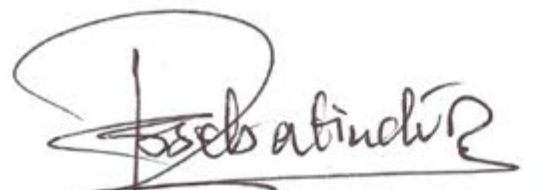
**Alice Akunga**  
UNICEF Representative



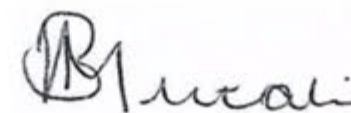
**Khaled El Mekwad**  
UNIDO Representative



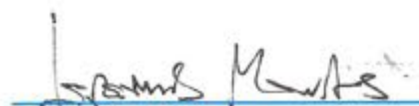
**Joni Musabayana**  
ILO Director for Eastern and Southern Africa,  
Country Office for Botswana, Eswatini,  
Lesotho and South Africa



**Rose Ssebatindira**  
UNDP Resident Representative



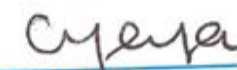
**Beatrice Mutali**  
UNFPA Country Director  
Represented by **Margaret Thwala-Tembe**



**Jeremias Mendes**  
IOM Head of Office



**Anne Githuku-Shongwe**  
UN Women Representative



**Cissy Byenkya**  
WFP Head of Office



**Nathalie Ndongo-Seh**  
Resident Coordinator of the  
UN Development System in Eswatini



