



KINGDOM OF ESWATINI  
MINISTRY OF SPORTS, CULTURE  
& YOUTH AFFAIRS



# ESWATINI NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY 2020

Establishing an Empowered  
Young Emaswati fit for  
Vision 2022 & beyond



*Ensuring rights and choices for all*



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
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# FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to present to the Nation, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the Eswatini National Youth Policy 2020 Document. This is not just another document but a commitment and promise by Government, through our Ministry, to the thousands of young people in our country. The 2020 National Youth Policy outlines the pathway that will direct and inform Government's decision making on all youth issues from here on in.

Government fully understands that Eswatini's future is in the hands of young people. With over 70% of our country's population 35 years and under, we have been presented with a once in a lifetime opportunity to change the trajectory of our country's fortunes forever. In order for the country to reap the full benefits of this golden opportunity, there is a need for informed and inclusive decision making. It is on this backdrop that we have reviewed the National Youth Policy, first put in place in 2009.

Our review exercise put emphasis on inclusivity, understanding the cross-cutting nature of youth issues. We engaged various stakeholders, including the youth themselves as well as stakeholders from the education, health, justice, disability and civil society sectors, among others. It is in that regard we are proud to present a Policy Document that has been informed by the voices, opportunities and challenges affecting all young people. This policy document is also in line with the provisions of national disability instruments which include the Disability Policy, the Eswatini National Disability Plan of Action as well as Persons with Disability Act of 2018.

While the National Youth Policy 2020 builds on the 2009 Policy Document, several issues have been reframed, changed and strengthened, appreciating the current context and the ever evolving nature of youth issues. This is a two-pillar policy, focused, firstly on building the capabilities of young people and secondly, on the creation of opportunities for young people to utilize their capabilities. In simple terms, this Policy sets the focus of Government and partner institutions on enhancing the capabilities of our country's youth while also creating an enabling environment for their expression. Our approach is

based on the Population and Development framework, believing that, for our young people to develop into better citizens, there is a need to capacitate them first and then create the platforms within which they will put their capabilities into use.

This Policy sets the right foundation for Government and partners to start creating a better future for our young people. Indeed, it is this Policy that will inform and guide all youth legislation in Eswatini. The National Youth Policy 2020 not only creates the platform for Government to pursue such avenues, but it is also an indication of Government's clear plan for its youth and signal and invitation to local and international prospective partners for youth development. Indeed, Government has a plan for Eswatini's youth and we are ready to form partnerships for the betterment of our young people. This Policy Document presents a new dawn for the youth of Eswatini. We call upon all young people, partner institutions and all within Government to embrace it.

The future of our young people is indeed bright.



**HONOURABLE HARRIES BULUNGA**  
**MINISTER FOR SPORTS, CULTURE AND YOUTH AFFAIRS**

## ACRONYMS

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| AYC    | African Youth Charter                        |
| AIDS   | Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome          |
| CSO    | Central Statistics Office                    |
| DD     | Demographic Dividend                         |
| ENYC   | Eswatini National Youth Council              |
| FGDs   | Focus Group Discussions                      |
| HIV    | Human Immune Virus                           |
| MICS   | Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey            |
| MoET   | Ministry of Education and Training           |
| MoH    | Ministry of Health                           |
| MoSCYA | Ministry of Sports Culture and Youth Affairs |
| NYP    | National Youth Policy                        |
| SRHR   | Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights    |
| UNFPA  | United Nations Population Fund               |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund               |
| YAD    | Youth Affairs Department                     |
| YF     | Youth Friendly                               |
| YP     | Young People                                 |

## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

**Education for Sustainable Development** - Is the education that allows every human being to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future. UNESCO (2014) further states that Education for Sustainable Development utilizes participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and empower learners to change their behaviors and take action for sustainable development and also promotes life skills including critical thinking and decision-making skills.

**Young People** - The United Nations defines young people as members of the population aged 10–24 years while the Commonwealth defines young people as individuals aged 15–29 years. The African Union Commission defines young people as individuals aged 15–35 years. For the purpose of this policy, the definition of young people is aligned to the African Union's definition of people aged between 15 – 35 years.

**Social Capital** - The institutions, relationships, and norms that shape the quality and quantity of a society's social interactions. Increasing evidence shows that social cohesion is critical for societies to prosper economically and for development to be sustainable. Social capital is not just the sum of the institutions which underpin a society – it is the glue that holds them together (World Bank 2018)

**Social Competence** - is a person's age-appropriate knowledge and skills for functioning peacefully and creatively in his or her own community or social environment. It is the product of a wide range of cognitive abilities, emotional processes, behavioral skills, social awareness, and personal and cultural values related to interpersonal relationships (Orpinas and Horne 2006)

# I. INTRODUCTION

The world has 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24 (UNFPA 2014). Africa has the youngest population among the continents with 29 percent (344) of the 1.2 billion aged between 10 and 24 years further states UNFPA (2014). In sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of young people is even greater, exceeding a third of the total population. The sheer size of this demographic means that the youth forms a significant sector of society that cannot be ignored.

Eswatini is no different. According to the most recent population and housing census conducted in 2017, 409,793 people out of a total population of 1,093,238 are aged between 15 and 34 years. This

means that the youth demographic represents 37.4 percent of the population of Eswatini. It is therefore critical that a coherent youth policy be developed setting forth the national youth development agenda to ensure a better educated and informed youth population about their health choices; and equip them with the means to establish economic self-sufficiency and greater opportunities for themselves and their communities. The age and sex distribution within the youth of Eswatini depicts a broad-based population structure, leaning towards higher numbers in younger cohorts and females.

| Age group    | Total         | Male          | Female        | % of each age group to total YP | Sex ratio by age group |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 15-19        | 120168        | 60955         | 59213         | 29.3                            | 1.03                   |
| 20-24        | 106516        | 52280         | 54236         | 26                              | 0.96                   |
| 25-29        | 96739         | 46551         | 50188         | 23.6                            | 0.93                   |
| 30-34        | 86370         | 42148         | 44222         | 21.1                            | 0.95                   |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>409793</b> | <b>201934</b> | <b>207859</b> | <b>100</b>                      | <b>0.97</b>            |

As for more specific gender demographics, the youth population of Eswatini is composed of 50.7 percent females and 49.3 percent males. In raw numbers, there are 5925 more females than males in the youth age group. However, there are more males in the 15–19 age group, but in each subsequent age group, females consistently outnumber males.

The 2017 Census reported that the proportion of the population aged 0–14 had declined from 39.5 percent to 35.6 percent when compared with the 2007 Census. This decline in the very young population underscores the current importance of those who presently fall within the slightly older youth demographic. According to the United Nations Population Fund (2017), the changes in the age structure of the Eswatini population highlights the need to increase investments in the education, health and employment of young people of Eswatini to harness the demographic dividend. Although slight, the implication of the skewed numbers and the age-specific sex ratios above are significant when considering youth development.

The declining sex ratio with increasing age is mainly influenced by mortality and migration and has adverse implications on sustainable development. It is important to note that the youth of Eswatini are a heterogeneous demographic. While common problems and common opportunities to address these problems are identified and assessed by the Youth Policy, it is simultaneously recognized that the youth are not viewed as a monolithic cohort. There are important differences within the youth groups, what matters is that no one is left behind and that the National Youth Policy takes into account the varying challenges faced by the different components of youth of Eswatini. For example, there are some young people living with disabilities who have special development needs compared to other young people while other young people are living with HIV/AIDS and have special health needs compared to other young people. Furthermore, given that the definition of youth in the Eswatini context spans two decades of life, the consequent age range of youth therefore encompasses those of high school-going age right up to

people old enough to be the main breadwinner for families of their own, as well as caretakers of aging parents.

A second critical division is seen in the urban/rural divide (MoSCYA and UNFPA 2016). The constellation of challenges faced by youth in the rural areas are very different and often harsher than those faced by urban youth, the latter tending to have greater access to transport networks, communications, job opportunities, and government and financial services, not to mention fundamentals like electricity, clean water, sanitation and food security (MoSCYA & UNFPA 2016). The third point of divergence comes in with gender. This is particularly relevant in an African context where traditional gender roles play an important part in identities, expectations, and both formal and domestic occupations. Furthermore, gender-based violence and domestic violence is a problem in Eswatini given that a third of AGYW aged 18 – 24 in the country reported have experienced sexual violence before 18 years and 24.4

percent experienced sexual violence in the past year of a national violence survey (MoSCYA and UNFPA 2016). Finally, Eswatini has a medium-high rate of literacy. While a commendable gender parity has been achieved in this regard, there remains a division in the opportunities open to those who have only a primary school education and those who have completed high school and/or gone on to tertiary studies (MoSCYA and UNFPA 2016).

The Youth Policy seeks to address the challenges faced by all individuals who fall into the youth demographic in Eswatini and enhance their opportunities for a high-quality life regardless of the diversities. Part of the reason for composing a National Youth Policy is to ensure that Eswatini is in line with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2063. These frameworks seek to identify and locate vulnerable people, and identify interventions that will result in the greatest improvements in their welfare.

A clear National Youth Policy is therefore an important component in bringing coherence across government, as well as civil society and the private sector. It aligns the aims for the future of Eswatini with a view towards positive outcomes that benefit not just the core demographic, but the nation as a whole, through secondary knock-on effects.

A strong, healthy, educated and economically engaged youth population will unquestionably be the foundation of a stable and prosperous future.

## 2. STATE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ESWATINI

### 2.1 Background

The Kingdom of Eswatini has continuously increased its human development index from 0.538 in 2010 to 0.608 in 2018 (UNDP 2019). However, when the national inequality levels are factored in, the HDI falls to 0.430, reflecting a 29.3 percent decline.

The country's biggest achievements have been in education and life expectancy (UNDP 2018), reinforced by improvements in primary education and the introduction of technical vocational education and training (TVET), despite the latter sector being largely unregulated. The increased life expectancy has mainly been achieved through strengthened health education and

### 2.2 HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS continues to be one of the most pressing challenges facing young people in the country with heightened vulnerabilities for girls and young women. HIV prevalence among adolescent girls aged 15–19 years is 10.2 percent, compared with 1.9 percent for males of the same age. In the age group 20–24, HIV prevalence among females is 38.2

behavioral change interventions, as well as improved access to health commodities and services. These achievements in health and education are undermined by the persistence of harsh realities and challenges faced by young people in the country, as listed below.

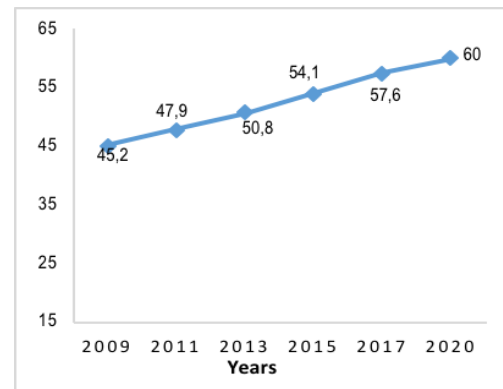


Figure 1: Eswatini Life Expectancy Trends between 2009 and 2020 (UNDP 2019)

percent, compared with 12.3 percent for males in the same age bracket. HIV incidence is also significantly higher among adolescent girls aged 15–19 compared to males of the same age group, standing at 3.84 percent and 0.84 percent, respectively.

### 2.3 Teenage pregnancy

Currently, the adolescent birth rate in the country is at 87 per 1000 adolescents and teenage pregnancy is one of the main factors contributing to school dropout rates. Related to early and unintended pregnancies is early sexual debut, with the median age at first sex being 16 and 18 years for girls and boys, respectively. Another contributing factor to early

pregnancy is early marriage, with 9 percent of AGYW married by age 18 (MoH UNICEF 2014). The drivers of teenage pregnancy in the country include low education, poverty, low SRH knowledge, gender inequality and limited access to SRH-related services, specifically family planning.

### 2.4 Gender-based violence

Young people in the country continue to experience very high levels of violence, in particular girls. The national estimate is that one in three women has experienced some form of sexual violence by the time they are 18 years (UNICEF 2007). This reflects the harsh reality that violence is experienced by our children very early in their lives at a time when all that should be occupying their minds is school and play. The Deputy Prime Minister's Office (2014) reported that 48 percent of AGYW aged between 13–

24 years reported experiencing some form of sexual violence. Boys aged 14 years and below are not spared from this violence, as 68 percent of them reported to have experienced violent physical discipline, while 88 percent of boys and girls aged 14 or below reported experiencing psychological aggression or physical punishment. However, the reporting of cases of violence by young people has remained low, with less than half of the girls who experienced violence reporting such incidents.



## 2.5 Poor access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) information and services

Young people in the country continue to experience very high levels of violence, in particular girls. The national estimate is that one in three women has experienced some form of sexual violence by the time they are 18 years (UNICEF 2007). This reflects the harsh reality that violence is experienced by our children very early in their lives at a time when all that should be occupying their minds is school and play. The Deputy Prime Minister's Office (2014) reported that 48 percent of AGYW aged between 13–24 years reported experiencing some

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## 2.6 Unemployment and poverty

A total of 47.4 percent (28,735) of young people aged 15–24 years in the Kingdom of Eswatini are not employed. The national unemployment rate for young people aged 15–35 is 32.4 percent, which is 66,191 individuals. These statistics are skewed towards the rural areas, given that over 70 percent of the national population

resides in rural areas, the majority of whom are young people. Unemployment is a proxy for poverty; hence the implication of these statistics is that high numbers of young people live below the poverty line, especially in the rural areas. The current state of affairs on poverty and unemployment among young people is linked by MoSCYA

and UNFPA (2016) to the lack of opportunities for young people to initiate income-generating projects that can improve their quality of life. Specifically, MoSCYA and UNFPA (2016) state that Eswatini lacks a conducive policy environment for young entrepreneurs, while also being among those countries with high costs and long times associated with starting a business.

## 2.7 Low secondary and high school transition rates

The national net enrolment rate at primary school is 92.3 percent, with the rate being 27 percent for secondary schools, and this has been the situation since 2009 (MoSCYA and UNFPA 2016). The net enrolment rate is even lower in senior secondary (high) school, where only 12 percent of young people of the appropriate age are enrolled. According to MoSCYA and UNFPA (2016), AGYWs are the most likely to become school dropouts and most of these dropouts occur among junior secondary school students, compared with other education levels. In addition to the low secondary school enrolment rate, there are also very few TVET

education centers in the country, with the available centers being limited to the Mbabane–Manzini corridor (MoSCYA and UNFPA 2016). The reported reasons for the drop out as reported by MoET and UNESCO (2017) include family reasons, teenage pregnancy, shortage of school fees and transfers.

## 3. POLICY BACKGROUND

### 3.1 Policy development process

The National Youth Policy was developed in three phases. Phase 1, comprised a rapid assessment of the previous policy; a compilation of previous policy successes; and identification of policy strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats through conducting key informant interviews across all youth development sectors (see list involved in annex 1) and also undertaking extensive literature review. The appraisal of the previous policy implementation provided information about the barriers to and facilitators of implementation. The key informants involved in the first phase included UN agencies, government ministries, parastatals and civil society.

Phase 2 of the policy process entailed translating the identified priorities into policy issues. Proposed policy implications were developed or designed to guide the implementation of the policy. The other phase of the policy was a wider stakeholder consultation which included young people from all four regions of the

country as well as the sector for people with disabilities. In this phase, the stakeholders reviewed the draft policy and provided inputs mainly regarding the main development challenges for young people which the policy needed to focus on as well as the policy statements and their respective implications. Phase 3 was the final phase of the policy process and was characterized by a national validation meeting where the policy was presented to the national stakeholders for final inputs.

Throughout these phases, the work was overseen by a core team comprising the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs, different youth development stakeholders, government representatives and UN agency staff. The role of the core team was to provide leadership and technical support back stopping for the development of the policy and this was implemented through a series of meetings with the core team.

### 3.2 Achievements and gaps of the previous policy

The current policy takes into consideration the achievements and gaps of the previous policy by building on the achievements and strategically addressing the gaps. The achievements of the previous policy as obtained from the Key informants interviews conducted with youth development stakeholders are that it:

- Increased the number of young people participating in entrepreneurship and or economic empowerment initiatives and in politics
- Facilitated the diversification of education options for young people to include life skills education and vocational education;
- Created a conducive environment for young people to access financial resources for business initiatives;
- Strengthened and facilitated the collaboration of young people in business ventures;

These achievements are strengthened in terms of sustainability in this policy, while also embracing strategies to address the gaps in the previous policy as stated below. These gaps are:

- Inadequate accountability, coordination and monitoring systems used to assess the implementation of the policy. Operational steps such as the youth development strategy and a coordination framework, dissemination and a monitoring and evaluation framework were not developed. All these gaps resulted in a reduced ability to determine the extent to which the policy and its dictates were implemented and successful;
- The lack of alignment between the youth policy and sector-specific policies and programs
- A lack of guidance and underutilization of existing resources to facilitate youth development. This includes limited innovation and

inadequate use of technology to facilitate the development of young people in the country;

- A failure to consider some of the factors affecting young people. These include migration, the situation of orphans, drought, poor economic status and the global development agenda
- A lack of effective multi – sectoral partnerships to aid implementation of the policy;
- Limited infrastructure which include youth centers and sports related infrastructure at Inkhundla and community levels;
- Inadequate financing of the youth development agenda and the lack of a strategy to establish whether or not there is adequate funding;
- A of lack livelihood skills, including employment opportunities;
- A main focus on achieving these pillars, while ignoring the institutional environment and conditions that has to be put in place to facilitate these improvements;
- Poor provision of social competence skills;
- A lack of alignment of the education curriculum to economic needs or the labor market.

Further to the above achievements of the previous policy, the table below presents the status of the policy indicators by policy objective.

**TABLE 2: NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY (NYP) ACTION PLAN KEY INDICATORS AND IMPLEMENTATION STATUS**

| Objective   | Indicator   | Implementation Status  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Objective 1: To improve the enabling and supportive environment for addressing youth issues, laws, policies and programs.</b>    | % Gaps identified on existing policies and legislation.   | No data.   |
|   | % of laws and policies revised, formulated and enforced that are in support of youth development.   | The Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act (SODV) and the Child Protection and Welfare Act have been enacted as laws. |
|   | # of social networks with established pages on youth issues.  | National level: Tune me and the U report.<br>Health Facility Level: health facility specific Facebook pages              |
|   | % of young people meaningfully participating in national development processes.   | No data.   |
|   | # Of young people serving in decision-making bodies.  | No data  |
|   | % of youth-owned enterprises.   | No data  |
| <b>Objective 2: To improve knowledge and skills towards adoption of protective and healthy behaviors by Young People aged 15–35</b> | % of young people aged 15–35 with comprehensive information on SRH/HIV/TB/gender.   | 10 – 24 (only relates to data on HIV/AIDS from MICS 2014) Male = 50.9%; Female = 49.1 %                                  |
|   | % of schools providing Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE).   | 98% of secondary schools   |
|   | % of teachers trained on the CSE manual.  | 5000   |
|   | % of Youth-serving organizations and youth-led organizations applying good quality social and behavioral change communications techniques to youth programming. | No data  |
| <b>Objective 3: Increased provision, access and utilization of quality youth friendly services (YFS)</b>                            | YFS guidelines developed.   | The YFHS guidelines and standards have been developed  |
|   | # Of health facilities assessed on the standards for youth care.  | 311  |
|   | % of health facilities providing youth-friendly health services.  | 84.6%  |
|   | # of service providers trained on YFHS  | 1534   |

| Objective   | Indicator  | Implementation Status   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Objective 4: Increased accessibility to integrated education, livelihood and employment opportunities, including ICT</b> | # Of education institutions implementing competency-based curricula using participatory methods.                         |   |
|   | A youth development strategy was developed.  | Not fully achieved, only the national youth policy action plan and the monitoring and evaluation plan were developed. |
|   | % of policies harmonized with the Convention on for People with Disabilities, including building and transporting codes. | No data   |
|   | % of vulnerable youth accessing livelihood opportunities   | Results are scattered. PEPFAR has some, youth fund and other development partners have more.                          |
| <b>Objective 5: Coordination for Multi – sectoral Youth Programming and Partnerships Strengthened at all levels</b>         | Coordination Framework in place.   | There is a draft framework  |
|   | % of partners whose work plans are aligned to the National youth policy and action plan                                  | No data   |
|   | # of Coordination bodies strengthened.   | The inter-ministerial committee (IMC) and the youth development consortium (YDC)                                      |
|   | Website for resource center launched.  | No data   |
|   | Documented lessons learnt and best practices.  | No data   |
|   | % of YDC members using the Youth Management Information System for reporting and analysis.                               | No data   |
| <b>Objective 6: Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Sustaining Evidence-based Programs</b>                             | # of YSO and YLOs organizations complying with internationally accepted management and governance principles.            | No data   |
|   | % allocation by each Ministry towards youth activities across government ministries.                                     | No data   |
|   | Resource mobilization strategy developed and implemented.  | Not achieved  |
|   | % of annual budget for youth programs allocated for advocacy activities  | No data   |

### 3.3. Policy Rationale

The Kingdom of Eswatini has more than 790,000 people aged 35 years and below, of whom more than 400,000 are aged between 15–35 years. Therefore, the NYP will ensure proper coordination, programming and harmonious delivery of multi - sectoral youth programs in order to contribute to the country’s attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Agenda 2063 and the harnessing of the demographic dividend. The previous NYP was last revised in 2009. Significant changes on the population dynamics have taken place since then. Given the new environment, a revised understanding and fresh efforts to address youth development issues compel a revised policy.

### 3.4. Policy Opportunities

The opportunities of the current policy are:

- The existence of a new development agenda, the SDGs and the Agenda 2063;
- The existence of a new government in the country that can contribute towards the effective implementation of the policy;
- Collaboration between government, parastatals, development partners and civil society organizations;
- The availability of local technical experts in different sectors of youth development
- The availability of youth involvement and participation structures at the Inkhundla level and to some extent regional level.

### Policy Alignment

The national youth policy is aligned to different national, regional and global development instruments. Some of the main documents which the policy is aligned to is listed in table 3 below. However, the list is not exhaustive.

**Table 3: List of National and International Documents Aligned to the Policy**

| National documents  | International documents   |
|---|---|
| <p>Constitution of the Kingdom of Eswatini</p> <p>National development strategy</p> <p>National Report on the Harnessing of the Demographic Dividend 2016</p> <p>The National Strategic Framework 2018 to 2023</p> <p>NERCHA Umgubudla 2016</p> <p>The State of the Youth Report 2015</p> <p>Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSAP) 2006</p> <p>National Disability Act of 2018</p> | <p>African Youth Charter</p> <p>Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth for the Year 2000 and Beyond (1995)</p> <p>The African Union Commission Agenda 2063 framework</p> <p>International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)</p> <p>Maputo Plan of Action (MPoA)</p> <p>African Union Roadmap on Demographic Dividend</p> |

## 4. THE NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

### 4.1 Policy Outline

This National Youth Policy (NYP) builds on the previous NYP through deliberately identifying and facilitating the attainment of positive youth development outcomes. It embraces new thinking on development, specifically youth development, which takes into cognizance the significance of population dynamics and the principles of sustainable development.

### 4.2 Policy Vision

All young people in Eswatini have the capabilities and platforms as well as opportunities to facilitate their own development and that of their communities.

### 4.3 Policy Mission

To provide, facilitate and support an all-inclusive multi – sectoral national youth development framework that is focused on facilitating the improvement and strengthening of the youth capabilities and providing opportunities and platforms for the young people to utilize their capabilities for their personal development and that of their communities and the country. This will be achieved through a comprehensive, integrated and concentrated approach.

### 4.4 Policy Objectives

The specific objectives of the policy are to:

- I. Improve the consolidation and integration of youth development programs into all government ministries' and stakeholders' programs and policies;
- II. Provide guidelines for facilitating youth development across sectors and stakeholders for the attainment of positive youth development outcomes;
- III. Strengthen the coordination of the youth development programme

in government, funding partners, development partners and civil society organizations including youth led organizations and networks

IV. Increase the effective participation of young people in their development and that of their communities.

### 4.5 Policy Principles

Youth programming in the kingdom of Eswatini will be guided by the following principles:

•**Equity and inclusiveness** - All young people, regardless of socio economic and demographic characteristics, will have equal access to opportunities and resources.

•**Efficiency** - All the strategies to be implemented and resources will be utilized in a timely manner to achieve the greatest benefits for the young people.

•**Involvement, Participation and Collaboration** - Young people, parents, community members, leadership, government and other stakeholders will be involved as stakeholders at all levels of youth development programming

•**Empowerment and positive orientation** - The development interventions implemented will ensure that young people are empowered to take advantage of opportunities, take decisions and make choices; this empowerment will build on the strengths of young people.

•**Sustainability** - All implementation of youth development programs will be cost effective, forward looking and integrated into national systems to ensure continuous availability of interventions beyond timed support.

•**Integration** - All youth development programs will be mainstreamed into government structures and provided in a comprehensive manner to ensure that young people have access to all the services they need.

## 4.6 Policy Statements and Implications

### 4.6.1. Education and Training

Education and training are critical in youth development. This is given that they facilitate; the development of the life skills; the adoption of career decisions; and sustainable development not just for the young people but for the country in general (Nevin 2008). Despite the high primary enrolment rate, secondary and tertiary enrolment rates are significantly low in the country. Eswatini also has significantly minimal and unregulated TVET institutions. Furthermore, the school curriculum is not aligned to the needs of the economy.

#### Policy Statement

Appropriate Education for Sustainable Development shall be provided to all young people at all levels (primary, secondary and tertiary) and in all types of education (formal, informal, non-formal and vocational) in accordance with their capabilities.



### Policy Implications

- i. The MoSCYA shall advocate for the review of the curriculum to align with the needs of the national economy and ensure new curriculum empowers young people to capitalize on the 4th industrial revolution. Other ministries to be involved will be the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) and the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development (MoEPD) and other Ministries and stakeholders.
- ii. The MoH shall provide a health response (such as access to clinical services), including trained human resources, to the youth with disabilities at different levels to improve their educational outcomes.
- iii. The MoET, MoLSS and DPMO as well as in collaboration with other stakeholders shall provide relevant human resources, infrastructure and other resources needed for the provision of high-quality education for sustainable development to all in school young people as per the need of the targeted young people.
- iv. The MoET and MoLSS shall work with other sectors and stakeholders through internal and cross-sectoral systems to holistically/ comprehensively address the needs of young people in the education system and facilitate their development from a health and economic empowerment perspective.
- v. MoSCYA in collaboration with stakeholders shall advocate for the effective deployment of education HR relevant to the needs of the targeted young people.
- vi. MoSCYA shall, together with the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental affairs, advocate for the inclusion of Climate Change resilience in school curriculum.
- vii. MoSCYA shall, in collaboration with MoH, advocate for the retainment and reintegration of students in schools as a strategy for reducing public health issues.



## 4.6.2. Innovation, entrepreneurship and employment

The main aim of entrepreneurship development is to increase the speed of establishing and the number of new businesses to facilitate employment and support economic development. Innovation is also considered as part of entrepreneurship, given the new enterprises it introduces, hence creating new jobs. Individually and jointly, innovation and entrepreneurship address issues of poverty for which the unemployment rate is a proxy indicator. The focus of this pillar is to create a conducive environment for young people to build entrepreneurship skills, have access to business startup capital and value chains.

### Policy Statement

All YP shall be provided with entrepreneurship and innovation education programs and empowered with skills that will enable them to take advantage of the 4th industrial revolution to facilitate their employment prospects and participation in the labor market as well as their personal and national development



## Policy Implications

- i. The MoET shall coordinate and implement, in collaboration with civil society institutions a diverse education system responsive to the challenges of unemployment and poverty to facilitate poverty reduction and achievement of overall SDGs.
- ii. The Ministry of Commerce, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Planning, shall identify the national labor and skills market needs to facilitate an appropriate response from other sectors and ministries.
- iii. The Ministry of Commerce through the local authorities shall build the capacity of young people to exercise entrepreneurship skills.
- iv. The MoSCYA shall facilitate the empowerment of young people with skills related to sustainable development and the 4th industrial revolution.
- v. The Ministry of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) and Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP), libraries and the Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund (YERF) shall provide incubation, acceleration, information, funding and conducive environment for youth start up projects responding to the market needs.
- vi. MoSCYA and ENYC shall implement and advocate for the implementation of youth volunteerism and apprenticeships programme in government and civil society institutions as well as parastatals.
- vii. ENYC and YERF shall advocate for the provision of diverse economic empowerment opportunities including volunteerism and apprenticeships to all young people.
- viii. ENYC and YEF shall coordinate the provision of high-quality entrepreneurship and innovation education to out of school YP in collaboration with civil society institutions.

### 4.6.3. Social Competence

Social competence is defined as the condition of possessing the social, emotional, and intellectual skills and behaviors needed to succeed as a member of society while also being able to handle difficult situations (Orpinas and Horne 2006). The prevalence of gender-based violence among AGYW and women and other forms of abuse on children reflect the lack of social competence among the national populace hence making the communities not safe for young people to reside within. This policy pillar focus on empowering young people on Life Skills Education (LSE), building positive social norms as well as ensuring that parents are equally involved in imparting life skills on their children.

#### Policy Statements

A

Comprehensive Life skills education shall be provided to all young people to improve their ability to develop and sustain positive and healthy interpersonal relationships and to amicably resolve interpersonal conflicts; develop self and national identity; and facilitate citizenship at all levels

B

Parents shall prepare their children (adolescents and young people) for the world through imparting social competence



### Policy Implications

- i. The MoET shall coordinate and implement, in collaboration with civil society institutions a diverse education system responsive to the challenges of unemployment and poverty to facilitate poverty reduction and achievement of overall SDGs.
- ii. The Ministry of Commerce, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Planning, shall identify the national labor and skills market needs to facilitate an appropriate response from other sectors and ministries.
- iii. The Ministry of Commerce through the local authorities shall build the capacity of young people to exercise entrepreneurship skill.
- iv. The MoSCYA shall facilitate the empowerment of young people with skills related to sustainable development and the 4th industrial revolution.
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- vii. ENYC and YERF shall advocate for the provision of diverse economic empowerment opportunities including volunteerism and apprenticeships to all young people.
- viii. ENYC and YEF shall coordinate the provision of high-quality entrepreneurship and innovation education to out of school YP in collaboration with civil society institutions.

#### 4.6.4. Health and Well being

Over and above being a human right, health and wellbeing are critical for the attainment of the sustainable development goals and the building of a prosperous society. Health and wellbeing are however, not ends on their own, but are means to an end given that they ensure that an individual is productive and also minimizes the years of life lost (YLL) of a population. Wellbeing increases the probability of being economically productive and also the likelihood of positively contributing to one's community. In Eswatini, communicable diseases, especially HIV and TB, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), individual life style and SRH issues have greatly compromised young people's health and levels of wellbeing. The particular focus of this pillar is access and utilization of health services by young people; provision of integrated SRHR, HIV, TB and NCD related services and the protection of young people from GBV

##### Policy Statements

A

All young people shall have access to high quality and effective health interventions including services and information that improves their physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing according to their needs

B

Integrated SRH, HIV, TB and NCD related services shall be provided to all young people at all levels of the health care delivery system and through other service provision platforms according to their needs.

C

The MoSCYA and DPMO, as well as other relevant stakeholders shall ensure that, across all sectors, young people are protected from GBV and also provide support, in its different forms, to young people who experience GBV, as per their needs



#### Policy Implications

- i. MoH and other relevant ministries including the DPM Office shall ensure the inclusion of ASRH, which is inclusive of psychological services, in the national health service minimum package to facilitate access to SRHR services by young people.
- ii. MoH and relevant civil society organizations shall ensure availability of resources for effective provision of services and information for the prevention and management of NCDs, GBV, HIV, TB and SRH issues to all young people.
- iii. MoH shall collaborate with other government ministries and stakeholders to strengthen the provision of sexuality/life skills education, adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) information linked to service delivery through the establishment of referral mechanisms between the education and health sectors to facilitate service access by young people.
- iv. MoH and DPMO shall provide an enabling environment and resources for the protection of young people from GBV and provision of ASRH and GBV related services to young people according to their needs.
- v. NERCHA shall collaborate with government, civil society and development partners to strengthen the provision of inclusive and nonjudgmental HIV prevention and management services and information for adolescents and young people.
- vi. MoSCYA, MoH and ENYC shall ensure the strengthened prevention and treatment of substance abuse including the harmful use of alcohol for all young people.
- vii. NERCHA and the civil society and ENYC shall advocate and programme for the eradication of stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS, TB, NCDs and other form of disease at all levels (Institutional, community, family and individual).

#### 4.6.5. Food and Nutrition Security

Food and nutrition security means access by all people at all times to enough nutritious food for an active and healthy life (FAO 2008). The two last elements imply that food security is not an end on its own, but a means to achieving an active and healthy life. Food and nutrition security will therefore enable young people to achieve a healthy status and also be active, hence being productive and participating in their development and that of their communities. The unlimited access to adequate nutritious food by young people will also ensure the opportunity to maximize benefits from other youth development interventions.

##### Policy Statements

All YP shall be encouraged and supported to participate in agricultural production and agricultural value chain systems through the provision of relevant and appropriate education, training and opportunities



#### Policy Implications

- i. MoSCYA, ENYC, MoA and civil society organizations shall advocate for the improved participation of young people in food production and agricultural value chains at all levels.
- ii. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) shall ensure availability of resources and the development, and effective implementation of the food and nutrition security strategy.
- iii. MoA shall collaborate with MoET and other stakeholders for the integration of innovative agricultural practices into school curriculum at all levels.
- iv. MoA, MoSCYA, MTAD, MHUD and ENYC shall advocate for the strengthening and implementation of the national land policy to facilitate young people's access to land for agriculture related businesses.
- v. The MoA in collaboration with the MTAD and MHUD shall create an enabling and conducive environment as well as avail resources for YP to participate in agricultural activities.
- vi. The Ministry of Commerce shall facilitate the speedy registration of youth agricultural businesses.
- vii. MoSCYA and YERF will ensure the funding and provision of financial and technical support for youth lead businesses.
- viii. Civil society organizations and MoA shall provide assistance to young people at community level for the initiation of agricultural projects.

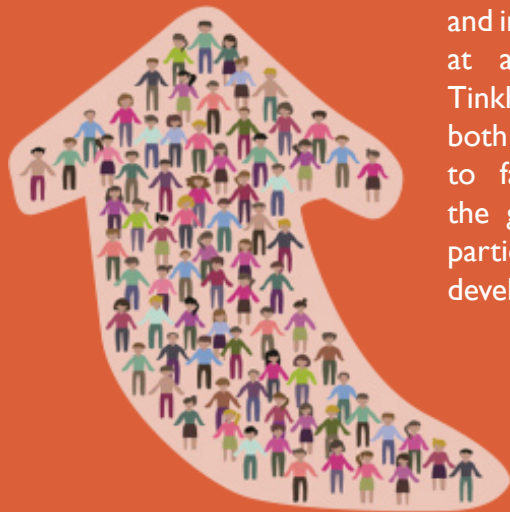
#### 4.6.6. Social Capital

Social capital is defined as the norms and networks of trust that enable people to act collectively. According to Cummings et al (2015), social capital underscores the value in people's social fabric. It is viewed as an equal form of wealth to economic capital which can reduce economic hardships and build long term solutions to problems. Individuals in societies with high social capital are more willing to cooperate and share resources resulting to collective actions hence building prosperous societies. Social capital is vested on social networks and is correlated with civic mindedness where people are willing to act altruistically and cooperatively for the benefit of the wider community. The focus of this policy pillar is not just at the micro level but at all levels which are the micro, meso and macro levels.

#### Policy Implications

- i. MoSCYA and ENYC shall establish and strengthen youth structures at all levels to facilitate interaction with one another.
- ii. MoSCYA and YERF shall strengthen the collaboration and coordination between YERF and other institutions.
- iii. MoSCYA, ENYC, MTAD and all other stakeholders shall ensure active and effective youth participation in decision making processes at all levels.
- iv. MoET and MoSCYA shall ensure the strengthened involvement and participation of communities and young people in the governance of local schools.
- v. ENYC, YERF and civil society organizations shall capacitate young people on networking skills and also provide them with platforms to expand their networks.

#### Policy Statements



All young people, individually and or jointly, shall be encouraged and mobilized to organize themselves and interact with existing institutions at all levels such as chieftdom, Tinkhundla, regional, national, in both formal and informal settings to facilitate social trust and lay the ground work for their willing participation and involvement in development

#### 4.6.7. Good governance and leadership

Good governance and leadership are critical for the attainment of the policy objectives. This is mainly due to the rights-based approach embraced for development initiatives and targets including the SDGs. Specifically, the attainment of the SDGs highlights the need for; a just, secure and stable societies; an integrated development approach; comprehensively meeting and satisfying the needs of the majority of the population. Good governance and leadership therefore become a critical pillar for the youth policy.

##### Policy Statements

Principles for good governance and leadership shall be implemented at all levels of youth development programming



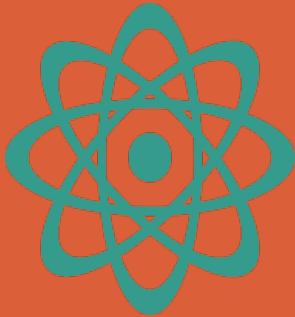
#### Policy Implications

- i. MoSCYA shall identify and outline the good governance principles that need to be adhered to by The MoSCYA and the youth development stakeholders.
- ii. MoSCYA and ENYC shall establish and facilitate a government and civil society coordination mechanism for youth development work.
- iii. MoSCYA shall establish and operationalize a multi sectoral youth coordination structure that will include government, civil society, private sector and other development partners and stakeholders.
- iv. ENYC shall monitor the adherence to these good governance principles among all civil society organizations while also fostering accountability of all civil society organizations to relevant structures.
- v. MoSCYA and ENYC shall advocate for and encourage young people to participate in political structures at all levels starting the chiefdom level.
- vi. ENYC and civil society organizations shall ensure effective youth participation and involvement in all levels of their decision-making process.
- vii. ENYC shall build the capacity of civil society organization, including youth lead organizations, on good governance and leadership for effective youth development.
- viii. The MoSCYA shall ensure the routine compilation and publication as well as dissemination of the national youth development report.

#### 4.6.8. Capacity development and Infrastructure

Capacity development is a process where individuals and institutions acquire skills to implement the different components of the youth policy. The ultimate objective of capacity building is improving the knowledge and skills level on the youth development as enshrined in the policy, hence facilitating the achievement of set goals and objectives. In Eswatini, the capacity of youth development practitioners to effectively plan and implement as well as achieve set objectives needs to be accompanied by the relevant and appropriate infrastructure for young people to utilize. Infrastructure facilitates and spurs economic growth through providing better connectivity, ensuring improved productivity and efficiency.

##### Policy Statements



**A**

Youth development work shall be professionalized through the regulation of youth development and the capacitation of the institutions working on youth development interventions.

**B**

Youth development-related infrastructure, including technology and recreational facilities, shall be revitalized and/or constructed as per the need of the targeted young people.

#### Policy Implications

- i. MoSCYA and ENYC shall facilitate the professionalization of youth development work in the country.
- ii. The MoSCYA shall identify and advise different sectors on the key infrastructure that is required to drive youth development as relevant to each sector.
- iii. MoSCYA shall advocate with the aim of mobilizing resources and having in place conducive policies for the setting up of the required youth development infrastructure per sector.
- iv. Different Ministries shall mobilize resources to ensure that required infrastructure to facilitate youth development in their sector is put in place.
- v. Civil society shall leverage on the available infrastructure and also mobilize/advocate resources for strengthening of infrastructure.
- vi. ENYC shall foster collaboration between civil society and government ministries and parastatals on the effective use of the available infrastructure.

#### 4.6.9. Research, monitoring, evaluation and learning within youth development work

Research, monitoring and evaluation of development programs provides the program and stakeholders with better means for learning from past experiences, improving service delivery, planning and allocating resources, and demonstrating results as part of accountability. The absence of monitoring, evaluation and learning compromise programme results and achievements. The critical component of this policy theme is the appreciation that young people are not a program but a target population for the development interventions being implemented by all stakeholders including government.

#### Policy Statements



**A**

All sectors implementing youth development programs including the MoSCYA shall facilitate monitoring and evaluation systems that consolidate and integrate youth development indicators within their mandates

**B**

All state and non-state entities involved in youth development shall efficiently and timely report to the relevant national systems

#### Policy Implications

- i. The MoSCYA shall ensure that youth development issues are mainstreamed across all sectors.
- ii. MoSCYA shall provide the monitoring and evaluation framework and plan for the national youth policy/development programme across all sectors.
- iii. MoSCYA shall ensure the compilation of a youth development strategy, coordination and M&E frameworks and operational plans to facilitate policy implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation.
- iv. MoSCYA shall develop an M&E system to monitor and evaluate the youth development programme.
- v. MoSCYA shall facilitate the development or strengthening of sector M&E systems to facilitate tracking of youth development indicators and reporting at all levels.
- vi. MoSCYA shall mobilize the resources for the implementation of the monitoring, evaluation and learning plan.
- vii. MoSCYA shall strengthen the coordination of youth development initiatives within government ministries.
- viii. ENYC shall coordinate the routine data collection for the monitoring and evaluation plan from civil society and compile periodic monitoring and evaluation reports.
- ix. ENYC shall facilitate the development of routine data collection tools and systems for effective monitoring and evaluation of youth development programming in the country.
- x. The MoSCYA shall facilitate use of age and sex disaggregated youth data by other government ministries and sectors to inform programming.



## 5. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR NYP IMPLEMENTATION

### 5.1 Coordination of NYP

The coordination of the NYP shall be facilitated through the ENYC and the MoSCYA for the civil society organizations and government ministries and departments. This coordination mechanism will follow a well-documented and clear structure with specific roles and responsibilities for each of the involved partners.

### 5.2 Research, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning within the NYP

Considering the fact that M&E was identified as one of the weakest links of the previous policy which is also reflected by the absence of data for almost half of the indicators, MEL has been identified as one of the policy pillars with compelling policy implications for different stakeholders. The policy also acknowledges that its effective implementation requires effective monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system that provides appropriate and timely feedback to stakeholders. To facilitate the effective monitoring, evaluation and learning, the MoSCYA in collaboration with ENYC and other stakeholders will put in place a robust MEL plan for the policy. This plan will articulate the key indicators to be monitored and their respective monitoring frequency, as well as highlight the main learning questions that will ensure continuous improvement in the implementation of the policy. Periodic surveys and research on the status of youth will be undertaken from time to time to generate new information to facilitate improvements and also to collect information on indicators that are not part of routine data and other national surveys. However, the focus will be on ensuring that youth-related indicators are integrated in national surveys.

The National Youth Policy embraces the human development approach towards improving young people's quality of life. This approach is based on two main pillars which are the building and strengthening of young people's capabilities and creating the opportunities and platforms for young people to utilize their capabilities. For the pillar of building capabilities, the three sub-pillars are education, entrepreneurship and social competence, while health and wellbeing, food security and social capital are the strategies for ensuring that the efforts made result in the desired goals and objectives. The pillar on creating the opportunities and platforms for young people to utilize their capabilities focuses on ensuring that the environment is conducive for young people to use their capabilities to reach their potential and achieve their aspirations. The main areas of focus in this pillar are relevant policies and programs; good governance and leadership; capacity development; appropriate infrastructure; and research, monitoring, evaluation and learning.

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