



UNITED NATIONS
ESWATINI



ESWATINI ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

2021

| | |
|--------|--|
| AfCTA | African Continental Free Trade Area |
| AfDB | African Development Bank |
| AWP | Annual work plan |
| CANGO | Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations |
| 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 |
| DRR | Disaster risk reduction |
| EU | European Union |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FF | Funding framework |
| GBV | Gender-based violence |
| GCF | Green Climate Fund |
| GEF | Global Environment Fund |
| GoE | Government of Eswatini |
| GNI | Gross national income |
| GTG | Gender theme group |
| HIV | Human immunodeficiency virus |
| HRBA | Human rights-based approach |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| J-NSC | Joint National Steering Committee |
| JWP | Joint work plan |
| 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 |
| NGO | Non-governmental 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 |
| PSSG | Policy and programme support group |
| PSG | Peer support group |
| RC | Resident Coordinator |
| RCO | Resident Coordinator's Office |
| RG | Results groups |
| RMNCAH | Reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health |
| RRF | Results and resources framework |
| SADC | Southern African Development Community |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| ToC | Theory of change |
| ToR | Terms of reference |
| TVET | Technical and vocational education and training |
| UNAIDS | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and 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 |
| UNSDCF | United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework |
| UPR | Universal Peer Review |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

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Foreword of the Acting UN Resident Coordinator in Eswatini

The year 2021 brought immense challenges in the Kingdom of Eswatini's efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Impacted by the continuation of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, Tropical Storm Eloise and the outbreak of nationwide civil unrest, Eswatini's most vulnerable communities were deeply affected by the far-reaching impacts of the simultaneous crises. Fuelled by lockdowns to contain the spread of coronavirus, growing food insecurity, lagging tourism, as well as the destruction of essential infrastructure and private businesses due to the unrest, the nation's economy became exceptionally fragile.

Despite the challenges, the UN Development System (UNDS) worked to strengthen essential partnerships – including with the Government of Eswatini, civil society, private sector and development partners – to address the deepening vulnerabilities throughout the nation. In its first year of implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) 2021-2025, the UNDS worked to deliver, as One UN, a nationwide, coordinated, comprehensive, and people-centred response that addressed the health, socio-economic, humanitarian and human rights aspects of the crises.

The UN conducted an Economic Recovery Needs Assessment to inform the nation's recovery, and assess the deepening economic vulnerabilities across the nation. This Assessment facilitated progress in areas such as gender-based violence (GBV); health; HIV and AIDS; education; food security and nutrition; information and communications technology (ICT); water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and other COVID-19 related interventions. Notably, these areas had pre-existing gaps and vulnerabilities which were at risk of deepening.

To reduce pressure on Eswatini's health sector and protect UN staff and dependents during the pandemic, the UNDS set up an isolation/wellness centre with a full-time nurse. The centre's services proved essential during the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, as well as for other health services targeting staff and dependents. In a context of significant resource mobilization and reprogramming, in the exceptional circumstances of 2021, this report highlights the many achievements and obstacles overcome by the UN Country Team (UNCT) in its efforts to achieve national priorities and Agenda 2030. As the COVID-19 pandemic persists, we continue to advocate for equitable distribution of vaccines so

that the country can meet its target of vaccinating at least 70 per cent of the population in 2022. As we heal from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are inspired to think creatively and collectively, in a spirit of generosity and solidarity, about how to help everyone recover better, how to build resilience, and how to transform our world into one that is more equal, just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and healthier.

To be able to recover from the devastation of the pandemic, we must make peace with one another. We must also make peace with Mother Nature. We need a green and sustainable global economy that produces jobs, reduces emissions and builds resilience to the effects of climate change.

The Kingdom of Eswatini has been known for decades as a country of peace. However, this beautiful nation has been plagued with incidents of civil unrest and protest, which are threatening to reverse the gains made in areas such as health, education, renewable energy and climate action.

As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN Development System in Eswatini and the Government have committed to, "A prosperous, just and resilient Eswatini where no one is left behind." This vision and this strategic goal cannot be achieved without peace.



Amina Mohammed
Acting Resident Coordinator
UN Eswatini

UN Country Team (UNCT) in Eswatini

On 22 October 2020, the UN Resident Coordinator and Heads of Agencies of the 16 agencies, funds and programmes operating in the Kingdom of Eswatini, signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the period 2021–2025, which came into effect on 1 January 2021. This strategic document was also signed by Prime Minister of Eswatini and the full cabinet of 18 ministers. The UNCT in Eswatini comprises: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); International Labour Organization (ILO); Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS); United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); United Nations Office on

Drugs and Crime (UNODC); World Health Organization (WHO); World Food Programme (WFP); International Organization for Migration (IOM); United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women); the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Further support and contributions to UN programmes and activities in Eswatini were received from the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and others.



Development



The United Nations in Eswatini, throughout 2021, served as a trusted development partner of His Majesty’s Government and the people of Eswatini, in support of the implementation of national priorities cited in the National Development Plan 2019-2022, the Strategic Roadmap 2019-2022, the Strategy for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth 2019-2022, and the National Development Strategy 1997-2022, based on His Majesty’s vision.

In the context of the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tropical Storm Eloise and the onset of civil unrest in June 2021, the UN Development System (UNDS) strengthened its engagements with line ministries, civil society organizations, political organisations, the diplomatic corps, the private sector, the media, academia, and other stakeholders to accelerate progress towards attaining the SDGs and national

priorities. UNDS acted in support of programmes and interventions in the first year of implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) 2021-2025, while ensuring that progress made in all areas was not lost.

Following a devastating second wave of COVID-19 in the country in early 2021, progress was made through increased collaboration and engagements with development partners in the areas of GBV, health, HIV and AIDS, education, food security and nutrition, ICT, WASH and other COVID-19 related interventions. This collaboration was deemed essential following the onset of civil unrest, which severely restricted movement, worsened food security and access to education and health services, and threatened to adversely affect all progress made in Eswatini’s pursuit of Agenda 2030 and national development priorities.

Significant achievements in partnerships were noted in: The convening of the Joint National Steering Committee (J-NSC) co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and the Minister of Economic Planning and Development to review progress and challenges in the first year of implementation of the UNSDCF 2021–2025, in the light of the two simultaneous crises of COVID-19 and civil unrest;

- The rolling out of the national COVID-19 vaccination campaign;
- The conducting of media training on data journalism and roundtable discussions on the United Nations' contribution to the national COVID-19 response, and response to the ongoing civil unrest;
- The strengthening of partnerships with the diplomatic corps through working group sessions, regarding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest.

Therefore, in 2021, the UNDS enhanced its collaborations with diplomatic missions from the United States of America, the European Union, the Republic of China (Taiwan), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and India, as well as international financial institutions such as the African Development Bank, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).



Reflected in the strengthened partnerships with the private sector and media, the most reliable partners of the UNDS included Business Eswatini, Woman Farmer Foundation, Eswatini Editors Forum and Eswatini Bankers Association. Enhanced engagement with vulnerable communities – including persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV, youth, rural women, widows and others – remained a significant priority of the UNDS.

Further support and contributions to UN programmes and activities in the Kingdom of Eswatini were received from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and others.

Chapter One

1.1 Key Developments in Eswatini

The Kingdom of Eswatini is a small landlocked country bordered on three sides by South Africa, and on one side by Mozambique.

In line with global developments, the domestic economy shows some signs of recovery. However the recurrence

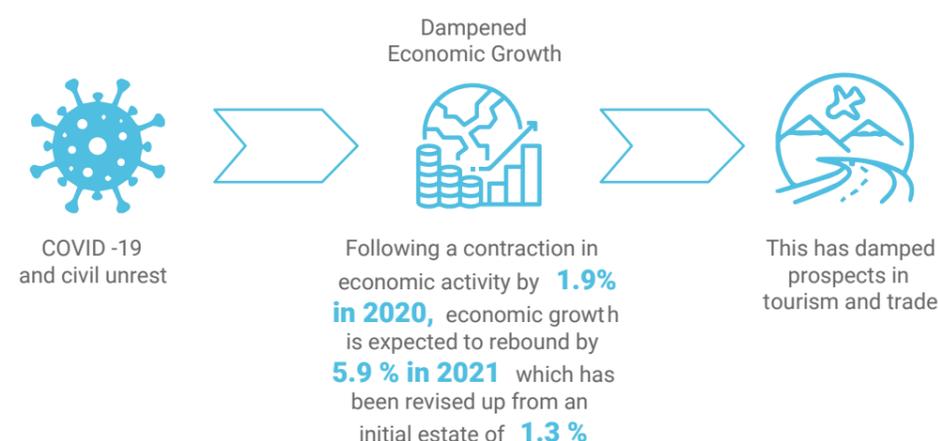
of COVID-19 waves, coupled with unprecedented civil unrest, has dampened higher prospects for growth as activities in sectors such as tourism, wholesale and trade remain subdued.

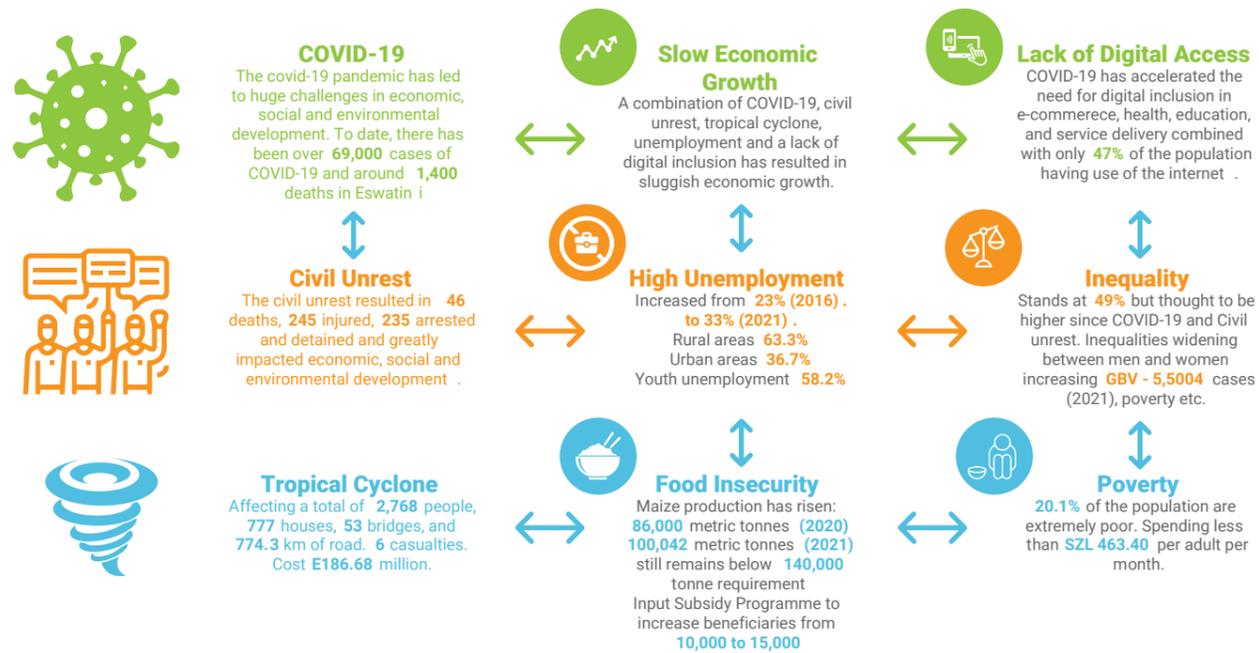


The medium-term outlook remains uncertain for the domestic economy. The three-year Fiscal Adjustment Plan for the period 2021-22 to 2023-24 is expected to dampen growth in sectors linked to government operations, such as public administration, construction, wholesale and retail, financial services, and professional services. Even though the predictions for future years remain uncertain, several reforms will likely improve

growth in the medium term, including the issuance of mining licences, and implementation of the post-COVID-19 recovery plan.

The disruptions brought about by COVID-19, compounded by tropical cyclone and civil unrest experienced in 2021, have brought about challenges in the country.





The Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration/Integrity (the Commission) was prompted to conduct an assessment with the purpose of establishing the facts and circumstances of alleged human rights violations pursuant to Section 164(2) of the Constitution. The Commission verified 46 deaths, 245 people injured, and 235 arrested and detained.

Civil unrest has been a major setback for sustainable development everywhere in the country. The unrest has affected the country and people in very different ways, making the SDG principle of leaving no one behind more relevant. It has affected all three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. There is a very real risk that inequalities are widening greatly between men and women due to loss of employment, which will lead to increases in GBV, poverty and so on.

To date, in the context of COVID-19, civil unrest, the tropical cyclone, sluggish economic growth and high unemployment, SDG performance has worsened. Eswatini is currently conducting a Voluntary National Review (VNR) with the support of the UN and this is expected to be completed by June 2022. Although no comprehensive Eswatini SDG study has been conducted, Eswatini can report from the COVID-19 UN Sustainable Development Report of June 2021 results.

Eswatini's performance against SDGs 1, 2, 6 and 16 faces major challenges with a stagnating trend; against SDGs 3, 7, 8, 9 there have been major challenges and a moderate improving trend; SDGs 10 and 12 face major challenges and data gaps; SDGs 4, 15 and 17 show stagnating trends; SDGs 5, 11 and 13 show moderate improving trends and no data are provided for SDG 14. The inequalities engendered by the lack of access to a digitized economy are even worse for those who lack access to internet connectivity, electricity, digital skills or affordable devices. Therefore, despite the potential for digital technologies to accelerate social and economic development, a significant share of the population is being left behind.

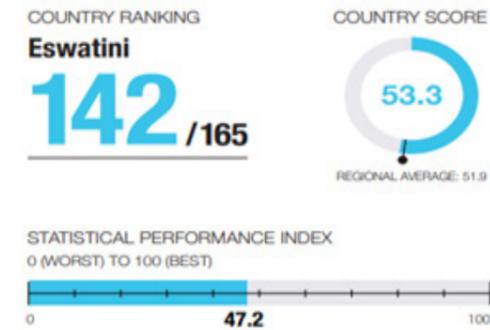
Access to potable water in the country stands at 67 per cent. Currently, several projects are being implemented to address this, including the potable water scheme in Shiselweni for four Tinkhundla centres, another four in the Manzini region, the second Lower Usuthu Smallholder Irrigation Project (LUSIP II) and the UNICEF Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Programme. Together, these will expand the national access to potable water to 75 per cent.

The number of officially-declared protected conservation areas has increased: this has increased the proportion of the surface area of the country that is protected land from 5.2 per cent in 2020 to 6.15 per cent in 2021.

ESWATINI

Sub-Saharan Africa

OVERALL PERFORMANCE



AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG



SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS



More than SZL1 billion (about SZL13.4 million from the UN), has been spent in the past two years to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds were used to build the Lubombo Referral Hospital COVID-19 wing, as well to provide hospital equipment, personal protective equipment, ambulances and food for more than 300,000 people who could no longer support themselves.

In 2021 the government rolled out the grade 0 programme to an additional 100 public schools countrywide. The programme benefited from support received through UNICEF in mapping early childhood care and development education (ECCDE): the main objective of the mapping was to obtain a broad understanding of the current state of early childhood care centres.

With support from the International Labour Organization (ILO), Eswatini has prioritized the establishment of an Unemployment Benefit Fund, as a step towards comprehensive social protection for all. This intervention seeks to establish a gender-inclusive unemployment protection system as part of a comprehensive national social security and social protection policy.

Since the period for Eswatini Vision 2022 is coming to an end - and with less than eight years left to 2030, the endpoint of the SDGs - the pressure to accelerate action and demonstrate results is increasing. The Government of Eswatini is preparing to develop a new National Vision. While the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed progress in many areas, the recovery and the building forward better phases give opportunities to identify strategic levers and entry points for transformation that can accelerate socio-economic progress in ways that are more just, regenerative and distributive. These are being considered in the current revision of the National Development Strategy (NDS) and National Development Plan (NDP). Several challenges have considerably increased the vulnerability of the Swazi population: in particular the COVID-19 pandemic significantly compromised the ability of a number of households to provide for their livelihoods. The United Nations has an opportunity to shape this discourse and open pathways for sustainable transformation through the implementation of the UNSDCF Joint Work Plan 2021-2025.



Chapter Two

2.1 Overview of the Cooperation Framework Results

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) 2021-2025, which came into effect on 1 January 2021, replaced the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the 2016-2020 cycle.

The UNSCDF 2021-2025 represents the United Nations Development System's collective offer to support the Kingdom of Eswatini to address its national development priorities, advance the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals, and transform the lives of EmaSwati in this last Decade of Action.

The CF prioritized three of the five Ps – people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership – which capture the broad scope of the 2030 Agenda. The prioritized Ps were (i) Prosperity: to grow a strong, inclusive, and transformative economy; (ii) Planet: to protect our ecosystems for all societies and our children; and (iii) People: to ensure healthy lives, knowledge, and the inclusion of women and children.

Serving to enable a “just, prosperous and resilient Eswatini where nobody is left behind,” the UNSCDF 2021-2025 was divided into four outcome areas, through which four results groups, inclusive of implementing partners, would be responsible for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

With a focus on empowering marginalised persons, the outcome areas were: (i) promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth; (ii) investing in human resources and social development; (iii) enabling accountable governance, justice and human rights; (iv) and strengthening natural resource management, climate resilience and environmental sustainability.

This report presents the outputs, including achievements and challenges, under the four outcome areas.



Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth



2.2 Cooperation Framework Priorities, Outcomes and Outputs



Outcome Statement:

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

Development Partners:

PEPFAR, European Union, World Bank

Implementing Partners:

MEPD, MoCIT, MoF, MoA, MoTEA, MoSCYA, MoICT, DPMO, MoHA, MoLSS, MoET, MoH, TUCOSWA, FESWATU, NDMA, NAMBoard, NMC, Business Eswatini, FESBC, SYNP+, Membatsise Home Based Care, FLAS,

Contributing UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes:

FAO, ILO, UNHCR, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and WFP



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

In 2021, the UN began a process of facilitating the development of capacities for policy, regulatory and legislative instruments and incentive frameworks to improve the ease of doing business and attract private investment in Eswatini through the Agrinvest process. A total of 11 Sector Development Plans Agreements (SDPA) have been finalized for inclusive agriculture value chains in Eswatini. These plans will contribute to the review and updating of the National Agricultural Investment Plan.

The UN is also facilitating the development of sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems (through food loss assessment and trade) and the establishment of the Eswatini Agricultural Development Fund. In line with the Decade of Action, with the leadership of UN Eswatini, the government and sector stakeholders organized local food systems summit (FSS) dialogues between May and September 2021. The focus was on improving the speed and quality of national policies and strategies to deliver food systems development and unlock the potential for sustainable prosperity in Eswatini. Over 867 people actively contributed to the FSS dialogues: 251 farmers, 205 government personnel, 48 private organization staff, 85 civil society representatives, 48 independent groups and 50 individuals. The dialogue considered

and validated options for game-changing propositions for action along the five FSS Action Tracks, responding to gender, human rights, financing and innovation.

The UN initiated the development of a national strategy to tap into the opportunities offered by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and has facilitated a partnership with the African E-Trade Group (AeTrade) to support the formulation and implementation of the strategy.

UN Eswatini facilitated stakeholder engagements in collaboration with implementing partners – including NAMBoard and National Maize Corporation – to support microp, small and medium enterprises' (MSMEs') recovery efforts from the effects of COVID-19 and civil unrest. Farming inputs and 480,000 seedlings were procured and distributed to farmers for the cultivation of 205 hectares of maize and dry beans.

Through partnership with COMESA and NAMBoard, the UN supported farmers in commercial agricultural activities and access to markets. A total of 401 farmers (212males and 189 females) were recorded to be actively trading produce with NAMBoard market. Farmers sold a total of 462.2MT of produce, mainly consisting of baby vegetables and conventional vegetables and generated income of USD 80 318.



Output 1.2: Institutions and capacity development for delivery of effective and responsive social protection systems



The UN, through the technical leadership of UNDP, supported the Government of Eswatini (GoE) through the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to review the National Social Assistance Policy. The policy is aimed at bridging the poverty and inequality gaps, and addressing the adverse effects of social, environmental and economic shocks to vulnerable populations. The UN has provided technical assistance for an assessment of social protection programmes in the country with the view to rationalize and initiate system reforms, including a review of the vulnerability assessment criteria.

A study is ongoing to comprehensively analyse the coverage and financing gaps in the social protection system as a basis for building the social protection floor in Eswatini. The UN, led by WFP, is providing cash and food-based transfers to vulnerable populations in Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs), and crisis response to the tune of US\$3.4 million in 2021. In all, 188,121 people benefited from both cash and food assistance for a period of three months, and beneficiaries have been enrolled in the national livelihoods project (commercial poultry farming, backyard gardens and commercial crop production).

UN Eswatini, through UNICEF, initiated advocacy for a child grant scheme with the objective of providing an equitable chance in life and improving inclusion. UNICEF

engaged with the Parliament of Eswatini, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development. The concept of the child grant scheme has been presented to the government and is being reviewed for further discussion, and possible decision making on pilot implementation.

In the area of public finance management, UN Eswatini through UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of Finance to improve transparency in budget allocation and implementation, help increase budget efficiency and improve allocation of resources to children's issues. To this end, UN supported the participation of Eswatini in the Open Budget Survey, the results of which will help improve public engagement in decision making regarding budget allocations. UN also supported the review of the country's annual budget in the fields of education, health and early childhood development; and recommendations for improvement have been developed.

With support from the ILO, Eswatini has prioritized the establishment of an unemployment benefit scheme, towards comprehensive social protection for all. This intervention seeks to establish a gender-inclusive unemployment protection system as part of a comprehensive national social security and social protection policy.

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

Under the leadership of UNDP, the UN is supporting the government to mobilize financial and non-financial support from development finance institutions, climate finance and other sources. As such, a Development Finance Assessment has been completed as a first step towards the comprehensive development of SDG financing tools, including the INFF. SDG investor mapping was completed to generate country-level data and insights about SDG-enabling investment opportunities. The innovative tool targets the gap between interest and investing in SDGs, and the business models that could provide impactful and investable opportunities in Eswatini. In collaboration with the UNDP’s Private Sector Hub in Istanbul, a report outlining strategic priority investments sectors has been completed.

A COVID 19 Recovery Needs Assessment (CRNA) and a recovery strategy document has been finalized as a tool to help the government to better understand the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 and how to put in place strategies to recover better. The UN has supported the government to review and draft the

new national development strategy. The government is being supported with the production of sustainable solutions through the UNDP Accelerator Lab.

Through support of UNDP and ILO, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security conducted the 2021 Eswatini Integrated Labour Force Survey (LFS). The LFS is intended to collect data that shows the status of the labour market in the country in terms of levels as well as including trends in major labour market indicators including the unemployment rate and other measures of labour underutilization, labour force participation rate, employment-to-population ratio (absorption rate), average hours worked by individuals in different sectors of the economy and different occupations, and the income received as a result of participating in the production process of goods and services. The LFS provides data to both public and private sectors including other relevant institutions to enable them to formulate, evaluate and monitor socio-economic policies so the kingdom can make informed decisions about labour market issues.



11 Sector Development Plan Agreements have been finalized for inclusive agriculture value chains in Eswatini



US\$3.4 million was disbursed through the cash and food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic to a total of 188,121 beneficiaries



867 People were reached during the Food Systems Summit consultative dialogues



480 seedlings were distributed to farmers for the cultivation of 205 hectares of maize and dry beans to ensure food security during lockdowns arising from COVID-19



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, as well as to life-long learning and market-relevant skills.

Contributing UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes: UNFPA, UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO

Development Partners:

PEPFAR, EU, World Bank

Implementing Partners:

Eswatini National Youth Council (ENYC), National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), National Emergency Response Council on HIV and AIDS (NERCHA), Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO), Bantwana, University of Eswatini (UNESWA), Save The Children, Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA), Church Forum, Kwakha Indvodza, Family Life Association of Swaziland (FLAS), and CHAI



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

In 2021, the UN in Eswatini strengthened capacity for policy development, review and implementation by supporting the finalization of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH & N) Strategy. The UN printed 350 hard copies and procured 200 USBs to facilitate dissemination of the strategy to stakeholders.

The UN also supported the development of the first postnatal care guidelines for health care workers. These guidelines cover the postnatal period, which begins immediately after the birth of a baby and extends up to six weeks (42 days) after birth. The guidelines form the basis for programmatic guidance and capacity building of front-line health workers, and provide recommendations for standard observations, assessments and education that are critical for preventing maternal and neonatal deaths.

Health care workers have access to new national family planning guidelines, which were reviewed as part of strengthening access and provision of quality family planning services in the country.

A total of 200 health care workers received orientation on the use of the Adolescents Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) National Guidelines, developed with support from the UN to regularize adolescent- and youth-friendly health services (AYFHS).

During the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delta variant caused an increase in deaths among pregnant women. In response, the UN supported the development and printing of Clinical Guidelines on Management of COVID-19 in Pregnancy. In all, 100 guidelines were printed, and a training of trainers event was conducted, reaching over 500 health care workers.

Other guidelines developed with UN support include the Menstrual Health Management (MHM) Guidelines and the Early and Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Policy and Management Guidelines.

The UN also provided support to the National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS (NERCHA) for the rolling out of HIV prevention policy. To ensure deliverables and greater accountability, the HIV Prevention Roadmap 2025, and the Prevention Coordination and Accountability Framework are being developed.

The UN provided technical support during the validation of the National Social Protection Policy, advocating for inclusion of people living with HIV and those affected by HIV and AIDS.

Technical guidance was also provided during the development of the health and wellness policy for correctional settings, a policy which has since been finalized.



Furthermore, the UN has supported the drafting of the HIV policy and strategic plan for His Majesty's Correctional Services; the review of the Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) training manuals, aimed at incorporating task-shifting for nurse-led VMMC; the finalization of the Non-communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Action Plan 2021-2023 and the Mental Health Strategic Plan 2021-2023; the development of a sexually transmitted infections training curriculum, wellness guidelines, mental health and psychosocial skills development guidelines; and a comprehensive review of the current and planned adolescent girls and young women programme in Eswatini, in which 723 adolescents and youths, including 384 adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 years, took part.

Through Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation Eswatini, the UN supported children and adolescents living with HIV to achieve and sustain viral load suppression in all four regions of the country (Lubombo, Hhohho, Shiselweni and Manzini).

The UN also supported the documentation of HIV and AIDS success stories in Eswatini; the mapping of the best practice in the parliament's strengthening of its response to HIV, tuberculosis and malaria in the context of COVID-19: a multi-country Pan-African Parliament exercise; the planning of multi-country assessment of the intersection between GBV and HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic and the development of the Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS) Protocol in prisons.

The UN also participated in capacity building for the implementation of National Health Accounts (NHAs), which track health expenditure, and validated a qualitative study on attitudes and perceptions of learners and teachers on comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) to improve programming around CSE and life skills education.

Furthermore, a total of 300 young people received copies of the Eswatini National Youth Policy across all four regions of the country.

A total of 17 nurses across the country received training on cervical cancer screening using visual inspection of the cervix with 5 per cent acetic acid (VIA) and treatment of pre-cancer with cryotherapy as part of the improvement of skills of health care workers on the provision of cervical cancer screening for women. Sensitization training meetings for nursing sisters on cancers to enhance policy engagements, were also conducted in all four regions.

The UN ensured the availability of drugs and medicines by conducting quantification and forecasting of commodities: the report indicates that the family planning commodity requirements for the country in the next three years were US\$1,216,796 for 2022/2023, US\$1,285,657 for 2023/2024 and US\$1,549,055 for 2024/2025.

The UN supported the assessment of 119 health facilities countrywide for compliance with infection prevention and control (IPC): of these 23 health facilities, including 408 health workers, received targeted training to address gaps identified.

In total 109,000 family planning and life-saving maternal health drugs were procured by the UN, including: depo-provera (60,000); noristerate (5,000), norigynon (12,000), jadelle (1,200), oxytocin (6,000), magnesium sulphate (6,000) and misoprostol (8,000).

The UN supported the training of more than 500 rural health motivators (RHMs) from 14 constituencies on maternal and newborn care, nutrition, early childhood stimulation (ECS), HIV, BR and reporting, equipping them with counselling skills, reporting and referral for care.

The UN also supported the finalization and endorsement of the National Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Action Plan 2021-2023; finalization and endorsement of the National Mental Health Strategy 2021-2023; the development of clinical management guidelines for snakebite envenoming, launched by the Minister of Health; the finalization of the National Health Promotion Strategy 2021-2023; and the development of the National Standard Treatment Guidelines. The UN saw 300 health workers and 80 community volunteers trained on management of snakebite treatment.

The UN also supported the ongoing development of the Essential Health Services Package and strengthening of primary health care; the updating of key instruments such as the National Tobacco Control Policy and the National Tobacco Control Regulations – all of which address various elements of the demand for and supply of tobacco products. The UN also supported the updating of the National HIV and Tuberculosis Guidelines, in line with the current WHO recommendations (as is the oral short multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDRTB) regimen being implemented across 14 MDRTB sites); the costing and development of a national tuberculosis control strategy 2020-2023 and the mid-term review of the National Cancer Control Strategy 2019-2023 and the conducting of a needs assessment by the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) Secretariat and individuals from various local ministries, as well

as UNDP, RTI International, WHO, and WHO FCTC. As a result, an investment case was published for tobacco control in Eswatini: a useful tool in advocating for reducing tobacco use.

With UN support, the Ministry of Health conducted a nationwide measles rubella campaign targeting children aged 9-59 months, as well as integrated interventions including vitamin A supplementation for children between ages 6-59 months and provision of deworming tablets for children aged 12-59 months. An national administrative coverage of 97 per cent measles and rubella vaccination, 62 per cent vitamin A and 67 per cent albendazole was achieved.

Active surveillance was also conducted for vaccine-preventable disease (VPD) in 71 high and medium priority sites, with performance surveillance feedback provided to stakeholders.

The country decentralized service provision for non-communicable diseases, with primary health care facilities refiling antidiabetic and antihypertensive medication. The country also initiated community refilling of antiretroviral drugs and tuberculosis medication.

Finally, a multisectoral Eswatini National Coordinating Mechanism (NCM) was established for tobacco control.



109,000 family planning & life-saving maternal health drugs distributed to women



350 Printed copies

of the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH & N) Strategy were distributed. 200 USBs were provided for electronic distribution.



200 Health care workers

were oriented on the use of the new National Guidelines on Adolescents, Youth Friendly Health Services (AYFHS)



500 Health care workers

Were trained on the use of the new clinical guidelines on management of COVID-19 in pregnancy



In all 4 Regions

in of Eswatini, children and adolescents living with HIV were supported to achieve and sustain viral load suppression



300 Young people

received copies of the revised Eswatini National Youth Policy, which were distributed in 59 constituencies (Tinkhundla) in all four regions



119 Health facilities

were supported and assessed for compliance with infection prevention and control (IPC)



109,000 Drugs

were procured for family planning and life-saving maternal health



500 Rural Health Motivators

were trained on maternal and newborn care, nutrition, early childhood stimulation, HIV and reporting

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

The UN supported advocacy and awareness events on health matters, including the COVID-19 vaccine rollout campaign and provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline health care workers to enhance the prevention, testing and management of COVID-19.

Through partners, including Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society, World Vision and the Ministry of Health, more than 5,000 children under five were screened for malnutrition and approximately 150 caregivers were reached with infant young child feeding (IYCF) and nutrition information. In addition, health care workers were trained on child and maternal health, including IYCF, and malnutrition screening and COVID-19 prevention and management.

The UN provided technical support for the implementation of the Treatment Literacy Project, which trained 12 facilitators on HIV treatment literacy, to reach 20 community support groups.

Additionally, the UN supported the development of a pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) communication strategy, aimed at mobilizing the most at-risk populations in the uptake of PrEP; the adaptation of the WHO SRHR manual for women living with HIV which was distributed to 200 women living with HIV; the commemorations of World Patient Safety Day, International Youth Day, World Health Day, Blood Donor Day, World Diabetes Day and other events as well as the provision of integrated maternal, newborn and child health services to mothers in peri-urban settings.





The UN instigated the Men and HIV campaign aimed at reducing risky sexual behaviours among men. The campaign was led by NERCHA and implemented in collaboration with Kwaka Indzodza.

The UN collaborated with the Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO) to develop communication material on the impact of climate change on people living with HIV, including the video clip from the 26th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) on the impact of climate change on persons living with HIV and AIDS.

Over 600 women were screened for cervical cancer in 12 constituencies, and civil society organizations were supported to educate young men and boys on the issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), prevention of GBV, prevention of HIV and the benefits of family planning to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancy.

In all, 70 youth leaders from eight religious organizations dealing with HIV and AIDS were trained on SRHR issues concerning out-of-school youth and young people in religious settings, and 20 teen mothers participated in three psychosocial support and SRHR training events, where they were empowered with life skills education (LSE) to reach their full potential.

Community dialogues supporting parent-child communication on SRHR were hosted in Ludzeludze Inkhundla, Manzini, with the aim of providing information to parents about LSE to address issues of early and unintended pregnancies, back street abortion, GBV and substance abuse in this constituency.

A total of 20 peer educators received refresher training for the national Reed Dance ceremony, in which a limited number of young girls participated due to COVID-19 regulations. The UN provided COVID-19 protective equipment comprising approximately 2,300 disposable masks and 300 250ml bottles of hand sanitizer, for the maidens attending the Umhlanga Reed Dance ceremony.

The UN also developed education and communication information materials for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

More than 90,000 registered Tune Me users were reached, and public transport was also branded to promote the app. The Tune Me app helps young people make choices about their bodies, rights, sexual health and love lives. Young people get answers to hard-to-ask questions, get to tell their own stories, share opinions and give advice to others.

Furthermore, the UN provided technical assistance to civil society to support the country's preparedness and response to emergencies, in preparation for a US\$3.8 million Global Fund COVID-19 proposal. This proposal aims to strengthen civil society's HIV and COVID-19 response, and is under review by the Global Fund.

HIV prevention, early unintended pregnancies, GBV and COVID-19 messages were disseminated including through a play entitled: "Nakule-COVID sitawugcina butfobhi betfu" (We will continue to abstain from sex despite COVID-19).

Output 2.3: Quality teaching and learning is improved and made accessible including through diversified remote and web-based learning platforms at all levels. In 2021, the UN supported the institutionalization of distance learning at primary and secondary school levels. The national distance learning policy was officially launched in October 2021.

The country is currently exploring the upscaling of a distance learning platform used by eMlalati Development Centre, while supporting the Ministry of Education and Training to finalize the distance learning platform.

The Ministry of Education opted for the implementation of the Learning Passport: a UNICEF HQ/Microsoft initiative used to complement face-to-face teaching, learning and remediation, as a platform for online learning. With support from UNICEF, the Ministry engaged a consultancy firm (Techademics) to support the project's rollout, commencing in early 2022.

The UN strengthened the capacity of teachers to provide quality education, particularly LSE for adolescents and young people, to empower them to make informed decisions and positive actions about their bodies, their life and world through LSE provision in secondary and primary schools and LSE integration into pre-service. A total of 20 teachers from four new secondary schools were trained on LSE, increasing the number of secondary schools offering LSE to 285 from 281 in 2020. Furthermore, a total of 100 school principals, from all regions, were engaged in efforts to ensure that the 40-minute period allocated for LSE is utilized appropriately during the adjusted school calendar. School deputies were empowered to understand the importance of LSE for avoiding early and unplanned pregnancies, which often lead to early school drop-out.



The National Curriculum Centre was supported to develop materials for the Competency-Based Education Curriculum – which is currently at the Upper Primary Phase as part of LSE integration – into the national curriculum. Both syllabi and instructional materials have been developed. The UN arranged for 55 curriculum designers to conduct a curriculum audit on Grade 5 instructional materials to verify how the integration has been implemented. Curriculum designers further mapped the content for Grade 6, identifying topics and themes from the LSE matrix and aligning them to curriculum topics in preparation for the drafting of instruction materials in 2022.

The UN also supported enhanced knowledge generation to inform programming for prevention of substance abuse. An assessment was conducted of substance abuse among adolescents in 20 schools and four Tinkhundla in the Lubombo region. The assessment established the extent of substance abuse among adolescents in Lubombo region to close the data gap on the topic in the country.

The UN also supported capacity building for the education sector on LSE for learners with disabilities: 15 education officers were trained on programming and delivery of LSE for learners with disabilities. while 20 teachers from four new schools were trained on LSE to support LSE and AYFHS provision across all levels.

The UN provided financial support to develop a digitalized Education Management and Information System (EMIS) for improved reporting, data management and analysis, with technical support from the University of Oslo, HISP Uganda and Mozambique. In all, 16 EMIS staff, 200 head and deputy head teachers from pilot schools were trained. The pilot phase was constrained by the closure of schools due to COVID-19 and civil unrest, and therefore, pilot commencement was planned for early 2022 when schools reopen.

The UN also supported the capacity building of teachers, learners and other service providers on prevention and response to violence, including referral to related services (social workers, mental health, justice, and so on) Through implementing partners, the UN organized school dialogues, engaging 3,664 learners (1,773 male and 1,891 female) on GBV, violence against children and sexual exploitation and abuse prevention and reporting, and on the social norms experienced in school.

To help to reduce the number of out-of-school adolescents and young people and unemployment rates under the Generation Unlimited (GenU) Strategy, the UN, in collaboration with Junior Achievement Eswatini (JAE), successfully extended the financial and entrepreneurship skills programme to 20 new secondary schools. In 2021, 75 secondary schools participated in the project (25 per cent of secondary schools). Thirty facilitators were trained on company and financial literacy to support learners and 3,480 adolescents and young people (1,450 male and 2,030 female) were enabled to become social entrepreneurs. In addition, the UN supported JAE to set up and launch an Innovation Hub in Nhlanguano Youth Council Offices. Over 100 out-of-school youth were recruited and trained on business management, financial literacy, marketing planning, financial planning and idea generation.

The skills programme is currently supporting 105 out-of-school youth (56 female, 49 male) to become social entrepreneurs.

All the out-of-school youth were given skills to develop practical business plans, and the 27 best performing businesses were provided with seed capital to scale up production. The young people were supported with a business mentorship programme, sourcing business finance, drawing business plans and proper

business management. The UN further supported the development and launch of two web portals for adolescents and youth to access training materials and employment opportunities. In all, 262 adolescents and teachers (163 female, 99 male) are enrolled in the web portals to access financial literacy and entrepreneurship programme training material.

The UN continued advocacy for free basic education up to secondary education level. A draft advocacy paper for review of a Free Primary Education (FPE) Act is in place. The UN is developing a concept paper on the extension of FPE to early learning (grade 0). In addition, the UN, with funds from GPE, provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) to map 1,420 ECCDE centres across the country. The UN also supported the compilation of terms of reference for advocacy paper development, commencing in 2022.

In 2021, to strengthen education sector planning, coordination and budgeting, the UN supported the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) to develop its 2022-2034 Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP) and Multi-Year Action Plan. The process was highly participatory, with frequent interaction with local education groups. The new ESSP guides inclusive education programming.



Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights



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.

Contributing UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes:

UNDP, OHCHR, UNAIDS, ILO, IOM, UNFPA
Development Partners:
EU, PEPFAR

Implementing Partners:

Public Sector: Ministry of Labor and Social Security, Ministry of Tinkhundla, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development (National Statistical Office), Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (DPMO), Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MOJCA)

Parastatals:

Human Rights Commission

Private sector:

Eswatini Bikers, Men Engage

Civil Society Organisation:

Eswatini Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA)

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

In 2021, the UN in Eswatini worked to strengthen and build the organizational capacity of key national institutions to practice good governance and uphold human rights. This entailed the provision of skills, expertise and technical assistance needed by institutions to meet their respective organizational goals. The support also included drafting of legislation and regulations.

In line with the above, the UN provided technical support for the drafting of a human rights-based shadow report for political rights and culture. The report includes a reflection on human rights issues: cases of degrading treatment by the government towards political prisoners, restrictions on free expression and the press, restrictions on political participation and serious acts of corruption. The UN also provided technical support to the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to draft a set of Family Laws, the Immigration Act, and legislation on civil registration and statistics, as well

as legal aid registration. Continuing support was given to strengthen the independence of the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration in accordance with the Paris Principles. Technical and financial support was given for the finalization of the Human Rights and Public Administration Bill.

To uphold the rights of people living with disabilities, the UN worked closely with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to develop regulations for the Disability Act. The instrument seeks to advance the rights of women, children and men living with disabilities, and to inform programming. A wellness policy targeted at meeting the needs of persons with disabilities was developed.

The UN also supported the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration to document key human rights events of the civil unrest to ensure availability of disaggregated data on those affected.





This resulted in the engagement of a governance advisor to facilitate the assessment of the country's current political and socio-economic circumstances to leverage more appropriate development cooperation support in governance for the government and the people of Eswatini.

The UN actively engaged and conceptualized the Parliament and AIDS Strategy. The Strategy provides a roadmap for effective engagement with parliamentarians in responding to the epidemic. This involves a consultative process with MPs and other key stakeholders: in particular NERCHA and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. In addition, support was given for the training of senators and parliamentarians on HIV, AIDS and COVID-19.

In supporting the government to make significant strides to condone trafficking, the UN has engaged in discussions on the Trafficking and Smuggling Act. The UN has also supported the training of law enforcement personnel on counter-trafficking – building their capacity to screen, identify and refer victims of trafficking (VoTs) to appropriate service centres. The training orientated personnel on the National Referral Mechanism for appropriate identification and assistance to VoTs, while ensuring that law enforcement is applied adequately.

In addition, the UN has actively engaged with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security to identify implementation gaps in ratified conventions. As a result, capacity has been built to identify cases of child labour, development of a list of hazardous work prohibited to children has been supported, and statistical information about working with children, has been regularly collected and disseminated. The UN, along with the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Tinkhundla, supported awareness raising campaigns on human trafficking: these were conducted in all four Eswatini regions. This strengthened the capacity of community leaders, community workers, and young people to identify and support victims of human trafficking in Eswatini.

The UN has supported strengthening of the national Central Statistics Office to report on civil registration and key statistics. This resulted in the production and dissemination of the 2019 and 2020 annual civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) reports. Based on the results of annual CRVS reports, it is worth noting that Eswatini is developing a CRVS strategy to address the shortfalls in the registration of vital events. This will, in turn, inform the national strategy for data generation and utilization, facilitate accurate data on cases and enhance efficiency in acting on these cases. The UN is also supporting preparation of the Census Statistical Report.



The Ministry of Home Affairs was also supported with finalization and advocacy for the enactment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Bill. This Bill will facilitate efficiency and accuracy on national data, serving as the nexus for all data management interventions.

The UN supported government's engagement with UN's human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). With OHCHR technical assistance, Eswatini successfully submitted a state report for the third UPR cycle. Eswatini was reviewed by the UPR Working Group on 8 November 2021, resulting in a series of concrete recommendations which underlies the country's strategic plan to advance the promotion and protection of human rights.

The UN collaborated with the Eswatini Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration in streamlining a draft legislation which will align the latter's mandate with the Paris Principles. The draft bill seeks to harmonize the Commission's overlapping mandate with the Eswatini Anti-corruption Commission. The UN has also provided additional technical guidance on the draft bill in June 2021, including sharing with the Commission, model legislations from countries with grade-A national institutions. In September, a one-day report-writing training event was conducted for Commission members, resulting in the issuing of the Commission's preliminary findings on the civil unrest which plagued the country in 2021. The Commission

has called for an independent, credible investigation by experts into allegations of human rights violations and abuses committed during the unrest.

During COVID-19 motivated restrictions, the UN supported business continuity for key government functions, including the judiciary and parliament, through the installation of virtual platforms. The transitioning of parliament business into digital platform resulted the review of parliament standing orders to legitimise virtual parliament sittings, as well as more efficiency and minimal use of paper by the House. A 5-year strategy to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of parliamentarians was developed. The strategy review process also focused on identifying capacity gaps of the women's parliamentary caucus to strengthen their participation.

The UN, led by UNDP, also supported the Judiciary to establish and operationalise five small claims courts to enhance access to justice for the poor and informal businesses.

Building on the evidence collected in 2020, the UN supported the development of guidelines to enhance the implementation of two critical legislations enacted in 2018; namely the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act and the Persons with Disabilities Act.

The UN supported the establishment of the Law Reform Commission of Eswatini to fast-track alignment with international conventions on 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

The UN supported the government, via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to conduct a diaspora mapping exercise to strengthen the government's capacity to engage the Eswatini diaspora for social and economic development. The methods used to engage with the diaspora during this mapping process focused on offering a snapshot of the participants. In all, 90 unique Emaswati participated in the diaspora engagement process, including 64 Emaswati residing in South Africa. The participants were 55 per cent female and 45 per cent male.

Following capacity building to handle cases of human trafficking, one case was reported and concluded. The UN also refurbished a shelter for victims of trafficking (VoTs), under the Office of the Prime Minister, to empower VoTs to seek support. The UN continues to support the empowerment of women in leadership and decision-making roles, as shown in the convening of the first parliamentary caucus in 2021.



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

The UN supported the government's engagement with the Committee on the Right of the Child (CRC). Through constructive dialogue aimed at assessing Eswatini's compliance with the CRC, concrete recommendations were made on child protection and related issues in Eswatini. The recommendations have become the primary advocacy tool for human rights groups to advance the rights of children in Eswatini.

The UN supported the enrolment of 211 young men who completed the Kwakha Indvodza (KI) curriculum on GBV, HIV and voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) for HIV prevention. Empowerment sessions were held for 196 leaders on the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act, social norms change and addressing harmful practices. The UN saw 125 regional GBV referral networks reached with technical support on GBV case management, in addition to the Men's Symposium where 50 men participated in dialogues, with a focus on intimate partner violence (IPV) study findings. Gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and GBV response advocacy were supported through commemorations of the Day of the Girl Child and International Men's Day. The UN partnered with the EU, Eswatini Bikers, Men Engage, the Eswatini Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) and the Deputy Prime Minister's Office for roundtable discussions on GBV during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign against GBV.

A total of 26,673 women, men and children were reached with advocacy messages on interventions to prevent and respond to GBV and violence against children: 14,749 were reached with prevention awareness and risk mitigation information (including 4,486 children: 2,067 boys, 2,419 girls); of which 534 (170 boys, 364 girls) were children with disabilities; while 11,924 received physical and remote GBV and VAC response services (including 5,780 children; 2,682 boys and 3,098 girls). In all, 156 women, men and child victims of the political unrest were supported with legal aid, medical assistance, psychosocial and food support (including 45 children: 49 boys and 11 girls).

Over the past year, 205 health care professionals were trained on health sector GBV and sexual violence guidelines, and 25 multi-sectoral child protection service providers on the Child Protection Guidelines (Training of Trainers). In addition, 31 magistrates participated in multi-sector dialogue on child justice delivery, while 114 humanitarian workers were trained on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding in humanitarian settings. In all, 6,951 women and children were reached and benefited from violence prevention and response interventions. Advocacy also took the form of the dissemination of 5,000 comic books.

The UN presented findings of the SODV Act Implementation Study (2021) to partners, while members of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus engaged on women's and children rights under the proposed Family Bill and CRVS Bill.

26,673



Women, men and children reached with advocacy messages



211



Young men completed the gender-based violence curriculum



196



Leaders empowered on sexual offences and domestic violence



51



people participated in men's symposiums

26,763



Women and men were reached on violence advocacy outreach



14,749



Children reached on risk mitigation (girls and boys)



205



Health care professionals trained



5,000



messaging materials disseminated

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 is enhanced for improved livelihoods, health, and food security especially for vulnerable and marginalized communities.

Collaborating agencies:

WFP, UNEP, FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, UNESCO

Implementing Agencies:

Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (MoNRE), Ministry of Economic Planning (MEPD), Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MoTEA), Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development (MTAD), Ministry of Economic Planning

and Development (MEPD), Central Statistics Office (CSO), Eswatini Electricity Company (EEC), Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority (ESERA), research institutions, Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP), Eswatini Communications Commission (ESCCOM), Government departments, municipalities, industry and commercial entities, Eswatini Revenue Services (ERS), Public Policy Coordination Unit (PPCU), National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), Industry players, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (meteorology, forestry), and Eswatini Environment Authority (EEA), Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC), Department of Water Affairs (DWA).

Outputs, Key Results

Government and stakeholders prioritised two outputs in 2021: output 4.1 and output 4.3.



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.

In line with the Kingdom of Eswatini priorities on energy access and increasing the renewable energy mix as articulated in the NDC, the UN initiated a flagship project on energy efficiency which will lead to the installation of a 1 Mega Watt Photo Voltaic Solar system for RFM Hospital in Manzini to decarbonise energy. Based on the business case, installation of the solar system will result in 536 tons/CO2 emission reduction per year, reduce energy costs for the hospital by \$176,714 per year and increase the renewable fraction of the energy utilised at the hospital by 72%.

The UN supported the development and implementation of an inclusive curriculum for higher learning institutions, in particular vocational institutions to produce technical skills and certification in the renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) field. This included development led by UNDP of an inclusive curriculum in vocational institutions to produce technical skills and certification in the RE and EE field.

The UN also supported the development of a partnership and resource mobilization strategy and proposals development for RE and EE, ensuring private sector participation. A concept note was submitted for UNDP TRAC2 funding to cover activities, including piloting a leadership and sustainable energy academy through an entrepreneurship-focused model for transformational change. GEF-Africa Mini-grid Program-Eswatini project

documents were completed, submitted, reviewed and approved by the Global Environment Facility Secretariat for award.

The UN has leveraged on the UNDP Green Energy Team and Global Procurement Unit in Copenhagen to ensure a technically feasible solar system is designed and procured. The UN also leveraged on the global UNDP and IRENA agreement in support of the Climate Promise Initiative, to accelerate structural transformation for low-carbon and climate resilient sustainable development. In line with this agreement and contributing to the overall objective on building national capacity for replication and scale up of renewable energy technologies for the health sector, a joint training of 20 government staff was completed in collaboration with the University of Eswatini. The one week training was conducted for technical experts on installation and maintenance of solar technologies.

Leveraging on the lessons learnt, the UN is engaging with partners on scaleup of the pilot in more health centres to de-carbonise energy for health and power green recovery. The UN also supported the development and implementation of a universal energy access strategy that ensures the use of energy efficient technologies, energy conservation and energy security for all through activities that promote inclusivity and the empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable communities.



UNEP and UNDP, supported the Green Energy Team, to provide technical support for the installation of energy efficient appliances.

To build the capacity of government and non-state actors for enhanced data and information collection, management, monitoring, reporting and verification; a COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment report was prepared. A tropical cyclone preparedness plan was also prepared, as well as a tropical cyclone early recovery assessment, in collaboration with the University of Eswatini.

Through engagement of Cyclone Eloise Coordinator, regional and Tinkhundla coordination was facilitated. 135 volunteers from all Tinkhundla centres were

trained and data was collected for assessment. The UN successfully conducted 4 workshops for assessment planning purposes in all the four region, where a total of 237 community volunteers (67 males and 170 females) attended. A fixed wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (drone) was procured and delivered. A two day training was facilitated by the drone supplier which was attended by 10 NDMA staff (5 males and 5 females).

As part of improving early warning systems, the UN supported installation of Ten Automatic Weather Stations, Eight Automatic Hydrological stations. Furthermore, numerical weather prediction capacity has been improved with provision of high performing computing systems at the Department of Meteorological Services.



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

The UN provided technical, operational, and logistical support to institutions, platforms and networks for natural resources management, climate action, access to clean water and improved sanitation at decentralized, national and at multisectoral level.

The UN supported NGOs and Microproject to provide quality water to 76,779 (2020 baseline: 37,979) vulnerable people in the two most vulnerable regions – Lubombo and Shiselweni – through the construction of new water systems and upgrading of previous systems, installation of handwashing facilities and enhancing positive behaviour change in schools, enabling community water committees, and raising awareness in communities of basic hygiene practices, access to clean water and COVID-19.

The UN also supported the review and development of policy, regulatory legislative and incentive/disincentive frameworks for natural resource management, climate action, access to clean water and improved sanitation. The UNICEF technical lead, supported the coordination of WASH-related strategies, guidelines and plans including for emergencies and for the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN supported a hand hygiene market assessment and developed and costed roadmaps for hand hygiene (2021-2023).



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

Under the technical leadership of UNEP and UNDP, the UN provided technical, operational and logistical support to institutions, platforms and networks for natural resource management, climate action, access to clean water and improved sanitation at regional, national and multisectoral level. This included strengthening the institutional capacity of the government to advance the National Adaptation Plan.

Protected areas had increased from 4.23% in 2020 to 5.5% in 2021. The increase has been facilitated by domestication of the IUCN framework on other effective conservation measures. There has been improved socio-economic benefits for women through improved management of wetlands resources that are harvested for craft earning US\$ 1,982.14, and improved access to water. Two (2) wetlands were fenced in Khalang'lile and Ntondozi as part of the wetland's protection programme targeting communities by UNDP. The wetland in Ntondozi supplies water to Mvimbeke High School with 450 students and 350 households, while the one in Khalangilile is a source of domestic water for 41 households.

Building on the biodiversity surveys and assessments, the UN support has enhanced implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) through establishment of baseline data. A conservation trust fund strategy was completed, and a draft bill prepared as part of strengthening financing and sustainability of protected areas in the country.

UN supported the installation of 20 automatic weather stations and eight automatic hydrological stations and associated capacity building. UN also contributed to generating necessary information for vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning. A climate change stocktaking report was produced on adaptation information and gaps with two policy briefs. A case was generated for adaptation in the context of COVID-19 and climate change.

A UNDP Grant for innovative waste solutions, a waste management platform was established and policies and legislation for undertaking waste characterization reviewed. Eswatini Environmental Authority (EEA) and other stakeholders will establish more platforms for waste characterization, review and approval.

The UN also enhanced the technical and functional capacity of Eswatini Environmental Authority (EEA), Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC), the Department of Meteorology, Department of Water Affairs and Ministry of Health for environmental health and regulatory compliance monitoring. The UN also developed the National Common Alert Protocol systems for information dissemination. A multi-sectoral working group was established, including the National Disaster Management Agency (DMA), the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MTEA) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

With support from UNDP, a computer room was upgraded and civil works were completed for a high[1] performance computing climate and forecasting technologies to improve weather and climate modelling and predictions were completed.

The UN supported innovative partnerships in Natural Resource Management (NRM), climate action, disaster risk reduction (DRR), access to clean water and improved sanitation services. Partnership was facilitated between Africa Wildlife Foundation and Eswatini on biodiversity to complete eight GEF concepts at desk level scoping, and report.

Eswatini joined the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) which seeks to empower communities to address environmental problems through actions that are designed, implemented, and owned by communities, and with benefits that directly accrue to them. CANGO completed the first GEF-Small Grants Country Strategy which unlocked \$500,000 CORE and \$200,000 STAR financing for Eswatini. In addition, UNDP mobilised \$200,000 under the Global Plastics Initiative and a call for proposals was published for an anchor NGO to implement a systems approach to support Government in eliminating plastic waste in Eswatini and adopting a circular economy.



The UN facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogue and supported NDC implementation of round tables at national, regional and Tinkhundla levels. Three private sector roundtable discussions were held with a political launch attended by 24 participants (8 female and 16 male); which was also attended by the Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs and the British High Commissioner.

The Government submitted the revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The more ambitious NDC of Eswatini adopts an economy wide GHG emissions reduction target of 5% by 2030. Eswatini has set quantifiable GHG emissions reduction targets in some sectors by utilising improved inventory data and set clear targets for priority adaptation sectors while adding new sectors.

The UN supported Eswatini to enhance action to reduce GHG emissions, increase community resilience to climate impacts and support sustainable development priorities. This included strengthening political and society ownership at national and sub-national levels; aligning NDC targets with national strategic plans; mapping land use and land use change and contribution of nature-based solutions to climate adaptation and mitigation; assessment of climate change impact on water resources management to enhance adaptation measures; assess costs and investment requirements; and establishing monitoring, reporting and verification systems.

Through the Climate Promise, UNDP is now supporting the development of the NDC Implementation Plan which will identify and cost key climate change adaptation and mitigation interventions. Meetings were held with various stakeholders including principal secretaries with 25 participants (11 female, 14 male), traditional

leaders with 100 participants (17 female and 83 male), and development partners with 15 participants (6 female, 9 male) and three business roundtables supported by FAO having in total 94 (29 female, 65 male) participants.

The UN facilitated access to environment and climate finance for integrated natural resources management, climate action, and community resilience building. A readiness programme proposal, supported by WFP, FAO, UNDP, UNEP and IFAD, was funded with US\$372,245 to support development of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

A grant from the GCF Readiness Project was used for baseline studies in the agriculture sector and the establishment of climate change coordination mechanisms for the sector. A draft concept note was developed for GCF funding for Eswatini Bank. UNDP is currently supporting the Eswatini Bank and EEA to assess their financial policies and protocols and assist them towards GCF accreditation. Additionally, IFAD and FAO jointly submitted three concept notes to the GCF secretariat. UNDP assessed Eswatini Bank's financial policies and protocols and EEA, towards GCF accreditation.

A gender analysis was also included in the NDC technical report. FAO and UNDP supported three business roundtables. The UN also provided technical support to the government to meet its international reporting obligations and commitments on environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction. UNDP, FAO and COMESA supported two workshops, one for adaptation and the other for mitigation.

Towards a clean environment, the Phatsa Sakho campaign to promote reusable shopping bags resulted in the generation of \$8,000 in revenue for women and influenced government environmental policies.



4.4: Capacity of extension services, development actors and communities to implement

The UN, with the technical leadership of FAO, supported community-driven climate-smart and resilience-building activities including conservation agriculture (CA). Community-level training was held on CA and climate-smart production methods (including input support for households and communities) for a total of 78 officers (60 males and 18 females) from the Ministry of Agriculture, agriculture parastatals, NGOs and farmers' organizations through a Conservation Agriculture Training of Trainers workshop.

The NCATF conducted a conservation agriculture competition to promote conservation agriculture adoption and increase women's participation in using the technology. A total of 117 farmers (75 males and 42 females) registered for the competition. The NCATF developed two comprehensive conservation agriculture data collection tools, which were validated by 78 officers during the CA Training of Trainers workshops.

Following a WFP resilience initiative, 510 Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) were supported to produce food using climate-smart technologies. Inputs were provided to an additional 50 smallholder farmers, who received training on climate-smart production. The UN supported two women's farmer groups with building materials to build a chicken shed and provided equipment such as cages, layer feed and 200 point-of-lay chickens for the group to raise and supply the Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Programme schools near their community.

The UN, supported NERCHA under the Business Unusual loan project led by Ministry of Agriculture and the Eswatini National Agricultural Union (ESNAU), to train farmers on gender equality, egg production, conservation agriculture, value addition and price negotiations. The UN also strengthened the capacity of smallholder farmers, particularly women, to supply nutritious foods to structured markets, and access loans, training (including on financial literacy), and materials.



2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

2.3.1 Financial overview

The UN worked with the Deputy-Prime Minister's Office (DPMO) and organizations for disabled persons in Eswatini to secure funding support from the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) to implement measures to improve the incorporation into national law of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) project is focused on improving the policy framework in the country, especially by pursuing measures to fully implement the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2018.

The UN also supported the government to map priority sectors and projects to promote sustainable investment towards the SDGs. With UNDP technical leadership, the Ministry of Commerce and the Eswatini Investment Promotion Agency (EIPA) were supported to develop an SDG investor map, identifying policy and sector development priorities as well as investment opportunity areas to facilitate SDG-enabling investment. Complementing this, UNCTAD prepared a strategy report for EIPA on mainstreaming, promoting, and facilitating investment in SDG projects in Eswatini. Recognizing the private sector as a strategic partner

for promotion of the SDGs, the UN worked to enhance consultations and develop joint programmes with this key stakeholder.

Working with Business Women Eswatini / Vukani Bomake, a sub-committee of Business Eswatini, the UN supported the establishment of mini-factories for textile manufacturing by youth, women and persons with disabilities where recycled fabric is used to produce shopping bags, face masks, women's undergarments and school uniforms, as well as sanitary pads.

The UN also partnered with the Women Farmer Foundation and Standard Bank to implement an innovative agri-tunnel production programme aimed at creating job and agri-business opportunities for Eswatini youth by equipping them with practical skills in growing and processing high-value crops. In the initial phase, 20 youths were recruited and taken through the programme to develop practical skills and facilitate their path towards being viable agri-business owners by establishing their own agri-tunnel production initiatives, with the possibility of provision of start-up capital from Standard Bank Eswatini.





The private sector also helped to commemorate multiple UN Days. MTN Eswatini, Standard Bank, the Eswatini Communications Commission, Eswatini Mobile and the Royal Science and Technology Park supported the UN and the DPMO to implement the inaugural “Take a Girl Child to Work Day” initiative, marking the International Day of the Girl Child. The Woman Farmer Foundation marked International Youth Day by showcasing meaningful participation by young people in agri-food systems.

The UN made concerted efforts to strengthen its partnerships with civil society. During the year, the Resident Coordinator was invited to make the keynote address at the Annual General Meeting of the Coordinating Assembly of NGOs (CANGO); the director of which made a presentation to the UNCT on possible opportunities for collaboration. Civil society organizations, especially through CANGO, were key in assisting the UN to understand developments on the ground in the face of an uncertain and fast-changing context brought on by COVID-19 and civil unrest. This included drawing the UN’s attention to the plight of the most vulnerable groups, including rural women, youth, the elderly, persons with HIV and AIDS, children and persons living with disabilities, who are at risk of being left behind, and require human rights protection and build-back-better strategies that are people-centred.

The UN endeavoured to establish stronger partnerships with research institutes such as the Eswatini Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (ESEPARC) and incubators such as the Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP), academia including the University of Eswatini (UNESWA) and other stakeholders to accelerate progress towards attaining Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, implementing national priorities and developing critical programmes and interventions to attain Agenda 2030.

Working under the technical leadership of UNDP, the UN also undertook a Development Finance Assessment to establish a comprehensive picture of existing and potential public and private financing in the country, and to identify opportunities to mobilize additional sources of finance and use existing financial resources more efficiently to achieve the national development objectives inspired by the SDGs. The DFA also offers a unique country-owned, government-led process to determine the steps that will be taken to operationalize the Integrated National Financing Framework in the national context.

2.3.2 Resource mobilization Summary of budget and expenditure in 2021 reporting period

Under the Funding Compact, the commitments of the UNDS to increased transparency and accountability include the development and use of “Clear funding frameworks for the UNSDCF, with levels and types of funding required”. This Funding Framework is intended to detail the overall funding that was identified to deliver the anticipated joint workplans for 2022/2023 based on the estimated funds available and to be mobilized, the sources of the funds and funding gaps presented in the Joint Work Plans (JWPs) of 2021/2022. It serves as the UNCT’s main financial planning tool for the JWPs in the planning period, and is intended to increase UNDS coherence in raising and managing resources for the implementation of the agreed JWP results areas in the planning period. In 2020, a draft funding framework

was prepared with the intention that it would be updated in 2021 to inform the drafting of a UN resource mobilization strategy. This was not done, however, due to the civil unrest that gripped the country in 2021, on top of the COVID-19 pandemic that has shifted attention to the response to the disease.

The table below therefore summarizes the planned, available and spent budgets in implementing the first year of the JWPs. To holistically assess the UN’s funding and resource mobilization, a detailed funding framework and resource mobilization strategy and drive is planned in 2022 as the UN undertake a financial landscape analysis in advance of Funding Framework and Resource Mobilization Strategy formulation.

| Outcome Area | Budget | Available | Gap | Expenditure | % |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Outcome Area 1 | 7,757,540.00 | 5,208,540.00 | 2,549,000.00 | 1,604,768.00 | 31% |
| Outcome Area 2 | 617,914.89 | 617,914.89 | 0 | 396,007.35 | 64% |
| Outcome Area 3 | 962,058.00 | 762,058.00 | 130,869.00 | 570,293.63 | 74% |
| Outcome area 4 | 7,957,513.60 | 5,645,667.60 | 1,886,446.00 | 3,155,376.74 | 44% |
| Total | 17,295,025 | 12,234,179.6 | 2,868,315 | 5,726,445.37 | 53.54% |



2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together

In 2021, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, the UNCT provided overall guidance, technical and financial support for effective and efficient implementation of the UNSDCF 2021-2025, which began in January 2021.

The UNSDCF 2021-2025, signed by all cabinet ministers in Eswatini, including the Prime Minister, and the entire UNCT, including the RC, facilitated partnerships for implementation with the government, civil society, the private sector and development partners.

Premised on the Delivering as One modality, which was initiated in 2008 and formally endorsed by the

government in 2014, the UNCT mobilized the resources required to implement the JWPs under the four results areas of the UNSDCF, including the continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tropical Cyclone Eloise emergency and the civil unrest crisis.

An integral part of promoting Delivering as One (DaO), UNCT ensured effective functioning of joint UN governance structures including the Policy and Programmes Support Group (PPSG), the Monitoring and Evaluation Group (M&E), results groups (RGs), the Operations Management Team (OMT), the UN Communications Group (UNCG) and the UN Gender Theme Group (UNGTG).



Operating as One

In 2021, the UN House, which hosts all UN agencies, funds and programmes, except for those located in South Africa and two embedded in government ministries, continued to function effectively and efficiently despite challenges imposed by ongoing lockdowns and civil unrest.

The teleworking arrangements introduced by the UNCT in 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic continued in 2021, while accommodating easing of government regulations rules on numbers of personnel and meeting participants.

In pursuit of utilization of green energy, in line with Smart UN Facilities and the SDGs, the UN Development System in Eswatini initiated a process to install solar photovoltaic panel solutions, informed by analysis of projected energy use at the Eswatini UN House. The initiative will achieve an estimated 26 to 44 per cent coverage of the total expected electricity consumption of the building, respectively, with associated savings and benefits.

The designed solar power system will enable the UN House Eswatini to be less dependent on fossil fuel energy generation and save emissions of between 56 and 97 tonnes of CO₂ per year, effectively reducing the UN House's carbon footprint and the burden on the environment while also promoting green energy solutions and inspiring local economies to adopt similar solutions. A solar installation in the UN House would additionally enhance business continuity and the work environment, as well as reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from global operations by 25 per cent by 2025. The initiative is funded by six agencies in Eswatini to a total of US\$147,372.50, with US\$72,463.00 mobilized towards the installation of a 115kw solar PV system. This will result in increased renewable energy mix, with a 60.4 per cent reduction of carbon emissions, equivalent to 31 tons of CO₂ a year and saving an annual US\$20,188.



The UN Isolation House/Wellness Centre was established in January 2021 with contribution from agencies, funds and programmes and First Line of Defence (FLOD) and with permission from various ministries, to support staff at risk of COVID-19 infection and treat asymptomatic and mild cases. In 2021, the Centre attended to over 600 UN employees, dependents and support staff with various services including COVID-19 testing, COVID-19 vaccination, health promotion activities, screening services and psychological care and support services. A total of 556 employees, dependents and support staff accessed COVID-19 testing services for travelling and diagnostic purposes in 2021, including group testing in preparation for team travel and retreats. Two employees were evacuated to seek medical care outside the country: 166 out of 178 UN staff (93 per cent) were fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by 30 December 2021 through five vaccination campaigns organized by the Centre, in collaboration with the WHO Country Office. Two health promotion activities on cancer awareness and mental health were organized

by the Centre in 2021, helping to raise awareness and prevent non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancer, hypertension and mental health problems amongst the UN employees and their dependents. In all, 120 staff members accessed the Centre for primary care services including checks on blood pressure, blood glucose levels, peripheral oxygen saturation, temperatures, pulses and respiration, resulting in 72 referrals to higher level health institutions.

The Centre also operates as an isolation facility for persons with confirmed COVID-19 cases, and has partnered with the Ministry of Health to acquire personal protective equipment, medical equipment and medicines to conduct PCR tests for COVID-19.

During the civil unrest, the internet was shut down by the two main national telecommunications companies, which in turn affected the business continuity of the UNDS. Thus, the procurement of equipment to help expand internet access and serve as a backup in the event of internet shutdown, was initiated.

Communicating as One

In 2021, the UN Communications Group, focussed on developing a Joint UN Communications and Advocacy Strategy in line with the UNSDCF 2021-2025. The strategy seeks to place the UN in Eswatini as the leading voice on the three priority areas of the Cooperation Framework (prosperity, people and planet, and now peace), inspire action and foster partnerships as well as build capacity for improved communication and knowledge sharing.

Through partnership with the Eswatini Editors Forum, the UN also facilitated a series of engagements with the local media, including through capacity building and advocacy. In May, the UN and EU jointly supported the commemoration of World Press Freedom Day. In

October, as part of the commemoration of UN Day, the UN hosted a UNCT media roundtable on promotion of the SDGs, peace and development. In December, the UN supported the training of local journalists as well as members of the UNCG on data journalism for improved reporting on the SDGs. Through partnership with local daily newspaper, "The Eswatini Observer", the UN published op-eds on the SDG goal of the month. The op-eds were written by the UN Resident Coordinator.

On-going production of One UN communications products – including a quarterly newsletter, a monthly bulletin and publications on the UNCT website and social media accounts – continued to ensure increased visibility of UN work among key stakeholders.



Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)

In 2021, the PSEA technical working group ensured that all 189 staff undertook a compulsory online training session on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) issues, with some staff undertaking refresher courses.

An interagency communication strategy was developed to provide consistent and accurate information on sexual exploitation and abuse in Eswatini. A victims of abuse protocol and victim reporting lines were established and posted on the UNCT website.

The victim assistance task working group (TWG) conducted a training session to build capacity amongst agency focal persons to support the PSEA systems, create awareness amongst beneficiaries, strengthen the reporting systems and provide victim support mechanisms. For the first time, a comprehensive joint work plan was mapped out for 2022.



UN Cares

Under the leadership of UNAIDS, periodic briefings were conducted by the UN Cares team on UN Cares, the UN Personnel Policy on HIV, post-exposure prophylaxis and AIDS for new UN staff and dependents. The UN stocked PEP kits for all staff to adhere to when exposed to HIV. Over 200,000 male and female condoms were distributed in all UN washrooms for safe use by UN staff and their dependants.

In 2021, two education sessions were organized for UN staff and dependents on HIV prevention and treatment, non-communicable diseases and tuberculosis. A session on treatment literacy was also presented to approximately 20 staff to expand their knowledge and understanding, while information on HIV services, and UN Plus was shared with all UN staff.

UNAIDS supported the country to commemorate World AIDS Day 2021 in Buhleni, Hhohho. The event was officiated by His Excellency the Prime Minister with remarks from the UNAIDS Country Director on behalf of the RC, NERCHA Council and members of the diplomatic corps.

2.5 Evaluations and lessons learned

The Cooperation Framework was operationalized in a context of severe uncertainty as a result of the civil unrest and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 crisis has been far-reaching, with significant implications for crisis management and policy responses. This has contributed to slow implementation of some activities, some of which included community engagement.

The UN family, with key stakeholders, took part in a transparent, consultative and all-inclusive process which resulted in Joint Work Plan development. A reporting template was developed and aligned to the UNINFO reporting platform, which Results Group members used to report quarterly. Challenges encountered included the fact that the reports received were agency-based; which delayed the acquisition of finances. The RCO therefore had to make concerted efforts to ensure joint programme reporting.

Further lessons learned were that Results Group members, through their co-leads, need to ensure close follow-up on reporting on progress of activities. This requires exploring alternatives to face-to-face meetings and ensuring business continuity to support partners. With the composition of the RG structures at co-lead level, there is a need to strengthen the efficiency of partners by clearly defining constitutional mandates: this will enforce timely and efficient reporting.

Funding gaps also contributed to the limited implementation of the UNSDCF as new emerging activities emerged due to COVID-19 and civil unrest. Overlap of scope with other agencies raised confusion when engaging with government and other stakeholders, especially when supporting resource mobilization efforts.



STRATEGICS/PLANNING LEVEL

- Results groups had limited time to adequately plan and cost the JWP's (Restrictions on 2021/2022 planning)
- Limitations in choosing outputs as agreed in the UNSDCF
- Challenges faces by CO-leads in convening their results groups
- Limited involvement of Government and other implimenting partners

TECHNICAL LEVEL

- Missing indicators, baseline and targets
- Reporting is agency based
- Need for quality control, review and feedback on monitoring reports (Co-leads and RCO)
- No timely feedback from RG members to M and E focal points (results, indicators and financials)
- Some indicators sub-outputs which were planned are no longer reflected in the reports



OPERATIONAL LEVEL

- Need to improve interaction amongst Co-leads, sub-group chairs and agency focal points is important
- Need for continued capacity building for M and E team, particularly on UNINFO reporting and uploading of information
- M and E role of the UNSDCF may need to be seperated from the reporting role and included in focal points job descriptions
- Need for standardized M and E tools adapted to Eswatini UNSDCF needs

Chapter Three

UNCT areas of key focus in 2022

In 2022, the UNCT has prioritized supporting effective implementation of the UNSDCF 2021-2025 through the revised Joint Work Plans (JWPs) for 2022. The process will begin with finalizing the updating of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) report, taking into account significant developments in 2021, particularly the need to integrate peacebuilding among the priority areas. The UNCT will therefore ensure that peacebuilding initiatives are integrated into Joint Work Plans for 2022. The review will also cover other outputs omitted in the 2021 JWPs.

The UNCT will continue to support SADC-led efforts to deescalate tensions and begin a process of achieving a highly participatory and inclusive dialogue, including the participation of women and youth.

Eswatini is one of 45 countries from around the world that will present reports on their Voluntary National Review on the implementation of SDGs in July 2022 at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, to be held under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Forum (ECOSOC). The UN will support the Government of Eswatini in the consultative process as well as the presentation.

The UNCT will also update the UNSDCF Funding Framework for 2022 and develop a joint UN resource mobilization strategy and explore opportunities for joint programming within the UNSDCF to address issues of the peace, humanitarian and development nexus.

The UNCT will also mainstream gender, human rights and disabilities into UN operations and programmes based on the UN Gender Scorecard Action Plan, Human Rights and Disability Scorecards.

The UN will also expand the work on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) to cover implementing partners, including the government and civil society as well as the private sector.

Following the establishment of the UN Migration Network in 2021, the UN in Eswatini will seek to ensure effective, timely, coordinated UNCT-wide support to the Government of Eswatini for its implementation, follow up and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), to ensure the rights and wellbeing of all migrants and their communities of destination, origin and transit.

The UNCT will also activate the Eswatini Humanitarian Country Team to ensure effective and coordinated responses to the humanitarian situations caused by the triple disasters of COVID-19, Tropical Cyclone Eloise and civil unrest.

The UN in Eswatini has strongly supported implementation of the 2016 Aid Coordination Policy, which was adopted by the Cabinet in November 2019. In 2021, the UN supported the government to host the first meeting of the Eswatini Development Cooperation Forum (EDCF). In 2022, the UN will seek to revitalize the UN / Development Partners Coordination Mechanisms, including the EDCF.





UNITED NATIONS
ESWATINI



Office of the UN Resident
Coordinator 5th Floor,
UN Building Corner Somhlolo Road
& Madlenya Street Mbabane.



Tel: +268 2409 6600/01



Web: eswatini@un.org | www.eswatini.un.org

