



THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW 2019 REPORT



Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
June 2019

OPENING STATEMENT

‘Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality’

Eswatini is highly committed to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda 2030 and African Union Agenda 2063. The substance and objective of SDGs are in line with Vision 2022 contained in the National Development Strategy (NDS) and Strategy for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth 2030 (SSDIG). Furthermore, it is aligned to the Strategic Roadmap earmarked for economic recovery and the National Development Plan 2019/20 – 2021/22. Eswatini committed itself together with all countries to jointly implement SDGs as essential measures to eradicate poverty, promote shared prosperity and improve environmental quality. Issues of poverty, welfare, and environmental quality are a shared challenge to be faced globally as one.

Therefore, one of the main necessary conditions to achieve SDGs is an enabling policy environment that should be created jointly: a global peace, security and stability. Goals, targets, and indicators of SDGs that have been agreed are a continuation and expansion of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were implemented in 2000-2015. Eswatini successfully achieved 5 out of 8 goals by the end of 2015. The country was on track on the following MDGs: achieve universal education (MDG 2); promote gender equality and promote women (MDG 3); combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (MDG 6); ensure environmental sustainability (MDG 7); and develop a global partnership for development (MDG 8). The country needed to accelerate progress in the following MDGs: end poverty and hunger (MDG1); reduce child mortality (MDG 4); and improve maternal health (MDG 5). Indicators that were not achieved in the MDGs era were considered as an unfinished agenda that is being implemented as SDGs.

The government of Eswatini is committed to become one of the leading pioneers and role models to achieve SDGs in Africa. The country has mainstreamed Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 into its National Development Strategy and National Development Plan. The institutional arrangement to implement SDGs involves technical working team and the steering committee. Members of the technical team are representatives of government, business society, civil society organizations, academics and experts to ensure inclusiveness and no one left behind principles. This inclusive set up is to develop national ownership and is implemented at national and constituency levels. The SDGs secretariat is under the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development (MEPD).

The SDGs metadata was very instrumental in guiding stakeholders on the definition of each goal and method of computing indicators to assure comparability among regions, and ensure no one leave behind principle is in place. Furthermore, a communication strategy was prepared to create awareness, interest, and

commitment to promote participation of all parties and public engagement to implement SDGs.

Eswatini has adopted the 2019 VNR theme of "empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality". In preparing the VNR, participation platforms for different stakeholders were considered namely: persons living with disabilities, women, youth, academia, civil society, development partners, government ministries, non-governmental organisations and private sector,

As one of the countries committed to SDGs, Eswatini has an obligation to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. Based on the Eswatini Household Income and Expenditure Report 2017, the proportion of people living below the international poverty line is 58.9% and this is more pronounced in rural area with about 70% affected persons. Based on the current performance, various integrated efforts are needed to achieve zero poverty and economic prosperity as the basis for sustainable economic growth by 2030.

The 2019 VNR reports on 10 goals these are the national priorities and some of the high level political forum priorities. This includes SDG 1 - no poverty SDG 2 - zero hunger; SDG 3 - health and wellbeing; SDG 4 - quality education; SDG 6 - clean water and sanitation; SDG 7- affordable and clean energy; SDG 8 - decent work and economic growth; SDG 9 - innovation, infrastructure and industrialization; SDG13 - climate action; SDG16 - peace, security and justice for all; SDG 17 - partnerships for the goals. The inability to end poverty is considered as the primary cause of economic instability thus addressing the above dimensions of poverty will enhance people's welfare and bring stability.

The overall assessment shows that the country has provided an enabling policy environment for all sectors and has adhered to Sustainable Development Conventions such as the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. However, providing the enabling policy environment was not sufficient to achieve targets. Challenges were faced with implementing goal 10 (reduce inequality within and among countries) and goal 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns). Development of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns is envisaged to guide the implementation of goal 12. Institutional strengthening on resources and data collection will enable timely and accurate reporting on the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. Moreover, the government is also continuing to improve basic services and productive economic programmes to increase sustainable economic livelihood.

I hope this report will provide understanding and valuable insights of Eswatini's experience in conducting SDGs, and the country is open to share and exchange experiences with other countries through cooperation and partnership to ensure SDGs achievement.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The review process

The review process for the Voluntary National Review was participatory in nature. It consisted of generating views from a broad spectrum of stakeholders, these included, academia, business community, civil society organisations, development partners, government ministries, non-government organisations, persons living with disabilities, women and the youth. This was complemented by a desk review on existing sector policies, programmes and external assistance.

Status of the goals

SDG1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The proportion of population living below the poverty line improved from 63% in 2010 to 58.9% in 2017. Poverty is most pronounced in rural areas at 70.2% than urban area 19.6% (2017) and in males 67% than females 59.4% and is highest in the Shiselweni and Lubombo regions at 71.5% and 67.3% respectively (2017).

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

The country undertook a Zero Hunger Strategic Review in 2018 to analyse the current food and nutrition situation, as well as to identify strategies and programmes for ending hunger by 2030. The prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age has declined from 25.5% to 19.9% meaning the country is now within the world food security requirement of below 20%, however more effort needs to be done to achieve a single digit percentage.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

The maternal mortality rate indicate a decline from 593/100,000 in 2012 to 474/100,000 in 2018 which reflects a small and slow decline if the country is to meet the target of 120/100,000 maternal deaths in 2022. Also of concern is the slow decline in the under 5 mortality rate which was 80 per 1000 in 2012 and fell to 67 per 1000 live births in 2018. Prevalence in HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis have stabilised, however, the country is experiencing an increase in non-communicable diseases which resulted in about 12% of deaths between 2013 and 2017.

SDG4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

The country introduced free primary education programme as a means to ensure that all children have equal access to quality primary education. As a result, the proportion of children that completed primary education increased from 93.5 % in

2014 to 106.1 % in 2016 and secondary education increased from 49.6% to 61.5 % respectively. The national literacy rate was 95.3% for women and 91.8 % for men in 2014.

SDG 6: *Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.*

The national coverage of nationally managed water resources for households is was 72% in 2014 which is disaggregated by 96% urban population and 63% rural populace. The increase in access to clean water in rural areas was promoted by the establishment of micro water schemes in communities. The proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, at national level was 53% which comprises of 78% in the rural areas and 94% in urban populace. However, there are discrepancies between coverage and access to the services.

SDG 7: *Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.*

The Rural electricity programme increases access to clean energy for people living in both urban and rural areas. The proportion of household with access to electricity nationally increased from 69% in 2014 to 78% in 2018.

SDG 8: *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.*

There was an increase of about 10% in the proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture sector nationally when comparing the 2013 and 2016 Labour Force Survey reports, from 54.3% in 2013 to 65.2% in 2016. The Financial Inclusion Strategy (2016) has improved access to finance for MSME including informal sector.

SDG 13: *Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.*

The country developed the National Climate Change Policy and Strategy 2016, the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2014-2019). In addition, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and National Resilience Strategy and Disaster Risk Reduction Plan of Action (2017 – 2021) was developed.

SDG16: *Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.*

Eswatini has very insignificant cases of conflict-related deaths of about 0.0017%. The Number of victims of intentional homicide per year in the country increased from 112 in 2016 to 123 in 2018 which is an increased by 8.9%. There is evident increase in

domestic related abuse, reported cases of abuse increased from 7729 in 2015 to 10504 in 2016 this is an increase by 26.4%.

SDG17: *Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.*

The Aid Policy of 2000 was revised and finalised to inform development of the National Development Cooperation Policy 2019. This will serve as a guide to all relevant agencies of Government, development partners, civil society organizations and other stakeholders on coordination and management of development cooperation resources.

Challenges

SDGs implementation is based on the principle that domestic resources should be utilized not necessarily dependent of foreign resources particularly financial resources. The prevailing fiscal situation in the country is such that there are very limited resources for effective implementation. Research by its nature is expensive and so are the studies or surveys that need to be undertaken. The studies compete for resources with other priorities for the country resulting in time lags for availability of the much needed and critical data.

Areas for support is requested for:

- a) Monitoring the SDGs implementation – need for surveys
(Economic Census, Educational Census, Health Statistics, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Labour Force Survey, Inter-censal, VAC, Eswatini Household Income and Expenditure Survey).
- b) Capacity building in SDGs based planning and programming.
- c) Investment in infrastructure (education, water & sanitation, fuel and energy, ICT, road network).
- d) Resources for SDGs implementation

Lessons learnt

Implementation of the SDGs requires that they be mainstreamed into national development frameworks. They are not a stand-alone phenomenon but are a means of fast tracking implementation of national development programme as such should be integrated to foster efficiency.

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ACRONYMS

ACMS	:	Aid Coordination Management Services
AEC	:	Annual Education Census
AOI	:	Agriculture Orientation Index
AU2063	:	African Union Development Agenda 2063
CBS	:	Central Bank of Swaziland
CRD	:	Chronic Respiratory Disease
CSO	:	Central Statistical Office
CSOs	:	Civil Society Organisations
DHS	:	Demographic and Health Survey
DPMO	:	Deputy Prime Minister's Office
DWA	:	Department of Water Affairs
ECB	:	Elections and Boundaries Committee
ECCE	:	Early Childhood Care and Education
EHD	:	Environmental Health Department
EMIS	:	Education Management Information System
ERS	:	Economic Recovery Strategy
FDI	:	Foreign Direct Investment
FPE	:	Free Primary Education
FSE&CC	:	Federation of Swaziland Employers and Chamber of Commerce
FSRA	:	Financial Services Regulatory Authority
GBV	:	Gender Based Violence
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
GFICC	:	Gender and Family Issues Coordination Council
GHG	:	Green House Gases
HIV	:	Human Immune Virus
IAPS	:	Invasive Alien Plant Species
ICAO	:	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICT	:	Information and Communication Technology
IUCN	:	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IRM	:	Investor Road map
IWRM	:	Integrated Water Resource Management
LFS	:	Labour Force Survey
M & E	:	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCIT	:	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade
MDGs	:	Millennium Development Goals
MEPD	:	Ministry of Economic Planning & Development
MFU	:	Micro Finance Unit
MHUD	:	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
MICS	:	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MNRE	:	Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy
MOA	:	Ministry of Agriculture
MOE	:	Ministry of Education

MOF	:	Ministry of Finance
MOH	:	Ministry of Health
MOLSS	:	Ministry of Labour and Social Security
MOPS	:	Ministry of Public Service
MOPWT	:	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
MPs	:	Members of Parliament
MTAD	:	Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration Development
MTEA	:	Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs
MTN	:	Mobile Telecommunications Network
NBAP	:	National Biotechnology and Action Plan
NCDs	:	Non-Communicable Diseases
NDMA	:	National Disaster Management Agency
NDS	:	National Development Strategy
NERCHA	:	National Emergency Response Council on HIV/AIDS
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organisation
NHIP	:	National Health Insurance Policy
NTD	:	Neglected Tropical Diseases
ODA	:	Official Development Assistance
PRMED	:	Poverty Reduction Monitoring and Evaluation Division
R&D	:	Research and Development
SACMEQ:		Southern and Eastern Africa Consortium for Monitoring Educational Quality
SACRO	:	Swaziland Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offender
SAM	:	Service Availability Mapping
SDG	:	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	:	Swaziland Environmental Authority
SEC	:	Swaziland Electricity Company
SERA	:	Swaziland Electricity Regulatory Agency
SEDCO	:	Swaziland Enterprises Development Company
SHIES	:	Swaziland Household Income and Expenditure Survey
SHIMS	:	Swaziland HIV incidence Measurement Survey
SMME	:	Small, Medium and Micro Sized Enterprises
SNL	:	Swazi National Land
SNTC	:	Swaziland National Trust Commission
SRA	:	Swaziland Revenue Authority
SRH	:	Swaziland Reproductive Health Service
STA	:	Swaziland Tourism Authority
SWADE	:	Swaziland Agricultural and Development Enterprise
SWSC	:	Swaziland Water Services Corporation
TWT	:	Technical Writing Team
UNDP	:	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	:	United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	:	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	:	United Nations Children's Fund

VAA : Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis
WASH : Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All
WFP : World Food Programme

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Eswatini is located in the Southern Hemisphere. It is bordered by Mozambique to its northeast and South Africa to its north, west and south. It is one of the smallest countries in Africa with a size of about 17,363 square kilometres, of which 160 square kilometres is water. Climate is transitional between subtropical and tropical and about 75 percent precipitation falls from October to March. The climatic conditions range from sub-humid temperate in the Highveld to semi-arid in the Lowveld. The country is endowed with a number of natural resources including arable land, minerals and water. Bulembu is the highest mountain wand peaks at 6,109ft and the largest river is the Great Usuthu River which is transboundary.

The population is primarily ethnic and the language used is siSwati in the native form. The latest population census estimates the population to be about 1,093,238 persons, of which about 53 percent are women. Approximately 44 percent of the population is under 15 years of age while 4 percent is aged 65 years or older. The majority (79%) of the population lives in rural areas and is dependent on subsistence farming.

The current economic situation is characterised by declining economic growth; a narrowing revenues base coupled with rising expenditures that are resulting in increasingly large fiscal deficits; stagnant private sector activities; deepening poverty; infrastructure development which is not yet bearing dividends, while on the other hand there is old infrastructure in deteriorating conditions; and poor public sector performance and service delivery, to mention some of the challenges. The government acted promptly by producing a Strategic Roadmap for economic recovery and re-introduced National Development Plan to set priorities, guide policy development and national budgeting. It places the priorities as good governance focused on fiscal stability, inclusive and sustainable growth driven by private sector development, investments in human capital development, poverty reduction, efficiencies in public sector service delivery and national stability.

Government reviewed its National Development Strategy of 1997 for the first time to understand what the country had achieved since 1997, the challenges that have limited progress towards attaining some of the targeted goals and to reprioritise given the changing domestic, regional and global environment. This birthed the Strategy for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth (2017) which has mainstreamed the SADC Agenda 2025, African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. The Sustainable Development Agenda was launched in June 2016 and a technical team of sector

experts was established to domesticate and populate the goals, targets and indicators. The development of an automated system to monitor implementation of the agenda was commenced.

The Sustainable Development Goals were interpreted into the local language, targets and indicators were reviewed and localised by the technical team in 2017. Sensitization on the SDGs agenda was a very lengthy process conducted at national, regional and constituency levels. To ensure inclusiveness, a cross-section of stakeholders were strategically invited. These included chiefs/traditional leaders, youth, women, men, various cultural regiments, the business community, academia, people living with disabilities, religious groups, regional development teams, Non-Governmental Organisations, local governments, government ministries, and bilateral and multilateral organisations.

The localized SDGs framework was populated by sector experts (SDGs Technical team) to inform the SDGs baseline report in 2017. Data for populating the SDGs indicators was solicited from various national reports from various sections of government and parastatals. Most indicators were sourced from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey of 2014, The External Assistance Annual Reports, the Eswatini Household Income and Expenditure Survey of 2018 and government ministries' annual statistical reports.

Government has put in place the National Climate Change Policy and Strategy of 2016 in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Furthermore, the country submitted its third National Communication Plan of 2016 to the United Nations framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and is currently finalizing the fourth national communication plan.

The country developed the National Resilience Strategy and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Action plan of 2017 – 2021. The developed robust monitoring and warning Multi Hazard Early Warning system is operational and well disseminated throughout the country. Hence the country is aligned to the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction aimed at reducing global disasters.

CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR PREPARATION OF THE REVIEW

The process was two pronged with stakeholder consultations and desk reviews. A tool for primary data collection was developed for stakeholders' contribution on the progress made in implementation of the goals.

Consultations were conducted in two levels: special groups and technical working groups (TWG). The special groups were composed of civil society organisations, the United Nations family and development partners, the private sector organisations, and special groups (men, women, youth and persons living with disabilities representatives). Technical working groups were clustered into four categories namely: Social (SDG 3,4,5 & 16), Poverty (SDG 1,2,10), Economic (SDG 8,9,12,17) and Environmental goals (SDG 6,7,11,13,14,15).

The desk review involved consultations with various ministries and parastatals who had to populate the implementation progress on the SDGs matrices. The outputs were co-ordinated and consolidated by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development.

CHAPTER 3: POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

a) Creating ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Consultations:

Advocacy on the Agenda 2030 was carried out through consultations which were conducted at the national and regional levels according to thematic areas. These consultations involved participation of a broad spectrum of stakeholders, i.e. representatives from government, local government civil society, private sector, media, focused groups, traditional leaders (chiefs), women's groups, disabled, youth, various regiments, business community, regional development teams (RDTs) and constituency development teams (CDT). This process informed the stakeholders of the new development agenda and their roles in the implementation of the agenda.

IEC material:

The SDGs were translated into the local language, siSwati, to ensure involvement and understanding of all levels of stakeholders in the country. This further necessitated the need to develop promotional material to be used during sensitization campaigns. These included folders, pens, key-rings, posters, flyers and a wall banner on the 17 SDGs in the shortened version printed in both languages, English and siSwati.

Prioritisation of SDGs:

Faced with limited resources, there is strong need to prioritize development issues and efforts to attain maximum results in a cost-effective manner considering multiplier effects and means of implementing the goals. The country prioritized and ranked the SDGs giving due attention and consideration to domestic contextual realities and future development potentials. Special attention was given to objective realities prevailing in the country particularly perceived national focus areas for development and prevailing development gaps. In addition, consideration was given to challenges, potential for development and promotion of human development dynamics when prioritizing the SDGs.

The prioritised goals for the medium term were:

- **SDG 8** : Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- **SDG 2** : End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- **SDG 4** : Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities.
- **SDG 3**: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

- **SDG 6** : Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- **SDG 7** : Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- **SDG 9** : Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Including SDGs 1 : no poverty and 13: climate action

These SDGs had potential for overall growth including possibilities for generating better backward-and forward linkages, diversification of economic base and domestic supply capacity, export and trade promotion

The SDGs were classified into three groups: the *'prioritised'* which are the main focus for the country in the medium term; *'enablers'* is the ideal environment or conditions for the implementation and achievement of other SDGs, *'cross-cutting issues'* as areas for integration in implementation of the goals.

The SDGs prioritization process resulted in the following tabular presentation;

Table 3.1: Prioritisation Matrix

PRIORITISED GOAL	CROSS CUTTING ISSUES	ENABLERS
2. Zero hunger	1. No poverty	10. Reduced inequalities
3. Good health and well-being	5. Gender equality	13. Climate action
4. Quality education	11. Sustainable cities and communities	14. Life below water
6. Clean water and sanitation	12. Responsible consumption and production	15. Life on land
7. Affordable and clean energy		16. Peace justice and strong institutions
8. Decent work and economic growth		17. Partnership for the goals
9. Industry innovation and infrastructure		
<i>1. No poverty</i>		
<i>13. Climate action</i>		

Domestication of SDGs Indicators:

The prioritization process led to the domestication of the indicators where the targets and indicators were reviewed in the local development context using the following groupings;

- i. Poverty sectors (Goals 1, 2, 10),
- ii. Social sectors (Goals 3, 4, 5, 16),
- iii. Environment (Goals 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 12, 15), and
- iv. Economy sector (8, 9, 17).

b) Incorporation of the Sustainable Development Goals in national frameworks.

The process of Agenda 2030 coincided with the review of the country's development framework, National Development Strategy (NDS) and Vision 2022, which presented an opportunity for integration of the agenda and other emerging development issues.

The NDS was reviewed and updated embracing the principles of sustainable development fostering good alignment between the NDS targets and the SDGs targets. The National Development Plan details priorities for the country in the medium term for the Implementation of the NDS. This entails integration of the goals and targets into national and sectoral policies, strategies and plans.

Challenges

Implementation of SDGs has been faced with challenges in the country. The fiscal challenges have resulted in limited resources available for implementation of programmes. There is declining support for development in the country in terms of ODA. The Middle Income country status which has resulted inability to access concessional loans.

Availability of timely and quality data to inform programming affected the performance in monitoring of indicators. Statistics is important to inform planning, programming and budgeting. Its production is costly and competes with other priorities of the country resulting in time lags for availability of updates on data. This compromises the impact of initiatives that are put in place to address the development challenges.

Limited capacity for effective implementation of the goals at different levels. Implementation of the goals has to be visible at grassroot level through the forward and backward linkages between the national and grassroots levels. The flow should be from the national level, to the regional level (sub-national level), local government, constituency and chieftdom levels. Capacities at the levels below the national level is very limited and needs strengthening.

Involvement of the private sector in development is another challenge. The country is a small economy and government is the main actor in development. This has resulted in crowding out of the private sector as its participation in implementation of the goals is very limited .

Advocacy on the SDGs as some stakeholders are still not fully conversant with the issue of the goals. There is need to have continuous sessions and programmes on the goals to eventually get everyone on the same level of understanding of the concept in particular their roles and responsibilities.

c) **Integration of the three dimensions.**

The three dimensions of sustainable development namely economic, social and environmental have been integrated into development in the country. Priorities for the country include ensuring economic development, strengthening of the social sector and promoting environmental sustainability.

Economic development: initiatives to improve availability of resources through strengthened tax collection, strengthening of Eswatini Revenue Authority (ERA), promotion of resource mobilization component, public investment, the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (SMME) sector, creation of enabling environment for the private sector to function, harnessing employment creation opportunities and strengthening of the mining sector.

Social sector: strengthening of social protection floors catering for the vulnerable and marginalized groups in the society.

Environmental sustainability: initiatives for adaptation to climate change are a priority as it affects many sectors; agriculture (primary and secondary), tourism, environment.

d) **Leaving no one behind:**

Vulnerable groups in the country have been identified as orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs), the elderly, people living with disabilities, women and the youth. There are a range of policies and programmes that have been put in place to address their plight. They include social protection measures i.e. OVC grant, elderly grant, disability grant; programmes for their empowerment (especially women and girls) and addressing their need include youth enterprise fund, women in development, women empowerment programme, rural development fund.

National initiatives for the HLPF goals

SDG4: *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.*

Introduction of free primary education to ensure equal access for all children, introduction of ECCDE child development in readiness for school, strengthening

of TVET education in the formal and non-formal education streams (scholarship awards), construction of schools within acceptable walking distance in communities.

SDG8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Creation of enabling environment that attracts foreign direct investment resulting in improvements in employment opportunities, increases in public investment to induce visible private sector participation, maximum utilisation of resources for production.

SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

An enabling policy environment has been created that responds to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

SDG16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

The kingdom is generally a peaceful country but cases of violence and abuse are on the rise according to national standards. Policies that deal with violence and abuse of the vulnerable groups have been developed and laws to enforce them put in place e.g. Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act of 2019.

SDG17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development:

Implementation of the country's development programme is through domestic resources and support from development partners as well as loans and grants. An enabling environment for donor support and effective utilisation prevails.

e) Structural issues.

In Eswatini, the **National Development Strategy (NDS)** is the main framework for the achievement of sustainable development in the country. The NDS was originally produced in 1997 and covered a 25-year time horizon. In response to a changed development context domestically and abroad, its revision started in 2014. This development framework was revised to conform to regional and global conventions and to incorporate emerging issues in development arena. The

outcome of the review was titled **Strategy for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth** (SSDIG).

The National Development Strategy was operationalized by the **Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Programme** (PRSAP) 2008. **The National Development Plan** 2018 -2023 is the medium term framework for accelerating inclusive growth and sustainable development. The **Eswatini Strategic Road Map** 2019-2023 is a medium term development framework prioritising key sectors that will expedite economic growth in the short turnaround. This policy framework will ensure sustainable economic development, financial stability & growth, improving the quality of life for the nation.

Agriculture

The Agriculture sector has formulated several policies to create an enabling environment within the sector, including:

- The **National Food Security Policy**, which focuses on 4 key pillars, namely: food availability, food access, food utilisation and nutritional requirements, as well as stability in equitable food provision, also approved in 2005;
- The **National Irrigation Policy**, which provides guidelines on the proper management and conservation of water for irrigated agriculture, while improving agricultural productivity, approved in 2005;
- The **Livestock Development Policy**, which seeks to promote the transition from subsistence to commercial livestock farming, approved in 2006;

The **National Agriculture Investment Plan** (SNAIP) 2015–2025 and the **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme** (CAADP). The SNAIP aims to improve food and nutrition security, reduce rural poverty and increase the contribution of agriculture to economic development. For nutrition security, the sector has the following policies in place: **National Framework for Food Security in Schools** (2013), **Food and Nutrition Policy** (FSNP) 2017 and the **National Stunting Prevention Action Plan** (2016-2018).

Health

In the Health sector, the Government's overarching policy instrument is the **National Health Policy**, which is being implemented in part through the **National Health Sector Strategic Plan 2014-2018**. The overall objective is to ensure accessibility, availability and utilisation of quality health service in country as well as regain the losses in life expectancy that occurred due to the

impact of HIV/AIDS. It is worth noting at this point that life expectancy at birth has steadily improved, reaching 57.75 years in 2016.

Education

The education sector benefits from an **Education Sector Policy** (2011) and a strategic plan referred to as the **Education Sector Strategic Plan** (ESSP), covering the period 2010 to 2020. The sector also has a medium term plan, the **National Education and Training Improvement Programme** (NETIP). Implementation of the NETIP began in 2013/14 and ended in 2017/18. **NETIP II has been launched whose main focus is on ensuring access to quality education for all and life-long learning.**

Water and Sanitation

The water sector has a **National Water Policy** which has been in draft form since 2009 and is being reviewed. It is mainly focused on strengthening water resource management and sustainability. In addition, the sector has an **Integrated Water Resources Master Plan**, which was finalised in April 2016. The **National Sanitation policy** (2019) and the **Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy** has been finalised with main objective of ensuring access to safely managed sanitation facilities and enforcing hygiene standards.

Fuel and Energy

The sector adopted the following policy frameworks; the **National Energy Policy**, **National Energy Efficiency Policy**, **National Energy Implementation Strategy** (2018) and **Eswatini Energy Master Plan** of 2018 – 2034 to scale up energy access through consideration of off-grid solutions and introduce energy efficiency interventions which will support the country's drive on industrialisation and improvement in welfare

Climate Change

The sector developed the **National Climate Change Policy** and Strategy 2016, the **National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan** (2014-2019). Furthermore, reviewed its **National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy** and developed a **National Resilience Strategy and Disaster Risk Reduction Plan** of Action (2017 – 2021) and the **Seasonal Multi-Hazard Contingency Plan** (2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018) was reviewed. These are aimed at ensuring adaptation to climate change and build national resilience to the risk of disasters.

Infrastructure

The sector developed the **National Transport Policy and Masterplan** and reviewed the **National Information Communication Infrastructure Policy** of 2006 to guide and regulate developments within the transport and communication infrastructure sectors.

CHAPTER 4

PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere



1.0 Introduction

This goal entails ending poverty in all its forms everywhere. It corresponds to Goal 1 of Agenda 2063: A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all. Poverty is one of the main development challenges affecting the Kingdom. Development of the National Development Strategy in 1997 was aimed at ending poverty in the country. The Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Programme of 2005 was produced as an action plan for NDS implementation tailor made poverty reduction by 2015 in the country. Its recommendations included establishment of the Regional Development Fund (RDF), Poverty Reduction Fund, the youth enterprise fund, the elderly grant.

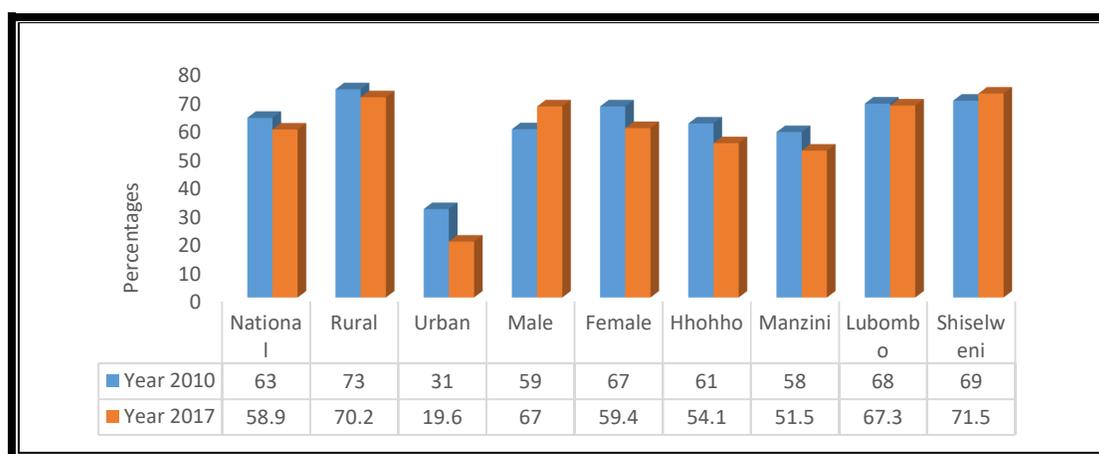
The evolving development has resulted in emerging poverty issues including the multi-dimensional nature of poverty. This has necessitated the need to interrogate this phenomenon to better understand its depth and further identify solutions that address the new nature. In this regard the country has benefited from India support through the South-South Cooperation modality administered and facilitated through UNDP office of the United Nations. Through this support the country is conducted the Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) in an effort to understand the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and come up with effective remedial measures to deal with this plight and provide policy guidance. It is participatory in nature as it benefits from participation of the affected populations themselves.

1.1 Trends

a) Proportion of population living below the poverty line

The country has a population of just above a million at 1,093,238 and the proportion of population living below the poverty line improved from 63% in 2010 to 58.9% in 2017. Poverty is most pronounced in rural areas at 70.2% than urban area 19.6% (2017) and in males 67% than females 59.4% and is highest in the Shiselweni and Lubombo regions at 71.5% and 67.3% respectively (2017) as shown in figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1 Proportion of population living below the poverty line



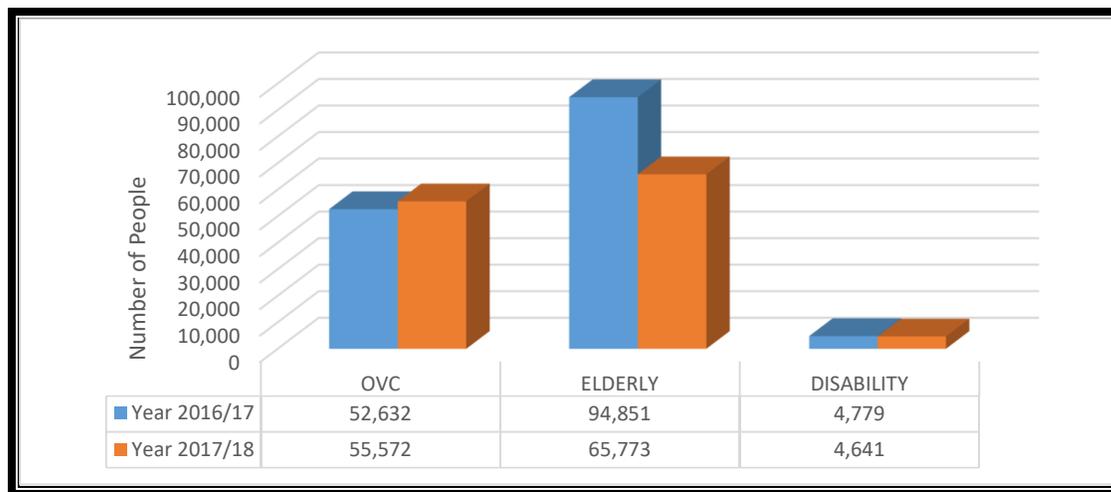
A tabular presentation of the proportion of people living below the poverty line is as shown in the table below:

SDG Indicator	Baseline	Current
Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)		
Population below poverty line	63%	58.9%
- By Sex: Male	59%	67%
- Female	67%	59.4%
- Geographic location: Rural	73%	70.17%
Urban	31%	19.55%
- Regions: Hhohho:	61%	54.08%
Manzini:	58%	51.47%
Shiselweni	68%:	67.26%:
Lubombo:	69%	71.53%
National Poverty line per adult equivalent per month	SZL 463	SZL 975.30

b) Social protection floors

Marginalised or vulnerable groups in the country have been identified to include the Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVCs), the elderly (60 and above years of age), and the persons living with disabilities. Grants have been established to cater for their basic necessities namely OVC, Elderly and disability grants. This support assist these groups to be able to meet their basic needs without which the situation would be unbearable as people would die. There is a decline in the number of beneficiaries between the year 2016/17 and 2017/18, however the elderly grant has the highest number of beneficiaries while the disability grant has the least as shown in figure 1.2.

Figure 1.2: Population covered by social protection programme



Source: DPM REPORT 2016/2017 Financial Year

Beneficiaries of the elderly grant declined by 44% between 2016/17 and 2017/18, from 94, 851 to 65, 773

1.2 Successes

- The government has implemented a program that teaches school children especially OVCs to make savings
- Youth fund was introduced to help in funding the youth's business ideas and willingness
- Implementation of the young heroes program working hand in hand with world vision, OVCs are given livestock to take care of for their own benefits
- Regional Development Fund are provided at regional level, it targets to fund people who want to be in business and with viable business plans
- Improvement in the communication infrastructure (Swazi Mobile)

- f) Programs and schemes targeting the improvement of water and electricity accessibility
- g) The country conducted a Child Poverty Assessment and Participatory Poverty Assessment

1.3 Challenges

- a) Increasing cases of theft due to poverty, especially livestock.
- b) Limited dissemination of information on development programmes e.g. youth fund
- c) Fiscal challenges limit budget allocation to poverty reduction initiatives
- d) Increasing health burden negatively affect the poverty rate
- e) Limited monitoring and evaluation on the utilisation of government resources.
- f) Sustainability and targeting for social protection floors

1.5 Emerging issues

- a) Increasing number of OVC due to burden of diseases.
- b) Poverty has forced people to opt for illicit practices to sustain livelihoods.

1.6 Lessons learned

- a) Need to strengthen monitoring and evaluation of poverty alleviating programmes
- b) Community participation in identification of priority poverty alleviation initiatives is important.

1.7 Describe what actions have been taken to address existing gaps and challenges

Initiatives have been put in place to address the plight of poverty in the country and they include social protection programme for the vulnerable groups, in terms of grants and development funds e.g. elderly grant, youth enterprise fund and skills development programmes.

1.8 Areas for support

- a) Mapping out or locating the poorest households should be and then the government should help them

1.8 Key messages

- a) Stakeholder involvement in development programmes
- b) Strengthen prioritisation for effective service delivery

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



2.1 Introduction

This goal entails total elimination of hunger by ensuring food security, improved nutritional status and promoting sustainable agriculture. This is in-line with Agenda 2063 goal 5: modern agriculture for increased productivity and production. The fight against hunger has been identified as a major developmental challenge that requires concerted efforts to eradicate. It is estimated that one in nine people globally do not have enough to eat and a majority of the hungry are found in developing countries where high malnutrition levels are reported. The Kingdom of Eswatini has not been spared as hunger continues to be one of the limiting factors bearing an impact on overall economic development of the country.

As a drive towards achieving this goal, the country undertook a Zero Hunger Strategic Review in 2018 to analyse the current food and nutrition situation and to identify strategies and programmes for ending hunger by 2030. It was recommended that the existing policies on mitigating food and nutrition insecurity in the country are sufficient to achieve this goal and therefore should be fully integrated and implemented by the agricultural sector. These include the National Food and Nutrition Policy (NFNP) of 2005 , The Draft Comprehensive Agricultural Sector Policy (CASP, 2005), National Food Security Policy (NFSP 2009), Agriculture Extension Policy (AEP 2016), National Framework for Food Security in Schools (2013), Food and Nutrition Policy (FSNP) 2017 and the National Stunting Prevention Action Plan (2016-2018), to mention a few.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) towards the agricultural sector in the country for improving agricultural production and productivity is mainly from the following development partners; African Development Bank (ADB), European

Union (EU), Bank of India, Food Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Internal Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Trend Analysis

a) End hunger and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

In an effort to ensure access to safe and nutritious food all year round, the National Nutrition Council co-ordinated awareness creation campaigns with various stakeholders to promote the importance of nutritious food, especially for infants. The country adopted the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) definition of the prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) as “the probability that a randomly selected individual from the reference population is found to consume less than his/her calorie requirement for an active and healthy life”.

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2014) stated that the prevalence of undernourishment for children under five years was at 5.8% nationally. It was most prevalent among boys at 7.3% than girls at 4.3%, and the rural-urban disparity show that rural areas are the most affected as depicted in figure 2.1

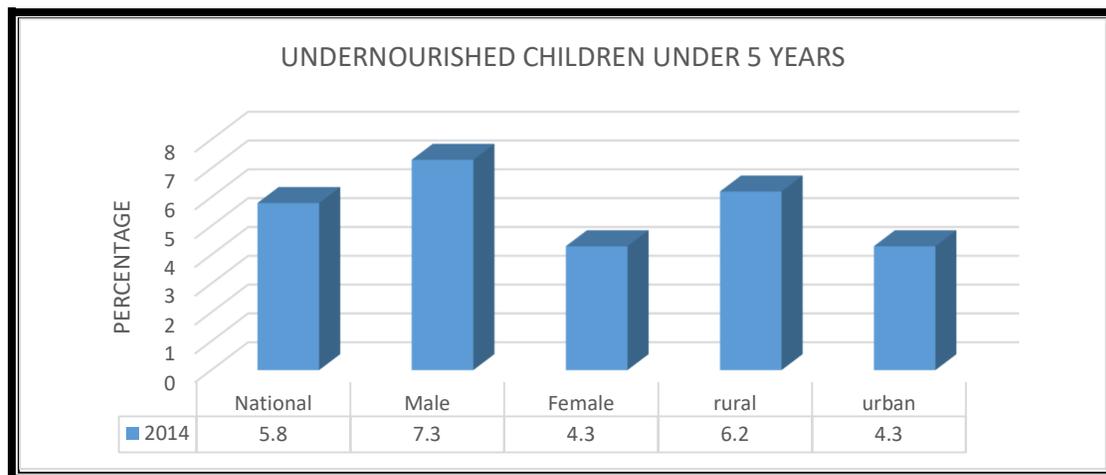


Figure 2.1 Proportion of undernourished children under 5 years

The prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age was also monitored for children falling below minus 2 standard deviations from the median height for 5 years old. The level of stunting amongst children under 5 years of age was 25.5% and mostly observed amongst boys at 29.2%, whilst females constituted 21.7% it further declined to 19.9% in 2018 as shown in figure 2.2 below.

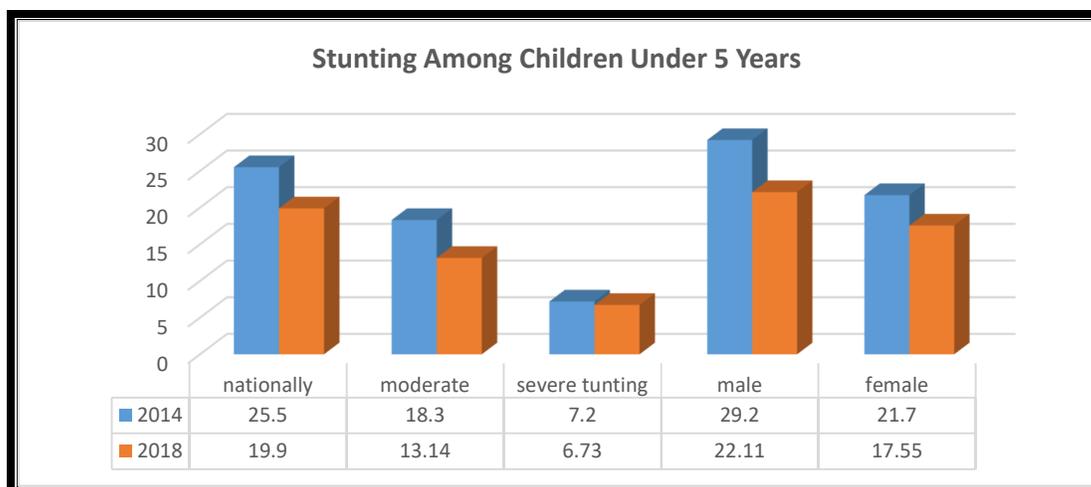


Figure 2.2: Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years

The country developed a technical working team to monitor food insecurity and agricultural sustainability according to the Integrated Phased Categorization (IPC). Furthermore, Government introduced school feeding programmes to assist in food security and nutrition.

b) Double agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers

Eswatini continuously trained small scale agricultural farmers in diverse agricultural practices and services, for instance in fish and mushroom farming. This was an effort to double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, particular for women, household farmers, and fishers and to create opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment. The annual reports from the Ministry of Agriculture showed the following results.

Table 2.3 Annual agricultural statistics

Produce	2016	2018
- Milk production (<i>Million litres</i>)	3.6	18
- Beef (<i>Million Kg</i>)	132	125
- Pork (<i>Million Kg</i>)	1.5	1.3
- Goat (<i>Million Kg</i>)	12.5	12
- Indigenous chicken (<i>Million Kg</i>)	2.4	2.3
- Sheep (<i>Million Kg</i>)	0.5	0.49
- Broiler (<i>Million Kg</i>)	1.01	1.2
- Fish production (<i>Metric tonnes</i>)	7	9
- Sugar production (<i>Metric tonnes</i>)	5,836,553	4,973,571
- Plantations (<i>Million cubic centimetres</i>)	11.4	12.2

Ministry of Agriculture Annual Reports 2016/18

To improve farmers’ productivity, government has put in place a programme that provides farming inputs and tractor services at subsidized prices. In addition, the construction of earth dams has improved arable agricultural land in selected communities with prospects to double productivity.

Total maize production for the 2017/18 cropping season was 113,039mt while domestic requirement is 134,342mt.

c) Maintaining genetic diversity of plants and animals

The country developed a gene bank to conserve plant genetic resources, which is in line with the global target 2.5 that says: “By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed”. The following plant and animal resources were captured.

Table 2.6 Plant and Animal Species

Number of Resources	2016	2018
Plant accession secured	570 plant accessions representing 10 species	626 plant accessions representing 10 species
<i>Total Livestock production</i>		
<i>Cattle population</i>	589 405	501 369
<i>Pig population</i>	38 513	38 335
<i>Goat population</i>	443 218	478 919
<i>Chickens population</i>	2 415 138	1 535 218
<i>Dairy cows population</i>	4835	5275
<i>Sheep population</i>	14 969	16264

2.2 Challenges

- a) The conditions provided by marketing entities are not favourable for farmers.
- b) Link between farmers and markets needs to be strengthened.
- c) Poor harvesting skills and facilities increases food losses and waste.
- d) Climate change is a constraint in agricultural production.
- e) The imports exceed exports in the agricultural sector.

2.4 Emerging issues

- a) The agricultural sector is mainly dominated by old people.

- b) Over reliance on government by farmers for farming inputs and services.
- c) The increasing rate of the rural- urban migration of the economic active group negatively affects agriculture, especially in the rural areas.
- d) The world is becoming alive to sanitary and phyto – sanitary (SPS) issues and technical barriers to trade.

2.5 Lessons learned

- a) Agricultural projects implementation have to be closely monitored.
- b) There is a need to increase agricultural extension services.
- c) Farmers have to be taught on how to preserve their farm produce effectively and the means to preserve harvest traditionally.
- d) Adherence to food safety standards needs to be strengthened.

2.4 Actions that have been taken to address existing gaps and challenges

Many projects were implemented to improve gaps in this goal, including: support for agri-business development, food and nutrition and gene conservation.

The following programmes were put in place, namely:

- a) Construction of earth dams for support smallholder farmers in production. Also, as an intervention for climate change mitigation.
- b) Lower Usuthu Irrigation Projects I and II.
- c) Input and tractor hire services to improve production and productivity.
- d) Some policies are in place and others in draft form.

2.5 Areas for support

- a) Research on food and nutrition security is necessary (including the diversification of crops and livestock).
- b) Information management systems for effective planning.
- c) Agriculture technologies and infrastructure.
- d) Capacity building for human resources.
- e) Resource mobilisation to support on going and new programmes.

2.6 Key messages

- a) Youth are key for sustainable agricultural development.
- b) Strengthen agricultural diversification and commercialisation.
- c) Encourage utilisation of all available arable land for agricultural production.
- d) Decentralisation of agricultural services.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



3.1 Introduction

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all at all ages is important to building prosperous societies, as highlighted in goal 3 of the African Union Agenda 2063. The health sector aims to ensure the achievement of SDG 3 by improving reproductive, maternal and child health; ending the epidemics of major communicable diseases; reducing non-communicable and environmental diseases; achieving universal health coverage; and ensuring access to safe, affordable and effective medicines and vaccines for all. The government is highly committed to ensuring a healthy and productive population that lives longer, fulfilling and responsible lives. As a result, the health sector seeks to improve the health of the people by providing preventative services that are of high quality, relevant, accessible, affordable, equitable and socially acceptable.

The country revised its National Health Policy (2007) and Health Sector Strategy to align to emerging global and regional health conventions, thus the National Health Policy of Eswatini (2017) and second National Health Sector Strategic Plan (2014 – 2018) are in place. Furthermore, the National Health Financing Policy (2017) was developed to set out health care financing models and strengthen the sector's capacity in health care financing. Disability was mainstreamed into the health sector. Health infrastructure has increased and is distributed among the different regions.

The health sector received official development assistance from the following development partners: European Union, Global Fund, Japan, United States of

America, United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and the World Bank.

3.2 Trends Analysis

a) Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio

- Current updates on the performance of maternal mortality obtained from the 2017 population census report show a decline from 593/100,000 in 2012 to 474/100,00 and further declined to 452/100,000 in 2017 which is significantly above the target of 120/100,000 maternal deaths in 2022. Government continues to strengthen maternal health services through interventions including rehabilitation of maternity units in hospitals and construction in health centres and clinics. In addition, capacity building of health care workers to track and improve skilled birth attendance is ongoing.

b) End preventable deaths of new-borns and children under 5 years.

Eswatini was able to reduce the under 5 mortality rate per 1000 from 104 deaths per 1000 live births (MICS 2014) to 74/1000 in 2017. This was done through introduction of new vaccines and increasing immunization coverage for children under five (5) years of age. In that regard, the interventions are yielding positive results showing that it will reach a rate of below 60 deaths, which is the target for 2022.

c) End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Reduction in HIV incidence;

There was a reduction in the incidence rate from 2.1% in 2011 to 1.4% in 2016 for ages 15 to 49 years. This was as a result of Eswatini's commitment to provide anti-retroviral treatment for all people diagnosed with HIV. In addition, EHIMS 2016 shows that the country has made major progress towards achieving the global 90-90-90 HIV targets by 2020, currently at 84.7- 87.4 - 91.9. 90-90-90 HIV targets means that 90% of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) should know their HIV status, 90% of those positive be initiated on ART and 90% be virally suppressed.

This was achieved through initiatives such as provision of anti-retroviral therapy, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT), Test and Start, HIV testing and counselling services and other impact mitigation interventions done through NERCHA. The number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population

were 2.38 per 1000 in 2016 and reduced to 1.36 per 1000 population in 2017. HIV incidence among adults was recorded to be 1.4% in 2016.

Tuberculosis

Since 2012 TB case detection rate has improved from 46% to 74% in 2017. Treatment success rate improved from 77% to 83% in 2017 for ordinary TB, whilst for MDR - TB the improvement was from 56% to 73% in 2017. The strategy has been to deploy more than 300 active case finders at the community level to identify and refer people infected with TB to ensure early treatment for newly identified cases.

Malaria

Diagnosis and treatment of Malaria cases in accordance with National Diagnosis and Treatment Guidelines increased from 85% in 2012 to 97% in 2017. This increase shows major progress towards the country attaining certification of malaria elimination. Due to these major strides, His Majesty King Mswati III was elected chairperson of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) from 2017 to 2020.

The improvement is attributed to elements including training of health care workers on the National Diagnosis and Treatment Guidelines, setting up of a robust surveillance system which allows for timely case detection and investigation, collaboration with neighbouring countries through participation in cross border initiatives and providing a leadership role in the Elimination 8 initiative.

d) Reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases

The five year NCD awareness campaign plan was developed and implemented. Furthermore, the NCDs monitoring and surveillance systems were strengthened. Morbidity associated with NCDs and lifestyle related hospital visits show an increase between 2013 and 2017, as shown in the figure below.

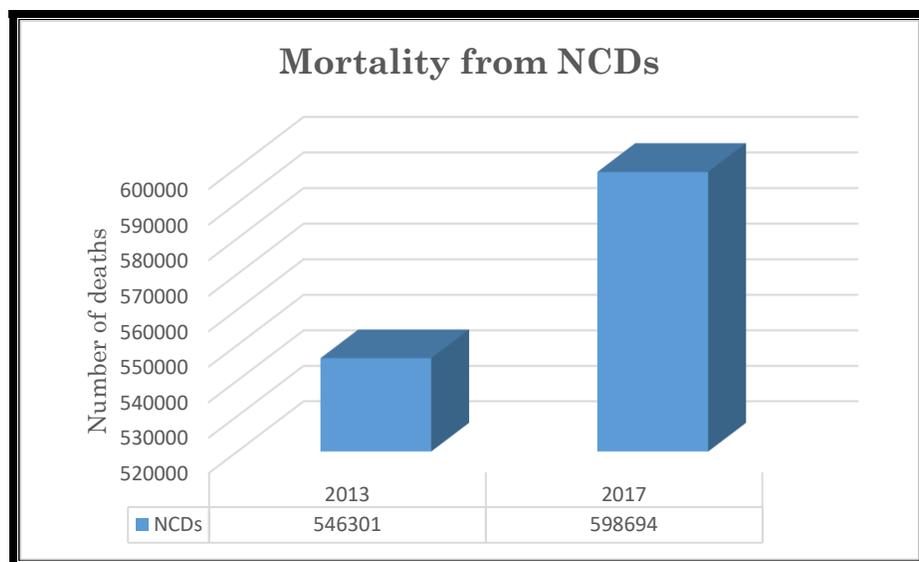


Figure 3.1 Mortality from non-communicable diseases

This means the situation worsened, implying that peoples’ lifestyles have not improved since 2013 and that they have become even more prone to NCDs. However the increase in deaths means that the system is better able to track these cases, even though there are challenges in providing better treatment.

e) Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning.

The country has put in place a governmental and non-governmental sexual reproductive health programme to empower women of reproductive ages 15–49 years. There was an increase of about 10% in the number of women accessing family planning methods between 2013 and 2016, rising from 4,938 to 5,502 women.

f) Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from water pollution

The country’s target is to increase access to proper sanitation facilities at the household level for both rural and urban populations. The construction of pit latrines continued successfully between 2013 and 2018 to benefit households and schools. Statistics show that the level of sanitation in rural areas was 78% (55% improved but not shared and 23% improved shared). The percentage of non-sharing households has declined from 56.7% to 55%. Coverage for urban areas was 94% (47.5% improved non-shared+ 46.5% improved shared). The percentage of non- sharing declined from 55.6% to 47.5%, indicating limited achievement.

g) Provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines

The country provides highly subsidised health care services. The availability of drugs and pharmaceuticals is heavily dependent on Government's resource envelope. The availability of tracer classes of medicine in 2018 was as follows:

- i. ARVs improved from 74.1% in 2013 to 96.4% in 2017
- ii. Tuberculosis improved from 82.4% in 2015 to 88.7% in 2017
- iii. Family planning deteriorated from 92.9% in 2015 to 61.8% in 2017
- iv. Malaria remained unchanged from 94.1% in 2015 to 94.1% in 2017
- v. Essential medicines current level at Central Medical Stores is 94%

3.2 Challenges

- a) Absence of national data on youth and adolescent sexual reproductive health surveillance.
- b) Teenage pregnancies are high which accelerates HIV incidence and new infection among young girls is increasing.
- c) Poor behavioural change after awareness of NCDs.
- d) Limited friendly services.
- e) Poverty is one of the causes of sexual malpractices among the youth.
- f) Mothers do not want to breast feed their babies.
- g) Criminalization of vulnerable people e.g. sex workers.
- h) The quality of care in the health sector is restrained by lack of resources (skills, equipment and medicinal).
- i) Community healthcare workers are limited.
- j) There still gaps in transmission from paper work to paper less.
- k) Attraction and retraining nurses and doctors in rural areas.

3.3 Emerging issues

- a) Raising awareness on management of NCDs.
- b) Religious beliefs prohibit access to health care.
- c) Young people living with HIV especially young girls.
- d) Reproductive health education tailored for disabled children.
- e) Involvement of the youth in community health motivators' programme.

3.4 Lessons learned

- a) Public finance for health and education is inadequate, hence the need to prioritise within the sector.
- b) Health coverage must be accompanied by quality of services.
- c) Good partnerships with development partners has increased coverage and achievements in some social sectors.
- d) HIV/AIDS behavioural change is a bigger challenge.

3.5 Actions that have been taken to address existing gaps and challenges

- a) Revised the exiting policy documents.
- b) Developed the National Health Financing policy for well-coordinated and structured financial guidance.
- c) Infrastructure development, more maternity units have been constructed in existing health facilities and all newly constructed facilities have the maternity wing included.
- d) Under Five and neonatal: vaccines are now being procure through UNICEF (Stock out is minimal).

3.6 Areas for support

- a) Multi-sectoral approach to address Non communicable diseases (NCDs), increase technical and financial support towards the social sector especially the neglected NCDs and decentralization of NCDs services.
- b) Early detection of children with disabilities e.g. having psychologist.
- c) Strengthen health research.

3.7 Key messages

- a) Urgent action to combat NCDs prevalence.
- b) Need for user friendly services for special groups.
- c) There is a shortage of pharmaceuticals and equipment in hospitals.
- d) Strategies to retain highly skilled health practitioners in rural health facilities.
- e) Promotion of preventive health services.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



4.1 Introduction

This goal aims at ensuring that all people have access to quality education and the opportunity for lifelong learning. This is in line with Agenda 2063 goal 2: Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation. The Kingdom of Eswatini views education as the quickest and most viable way to advance development and eradicate poverty. It is the Government's priority to provide access to relevant quality education that is affordable at all levels; taking into account all issues of efficiency, equity and special needs. The goal goes beyond school enrolment and looks at proficiency levels, the availability of trained teachers and adequate school facilities, and disparities in education outcomes.

The Education Sector Policy (2011) and Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP), covering the period 2010 to 2020 was developed to ensure efficiency. Furthermore, a medium term plan, the National Education and Training Improvement Programme (NETIP) is being implemented.

The country received external support to review its education policies, strategies and action plan. Support was also received to strengthen the education sector from various development partners. The European Development Fund through its Support to Education and Training (SET) programme provided support to ensure free access to primary education for pupils. It also strengthened quality and relevance of the primary education curriculum.

The education sector is supported through ODA from the following development partners: The Republic of Japan, United Nations Educational, Scientific and

Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

4.2 Trends Analysis

a) Ensure quality primary and secondary education.

The country introduced Free Primary Education programme as a means to ensure that all children have equal access to quality primary education. This programme has been successfully rolled out to all government schools through local and donor funds. The Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) educational programme was established as a safety net for children attending secondary education. Government has increased the education infrastructure to address the increase in school going children including schools for children living with disabilities. Finally, the Early Childhood Care and Development Education (ECCDE) programme was launched to increase access to pre-primary education and the proportion of grade 1 students who have gone through ECCDE increased from 69% in 2015 to 78% in 2017. The figure below shows the national completion rate for primary and secondary education.

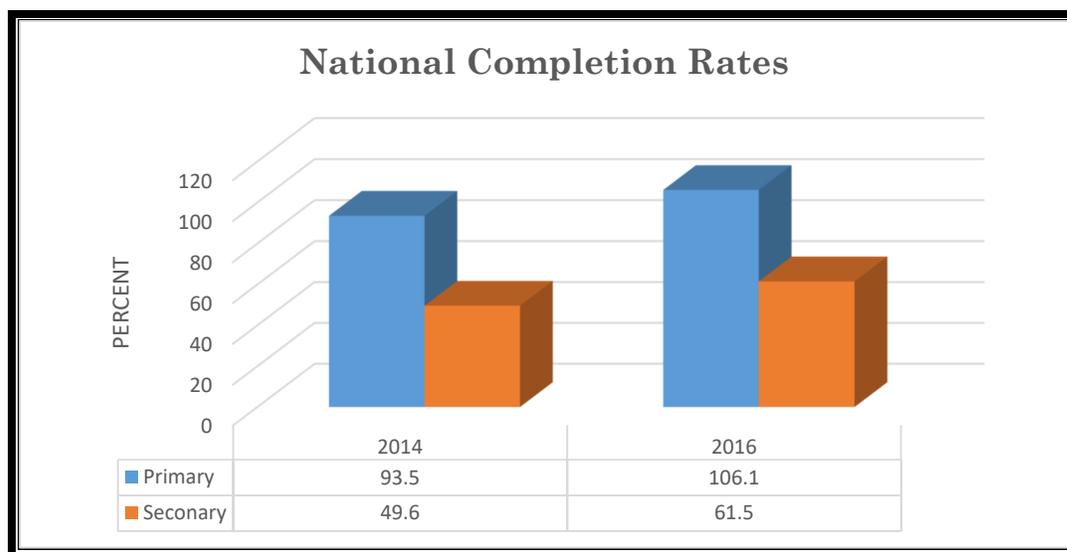


Figure 4.1 Proportion of children that complete primary and secondary education.

b) Access to technical, vocational and tertiary education.

To ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, the country strengthened its institutions of higher learning. Some colleges were upgraded to universities and diverse academic institutions were established. The scholarship programme was

reinforced by other governments which increased the number of tertiary trained students. There was also an increase in the number of students enrolled for Technical and Vocational Educational Training (TVET) in the past three years.

The following table shows baseline for the number of youth and adults that participated in formal and non-formal education and training as outlined in the Annual Census report 2014.

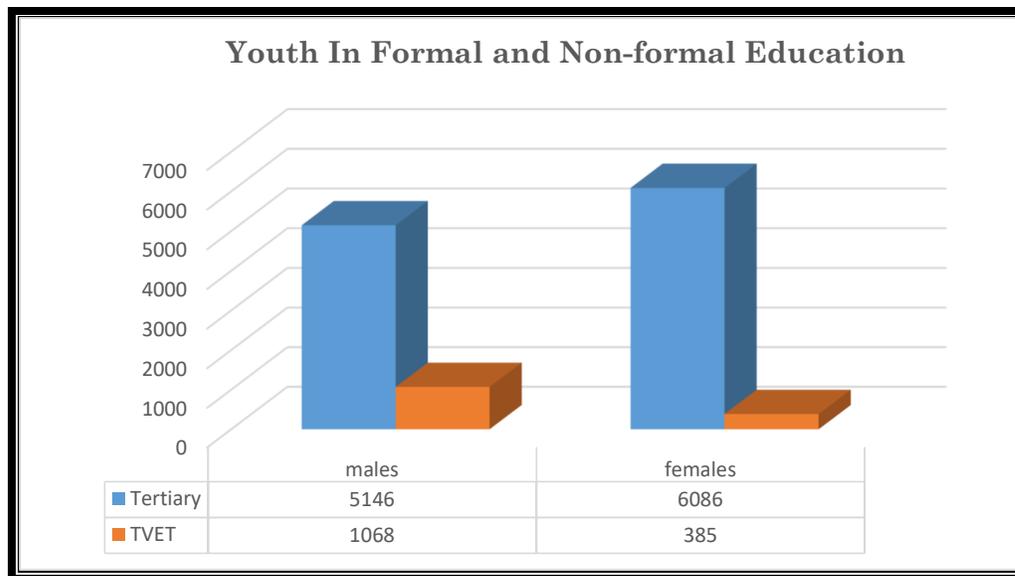


Figure 4.2 Number of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education.

c) Literacy rate

The country mainstreamed the global citizenship education, gender human rights in its curriculum, national education policies and in teacher education programmes. In addition, the number of qualified teachers increased by about 8.7% between 2015 and 2017 in a bid to increase the literacy rate. This is the percentage of the population aged 15 to 24 years who can read and write a short simple statement in a language with understanding. The literacy rate at the national level is at 95.30% as shown in the table below.

Table 4.1 Population with a given level of education proficiency

Disaggregation	Literacy rate
Nationally	95.3%
Urban	95.6%
Rural	94.2

4.3 Challenges

- a) Unaffordability of school fees leading to low attendance at secondary schools, including vocational training.
- a) OVC grant not adequate, leading to school drop outs.
- b) Mismatch of skills training with job market needs.
- c) Growth of education sector needs exceed changes in government resource envelop.
- d) Inadequate capacity and resources to monitor the quality and relevance of education.

4.4 Emerging issues

- a) Need to include issues of NCDs in the school curriculum.
- b) The focus must shift towards quality education and move away from access.

4.5 Lessons learned

- a) Increased investment by government to primary education has a positive impact on enrolment rates which should be applied to address the challenge of access to secondary schools.
- b) Lack of coordination amongst all stakeholders implementing SDG4 has resulted in challenges in tracking progress.

4.6 Actions taken to address existing gaps and challenges

- a) Government has trained teachers for ECCD and ICT but these have not been absorbed or recruited in ECCD centres.
- b) Development of ICT curriculum for secondary education.
- c) Partnerships with development agencies, NGOs and private sector.

4.7 Areas of support

- a) Increase the OVC school grants.
- b) Increase social protection safety nets and grants and track the recipients adequately.
- c) Improve information systems for targeting vulnerable populations.
- d) Expand free education to secondary school.
- e) Scholarships must be accessible to students.
- f) Provision of ICT equipment (software & hardware) internet connectivity or infrastructure.
- g) Monitoring education quality and relevance.
- h) Development of SDG4 roadmap 2020-2030.

4.8 Key messages

- a) Skills acquired in training institutions to match the job market.
- b) Scale up free education to secondary school.

- c) Capacity strengthening for teachers in braille and sign language.
- d) Introduce vocational education in primary schools.
- e) Increase investment for educational programmes.

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



6.1 Introduction

This goal aims to achieve universal, sustainable and equitable access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030. This corresponds with goal 1 of Agenda 2063. In response to the global goals, a Strategy for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2016-2030 that provides a framework to guide our work related to water, sanitation and hygiene over the next 15 years was developed. On another note, a medium term strategy was formulated titled the Wash Sector Development Strategy 2017 to 2022.

The country has further enhanced the water sector policy environment by developing the Integrated Water Resources Management Draft Masterplan (2016) and enacting the National Water policy (2018). Furthermore, Transboundary Water Agreements have been signed with the neighbouring countries of the Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa. Therefore, all transboundary water basins have an operational arrangement for cooperation. Awareness campaigns on wetland protection and preservation were conducted in strategic communities.

The National Sanitation policy (2019) and the Sanitation & Hygiene Strategy were developed to promote access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene. Improved sanitation approaches have been introduced in some schools and households to increase the proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services. Awareness on the hand washing policy was communicated in all schools and most communities.

To effectively execute SDG 6, the country received foreign aid from various development partners and donors. These include The African Development Bank,

European Development Fund, Opec Fund for International Development and The United Nations Children’s Fund.

6.2 Trends and Analysis

a) Access to safe and affordable water

To achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable water for all the people of Eswatini, the country enforced quality construction standards for new structures built in urban areas and this included measures for clean drinking water. Micro water schemes were initiated in rural areas to promote access to clean and safe drinking water, initiatives supported by Government and development partners. According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (2014) the proportion of households using safely managed water sources nationally is 72% which is disaggregated as 96% urban population and 63% rural populace.

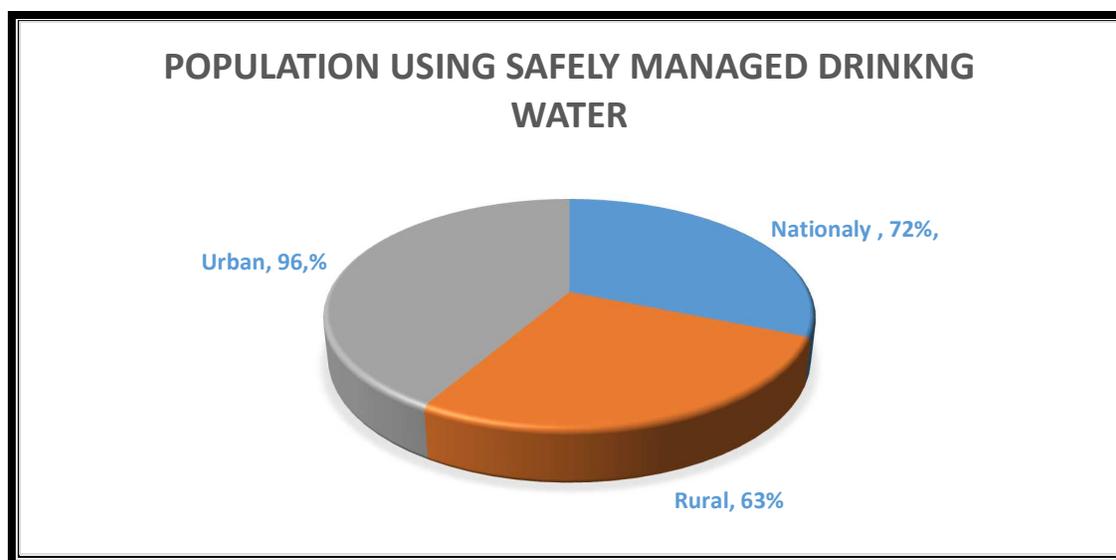


Figure 6.1: Proportion of population with access to clean water

b) Access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene services.

To ensure the effective use of tools and actions that keep our environment healthy and contribute to good health, the country developed the Water and Sanitation sector. This includes environmental stakeholders from various organisations and departments. According to Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2014 the proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services at national level was 53% which comprises of 78% in the rural areas and 94% in urban populace.

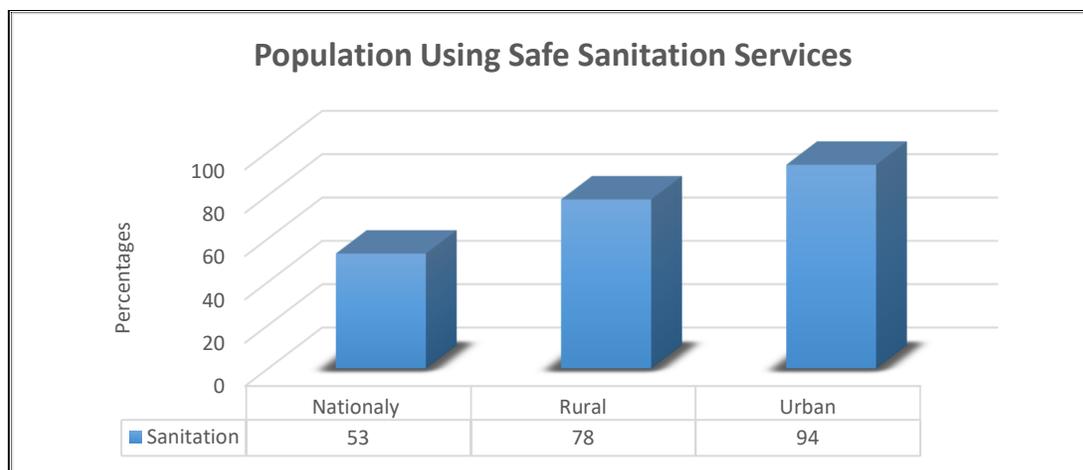


Figure 6.2: Population using safe sanitation services

The country also monitors the hand washing policy and aims to end open defecation by 2022.

c) Improving the quality of water

The country established the water quality control department to monitor the proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality and to ensure that water bodies are compliant with set water quality standards. The latest annual water quality laboratory reports indicate that the proportion of treated waste water from industries and urban areas is about 75%. Furthermore, all river waters are within ambient conditions.

6.3 Challenges and Improvement measures

- a) Absence of rural water supply services legislation.
- b) The absence swap coordination unit leads to poor coordination in the sector.
- c) Lack of monitoring and evaluation unit within the department of water affairs to monitor underground water quantity and quality.
- d) Agricultural practices contribute to water pollution e.g. the use of farm chemicals for crops and animals.
- e) Inadequate water harvesting technics.
- f) Water and sanitation access to rural areas remain low.
- g) Mushrooming of informal settlements which affects the provision of WASH services.

6.5 Emerging issues

- a) Climate change affects the water sector and results in prolonged water stress.
- b) Water harvesting technologies need to be adopted such as using renewable energy to harvest water, building more water dams for water and learning from other countries.
- c) There is need to develop the wetlands policy.
- d) The reclassification of sanitation by introducing shared facilities as an unimproved sanitation criteria.
- e) There is a need to move from plastics to bio-degradable material (to promote dry toilets).

6.6 Lessons learned

- Climate smart agricultural practices should be used to save water.
- There is need to protect and properly manage the ecological infrastructure e.g. wetlands.
- Environmental law enforcement is necessary to ensure effective and efficient policy implementation at all levels.
- Strengthening of coordination in the sector.
- There is need to strengthen coordination and regulation of water distribution programmes and projects within the country and ensure periodic reporting on progress.

6.7 Action taken to address existing gaps and challenges

- a) Public Private Partnerships approach is currently being piloted in the country on portable water supply services.
- b) Reviewed the rural water supply projects procurement system for improved service delivery.

6.8 Areas for support:

- Expansion of the SADC Hydrological Cycle Observation System (HYCOS) to improve in real time hydrological/river flow measurements.
- Geo-referenced Water point mapping which gives us a clear distinction between access and coverage.
- Water quality monitoring equipment and reagents especially for rural water supply.
- Sanitation and hygiene mapping and creating awareness on the use of biodegradable material e.g. dry toilets.
- Infrastructure development e.g. fully fledged laboratories.
- Increase portable water supply coverage to *'leave no one behind'*.

6.9 Key messages

- Climate change mitigation measures should be mainstreamed in the water sector strategic plans for sustainable water supply.
- Water harvesting technologies should be strengthened from household level to ensure sustainability of both surface and underground water.
- The use of biodegradable material in sanitation and hygiene protects underground water quality.

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



7.1 Introduction

This goal aims at ensuring affordable and clean energy for all. It considers issues of energy efficiency and intensity. This links with goal 1 of African Union Agenda 2063: A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All. Meaningful improvements will require higher levels of financing and bolder policy commitments, together with the willingness of countries to embrace new technologies on a much wider scale. Eswatini has diverse energy resources, including biomass, coal, hydro and solar. These resources, in particular biomass, supply a major proportion of energy consumption. While all petroleum products, and coal and almost 75% of electricity is imported. The Kingdom has embarked on a power procurement process which seeks to deliver 40MW solar and 40MW biomass in the next 3 – 5 years.

The country has adopted the following policy frameworks; the National Energy Policy, National Energy Efficiency Policy, National Energy Implementation Strategy (2018) and Eswatini Energy Master Plan of 2018 – 2034 to scale up energy access through consideration of off-grid solutions and to introduce energy efficiency interventions which will support the country's drive towards industrialisation. The Independent Power Producer Policy and Short Term Generation Expansion plan were put in place to promote the use of renewable energy. Furthermore, a regulatory authority for the energy sector was established

called the Eswatini Energy Regulatory Authority to ensure sustainable access to affordable, reliable and modern energy.

Implementing this goal is a collective effort from Government and development partners. External support was received from the African Development Bank Energy Sector Technical Assistance Programme for sound investment in electricity supply infrastructure and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) for developing a long term energy planning programme.

7.2 Trends Analysis

a) Access to affordable, reliable and modern energy

The country has put in place means to ensure equitable and affordable access to clean energy for people living in both urban and rural areas. The Rural electricity programme has two resource envelopes that run in parallel to improve access to electricity for the rural population. Government provides 90% funding for rural electricity schemes and other partners provide 100% funding for extension of the electricity grid to rural communities. According to the Annual Energy reports the proportion of household with access to electricity nationally increased from 69% in 2014 to 78% in 2018. This growth is further disaggregated in the figure below:

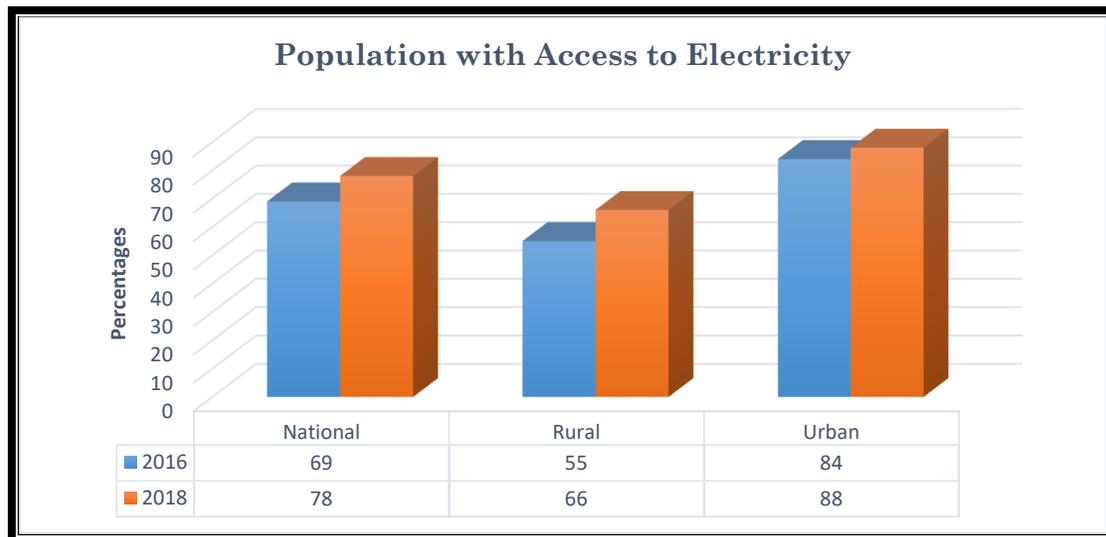


Figure 7.1 Proportion of household with access to electricity

The power grid system has stabilized through the introduction of the 3 phased system and electricity procurement means have been automated to ensure access.

b) Improving energy efficiency

The country has developed a number of strategies on the demand side of management to improve energy efficiency. The aim was to reduce the amount of energy required to provide products and services. However, the energy intensity measure of energy inefficiency showed an increase in total primary energy from 1042.72 ktoe in 2015 to 1069.97 ktoe, meaning that energy per unit of GDP increased from 0.0261 to 0.0264. This indicates a high price or cost of converting energy into GDP.

7.3 Challenges

- a) Energy data collection affected by strained resources and reluctance by stakeholders to provide information.
- b) Electricity prices are on the rise which affects electricity affordability.
- c) Awareness on LPG needs to be scaled up to address negative perceptions.
- d) Local mines should be re-opened and terms should be favourable to investors for power production purposes.

7.4 Emerging issues

- a) Government is trying to stop the use of incandescent lights and other electric appliances and to switch to more efficient technologies.
- b) Procurement process for 40W solar and 40MW biomass underway and interested investors encouraged to participate.
- c) High capital costs for renewable energy projects.

7.6 Lessons learned

- a) Instalment of less efficient energy technologies is cheap but costly in terms of energy consumption over time as compared to the instalment of more efficient technologies.
- b) ESERA needs to build more awareness on sustainable energy production and consumption and avail more opportunities in the sector.
- c) The country needs to establish more energy generation opportunities for electricity in order to reduce costs and overreliance on other countries.
- d) There is a key role for local financiers and investors to play a role in the development of the energy sector.

7.5 Describe what actions have been taken to address existing gaps and challenges

- a) Reviewing of electricity laws.
- b) Formulation of regulations on energy efficiency.
- c) Working with Eswatini Standards Authority to develop standard specifications for electrical appliances.

- d) Establishment Solar plant 13.5 MW in Lavumisa.
- e) Development of energy efficiency building codes through working with the energy regulator and construction departments.

7.6 Areas for support

- a) Funding for projects to increase local generation of electricity.
- b) Technical support for collecting and analysing energy data.
- c) Technical studies for exploring clean cooking technologies at the residential level

7.7 Key messages

- a) The use of clean energy efficient technologies is the way to go.
- b) Alternative energy production technologies should be considered.
- c) Improve efficiency in local production of electricity.
- e) Financiers and investors have a key role to play in developing the sector

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



8.1 Introduction

This goal is about inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. This is in-line with goal 4 of Agenda 2063: Transformed Economies and Job Creation. The target for Least Developed Countries for this Goal is to achieve at least 7% growth in per capita gross domestic product (GDP) per year. The World Bank (2016) calculates that Eswatini requires a minimum growth rate of 5% per annum in real GDP, or a growth rate of 2.3% per annum in real per capita GDP to reduce poverty and inequality. Eswatini aspires to achieve a high standard of living by emphasising sustainable and inclusive economic growth through science, technology, and innovation, driven by light scale manufacturing, commercialising small-scale agriculture, and promoting artisanal, large scale mining and local entrepreneurs.

The country revised its National Decent Work Policy (2015) to align to new developments in the labour sector, hence the National Decentralisation Policy (2018) is in place. The Decent Work Country Programme (2019 – 2023) is currently under development. The Labour Force survey was conducted on the country's human resource to provide information for decision makers on labour market related issues. To promote sustainable economic growth, Government recently launched the National Development Plan for the medium term 2019/20 – 2021/2022. This was aimed at addressing development challenges by pursuing

economic recovery in all the sectors. The Kingdom of Eswatini Strategic Road Map 2018 -2023 for short term economic recovery interventions was developed to ensure a quick turnaround in some strategic sectors. The National Micro Small and Medium Enterprises policy 2018 is in place.

8.2 Trends Analysis

a) Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances.

Revised estimates for GDP growth indicate that the economy grew by 1.3% in 2016, an upward revision from the September 2016 estimate of -0.6%, but remained marginally lower than the revised estimates of 1.5% growth in 2015. The improvement in economic performance mainly benefited from outputs in the secondary sector. The actual growth rate of real GDP remained constant from 2015 to 2017 and stood at 1.9%. The actual growth rate of real GDP improved at a declining rate from 0.4% in 2015 to 0.62% in 2018. The GDP per capita grew from \$2798 in 2015 to \$4071 in 2018 mainly due to a decline in population.

b) Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation.

Economic growth in a country can be attributed either to increased employment or more production on average by those employed. The statistics on labour is a key measure of economic and labour market performance. The annual growth rate of real GDP per employed increased by 1% between 2015 and 2017. Performance on the different economic sectors is demonstrated in the figure below:

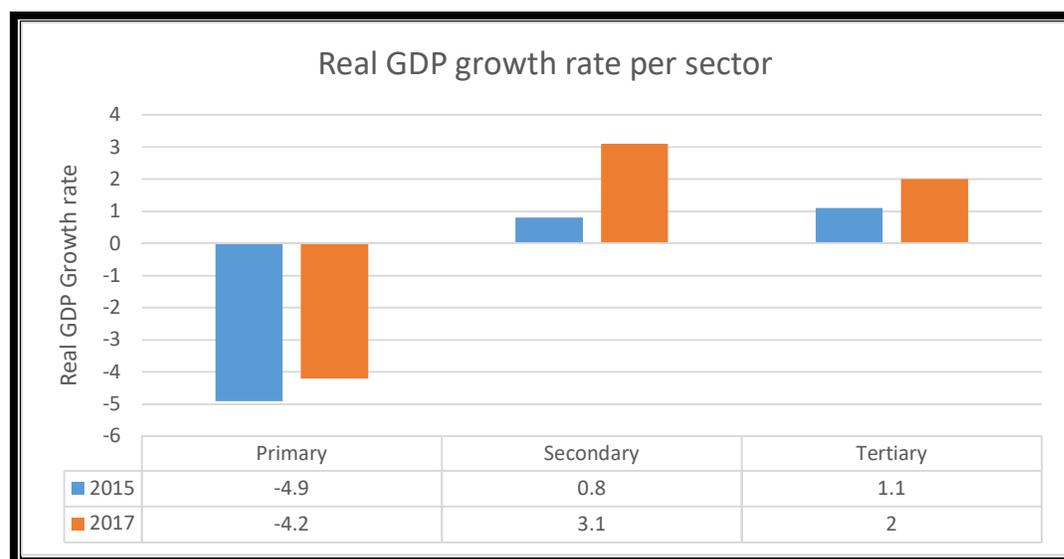


Figure 8.1: Annual growth rate of real GDP per sector

- c) **Promote productive activities, creation of decent jobs, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small-and medium-sized enterprises.**

The quality of employment in the economy is applicable to all countries. There was an increase of about 10% in the proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture sector nationally when comparing the 2013 and 2016 Labour Force Survey Reports, from 54.3% in 2013 to 65.2% in 2016. About 67,582 (sixty-seven thousand five hundred and eighty two) Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) were established and 14,765 (fourteen thousand seven hundred and sixty-five) were registered. The Financial Inclusion Strategy (2016) has improved access to Finance for MSME, including the informal sector.

- d) **Full and productive employment and decent work for all.**

Working population by sex and age.

The working age population is most pronounced between ages 25 and 34 at 37.9% for females and 45.6% for males. The ages 65 and above category has the least number of working population (Labour force Survey 2016) as shown below:

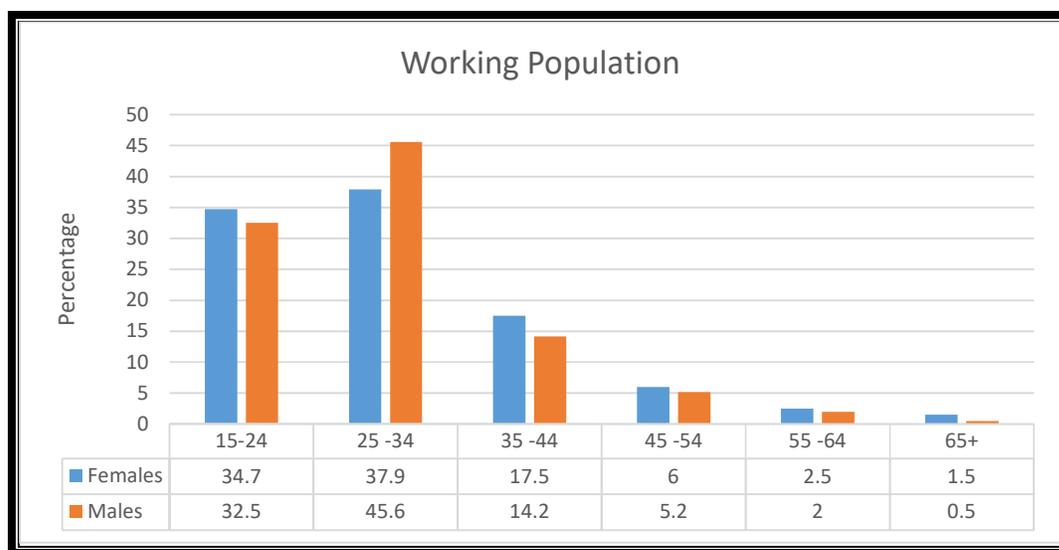


Figure 8.3 Working population by age and sex

Unemployment by sex and age

The Labour force survey 2016 indicates a decline in national unemployment by almost 5% between 2013 and 2016, from 28.1% to 23%. This was a result of the implementation of government’s poverty reduction initiatives aimed at empowering rural communities to achieve sustainable livelihoods. There are

programmes and funds in place to reduce youth unemployment, such as the Youth Enterprise fund and Junior Achievement Awards. The table below shows the proportions of unemployed persons by age groups.

Table 8.1: Unemployed persons by Sex and Age

<i>Age group</i>	2013	2016	2013	2016
	Males (percentages)	Males (percentages)	Females (percentages)	Females (percentages)
<i>15-24</i>	33	34.7	32	32.5
<i>25 -34</i>	40.7	37.9	41.7	45.6
<i>35 -44</i>	14.4	17.5	14.9	14.2
<i>45 -54</i>	8.4	6	8.2	5.2
<i>55 -64</i>	2.6	2.5	2.4	2
<i>65+</i>	0.9	1.5	0.7	0.5

Labour Force survey 2013 and 2016.

8.4 Challenges

- a) Ease of doing business is not sufficient in the country.
- b) In spite of the current poverty reduction initiatives in place, youth unemployment remains high.
- c) Dwindling economy with overreliance on SACU receipts.
- d) Disability mainstreaming is still a challenge especially in education and in employment opportunities.
- e) Retirement has a knock on effect on the employment rate.
- f) Firm workers are paid low salaries.
- g) Inadequate budget for conducting socio-economic and labour related surveys.
- h) Vulnerability to external shocks leading to poor and slow implementation of programmes and policies.

8.5 Emerging Issues

- a) Climate change issues need more adaptive and responsive strategies.
- b) Current and future trade agreements that might have a negative impact on the country's economy.

8.6 Lessons learned

- a) The skills in the market should be aligned to national policies.
- b) Analyze the skill set of the country to inform policy direction.
- c) Need for business mentorship for SMMEs.
- d) Need for improved coordination and collaboration among stakeholders to improve economic growth.

8.7 Actions taken to address existing gaps and challenges

- a) The National Development Strategy was revised and renamed the Strategy for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth.
- b) Kingdom of Eswatini Strategic Roadmap 2018/9 to 2022/3 is in place.
- c) The National Development Plan 2018/19 to 2022/3 is in place.
- d) Some poverty reduction funds (e.g. rural development fund, Youth Enterprise) have been revised and the monitoring aspect strengthened.
- e) Capacity buildings to strengthen SMME development is continuously done.
- f) The Financial Inclusion Strategy has strengthened access to finance for SMME development.

8.8 Areas for support

- a) Develop the Labour Market Information System.
- b) Conduct the Labour Force Surveys at least annually.
- c) Capacity building for MSME on International Standards.
- d) Support to conduct the Economic Census every five years to update the GDP base year.
- e) Support to develop mentorship programmes.

8.9 Key Messages

- a) Introduce Technical and Vocational Education Training at grassroots level to expedite the economy.
- b) Countries should move towards setting better minimum wages to ensure decent lives for all.
- c) Increase support MSME development to drive economic growth.
- d) Job creation especially for the youth.

SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.



9.1 Introduction

Goal 9 is about resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and innovation. This conforms to goal 10 of the African Union Agenda 2063: World Class Infrastructure criss-crosses Africa. The country has a public investment programme in place that addresses public policy issues across sectors in terms of infrastructure development needs. The current focus is on increasing the coverage of its strategic rail and road network and reinforcing participation in regional infrastructural development initiatives, such as the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (SADC). To improve water resources development and water harvesting infrastructure, feasibility studies for dam constructions are currently ongoing. Completed projects include Maguga and Lubovane dams.

For effective and efficient implementation of the Information Communication and Technology sector, the country is reviewing the National Information Communication Infrastructure Policy of 2006. The Royal Science and Technology Park Act of 2012 was enacted to establish Phocweni (Innovation and Technology) park and Nokwane (Bio-Technology) park. Furthermore, the Electronic Act of 2012 was enacted to establish the Information Communications Technology regulator called Eswatini Communications Commission to regulate the ICT sector.

The National Transport Policy and Masterplan are in place for a robust transport sector. The Road Outspan Act was developed to regulate the road infrastructure. Finally, the Construction Industry Council was established to regulate the construction industry. Together these policies aim towards building resilient and sustainable infrastructure.

The National Industrial Development Policy 2015 – 2020 is in place. Special Economic Zones for Foreign Direct Investment sites were allocated in Matsapha Industrial area. A new development site at Sidvokodvo has been identified as an area for expansion.

9.2 Trends Analysis

a) Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure

The basic role of transport infrastructure is to generate connections between geographically separated locations for both commercial and individual needs. The implementation of the capital programme in the country was affected by the adverse fiscal situation. The proportion of gazetted roads network was very insignificant as shown by the figure below:

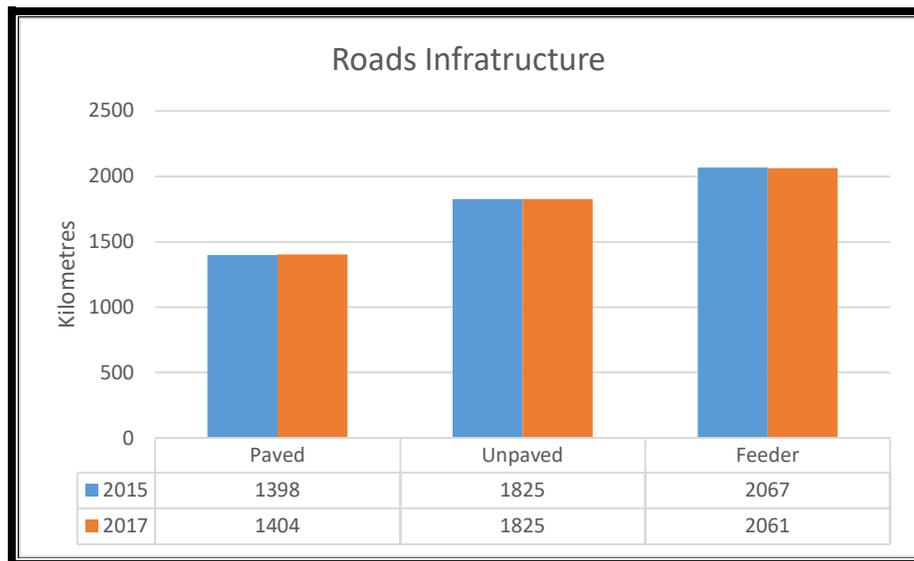


Figure 9.1 Proportion of gazetted road network accessible all year round

Although the progress in implementing the Transport Master plan is limited, the quality of roads have improved and accessibility for persons living with disabilities increased. Guide blocks along the feeder roads and disability friendly traffic lights along busy town streets have been put in place.

b) Passenger and freight volumes, by rail and air transport

The county has two major parastatals for air and rail transport, namely: the Eswatini Civil Aviation Authority, an organisation set up to promote safe, secure, regular and efficient air transport services from Eswatini to the republic of South Africa; and the Eswatini Railway, an organization that provides transport services

for import and export of commodities as well as transit cargo. The table below shows data on passenger and freight volumes by rail and air transport obtained from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport Annual Reports:

Table 9.1 Passenger and freight volumes, by rail and air transport

	2016	2017
Air Transport passengers	56 785	56 755
Rail transport Exports(sugar , cane fruits, coal and containers)	239 000 tonnes	224 000 tonnes
Rail Imports (P.O.L/TC, cement , wheat, containers)	250 000 tonnes	265 000 tonnes
Transit traffic (magnetite, rock phosphate, fuel and other ores)	7019 000 tonnes	7628 000 tonnes

c) Population covered by a mobile network, by technology.

The country is covered by the 2G and 3G network. The 4G has been licensed and has been deployed

9.3 Challenges

- a) The physical infrastructure does not respond to the prioritised needs of the country to the achievement of a certain economic goal.
- b) The available infrastructures for the disabled needs to be rolled out to all areas.
- c) Lack of schools which are conducive for the disabled at regional level.
- d) General maintenance of existing road networks and other public infrastructure is a challenge.
- e) The current industrial area is now saturated and there is a need to decentralise.
- f) There is not much value addition in the manufacturing sector.
- g) Lack of funding for Research and Development (R&D) for innovation, infrastructure and industrialization.
- h) Currently internet costs are relatively high, thus eliminating inclusive and innovative growth and acting as one of the major challenges for investment in the country.
- i) Dwindling FDI.
- j) Turnaround time for procurement process is lengthy.
- k) High utility costs makes investment difficult for operators to engage in business.

9.4 Emerging Issues

- a) One of our major exports through the rail network has been coal for thermal production but it is now under threat as there is now a growing concern globally over its use because of its high carbon emissions and the environment impact these have.
- b) High traffic volumes putting pressure on the road infrastructure emanating from grey imports and heavy trucks.

9.5 Lessons learned

- a) Previously, industrial land was being sold but Government has since prioritized leasing the land which has led to more efficient industrial activity.

9.6 Actions that have been taken to address existing gaps and challenges

- a) RSTP, ICT parks and special economic zones establishment.
- b) The 5 - 7% levy is now charged on imported vehicles in addition to the 15% VAT charge.
- c) Introduced the pro-base road programme (200km annually).

9.6.1 Areas for support

- a) Full implementation of structures such as RSTP.
- b) Building more inclusive schools to support people living with disabilities.
- c) Investment in Research and Development (R&D) and ICT infrastructures.
- d) Industry driven training that will support industrialization.
- e) Securing funding to link east -south roads, which will link parts of Shiselweni – Lubombo – Manzini.

9.6.2 Key messages

- a) Decentralize infrastructure and promote innovation nationally.

SDG13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



13.1 Introduction

The Eswatini Environment Action Plan consists of strategies to address environmental problems, including climate change. This corresponds to goal 7 of the African Union Agenda 2063: Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities. Agriculture forms the base of the economy, as a large part of the manufacturing sector is agro-based. Therefore, diversification of economic activities is necessary if the country is to reduce its level of vulnerability to climate change. The health sector is likely to be adversely affected by climate change due to an increase in vector-borne diseases resulting from increased temperature and precipitation. Water resources and biodiversity have been recognized as resources at risk from climate change. The First National Communication Report of 21 May 2002, adaptation options were identified to address these issues.

The climate is generally sub-tropical with wet and hot summers and cool and dry winters. However, the country is predisposed to natural disasters that disrupt this seasonal pattern. There was a severe drought during the period of 1989 until 1994, and the region has also experienced tropical cyclones and storms. Climate change is likely to affect the occurrence and scale of these disasters and their associated impacts.

Climate Change increases climate related disaster risks, particular in terms of extreme weather events resulting in increased vulnerability and exposure. This disrupts livelihoods, leads to loss of life and results in non-functional social and economic systems.

13.2 Trends

a) Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters

The Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) 2015 – 2030 calls for national governments to adopt and implement national DRR strategies with their own targets, indicators and timeframes. Eswatini reviewed its National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and developed a National Resilience Strategy and Disaster Risk Reduction Plan of Action (2017 – 2021). DRR has been mainstreamed into the National Development Plan (2019/20 – 2021/2022) and the Seasonal Multi-Hazard Contingency Plan (2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018) was reviewed.

The most common type of disaster in the country is drought. This is annually monitored by the Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC). The number of persons affected by draught declined by almost 3% between 2015 and 2017. The disaster loss and damages accounting system was established to strengthen records management systems.

b) Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

The country developed the National Climate Change Policy and Strategy 2016 and the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2014-2019). A technical needs assessment was drawn from the Climate Change Policy and Strategy geared to strengthening institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building on climate change mitigation, adaptation and impact reduction, including the deployment of technologies that will help fast-track this goal. Furthermore, the Kingdom is currently preparing the Fourth National Communication (TNC) with the technology transfer needs and actions.

c) Improve education, awareness-raising on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

To strengthen DRR awareness in the education sector, disaster issues were integrated in the revised education policy. The Emergency Education Action Plan is in place. Finally, DRR key concepts have been integrated into curricula for both primary and tertiary institutions (MSc in Climate Change and Sustainable Development (UNESWA) and professional certificate on DRR).

There is a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System forum, which involves a number of stakeholders that introduce and update the climate curriculum at schools. There are elements of climate change that have been mainstreamed in the schools curricula. They have updated the Junior Certificate Geography Syllabus.

13.3 Challenges

- a) Raising awareness takes long because it involves behavioural change.
- b) Insufficient resources to finance DRR initiatives and projects against available comprehensive plans and programmes.
- c) Lack of National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) that can be owned by all sectors. The strategy has to succeed the obsolete National Action Plan (NAP) for DRR 2008-2015.
- d) Lack of National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for DRR to generate evidence to influence policy.
- e) Weak mainstreaming of DRR into sector budgets, although achievements have been attained in mainstreaming DRR into sector plans.
- f) Weak synergies between DRR and Climate Change Adaptation.

13.4 Emerging issues

- a) Traditional technology can mitigate some challenges but no-one is investing in them.
- b) Review of National DRR policy to align it to the focus of global policy framework.
- c) Cash based transfer concept now used to transfer disaster assistance.
- d) Integration of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to DRR for hazard mapping and analysis (use of unmanned aerial vehicles/Drones and Amphibian Vehicles).
- e) Integration of indigenous knowledge management systems for DRR.
- f) Proliferation of research studies in relation to DRR in the country.

13.5 Lessons learned

- a) Traditional farming methods were better.
- b) Need to motivate farmers to increase production through climate smart technologies.
- c) DRR financing windows (external and internal) are diminishing. Government can't adequately finance DRR programmes due to her liquidity crisis while donor community cannot cope with the requests at global level.
- d) Vulnerability in Eswatini is socially constructed (caused by human actions) besides climate change and other drivers.
- e) Transboundary cooperation with neighbouring countries through Strategic Partnership Agreements (SPA) is a cornerstone for DRR.

13.6 Areas for support

- a) To conduct awareness on climate smart technologies and practices.

- b) Capitalisation and operationalization of the Disaster Emergency Response Fund as established by the Disaster Management Act 2006.

13.7 Key messages

- a) Build capacity for government officials on climate smart technologies.
- b) Promote climate change technologies since it is a cross cutting issue.
- c) Making DRR an integral component to national development planning and development practice.

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



16.1 Introduction

Despite the knowledge that the Kingdom of Eswatini is a peaceful country, to achieve the SDGs the country needs to address corruption, crime and human rights violations. This is in-line with African Union Agenda 2063 goal 13: Preserve Peace, Security and Stability. It is important that governments, non-government organizations, private sector, civil society, communities and individuals work together to implement lasting solutions to reduce violence, deliver justice, combat corruption and ensure inclusive participation at all times. This will ensure that people everywhere are free of fear from all forms of violence and feel safe as they go about their lives, no matter what their ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation is.

Government has strengthened the sector by putting in place some policies and programmes to ensure peaceful communities. These include the enactment of the Human Trafficking and Smuggling Act 9 of 2009 and the legislative framework for sexual offences and domestic violence has been strengthened by the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act of 2018. Furthermore, the Human Rights and Integrity Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission unit were established. A multi sectoral task team was put in place to combat crime and a One-stop centre for domestic violence cases was established. Finally, child friendly courts and digitalized vital (court processes, remote remand, digital collection of evidence) services have been rolled out in all of the administrative regions.

16.2 Trends analysis

a) Reducing all forms of violence and related death rates

Security from violence is a pre-requisite for individuals to enjoy a safe and active life and for societies to develop freely. Violence and related death rates is a composite indicator constructed by measuring two types of death, intentional and conflict. Eswatini has very insignificant cases of conflict-related deaths of about 0.0017%. However the number of victims of intentional homicide are evident and on the rise and most murder cases have a similar pattern of missing body parts which could be associated with ritual killings. Others were through irresponsible parenting e.g. drowning of toddlers. The population in Eswatini is 1,093,238 according to the 2017 Population Census report. The information below is for the entire population. Monitoring intentional homicides is necessary to better assess their causes and consequences and, in the longer term, to develop effective prevention measures. The Table below shows the trend analysis from annual Police Reports.

Table 16.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide in the entire population

By Age	2016	2017
<i>0 – 17 years</i>	9	13
<i>18 - 24 years</i>	18	24
<i>25 years and above</i>	85	96
By Gender		
<i>Males</i>	83	100
<i>Females</i>	29	33
Total number of deaths	112	133

Royal Eswatini Police Annual Reports

e) End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

The Human trafficking and Smuggling department was established and an Anti-Human traffic task force is in operation for effective monitoring of human trafficking. Human trafficking is a major violation of the victim's human rights, dignity and inclusion to society. It has an impact on a person's health and opportunities, it creates economic inequalities and it is a threat to personal security. The study on the Drivers of Violence against children in Eswatini (2015) was done to inform the proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced

any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers and of young women aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence.

f) Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

This entails the number of victims of violent crime (physical or sexual assault) in the previous 12 months who reported their last incident to competent authorities or through other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms. Competent authorities includes police, prosecutors or other authorities with competencies to investigate certain crimes (such as corruption or fraud). Trends in reporting rates of violent crime can be used to monitor public trust and confidence in the security system on the basis of actual behaviour and not perceptions. The National Surveillance System on Violence Annual Report gave the following trend analysis.

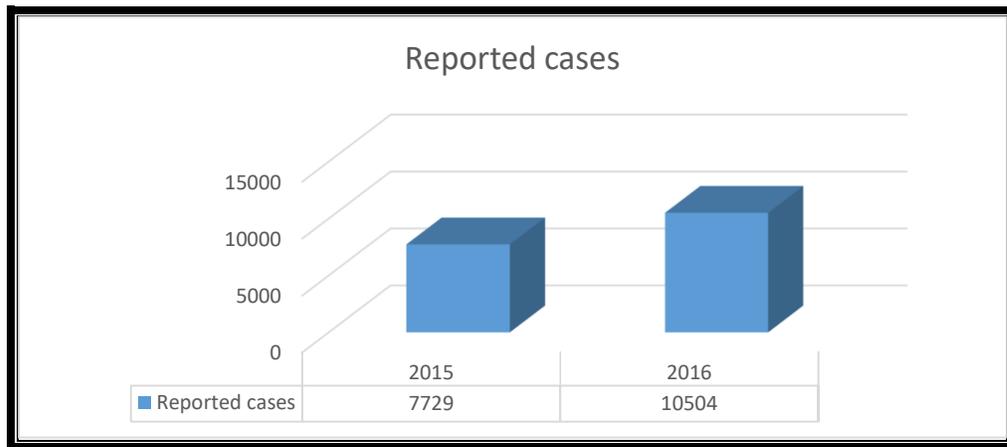


Figure 16.1 Annual number of reported cases of violence

g) Silencing of the guns

As a means to significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime, the country strengthened its operations and initiatives to recover illegal firearms. The Annual Police Reports show that there was an increase in the number of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced.

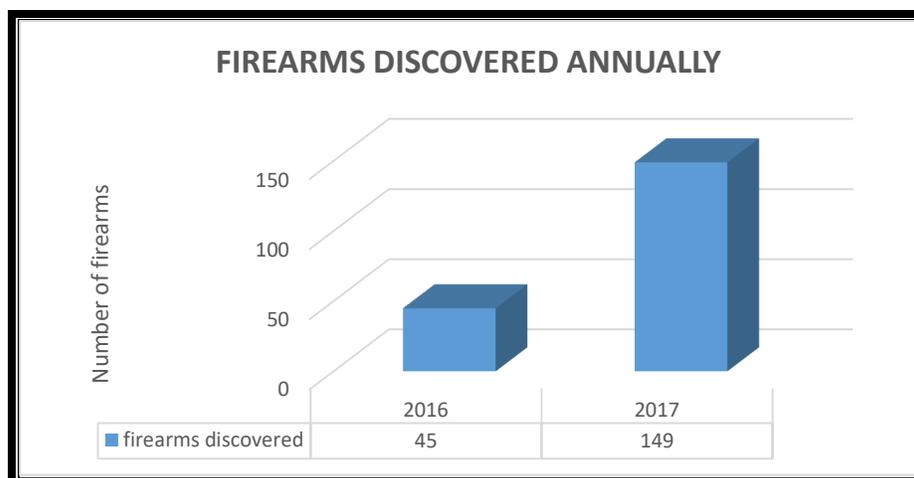


Figure 16.2: Proportion of seized small arms and light weapons

16.3 Challenges

- a) Centralized human rights services and limited advocacy on services provided.
- b) Capacity strengthening for all parties involved in peace, justice and strong institutions.
- c) Lack of resources (human, financial, operational equipment).
- d) Backlog of cases.
- e) Poor coordination of institutions working towards peace and security.

16.4 Emerging issues

- a) Dynamism of transnational and organized crime (cyber-crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, firearms trafficking, corruption etc.).

16.5 Lessons learned

- a) Good partnerships with development partners has increased coverage and achievements in social sectors.
- b) Importance of integration among institutions working towards the same target e.g. multi-sectoral task teams.

16.6 Actions taken to address existing gaps and challenges

- a) Continued financial and technical support to mitigate crime.
- b) Information flow was a challenge, hence a sectoral approach was adopted.
- c) Operationalization of case management system by the Ministry of Justice.
- d) Construction of infrastructure (specialized courts, court rooms).
- e)

16.7 Areas for support

- a) Strengthen technical capacity of the Human Rights and Integrity Commission.
- b) All government ministries to partner with civil society in ensuring peace and stability
- c) Strengthen the implementation of sector wide development plans to improve planning, monitoring and evaluation of programs and interventions.
- d) Support prevention and response to violence combating interventions.
- e) Evidence generation and documentation to inform planning, budgeting and decision making.
- f) Infrastructure development (forensics laboratory, court rooms, specialized courts).
- g) Financial and technical support for an integrated justice system.

16.8 Key messages

- a) Interrogate emerging issues impacting on peace safety and justice.
- b) Develop a comprehensive strategy to mitigate against crimes of violence and organized crimes.
- c) Improve coordination within institutions working towards good governance.

SDG17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.



17.1 Introduction

A successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. Continental financial and monetary institutions established and functional. This is in-line with African Union Agenda 2063 goal 9: At the global level, it was agreed that serious action is needed to mobilize, redirect and unlock the transformative power of trillions of dollars of private resources across the globe to deliver on sustainable development objectives. It was further established that long-term investments, including foreign direct investment, are needed in critical sectors (such as sustainable energy, infrastructure and transport, as well as information and communications technologies), especially in developing countries. The public sector's primary role is this transformative process was considered to be to set a clear direction. The review and monitoring of frameworks, regulations and incentive structures that enable long term investments were to be retooled to attract more investments and reinforce sustainable development.

In late 2017, Cabinet approved the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth as the national development framework that aligns regional and global development frameworks and conventions after a review process. The Aid Policy of 2000 was revised and finalised to inform development of the National Development Cooperation Policy 2019. This will serve as a guide to all relevant agencies of Government, development partners, civil society organizations and other stakeholders on coordination and management of development cooperation resources.

17.2 Trends

a) Strengthen domestic resource mobilization

This indicator measures the total fiscal income. Taxes include personal and corporate income taxes. The tax to GDP ratio is the leading indicator to estimate the financial domestic means of a government to conduct its programme to raise resources in order to supply physical infrastructure, public goods and services. Domestic revenue without grants declined by about 2.4% between 2016 and 2017. The level of grants received in the country increased by about 30%. Meanwhile, there was an increase in the level of GDP by approximately 1.3%.

b) External Assistance to Eswatini, 2012/13–2017/18

According to the Aid Coordination Unit Annual Report (2017/18), the overall amount of external assistance to the health sector declined, though it continued to receive the highest proportion of Eswatini's external aid (USD 71.1 million - 31.7%) in 2017/18. A large portion of this funding went to supporting the national response on HIV/AIDS and TB in the areas of prevention, treatment and mitigation of the impact of these epidemics as depicted in the figure below:

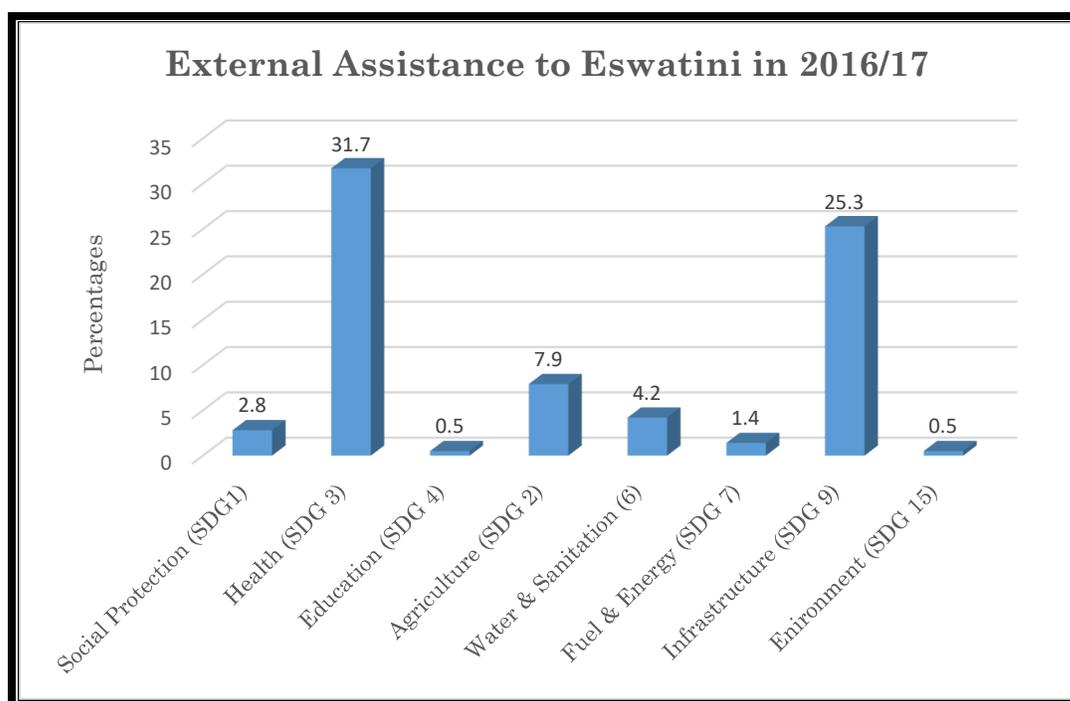


Figure 17.1 Net official development assistance received by Eswatini

The infrastructure sector, as in previous years, attracted the most development partners in 2017/18, with eight providing over USD130, 000. Five partners gave

more than USD130, 000 in the health sector while the social protection, capacity building and agriculture sectors each had four active partners. The fuel and energy sector had only one active partner providing over USD130, 000 in 2017/18,

17.3 Successes

- a) Benefits from the South-south cooperation that exists.
- b) GEF in the country has been established.
- c) Host of SADC University.
- d) Implementation of projects with little or no ineligible expenses.
- e) Public Finance Management Act of 2017 enacted to boost donor confidence on government accountability.

17.4 Challenges

- a) Status of middle income country has seen more agencies go out.
- b) There is a delay in the adoption and implementation of the regulations of the Public Finance Management Act of 2017.
- c) At times, donor's interest is not in synchrony with government's priorities.
- d) Some sustainability projects suffers from donor fund discontinuation prematurely.
- e) Lack of strategic planning to facilitate a proper handover from donors to government with regard to joint funded projects.
- f) Failure to comply with mandate given to us by donors.
- g) Lack support for information technology infrastructure.
- h) Some development partner's flows are not captured in the ACMS monitoring and evaluation system.
- i) Lack of a robust process for sharing information on external financed interventions between government ministries.

17.5 Emerging Issues

- a) The incentive package for attracting FDI has not resulted in significant inflows of investment.
- b) Environmental issues are escalating whereas the country has not been able to attract development assistance to the sector. .
- c) The regulatory framework requires a review to attract development assistance.

17.6 Lessons learnt

- a) There is need to harmonize the policy environment in line with the necessary conditions to attract investment in the country
- b) Delays in approving the new aid policy have been an obstacle.

- c) Capacity is a challenge in implementing policies and programmes resulting in the need to supplement with technical assistance.

17.7 Actions taken to address existing gaps and challenges

- a) Donor and government dialogues to re-evaluate obligations.
- b) PFM enacted to improve accountability, transparency and to curb corruption.
- c) Introduction of integrated financial management system to improve budget allocation and expenditure tracking.

17.8 Areas for support

- a) ICT infrastructure.

17.9 Key messages

- a) There is a need to create an enabling policy environment for the implementation of SDGs in the country to guide development partners.

CHAPTER 5: CHALLENGES

Implementation of the SDGs in the country has been met with a number of challenges identified as follows:

a) Resources for implementation

SDGs implementation is based on the principle that domestic resources should be utilized not necessarily dependent of foreign resources particularly financial resources. The prevailing fiscal situation in the country is such that there are very limited resources for effective implementation.

b) Capacity for adaptation and resource mobilization

Development sphere is dynamic and faced with emerging issues that require capacities or skills for adaption to be at the core as new tools are being put in place. Such capacities come at a price which is not a favourable position for the country currently.

c) Timely and quality data

Policy or decision making, planning, programming and budgeting are all dependent on availability of timely and quality statistics to provide the situation on the ground. Research by its nature is expensive and so are the studies or surveys that need to be undertaken. The studies compete for resources with other priorities for the country resulting in time lags for availability of the much needed and critical data.

d) Public investment

Public investment is paramount for the country's development in that returns from such investments should provide domestic revenue, among others. The shrinking resources envelop for the Kingdom resulted in budget for such an investment becoming a residual from recurrent budget.

e) Monitoring tools

Tools for monitoring and evaluation of progress made the implementation of the goals needs strengthening as well as measuring impact thereof. This will inform the process if progress is on the right direction towards achievement of the goal or targets or if there is need to re-strategize.

f) Targeting

Beneficiaries to social protection floors come in different forms. It becomes necessary to ensure that targeting is done in an effective manner. Such support is at a huge cost to government and in light of the limited resources, it is important

to ensure that the benefits from such an investment are positive and the cost of providing the service does not out way the support.

g) MIC status of the country

The Middle Income Country status of the country has negative impact to development of the country. Development programme of the country is supported through partnerships with development partners, in terms of loans, grants etc. This status has resulted in the inability to access some loans at favourable conditions which has brought about negative effects.

CHAPTER 6: LESSONS LEARNT

a) Mainstreaming of the goals into national development

Implementation of the SDGs requires that they be mainstreamed into national development frameworks. They are not a stand-alone phenomenon but are a means of fast tracking implementation of national development programme as such should be integrated to foster efficiency.

b) Prioritisation

Given limited resources available for implementing the goals against competing national priorities, it is very important to identify areas of highest priority that will yield high returns at the shortest turn-around time with multiplier effect on other goals for visible change in development.

c) Targeting

The high levels of poverty in the country demands a vibrant that social protection programmes to cater for the basic needs of the poor and marginalized groups of the population. Such floors thrive on the core characteristic of being sustainable. This is dependent on efficiency in the identification of intended beneficiaries. Only when targeting has been done right that such support could be sustainable.

d) Capacity building / strengthening

Implementation of the goals entails building of capacity in areas where it does not exist and strengthening where it is limited as there is need for adaptation to new development tools as they foster effective means. Such tools include climate change adaptation tools and SDGs based planning and budgeting. The nature of development is dynamic and as such demands reorientation of skills over time through technology and innovation.

CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSION

The analysis of the current situation of data availability for the global SDGs which was conducted in collaboration with stakeholders revealed an information base against which to monitor and assess indicators. The findings showed the availability of information in the various sectors which was very minimal. This limitation is shared by most developing countries and hence the need for the global community to assist Eswatini in achieving the 2030 development Agenda.

Most sector experts data collection and analysis skill needs to be strengthened to ensure quality statistics are reported on a timely basis. Furthermore sector experts need to be furnished with appropriate data collection tools and equipment. The Central Statistics Office should be reinforced with more personnel, skill, equipment and financial resources to conduct national surveys and biannual projections of SDGs indicators. Hence the need for government to set aside enough resources to augment data capacities and for the implementation of the SDG.

Capacity building and forming partnerships with both local and international stakeholders are of paramount importance if the country is to attain the SDG for the country to learn how other developing countries have mainstreamed the SDGs development agenda, to share experiences and solutions on driving this agenda forward to ensure that all the Sustainable Development Goals are achieved. It is imperative to revive the sector wide approach through the SDGs lens. This will enable sectors to produce sector development plans and report implementation twice a year.

Finally, the success of this development agenda will depend on collective effort between government, development partners, civil society, private sector and the nation at large. The results will improve the livelihood of the nation from grass root level as economic wellbeing will improve and people will gradually be entangled from the vicious poverty cycle. This will lead to an improvement in national income per capita which will result in increased gross domestic products since the country will adopt new cost effective and efficient technologies for production, channelling the country to self-sufficiency in the medium term.