

Second International Biennial Conference on ECCE: Big Data - Management on ECCE – Education, Health, Nutrition, Protection, Care & Social Affairs

ESWATINI Country Situational Analysis
Presented at the
International Conference Centre, Seychelles
On the
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Presentation Outline

The presentation will first introduce the Kingdom of Eswatini and then focus on addressing common challenges faced by the Kingdom of Eswatini in building data for resilient Early Childhood Care and Education Systems. The presentation will address the following questions:

- The Kingdom of Eswatini – Physically, politically, socially and economically

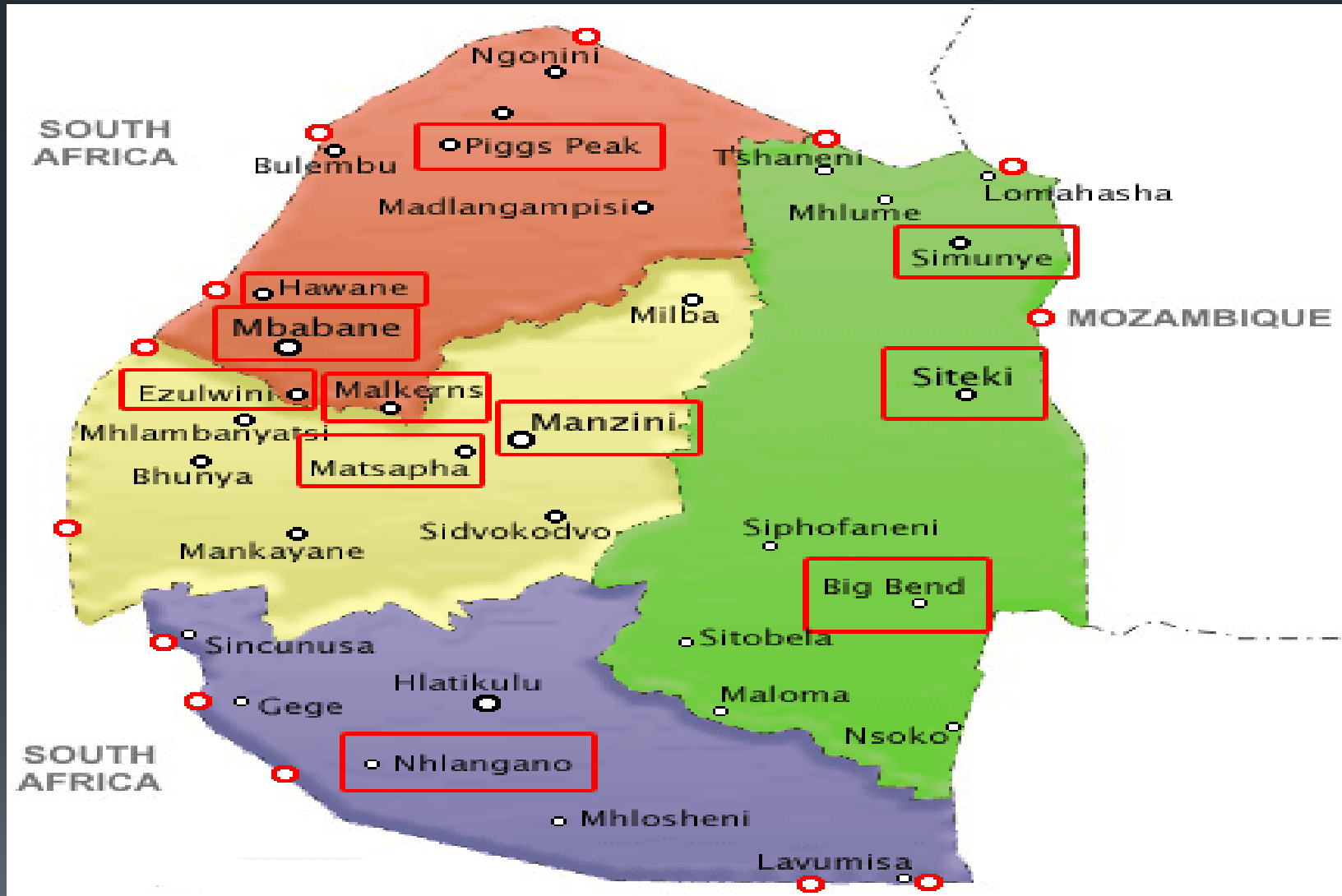
Questions For Data Management Systems

- What kind of resources and requirements that are needed to build data for resilient ECCE?
- Which challenges the Kingdom of Eswatini had to face in building data for resilient ECCE? How did you overcome these challenges?
- Which results did you get?
- How far did you get in Data Management in ECCE?
- What is the next stage of development is the Kingdom of Eswatini at (plan of action)?
- Way Forward: The Case for ECCE in the Kingdom of Eswatini

Geographical Location of the Kingdom of Eswatini

- The Kingdom of Eswatini is in the South East of Africa, and is bordered by Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Mozambique on the eastern side.
- The Population of the Kingdom of Eswatini stands at roughly 1.2 million inhabitants.
- The Country is divided into four regions – Hhohho, Manzini, Lubombo, and Shiselweni
- The country has a governed through the Tinkhundla (Constituent) system and has a total of 59 Constituencies.

The Political Map of the Kingdom of Eswatini



Demographic Context of the Kingdom of Eswatini



- Annual population growth is 1.4% and the child population under 5 years stands at 11.6% of the total population where the overall child population from 0 – 9 years stands at 23.1% (2017 Census)
- The mortality ratio for the under 5 year olds stood at 67/1000 live births (MICS 2014), a decrease from 80/1000 live births in 2012.
- Infant mortality ratio for the under 1 year olds stands at 50/1000 live births (MICS 2014) while in 1990 it stood at 56/1000 live births in 1990.

Demographic Context of the Kingdom of Eswatini



- Birth registration is compulsory for all children, however, 50% of children less than 5 years are registered and 39% have birth certificates.
- Lack of birth registration certificates negatively affect these children since it may result in denial of essential public services such as education, health and food security and nutritional services.
- Constitutionally, a child acquires citizenship from the father, unless born outside marriage whereby the child acquires the mother's citizenship.

Economic Context of the Kingdom of Eswatini



- The Kingdom of Eswatini is considered to fall in lower-middle income group of countries where 63% is living in poverty while the unemployment rate stood at 29% in 2012.
- In 2015 the Gross National Income per capita was 8040, ranking it # 139 from 216 countries.
- The country's economic growth has been reported as slowing down since 2013 and projected to have been 1,3% in 2016.

ECCE Context of the Kingdom of Eswatini

- The Kingdom of Eswatini is signatory to the Moscow Declaration 2010, African Union Agenda 2063, and the United Nations Agenda 2030 the Sustainable Development Goals – all these international instruments put forward the importance of the rights of children – Look at the child holistically.
- The Kingdom of Eswatini further embraced and adopted the General Education Quality Assessment Framework (GEQAF) developed by the UNESCO IBE.

ECCE Context of the Kingdom of Eswatini

- Through the support from UNESCO IBE, the Kingdom of Eswatini accepted the implementation of the Moscow Declaration at an inter ministerial meeting commissioned by the then Prime Minister – Dr. Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini in 2017 where the Deputy Prime Minister's Office assumed the coordination of the Moscow Declaration and the implementation of the Moscow Framework

ECCE Context of the Kingdom of Eswatini



- The coordinating mechanism under the Deputy Prime Minister's Office has successfully been strengthened.
- A children's Department has been fully established and has been very active in coordinating Children's issues.
- Inter Ministerial Committees have been established
- Working documents have been put together on social protection of children,

What Kind of Recourses and Requirements Needed to Build Data for Resilient ECCE Systems

- The Kingdom of Eswatini is working hard to address children's issues, however, the children's data is still fragmented. The following are key resources and requirements to come up resilient ECCE Systems:
 - Technical expertise: to work with the Central Statistics Department to analyse demographic data on children in order to inform policy formation
 - Equipment: There is lack of up to date computers and necessary equipment for the collection of the current data as well as analysing the data on children.
- All children's data should be at one place – a one stop centre for children's data.

What Challenges did you face? How did you Overcome them?



- Strengthening the coordinating mechanism – getting officers from all the relevant Ministries to form the inter ministerial committees. Time constraints.
- Moving away from working in silos – making people understand that working in silos depletes resources.
- Fragmented data on children found in various ministries makes it hard to coordinate these issues

What Challenges did you face? How did you Overcome them?



- Limited technical expertise to collect quality data on children's issues – data collected not useful to give required information to inform policy
- **SOLUTIONS**: The establishment of the Fully fleshed Children's Department at the DPM's Office
- Collaborating with other UN Agencies to assist strengthening the EMIS and HMIS units
- Putting proposals to assist in the development of data collection instruments.
- Exposing officers to regional and international meetings and conferences on ECCE.

What Results did you get?



- The coordination has proved to be working well. The DPM's Office has established a High level Steering Committee consisting of Principal Secretaries of all the Ministries dealing with Children's Issues. This Committee includes members from Development Partners as well as Non-Governmental Organizations.
- This Committee reports to Cabinet Ministers through the DPM's Office.
- There is a clear linkage of all the various ministries's activities on Children's issues.

How far did you get in the Data Management in Early Childhood?



- This is still a great challenge. As pointed out earlier, there is shortage of technical expertise – starting with data collectors from the field, data capturers into the computers, as well as data analysors. This is our weakest link in most of the Government Ministries.
- Even the collected data takes forever to be analysed to produce the reports. Most reports are two years behind, thus no longer as useful as they are intended.

What is the Next Stage of Development



- Strengthen the birth registration of children so that the country's census data has up to date information for the development of interventions for children – Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ensuring that all mothers anti-natal services, all babies and children are vaccinated – Ministry of Health
- Ensuring that all mother and children have basic needs met in terms of shelter and food security – Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Tinkhundla

What is the Next Stage of Development



- Ensuring that all children enrolled at Day Care centres, pre-schools, and primary schools have birth certificates with effect from January 2020 – Ministry of Education and Training
- Monitoring schools attendance through digital gadgets that are able to give real time data – Ministry of Education and Training.
- Recruiting competent EMIS/HMIS Data management officers – all ministries dealing with children's issues

What is the Next Stage of Development

- Ensuring that all children ages 0 to 8 have taken all the immunisation doses required of them – Ministry of Health.
- Ensuring that all children are cared for, they are protected by law – Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.
- DPM's Office to strengthen the coordination of the children's issues through regular reporting from technical level to the PS's level way up to Cabinet level.

What is the Next Stage of Development



- Promotion & Protection of Children's Rights
- Registration of all Day Care Centres as all pre-schools
- The Kingdom of has started a process towards the implementation of an Integrated Approach to towards the protection and promotion of the rights of children. This Framework supports and addresses the freedom and the rights of a child in relation to: Health, Nutrition, Care, Psychosocial support, and Education

Legal Frameworks Guiding ECCE in the Kingdom of Eswatini

- Constitution of the Kingdom of Eswatini
- Children Policy (2009)
- Child Protection and Welfare Act (2012)
- Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (2008)
- National Social Development Policy – 2009
- Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act 2018
- Human Trafficking Act 2009
- National Youth Policy 2002
- According to the Child Protection Index of 2018, we are rated position 9.

CONCLUSION



- The Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini has seriously realized that the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular SDG # 2 (Health) and 4 (Education) – the attainment of relevant quality and equitable inclusive lifelong education for all boys and girls, women and men highly depends on the investment in Early Childhood Care and Education.
- The implementation of all international and regional conventions are seriously hampered by lack of data to inform all intended interventions.



THANK YOU FOR
LISTENING AND YOUR
TIME!