THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

SADC REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SOURCES FOR MIGRATION STATISTICS

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DELEGATION

- 1. Ms Nolwazi Dlamini: Ministry of Economic Planning and Development (Central Statistical Office)
- 2. Mr Brian Mohammed: Ministry of Home Affairs (Immigration Department)
- 3. Mr Moses Gamedze: Ministry of Labour and Social Security (Human Resource Planning and Development Department)

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- 1. Introduction
- 2. National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)
- **3. Institutional Framework for Migration Data Collection**
- 4. Institutional Arrangements and Data Sharing
- 5. Challenges in Migration Data Collection
- **6.** Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Needs
- **▶ 7. Recommendations for Strengthening Migration Data Systems**
- **8. Conclusion**

BACKGROUND

- Eswatini is a landlocked country bordering South Africa and Mozambique.
- Population: 1.2 million (2017 Population & Housing Census projections)
- Economic overview: GDP per capita of \$3,823 (2023)
- Mobility trends shaped by socio-economic and historical factors. Over the decades, migration patterns in Eswatini have been influenced by economic opportunities, regional integration, and historical labour migration trends.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PRESENTATION:

- Importance of migration statistics for policymaking
- Strengthening data collection and sharing across Government institutions
- Regional collaboration on migration data within SADC

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS IN ESWATINI (NSDS) 2016 - 2020

OVERVIEW OF THE NSDS: KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Relevance and dissemination of statistics
- Quality improvement and capacity building
- Institutional coordination and infrastructure development

Institutional Framework for Migration Data Collection

- **■** 1. KEY GOVERNMENT INSTITUIONS INVOLVED
- (a) Central Statistical Office (CSO) under the Ministry of Economic Planning & Development Census, household surveys
- (b) Ministry of Labour and Social Security Employment and skills data
- (c) Ministry of Home Affairs (Immigration Department) Border control, permits, and citizenship records
- (d) Other Government Partners Royal Eswatini Police Service, Umbutfo Eswatini Defense Force, Ministry of Tourism & Environmental Affairs

Organisational Structure & Human resource

Central Statistical Office

Organizational structure

- Social Surveys Unit Responsible for Income and Expenditure Survey
- Demography and vital statistics Unit Responsible for Census undertaking, Demographic and Housing Survey
- Dissemination Unit

Relevant human resources

- Social Surveys Unit (3 Statisticians)
- Demography and Vital Statistics Unit (3 Statisticians /1 Focal person)
- Dissemination Unit (1 Senior Statistician and Focal person)

Ministry of Labour and Social Security

Organizational structure

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security has the following Departments collecting data on migration indicators;

- 1. National Human Resources Planning & Development Unit Develops key national skills development policies to ensure that the country has relevant and adequate skills and competencies for social and economic development.
- 2. Training and Localization Unit Records and maintains skills inventory for expatriate professionals in the country's economy.
- 3. National Employment Statistics Unit Works closely with the CSO in collecting, capturing, analysing and interpreting employment statistics and all labour market related information in the country. Also maintains and updates the Labour Market Information System (data dissemination tool) with the latest Labour Market Information needed by the users and the nation at large.

RELEVANT HUMAN RESOURCES

- **☐** National Human Resources Planning & Development Unit
- 1x HRPD Director
- 1x SNR HRPD Analyst
- 4x HRPD Analysts
- ☐ Training and Localization Unit
- 1x SNR Localization Officers
- 2x Localization Officer
- National Employment Statistics Unit
- 1x seconded officer (Assistant Statistician) was vacant for 2 years
- 2 x temp officers (with demography degrees)

Immigration Department

Organizational structure

The Immigration Department of Eswatini operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Key sections include:

- Border Control and Management
- Visa Services
- > Permit Services
- Citizenship
- Migration Policy and Planning

Other Departments within the Ministry of Home Affairs include Civil Registration & Vital Statistics Department and Refugees

Relevant human resources

Senior Immigration Officers (14) at supervisory mid and high level within the Immigration Department are responsible for the Migration Data collection and analysis.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND DATA SHARING

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS & DATA SHARING

Technical Working Groups (TWGs) strengthened Collaboration across Ministries and Departments

- **Migration Profile** and its stakeholders
- National Labour Migration Policy and its stakeholders
- National Migration Policy and its stakeholders
- **Development of Migration Hub** and its stakeholders
- Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation with SADC and other regional actors

Institutional arrangements

1. Reporting on informal crossing

There is a Gazette for informal border crossings arrangement internally between Immigration department and UEDF, at cross border level with neighboring countries (South Africa and Mozambique). However, there are inconsistencies in the sharing of data.

2. Migration Profile

Through IOM, Technical Working Groups established to facilitate profiling of migration in the country as well as the development of a migration data hub for data exchange.

- Presently Immigration department and CSO co-chair the development of the Migration Data Hub and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security is a member.
- The above arrangement was enforced during the development of the National Labour Migration Policy in which key stakeholders were involved.

Institutional arrangements continued

3. National Labour Migration Policy

There is a gazetted Steering committee from key institutions involved in the management of labour migration related activities. Committee mandate is to steer the policy and implement the action plan through the 5 policy areas (see us during break for details)

Legal Provisions & Data Sharing Procedures:

Legislations and agreements allow access to migration and labour market data by relevant government departments and other key stakeholders.

- Legal mandate on Statistics guided by the Statistics Act 1967 and secrecy oath whereby CSO works with sectoral Ministries to produce and share national statistics.
- Data protection and privacy Act No. 41 of 2022

Govt to Govt institutional arrangement exist between Government Ministries and Departments on data sharing upon request.

- Both formal and formal arrangements exist.
- Regular inter-departmental formal communication and meetings for data validation and exchange

Constraints in institutional arrangements and data sharing

- Lack of metadata across data collectors (methodology, definitions etc).
- Outdated tools and survey instruments e.g Limited digital integration of Government Terminal System.
- Time lag in surveys resulting in Data gaps, for example Integrated Labour Force Survey and Employment and Wages Survey are done once every two years.
- Low response rate especially in Employment and Wages Survey.
- No central repository of migration data in Statistics
- Lack of an up-to-date website for dissemination.
- Regular meetings needed between users and producers of migration statistics.
- / Insufficient data user-producer interaction.
- The majority of major ministries do not have proper functioning statistics units or have units with most of the posts vacant. This means that administrative statistics are not being processed and underlying administrative data are at risk of loss or deterioration before they can be processed.

Overview of migration statistics currently produced and disseminated by the country and

How administrative records from Labour and Immigration departments are captured and stored

Migration Statistics Collected in Ministry Of Home Affairs

- Entry and exit records.
- Work and residence permits issued.
- Citizenship applications.
- Flagged individuals (with security)
- **■** Migrants
- Asylum seekers records
- Births, marriages and Deaths

Data capture and storage:

- Combination of manual and digital records.
- Use of the Government Terminal System for real-time tracking
- Manual files and reports.

***Not disseminated but used for administrative purposes

Migration Statistics Collected in Ministry of Labour and Social Security

- Employment and wages Survey
- Integrated Labour force survey
- Skills Inventory

Data capture and storage:

- Combination of Papi and Capi
- **■** Data stored in server

Migration Statistics Collected in Central statistical Office

- Census
- Intercensal Survey
- Income And Expenditure Survey

Challenges in Producing Migration Data Flows

- ► Limited Human resource and technical skill (Inadequate labour inspection officers with no data collection capacity)
- Inadequate number of professional statisticians to analyse and report on migration data Data gaps due to lack of training of human resource collecting data
- Migration information System presently unreliable.
- Lack of migration data management strategy which would provide guidance on data -sharing between key migration actors within the Kingdom of Eswatini.
- Outdated infrastructure and data collection tools compromising data quality
- Lack of uniform/standardised of methodology
- Lack of data on diaspora
- Need for improved coordination amongst key data producers and users

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS

Technical Assistance

Recent training;

- Participation in SADC migration statistics workshops.
- Participation in ILO and IOM labour migration statistics workshops
- Capacity Building on ILO STED Application on Sector Skills Strategy
- Capacity Building through UN Online courses on migration

Technical assistance;

- Implementation of the National Labour Migration Policy Plan of Action
- Implementation of the National Migration Policy
- Conducting the 2nd Migration Profile in the year 2027 to cover (2022-2027)
- Development of the National Data Hub (on-going).

Capacity building needs:

- > Strengthening digital migration data systems.
- Large scale Capacity-building/training for front line officers in immigration, labour and CSO / staff in data analytics and indicator generation.
- Capacitate Staff on developing a harmonised methodology for conducting Tracer Surveys
- Enhancing interoperability of systems across government agencies.
- Both technical and financial support on strengthening the Labour Market Information System
- Establishment of a fully fledged Migration Unit.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING MIGRATION DATA SYSTEMS

- Strengthening institutional cooperation and inter-agency collaboration.
- Implement a harmonized methodology for collecting and analysing migration statistics
- Mainstream migration across all development sectors
- Strengthen Labour Market Information System (LMIS)
- Enhance cooperation with receiving countries for diaspora data
- Regular training programs for officers on capturing migration data and analysis.
- Adoption of best practices from other SADC member states.

SIYABONGA THANK YOU