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**2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development**

**Cooperation Framework for Eswatini**

**8 July 2020**

**ACRONYMS (to be completed)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| AFCFTA | Africa Free C F Trade Agreement |
| AfDB | Africa Development Bank |
| CANGO | Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organizations |
| CCA | Common Country Analysis |
| CEDAW | End Discrimination Against Women |
| COMESA | Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa |
| CPD | Country Programme Document |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| DaO | Delivering as One |
| DCO | Development Coordination Office |
| DP | Development Partner |
| DRR | Disaster Risk Reduction |
| EU | European Union |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization |
| FGD | Focus Group Discussion |
| GBV | Gender-based Violence |
| GEF | Global Environment Fund |
| GoEs | Government of Eswatini |
| GNI | Gross National Income |
| HDR | Human Development Report |
| HoA | Head of Agency |
| HRBA | Human Rights Based Approach |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| JP | Joint Programme |
| JWP | Joint Workplan |
| LMIC | Lower Middle-Income Country |
| LNOB | Leave No One Behind |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MEPD | Ministry of Economic Planning and Development |
| MTR | Mid-Term Review |
| NDS | National Development Strategy |
| NGO | Nongovermental Organization |
| ODA | Official Development Assistance |
| OMT | Operations Management Team |
| PSG | Peer Support Group |
| RC | Resident Coordinator |
| RCO | Resident Coordinator’s Office |
| RG | Results Group |
| SADC | Southern African Development Community |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| TBC | To Be Confirmed |
| ToC | Theory of Change |
| ToR | Terms of Reference |
| UNCG | United Nations Communications Group |
| UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| UNDAF | United Nations Development Assistance Framework |
| UNDG | United Nations Development Group |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children’s Fund |
| UNIDO | United Nations Industrial Development Organization |
| UNSDCF | United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) articulates the collective vision of the UN system in Eswatini for 2021-2025. This is Eswatini’s first UNSDCF, and it has been prepared in the context of a systemwide response to the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic in the country.

Responding effectively to this unprecedented crisis will require continued partnership and shared intent between the Government of Eswatini, its development partners, academia, the private sector, civil society and other key stakeholders, as well as between UN agencies. Focusing on sustainable development will help to ensure a smooth transition from response to a recovery that builds back better for a greener, more inclusive and sustainable future.

The overall goal of the United Nations’ support to Eswatini from 2021-2015 is to support “**A prosperous, just and resilient Eswatini where no one is left behind”.** Inspired by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and particularly to its **P**rosperity, **P**eople, **P**lanet components, the UNSDCF sets out the UN’s partnership with Eswatini for 2021-2025 through four interlinked Outcomes:

**Priority I:** **Prosperity**

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

Outcome 1: Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth

**Priority II:** **People**

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

Outcome 2: Investing in Human Resources and Social Development

Outcome 3: Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights

**Priority III**: **Planet**

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

Outcome 4: StrengtheningNatural Resource Management, Climate Resilience and EnvironmentalSustainability

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

The UN Eswatini’s implementation strategy for the 2021-2025 UNSDCF will be based upon the Delivering as One (DaO) approach. This approach will involve both Joint Programmes as well as joint programming between multiple agencies in critical areas, including saving lives, economic transformation, resilience building, food security and climate resilience and environmental sustainability, while leveraging the comparative advantages of specific agencies, funds and programmes. Indicative activities will include:

* Supporting the development of policies, regulatory systems and incentive frameworks to create a more enabling environment for business and to catalyse responsible private sector investment
* Developing new mechanisms for climate financing, including access to international sources of climate finance
* Strengthening health surveillance systems to detect and respond to emergencies.
* Strengthening the capacity of extension services, development actors and communities to implement climate smart agriculture interventions that promote household food and nutrition security.

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

The UNCT will develop a Funding Framework as the main financial planning and resource mobilization tool for UNSDCF. A breakdown of the funds required, available and expected will be presented in the Funding Framework which will be annexed to the UNSDCF document*.* The Funding Framework will be reviewed annually and adjusted as required.

**CHAPTER 1: COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA**

**Country Context**

As stated in its Vision 2022, the southern African Kingdom of Eswatini aspires to be among “…the top 10% of the medium human development group of countries founded on sustainable economic development, social justice and political stability”[[1]](#footnote-2). The country’s Human Development Index (HDI) value grew steadily from 0.545 in 1990 to 0.608 in 2018; and Eswatini is therefore currently classified as a middle human development country, with a rating of 138 out of 187 countries in the 2019 human development index[[2]](#footnote-3). It is thus already positioned in the middle of the medium human development group. However, when this HDI value is discounted for inequality, it decreases to 0.430.

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

The country has a predominantly young population[[3]](#footnote-4) and, given current trends, Eswatini should be able to benefit from its youth-based demographic dividend[[4]](#footnote-5) until at least 2050, if the skills which are taught in school align with the skills required by the labour market. The country’s youth could therefore play a key role in the achievement of its national development goals.

Over the past decade, Eswatini’s development gains have included, among others, a decrease in the HIV/AIDs rate and in the maternal mortality ratio from 593/100,000 in 2012 to 452/100,000 in 2017. Moreover, there has been an increase in the percentage of children completing primary education from 93.5 % in 2014 to 106.1 % in 2016, as well as an increase in secondary education completion rates from 49.6% to 61.5 %. There was also an increase in the percentage of households with access to electricity nationally from 69% in 2014 to 78% in 2018. Fiscally, Eswatini is classified as a lower middle-income country (LMIC)[[5]](#footnote-6), with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita of **$3,930 in 2018**[[6]](#footnote-7). This represents an increase of some 34.7% between 1990 and 2017/2018[[7]](#footnote-8), and an increase of **9.47% increase** from 2017 to 2018.[[8]](#footnote-9)

**SDG Progress and Challenges**

In support of its goal to raise its HDI rating, Eswatini has confirmed its commitment to the achievement of the global 2030 Agenda and to its inclusive, partnership approach for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The country has identified ten national SDG priorities to guide its development plans and policies during the coming decade: SDG 1 (no poverty); SDG 2 (zero hunger); SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing); SDG 4 (quality education); SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation); SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy); SDG. 8 (decent work and economic growth); SDG 13 (climate action); SDG 16 (peace and justice, strong institutions); and SDG 17 (global partnership).[[9]](#footnote-10) To date, progress has been made on SDGs 3, 7, 13, and 17. However, the country’s other prioritized goals (SDGs 1, 2, 4, and 6) show either little improvement or some regression. (Additional details are presented below in **Annex 4, “Eswatini’s SDG Progress**.)

Threats to Eswatini’s SDG achievement include fiscal challenges, for example, a slow GDP growth rate, an overdependence on fluctuating SACU revenues, and a diminishing rate of private sector participation in the economy. The country is also prone to environmental and climate change-induced hazards, including prolonged droughts and, consequently, to food and nutrition insecurity; and the 79% of ESwatini’s rural population that depends upon agriculture for their livelihood and subsistence is particularly vulnerable to such disasters. The most recent catastrophic example of this is the 2016-2017 regional drought resulting from El Nino.

Eswatini also faces other significant development challenges. Its economy is not yet diversified. Moreover, it is estimated that 59% of Eswatini’s population still lives below the national poverty line, and that some 20.1% live below the extreme poverty line[[10]](#footnote-11). This relates to the labour market, which is highly informal in nature.  Moreover, joblessness remains high, particularly among women and youth[[11]](#footnote-12). Furthermore, HIV/AIDS prevalence in the country remains the highest globally, at 27.2% among adults between the ages 15–49 [[12]](#footnote-13). Additionally, gender inequality is still pervasive in the country, and it is exacerbated by strong patriarchal traditions, values and norms.

Notwithstanding the country’s high levels of poverty and vulnerability, there is as yet no comprehensive social protection system in place; and existing programmes are fragmented. For example, maternity and sickness protection are provided through employer liability. Existing social security provisions largely exclude people in the informal economy; and there is no unemployment protection scheme in place. [[13]](#footnote-14)

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in Eswatini in March 2020 has further exacerbated socio-economic inequalities[[14]](#footnote-15); and it thus poses a threat not only to the country’s planned economic recovery, but also to the realization of the 2030 Agenda pledge to leave no one behind (LNOB)[[15]](#footnote-16), particularly vulnerable groups. The Rapid Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic in Eswatini identified several categories of vulnerable people, as well as the multidimensional vulnerabilities for which they are at risk; and the CCA identified groups who were already vulnerable before the pandemic (for a summary of the CCA and the Rapid Assessment findings, see below, **Annex 3, “Vulnerability Assessment of the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Eswatini”).**  Mitigating the multidimensional impact of COVID-19 as well as addressing the pre-existing development challenges of the country will therefore be crucial to Eswatini’s SDG progress.

**CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA**

2.1 The overall goal of the United Nations’ support to Eswatini from 2021-2015 is to support “**A prosperous, just and resilient Eswatini where no one is left behind”.**

Theory of Change

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

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

**2.2.** **Strategic Priorities for The UN Development System**

As a framework to guide the UN’s support to the achievement of Eswatini’s SDGs, as well as to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and address existing development challenges, the 2021-2025 UNSDCF is structured around three Priorities and four Outcomes. The three Priorities of Prosperity, People and Planet, are among the six essential elements of the post-2015 agenda presented in the *Road to Dignity by 2030*[[16]](#footnote-17).

**Priority I:** **Prosperity**

The overarching themes of this strategic priority are enabling environment; private sector investment; small and medium sized enterprise creation, sustainable agriculture, job creation including a just transition[[17]](#footnote-18) into new sectors that address climate change, decent work, food security and social protection

Outcome 1: Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth

**Priority II:** **People**

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

Outcome 2: Investing in Human Resources and Social Development

Outcome 3: Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights

**Priority III**: **Planet**

Outcome 4: StrengtheningNatural Resource Management, Climate Resilience and EnvironmentalSustainability

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| UNSDCF Outcome Area | National Development Priority |
| Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth | Enhanced and Dynamic Private Sector Supporting Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth (Outcome 2) |
| Human Resources and Social Development | Enhanced Social and Human Capital Development (Outcome 3) |
| Governance, Justice and Human Rights | Efficient Public Service that Respects Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law (Outcome 4) |
| Natural Resource Management, Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability | Well Managed Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (Outcome 5) |

2.3 Intended Development Results

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

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

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

**Governance, gender equality and human rights.** There is a 33% prevalence rate of gender-based violence in Eswatini, and it is estimated that 9 out of 10 children have experienced some form of violence in their lives. Moreover, GBV has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the country’s dual judicial system can pose challenges in ensuring full enjoyment of human rights by all; and its highly concentrated power structure can result in impunity and human rights violations. Moreover, women’s access to justice is hindered by the lack of a comprehensive legal aid scheme to support, particularly, the most disadvantaged women Furthermore, the lack of enabling legislation for the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration also hampers the protection of human rights[[18]](#footnote-19). To further strengthen the rule of law and to better protect vulnerable groups, the UN system will i) support the capacity development of oversight bodies such as the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration and government to operate independently and in an accountable manner; and ii) support the strengthening of a mechanism for the implementation of and reporting on human rights obligations as well as on the SDGs. These efforts will strengthen the country’s ability to achieve improved results for SDG 16. Finally, equality, and more specifically gender equality and the principle of non-discrimination (SDGs 5 and 10), will be mainstreamed into all UN Eswatini interventions.

**Natural resources, climate change and energy.** Some of Eswatini’s communities do not yet have access to clean water, and at least 22 percent of the population do not have access to electricity; and improvements in both were referenced by stakeholders in their vision of Eswatini in five years’ time at the recent UNSDCF consultations.[[19]](#footnote-20) Moreover, although normative and policy frameworks have been developed to address climate change and disaster risk reduction issues, they have not as yet been fully implemented . Consequently, some communities, especially those in the country’s drought-affected Southern region, experience food and nutrition insecurity. UN support to the country will therefore focus upon i) improving access to sustainable sources of energy and clean water; and ii) improving management of natural resources for sustainable agricultural productivity. These will collectively contribute to improvements in SDGs 2, 6, 7, and 13.

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

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

In recognition of Eswatini’s predominantly young population, and the fact that youth employment readiness and job creation are currently national priorities,[[20]](#footnote-21) youth feature as beneficiaries in interventions under each of the Outcome areas. Capacity building, which is one of the approaches for delivering the Integrated Programming Principles, is as well an important theme, and it also features in activities planned under each of the CF outcomes.

**2.4. Cooperation Framework Outcomes and Partnerships**

2.4.1 Cooperation Framework Outcome 1: **Promoting** **Sustainable and Inclusive Economic** **Growth**

2.4.1.1 Outcome Statement

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

**Priority Area 1: Prosperity**

**Outcome 1**: **Promoting** **Sustainable and Inclusive Economic** **Growth:** *By 2025, women, men and youth, including marginalized persons, contribute to and benefit from economic progress, through greater access to decent employment, equitable social economic opportunities, sustainable enterprise opportunities as well as resilient, financially sustainable social protection systems*

**(Indicative) Output 1.3**: Labour market statistics and information systems using international statistical standards and reporting on SDG Global Indicator Framework strengthened

**(Indicative) Output 1.2:** Technical advice in financing of social protection options provided

**(Indicative) Output 1.1:** Solutions to achieve universal access to clean, affordable and sustainable energy adopted

2.4.1.2 Theory of change

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

**Rationale and Expected Results**

To stimulate economic growth, particularly through private sector engagement and investment, activities under this outcome will include upstream policy support for the development of a more enabling environment for business, e.g. technical assistance for the development of public-private partnership regulations. Downstream activities will include strengthening agricultural value chains and facilitating access to innovative digital and financial solutions.

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

With regard to decent work, although Eswatini has ratified 31 International Labour Conventions, including all eight core conventions, two equality C. Nos 100 and 111) and one tripartite consultation convention (C. No 144), the country still faces challenges on domestication of the conventions. UN support under this Outcome will therefore include technical assistance to strengthen Government’s capacity for policy implementation.

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

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

**Focal Areas of The UN’s Support and Contribution to This Outcome Area Will Include**:

* Supporting systems for transformative change in Eswatini’s smallholder agriculture and allied sectors through catalytic private investment in agricultural and food sectors and in associated services industries through the strengthening of an enabling environment, development of risk reduction mechanisms, the adaptation of investment financial products, and improvement in the effectiveness of investment support measures.
* Supporting the development of policy, regulatory and incentive frameworks for an enabling environment for business
* Supporting small-scale food producers to adopt inclusive commercial value chain approaches in agriculture and allied sectors
* Advising on SDG centric data collection to inform development policies, plans, systems and financing
* Upscaling investment in out-of-school youth empowerment programmes, including technical skills, apprenticeships and entrepreneurial and business management skills;
* Strengthening systems for labour market statistics and information through the application of international statistical standards and the SDG Global Indicator Framework
* Supporting the establishment of processes or mechanisms for inclusive, multi-sectoral, tripartite social dialogue to create broad-based support for and implementation of development policies and strategies to ensure a just transition for all
* Strengthening greener and cleaner production technologies and work place cooperation practices in the manufacturing sector
* Strengthening capacities in the national social protection system to deliver inclusive, shock resilient and financially sustainable programmes
* Providing technical advice for social protection financing options

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

**.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Government Priority Areas** | **SDGs** | **International Treaties and Legal Frameworks** |
| Good Governance, Economic Recovery and Fiscal Stability | 1, 4, 8, 16,17 | The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; International Human Rights Treaties  Beijing Platform for Action |
| Enhanced and Dynamic Private Sector Supporting Sustainable and Inclusive Growth | 8, 17 |
| Enhanced Social and Human Capital Development | 1,2,3,4,5,17 |
| Well Managed Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability | 14,15,13,12,6,7,17 |
| Efficient Economic Infrastructure Network | 9,8,17 |
| Enhanced Efficient Public Service Delivery that Respects Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law | 16,5,17 |
| Equality |  |

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

2.4.2  **Outcome II:** **Investing in Human Resources and Social Development**

2.4.2.1 Outcome Statement By *2025, the access of all, including marginalized persons, to equitable, effective and efficient quality social services is increased*

**Priority Area 2: People**

**Outcome 2**: **Investing in Human Resources and Social Development:** *By 2025, the access of all, including marginalized persons, to equitable, effective and efficient quality social services is increased*

**(Indicative) Output 2.3:** Communities empowered to demand quality and relevant health, nutrition, HIV and NCDs services

**(Indicative) Output 2.2:** Surveillance systems to detect and respond to emergencies strengthened

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

2.4.2.2 **Theory of change**

*If the quality of health care is improved, with special focus on the main causes of mortality such as HIV, RMNCAH and NCDs; and*

*If the quality and scope of education is improved and increased to reduce the economic cost of repetition and low learning outcomes, with a focus on market relevance; and*

*If social sector budget performance is strengthened to increase efficiency; and*

*If social services are expanded in scope and coverage; and*

*If the risks of crises such as climate change and pandemics on the continuity of social services are identified and mitigated;*

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

**Rationale and expected results for this Outcome**:

To fulfil its obligations in terms of provision of basic health and education services, as well as to combat extreme poverty and address inequalities, Eswatini requires a healthy and well-educated work force to implement its economic growth agenda. The UN system will therefore invest in supporting health and education services as two major components of human development to directly contribute to the country’s economic growth and poverty reduction.

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

HIV and AIDS remains a public health challenge, and HIV incidence levels are highest among women age 15-49 at 1.99 percent, whilst the rate is 0.99 percent among men in the same age category. There is also an increase in non-communicable diseases, and these affects primarily the elderly population. The situation is expected to worsen over the short to medium term, as health sector funds have been prioritized towards the fight against COVID19.

UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO will contribute to the health interventions under this outcome area. When pertinent, the UN agencies will identify, initiate and implement joint programmes to increase synergy, impact and efficiency.

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

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

Apart from education being a basic human right, considering the established relationship between quality of education and economic growth, employability, health and other measures of human development, the UN in Eswatini will focus its support on improving quality of education. The lead agencies for the education interventions under this Outcome are UNICEF and UNESCO. Additionally, WFP will contribute to improved learning outcomes through school feeding programmes, and UNFPA with specific life-skills based education programme

**Focal Areas of the UN’s Support and Contribution to this Outcome Will Include**:

* Strengthening institutional capacities to develop costed policies and plans in health sector
* Supporting budget planning to ensure availability of resources for procurement of health supplies, e.g. supplies for MNH, and investment in equipment and infrastructure
* Strengthening the capacity for adequate evidence generation especially in the area of health management information systems
* Strengthening surveillance systems to detect and respond to emergencies.
* Building human resource capacities in partner organizations to implement health system strengthening programmes
* Supporting inter-sectorial programmes for improving sexual and reproductive health and rights
* Supporting institutional capacity for improvement of maternal and newborn child health to reduce mortality
* Evidence-based advocacy and policy advice on scaling up quality of care with health policy actors, technocrats, regulatory and professional councils, academia, CSOs.
* Advocacy for the implementation of the national youth policy, population policy and other human capital development policies.
* Empowering communities to demand quality and relevant health, nutrition, HIV and NCDs services
* Strengthening health systems’ capacities to provide comprehensive, equitable, integrated and quality services for RMNCAH, HIV, NCDs at national, regional, health facilities and community levels
* Strengthening systems for data generation, reporting and utilization for evidence-based policy and programme planning, budgeting and implementation
* Strengthening multisectoral policy, legislative environment, coordination and financing for quality healthcare services
* Strengthening multisectoral policy, legislative environment, coordination and financing for quality education services
* Strengthening the education system to deliver quality, inclusive, safe, protective learning and skills opportunities
* Improved quality teaching and learning, including accessible through diversified remote and web-based learning platforms at all levels
* Supporting development of overarching sectorial plans such as Education Sector Plan to cover all subsectors of education
* Supporting resource mobilization for education sector
* Supporting curriculum reform with a focus on 21st Century Skills and competencies
* Supporting programmes improving school to work transition
* Supporting evidence generation with focus on education management information systems
* Supporting professional development of teaching workforce

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Government Priority Areas** | **SDGs** | **International Treaties and Frameworks** |
| Enhanced Social and Human Capital Development | 1,2,3,4,5,17 | Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action  Convention on the Rights of the Child  Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women  Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher education Qualifications  Convention against Discrimination in Education  Safe Schools Declaration  Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  Maternity Protection Convention   2016 UN Political Declaration on ending AIDS by 2030 |
| Well Managed Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability | 14,15,13,12,6,7,17 | UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)  UN Convention to Combat Desertification (1994)  Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) |

2.4.2.3 **Partnerships**

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

For the education interventions under this Outcome, the primary Government partner will be the Ministry of Education and Training, while the Ministry of Labour will collaborate in areas related to school-to-work transition and TVET. Local and international NGOs will contribute to the achievement of this Outcome where goals and objectives align. The Global Partnership for Education plays a major role in policy advocacy and financing of the education sector. Other major stakeholders in this Outcome area include the World Bank Group Human Development Initiative and the European Union Delegation

2.4.3 **Outcome III**: **Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights**

2.4.3.1 **Outcome Statement**

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

**Priority Area 2: People**

**Outcome 3**: **Accountable Governance, Justice and Human Rights:** *By 2025, oversight bodies and government institutions at national and regional levels operate in an independent, participatory and accountable manner, ensuring equal access to justice and services, with a systematic, participatory implementation and reporting mechanism for human rights obligations and SDGs, with a focus on leaving no one behind*

**(Indicative) Output 3.3:** Technical support to parliament oversight role in ensuring integration of human rights and SDGs in planning, budgeting, implementation and reporting provided

**(Indicative) Output 3.2:** The use of digital solutions to improve public services, transparency, accountability and other government functions in implementing the SDGs and eradicating corruption increased

**(Indicative) Output 3.1**: The capacity of civil society organisations to engage in international and regional SDG and human rights mechanisms strengthened

2.4.3.2 **Theory of change**

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

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

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

**Rationale and expected outcomes**

The UNSDCF’s Governance priority area, outcomes and outputs are closely aligned with Eswatini’s National Development Plan 2019-2022, which aims at ensuring an efficient public service delivery that respects human Rights, justice and the rule of law (National Outcome 4). The NDP acknowledges that “more remains to be achieved to ensure an accountable, transparent and responsible governance system that respects human rights and fosters the application of law and order, to the management and performance of the public service.”[[21]](#footnote-22)

The NDP also states that “the country seeks to operate within a modernised justice framework that ensures confidence in the judicial system thus contributing to socioeconomic development through zero tolerance to corruption; improved access to justice for all and adherence to human rights principles.”[[22]](#footnote-23) With regard to Eswatini’s reporting obligations on the implementation of international and regional human rights instruments, the NDP seeks to ensure that “reports to treaty bodies are developed and submitted timely.[[23]](#footnote-24)

Key human rights challenges in Eswatini include the insufficient domestication of international and regional human rights treaties, as well as the inconsistency between customary law and statutory law. Eswatini has ratified seven core international core human rights treaties with a number of overdue reports. In addition, recommendations emanating from the international and regional human rights mechanisms have not yet been fully implemented. However, Eswatini has established an Inter-Ministerial Committee with a Secretariat within the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs that serves as a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up on the country’s human rights commitments.

Moreover, although Eswatini has established an Anti-Corruption Commission and developed a National Anti-corruption Policy (2012), corruption in Eswatini continues to pose a challenge for social service delivery. Eswatini ranks 113 out of 180 on the Corruption Perceptions Index. Furthermore, Eswatini has been urged to adopt a legislation that allows the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration to legally undertake activities as a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in accordance with the Paris Principles. Currently, the Commission does not have sufficient independence, as it operates as an extension of the Ministry of Justice. In addition, the Commission continues to face challenges in terms of human and financial resources to fulfil its mandate, establish an effective complaints mechanism and to ensure that cases are promptly investigated and resolved by the Commission, with full reparation to victims.

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

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

* Strengthening the institutional capacities of key oversight and government institutions at national and regional levels for good governance, realization of human rights and ensuring equal access to justice.
* Developing capacities across the whole of government and Parliament to integrate SDGs and human rights, including gender equality, into national planning and budgeting and implementation.
* Strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations to engage in international and regional SDG and human rights mechanisms.
* Supporting the use of digital solutions to improve public services, transparency, accountability and other government functions in implementing the SDGs and eradicating corruption.
* Strengthening the capacities of key rule of law institutions at national and regional levels for transparency and ease of doing business
* Strengthening national coordination capacities for economic recovery, with special attention to addressing the economic impact of COVID 19
* Strengthening the capacity of rights holders, with particular emphasis on women, girls and vulnerable groups, to claim their rights, access justice and seek redress.
* Strengthening accountability and transparency mechanisms and digital solutions as means to eradicate corruption and abuse of power.
* Improving institutional capacity to coordinate the generation and of use disaggregated data and report human rights/international instruments and SDGs
* Technical support to parliament oversight role in ensuring integration of human rights and SDGs in planning, budgeting, implementation and reporting
* Improving multi-sectoral capacity to prevent and address GBV and harmful practices including in humanitarian settings in programming and policy.

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Government Priority Areas** | **SDGs** | **International Treaties and Frameworks** |
| Efficient Public Service Delivery That Respects Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 16, 17 | International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination  International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights  International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women  Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment  Convention on the Rights of the Child  Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  African Charter on Human and People’s Rights  Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol)  African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child |
| Enhanced Social and Human Capital Development | 1,2,3,4,5,10,16,17 | Beijing Platform for Action |
| Good Governance, Economic Recovery and Fiscal Stability | 5, 10, 16 |  |

* + - 1. **Partnerships**

The UN system’s key partners in this Outcome will include the Office of Prime Minister, Office of Secretary to Cabinet and Head of Public Service; Central Statistical Agency; Parliament ; Ministry of Economic Planning and Development; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation ; Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration & Development; Eswatini Anti-Corruption Commission; Commission for Human Rights and Public Administration, the African Development Bank; ITU Royal Science and Technology Park; Lawyer’s Association and Local Government

2.4.4. **Outcome IV**: **Strengthening natural resource management, climate resilience and environmental sustainability**

2.4.4.1 **Outcome Statement**

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

**Priority Area 3: Planet**

**Outcome 4: Strengthening natural resource management, climate resilience and environmental sustainability:** By 2025, Eswatini is on an inclusive low-carbon development pathway that is resilient to climate change and in which natural resources are managed sustainably, and community adaptation to climate change is enhanced, for improved livelihoods, health and food security, especially for vulnerable and marginalized communities.

**Output 4.1**: Capacity of institutions to design and implement effective policies, strategies, and legal frameworks are strengthened, leading to improved access to and use of clean, reliable, and affordable energy for all citizens, especially vulnerable and marginalized communities,

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

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

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

2.4.4.2 **Theory of change**

*If climate proofed infrastructure and renewable energy resources are developed, and*

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

**Rationale and expected results**

The risks of climate change are well documented, and its impacts already affect both people and ecosystems. Meeting the climate challenge requires that industries and institutions — both public and private — be able to assess and understand climate change, to design and implement adequate policies and to work towards resource efficient societies and low emission growth. Decoupling natural resource use and environmental impacts from economic growth is a key prerequisite for overcoming the pressing challenge of growing resource consumption levels. Furthermore, states have legal obligations to prevent and alleviate climate change as recognized by the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights: “all peoples shall have the right to a general satisfactory environment favourable to their development”.[[24]](#footnote-25)

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

* + - 1. **Focal areas of the UN’s support and contribution**

In order to achieve this Outcomes, the UN will support four interrelated outputs:

1. Capacity of institutions to design and implement effective policies, strategies, and legal frameworks are strengthened, leading to improved access to and use of clean, reliable, and affordable energy for all citizens, especially vulnerable and marginalized communities,
2. Capacity of institutions are strengthened to manage water resources efficiently and to provide equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all citizens,

(iii) National and sub-national institutions capacities are strengthened to sustainably manage natural resources justly and to the benefit the most vulnerable and marginalised communities, and

(iv) Strengthened capacity of extension services, development actors and communities to implement climate smart agriculture interventions that promote household food and nutrition security.

Indicative activities will include

* Developing new mechanisms for climate financing, including access to international sources of climate finance, and expansion of international and regional partnerships to implement the SDGs, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sendai Framework and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements
* Supporting the awareness-raising and sensitization of households and communities on renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and water resource management
* Facilitating multi-stakeholder engagement, policy dialogue to enhance policy coherence and information sharing at national and sub-regional levels between government, private sector, civil society, academia and communities on community-based climate resilience and innovations in climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as on sustainable natural resource management
* Building institutional capacity at national and sub-national levels for integrated resource planning, climate-smart practices as well as the improved collection and use of quality, disaggregated data. This includes adopting a food-energy-water nexus approach to improve the productivity and sustainability of agriculture, particularly for smallholder farmers; the access and use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, and water resource management for the benefit the most vulnerable and marginalised communities
* Supporting the development of policies and incentive frameworks which facilitate and enable natural resource users in the productive sector to learn new technologies and best practices on adaptive capacities and resilience
* Providing technical assistance to Government and other relevant stakeholders to implement Eswatini’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

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

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Government Priority Areas** | **SDGs** | **International Treaties and Legal Frameworks** |
| Well Managed Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability | 14,15,13,12,6,7,17 | UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)  UN Convention to Combat Desertification (1994)  Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) |
| Improved Management & Access to Safe Drinking Water & Sanitation (Water resources management and supply) | Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all | International Decade for Action on  Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028 |
| Improved Land Use Planning & Management (Access and Productivity) | Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss | UN Convention on biological diversity  UN Convention on combating desertification and land degradation  United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 |
| Equitable, Inclusive & Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (energy access and efficiency) | Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all | UN Decade for Sustainable Energy for All (2014-2024) |
| Improved National & Community Resilience to Natural Disasters (Early warning systems) | Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts3 | UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;  Paris Agreement on Climate Change  Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 |
| Clean & Safe Environment (Low carbon development) | Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all  Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns  Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts3 | Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm conventions on chemicals and waste management UN Framework Convention on Climate Change;  Paris Agreement on Climate Change |
|  | Goal 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions | African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights [[25]](#footnote-26) |

2.4.4.4 **Partnerships**

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

2.5. **Sustainability**

The UN system, in partnership with Government, local governments, non-state stakeholders and other development partners, will support the strengthening of national and local capacities and institutional arrangements to effectively manage and scale-up the achievements and impact made within the Cooperation Framework cycle, in order to ensure their sustainability.

The UN will also support the integration of global norms into national legislation, thereby supporting the adoption and perpetuation of development principles at the heart of the national development policy frameworks. This will ensure their sustainability through national cycles and systems of monitoring and reporting mechanisms. The UN will as well help to strengthen institutional capacities where needed, including the mobilization of the human, technical and financial means through which to sustain SDG progress. Moreover, the UN will work with government agencies to improve the integrity of data quality and statistics administered by national organisations.

An additional strategy for ensuring the sustainability of CF outcomes will be the brokerage of multi-stakeholder partnerships and dialogue platforms, including with the private sector, in order to catalyse SDG-focused investments (see below, SDG Partnership Platform)

**Synergies**

In support of the achievement of Eswatini’s national development priorities and the acceleration of its SDGs, each UNSDCF outcome leverages the comparative advantages of different United Nations agencies; and each is synergistic with other outcomes. For example, while interventions under Outcome 1 focus on unlocking the potential for sustainable and inclusive economic growth, Outcome 2 highlights building the necessary human and social capital for that economic transformation. Outcome 3 focuses upon developing the necessary enabling conditions both for reducing inequality and facilitating growth, and it thus synergizes with the social protection, job creation and economic growth programmes under Outcome 1, as well as Outcome 4’s resilience-building interventions. Outcome 4 focuses upon strengthening climate resilience and natural resource and environmental sustainability, which in turn reinforce the agriculture and other strategic economic growth and job creation activities under Outcome 1. These synergies are intended to reinforce the UN’s efforts towards addressing the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, as well as some of Eswatini’s persistent development challenges, including low economic growth, high inequalities, vulnerability to environmental and climate change and weak governance.

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

* 1. **UN Comparative Advantages[[26]](#footnote-27)**

The UN in Eswatini is well-positioned and well- qualified to support the GoEs towards the achievement of its development priorities, including its national SDGs, through its demonstrated comparative advantages. During the June 2020 UNSDCF stakeholder consultations, civil society, NGO, Government, private sector, development partners and other stakeholders validated several of the UN’s comparative advantages. Most stakeholders agreed that the UN has its greatest comparative advantage in its wide-ranging, high level technical expertise.

Additional comparative advantages cited by them include:

Advocacy for and support to the achievement of the SDGs:the SDGs are a corporate priority for the UN, and it has leveraged its comparative advantage in this area in support of the 2030 Agenda in Eswatini, for example, in the localization of the SDGs.

Advocacy on sensitive issues**.** The UN has proven its ability to advocate strongly and consistently on sensitive issues like gender equality and human rights; and this has contributed to the enactment of several new policies and pieces of legislation.

As an honest broker and convener.The UN is considered by stakeholders to be an honest, neutral broker with strong convening power and the capacity to manage multi-dimensional partnerships. For example, as demonstrated through the ongoing COVID-19 response and the recent UNSDCF stakeholder consultations, the UN has the capacity to convene, as well as support Government to convene, a wide range of development and humanitarian partners[[27]](#footnote-28)

2.7.l. UNDS Strategic Positioning and Evolving Role in Eswatini[[28]](#footnote-29)

2.7.2 UNCT Configuration: Resident and NRA Assets and Capacities**[[29]](#footnote-30)**

**CHAPTER 3: COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

3.1.  **Implementation strategy and strategic partnerships**

The UN Eswatini’s implementation strategy for the 2021-2025 UNSDCF will be based upon the Delivering as One (DaO)[[30]](#footnote-31) approach; and it will involve both Joint Programmes as well as joint programming[[31]](#footnote-32), including collaborations based on the Common Chapter framework (see below, “Joint Programmes”).

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

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

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

The CF implementation strategy will also include quarterly meeting of the Results Groups; a quarterly review of the CCA to maintain its timeliness and relevance; annual or bi-annual meetings of the National Steering Committee; an annual UNSDCF Report; and continuous monitoring, evaluation and learning through the online UN INFO platform.

3.3. **Governance: Management and Coordination Arrangements and Operational Support**

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

* **The Joint National Steering Committee**: The Joint National Steering Committee (NSC) will be responsible for the strategic direction and overall coordination of the UNSDCF’s implementation, including the interaction between GoEs partner entities and the UN system, and in alignment with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) principles of country ownership and leadership. It will be co-chaired by the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and the UN RC. Core NSC membership also includes designated representatives from the Deputy Prime Minister’s Office, Principal Secretaries from Ministries that are aligned to the CF result areas, and a civil society representative. The extended Joint National Steering Committee membership includes the World Bank, bilateral development partners/donors, or representatives from private sector, including national small and medium enterprises, civil society, youth, and other specific population groups.
* **The UNCT**: The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is the highest-level inter-agency coordination and decision-making body of the United Nations System in Eswatini. It is responsible for ensuring the delivery of results in support of Eswatini’s national development priorities and of the UNSDCF. The UNCT is chaired by the RC, and its membership includes the Heads of UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes accredited in Eswatini, and the Regional Representatives of non-resident agencies accredited to Eswatini. The Operations Management Team (OMT) and the UN Communications Group (TOR - UNCG, see below) report directly to the UNCT.
* **The Policy and Programmes Support Group (PPSG)** is intended to have a quality assurance role. It was established to provide policy advice to the UNCT, as well as technical guidance to the RGs to ensure that planned interventions align to the UNSDCF’s expected results. The PPSG is also tasked with identifying areas for effective integration and joint programming in line with agencies’ comparative advantages and mandates. The chairman of the PPSG is a Head of Agency that will be selected by UNCT on annual basis. Further details on the role and responsibilities of the PPSG are presented below in Annex 4, “TOR – PPSG”.
* **Results Groups**: The UNSDCF will be operationalized by Results Groups. A Results Group (RG) will be established for each of the four CF Results Areas. Each Results Group will develop a Joint Work Plan for its Outcome Area, and each will include an M&E focal point[[32]](#footnote-33) who will monitor and report on the implementation of the JWP and contribute to the Annual One UN Report. Further details on the role and responsibilities of RGs are presented below in Annex X, “TOR – Results Groups”.

The membership of each RG includes the UN agencies, both resident and non-resident, that contribute to the achievement of its outcomes and outputs, as well as government and non-government stakeholders. Each RG is co-chaired by a Principal Secretary from the lead Government Ministry and by the Head of the lead UN agency/ies, as detailed below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **UNSDCF Outcome Area** | **GoEs Chair [[33]](#footnote-34)** | **UN Agency Chair/Co-Chair[[34]](#footnote-35)** |
| Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth | Principal Secretary, Ministry of ? |  |
| Human Development | Principal Secretary, Ministry of ? |  |
| Climate Change and Environment | Principal Secretary, Ministry of ? |  |
| Governance and Human Rights | Principal Secretary, Ministry of ? |  |

* **Operations Management Team** (OMT) – The Operations Management Team (OMT) advises the UNCT on operations and management matters, and it aims to increase efficiency and reduce transaction costs associated with the implementation of the UNSDCF, in alignment with the UN’s global Business Operations Strategy (BOS). Its membership consists of all UN agencies’ Operations Managers, or unit heads for Finance, Administration and/or Human Resources of all agencies that are operational in the country, and and/or alternates designated by the heads of agencies. The chairman of the OMT is a HoA selected by UNCT on an annual basis. Further details on the role and responsibilities of OMT are presented below in Annex 7, “TOR – OMT”.
* **The UN Communications Group (UNCG)** plays a vital role in promoting the Communicating as One principle. It is intended that the UNCG, in collaboration with UNCT, will pursue a communication strategy that is based on supporting national development priorities, the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and other joint programming documents. Through the Resident Coordinator System, the UNCG is responsible for identifying new and innovative ways to highlight how UN programmes are delivering results; promoting coherent communication; serving as an advisory board to UNCT on strategic media and communication matters; and facilitating the communication of UN strategic policy decisions. The UNCG is chaired by a Head of Agency delegated by the Resident Coordinator, and its membership includes the communications focal points of all United Nations Agencies operating in Eswatini.

3.4. **Resource Mobilization**

The UN system in Eswatini, through the Delivering as One approach, will develop a Funding Framework[[35]](#footnote-36) as the UNCT’s main financial planning and resource mobilization tool for the CF. The Funding Framework will be embedded into the CF Joint Work Plans and updated in the UNinfo online platform.

The UN will support the role of the Government as the convener of local and international actors to explore SDG financing, with an emphasis on blended finance and partnership with the private sector, and as well as other multi-source flows. Noting the limited number of traditional donors in the country, additional partnerships will be crucial to achieve the SDGs and CF outcomes.

Towards this objective, the UN will support the development of an updated, in-depth Development Finance Assessment (DFA) or an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) to evaluate Eswatini’s current SDG financing landscape for development. This assessment will provide the basis for a national SDG financing and resource mobilization strategy, which would be co-created with government, development partners and the private sector.

Additionally, the UN may support

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

These platforms may be coordinated through the Joint Steering Committee with the GoEs.

**CHAPTER 4: MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN**

**4.1. Monitoring, evaluation and learning plan**

The UNSDCF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan shall have four characteristics namely,

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

Evaluation of the Cooperation Framework

Adaptive learning

Reporting

Implementation, Monitoring and Learning

The UNSDCF will feature an outcome-based RRF, which will allow an adaptive approach, based on continuous learning and evidence, given the constant flux in the operating environment, and risks as well as shocks at the national, regional and global levels. The adaptive approach will allow adjustment of the UNSDCF such that whilst the Outcome may remain unchanged throughout the duration of the CF period, the outputs and activities may be adjusted to remain relevant whilst maintaining accountability to all the partners. The CF Resources Framework will therefore be developed to reflect the strategic priority area (SPA) only up to the outcome level. The outputs and activities shall be reflected on the joint work plans and agency specific plans as guided by the UNSDCF guidelines. Reporting of UNSDCF results will be conducted on annual basis with quarterly monitoring of milestones toward achieving the results, allowing for learning and improvement of the quality of implementation. A comprehensive Results and Resources framework with baselines, means of verification and annual targets, and aligned with national and SDGs priorities and approved by the UNCT, will be developed. Any adjustment of annual results will be conducted in consultation with all agencies and implementing partners prior to endorsement. An independent evaluation of the cooperation framework will be conducted towards the end of the cooperation framework cycle (2024), and lessons learnt will inform the development of the next cycle of the framework.

**4.1.1. Risks and opportunities**

The UNSDCF will, through coordination and leadership of the RC and UNCT, have a risk and opportunities strategy. Formal risks analysis shall be conducted to aid in managing the risks and threats as well as identifying and capitalizing on opportunities through turning some of the identified risks into opportunities for achieving the cooperation framework outcomes and sustainable development goals.

The COVID-19 pandemic, during which the UNSDCF was developed, has negative social and economic impacts on Eswatini’s economy and society. The magnitude of these impacts on socio-economic indicators has not yet been measured; and it is anticipated that the current UNSDCF baselines may be misrepresented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly poverty indicators.

The Government of Eswatini has projected a 6% decline in economic growth due to COVID-19; and this would likely affect UNSDCF implementation and its planned achievements. The CF is linked to the National Development Plan ending in 2023, and there is a risk of misalignment beyond this period should government priorities change and focus more on economic recovery. An outcome-based CF, with a limited number of priorities and outcomes, allows more programmatic flexibility and thereby reduces this risk.

The Government of Eswatini and UNCT are accountable for the attainment of the SDGs and are committed to support the priorities identified in the UNSDCF. This provides an opportunity for adequate financing and coordination for success.

Frequent monitoring and tracking of the risks and identification of solutions in collaboration and dialogue with Government of Eswatini, social partners (organized business and labour) and other development partners working in the country is key to mitigate anticipated risks and adapting and contributing to change.

**4.1.2. Cooperation Framework review and reporting**

The development of UNSDCF was informed by the CCA which highlighted key bottlenecks facing Eswatini. The CCA was undertaken every five years prior to the development of the UNSDCF, however, the CCA is now an evolving document that is to be updated regularly based on availability and changes of national key information.

Reporting of UNSDCF will be undertaken annually in collaboration with the Government of Eswatini, led by the led by Results groups with technical guidance of the monitoring and evaluation group and the programme policy support group (PPSG). The report will include progress on results achieved risks, threats and opportunities emerging from achieving SDGs; resources leveraged for financing SDGs in the country; resources mobilized and delivered for implementation. The report will feed into the Government of Eswatini end of year plans and will also inform periodic reporting on SDGs by the country.

The UN development system in Eswatini will report periodically to the RC and UNCT on the progress of achieving the Cooperation Framework outcomes and outputs through various forums including UN INFO.

**4.2. Evaluation plan**

Evaluating the Cooperation Framework will be conducted by an independent contractor/consultant as an end of term evaluation towards its conclusion. The independent system-wide evaluation of the implementation, coordination and results that the Cooperation Framework contributed to shall be conducted to demonstrate transparency, accountability and collective learning. The end of term evaluation of the UNSDCF will be based on best practices and will have requirements of meeting the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) norms and standards.

The UNSDCF Evaluation plan will be developed in consultation with other UN agencies to determine timelines for UN entity CPDs to inform the CF evaluation. The Evaluation findings will inform quality implementation of the UNDSCF and possible adjustments where necessary.

The UNSDCF will use an adaptive approach based on learning from new information, and evidence given the constant flux in the operating environment and risks as well as shocks experience at national, regional and global levels. The adaptive approach will allow the UNSDCF to be adjusted such that whilst the Outcome may remain unchanged throughout, the duration of the CF period, the outputs and activities may be adjusted to remain relevant whilst maintaining accountability to all the partners.

Reporting of UNSDCF results will be conducted on annual basis with quarterly monitoring of milestones toward achieving the results, allowing for learning and improvement of the quality of implementation. A comprehensive Results and Resources Framework with baselines, means of verification and annual targets will be developed aligned with national and SDG priorities and approved by the UNCT. Any adjustments of annual results will be conducted in consultation with all agencies and implementing partners prior to endorsement. An independent evaluation of the cooperation framework will be conducted towards the end of the cooperation framework duration (2024) and lessons learnt will inform the development of the next cycle of the framework.

**4.1.1. Risks and opportunities**

The UNSDCF will through coordination and leadership of the RC and UNCT have a risk and opportunities strategy. Formal risks analysis shall be conducted to aid in managing the risks and threats as well as identifying and capitalizing on opportunities through turning some of the identified risks into opportunities for achieving the cooperation framework outcomes and sustainable development goals.

The UNSDCF was developed during the COVID-19 pandemic which has negative social and economic impact. The magnitude of the impact on socio-economic indicators has not been measured and it is anticipated that the current UNSDCF baselines may be misrepresented as the COVID-19 pandemic particularly poverty indicators.

Government of Eswatini has projected a 6% decline in economic growth due to COVID-19, with a high likelihood of affecting implementation and ultimately the attainment of UNSDCF results.

The cooperation framework is linked to the National Development Plan ending in 2023. After that date, there is a risk that the alignment of the UNSDCF to national development priorities may be reduced should government priorities then change. This outcome-based CF, with a limited number of priorities and outcomes, allows more programmatic flexibility and thereby reduces this risk.

Government of Eswatini and UNCT are accountable for the attainment of SDGs and are committed to support the priorities identified in the UNSDCF.

Frequent monitoring of risks and identification of solutions in collaboration with Government of Eswatini is key to mitigate anticipated risks and adapting, and contributing, to change.

**4.1.2. Cooperation Framework review and reporting**

Reporting of UNSDCF will be undertaken annually in collaboration with Government of Eswatini and by the led by Results groups with technical guidance of the monitoring and evaluation group and the programme policy support group (PPSG). The report will include progress on results achieved risks, threats and opportunities emerging from achieving SDGs; resources leveraged for financing SDGs in the country; resources mobilized and delivered for implementation. The report will feed into the Government of Eswatini end of year plans and will also inform period reporting to SDGs by the country.

The UN development system in Eswatini will report annually to the RC and UNCT on the progress of achieving the Cooperation Framework outcomes and outputs through various forums including UN INFO.

**4.2. Evaluation plan**

Evaluation of the Cooperation Framework will be conducted by an independent evaluator(s) as an end of term evaluation. The independent system-wide evaluation of the implementation, coordination and results to which Cooperation Framework interventions contributed shall be conducted to demonstrate transparency, accountability and collective learning. The CF end of term evaluation will be based on best practices, including the UN Evaluation Group (UNEG) norms and standards, the UN-SWAP evaluation performance indicator and the evaluation indicator of Inter-Agency Disability Inclusion Strategy.

The UNSDCF Evaluation plan will be developed in consultation with other UN agencies to determine timelines for UN entity CPDs to inform the CF evaluation. The Evaluation findings will inform quality implementation of the UNDSCF and possible adjustments where necessary.

## **ANNEX 1**

## **UNSDCF RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PROSPERITY** | | | | | | |
| **Impact:** By 2025, reduce extreme poverty for all people of Eswatini from 20.1% to 17% (NDP, 2019-2022)  **Impact Indicators: SDG1 indicators:** Proportion of population living in extreme poverty, by sex and age, Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex. **SDG8 indicators:** Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita, Proportion of informal employment in non‑agriculture employment, by sex, Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities, Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities, Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training, Proportion and number of children aged 5‑17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age, Total government spending in social protection and employment programmes as a proportion of the national budgets and GDP. **SDG2 indicators:** Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size, Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status. **SDG9 indicators:** Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita, Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment, CO2 emission per unit of value added.  **National development priority:** Outcome 1: Good Governance, Economic Recovery and Fiscal Stability; Outcome 2: Enhanced and Dynamic Private Sector Supporting Sustainable and Inclusive Growth; Outcome 3: Enhanced Social & Human Capital Development; Well Managed Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability; Efficient Economic Infrastructure Network ; Enhanced Efficient Public Service Delivery that Respects Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law; Equality  **Sectoral Outcome:** Reduced Poverty Rates in all its Forms at national and regional levels and across all groups of Swazis  **Regional frameworks:**  **ILO Abidjan Declaration – Advancing Social Justice: Shaping the future of work in Africa:** implementation plan on e.g. creating an enabling environment for sustainable business; measures to enhance productivity growth; skills development; enhancement of competitiveness and sustainability of formal sector enterprises; progressive extension of social protection coverage; addressing gender inequality and discrimination; comprehensive measures for a just transition; decent work and reduction of inequalities. (The mid-term review of the declaration’s implementation plan is to take place in 2021 on the margins of the 4th Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment to be held in Eswatini)  **AU Agenda 2063**: Key Transformational Outcomes include improvements in living standards (income increases, job opportunities, reduction of hunger); transformed, inclusive and sustainable economies (GDP growth, labour intensive manufacturing, ICT penetration, climate resilient production systems); empowered women, youth and children (women’s access to and control of productive assets, reduced youth unemployment, end of child labour exploitation, trafficking and soldiering)  **SADC:** including SADC Employment & Labour Policy Framework and SADCLabour Law Guide platform  **African Continental Free Trade Area**  **SDGs and targets:**  **1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.a;**  **2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4;**  **8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all: 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6;**  **9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation: 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4** | | | | | | |
| **Results** | **Performance Indicators (disaggregated)** | **Baseline (year)** | **Target** | **Source/ MoV** | **Assumption Statement** | **Partners** |
| **Outcome 1: By 2025, women, men and youth, including marginalized persons, contribute to and benefit from economic progress, through greater access to decent employment, equitable social economic opportunities, sustainable enterprise opportunities as well as resilient, financially sustainable social protection systems** | 1. Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age (SDG 1.2.1) | 58.9% | 50% (2025) | Eswatini Household Income & Expenditure Survey (SHIES) | Assuming that investments on poverty reduction strategies will intensify and that periodic national household surveys will be conducted to provide outcome level updates.  Assuming that government and development partners including the UN will provide technical and financial support for social protection systems for vulnerable persons. | Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry ; Ministry of Labour;  World Bank Group; EU, COMESA, SADC, GEF, GCF; WEF AfCFTA; A-etrade. |
| 1. Multi-dimensional poverty [MPI] rates disaggregated by sex, location, age, income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status and location (SDG 1.2.2) | 56% (child multi-dimensional poverty, 2018) | 28% | Multiple Cluster Indicator survey (MICS) |
| 1. Unemployment rate by sex (SDG 8.5.2) | Total: 23% (2017)  Men: 21.4%  Women: 24.8%  Youth: 47.4% (2017) | xxxxx | Labour Force Survey (LFS) |
| 1. Proportion of the working poor by sex | Total: 38% (2017)  Male:  Female: | 34% | Labour Force Survey (LFS) |
| 1. Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added (SDG 9.3.1) | TBD | TBD | Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry |
| 1. Ease of Doing Business Index | 121/190 (2019) | 110 (2025) | Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry and Business Eswatini Reports |
| 1. Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disaster per 100,000 population | 18,331 (2019) | Less than the global average per 100,000 population | World Health Organization |
| 1. Proportion of vulnerable population covered by social protection systems disaggregated by sex. (SDG 1.3.1) | 20% (2019) | 80% | DPMO Reports |
| 1. Total official development assistance grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country’s gross national income (SDG 1.a.1) | TBD | TBD | Ministry of Economic Planning ODI Report, National budget Estimates |
| 1. Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection) (SDG 1.a.2) | Education: 15.4%  Health: 9.8%  Social protection:3% | 20%  15%  5% | Ministry of Finance, National budget Estimates |
| **PEOPLE** | | | | | | |
| **IMPACT:** Reduced morbidity and mortality and increased literacy among all people in the Kingdom of Eswatini  Mo Ibrahim Index and Freedom House Index  **Impact indicators**  Maternal mortality ratio, Neonatal mortality rate, Under 5 mortality rate, AIDS-related deaths, HIV incidence, Stunting rates among under five, total adolescent birth rate, TB incidence, mortality rate attributable to NCDs, birth registration rate among children under five years, Open Defecation free rates, malaria incidence rate, Malaria related deaths, deaths due to road traffic injuries  Improved literacy among the young people, men and women.  **National development priority: Outcome:** Enhanced social and human capital development.  **Sectoral outcome**: Improved to quality health and health services  **National development priority:** Outcome: Good Governance, Economic Recovery & Fiscal Stability  Sectoral Outcomes: Clarity on the Role of the Public Sector Restored  **Regional frameworks**  **SADC protocol on health:** health as a prerequisite for sustainable development **aim:** attainment of an acceptable standard of health for all people in the Kingdom of Eswatini  **AU Agenda 2063**:steepreduction in malnutrition,maternal, child and neonatal deaths, and universal access to antiretroviral drugs for those afflicted by HIV/AIDS  **SDGs and Targets**  **2**. Zero hunger:2.2. **3**. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d **4**. Quality education; 4.1 – 4.2 – 4.3 – 4.4 – 4.5 5. Gender equality; 5.1, 8 Decent work and economic growth, 8.6  **5**. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls: 5.1, 5.5, 5.6, 5a, 5b, 5c **6**. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all: 6.1, 6.2, 6a, 6b **17**. Partnerships for the goals: 17.1,17.6,17.9  **16**: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; **16.6, 5**. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; 5.5  **Impact indicators:** Literacy rate disaggregated by age and sex.  **National development priority:**  Outcome 3 Enhanced Social and Human Capital Development  -Sectoral Outcome: (i) Improved Access to Quality, Relevant & Inclusive Education & Lifelong Learning Opportunities  - (ii) Youth and Other Vulnerable Groups Empowered with Adequate Skills and Opportunities to Live Meaningful Lives and to Actively Participate in the Economy  **Regional frameworks**  African Union agenda 2063 – goal #2 Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation – PriorityEducation and Science, Technology and Innovation skills driven revolution. | | | | | | |
| **Results** | **Performance Indicators (disaggregated)** | **Baseline (year)** | **Target** | **Source/ MoV** | **Assumption Statement** | **Partners** |
| **Outcome 2:**  **By 2025, all children, adolescent, young people, men and women including marginalized persons’ access to equitable, effective and efficient quality social services increased.** | 1. Percentage of women age 15-49 years who received a health check while in facility or at home following delivery, or a post-natal care visit within 2 days after delivery of their most recent live birth | 88% (2014) | 95% | MICS | Significant reduction in ODA due to LMIC status  Financial and social instability after COVID-19 pandemic  Natural disasters  Significant support and advocacy from national governments, civil society, programme beneficiaries  Peace and security will be maintained  Economic and fiscal situation as it borders on availability of resources and capacity  External environmental conditions – pandemics, like the Cov-19  Health financing  Continuous government and partners’ commitment to education financing  World trade/economy growth is strong  Capacity of the government and partners to manage humanitarian crises (natural disasters, health outbreaks)  Peace and security are maintained | Ministry of Education and Training; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Health; Local and international NGOs; World Bank Group; EU; local and international NGOs; civil society and academia |
| 1. Percentage of women age 15-49 years who are currently married or in union who are fecund and want to space their births or limit the number of children they have and who are not currently using contraception | 87.2% | 95% | MoH Annual Reports |
| 1. Percentage of women age 15-49 years who are currently married or in union who are fecund and want to space their births or limit the number of children they have and who are not currently using contraception | 15.2% | 10% | MoH Annual Reports |
| 1. Proportion of new-borns receiving postnatal care within two/seven days of childbirth | 70.1% (2014) | 80% | MICS |
| 1. Percentage of people living with HIV (receiving ART) who have suppressed viral loads (disaggregated by age and gender) | All ages 92% (2020)  0-14 years 76% (2020)  Female 15+ years 97% (2020)  Male 15+ years 87% (2020) | 95%  95%  100%  95% | HIV estimates |
| 1. Proportion of children under age of 1 year who receive DPT3/Penta3 | 91% (2018) | 95% | MoH Annual Reports |
| 1. Proportion of children exclusively breastfed by age of six months | 58% (2018) | 95% | MoH Annual Reports |
| 1. TB treatment success rate among bacteriologically confirmed TB patients | 89% (2018) | 95% | MoH Annual Reports |
| 1. Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population (SDG 3.3.2) | 329 (2018) |  | World Health Organization, Global Tuberculosis Report and MoH Annual Reports |
| 1. Proportion of women aged 30 to 49 years who had ever had a screening test for cervical cancer | 41% (2019) | 80% | Cancer registry |
| 1. Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education) (SDG 4.1.2) 2. Primary completion rate 3. Secondary completion rate | 90.9%  74% | 100%  100% | Annual Education Census/MICS | Continuous government and partners’ commitment to education financing  World trade/economy  growth is strong   Capacity of the government and partners to manage humanitarian crises (natural disasters, health outbreaks)  Peace and security are maintained |
| 1. Proportion of youth and women with relevant technical and vocational skills | 24% | 50% | Ministry of Labour and Social Security reports |
| 1. Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex (SDG 4.2.2)   (Enrolment rate in early learning (grade 0)): | M: 79%  F: 78% | M: 95%  F: 95% | MICS |
| 1. Percentage of young people (15 to 24 years) not in employment, education, or training (SDG 8.6.1) | M: xx  F: xx | M: xx  F: xx | Ministry of Labour and Social Security Labour Force Survey (LFS) |
| **Results** | **Performance Indicators (disaggregated)** | **Baseline (year)** | **Target** | **Source/ MoV** | **Assumption Statement** | **Partners** |
| **Outcome 3:**  **By 2025, oversight bodies and government institutions at national and regional levels operate in an independent, participatory and accountable manner, ensuring equal access to justice and services, with a systematic, participatory implementation and reporting mechanism for human rights obligations and SDGs, with a focus on leaving no one behind.** | 1. Proportion of the population satisfied with their experience of public services, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, type of service and governorate. (SDG 16.6.2) | TBD | TBD | Perception survey | Government commitment to update systems and scale up service delivery, improve access to justice, improve services to enhance ease of doing business and is open to innovation in public sector services  Justice sector is prioritizing updating its systems and performance such as the case management system, access to legal aid, improve capacity of staff, committed to the implementation and enforcement of laws and to improve in World Bank ease of doing business indicators  Government demonstrates effort to improve its anticorruption indicators, adopt new technologies to enhance transparency (SRM pillars on Culture of Excellence, ICT etc.)  Parliament is interested in improving its research capacity, digitalization, and is more engaged on the SDGs, government is keen on providing data on the SDGs, generation of disaggregated data will lead to evidence-based policy development and realization of human rights and SDGsLegal frameworks exist to enable women’s participation, women groups are expressing interest for support  Government is committed to honour its human rights obligations, | Office of Prime Minister, Office of Secretary to Cabinet and Head of Public Service; Central Statistical Agency; Parliament ; Ministry of Economic Planning and Development; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration & Development; Eswatini Anti-Corruption Commission; Commission for Human Rights and Public Administration, the African Development Bank; ITU Royal Science and Technology Park; Lawyer’s Association and Local Government |
| Primary Government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar) (SDG 16.6.1) | Health xxx  Education xxx  Justice xxx | Xxx  Xxx  xxxx | Government audit report |
| 1. Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments (SDG 5.5.1) | 23% | xxx | xxxx |
| 1. Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring (SDG 17.18.1) | No | Yes | Government of Eswatini, Ministry of Economic planning and Development SDGs reports |
| 1. Corruption Perceptions Index | 34/100 (2019) | 45/100 |  |
| 1. Mo Ibrahim Index | 48.7/100 (Mo Ibrahim Index) (2018) | 50/100 | Mo Ibrahim Index Report |
| 1. Freedom House Index | 19/100 (2020) | 30/100 | Freedom House Index and democracy Report |
| 1. Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law (SDG 16.b.1) and (SDG 10.3.2) | xxx | xxx | DPMO |
| 1. Proportion of population subjected to either (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months by age and sex (16.3.1) | 33% | 0% | DPMO |
| 1. Proportion of children who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in the past 12 months |  | 0% | DPMO |
| 1. Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles (SDG 16.a.1) |  | Yes | Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs |
| **PLANET** | | | | | | |
| **Impact:**  Livelihoods and well-being, especially for vulnerable and marginalized communities improved.  Impact Indicator:  Child mortality, adult mortality, life expectancy, Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture (SDG indicator 2.4.1)  **National development priority:**  Outcome 5: Well Managed Natural Resources & Environmental Sustainability  Sectoral Outcomes:  Improved Management & Access to Safe Drinking Water & Sanitation  Equitable, Inclusive & Sustainable Management of Natural Resources  Improved National & Community Resilience to Natural Disasters  Clean & Safe Environment  **Regional frameworks:**  The comprehensive Framework of climate change programmes in Africa facilitated by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), including the Durban Declaration on taking action for environmental sustainability and prosperity in Africa.  SADC Southern Africa Sub - Regional Framework of Climate Change Programmes  **SDGs and Targets:**  **2.**4.1, **6.** Clean Water and Sanitation; 6.1 – 6.2 – 6.3 – 6.4 – 6.5 – 6.6 – 6.a – 6.b, **7**. Affordable and Clean Energy; 7.1 – 7.2 – 7.3– 7.a – 7.b, **13**. Climate Action 13.1 – 13.2 – 13.3, **15**: Life on Land; 15.1 – 15.2 – 15.3 – 15.4 – 15.5 – 15.6 – 15.7 – 15.8 – 15.9– 15.a – 15.b– 15.c | | | | | | |
| **Results** | **Performance Indicators (disaggregated)** | **Baseline (year)** | **Target** | **Source/ MoV** | **Assumption Statement** | **Partners** |
| **Outcome 4:**  **By 2025, Eswatini is on an inclusive low-carbon development pathway that is resilient to climate change and in which natural resources are managed sustainably, and community adaptation to climate change is enhanced, for improved livelihoods, health and food security, especially for vulnerable and marginalized communities.** | 1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (SDG 6.1.1) | 75.6% (2017) | xxx | SHIES/Comprehensive survey |  | Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy (MNRE), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC), Eswatini Environment Authority (EEA), Department of Water Affairs (DWA), National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), Climate Change Unit, Meteorology Department (MET), Electricity authority; local governments, CBOs; CANGO; academia; SADC, COMESA, IFIs; Green Climate Fund, Global Environmental Facility |
| 2. Proportion of population using  (a) safely managed sanitation services  (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water (SDG 6.2.1)  (c) Proportion of wastewater safely treated (SDG 6.3.1) | 68.3% (2017)  72.4% (2017)  75% | Xxx  xxx  xxx | SHIES  Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MENR) Annual Reports, |
| 3. Proportion of sectors which have adopted and implemented national disaster risk reduction strategies | 65% | Xxx | MICS |
| 4. Proportion of population with access to electricity (SDG 7.1.1) | 82% (2017) | xxx | MNRE-Energy surveys, Eswatini Electricity Company Annual Reports |
| 5 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (SDG 7.2.1) | 0.07% (2017) | Xxx | MNRE-Energy surveys, Eswatini Electricity Company Annual Reports |
| 6. Percentage decrease in customers losing access to energy due to climate shock-induced power failures. | Xxx | Xxx | Eswatini Electricity Company Annual Reports |
|  | 7. Percentage increase in use of climate resilient seed varieties | Xxx | Xxx | Ministry of Agriculture |
| 8. Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture (SDG 2.4.1) | Xxx | Xxx | Ministry of Agriculture |
| 9. Percentage decrease in proportion of rural and urban populations malnourished | Xxx | Xxx | MICS and MOH Annual Reports |
| 10.Forest area as a proportion of total land area | Xxx | Xxx | Ministry of Agriculture |
| 11.Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area | Xxx | Xxx | Ministry of Agriculture |

**Annex 2 Monitoring and Evaluation Calendar – to be completed**

**Annex 3**

**Eswatini’s SDG Progress**

Eswatini has identified ten national SDG priorities to guide its development plans and policies during the coming decade.[[36]](#footnote-37) The country’s progress towards the achievement of its prioritized SDGs is summarized in the table below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Goal No.** | **Goal** | **Progress** |
| SDG 1 | No Poverty | The proportion of population living below the poverty line improved from 63% in 2010 to 58.9% in 2017. Poverty is most pronounced in rural areas at 70.2% than urban area 19.6% (2017) and slightly more females (59.4 percent) than males (58.4 percent) are poor. and is highest in the Shiselweni and Lubombo regions at 1.5% and 67.3% respectively (2017). |
| SDG 2 | Zero Hunger | The prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age has declined from 25.5% to 19.9%.  The country is now within the world food security requirement of below 20%. |
| SDG 3 | Good Health and Well Being | The maternal mortality rate declined from 593/100,000 in 2012 to 474/100,000 in 2018 which reflects a small and slow decline if the country is to  meet the target of 120/100,000 maternal deaths in 2022. Also of concern is the slow decline in the under 5 mortality rate from 80/1000 in 2012 to 671000 live births in 2018. The incidence of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis has stabilised, but the noncommunicable diseases have risen to 12% of deaths between 2013 and 2017. |
| SDG 4 | Quality Education | The country introduced free primary education programme as a means to ensure that all children have equal access to quality primary education. As a result, the proportion of children that completed primary education increased from 93.5 % in 2014 to 106.1 % in 2016 and secondary education increased from 49.6% to 61.5 % respectively. The national literacy rate was 95.3% for women and 91.8 % for men in 2014. |
| SDG 6 | Clean Water and Sanitation | The national coverage of nationally managed water resources for households was 72% in 2014 (96% urban population and 63% rural populace.) The increase in access to clean water in rural areas was promoted by the establishment of micro water schemes in communities. The proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, at national level was 53% which comprises of 78% in the rural areas and 94% in urban populace. However, there are discrepancies between coverage and access to the services |
| SDG 7 | Affordable and Clean Energy | The Rural electricity programme increases access to clean energy for people living in both urban and rural areas. The proportion of household with access to electricity nationally increased from 69% in 2014 to 78% in 2018. |
| SDG 8 | Decent Work and Economic Growth | According to Labour Force Survey reports,the proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture sector nationally increased from 54.3% in 2013 to 65.2% in 2016. The 2016 Financial Inclusion Strategy has improved access to finance for MSME including the informal sector. |
| SDG 13 | Climate Action | The 2016 National Climate Change Policy and Strategy, the 2014-2019 National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and the 2017-2021 National Resilience Strategy and Disaster Risk Reduction Plan of Action were developed. |
| SDG 16 | Peace and Justice Strong Institutions | Eswatini has very insignificant cases of conflict-related deaths of about 0.0017%. However, the number of intentional homicide victims per year in the country increased by 8.9%, from 112 in 2016 to 123 in 2018; and the reported cases of domestic abuse increased by 26.4% from 7729 cases in 2015 to 10504 in 2016. |
| SDG 17 | Global Partnership | The Aid Policy of 2000 was revised to inform development of the 2019 National Development Cooperation Policy. The policy will guide all relevant agencies of Government, development partners, civil society organizations and other stakeholders on coordination and management of development cooperation resources. |

**Annex 4**

**Vulnerability Assessment of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Eswatini**

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

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

*Dimension 1 – Slow economic growth*

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

This line of vulnerability is further complicated by the regional dimension of volatile SACU revenues. SACU confirms to a monthly loss of R7 Billion in customs per month to the member states due to COVID-19[[37]](#footnote-38). With close to 40 percent of Eswatini’s revenue derived from SACU revenue, this vulnerability will also impact significantly on SDG progress.

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

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

A significant portion of rural households are not transformed i.e. their incomes are lower than the poverty level; they do not operate commercially; nor do they invest on the farm including purchasing commercial inputs, including hired labor, in significant quantities, and nor do they adopt new technologies on a regular basis. Moreover, Eswatini is also a net importer of food. This is further compounded by the devastating impact of climate extremes, especially drought. With supply disruptions induced by COVID-19 and country not hosting a grain reserve the ability to cover necessary supplies to support agriculture revival is greatly limited. This line of vulnerability directly impacts food security in the country, as well as increases the population in need of social protection. This line of vulnerability impacts the progress on SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 12, SDG 13 and SDG 15.

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

*Dimension 3 – skewed health spending focus*

With 80 percent of the population within 8 kilometre radius to a health facility, access to health is a significant progress of Eswatini. Allocation of health spending is however focused upon tertiary care. COVID-19 will impact the status quo, as it is the primary level care that is of most significance to addressing spread of virus. Clinical evidence also establishes that the biggest spread of pandemic is in Manzini Region, the commercial nerve-centre of the country[[38]](#footnote-39) and is showing a clear trend of high prevalence in productive labour age bracket. COVID-19 impact on the health systems and the consequent impact on labour force is a key line of vulnerability which will impact progress on SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 8.

This line of vulnerability is further complicated with WASH factors. Impact of El Nino induced drought of 2015/16 which led to diminishing ground water sources and near complete drying off surface water resources[[39]](#footnote-40) is still not completely mitigated. This comes on top of 2016 drought assessment findings which showed that nearly 28% of improved water sources in rural areas were non-functional and only 4 % were partially functional.

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

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

*Dimension 4 – closure of learning and feeding*

Eswatini has achieved near universal net enrolment in primary education. However a high proportion of adolescents are excluded from secondary education system[[40]](#footnote-41). Only 20 percent of students who attend primary school move to secondary and only 5 percent reach tertiary level[[41]](#footnote-42). COVID-19 induced lockdowns compound this existing landscape in the form of lockdown and closure of schools as schools in Eswatini are both institutions of learning and a key element in the safety net as feeding centres for the children. Government implements a national school feeding programme which was impacted owing to school closures. Hunger increases the vulnerability of children and youth to discontinue learning and forced to take up work. Impact on learning will be pronounced in the form of limited skilled labour for sustaining progress on economic growth. This line of vulnerability will be critical to progress on SDGs 2, 3, 4 and 5.

**Most vulnerable Groups:** Children

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

Size of sectors as percent of GDP between 2000 and 2017 establish that there is no private sector led growth in the economy[[42]](#footnote-43). This is a major line of vulnerability as no economy can grow sustainably without the private sector. This developmental trend is further compounded by the disruption of supply chains and MSMEs from the pandemic.

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

**ANNEX 5**



**Policy and Programmes Support Group (PPSG) TERMS OF REFERENCE**

# MANDATE & RESPONSIBILITIES

The PPSG serves as the main ‘think tank’ and technical advisor to the UNCT by providing in depth policy analysis on the UNDAF. The PPSG will be responsible for coordinating technical aspects of interventions under the UNDAF, and will serve as the interface between their agencies and the Results Groups. PPSG is comprised of senior policy and programme officers of the UN in Swaziland and is chaired by one of the Heads of Agencies. They will be meeting monthly with the UNDAF forming a substantive component of their meetings agenda.

**Specific responsibilities in support of the UNCT are detailed below:**

* Coordinate UNDAF and its implementation through the One Programme in collaboration with UNDAF Results Groups, for enhanced joint planning, programming and M&E.
* Coordinate joint M&E efforts, such as UNDAF review processes, ensuring that reporting quantifies and qualifies UN action, including budget allocations and disbursements.
* Identify and outline areas for effective integration and joint programming to reach optimal level of collaborative action to enhance synergies and harmonise actions in line with comparative advantages and mandates.
* Advise on strategic partnerships and resource mobilisation opportunities for enhanced programming, including the expansion of collaboration beyond the UNCT.
* Serve as a vehicle for UN support to national development instruments through their interaction with the relevant Sector Working Groups (SWAps)

# PPSG LEADERSHIP & COMPOSITION

The chairman of the PPSG is a Head of Agency that will be selected by UNCT on annual basis. The chairing system is on an annual rotational basis.

The PPSG is comprised of heads of programmes or equivalent. The membership of the group will include the deputy or senior programme officer (or in the case of agencies not having either post, the equivalent position) of all agencies that are operational in the Kingdom of Eswatini. The primary criteria for membership of other ad hoc members will be technical competence and demonstrated analytical ability.

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

# MODUS OPERANDI

## a. Meetings & Frequency

Meetings of the PPSG are held monthly. The chair or co-chair can call for additional meetings if required or suggested by the UNCT.

## b. Secretariat

The Office of the UN Resident Coordinator provides secretariat of the PPSG, ensuring its proper functioning and supporting preparations for all meetings. The secretariat coordinates with the UNCT and other support groups reporting to the UNCT to ensure that issues proposed allow for optimal results by laying out concrete options and recommendations for the UNCT.

The secretariat is responsible for proposing the meeting agenda in coordination with the PPSG chair and co-chair. The agenda is circulated to the PPSG a minimum of 3 days prior to the meeting for comments. The secretariat is also responsible for drafting meeting minutes, which are circulated to the PPSG a maximum of 3 days following the meeting for review. 3 additional days are given to receive and integrate comments. At that moment, the minutes are considered final and sent to the UNCT. The secretariat supports the chair and co-chair of the PPSG in following up on action points and ensuring compliance on deadlines.

## c. Recommendations and Advisory Services

The PPSG makes recommendations and provides advisory services to the UNCT on a consensus basis through a consultative process. Decisions within the authority of

PPSG members are also made on a consensus basis through a consultative process.

# REPORTING & ACCOUNTABILITY

The PPSG reports to the UNCT through its chair or co-chair. This is done through quarterly briefings at the UNCT meeting (or as requested) and the distribution of meeting minutes. The PPSG has the authority to set up working groups and taskforces to accomplish specific activities, in collaboration with the RC / UNCT.

The membership template is to be filled up upon selection at agency level and UNCT endorsement.

*Table 1*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Entity** | **Name** | **Title** | **Email** |
| FAO |  |  |  |
| ILO |  |  |  |
| UNAIDS |  |  |  |
| UNESCO |  |  |  |
| UNDP |  |  |  |
| UNFPA |  |  |  |
| UNICEF |  |  |  |
| UNRCO |  |  |  |
| WFP |  |  |  |
| WHO |  |  |  |

2 of 2

**ANNEX 6**



Terms of Reference - Operations Management Team (OMT) Eswatini

**Introduction**

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

**The primary goals of the Operations Management Team will be to:**

Support and advise the UNCT in finding and implementing solutions to obstacles hindering closer collaboration in the field of administration and operations;

Develop a common services program that would result in the reduction of administrative costs;

Support the implementation of programme activities at country level, and

Coordinate the administrative capacity of the UN System in Swaziland to respond to challenges.

**Membership**

The membership of the group will include the Operations Managers, or unit heads for Finance, Administration and/or Human Resources of all agencies that are operational in the Kingdom of Swaziland. The chairman of the OMT is a head of agency that will be selected by UNCT on an annual basis.

**Specific tasks and responsibilities:** The OMT is expected to perform the following tasks:

* Identify priority activities to be included in its annual work plan and ensure approval by the UNCT;
* Implement the UNCT approved OMT work plan in an open and transparent manner and encourage participation of as many agencies as possible;
* Develop the UN System common services programme while maintaining a continuous dialogue between agencies;
* Implement measures to harmonize and simplify procedures while seeking to comply with the regulations and procedures of each agency;
* Provide support to other coordination groups, with the objective of ensuring optimal use of available resources;
* Ensure that any contract negotiated by the OMT is covered by an MOU between participating agencies;
* Give effect to decisions taken by the UNCT on operational issues
* Oversee the work of UNDAF ICT Group and that of the HACT
* Through the chairperson, provide briefings at monthly UNCT meetings on the harmonization initiatives of the OMT.
* Minutes of the OMT meetings will produced by the secretary appointed from the staff of the chairing agency.

**Frequency of meetings**

The group will meet once a month

**Logistical support:**

Logistical support will be provided by the RCO when required.

**ANNEX 7**

Terms of Reference – UN Communications Group (UNCG) Eswatini

(to be added)

**ANNEX 8**

**LEGAL ANNEX**

**8.1 Partnerships, Values and Principles**

(details to be confirmed with agencies)

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

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

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

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

d) With the World Food Programme (WFP), a Basic Agreement concerning assistance from the World Food Programme, which Agreement was signed by the Government and WFP on 27th May 2005.

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

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

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

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

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

**Annex 8.2**

**Supplementary Programme Management Clauses (complete text to be confirmed, as text in Guidance, (draft) Annex G/46 is incomplete and garbled) (text on implementation to be confirmed)**

Without prejudice to these agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the

Therefore, national Government signature on the Cooperation Framework document will

Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the “General Convention”) or

signifies commitment to these clauses the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the “Specialized Agencies Convention”) to the Agencies’ property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance

…………………

Government Ministries, NGOs, INGOs and UN system agencies will the Specialized Agencies Convention. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts programme activities.

The COOPERATION FRAMEWORK will be made operational through the development of joint work plan(s) (JWPs) and/or agency-specific work plans and project documents as necessary which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner as necessary on the use of resources. agreements, except where it is any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a necessary, particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that e the signed COOPERATION FRAMEWORK and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services. appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the joint or agency-specific work plans and / or project documents

|  |
| --- |
| All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Work Plans (WPs[[43]](#footnote-44)) agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.  Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:   1. Cash transferred directly to the Implementing Partner:    1. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or    2. After activities have been completed (reimbursement); 2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; 3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.   [In countries where it has been agreed that cash will be transferred to institutions other than the Implementing Partner (e.g., the Treasury) please replace with the following text:]  Cash transfers for activities detailed in work plans (WPs) can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:   1. Cash transferred to the [national institution] for forwarding to the Implementing Partner:    1. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or    2. After activities have been completed (reimbursement). 2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner. 3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.   Where cash transfers are made to the [national institution], the [national institution] shall transfer such cash promptly to the Implementing Partner.  Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized |

|  |
| --- |
| amounts. Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.  Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN30 Implementing Partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the Implementing Partner shall participate. The Implementing Partner may participate in the selection of the consultant.    Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.    A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan (WP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that [UN organization] will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner. Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the work plans (WPs) only.    Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UN organization] within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.    In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the work plans (WPs), and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to [UN organization] within six months after receipt of the funds.    To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from [UN organization] will provide UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:   * all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by   [UN system agency], together with relevant documentation;   * all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner’s internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.   The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and [UN organization]. Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:   * Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors. |

* Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the [UN organization] that provided cash (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to [UN organization].
* Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.

Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies (and where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits, add: and to the SAI), on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner in [here insert the number of days as per UN system agency schedule].

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

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

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

The audits will be commissioned by the UN system and undertaken by private audit services.

**8.3 Resource Mobilization**

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

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

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

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

**8.4** **Monitoring and Evaluation**

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

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

1. Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, *National Development Vision 2022* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2019: Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond toda****y*:** *Inequalities in human development in the 21st century,* New York, 2019, p. 345 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The current median age of Eswatini’s population is 21.7 years. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Rapid economic growth caused by an increase in the proportion of the working-age population relative to the dependent population [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Lower middle income economies have a GNI per capita between $1026 and $3995: *World Bank Country and Lending Groups 2020:* <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups#:~:text=For%20the%20current%202020%20fiscal,those%20with%20a%20GNI%20per> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/SWZ/eswatini/gni-per-capita> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. United Nations Eswatini, *Common Country Analysis – Kingdom of Eswatini* , April 2020 (final draft) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/SWZ/eswatini/gni-per-capita> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, *Voluntary National Review Report,* June 2019: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24651Eswatini_VNR_Final_Report.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. Swaziland Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2016-2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. According to recent figures, the youth unemployment rate in Eswatini is 47%: African Development Bank, *African Outlook 2020-eSwatini Economic Outlook:* <https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/southern-africa/eswatini/eswatini-economic-outlook> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. Op. cit., ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. The financing of social security is not fully aligned with the principles of solidarity and risk pooling. The conversion of the Eswatini National Provident Fund (ENPF) to a pension fund is a long-standing aspiration and yet to materialize. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. For example, recent information from the Ministry of Labour indicates that as at end May 2020, over hundred and fifty companies filed applications to lay-off employees resulting in about 9000 unpaid lay-offs.In response, the government announced plans and a financial commitment to establish an unemployment benefit fund (UBF) to support recovery and mitigate the impact of future crisis or pandemics. The plan also includes a temporary COVID-19 unemployment relief fund to provide income support for unpaid lay-offs. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. These groups are generally described as v***ulnerable people****,* which is an umbrellaterm based both on the 2030 Agenda UN Resolution 70/1, 23:

    “People who are vulnerable must be empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the Agenda include children, youth, persons with disabilities (of whom more than 80 per cent live in poverty), people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants” (<http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/10>);

    as well as on the definition of ***vulnerable groups*** from the 2019 Eswatini National Development Plan**.** The latter includes [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. As described in the Secretary General’s *Road to Dignity by 2030,*December 2014, pp. 21-23:<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/562094dee4b0d00c1a3ef761/t/56cf7826f850828b7a38ba94/1456437287044/RoadtoDignityby2030.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. A just transition is about achieving decent work for all and eradicating poverty through a growing inclusive economy that can meet the needs of a country’s current and future population while also protecting the environment and natural resources upon which its economy and society depend [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. In addition, the CEDAW Committee has recommended Eswatini pay special attention to the needs of women with disabilities, older women and widows to ensure that they enjoy equal access to health care, training, employment and other rights and to collect disaggregated data, focusing on the forms of discrimination that they encounter in society: Eswatini CCA 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. *UNSDCF Consultations; Summary Report*, June 2020, pp. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
20. NDP, Sectoral Outcome 3.4, The Youth and Other Vulnerable Groups Empowered with Adequate Skills and Opportunities to Live Meaningful Lives and to Actively Participate in the Economy [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
21. Eswatini’s National Development Plan 2019-2022, page 106. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
22. Eswatini’s National Development Plan 2019-2022, pages 108-109. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
23. Eswatini was reviewed in the 25th session of Universal Periodic Review (second UPR cycle), in May 2016. Eswatini received in total 181 recommendations, and most of the recommendations made to Eswatini relate to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality): Eswatini CCA 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
24. African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, Article 24. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
25. The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, Article 24, recognizes that “all peoples shall have the right to a general satisfactory environment favourable to their development.” [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
26. “Comparative advantage includes the mandate to act, the capacity to act and the positioning to act”, UNDG, *UNDAF Guidance 2017,* p. 25 [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
27. For example, during the 22 – 26 June 2020 UNSDCF stakeholder consultations, representatives from Government, NGO, civil society, academia, research institutions, the private sector, multilateral and bilateral development partner: *UNSDCF Stakeholder Consultations: Summary Report,* 2020, Annex x, “List of Participants”. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
28. This section should be informed by the UNCT configuration exercise, which has not yet taken place [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
29. As of this writing, the UNCT configuration exercise has not yet taken place [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
30. “Delivering as One” refers to a concept at the core of the UN reform process: coordinating different agencies to exploit their competitive advantages. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
31. *Delivering as One approach to joint and complementary programming and implementation* [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
32. M&E focal points M&E Group [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
33. TBC [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
34. TBC [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
35. Previous UNDAF cycles CBF [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
36. Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, *Voluntary National Review Report,* June 2019: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24651Eswatini_VNR_Final_Report.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
37. Press report on SACU Press Conference (as reported in press) <https://www.msn.com/en-za/news/other/sacu-covid-19-costing-members-states-r7bn-in-revenue-every-month/ar-BB13pkPp> [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
38. Draft Report, Rapid Socio-Economic Assessment Report of COVID-19 [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
39. Op cit 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
40. Draft Report – UN CCA [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
41. OP cit 4 [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
42. MEPD, National Development Plan 2019/20-2021/22 establishes the establishes the economic structural shifts between 2000-2017 as follows: In 2000 - Agriculture, Forestry and Mining - 13 percent; Manufacturing – 35 percent; Public sector – 11 percent; Services – 36 percent; Construction and Utilities – 5 percent. In 2017 - Agriculture, Forestry and Mining - 9 percent; Manufacturing – 32 percent; Public sector – 17 percent; Services – 37 percent; Construction and Utilities – 4 percent. [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
43. Refers to results Groups’ or agency specific annual, bi-annual or multiyear work plans 30 For the purposes of these clauses, “the UN” includes the IFIs. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)