



PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2030 ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Voluntary Local Review Workshop
Esibayeni Lodge

15th October 2024



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Background and Introduction
2. Status of SDGs Implementation
3. Key Achievements and Challenges
4. WAYFORWARD



BACKGROUND



- On September 25, 2015, 193 Heads of State at the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 development agenda on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and was launched nationally during 2016.
- Following the adoption the SDGs, the country domesticated, popularized and integrated in the National Planning Frameworks i.e. NDS, NDP and the National Budget.
- Monitoring and reporting of progress made in the implementation of the Agenda is coordinated by the MEPD working with stakeholders.
- There are 17 SDGs, 169 targets and 232 indicators to be achieved by all member states by 2030.
- The SDGs are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure all people enjoy peace and prosperity.
- The goals are broad and interdependent covering social, economic and environmental issues.

STATUS OF SDGs IMPLEMENTATION



POVERTY GOALS



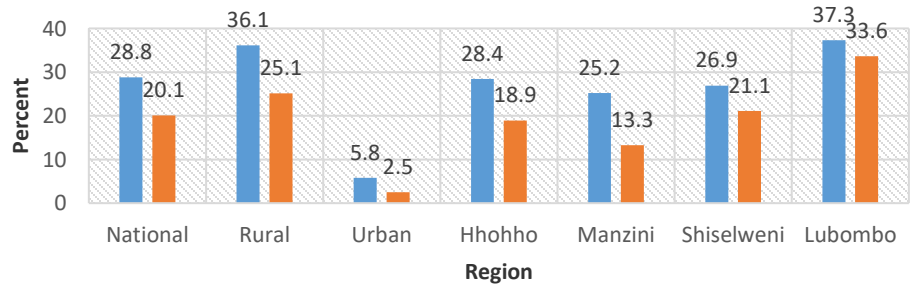
National poverty and extreme poverty rates remain unchanged at **58.9%** and **20.1%** respectively as

up to date statistics are not available

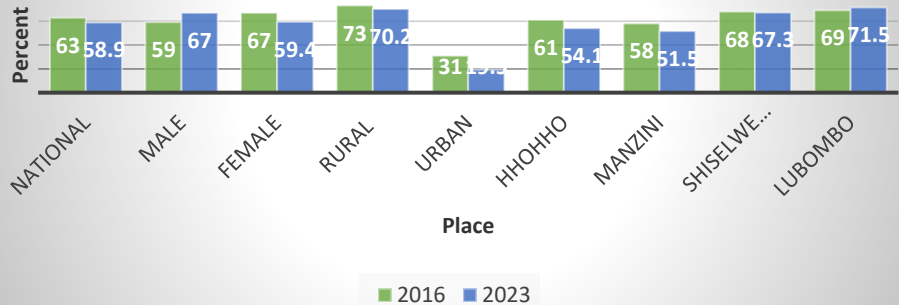
Recent poverty assessments indicate that the poverty rate is likely to increase by between **2.3%** - **5.6%** due to recent shocks.

Poverty rate at 58.9% against 30% target by 2030.

Proportion of Population Living Below Extreme Poverty Line



Proportion of Population Living Below Poverty Line



STATUS OF SDGs IMPLEMENTATION



POVERTY GOALS



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

282 800 people, which is about **24%** of the population, who were food insecure in 2023.

Child poverty rate
56.5% in 2017 ~
46.6% in 2024

STATUS OF SDGs IMPLEMENTATION



SOCIAL GOALS



Under 5 Mortality Rate declined from **104 per 1 000** live births to **74 per 1 000 live births** while Maternal Mortality Ratio remains at **452/100,000** in 2017

In 2020, Eswatini achieved the **95-95** Global HIV Target following a decline in the HIV incidence among adults aged **15 to 49 from 1.36% in 2016 to 0.85% in 2019.**

The country is also a champion in reducing malaria as incidence is now **at 0.05 per 1000 population.**

Primary completion rates declined from **106.1%** reported in the last VNR to **105.2%** while secondary completion rate increased from **61.5%** reported in the last VNR to **67.8%.**

Legislations, policies and strategies aimed at protecting the rights of girls and women are in place.

Child-friendly courts have been established

Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration/Integrity (CHIPA) established and independently promote, monitor and enforce human rights protection.

Women's representation in national parliament increased slightly from **18% in 2016 to 22% in 2018.**

While representation of women in Cabinet increased from **25 % to 30%**

STATUS OF SDGs IMPLEMENTATION



ECONOMIC GOALS



Annual growth of GDP increased from **2.8% in 2018** to **4.7% in 2020** as the economy rebounded from the shocks of COVID - 19.

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

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

52% of the total grants received by Eswatini were allocated to Health, **29%** to Climate Change and **4%**, the least percentage, to Education in **2020/21 fiscal year.**

The overall amount of external assistance to the country increased by **34.6%** **between 2018/19 and 2020/21**

The proportion of Gazetted paved roads increased from **1 404 km in 2015 to 1 626 km in 2021** due to rollout of chemical stabilizer and single seal programme.

STATUS OF SDGs IMPLEMENTATION



ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS



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

Water pollution is at **30%** during dry season and during wet season it is at **20%**.

The challenge is increased disposal of plastic waste into rivers

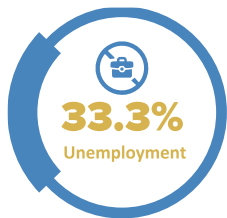
Aquaculture Strategy was launched in 2020 with the intention to regulate fish harvesting and to halt overexploitation of fish.

The proportion of areas protected, which favors biodiversity, increased from **4.1% to 5.2% since 2016**.

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

The extent of invasion by alien plant remains high at **80%** in the **country since 2016**.

KEY CHALLENGES



1. Unemployment increased from **23% in 2016 to 33.3% in 2021.**
2. Under 5 stunting increased from **19.9% reported** in the last VNR to **29.4%.**
3. Reversed progress in Universal Access to Health due to COVID 19 impact, and shortage of drugs and medical supplies.
4. Access to Early Childhood Care and Education, secondary and post secondary remains low as reported in the 2019 VNR.
5. Unaffordable cost of energy and slow progress in adopting sustainable renewable sources of energy.
6. Low participation of youth in agricultural and waste management initiatives.
7. **Increased loans and declining Overseas Development Assistance.**
9. **Limited resources available for implementation of SDGs.**
10. **Lack of timely and quality data to inform programming.**
11. **Limited private sector and civil society organizations participation in the implementation of the SDGs.**
12. **Limited capacity for effective implementation and monitoring of the goals at different levels.**
13. **Lack of regional and constituency level development plans that mainstream the SDGs.**
14. **SDGs Popularity and clarity of roles - some stakeholders are still not fully conversant with the issue of the goals.**
15. **The current global wars affecting peace and security.**

LESSONS LEARNT to INFORM THE NEXT VNR/VLR PROCESS



1

Adequate planning helped to secure technical and financial support required to undertake the SDGs - VNR/VLR implementation and reporting.



2

Starting the VNR process in good time allowed for the effective engagement of all relevant stakeholders.



3

Broad stakeholder engagement resulted in an enhanced national ownership of the VNR .



4

The deep involvement of stakeholders, in particular special groups such as women and persons with disabilities, proved to be one of the good practices which can be strengthened.

WAY FORWARD



As Eswatini seeks to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SDGs, particular focus will be placed on the following activities which require support;

- (i) Strengthening local SDGs Institutional Mechanisms**
- (ii) Popularization and ownership of the SDG agenda
- (iii) Strengthening partnerships, coordination and collaboration
- (iv) Improve monitoring and evaluation of progress under the SDGs agenda
- (v) Encouraging involvement and participation of the youth and women for transformation
- (vi) Focus on financing for SDGs
- (vii) Building resilient systems

The 2025 VNR/VLR PROCESS

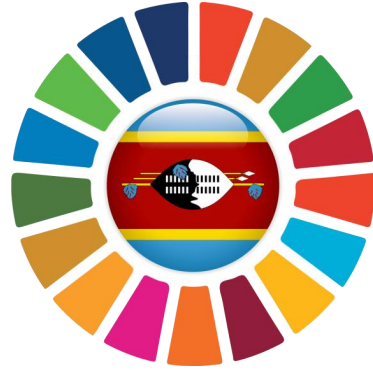


CONTEXT

- The 2025 Voluntary National Review (VNR) is an important milestone in the global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- It will provide an opportunity for countries to share their progress and experiences in implementing the SDGs, identify challenges and gaps, and highlight their contributions to global efforts to achieve sustainable development.
- The 2025 VNR will take place during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2025.
- The 2025 VNR will focus on reviewing progress on SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, and SDG 14: Life Below Water.

REPORTING

- Countries will be expected to submit their VNR reports to the UN Secretariat prior to the HLPF.
- The VNR is a flexible process, and countries can choose their own format and approach. However, the reports should generally include the following elements:
 - A description of the country's national context
 - A review of progress and achievements in SDG implementation
 - An identification of challenges and gaps
 - A presentation of policies and strategies for achieving the SDGs
 - A discussion of partnerships and cooperation
 - A presentation of future plans for SDG implementation
- Stakeholder Engagement: The VNR process should be inclusive and involve a wide range of stakeholders, including government (national and local), civil society, private sector, and academia.



Thank you! | Siyabonga!