



UNITED NATIONS
ESWATINI



**ESWATINI ANNUAL
RESULTS REPORT** **20
22**

ABBREVIATIONS

ASP	Adaptive Social Protection
CBE	Central Bank of Eswatini
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CHRPC	Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration/ Integrity
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
CRNA	COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment
CS-DRMS	Commonwealth Secretariat Debt Recording and Management System
CSO	Central Statistics Office
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCO	Development Coordination Office
DFA	Development Financial Assessment
DPMO	Deputy Prime Minister's Office
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EWS	Early Warning Systems
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GBV	Gender Base Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
HCI	Human Capital Index
HTEI	Higher and Tertiary Education Institution
IFI	International Financial Institutions
IFMIS	Integrated Financial Management Information System
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
LUSIP	Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project
MEPD	Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
MNWAP	Mkhondvo – Ngwavuma Water Augmented Program
MoF	Ministry of Finance

NDMA	National Disaster Management Agency
NDP	National Development Plan
NDS	National Development Strategy
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NMRF	National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up
NSSV	National Surveillance System Report
NWA	National Water Authority
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OVC	Orphan and Vulnerable Children
PFM	Public Finance Management
PPP	Private Public Partnership
PPSG	Policy Program Support Group
PSFM	Public Sector Financial Management
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
SACU	Southern African Customs Union
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SRM	Strategic Road Map
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VAC	Vulnerability Assessment Committee
VNR	Voluntary National Report
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation

ESWATINI ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2022

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to share with you the 2022 UN Results Report for the Kingdom of Eswatini, which highlights the collective achievements of the UN Country Team against strategic areas of support in the ongoing implementation of the 2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (Cooperation Framework). The priorities towards the 2030 Agenda under this Cooperation Framework were agreed with the Government and premised on a detailed context analysis conducted in 2020.

Two years into the implementation cycle, the global and country contexts have continued to evolve in ways that could not have been foreseen. The Cooperation Framework was developed and launched at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and the full impacts of the devastation – globally, nationally and locally – would only become evident as the disease and the lockdowns it forced began to ease. The interactions between the COVID-19 impacts and other factors have ensured a slow recovery. After the unprecedented 2021 civil unrest, the Kingdom has experienced intermittent protests and disruptions in 2022.

Cyclone Eloise caused further devastation in 2021 while the ongoing Ukraine- Russian war led to a rise in

fuel and food prices. The Government and people of Eswatini have demonstrated considerable resilience as they have strived to return the country towards normalcy.

Against this backdrop, the United Nations in Eswatini worked with Government, development partners and other stakeholders to sustainably support prosperity, peace, and protection of the planet, while leaving no one behind.

Together, the UN invested USD 21,723,317 in various programmes spanning across four key outcomes areas: (i) Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth; (ii) Investing in Human Resources and Social Development; (iii) Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights and (iv) Strengthening Natural Resources Management, Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability.

On behalf of the UN Country Team and myself, I pay tribute to the strong partnership and support we have enjoyed from His Majesty the King and the Government of Eswatini. I sincerely applaud the cooperation and the leadership availed by His Majesty's Government

through the focal point Ministry of Economic Planning and Development as well as by other ministries and departments. I commend the Government on its newly drawn-up Eswatini National Development Plan for 2023/24-2027/28 – a key vision for the country.

I also wish to extend heartfelt appreciation to all development partners for their financial support whether directly to the UN in Eswatini, to the Government, or more generally to Agenda 2030. This support has enabled us to reclaim some of the ground lost in our race to 2030. I am particularly delighted that, through the International Development Partners' Platform (IDPP) launched in 2022, the UN Country Team and development partners in Eswatini have a dedicated space to share and coordinate development policy and programming in support of the Kingdom.

As we turn the page into 2023, mid-point in the Cooperation Framework cycle, the UN country team in Eswatini reassures the government and people of Eswatini of its unwavering commitment to support peace, prosperity, and the planet in the beautiful kingdom of Eswatini. Based on lessons learned in 2022, we will further strengthen the functionality of

Cooperation Framework implementation structures, and build our preparedness to respond to emergencies. Through the updated Common Country Analysis and the Joint Work Plans for 2023, we will continue adapting to the changing development landscape.

Top among the priorities, through alignment to the new Eswatini National Development Plan, will be increased focus on and investment in young people, supporting stronger positioning for investments, follow up to global summits and events (Education Summit, Food Systems Summit and COP 27 and COP 28), and preparations for the 2023 Global SDG Summit of the Future. The UN will continue to remain mindful and responsive to the national and global contours as they affect the development agenda. I thank the entire UN Country Team – resident and non-resident – for the great effort in 2022. We look forward to delivering more and better for the people of Eswatini.

Siyabonga bekunene.

George Wachira,
UN Resident Coordinator,
Kingdom of Eswatini

UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the Kingdom of Eswatini is headed by the Resident Coordinator, who is the designated representative of the UN Secretary-General. The UNCT comprises 17 UN agencies, funds, and programmes. Currently, the country team has 9 resident and 8 non-resident agencies. The UNCT is an interagency forum for joint policy formulation and decision making. It provides strategic direction and oversight to ensure that the

United Nations Development System agencies deliver coherent, effective, and efficient support. The UNCT works with the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini, civil society, the private sector, international financial institutions, academia, faith-based organizations and other development partners to support the national development priorities. The UN remains committed to enhancing its performance and impact in contributing to the country's development.



UNITED NATIONS
ESWATINI



1. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

SDG Index Rank
137/163

SDG Index Score



Spillover Score



In 2022, the Kingdom of Eswatini continued to recover, albeit slowly, from the social and economic impacts of COVID-19. GDP growth slowed to an estimated 0.4% in 2022 from 7.9% in 2021, hamstrung by higher inflation, a tightening monetary policy, supply disruptions linked to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in particular energy products, fertilizers and food. Inflationary pressures exacerbated living conditions for the populace as the prices of fuel, food, farm inputs and essential commodities increased. This resulted in continued rise in inequalities, unemployment, drop in incomes as well as reduced food and nutrition security. This was compounded by the impacts of other shocks such as cyclone Eloise in 2020, political dissent and armed violence in 2021 which dealt the economy a hard blow. In response Eswatini made encouraging investment in the social sector and more investment is still required in health, education and social protection.

Under the Common Monetary Area (CMA) which comprises Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa, the Eswatini Lilangeni, the domestic currency and legal tender, is pegged to the South African rand. Within the CMA framework, Eswatini has strong economic ties with South Africa, with over 60% of exports going to South Africa and over 80% of imports coming from South Africa. Therefore, in 2022 the slowing economic growth in South Africa, Eswatini's major trading partner posed a risk to Eswatini's economic growth. However,

Eswatini ensured increased and stable market access for the business community by joining the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Whilst relative calm prevailed for most of 2022, the causes and impacts of the 2021 civil unrest remained largely unaddressed. Calls for change continued while the unprecedented emergence of an armed group, Swaziland International Solidarity Forces (SISF), deepened political, human rights, social and security concerns. The Government assured Emaswati that a proposed national dialogue would be held when conditions allow, while regional diplomacy continued to advocate for the national dialogue. By the end of 2022, the dialogue's timing was yet to be communicated as attention shifted to preparations for national elections in 2023.

According to the Sustainable Development Report 2022, the Kingdom of Eswatini had made average progress (a score of 54.6 out of 100) on the achievement of SDGs. In 2022, the Government approved a new National Development Plan (NDP) 2023/24-2027/28 prioritising investments in good governance, economic recovery and fiscal stability; and enhanced social and human capital development and sustainable livelihoods. If fully implemented, the new NDP provides a beacon for setting the Kingdom on the path to rescuing SDGs by 2030.

KEY DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS IN ESWATINI

POPULATION



The country has a population of **1.2 million people** and an estimated median age of **21.7 years**.

Eswatini has a young and growing population with nearly half (**46.9%**) of the population under the age of **25 (47.4% male and 46.3% female)**.

Over **78%** of the population lives in rural areas.

Estimated life expectancy in Eswatini is **60.01 years**.

Similarly, the youth unemployment rate also increased from **47.4% in 2016 to 58.2% in 2021**.

DFA 2022 report: In the last **five years**, total development financial flows into the country is **SZL 201 billion, of which SZL 105 billion** was Public flows and, **SZL 96 billion** was private flows.

ECONOMIC



Eswatini's GDP growth slowed to an estimated 0.4% in 2022 from 7.9% in 2021, hamstrung by higher inflation, a tightening monetary policy, supply disruptions linked to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in particular energy products, fertilizers and food.

National unemployment rate increased from 23% in **2016 to 33.3% 2021**.

Youth unemployment rate also increased from **47.4% in 2019 to 58.2% in 2021**.

POVERTY



National poverty and extreme poverty rates remain unchanged at **58.9% and 20.1%** respectively as up to date statistics are not available

Over **183,000 people** (16% of the population) are estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above in the current period (June and September 2022) with **169,000 people** in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), and **14,000** in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency).

Recent poverty assessments indicate that the poverty rate is likely to increase by between **2.3% - 5.6%** due to recent shocks.

The prevalence of stunting for children under the age of **5 years**, increased from **19.9% to 29.4% in 2021**.

ENVIRONMENT



Improvement in waste management practices through various initiatives such as the establishment of waste control areas and "Phatsa Sakho Nawe Campaign".

Water pollution is at **30%** during the dry season and during the wet season it is at **20%**. The challenge is increased disposal of plastic waste into rivers.

The Aquaculture Strategy was launched in 2020 with the intention to regulate fish harvesting and to halt overexploitation of fish.

Eswatini adopted its first economy-wide emissions reduction target of **5% by 2030, or 14%** with financial support;

Forest area as a proportion of total land area increased from **28.86% to 28.93%**.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



1 in 3 females have experienced some form of sexual abuse by the age of **18 years**

15 869 reported GBV cases between **January-November 2022**

67% of the 2022 reported cases were women

Manzini region had highest number of reported cases **33%**, Lubombo **26%**, Hhohho **25%** and Shiselweni **15%** of the reported cases

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



Maternal mortality ratio **457/100 000 live births**

Neonatal Mortality Rate: **20/1000**

Antenatal Care: **99%**

Skilled Birth Attendant: **88%**

Low Birth Weight: **12%**

Postnatal Care: **70%**

Adolescent pregnancy: **18%**

Adolescent Delivery: **15%**

2. SUPPORT TO NATIONAL PRIORITIES



2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION

FRAMEWORK RESULTS

In January 2021, the Kingdom of Eswatini commenced implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the period 2021-2025. With an overall vision of “a prosperous and just Eswatini where no one is left behind”, the Cooperation Framework has 3 strategic priorities and four outcome areas, which are aligned with national development priorities as contained in the National Development Plan.

The strategic priorities were mainly premised on **Prosperity**: to grow a strong, inclusive, and transformative economy; **People**: to ensure healthy lives, knowledge, and the inclusion of women and children and **Planet**: to protect our ecosystems for all societies and our children.

The results are presented in the four strategic outcomes: (i) Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth; (ii) Investing in Human Resources and Social Development; (iii) Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights and (iv) Strengthening Natural Resource Management, Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability.

In Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth, the UN has generated cutting-edge evidence for food systems strengthening to ensure food security and good nutrition for all Emaswati. The UN also improved productive employment and decent work through the establishment of a Workers Compensation Fund, conversion of Provident Fund Scheme to Pension Fund and improved livelihoods of home based workers. The UN also improved national youth commercial enterprise and employability by introducing empowerment programmes in partnership with the private sector. The UN also supported national reporting of SDG progress.

In Investing in Human Resources and Social Development, the UN strengthened national health systems following the devastating impact of COVID-19 and supported the provision of quality and uninterrupted essential health services and empowered communities to demand quality healthcare. The UN also supported minimal education system interruptions by improving national capacity for distance and more equitable learning through customization of the learning passport, a new online, mobile, and offline tech platform that enables high quality, flexible learning. The UN also

contributed to improved youth skills development through financial and entrepreneurship education, establishment of business incubation hubs in rural communities (Tinkhundla) and job search centres.

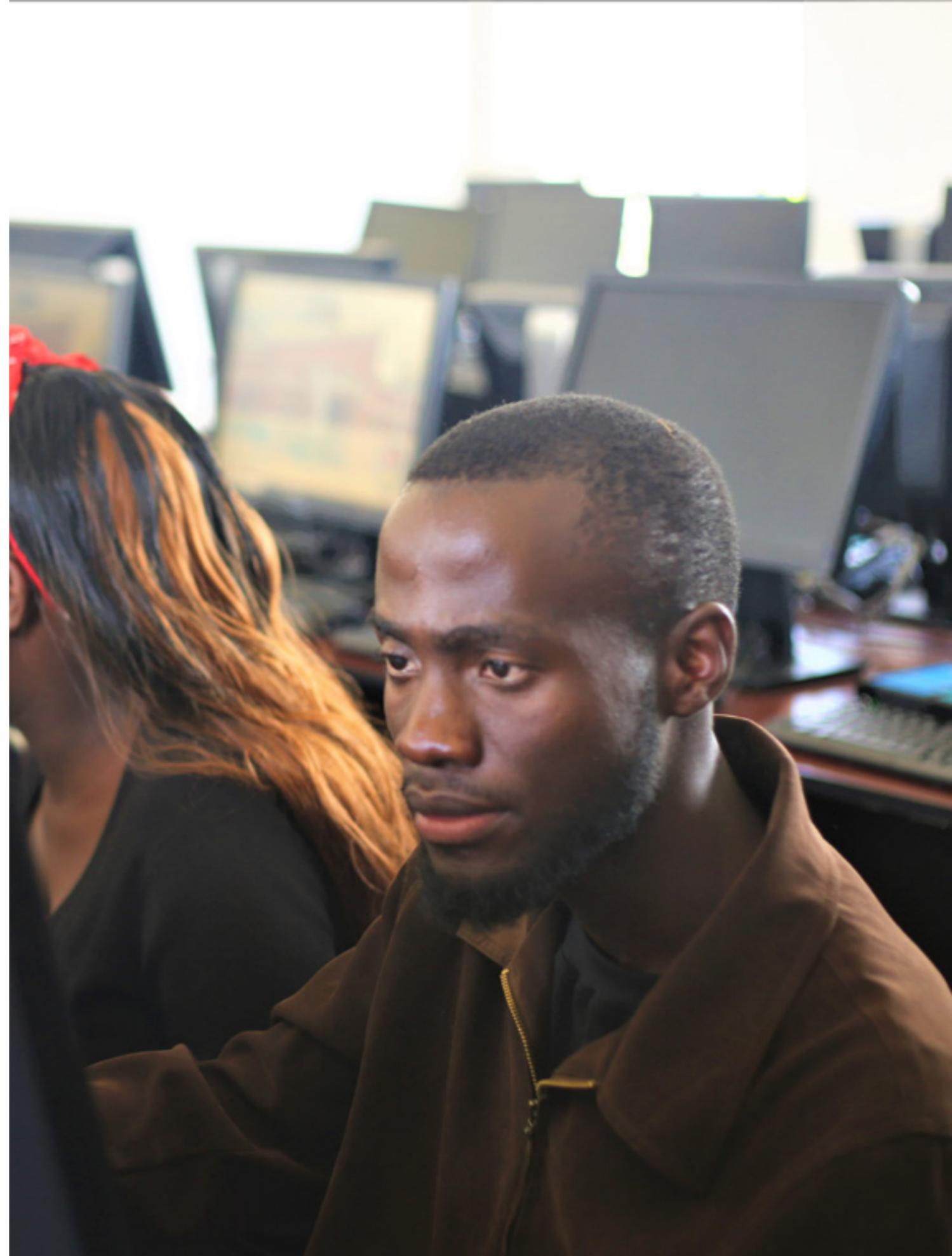
In Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights, the UN created conducive policy environment for workers’ rights, child protection and the prevention of gender-based violence. The UN supported the development of Real Time Data System for Child Protection. The UN also supported protection of human trafficking victims, increased human rights awareness and improved gender-based violence programming in the country.”

In Strengthening Natural Resources Management, Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability, the UN supported national expansion of renewable energy by installing a solar power system at a busy public hospital and drafting regulations for mini grids. With UN support, a total of USD 2.35 million was mobilized for development finance and climate finance, enabling the installation of 20 meteorological station networks to aid real time weather monitoring and updates.

Each strategic outcome area was assigned a corresponding Results Group (RG), set up under the auspices of the Minister of Economic Planning and Development and the UN Resident Coordinator, to serve as the coordination mechanism to ensure effective and efficient development and implementation of the UNSDCF through the preparation and delivery of joint annual or biennial work plans.

Each Results Group developed a joint work plan and results framework used to track progress towards the realization of planned results under the UNSDCF outcomes. The RGs are co-led by a Principal Secretary from the Government and a Head of Agency from the UN.

After two years of implementation of the UNSDCF, the 4 Results Groups have recorded varying degrees of successes. The Statutory Joint National Steering committee planned for 2022 was prioritized for 2023. This report provides a strategic analysis of the key results of the Cooperation Framework implementation in 2022.



2.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS



OUTCOME 1: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

 Youth Empowerment Programme launched by His Majesty King Mswati III.



23,000 school going children in 50 schools were fed with nutritious meals through the Home-Grown School Feeding programme.

 USD 277,000 has been committed by the GoE towards the Agricultural Development Fund, currently being set up to support smallholder farmers.



Reviewed National Development Plan 2023/24-2027/28 has factored emerging challenges, including impacts COVID-19, climate disasters and civil unrest.

 12 sector-based agricultural development plans established along with the registration of two commodity associations.

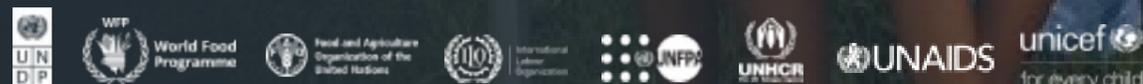
Eswatini was supported to prepare the Voluntary National Review report to take stock of the progress of the SDGs implementation.

A Workers Compensation Fund to improve productive employment and decent work in Eswatini.

Eswatini has launched the SDG Investor Map with investment opportunities in 6 sectors and markets.

 59,000 orphan and vulnerable children (OVC) received nutritious food assistance through 1,700 neighbourhood care points.

Total Expenditure
\$6,071,293



Result 1: Generated Cutting -edge Evidence for Food Systems Strengthening

The UN assessed food systems in Eswatini and identified gaps and opportunities in the agro-food systems value chains. This resulted in the comprehensive review of 12 agricultural development plans to integrate climate smart initiatives for improved food security; and recognition and registration of two value chain and commodity associations by the Government of Eswatini to promote and optimise efforts, eliminate waste and improve profitability. Three (3) Technical Cooperation Projects designed to support and strengthen agro-food systems and Phase one draft of the irrigation masterplan was completed in 2022. Furthermore, the assessment fast tracked the commitment and establishment of the Agricultural Development Fund; with a government financial injection of USD 277,777. On the other hand, approximately 68,000 received cash transfers and 220 people living with HIV supported with starter packs for livelihoods. To achieve Zero hunger while improving nutrition, the UN has targeted and provided assistance to vulnerable groups (women, children, elderly) in the rural and peri-urban areas with food assistance and cash-based transfer. Through the Home-grown School feeding project, the UN has continued to support the procurement of food commodities from smallholder maize and beans farmers to contribute to poverty reduction in rural areas. The UN has targeted different vulnerable and marginalised groups such as key population, PLHIV, women and youth with livelihood interventions.

Result 2: Improved Productive Employment and Decent Work

With UN technical and financial support, three key initiatives were achieved to improve productive employment and decent work in the Kingdom of Eswatini: (a) The first ever bipartite dialogue held between the Trade Union Congress of Eswatini (TUCOSWA) and Business Eswatini (BE) on threats to existing and new jobs, led to the proposal for the establishment of a Workers Compensation Fund. (b) A multistakeholder review of the current system of work injury claims administered on the principle of employer liability led to a proposed conversion of Eswatini National Provident Fund to a National Pension Fund. (c) A diagnostic assessment was commissioned to examine the incidence and forms of informality and decent work deficits in homework arrangements in Eswatini, with the aim to generate policy recommendations to improve the livelihoods of homebased workers.

Result 3: Initiated Child-Sensitive Social Protection System

In 2022, the UN initiated the first ever child-sensitive national social protection system by convening over 60 multidisciplinary and international stakeholders, including government, CSOs, UN agencies, IFIs, and development donors. The deliberations were informed by regional lessons from South Africa and Lesotho in the area of national development of child grants, and World Bank's global development of adaptive social protection systems. Meanwhile, access to nutritious food was enhanced for 59,000 orphan and vulnerable children (OVC) who received food assistance through 1,700 neighbourhood care points.

Result 4: Strengthened Evidence based National Sustainable Development

Three major catastrophic events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, tropical cyclone storm and sequential civil unrest, led to unquantifiable loss of life, destruction of infrastructure, and loss of production inputs and outputs. The UN, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, supported Eswatini to review the National Development Plan (NDP) for 2023/24 - 2027/28, to provide an aggregate quantification of losses of production output, property and other infrastructure. The report is an empirical one-stop summary analysis for climate shocks, cash flow issues and other external shocks.

Under the African Union Agenda 2063, the First Ten-Years Implementation Plan (FTYIP) [2014 to 2023] outlines a set of goals, priority areas and targets and 15 flagship projects that the continent aims to deliver at national, regional, and continental levels. The UN, in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD, commissioned the review of the FTYIP to assess the extent in which the Agenda 2063 has been implemented. The Ministry of Economic Planning and Development has completed the review of progress of the first TYIP.

The UN also supported review of the National Population Policy and drafting of the 2022 Vulnerability and Integrated Phase Classification assessment report to inform national development policy and programming.

Result 5: Coordinated National Sustainable Development Goals Reporting

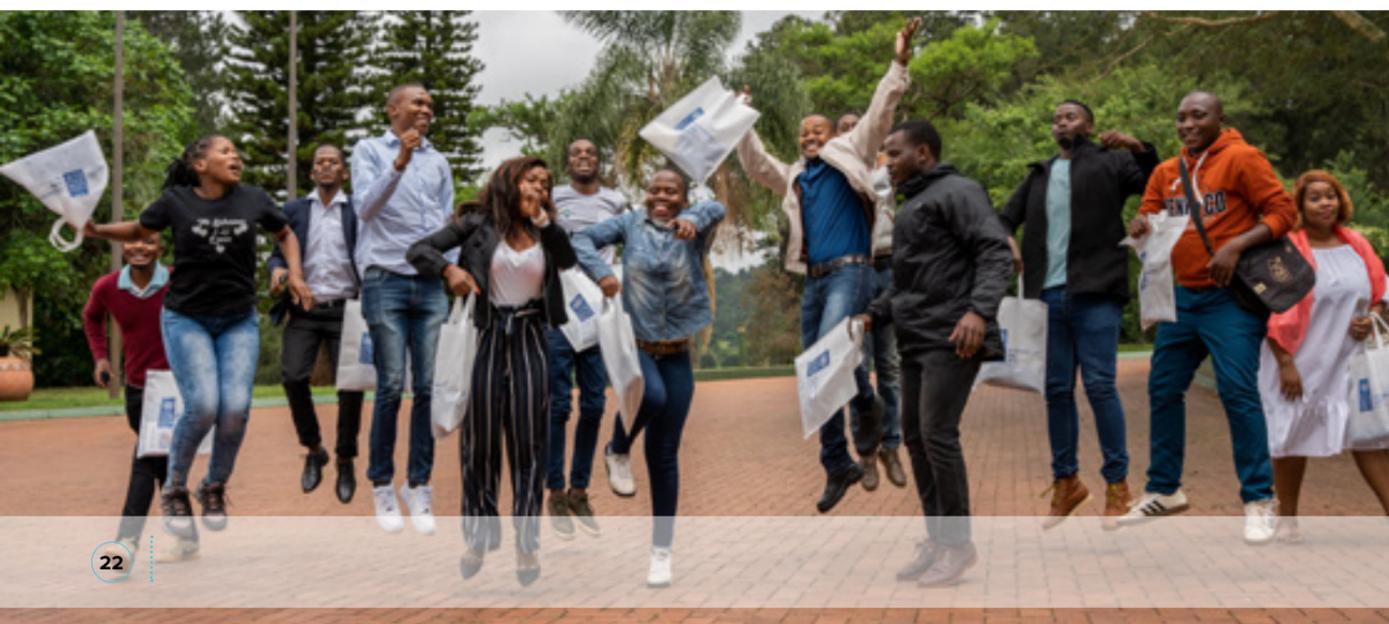
The UN supported the Kingdom of Eswatini to prepare its 2022 Voluntary National Review (VNR) report. The process enabled the Kingdom to take stock of implementation progress of all 17 SDGs, reflect on the efforts still needed as well as share experiences thus far.

The UN, in collaboration with government, private sector and civil society, has launched the Eswatini Investor Map on SDG-enabling investment opportunities and conditions in target markets and sectors. The Map has identified six sectors which are: (1) Food and Beverage, (2) Renewable Resources and Alternative Energy, (3) Infrastructure, (4) Financials, (5) Healthcare, and (6) Education. Out of these prioritized sectors, 14 investment opportunities were identified. The Map provides investors with relevant market intelligence for highlighted investment opportunity areas along with data on the expected development impact and financial prospects of such investments.

In 2022, the UN has continued to support 1500 Neighbourhood Care Points (NCP) with nutrition sensitive meals for 55,000 children under 5 years and has continued to support government through the Deputy Prime Minister's Office with reviewing the NCP strategy which is aimed to improve management of the NCPs in Eswatini. Through the Home-Grown School Feeding, the UN has continued to support 23,000 school going children in 50 schools with nutrition sensitive meals.

Result 6: Improved Youth Empowerment and Employability

The UN in collaboration with the Ministry of Sports Culture and Youth Affairs (MoSCYA) and Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS) successfully designed and launched the Eswatini Youth Empowerment Programme (EYEP). The objective of the Youth Fellowship Programme is to reduce youth unemployment by 50% by 2025 through connecting young talented graduates with local job opportunities, and empowering non-graduates with digital, entrepreneurship and artisan skills to create jobs for themselves and contribute to the socio-economic development of Eswatini. The ultimate aim of the programme is to absorb the 4,000 graduates coming out of the various tertiary institutions annually, through a 12-months learn to earn volunteerism model, whilst giving non-graduate youth the opportunity to choose from a number of marketable skills, including digital skills, renewable energy skills, artisan skills and an entrepreneurship support programme.





Nkosephayo Manyatsi is a qualified Food Scientist and holds a BSc. Food Science, Nutrition & Technology from the University of Eswatini. She is the team lead for Rural Grown Farms and has been actively involved in the agro-processing operations for export markets for all value addition projects done at the farm, with UN support.

Rural Grown Farms is a woman-led Agribusiness Enterprise Established in 2017 by Eswatini Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD). This project is driven by passion to contribute to the livelihood of fellow communities in Eswatini and the region.

"I am a flexible and hard-working individual who has a clear, logical mind with a practical approach to problem solving and a drive to see things through to completion," she says. "I am an articulate, confident person who relishes challenges and works under pressure. My greatest strengths are my research, communication and writing skills. I am eager to learn, I enjoy overcoming challenges, and I have a genuine interest in Food Science and Human Nutrition more specifically in the value addition of fresh agricultural produce and taking advantage of seasonal glut. For the past 3 years, I have been collaborating with the University to find ways in which we can improve food availability and food preservation."

Nkosephayo Manyatsi,
Team Lead for Rural Grown Farms





OUTCOME 2: INVESTING IN HUMAN RESOURCES AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

\$ 3.8 million worth of COVID -19 vaccines procured

7613 children vaccinated for Covid-19

6700 healthcare workers trained

5 UN entities launch Education Plus Initiative to protect young girls from HIV infections

407,000 young people reached digital platforms

45,000 learners reached through online learning platform

3,725 students reached with financial and entrepreneurship education in 85 schools

Total Expenditure
\$4,518,686



unicef
for every child



Result 1: Strengthened Health Systems



Health system strengthening



\$ 3.8 million
Invested to procure
COVID-19 vaccines



6700
Frontline healthcare
workers trained



7613
children vaccinated

Result 2: Supported the Provision of Quality and Uninterrupted Essential Health Services

Following the massive interruptions of health services due to COVID 19 and the civil unrest, the UN enhanced capacities of 6700 frontline healthcare workers and supported the development of clinical guidelines and standard operations procedures (SOPs). Furthermore, core health system pillars were supported, including the provisions of procurement platforms for life saving medicines, supplies and commodities as well as equipment for the health and well-being of Eswatini. A total of 48,040 reproductive health commodities were procured, with UN support, reaching 39,000 Eswatini.

Result 3: Empowered Communities to Demand Quality Healthcare Services

The UN supported health promotion in communities to increase demand for healthcare. As a result, 189 women were screened for cervical cancer in 9 communities drawn from 4 constituencies in Hhohho region. 122 women screened for cervical cancer in 3 textile factories in Lubombo region. Three rounds of periodic intensification of routine immunization activity conducted in hard-to-reach areas, resulted in 7,613 children immunized in 489 sites.

UN supported the launch and implementation of the Education Plus initiative, a high-level political advocacy drive to accelerate actions and investments to prevent HIV among young people, especially adolescent girls and young women. The initiative also aims to achieve gender equality and completion of education, including transitioning into livelihoods.

Result 4: Supported Minimal Education System Interruptions

Eswatini's participation in the Education Transformation Summit has resulted in curriculum digitalization, a potential game changer for an uninterrupted education delivery. The UN has also improved capacity for distance and more equitable learning through customization of the learning passport, a new online, mobile, and offline tech platform that enables high quality, flexible learning. A 100 teachers were trained on the development of online learning content and Form 4 and 5 curricula have been developed and uploaded onto the e-learning platform, targeting 45,000 learners.

Result 5: Created Enabling Policy Environment and Generated Evidence

The Life Skills Education (LSE) programme inculcates personal life skills that empowers young people with tools that are needed to achieve success in life. In line with this programme, the UN strengthened the capacity of teachers from 193 primary schools, including 15 teachers of learners with special education needs, to provide quality education, including LSE.

A post abortion assessment study was conducted to strengthen the country's comprehensive abortion programming given that maternal deaths and unwanted pregnancies have direct linkages.

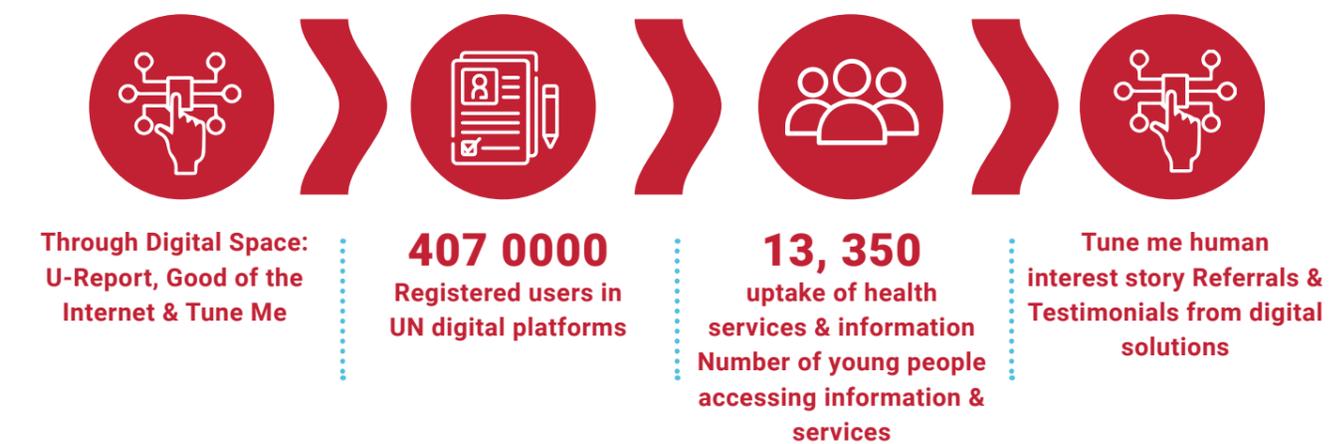
The UN supported the development of the Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESS 2022–2034), including a costed Multiyear Action Plan, to guide implementation of quality inclusive and equitable education programs in all 960 schools, benefiting 400,000 learners. While the ESSP outlines long term priorities for the sector and establishes the mechanisms required to meet them, the integrated action plan provides a timeframe for implementing these mechanisms along with cost and finance simulation models.

The production of the 2022 HIV estimates and projections and the Mid-term Review of the National Multi-sectoral HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework 2018-2023 provide a base for programming and policy development. Also, supporting the development of the Eswatini Parliament HIV and AIDS Wellness Strategy to ensure HIV remains top of the parliament agenda and supporting the development of the 2022 National HIV Prevention and treatment Guidelines to guide the provision of quality health for all.

The UN contributed to the improvement of the policy and legal environment for the implementation of the Disability Act (2018) through finalization of the regulations, which involved 50 people, including persons with disabilities (PWDs). Advocacy for support of persons with albinism was enhanced through community dialogues in four chiefdoms and reached 1,000 people.

Result 6: Increased Coverage of Innovative Digital Solutions

The UN improved the digital engagement of young people through digital platforms such as Tune-Me, U Report and Internet of Good Things platform reaching 407,000 young people.



Result 7: Improved Skills Development for Young Emaswati

UN supported implementation of the financial and entrepreneurship education program in 85 high schools, reaching 3,725 students (2,026 females and 1,699 males). Two business incubation hubs were established. One in Nhlngano in the Shiselweni Region at Eswatini National Youth Council offices and one in Ludzeludze Youth Centre in the Manzini Region, benefiting over 160 youth entrepreneurs using the facility to grow their businesses and related research. In addition, a job search centre was established and launched in Matsapha in partnership with Likusasa Letfu, a local NGO.

The UN also supported the development of the National Skills Coordination Framework, endorsed by key line ministries and all stakeholders. The framework guides skills development and coordination programmes in Eswatini to contribute to addressing youth high unemployment rates. UN also supported a pilot project for the empowerment of young women in the Shiselweni Region, targeting 30 young women with socio-economic empowerment and leadership skills.





RURAL HEALTH MOTIVATORS MOTIVATING FAMILIES TO SUPPORT PREGNANT AND LACTATING MOTHERS

Rural Health Motivator, Lungile Dlamini of Hlane Inkhundla braves the humid weather of the area every morning to visit pregnant, lactating and breastfeeding mothers in her community. Upon arrival at the homestead, she provides counselling to pregnant mothers motivating them to attend Antenatal Care at least six times during pregnancy with the first visit immediately after the mother realizes that she is pregnant. "I have been visiting mothers since 2009, and I get very excited when I see mothers delivering healthy babies, breast-feed them for at least six months with the support of all family members including fathers," she says.

Lungile is one of four hundred and fourteen RHMs who are part of UNICEF and World Vision partnership who provide counselling to about 15 homesteads each while the number may increase in areas where there is not enough RHMs.

Eswatini has a total of 3270 Rural Health Motivators from the 59 Constituencies with about 90% being females while 10% are males. Each RHM covers about 15 homesteads within their immediate community.

The data from the registers is used by the Ministry of Health and all partners supporting the Ministry in informing all community indicators to identify gaps for support.

The RHMs undergo an initial 12 weeks training on various topics including Maternal Child Health and Nutrition. They also receive refresher trainings and support from partners.





OUTCOME 3: ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE, JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

3,714 learners reached on human rights education in 17 schools across the country.

30 women from the private sector trained on the prevention of gender-based violence.

34,412 Emaswati, including teachers, were reached on child rights and prevention and elimination of violence against women and children.

Primero Child Protection Information Management System rolled out to **81 government social workers** across the country.

Employment Act of 1980 reviewed and updated.

Developed National Multi Sector Implementation Plan 2022-2026 for monitoring implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and African Charter on the Right

Total Expenditure
\$834,361.23



Result 1: Created Conducive Policy Environment for Human Rights

The UN strengthened capacity and follow up on UPR recommendations with the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow up (NMRF) to strengthen engagement with UN and regional human rights mechanisms including follow up with 3rd cycle UPR recommendations and Treaty Body reporting including submission of the Common Core Document and the preparation of the CEDAW report.

The UN provided legal advice and technical support to the Ministry of Justice and the AGO for the draft Human Rights Bill to ensure the Commission for Human Rights and Public Administration is in line with the Paris Principles. The Bill is currently undergoing the consultations.

The UN strengthened capacity for the Commission for Human Rights and Public Administration through training on documenting, monitoring and reporting as well as the promotion and protection of human rights. Reviewed and finalized national strategy on ending violence as well as the National Gender Policy Strengthened the GBV surveillance and or GBV MIS as part of key results.

Engaged boys and men in the fight against GBV and HIV using community based and religious sectors.

Result 2: Supported Protection of Human Trafficking Victims

UN undertook the first-ever migration profile for Eswatini. Shelter guidelines aimed at ensuring the best protection and essential services for victims of human trafficking were also developed by the Prime Minister's Office and approved, with UN support. In 2022, six cases of human trafficking were reported involving 4 males and 2 females. The UN refurbished a shelter for victims of trafficking.

Result 3: Increased Human Rights Awareness and Improved Gender Based Violence Programming

The UN conducted regional civic education on human rights, violence prevention and response laws, policies and strategies in partnership with the Commission on Human Rights & Public Integrity and the Ministry of Education and Training, reaching 3,714 learners (1,826 girls; 1,888 boys), in 17 schools. A total of 30 women from the private sector companies were also trained on violence prevention and gender issues. 302 Adolescent Girls and Young Women from the Hhohho region were sensitized on human rights, GBV prevention and gender.

The UN also supported social and behavioural change communication to promote child rights and prevention and elimination of violence against children and women. In collaboration with ESwatini Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA), up to 34,412 beneficiaries were reached [23,405 children (11,931 girls; 11,474 boys) and 1,653 teachers (1,011 F; 642 M); 5,640 men and women (3,075 F; 2,565 M)] through school, community, and virtual media.

The UN supported Gender Assessment of the HIV epidemic and response to improve gender transformative programming.

Result 4: Led the Development of Real Time Data for Child Protection System

The UN supported the functioning of the violence management information system, which resulted in Primero Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS). This system was rolled out for use to all 81 government social workers and was fully operational. The system was assessed for possible extension to cover gender-based violence cases involving adults so that the country can have one centralized and electronic national system for gender-based violence management and response.



YOUTH ATTEND PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT WORKSHOP

Bianca Mdluli, a member of the United Youth for Sustainable Globe Eswatini, was part of a training on peace building and conflict management for young people in November 2022.

“I was delighted to attend the workshop given the social instability in the country which made me want to learn more about ways to empower myself and other young people,” she says.

The workshop components included the role of the youth and women in peace-building and conflict prevention, the creation of an enabling environment and of safe spaces allowing for citizens to express their views, ideas, and recommendations, building towards conflict-sensitive strategies and solutions.

The event encompassed the sharing of experiences from Sudan and South Sudan which highlighted challenges and the seizing of peace-building opportunities within complex contexts. Among the key messages delivered was the lesson that addressing one’s mental health, on an individual level, is integral to developing peace on a collective level.





OUTCOME 4: STRENGTHENING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

USD 2.35 million was mobilized for development finance and climate finance, enabling the installation of 20 meteorological station networks to aid real time weather monitoring and updates

1 MegaWatt solar system at the 350 bed Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 200 tons

8 automatic hydrological stations were installed in communities across the country to observe meteorological and hydrological elements and provide warning information to communities.

University of Eswatini has established a knowledge centre with three key legislation on environmental sustainability and green energy promotion.

Open Defecation Strategy reviewed and finalised.

Total Expenditure
\$7,031,656



Result 1: Supported Renewable Energy Expansion

The UN installed a 1 Mega Watt solar system at the 350 bed Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital. This green energy investment is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 200 tons of CO2/year and increase renewable fraction by 72% in the hospital while also reducing its energy bill by \$176,714 per year. The UN has supported the drafting of regulations for mini grids to promote the use of renewable energy in the country.

Eight automatic hydrological stations were installed in communities across the four regions to observe meteorological and hydrological elements and provide early warning information to communities. These include Croydon on the Black Mbuluzi river, Siphofaneni on the Usuthu river, Lubulini on the Ngwavuma river, Bhunya on the Usuthu river, Mpisi farm on the White Mbuluzi river, Big Bend on the Usuthu river, Mlawula on the Mbuluzi river and Matsamo on the Lomati river.

Result 2: Enabling Policy Environment for Sustainable Energy

The UN supported the University of Eswatini (UNESWA) to establish a knowledge centre with 3 key legislation, including the Environmental Authority (EA) Act, the Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC) Act, and the Energy Regulatory Authority Act. This included a strategy to implement policy. Two gender inclusive policy guidelines were disseminated, including the Hand Hygiene for All Costed Road Map and Hand Hygiene Markets. The UN supported the review and finalization of the Open Defecation strategy. Five Bills and regulations on Climate Change, Forestry, Biosafety, Chemicals, and Ozone were initiated to address climate change effects, with UN support.

Result 3: Increased Resource Mobilisation for Climate Change

With UN support, a total of USD 2.35 million was mobilized for development finance and climate finance, enabling the installation of 20 meteorological station networks to aid real time weather monitoring and updates. A total of US 1.27M was mobilized to respond to climate change risks.





RURAL WOMEN DIVERSIFY INCOME TO MITIGATE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Temhlanga Manana (41) is a farmer from Ntabinezimpisi area under Mayiwane Constituency in the Hhohho Region, northern Eswatini, is one of many rural smallholder farmers affected by climate change. “Our place is prone to droughts and the recent heatwave destroyed all the maize in our fields,” she says.

In 2022, she was among nine other women from her area who received training in liquid soap and all-purpose liquid cleaner production to help them diversify their income. They are part of 50 women trained in soap production under the India, Brazil, and South Africa (IBSA)-funded project on Water Sanitation and Hygiene Project (WASH) on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation. Launched in February 2022, the project aims to improve WASH practices in urban and rural areas.

Besides the support to diversify their income, the women are part of 1 200 people from 171 households from the constituency who were supported to access clean water through solar-powered boreholes connecting the households to taps closer to their homes. Two primary schools with an enrolment of 374 learners and 23 teachers also access clean water through the project. This has transformed the lives of residents in the water-stressed constituencies where most of the residents used to walk long distances to fetch unsafe water from rivers.





2.3 SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING FOR THE 2030 AGENDA



Major Partnerships Considerations for the UNSDCF 2021-2025.

In 2022, the UN established partnerships with key development stakeholders for holistic transformational approaches that engage with and cut across development issues. The RC established and operationalized the International Development Partners Platform and continued advocacy for the functionality of the government led Eswatini Development Coordination Forum. The IDPP is currently co-chaired by the EU Ambassador in Eswatini. Both platforms are crucial for promoting financing for 2030 Agenda. For example, through the International Development Partners Platform, the UN was tasked and commenced mapping of development partners support to different sectors. This initiative was expected to lead to improved financial and technical collaborations towards the delivery of the country's development targets and 2030 Agenda.

2.4 RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER

The strategic outcome areas of the Cooperation Framework have a corresponding Results Group (RG), serving as the coordination mechanism to ensure effective and efficient development and implementation, monitoring and reporting on UN joint annual or biennial work plans. The RGs are co-led by a Head of Agency and Principal Secretary from the Government. To further enhance performance of the RG, the RC engaged a consultant to review the functional effectiveness of RGs. The recommendations have been presented to January 2023 Joint National Steering Committee (J-NSC) meeting.



Joint Programming

In response to the growing youth unemployment, slow economic growth, and the rising cost of living, the UNCT set up an Interagency Task Force on Youth which has developed a UN Eswatini Youth Offer to address economic empowerment, education and skills development as well as the health and wellbeing of young people.

Under the leadership of the UN and Ministry of Education and Training, national stakeholder consultations involving youth groups, women groups, persons with disabilities, teachers, parents were convened in response to the global crisis in education exacerbated by COVID-19. The consultations involved more than 600 participants and led to a national commitment to transform Eswatini's education system.

The UN, through the Deputy Prime Minister's Office, is implementing a national programme to improve the rights of persons with disabilities. This Programme seeks to support Government, Organizations' of Persons with Disabilities and Civil Society Organizations in advancing the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which the country ratified in 2012, by strengthening disability-inclusive accountability and governance; advancement of equality and non-discrimination; and ensuring UNCRPD-compliant budgeting and financial management approaches.

In 2022, the UN Eswatini Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) technical working group (TWG) continued efforts to prevent, investigate and respond to Sexual exploitation and Abuse. The TWG strengthened capacity of staff and partners in PSEA through training, development of IEC material and



design of a joint reporting mechanism.

Business Operations Efficiencies

In line with the UN-SG's reform agenda for a more efficient business operations model through a Business Operations Strategy and Common Back Offices, the Operations Management Team (OMT) in Eswatini transitioned into the BOS 2.0 platform in early 2021 and completed the first review of the BOS 2.0 in March 2022. Following the OMT retreat in September 2022, the UN conducted a needs analysis, Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) and prioritization to determine new services that will be part of the BOS 2.0. in 2023.

The UN Communications Group (UNCG) continued to support the UNCT to better leverage the power of joint communications to make people care and act on the SDGs. UNCG communication focal points were deployed Results Groups to improve coordination; this resulted in greater visibility of the UNSDCF priorities and UN Eswatini work in general.

The UNCG also facilitated a peer training programme where members presented on topics of interest, including on social media management, speech writing, story-telling, media relations, and crisis communication. Formal training was successfully arranged for UNCG members on graphic design and photography.

A common UN Calendar has been developed to facilitate planning and collaboration going forward.

UNGTG has been instrumental in the review and development of the National Gender policy 2022 and the National Strategy to end GBV in Eswatini.



Coordinated Interagency Advocacy

In November 2022, the Eswatini Human Rights Commission and Public Administration / Integrity, with technical and financial support from UNICEF, partnered with the Ministry of Education and Training in an initiative to promote and protect child rights in selected schools, in all four regions, reaching more than 4,000 children. The Eswatini Human Rights Commission and Public Administration / Integrity, civil society, and the UN, held talk shows on Eswatini TV in the run up to Human Rights Day to raising nationwide awareness and advocating for human rights.

The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs with support from the UN family hosted a roundtable at the policy level for key partners and stakeholders including civil society and the private sector to discuss the right to education in the context of article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The latter led to a commemoration of Human Rights Day under the leadership of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on 9 December 2022.



2.5 EVALUATION AND LESSONS LEARNED

Lessons learnt were drawn from the UNSDCF Results Groups Annual Joint Work Plan Reviews whose findings and lessons were presented the National Joint National Steering Committee Meeting. The following lessons were identified:

- In implementing the UNSDCF, Joint Government-UN leadership is key in the Cooperation Framework delivery notably orientation and routine updates of co-chairs and alternates is helpful for ownership of the Joint Work Plan implementation. Scheduling early results groups meetings and reporting timelines (a calendar of events) improves the overall coordination of the results group. Conducting the Annual Review and Planning meeting in early November ensures smooth completion of the JWP. A designated focal point

at co-leadership level facilitated timely delivery of the RG JWP. Maintaining consistency in results group members ensured continuity in programme delivery and coordination. Development of a Results framework for the Results Group enabled Results-Based monitoring, and it is necessary for the sustainability of institutional memory.

- Programme innovations introduced during the COVID-19 era should be sustained as they improved programme and service delivery. During the pandemic, the UNCT was able to repurpose funding and conduct resource mobilization. The UN also contributed towards mitigating the effects of COVID-19 in areas such as Agriculture, Education, Nutrition, Advocacy, Social Protection, Health, Water and Sanitation.



2.6 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The UNCT invested \$21.7 (SZL391M) as compared \$25.9 million that was required to implement the Cooperation Framework JWP in 2022. Approximately, 15 per-cent (\$3.2M) of the overall available budgets was not utilized. Table 1 below presents the UN investment and expenditure in 2022.

Table 1 UN Investment in 2022 Towards Development in Eswatini

Areas/Sector of Investment	Available Budget (USD)	2022 Expenditure (USD)	Funding Utilization Rate
Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth	6,879,093	6,071,293	88%
Investing in Human Resources and Social Development	4,518,686	4,518,686	100%
Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights	834,361	834,361	100%
Strengthening Natural Resource Management, Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability	11,479,892	7,031,657	61.3%
Total UN 2022 Investments	21,723,317	18,455,997	85%

2.6.3 Resource mobilization and quality of funding

For the implementation of the UNSDCF in 2022, the UN engaged in robust resource mobilization. These included the following.

Funding Source	UN Implementing Agencies	Pipeline	Approved
UN Peace Building Fund	UNDP, UNFPA,	3,000,000	
UN SDG Fund	UNDP, WHO, FAO, WFP		\$250,000
UN PRPD Fund	UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, DPMO, FODSWA		\$600,000.
Italian projects	UNDP		\$2,350,000
Green Climate Fund	UNEP		\$1,270,000
Total Investment (USD)	\$7,470,000		

3. UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR 2023



The end of 2022 marked 2 years of implementing the 2021-2025 Cooperation Framework. It also marked the 8 years to the finishing line of the 2030 Agenda. Eswatini, as in other African countries, have borne the brunt of the quadruple threats of COVID-19 disruptions, civil unrest, extreme weather effects, and ongoing global crisis all of which have exacerbated poverty, increased unemployment and heightened tensions in the country. This calls for a more agile UNDS ready to work with Government and stakeholders in the implementation of the newly formulated National Development Plan 2023-2028 and the SDGs. In 2023 therefore, the UNDS in Eswatini will focus on the following priorities:

- 1** Strengthening the UNSDCF Results Groups and other core governance structures for a more strategic and focused implementation of the UNSDCF Joint Work Plans (2023) based on the CCA addendum of 2022 and the recommendations of the assessment of the Results Groups Effectiveness.
- 2** Enhancing the coordination of and joint resource mobilization for the implementation of the CF and other UNCT priorities for 2023 through the development and implementation of a partnership and resource mobilization strategy in response to agreed joint initiatives that respond to the impacts of potential civil unrest, youth empowerment, ending gender-based violence, food systems enhancements, transforming education; etc.
- 3** Responding to the needs of young people as one UN through the finalization, resourcing and implementation of a joint programme (One UN Youth Offer) based on three key pillars: youth employment and entrepreneurship, skills development and training and health and wellbeing of young people.
- 4** Supporting government plans to prepare for, follow up and deliver on their commitments at the SG's Summits and other global forums (Food Systems Summit and Transforming Education Summit, COP 27 commitments and upcoming COP 28, climate financing, Commonwealth Clean Energy Champion Role, the SDG Summit.
- 5** Enhancing UNCT preparedness for a prompt and effective response to national developments such as emergencies, disasters, political engagement, human rights, prevention and peacebuilding.



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