


Annual



Report
2022

A healthcare worker, a woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and a grey apron, is leaning over a table. She is holding a blister pack of white pills and a small white container. A pregnant woman with dark skin and long braids, wearing a black t-shirt, is sitting at the table. A man in a yellow t-shirt and blue jeans stands behind her, looking down at the pills. On the table, there is a yellow pill dispenser, a box of pills, and some papers. The background is a plain white wall.

More than 8 Billion reasons to
accelerate attainment of the ZERO
preventable maternal deaths

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A Message from the Head of Office

This report presents key achievements of UNFPA Eswatini Country Office and Implementing partners for the year 2022. These were attained despite challenges of COVID-19 and the civil unrest encountered during the course of programme implementation.



Ms Margaret Thwala-Tembe, UNFPA Eswatini, Head of Office

UNFPA Eswatini successfully implemented interventions that contributed to the attainment of the 3 + 1 transformative results: ending preventable maternal deaths; ending unmet need for family planning; ending gender based violence and harmful practices; and ending sexual transmission of HIV. The key achievements for the year 2022 are summarized below.

The Country Office (CO) and the Ministry of Health piloted an innovation for improving maternal and newborn health through a digital solution for early detection of potential complications during pregnancy, labour, delivery and postpartum. Despite the delayed commencement of this pilot, UNFPA appreciates the preparatory activities that the Ministry undertook to facilitate the start of the pilot. It is my belief that this will yield positive health outcomes for women during pregnancy and delivery.

As seen during the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest, violence especially gender based violence (GBV) increased in the country. As a result, UNFPA continued to support the national efforts for prevention and response to GBV. Through the UN Gender Theme

Group that UNFPA is currently chairing, the National Gender Policy review was finalized as well as the review of National Strategy to End Violence. Male involvement in the prevention and response interventions were supported through a partnership with UNDP reaching 461 men and boys including Traditional Leaders. Furthermore, GBV prevention campaigns were facilitated in five towns reaching 5,000 people including men.

The integration of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) in entrepreneurship in partnership with Junior Achievement Eswatini continued showing positive results with some of the participating youth reporting great accomplishments in their businesses. This lifted the youth concerned from poverty that result from unemployment and promoted economic empowerment and independence among the young beneficiaries from this initiative. We hope that this will be scaled up to benefit more young people.

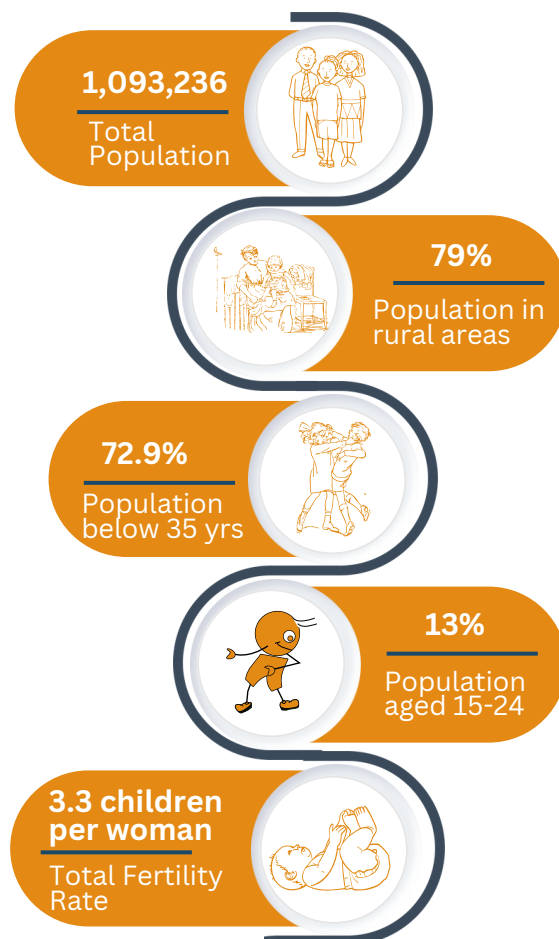
In the spirit of leaving no one behind, UNFPA, through the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) supported the Deputy Prime Minister's office (DPMO) in raising the voice of persons with albinism in the 4 regions of Eswatini and further supported advocacy on visual impairment and the need to support the visually impaired with tools and information. The International Cane Day was commemorated on 13th June 2022 reaching total of over 1,000 people. Participants included the government, persons with disabilities, development partners, Private sector and CSOs.

I wish to extend UNFPA's appreciation to all the implementing partners who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life of Emaswati in sexual and reproductive health; who promoted women empowerment through fighting gender based violence, who advanced adolescent health including youth empowerment through life skills (CSE) education and those that contributed in the generation of data for evidence based programming. I humbly invite you to peruse through this report about UNFPA Eswatini Country Office's 2022 achievements.

1.0 Introduction and Country Context

UNFPA is the UN sexual and reproductive health agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. UNFPA's strategic plan (2022-2025), reaffirms the relevance of the current strategic direction of UNFPA and focuses on three transformative results: ending preventable maternal deaths, ending unmet need for family planning; and ending gender-based violence and harmful practices as UNFPA's commitment towards the 2030 agenda. The UNFPA-Government of Eswatini seventh country programme (2021-2025), whose vision is 50% reduction in institutional maternal deaths in Eswatini by 2025, is aligned to the UNFPA strategic plan 2022-2025 and ICPD25 Voluntary commitments. It also contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2025) as well as the National Development Plan (2022-2027).

KEY DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



2.0 Progress towards attainment of the 3 transformative results

2.1 Towards Ending Unmet Need for Family Planning

In 2022, the UNFPA Eswatini Country Office in collaboration with the Government of Eswatini (Ministry of Health) and Civil Society Partners contributed towards the following results on ending unmet need for family planning.

- *Procured Depo Provera (26,000 doses), Norigynon (14,000 ampoules); Oxytocin (8,000 ampoules)*
- *Averted 3,057 unwanted pregnancies*
- *160,000 women were reported to be using a modern method of contraception*
- *The proportion of demand satisfied with modern methods among married women increased from 80% to 83% in 2022.*
- *Strengthened access to and provision of quality FP services through printing and dissemination of 350 national FP Guidelines including orientation of 190 HCWs on the new FP guidelines.*
- *Facilitated availability of RH commodities and supplies by supporting LMIS data quality and analysis at health facility level, quantification and forecasting including training of 17 Supply Chain Specialists on quantification.*
- *Enhanced availability of RH commodities through supporting 80 health facilities on data verification audits.*

Projections indicate that Eswatini is progressing towards reducing the unmet need for family planning and increasing the use of modern contraceptive methods among married women. However, there was room for improvement, especially in addressing the barriers and challenges that prevent some women from



accessing and using family planning services and commodities. Some of these barriers and challenges include socio-cultural norms, gender inequality, lack of information and awareness, cost, quality and availability of and method preferences and side effects. To achieve the national and global targets of universal access to reproductive health and rights, Eswatini needs to continue investing in strengthening its family planning program and ensuring that all women have the choice and opportunity to plan their families according to their needs and aspirations.

A quick assessment for the stock levels of family planning commodities and medicines was conducted and it was discovered that there were serious stock-outs of Family Planning (FP) commodities and other lifesaving medicines in the country.

2.2 Towards Ending Preventable Maternal Deaths

The country programme was in its second year of implementation. The stakeholders and implementing partners continued to support the country office in the pursuit of the vision for the 7th country programme of 50% reduction in institutional maternal mortality by end of 2025. The notable achievements towards preventable maternal deaths that were recorded in 2022 were as following:

- 392 maternal deaths averted
- Averted 673 abortions (a second leading cause of maternal deaths in the country)
- Strengthened health systems for SRHR services continuity through the integration of SRHR/HIV/GBV issues in emergencies.
- Created awareness on the importance of midwives through a commemoration of International Day of the Midwife reaching 80 midwives.
- AYPHS Quality Improvement package was disseminated in all four regions with Shiselweni region reaching 88% (36 of the 41) health facilities in the region.



A midwife attending a training

2.3 Towards Ending Gender-based Violence and Harmful Practices

GBV remains a crisis in the country. The Eswatini Country Office in collaboration with its partners and stakeholders facilitated following results towards ending gender based violence in 2022:

- Enhanced a coordinated multi-sectoral response by the government and partners in the prevention and response to GBV through activation of the MTTV and HLTV
- Enhanced evidence based advocacy through supporting GBV surveillance by harmonising data collection, analysis and production of GBV reports
- Strengthened clinical management of GBV through refresher training of 187 out of 373 (65%) Nursing Sisters Promoted an enabling policy environment for GBV programming through the review of the National Strategy to End Violence 2022 - 2027.

2.3 Towards Ending sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS

The country office contributed to ending sexual transmission of HIV through a number of interventions and achieved the following results at the end of the year:

- Improved condom programming through training of 25 volunteers from FLAS, PSI, Pact, AMICAALL, SAfAIDS and AHF Eswatini.
- Increased condom use at community level through community sensitization on condoms use as well through condom distribution of 12 million male and 242,056 female condoms at the sensitization meetings.
- Strengthened engagement of young men on SRH, HIV and GBV issues through enrolling 461 young men and boys for structured sessions where 407/461 (80%) completed the 15- session curriculum. 38,600 condoms were distributed, 197 men were referred to services (HTS, SRH and VMMC).

3.0 Country Programme Key Results by CP thematic outputs

3.1 Quality of Care and Services

The quality of care output focuses on ensuring that “Health systems is strengthened to provide evidence-based, comprehensive and integrated quality of care at all levels covering all population groups, particularly young people and the furthest left behind across the health continuum of care, by 2025”. In 2022, the country office, under this output achieved the following key results:

- *Improved the capacity of 32 midwives to provide quality maternal and newborn health services. These were drawn from maternal, neonatal and child health departments in the Lubombo region.*
- *Improved provision of cancer screening and management services through training 90 completing midwives.*
- *The CO strengthened integration of HIV care into oncology care for the reduction of incidence and mortality due to cancers of reproductive system.*
- *Improved menstrual health programming through the dissemination of National Menstrual Health Guidelines to all healthcare facilities reaching 450 health care workers.*
- *CO advocacy resulted in the recognition of Menstrual Hygiene (MH) as an urgent public health agenda with various civil society organizations calling for tax-free MH commodities and products.*
- *Enhanced RH commodity security through the signing of a Third Party Procurement (TPP) agreement with the Ministry of Health to facilitate pooled procurement of RH commodities using UNFPA systems.*
- *Enhanced health care workers (HCWs) capacity to provide quality post-natal care (PNC), gender based violence (GBV) and family planning (FP) services through development of PNC guidelines, FP and GBV standard operating procedures (SOP) on clinical management of GBV.*
- *Strengthened the capacity of health care workers on provision of integrated quality FP and GBV services in health facilities by successfully training 187 out of 373 (65%) Nursing Sisters.*
- *Promoted quality documentation of antenatal care (ANC) services through printing and dissemination of 30, 000 ANC cards to health facilities.*



Launch of the revised SRHR guidelines



- Successfully conducted three maternal death review audits to ascertain causes of death and intervention. The records revealed that pregnancy-induced hypertension is the leading cause of maternal deaths followed by obstetric hemorrhage.
- Maternal death review feedback sessions were conducted at the Mbabane Government Hospital and 82 HCWs consisting of midwives and doctors were reached. A key recommendation is on strengthening consultative meetings between heads of departments (HODs and the Anesthetics on patient management.

3.2 Gender and Social norms

The gender and social norms output aims at ensuring that “By 2025, multi-sectoral mechanisms to promote gender equality; prevention and response to gender based violence are strengthened, furthermore promoting decision making with a focus on advocacy, data, health and coordination including in humanitarian settings”. In 2022, the country office, under this output achieved the following key results:

- Strengthened advocacy for gender equality, women empowerment and gender based violence (GEWE & GBV) prevention and response through commemorations of international days e.g. International Women’s Day (IWD) reaching 400 community members; Day of the Girl Child reaching 700 girls, International Men’s Day reaching 100 men and 16 days of activism reaching about 5000 people.
- Strengthened coordination of GBV response in humanitarian settings through quarterly Social Protection cluster meetings, emergency ad hoc meetings and the review of Multi Hazard Contingency Plan (MHCP).
- Improved National Multi-sectoral GBV Coordination through quarterly meetings of the Multi-Sectorial Task Team on Violence (MTTV) and Directors Forum.
- GBV networks were successfully trained on gender mainstreaming.



Section of attendants during the International Men's Day commemoration in Ezulwini.

- Improved Partnerships for GBV response & GEWE through collaborating with EU and other stakeholders in celebrating international and national events on gender quality and GBV.
- Successfully contributed to resource mobilization for the GBV shelters through collaborating with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries and Mahamba Gorge Hiking on GBV awareness.
- Enhanced advocacy and communication on GBV through partnering with Eswatini Editors Forum in launching the Media Gender Awards.
- Social norms change strengthened through empowerment sessions for 70 traditional leaders on SODV Act, harmful practices and GBV prevention

3.3 Population Change and Data

The population change and data output facilitates evidence generation to inform policy and programming for the country programme and the country at large. The output statement for this strategic area is “By 2025, data systems strengthened and take into account demographic intelligence mainstreaming and climate

change issues at national and subnational levels especially in development policies, programmes and advocacy, related to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights including in humanitarian settings.” The country office, under this output achieved the following key results:

- Improved understanding on population and development issues among traditional leaders, young people and Regional Development Teams through the conduct of regional consultations on the reviewed draft national population policy.
- Strengthened capacity of the Central Statistical Office to report on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) resulting in the production and dissemination of the 2021 Annual CRVS Report. The report shows that completeness in birth registration improved only slightly, i.e. from 23 percent in 2020 to 30.9 percent in 2021, whereas completeness in death registration jumped from 55 percent to 74 percent over the same period.
- Improved the environment on programming for CRVS through the production and dissemination of Eswatini’s first CRVS Strategy in collaboration with other partners.



Commemoration of Billion Day in Eswatini.

- Improved availability of socio-demographic and SRHR data for planning through the production of Census Statistical Reports, Inkhundla (Constituency) Population by single years of Age and Sex, Contraceptive Prevalence Rate by Inkhundla. The Inkhundla Population by Age and Sex Report provides the age and sex distribution of the population by Inkhundla. Its primary purpose was to inform the country’s COVID-19 vaccination programme, which uses the constituency as the central distribution points for the vaccine.
- Improved availability of data on persons with disabilities for monitoring the SDGs through the production of an Assessment report on the inclusion of disability in the national SDG indicator framework. The assessment found that only 1 of the 27 indicators is fully incorporated into the SDG framework, whilst data for 11 indicators were currently being collected but not analyzed to compute the relevant SDG indicators. Data for 15 of the 27 indicators are not collected at all.
- Improved capacity of the Central Statistical Office in census and household undertaking through the provision of ESRI’s package on modernizing the population census and training of 6 technicians on the operationalization of the package.
- Improved visibility of the ICPD agenda through Programme Enablers continued undertaking of advocacy activities such as the launch of the State of the World Population report as well as launching and implementing a campaign on the 8th Billion day.
- Improved GBV data generation through quarterly GBV data meetings. GBV surveillance reports consolidated and disseminated to stakeholders.
- Integrated SRH, GBV and HIV issues in Vulnerability Assessment. Country office supported the generation of data including the annual VAC survey, a multi-partnership report focused on conducting livelihood and vulnerability assessments geared towards informing government policies, strategies and programmes across different sectors for development and humanitarian needs.

- The strategic assessment report on post abortion care was conducted to improve the country comprehensive abortion programming policies and services to save lives normally lost due to abortion.

3.4 Adolescents and Youth

The adolescent and youth output of the country programme statement is “By 2025, young people, in particular adolescent girls and young women’s skills are strengthened to make informed decisions to access SRHR services in particular FP services including leadership and participation in national development processes and in humanitarian settings”. In 2022, the country office, under this output achieved the following key results:

- Improved adolescents and young people’s skills and capabilities to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health and rights and well-being and participate in programming and national decision-making processes.
- Improved inclusive policies, legislation and accountability mechanisms for the promotion and protection of adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRHR) at national and sub-national levels through the development and launch of the costed National Youth Policy Operational Plan 2022-2025 to guide programming on youth issues.
- Prioritization of the youth in the national development agenda improved through the orientation of the Senate Portfolio Committee on Youth on the state of Eswatini Youth.
- Strategic youth participation & programming across all levels (constituency, regional & national) promoted through the completion of the drafting of the National Youth Bill.
- Coordination of youth programmes across ministries and sectors enhanced through the establishment of the National Youth Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC): Two IMC meetings were held in 2022 aimed at facilitating mainstreaming youth issues in ministerial programmes,
- Oriented 27 adolescents and Representative of youth serving institutions and networks on advocacy and effective participation in national decision-making and accountability mechanisms. The orientation also included resource mobilization and programming for youth programmes.
- Improved regional youth participation in programming through training of 23 community-based youth leaders resulting in an increased number of community based youth projects that have received recognition from partners. These include life changing stories and income generating projects.
- Successfully trained 70 members (48 females and 22 males) of youth networks in churches on SRHR Advocacy & leadership. These were from 24 churches from the 4 regions and they were drawn from League of Churches, Council of Churches, Conference of Churches, Seventh Day Adventist and the International Terbanacle).
- Enhanced effective coordination and partnerships for youth programming in the country through the conduct of quarterly national ASRH technical working group (TWG) where a total of more than 25 stakeholders participated representing all youth stakeholders. These included representatives from government, CSO and development partners.
- Successfully integrated life skills education (LSE) into the grade 6 curriculum for all primary schools in Eswatini. However, there is still a need to train curriculum designers in LSE emerging issues so that these can be integrated in the education materials.
- The CO successfully pioneered SRHR and entrepreneurship integration where 80 youth-led businesses were mentored and provided with start-up capital. A total of 10 ASRH initiatives have been implemented in communities by 10 businesses reaching about 90 beneficiaries. Twenty-nine (29) businesses were registered with the registrar of companies.
- Improved digital engagement of young people through Tune-Me platform reaching 407,000 young people with life skills information.

4.0 Programme Enablers

The country program was implemented successfully because it was aided by a number of programme enablers in the following:

4.1 Policy Environment

Throughout 2022 UNFPA was actively engaged in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) results groups (RGs) co-chairing results group 2 with the Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO) whilst also leading the violence sub- group in results group 3. Through the results groups and the program implementation forum platforms, the country office has been able to influence the program policy environment in various ways.

4.2 Innovation

- The country programme received funding from the Strategic Investment Facility to implement innovative programming for reducing the high maternal deaths using a digital solution. The ministry of Health identified four health facilities that enrolled to pilot the innovation programme after being trained by Philips.*
- In addition the country ensured that the Tune Me App continued to exist and to provide information to young people on SRH. Tune Me is accessible digitally and conveniently on smart phones via Google app. The Country office promoted and marketed the App on platforms such as the branding of public transport and also hired the promoters and supported the moderators.*

4.3 Using religion, culture and traditions for HIV prevention and teenage pregnancy reduction

- Through the Church Forum on HIV and AIDS interventions, the country office supported awareness creating on integrated SRHR, HIV and GBV prevention and response interventions (information and services) targeting beneficiaries especially youth from the religious sector especially by promoting uptake of the integrated SHR/HIV and GBV information and services and risk assessment and risk reduction behavior.*



4.4 Emergency preparedness and response

- The Country office supported health systems strengthening through the training of 246 health care workers from all the four regions of the country on COVID-19 vaccine deployment which increased the skills and knowledge of the health care workers on providing and administering the vaccine. Furthermore, PPE was provided for frontline health care workers to enhance prevention, testing and management of COVID-19.
- Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) on humanitarian readiness strengthened by conducting an assessment and an action plan was produced and is being implemented. As part of the UN Disaster Emergency Management Team, the CO is leading the protection cluster and also serving in the health and nutrition cluster



4.5 Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Under the co-leadership of UNAIDS and UNICEF, UNFPA participated in the implementation of the United Nations network on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) activities as outlined below

- Facilitate the training of United Nations staff on PSEA zero tolerance policies; and,
- Contributed in the drafting of standard operating procedures for an inter-agency community-based complaints and feedback mechanism.



Partnerships

In 2022, the CO established new partnerships and maintained its existing partnerships with different organizations for scaling up programme implementation, resource mobilization as well as for leveraging on accelerated achievement of the transformative results and ensuring the principle of leaving no one behind.

- *Junior Achievement Eswatini beneficiaries ensured the integration of SRHR interventions as a social corporate responsibility after receiving the seed capital support for their business through UNFPA's support.*
- *FODSWA was supported with the UNPRPD funding to strengthen disability mainstreaming and disability inclusive programming.*
- *Autism Eswatini was supported to commemorate International Autism Day as a way of awareness creation on autism.*





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