

# Migration in Eswatini

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## A COUNTRY PROFILE 2015–2021



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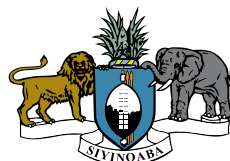
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# Migration in Eswatini

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A COUNTRY PROFILE 2015–2021

Prepared for IOM by  
Mandhla Mehlo





# FOREWORD

IOM, as the leading intergovernmental organization on migration, has supported countries around the world in preparing their respective Migration Profiles. In order to remain as an effective information tool for policymaking, the Migration Profiles need to be updated regularly. The Government of Eswatini, with technical and financial support from the IOM Country Office in Eswatini, is delighted to release its first country Migration Profile. The Migration Profile for Eswatini was made possible by a dedicated team of national technical working group that was drawn from various government ministries, United Nations agencies and civil society.



This Migration Profile is an important tool that compiles evidence necessary for informed and coherent migration policy development and cross-institutional cooperation on migration in Eswatini. The Migration Profile for Eswatini is a development tool that will help the Government of Eswatini and its key partners to understand the dynamics of migration in the country. This will help the country harness the benefits of migration and also minimize similar negative impacts. Currently, migration data in Eswatini is analysed and addressed in an uncoordinated manner, and administrative records are not collected for the purpose of measuring migration in its entirety. *Migration in Eswatini: Country Profile 2015–2021* presents migration-related data, analyses of current migration trends (immigration and emigration) and their impact on social development, health, economy, migration governance and institutional frameworks among other related matters. Policies designed to manage migration and address the challenges associated with it require accurate, timely, accessible data and other forms of information on migrants and the migration process.

Lack of or limited access to migration data, particularly disaggregated data, has been a challenge for policy and programme implementation in various aspects of migration. Moreover, even though data from administrative sources, censuses and surveys, among other sources, exist, some are not disaggregated or processed and are therefore not user-friendly. Addressing the challenges associated with the production and use of migration data has been an area of priority for some governments and agencies working in the migration field – and one approach has been the development of country migration profiles.

It is our hope that this Migration Profile for Eswatini will support our ongoing efforts as a nation to develop a comprehensive National Migration Policy. The Migration Profile will further deepen the understanding of the growing importance of the diaspora and remittances to national development, as well as the impact of migration on Eswatini as a source, transit and destination country for migrants.

The Government of Eswatini wishes to thank IOM for its continued support, partnership and assistance in compiling the Migration Profile report. We also thank the technical working group members and the stakeholders who provided feedback and inputs during the review process. It is our hope that the Migration Profile will provide useful overview of migration data trends in Eswatini, and act as a tool for informing policymaking for better migration management for the country.



The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs  
Her Royal Highness Princess Lindiwe

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## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

The Technical Working Group (TWG) on Migration for this 2022 Migration Profile for Eswatini is co-led by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) (Immigration Department) and Central Statistical Office (CSO) and with the technical support from IOM. The TWG members have been drawn from relevant State and non-State institutions and United Nations agencies.

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CSO	Central Statistical Office
DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
HMCS	His Majesty's Correctional Services
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training
MOFAIC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MOLSS	Ministry of Labour and Social Security
MOU	memorandum of understanding
NGO	non-governmental organization
NLMP	National Labour Migration Policy
PHC	Population Household Census
REPS	Royal Eswatini Police Service
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TWG	technical working group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USD	United States dollars
ZAR	South African rand



# GLOSSARY

Term	Definition	Source
Absentee population	These are members of the household that emigrated from Eswatini during the last 12 years (that is, those members of the household that moved out of the country from 2005 to 2017) so that the country of destination effectively became the new country of usual residence.	Government of Eswatini, 2017a
Asylum-seeker	A person who seeks refuge from persecution or serious threat in a country other than their own and is awaiting the outcome of their application for refugee status under relevant national and/or international instruments.	UNHCR, 2013
Bilateral labour migration agreements	Formal mechanisms concluded between States, which are essentially legally binding commitments concerned with inter-State cooperation on labour migration. The term is also used to describe less formal arrangements regulating the movement of workers between countries entered into by States, as well as a range of other actors, including individual ministries, employer organizations and others.	IOM, 2019
Border management	The administration of measures related to authorized movement of persons (regular migration) and goods, while preventing unauthorized movement of persons (irregular migration) and goods, detecting those responsible for smuggling, trafficking and related crimes and identifying the victims of such crimes or any other person in need of immediate or longer-term assistance and/or (international) protection.	Ibid.
Brain drain	Depletion of human capital in a specific occupation or economic sector resulting from the emigration of skilled workers engaged in this occupation or sector from the country of origin to another country (or from one region of a country to another – internal migration).	Ibid.
Brain gain	From the perspective of a country of destination, immigration of skilled workers into the country resulting in the acquisition of human capital.	Ibid.
Circular migration	A form of migration in which people repeatedly move back and forth between two or more countries.	Ibid.
Citizenship/nationality	The legal bond between an individual and a State.	Ibid.

Term	Definition	Source
Country of origin	In the migration context, a country of nationality or of former habitual residence of a person or group of persons who have migrated abroad, irrespective of whether they migrate regularly or irregularly.	Ibid.
Diaspora	Migrants or descendants of migrants whose identity and sense of belonging, either real or symbolic, have been shaped by their migration experience and background. They maintain links with their homelands, and to each other, based on a shared sense of history, identity or mutual experiences in the destination country.	Ibid.
Emigration	From the perspective of the country of departure, the act of moving from one's country of nationality or usual residence to another country, so that the country of destination effectively becomes the new country of usual residence.	Ibid.
Forced migration	A migratory movement which, although the drivers can be diverse, involves force, compulsion or coercion.	Ibid.
Immigration	From the perspective of the country of arrival, the act of moving into a country other than one's country of nationality or usual residence, so that the country of destination effectively becomes the new country of usual residence.	Ibid.
Internal migration	The movement of people within a State involving the establishment of a new temporary or permanent residence	Ibid.
Internally displaced person(s)	Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.	Ibid.
Irregular migration	Movement of persons that takes place outside the laws, regulations or international agreements governing the entry into or exit from the State of origin, transit or destination.	Ibid.
Labour migration	Movement of persons from one State to another, or within their own country of residence, for the purpose of employment.	Ibid.



Term	Definition	Source
Migrant	An umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from their place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. The term includes a number of well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers; persons whose particular types of movements are legally defined, such as smuggled migrants; as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students.	Ibid.
Migrant worker	A person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which one is not a national.	Ibid.
Migration	The movement of persons away from their place of usual residence, either across an international border or within a State.	Ibid.
Migration management	The management and implementation of the whole set of activities primarily by States within national systems or through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, concerning all aspects of migration and the mainstreaming of migration considerations into public policies. The term refers to planned approaches to the implementation and operationalization of policy, legislative and administrative frameworks, developed by the institutions in charge of migration.	Ibid.
Net migration rate	Net number of migrants in a given period, that is, the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants.	Ibid.
Refugee	A person who qualifies for the protection of the United Nations provided by the UNHCR, in accordance with UNHCR's Statute and, notably, subsequent General Assembly's resolutions clarifying the scope of UNHCR's competency, regardless of whether or not one is in a country that is a party to the 1951 Convention or the 1967 Protocol – or a relevant regional refugee instrument – or whether or not one has been recognized by the host country as a refugee under either of these instruments.	Ibid.
Regular migration	Migration that occurs in compliance with the laws of the country of origin, transit and destination.	Ibid.

Term	Definition	Source
Remittances	Personal monetary transfers, cross border or within the same country, made by migrants to individuals or communities with whom the migrant has links.	Ibid.
Return migration	In the context of international migration, the movement of persons returning to their country of origin after having moved away from their place of habitual residence and crossed an international border. In the context of internal migration, the movement of persons returning to their place of habitual residence after having moved away from it.	Ibid.
Rural–urban migrants	The movement of people from a rural to an urban area for the purpose of establishing a new residence.	Ibid.
Tourist	A person who does not reside in the country of arrival and is admitted to that country temporarily (under tourist visas if required) for purposes of leisure, recreation, holiday, visits to friends or relatives, health or medical treatment, or religious pilgrimage. A tourist must spend at least a night in a collective or private accommodation in the receiving country and the duration of their stay must not surpass 12 months.	Ibid.
Trafficking in persons	The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.	Ibid.
Urbanization	The occurrence of increasing proportion of a population that is living in urban areas.	Ibid.
Visitor	In the migration context, the term is used in some national legislation to designate a non-national authorized to stay temporarily on the territory of a State without participating in a professional activity.	Ibid.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In line with the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, Eswatini has robust national frameworks, legal instruments and policies for migration governance at the national level to address migration issues in the country. Owing to relatively better economic conditions than some countries in the region/continent, Eswatini attracts migrants from other African countries, mainly Mozambique. People migrate to Eswatini due to several reasons, with the main ones being employment opportunities and family reunification. Just like the average age of international migrants, which is 39 years, the majority of migrants in Eswatini are of reproductive and working age, between 30 to 39 years old and are mainly males. Thus, migration is a major determinant of development driven by the migrants in the working age group. Migration contributes to all forms of development including social, economic and human development for both the origin and destination countries. Globally, through migration, remittances are made available, employment opportunities are created, and new knowledge and skills are acquired. The studies conducted in the Southern African region on migration and remittances suggest that, for most households, migration remains a livelihood strategy used to avoid absolute poverty, keep children in school, purchase plots of land and buy construction materials. Therefore, remittances undoubtedly have indirect and direct impacts on both economic and human development.

However, there is no clear evidence available in Eswatini to establish the actual impacts of migration and remittances on development in the country. This is due to lack of accurate data on migration and robust migration data management systems. Given the increased amount of remittances sent across the globe including Eswatini and their potential and actual impact in receiving countries, and after years of deliberation through various platforms including the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the United Nations General Assembly included migration as the tenth SDG. SDG Target 10.c focuses on reducing the transaction cost of remittances to less than 3 per cent by 2030. The African Institute for Remittances, established in 2015 and headquartered in Nairobi, aims at developing mechanisms and improving policy framework for remittances in Africa. Against this backdrop, it is important to identify ways to maximize the development benefits of remittances and improve transfer mechanisms, including reducing costs of transferring remittances to Eswatini; with the following objectives: (a) leveraging the potential impact of remittances on socioeconomic development; (b) reducing the transfer costs of remittances; and (c) developing appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks for remittances, payment and settlement systems.

Regarding employment opportunities and economic development, this study found that recent graduates do not possess the skills required to steer industries. Industry-specific hard skills are scarce, and there is a scarcity of soft skills, namely communication, critical thinking and problem solving. The results further revealed that the current supply of these skills for future industrial use is insufficient, as there is low to no supply of such skills training at higher educational institutions. Thus, Eswatini can harness the gains of migration by employing migrants with the required skills and experience. Similarly, Eswatini nationals in foreign countries have been reported to contribute significantly to their destinations' GDP and therefore, economic development.

Eswatini is a source of Emaswati victims and a transit country for various African and Asian nationals being trafficked for sexual and labour exploitation. Irregular migration routes have contributed to human trafficking in Eswatini. During the period 2016–2018, 50 victims of trafficking were detected, and most of the trafficked victims were male. Human trafficking is reported to be high in Eswatini, particularly sex and labour trafficking, yet there is low awareness and knowledge of how to prevent and address it. Irregular migration and irregular migration routes are common features in Eswatini. The common observation is that data collected at informal crossings are insufficiently detailed, making it difficult to ascertain the direction of movement. The irregular migration routes are prone to human trafficking since people always fail to produce proper and sufficient documentation especially when accompanied by children. Formal border posts are far from informal crossings, which makes many people resort to using informal crossings. There was also evidence that migrants also use the informal crossings to transit into South Africa. In addition, considerable internal migration has been reported in Eswatini, mainly in the Manzini region. Continued rural-to-urban migration and interregional migration pose a threat to regional development and agriculture production as the younger population moves to urban areas. Given these negative consequences of migration, there is a need to develop a national migration profile and policy that maximizes the opportunities created by migration and at the same time addresses its challenges.

Given the contribution of migration to all aspects of development, it is crucial for governments, the private sector and civil society to increasingly recognize the relevance of migration to all pillars of sustainable development. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, through its Objective 1, advocates for the collection of reliable and available data on migration. However, in Eswatini, there is no single agency or organization that collects all forms and types of migration data. While the Government of Eswatini collects partial migration data gathered during census exercises and day-to-day migration data through the

Immigration Department, it could do more to collect data on irregular migration across national borders. Mostly, there is a need to coordinate stakeholders working in the field of migration to improve data collection and sharing to avoid the duplication of roles and activities, as well as develop evidence-based migration guidelines based on shared and coordinated data collection. Therefore, the Migration Profile is a starting point to identify key stakeholders in migration and define their roles. National data on migrant flows may come, for example, from border-crossing checkpoints. One of the key indicators for immigration/entries is the issuance of visas; however, this excludes countries who do not need a visa to enter Eswatini. At the international level, DESA collects data on migration flows, although there is no flow data available for Eswatini. There is a shortage of research on internal remittance flows in Eswatini. While official international remittances are documented by the Central Bank of Eswatini and estimated by the World Bank, there is no available source of information on internal remittances in the country. There is some data on mobile money transfers from service providers, but it is not disaggregated according to the migration status of the senders. Moreover, such data is not readily available, not to mention the quality is often unreliable. More reliable data on internal remittances, including those sent via mobile money transfers, are needed, and new methods for capturing data should be investigated. Therefore, there is a need to explore the contribution of internal remittances to the general national development.

Against these myriad challenges, Eswatini is recommended to develop a national migration data management strategy to ensure that reliable data on migration is available. In addition, Eswatini should conduct a nationally representative household survey to better understand the role and impact of the diaspora, transfers received through informal channels and social remittances. The Government of Eswatini should develop and implement a comprehensive migration governance framework, including through the development of the national migration policy, diaspora engagement policy, and finalization and implementation of the NLMP. The country should continue its efforts to ensure that it meets the minimum standards for addressing the problems of trafficking and smuggling. This can be achieved by ensuring vigorously to investigate and prosecute trafficking offences and convict and punish trafficking offenders, including government officials suspected of complicity in human trafficking. There is a need for a monitoring and evaluation system that should be developed and implemented in order to close the data gaps around migration to inform policies.

## Country map and key statistics

Eswatini is situated in South-Eastern Africa between the 25th and 28th parallels and longitudes 31° and 32° east. It lies some 48 to 225 kilometres inland of the Indian Ocean littoral and hence physically landlocked, meaning all traffic in and out of the country has to be routed via one of its two neighbours: South Africa or Mozambique. The country has a total surface area of 17,364 square kilometres; as such, it is the smallest country in the southern hemisphere.

It is bounded by South Africa in the north, west and south, and by Mozambique on the east (Figure 1). There are four distinct physiographic regions within the country (Highveld, Middleveld, Lowveld and Lubombo), which are clearly distinguished by elevation and relief (Murdoch, 1968).

Eswatini is divided into four regions: Hhohho, Lubombo, Manzini and Shiselweni. Each region is further divided into Tinkhundla constituencies, which are 59 in total and in turn each one is divided into smaller *imiphakatsi*/chiefdoms.

Figure 1. Country map



Source: United Nations Geospatial Information Section (2018), Map of Eswatini, Map No. 3218, Rev. 2.

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

**Table 1. Eswatini key statistics**

<b>Geography</b>							
Total area in square kilometre	17,364 square kilometre						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Human and social development</b>							
Life expectancy at birth <sup>a</sup> (in years)	45.7	45.8	62.18	62.37	62.52	62.77	62.35
Adult literacy rate, percentage aged 15 and above <sup>b</sup>				96			88.42
GDP growth (annual percentage) <sup>c</sup>	2.2	1.1	2.0	2.4	2.6	-1.9	7.4
Human Development Index <sup>d</sup>	0.581	0.588	0.597	0.605	0.611	-0.44	0.6
Population living in poverty <sup>e</sup>			58.9				
<b>Remittance and other financial flows</b>							
Remittance inflow (in USD billion) <sup>f</sup>	2.4	2.6	3.3	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8
Remittances outflow (in USD billion) <sup>e</sup>	0.9	0.18	0.19	0.24	0.26	0.28	1.3
Remittances inflows (% of GDP) <sup>e</sup>	2.3	2.5	3.2	2.6	2.6	2.8	3.0
<b>Population<sup>g</sup></b>							
Total population <sup>h</sup>	1 119 375	1 132 657	1 093 238	1 120 092	1 133 522	1 192 271	1 201 670
Male	531 737	538 274	531 111	545 452	551 905	585 916	591 831
Female	587 638	594 383	562 127	574 640	581 617	594 739	600 441
Urban population	261 028	266 230	259 766	267 603	272 285	285 376	290 545
Urban, as % of total population	23.3	23.5	23.8	23.9	24.0	24.0	24.0
Rural population	858 347	866 427	833 472	-	-	-	-
Foreign citizens			23 732				
Foreign born			22 564				
<b>International migration</b>							
Net international migration rate, per 1,000 population <sup>i</sup>			-41 764				
International migration stock (in thousands) <sup>j</sup>			-6				

Sources: <sup>a</sup> Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

<sup>b</sup> Authors' elaboration based on data from the Education Management System 2019 data set.

<sup>c</sup> World Bank, n.d.a.

<sup>d</sup> UNDP, 2021.

<sup>e</sup> Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

<sup>f</sup> World Bank, n.d.b.

<sup>g</sup> Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

<sup>h</sup> World Bank, n.d.c.

<sup>i</sup> World Bank, n.d.d.

<sup>j</sup> DESA and UNICEF, 2014.



# INTRODUCTION

Migration management is the management and implementation of the whole set of activities primarily by States within national systems or through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, concerning all aspects of migration and the mainstreaming of migration considerations into public policies. The term refers to planned approaches to the implementation and operationalization of policy, legislative and administrative frameworks, developed by the institutions in charge of migration (African Union Commission, 2018). Together with birth (fertility) and death (mortality), migration forms a third fundamental yet often ignored element in determining population growth and structure (DESA, 2021).

Migration, if well managed, can benefit both countries of origin and destination. Benefits include remittances, creation of employment opportunities and the acquisition of new knowledge, skills and capital transfer. Migration affects all countries in one way or another, either as countries of origin, transit or destination. Over the years, the incoherence in migration governance and management, and related non-observance of migrants' rights, has negative implications in terms of transnational crimes, xenophobia, discrimination and exploitation, among others. Eswatini is no exception to this global phenomenon; hence the need to develop a national migration profile and policy that maximizes the opportunities created by migration and at the same time addresses its challenges.

International migrants contribute to the economic development of their countries of origin through their competencies and skills, remittances and their increased experience when they return home. Often, migrants help family members to migrate by paying for the costs of the move. Remittances sent back are then used to improve the well-being of other family members and boost family incomes. In countries of destination, migrants may be able to improve their own standard of living. In many countries, migrants also form and participate in diaspora NGOs that lobby for better migration laws, good governance and global partnerships among countries.

## Sources and types of data

Migration data sources are diverse, but there are challenges in the coordination and sharing of data among various stakeholders working in the field of migration. The data is not well coordinated to give a greater understanding of the migration situation in the country. The sources include routine data collection and research reports produced by government ministries and international agencies. There is no single agency or organization that collects all forms and

types of migration data in Eswatini. While the Government of Eswatini collects partial migration data gathered during census exercises and day-to-day migration data through the Immigration Department, it could do more to collect data on irregular migration across national borders. Mostly, there is a need to coordinate stakeholders working in the field of migration for improving data collection and sharing to avoid the duplication of roles and activities and develop evidence-based migration guidelines based on shared and coordinated data collection. Therefore, the Migration Profile is a starting point to identify key stakeholders in migration and define their roles.

## **Migration governance and human rights**

A number of international instruments outline the human rights of migrants. However, many national laws regulating the admission and stay of international migrants include provisions that negatively impact the human rights of migrants. For instance, laws may include provisions that prevent migrants from being accompanied by their spouses and children or that make it difficult for them to achieve family reunification. In addition, the types of occupations that majority of migrant women work in, such as domestic labour, mean that they may not receive adequate protection under labour laws.

## **The Migration Governance Framework**

The Migration Governance Framework of IOM provides guidance on how a State can effectively and efficiently undertake and leverage migration governance. The Framework expounds the essential elements for facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and the mobility of people through planned and well-managed migration policies. It is worth noting that on the matter of human mobility and its related human rights issues, there is a clear relationship between emergency, rehabilitation and development interventions, and migration is a relevant and key component of all. Emergency assistance should be provided in ways that support long-term development to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation. At the same time, economic growth and sustainable development are essential for the prevention of, preparedness for and resilience against natural disasters and other emergencies. The Migration Governance Framework seeks to present, in a consolidated, coherent and comprehensive way, the three principles and three objectives which, if respected and fulfilled, would ensure that migration is humane and orderly, and benefits both migrants and the society (IOM, 2015):

The three principles are as follows:

- (a) Adherence to international standards and the fulfillment of migrants' rights: Humane and orderly migration requires compliance with international law, whereby, all individuals within a State's territory, regardless of nationality or migration status, are treated without discrimination, in order to preserve their safety, physical integrity, well-being and dignity. Protecting the rights of individuals includes combating xenophobia, racism and discrimination, ensuring adherence with the principles of equality and non-discrimination, and ensuring access to protection.
- (b) Migration and related policies are best formulated using evidence and whole-of-government approaches: Migration policy must be based on facts and a well-founded analysis of the benefits and risks the movement of people poses to the State. Thus, strategies that assure timely collection, analysis and use of credible data and information on, among other things, demographics, cross-border movements, internal displacement, diasporas, labour markets, seasonal trends, education and health should be in place, so as the State can ensure that migration and mobility policy advance its broader interests.
- (c) Good migration governance relies on strong partnerships: Governing migration requires partnerships to broaden the understanding of migration, and to develop comprehensive and effective approaches. Migration and mobility implicate multiple actors that involve States and their neighbours, subnational authorities, local communities, migrants and their families, diasporas, employers and unions. In addition, there are dozens of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations whose mandates touch on migration and humanitarian action.



# PART A. MIGRATION TRENDS AND MIGRANTS' CHARACTERISTICS

## A.1. Introduction

This part presents key figures and information on migration in Eswatini. This includes the following:

- Information on key migration trends;
- Immigrant and emigrant stocks and flows;
- Labour migration;
- Asylum-seekers, refugees, diaspora members;
- Return migration, internal migration and displacement;
- Irregular migration, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

Accurate, reliable and timely migration data is scarce, both in Eswatini and across the world. Poor availability, comparability and collection frequency of migration data can sometimes be linked to inadequate resources and weak technical capacity of agencies responsible for data collection, analysis and dissemination at the national level. This report uses a combination of national and international data sources and comparison of data from different stakeholders in the country, that, taken together, offer a more comprehensive picture of migration trends in Eswatini than any single data source could offer alone.

The key providers of migration data in Eswatini include the Immigration Department under MOHA; Civil Registration Refugees in the Department of Labour under the MOLSS; MOET; Eswatini diplomatic missions abroad under the MOFAIC; REPS; HMCS; Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force; the Central Bank of Eswatini; and the Human Trafficking Secretariat, among others. These ministries, agencies and organizations were instrumental in the production of this report.

### A.1.1. Key driving factors of migration

The *Migration in Eswatini: Country Profile 2015–2021* provides a detailed review of the drivers of emigration prior to 2022. The Migration Profile covers the period 2015 to 2021. Very little empirical research was conducted during the period under review, that is, prior to 2021. However, Eswatini also deals with the similar migration drivers that are faced by other countries in the region. Most of the regional studies tend to overemphasize macroeconomic drivers such as the

socioeconomic crisis (such as unprecedented inflation, liquidity constraints, dual foreign exchange rates, a shrinking formal sector and widespread shortages of food and other basic commodities), and better economic prospects in destination countries.

The Migration Profile scantily captures these explanations, even though there are no formal studies in the countries on migration, economic reasons for migration have been and continue to be a major factor that drives emigration.

### **A.1.2. General cross-border mobility**

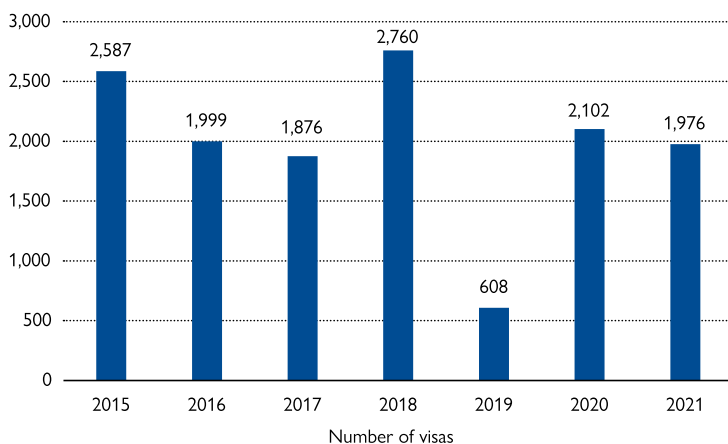
Eswatini has a total of 15 border posts, two road border posts with Mozambique, and 11 road border posts with South Africa. The other 2 border posts are King Mswati III International Airport and Mpaka Railway Station. The border management system is implemented using a mix of electronic systems in some ports of entry and paper-based systems in others. The data from the border management systems tend to represent events rather than persons, thus having a potential to overrepresent the actual flows. The system is designed to capture all the variables to understand the actual flow. However, at the time of compilation of the 2022 Migration Profile for Eswatini, the data was incomplete as a result of human errors and complacency. Also, the current data used by the Immigration Department is only limited to events other than exploring the characteristics of the entry or exit. More so, the border management system is not yet installed at all border posts, meaning that all cases of border crossings might not be recorded.

### **A.1.3. Entry into Eswatini**

#### **Visas issued**

Migration flow data captures the number of migrants entering (inflows) and leaving (outflows) a country over a specific period, such as one year (DESA, 2017). National data on migrant flows may come, for example, from border-crossing checkpoints. One of the key indicators for immigration/entry is the issuance of a visa; however, this excludes 94 countries that do not need a visa to enter Eswatini. At the international level, DESA collects data on migration flows, although there is no flow data available for Eswatini. A total of 13,908 visas were issued by MOHA to nationals of countries that require visas to visit Eswatini, of which 82 per cent of the visas were issued to males compared to 18 per cent for females. There is an average of 1,986 visas issued per year as shown in Figure 2.

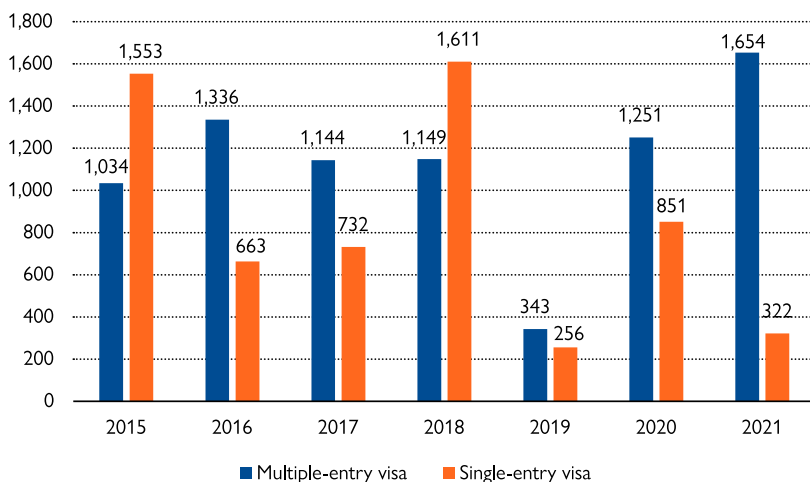
**Figure 2. Visas issued by year**



Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Immigration Department's Immigration Terminal system, August 2022.

Of the people issued with visas over the period, 64 per cent were given multiple-entry visas, and the single-entry visas accounted for 36 per cent. Figure 3 shows the types of visas issued by year and type, with more single-entry visas issued in 2018. The decrease in 2019 and 2020 in number of visas issued are likely to have been due to border closures due to COVID-19 national lockdowns.

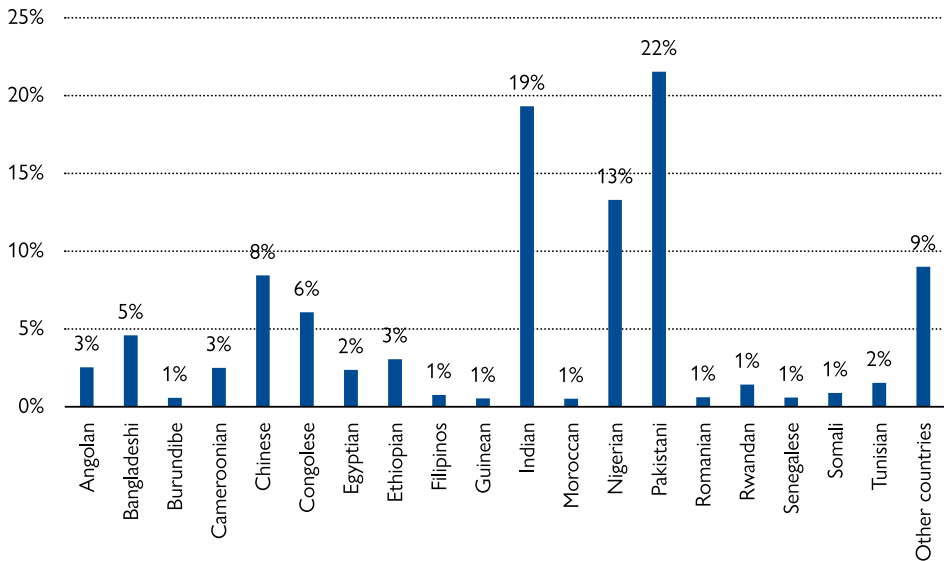
**Figure 3. Types of visas issued by year**



Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Immigration Department's Immigration Terminal system, August 2022.

Of the total visas issued over the 2015 to 2021 period, most of them were issued to Pakistanis (22%), followed by Indians (19%), Nigerians (13%) and Chinese (8%) respectively. Figure 4 shows the percentage of visas issued by nationality. Other countries are presented in Annex 1.

**Figure 4. Visas issued by nationality**



Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Immigration Department's Immigration Terminal system, August 2022.

## A.2. Immigration

### A.2.1. Migrant stock

The Eswatini National Census 2017 (Government of Eswatini, 2017a) defined the *migrant stock* as the number of foreign-born population of foreign citizens at a particular moment in time. Table 2 shows the sex distribution of foreign-born population according to their country of birth. The majority of the foreign-born males come from Mozambique (37.2%), whereas a majority of the foreign-born females (47.5%) are from South Africa.



**Table 2. Percentage distribution of foreign-born population according to country of birth by sex, 2017**

Country of birth	Male	% of male	Female	% of female	Total	Per cent
Botswana	53	0.4	78	0.8	131	0.6
Lesotho	35	0.3	121	1.2	156	0.7
Mozambique	4 639	37.2	1 675	16.6	6 314	28.0
South Africa	3 158	25.3	4 798	47.5	7 956	35.3
Other African	2 770	22.2	2 238	22.5	5 008	22.2
Asia	1 252	10.0	742	7.3	1 994	8.8
Europe	370	3.0	260	2.6	630	2.8
United States of America and Canada	145	1.2	147	1.5	292	1.3
Rest of the world	44	0.4	39	0.4	83	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 466</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>10 098</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>22 564</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

## A.2.2. Foreign resident population

The 2022 Migration Profile observes that Eswatini plays all the roles of the destination, transit and origin country. According to the 2017 PHC, 98 per cent of the population are citizens of the country, and only 2 per cent of them were migrants. Notably, in the proportion of migrants, figures show that there are more males than females from foreign countries who are residing in Eswatini at 55.2 per cent and 44.8 per cent respectively. Table 3 shows the population of immigrants by country of origin and the region in which they are residents in Eswatini. A total of 23,732 migrants were in the country in 2017. Migrants were mainly from other African countries, with Mozambique being the main country of origin.

**Table 3. Foreign nationals who are residents in the country by citizenship and region of current residence, 2017**

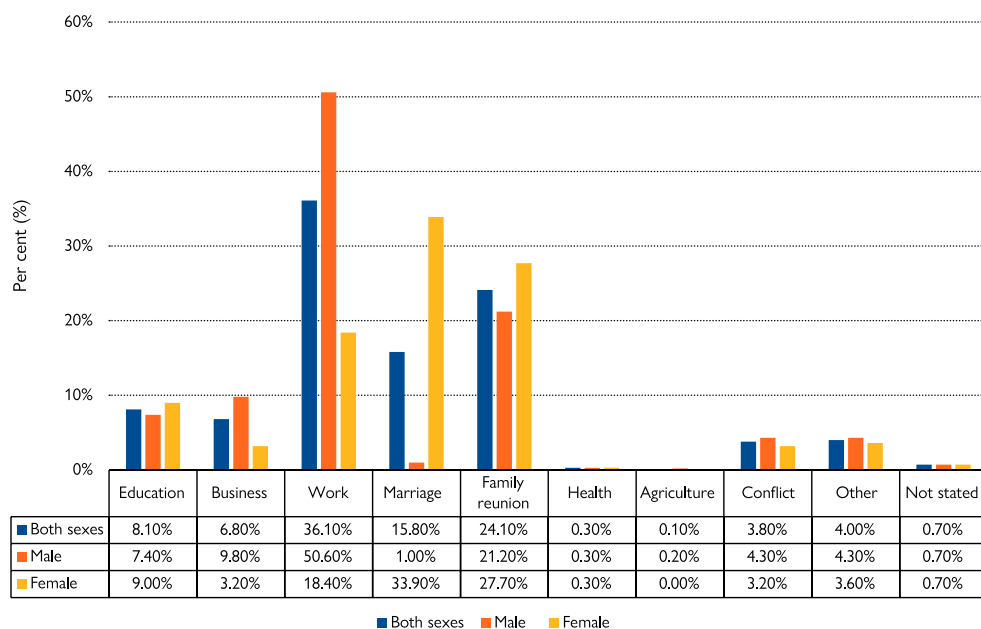
Country of citizenship	Total number	Per cent	Region			
			Hhohho	Manzini	Shiselweni	Lubombo
Botswana	121	0.5	51	56	8	6
Lesotho	89	0.4	33	36	8	12
Mozambique	5 619	23.7	1 474	3 010	247	888
South Africa	5 586	23.5	1 844	1 680	1 181	881
Other African countries	5 389	22.7	1 796	2 517	344	732
Asia	2 109	8.9	672	1 032	330	75
United States and Canada	516	2.2	314	167	20	15
Europe	241	1.0	128	80	19	14
Rest of the world	4 062	17.1	1 368	1 601	504	589
<b>Total</b>	<b>23 732</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7 680</b>	<b>10 179</b>	<b>2 661</b>	<b>3 212</b>

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

The majority of the foreign-born population in the Manzini region comes from Mozambique, whereas a majority of those in the Hhohho region were born in South Africa and other African countries. Approximately 8,500 of the foreign-born population arrived in the country more than 10 years ago, closely followed by 6,992 foreign born that arrived between one and four years ago.

The main reasons for staying in the country for migrants are work, marriage and family reunification. When further disaggregated by sex, marriage/family reunion are the leading reasons for stay for females, whereas for males, it is work (Government of Eswatini, 2017a). This is illustrated in Figure 5.

**Figure 5. Reason for stay of migrants in Eswatini, 2017**



Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

The highest number of migrants is found in the age group of 35–39 and 30–34, closely followed by those in the age groups 25–29 years, 40–44 years and 0–4 years. Notably, the sex ratio is the highest in the age group 40–44 years, where there are about 170 males for every 100 females among migrants.

**Table 4. Age–sex distribution of migrants, 2017**

Age group	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio
0–4	856	844	1 700	101.4
5–9	711	653	1 364	108.9
10–14	538	520	1 058	103.5
15–19	665	579	1 244	114.9
20–24	820	644	1 464	127.3
25–29	1 101	780	1 881	141.2
30–34	1 253	991	2 244	126.4
35–39	1 411	885	2 296	159.4
40–44	1 140	673	1 813	169.4
45–49	944	585	1 529	161.4
50–54	677	471	1 148	143.7
55–59	509	347	856	146.7
60–64	379	299	678	126.8
65–69	238	214	452	111.2
70–74	178	186	364	95.7
75–79	105	117	222	89.7
80+	75	179	254	41.9
Not stated	1 789	1 376	3 165	130.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 389</b>	<b>10 343</b>	<b>23 732</b>	<b>129.4</b>

Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

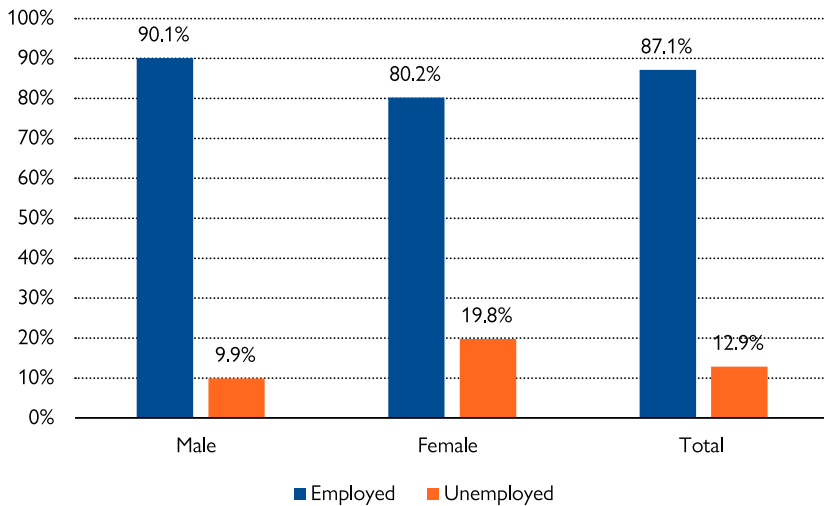
The country's migrant stock reveals that the majority of the migrant population who are residents in the country is in the age groups 30 to 44 years. Further disaggregation by sex reveals that most migrant males are from Mozambique, whereas the majority of migrant females are from South Africa. In addition, it is evident that international migration in Eswatini is still dominated by males. Migration in the country still appears to be an event for the young, as these appear to be more inclined to have moved recently. The main reasons for migration of males in Eswatini is work/business, whereas females migrate as a result of marriage and family reunion.

### A.2.3. Immigration for employment

#### Migrants' work status

According to the 2017 Eswatini National Census, 36 per cent migrated into the country for employment. There is a significant difference in employment status between male migrants and female migrants, as about 90.1 per cent males are employed while only 80.2 per cent of females are employed. Overall, 13 per cent of the foreign-born migrant population is unemployed (Figure 6).

**Figure 6. Migrant population by work status, 2017**



Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

Most of the migrant population is engaged as professionals (27%), service and sales workers (20%) as compared to the other occupations. The Census indicates that most of the migrant population is found in white-collar jobs. A further disaggregation by sex reveals that only 21 per cent of male migrants work as professionals, whereas 42 per cent females are engaged in the same occupation.

### **Work permits**

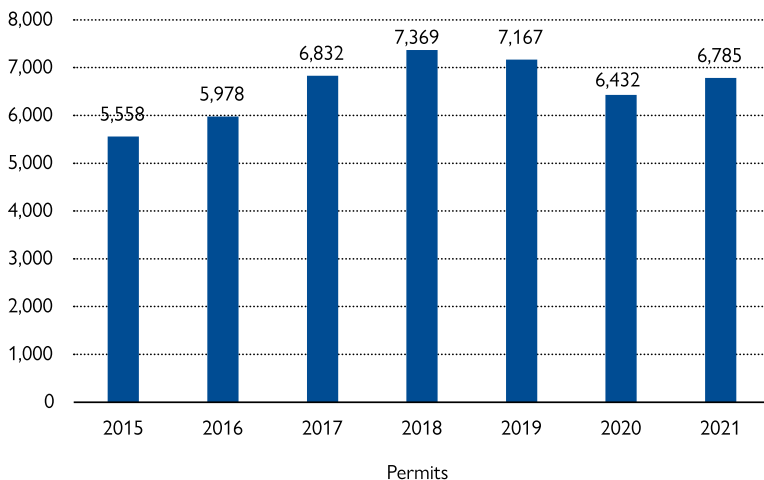
Administrative data from the Immigration Department shows that there are 10 types of employment permits that vary with the purpose of residence in the country (see Annex 2: Classes of entry permits), and over the period 2015–2021, a total of 46,121 Temporary Residence Work permits were issued. Of the total permits, 81 per cent were provided to males compared to 19 per cent for females. Most of the people were provided with Class A (67.4%) and Class F (26.4%) as shown in Table 5.

**Table 5. Entry permit class, 2015–2021**

Entry permit class	Number	Per cent
Class A	31 089	67.4
Class B	6	0.0
Class C	1 318	2.9
Class D	17	0.0
Class E	1	0.0
Class F	12 185	26.4
Class G	7	0.0
Class H	60	0.1
Class I	1 250	2.7
Class J	188	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>46 121</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Immigration Department's Immigration Terminal system, August 2022.

Figure 7 shows work permits issued by year. The years with the largest numbers of permits issued were 2018 and 2019 at 7,369 and 7,167 respectively (Figure 7).

**Figure 7. Work permits issued by year**

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Immigration Department's Immigration Terminal system, August 2022.

The permits were issued to people from 140 countries with the top 20 countries of origin shown in Table 6. South Africa was the country with most work permits issued at 36.2 per cent, followed by Zimbabwe, India and Pakistan at 11.1 per cent, 6.9 per cent and 6.2 per cent respectively.

**Table 6. Distribution of the countries of origin for persons issued with work permits (2015–2021)**

Country of origin	Number of permits	Per cent
South Africa	16 697	36.2
Zimbabwe	5 125	11.1
India	3 184	6.9
Pakistan	2 855	6.2
China	2 438	5.3
Bangladesh	1 640	3.6
Philippines (the)	1 358	2.9
Mozambique	1 269	2.8
Nigeria	1 232	2.7
Zambia	1 048	2.3
United States of America	927	2.0
United Kingdom	843	1.8
Ethiopia	814	1.8
Ghana	741	1.6
Uganda	695	1.5
Democratic Republic of the Congo	671	1.5
Kenya	367	0.8
Portugal	356	0.8
Malawi	273	0.6
United Republic of Tanzania	250	0.5

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Immigration Department's Immigration Terminal system, August 2022.

Administrative data from the Immigration Department can shed light on the number of employment permits issued to migrants. Table 7 shows the permits approved for the period under review.

**Table 7. Number of permits for businesses approved by sector (1 January 2015 to 31 December 2021)**

Business type	Number of permits	Per cent
Sales	701	24
Technical education	438	15
Manufacturing	406	14
Consultants	274	9.4
Construction	191	6.5
Medical	122	4.1
Education/School	90	3.0
Church/Missionary/Religious	75	2.6
Management	60	2.1
Government	52	1.7
Others	516	17.6

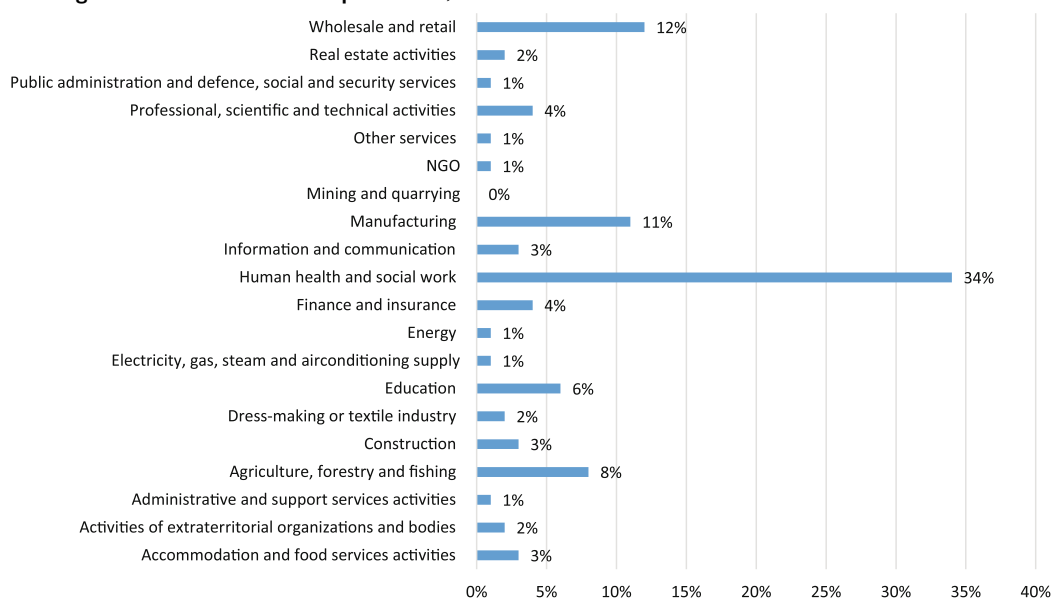
Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Immigration Department's Immigration Terminal system, August 2022.

## Migrant occupation status

According to the National Skills Audit Report (Government of Eswatini, 2021a), minority of the companies and establishments (3%) employed international migrants due to a plethora of reasons. Some of the reasons for importing skills are as follows: (a) lack of relevant or industry-related skills; (b) new/start-up companies need experienced skills to support establishment; (c) lack of experienced experts in specific fields; and (d) ownership of the enterprise. For instance, multinational companies (with group ownership) or companies where the investors, directors or founders are non-Swati have imported skills. For the tourism and hospitality sector, the need to import skills rises from the lack of skills and experience in the country, while the sector also needs high-level skills to maintain and meet international standards. Companies in this sector are owned by enterprises or people from South Africa, the United Kingdom, Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China or Pakistan. In education, the skills imported in this sector are from Zimbabwe, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Botswana, with a few from outside Africa (such as the United States and Belgium).

Figure 8 shows that the health sector imports the most skills (34%) in the country. The majority of skills were master's or PhD qualifications. The wholesale and retail sector is also a large importer of skills (12%), followed by the manufacturing sector (11%), and finally the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector (8%). The study found that majority of the companies that import skills were also owned by migrants.

**Figure 8. Industries that import skills, in 2021**



Source: Government of Eswatini, 2021a.

## A.2.4. Immigration for study purposes

The Immigration Department and MOET provided official data on immigration for this Migration Profile for Eswatini on the issue of immigration for study purposes. The Immigration Act provides for two types of permits to access education in the country, namely the dependents permit and the study permit for international students. A total of 4,611 international students were enrolled in local schools, of which 53 per cent were males and 47 per cent were females. Table 8 presents the numbers of international students at all levels for the period 2015–2019.

**Table 8. International students summary of all levels (2015–2019)**

Year	Female	Male	Grand total
2015	402	445	847
2016	367	388	755
2017	532	602	1 134
2018	506	521	1 027
2019	383	465	848
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>2 190</b>	<b>2 421</b>	<b>4 611</b>

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the MOET Monitoring and Evaluation System, 2019.

## A.2.5. Forced migration

### Asylum-seekers

This section presents the stock and flows of forced migrants who recently arrived or already settled in Eswatini. Forced migration takes place for several reasons, including political conflicts and persecution among others. Eswatini is the place of residence of a total of 1,507 asylum-seekers and 263 migrants with refugee status. Eswatini has one refugee reception centre at Malindza Refugee Reception Centre and the country favours a system whereby refugees are allowed to integrate into the society. Table 9 shows new asylum applications launched per year. The main nationality of persons seeking asylum were from Democratic Republic of the Congo (622), Somalia (398) and Burundi (133).



**Table 9. New asylum-seekers application lunched by year**

Country	Years					Total
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Burundi	37	37	34	14	11	133
Cameroon	2	0	3	3	3	11
Congo (the)	35	43	25	12	18	133
Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	0	1	0	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	55	79	94	363	31	622
Eritrea	0	1	1	1	5	8
Ethiopia	11	19	23	11	24	88
Kenya	1	1	0	0	0	2
Rwanda	26	16	21	1	23	87
Somalia	55	67	72	64	140	398
Sudan (the)	0	0	1	0	0	1
Uganda	0	0	0	1	0	1
United Republic of Tanzania	1	0	2	1	0	4
Zimbabwe	1	0	1	4	5	11
Burkina Faso	0	1	0	0	0	1
Angola	0	0	0	1	0	1
Mali	0	0	1	0	0	1
South Africa	0	0	0	2	0	2
Mozambique	0	0	0	0	2	2
Syrian Arab Republic	0	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>1 508</b>

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Immigration Department's Immigration Terminal system, August 2022.

## Refugee status

The Refugees Department in MOHA reported a total of 263 refugees in Eswatini, with a gradual increase from 52 persons in 2017 to a record high of 84 persons in 2021. Most of them have been residing in the country for many years. Countries of the Eastern African region – specifically, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Somalia – continue to be major countries of origin for refugees fleeing to Eswatini due to relative political and social stability (see Table 10).

**Table 10. Refugee population in Eswatini by nationality, 2017–2021**

Country	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Burundi	1	18	0	1	0	20
Congo (the)	4	0	9	0	0	13
Democratic Republic of the Congo	18	14	23	4	63	122
Ethiopia	0	5	0	2	0	7
Rwanda	12	11	13	1	0	37
Somalia	17	15	8	2	13	55
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	1	8	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>263</b>

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Refugees Department's Terminal system, August 2022.

## A.2.6. Naturalization

In Eswatini, citizenship applications are designed for migrants who wish to obtain Eswatini citizenship upon fulfilling provision of the Citizenship Act, 1992 and the country's 2005 Constitution. A total of 3,001 migrants applied for naturalization over the period 2015–2021, of which 164 persons obtained naturalization in Eswatini for the same period. Table 11 shows the numbers of citizenship application by year of approval, those which are still pending and those declined.

**Table 11. Status of applications for citizenship by year, 2015–2021**

Status	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Applications	357	201	399	138	126	92	139
Granted	80	13	25	1	7	2	36
Declined	4	19	4	0	0	0	13
Pending	370	169	370	137	119	90	90

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Immigration Department's Immigration Terminal system, August 2022.

Analysing the nationality of persons who managed to become naturalized, most of the people were South Africans (36), followed by Mozambicans and Zimbabweans both at 20 persons. Table 12 shows the number of persons granted citizenship by country of previous nationality.

**Table 12. Number of persons granted citizenship by country of previous nationality**

Country of previous nationality	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
United States of America	1	1					1	3
Bangladesh	1		2					3
United Kingdom	2			1	1	1	1	6
Cameroon	1							1
Canada	1							1
Democratic Republic of the Congo			1				1	2
Cuba							1	1
India	6		1				1	8
Islamic Republic of Iran							1	1
Kenya		1					1	2
Malawi	1							1
Lesotho	4	1					1	6
Botswana	2						1	3
Mozambique	4	1	4		1	1	9	20
Namibia			1					1
Nicaragua	1							1
Nigeria	1						2	3
Pakistan	5							5
Portugal	1							1
South Africa	17	5	2				8	32
Surinam	1							1
United Republic of Tanzania	1							1
Uganda		1						1
Zambia	1						1	2
Zimbabwe	5	1	5		4		5	20

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Immigration Department's Immigration Terminal system, August 2022.

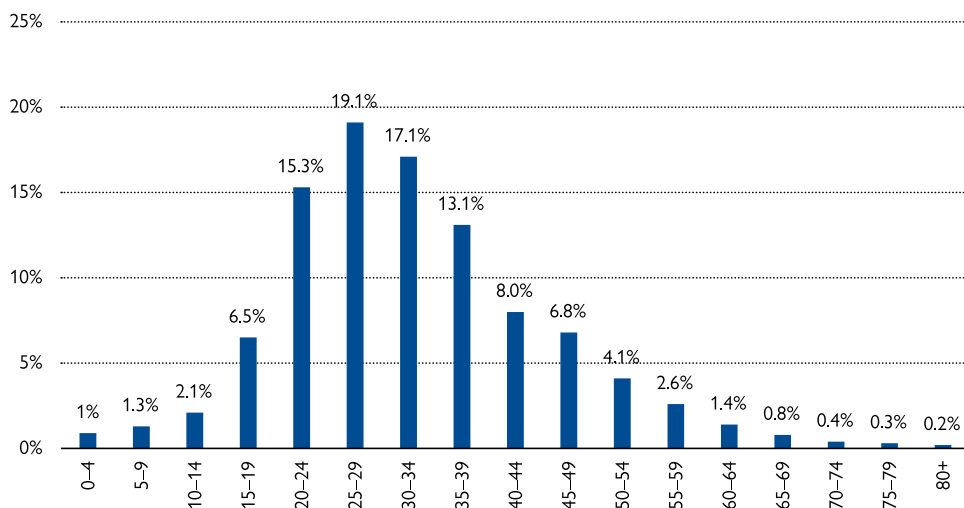
### A.3. Emigration

The Eswatini National Census described the Swazi/Eswatini citizens who have emigrated as the “absentee population”. These are members of the household who emigrated from Eswatini during the last 12 years (that is, those members of the household that moved out of the country from 2005 to 2017) so that the country of destination effectively became their new country of usual residence.

A total of 32,448 people have emigrated from the country in the past 12 years prior to the 2017 census, and these have immigrated to most parts of the world, comprising all sex and age groups. This is an increase of 8,392 people in

the number of emigrants when compared to those who emigrated in the past 12 years prior to the 2007 census. Emigration is characterized by persons of middle age (20–49 years of age). Figure 9 shows the distribution of emigrants by age.

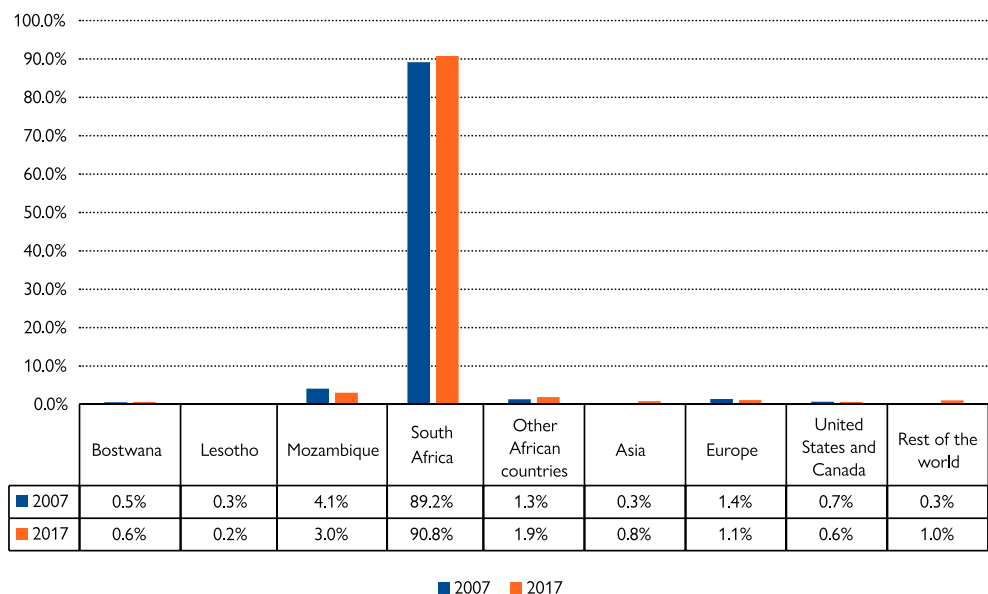
**Figure 9. Emigrant population by age**



Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

Most people who emigrated have relocated to neighbouring countries and the rest of Africa. South Africa and Mozambique continue to be the top destination countries for 91 per cent and 3 per cent of the country’s emigrant population respectively, when comparing trends between 2007 and 2017. Figure 10 presents the emigrant population by country of destination.

**Figure 10. Emigrant population by country of destination, Eswatini, 2007 and 2017**



Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

People tend to leave the country for multiple reasons, and the most common reasons are employment and education. When looking at the reason of emigration by sex, more males tend to emigrate in search of employment whereas more females leave the country to study.

### **A.3.1. Eswatini diaspora profile**

According to the Eswatini Diaspora Profile (Government of Eswatini, 2021b), 87 per cent of survey diaspora participants were early/mid-career aged, between 25 and 54 years of age with 55 per cent female and 45 per cent male. The 64 per cent indicated they were born in Eswatini, with 46 per cent stating they were citizens of Eswatini. Only 6 per cent of those completing the survey indicated they had a general sense of connection with Eswatini and considered themselves part of the diaspora without a direct ancestral connection to the country, while 41 per cent stated they had an ancestral connection to Eswatini (one or more parents born in Eswatini). For those survey respondents living abroad, 62 per cent indicated they were Eswatini citizens, and 21 per cent were South African citizens, with 12 per cent indicating Eswatini citizenship with another country. Top areas of birth in Eswatini include Manzini, Mbabane, Hhohho and Lubumbo.

The Emaswati diaspora is highly educated, with 93 per cent completed tertiary education and from this group, 56 per cent have a postgraduate education (master's or doctoral level) qualification. This is consistent with the survey respondents' employment profile, with 67 per cent in manager (directors and senior officials) or professional (doctors, teachers and accountant) roles. Only 12 per cent of Emaswati respondents indicated they were in clerical/services/sales worker roles and 10 per cent in technician or associate roles. The 5 per cent of diaspora respondents indicated they were students, with only 2 per cent in elementary occupations (such as cleaners, mining/construction labourers). The 29 per cent of respondents indicated they had their own business (n = 13); of this group, 92 per cent had a business operating in South Africa, with one in the United States.

The profile of Emaswati living in South Africa is consistent with anecdotal evidence of migration patterns. Of those members of the diaspora in South Africa, 89 per cent lived in the Gauteng province. The 70 per cent of diaspora respondents indicated they resided in South Africa for more than 10 years, with 48 per cent moving initially for economic reasons and 31 per cent moving to pursue education. Table 13 presents the percentage of Emaswati population who are residents out of the country by activity and sex.

**Table 13. Emaswati population resident out of the country by activity abroad and sex, 2017**

Activity abroad/Reason of migration	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Mines	1 316	97.3	36	2.7	1 352	4.2
Employment/Search of employment	8 901	68.1	4 167	31.9	13 068	40.3
Education	3 224	47.9	3 508	52.1	6 732	20.8
Business	808	46.2	940	53.8	1 748	5.4
Medical	173	47.0	195	53.0	368	1.1
Marriage	85	6.3	1 259	93.7	1 344	4.1
Family reunification	1 043	43.8	1 341	56.3	2 384	7.3
Do not know	2 171	46.8	2 465	53.2	4 636	14.3
Not stated	452	55.7	359	44.3	811	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>18 173</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>14 270</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>32 443</b>	<b>100.0</b>

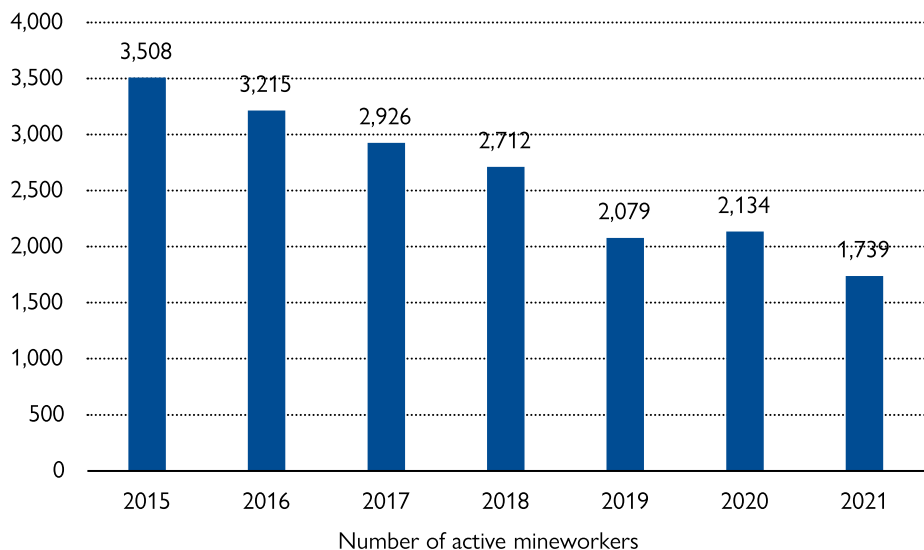
Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

### A.3.2. Emigration for employment

It is undeniable that the need to construct secure livelihoods through gainful employment abroad constitutes an important driver of Emaswati emigration. Still, a record of the number of nationals in formal employment abroad was not available at the destination. It is possible that the governments of popular

destination countries for Emaswati, such as South Africa, the United Kingdom and Canada, keep such records. However, the records of Emaswati who were formally employed abroad could not be accessed due to logistical and procedural issues. Even when they are available, statistics maintained by foreign institutions hardly paint a full picture of Emaswati involved in any form of income-generating occupation abroad. This is because migrants typically operate on the margins of the labour market in the destination country; majority work in the informal sector, if not in unregulated formal sector. Eswatini has labour migration agreements with South Africa that date back from 1902 to support mines in South Africa. The migration is coordinated through the Employment Bureau of Africa, a private company that focuses on recruitment of mining personnel for employment in South Africa. Figure 11 shows the number of Emaswati who are active mineworkers since 2015. These numbers only represent Emaswati mineworkers who are employed in South African mines and have gone via the Employment Bureau of Africa for their paperwork. The data shows a gradual decrease of Emaswati formerly joining the mines in South Africa over the years.

**Figure 11. Number of Emaswati mineworkers admitted into the South African mines, 2015–2021**

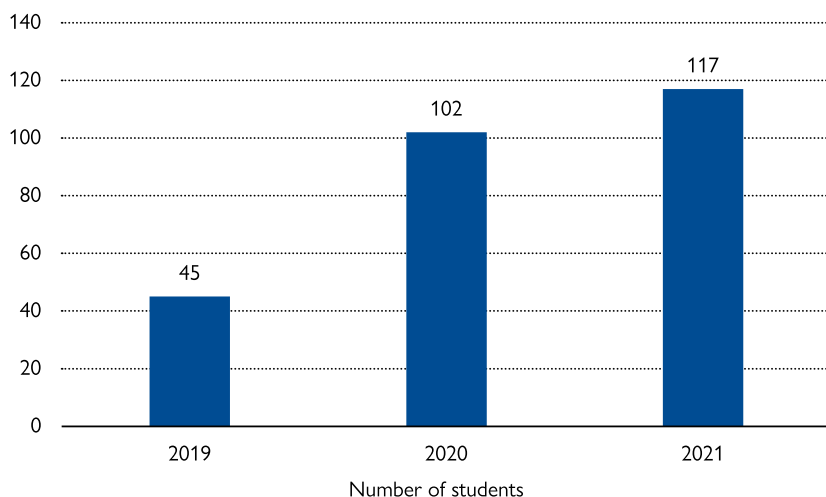


Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Employment Bureau of Africa, August 2022.

### A.3.3. Emigration for study

Access to administrative data for emigration for educational purposes is complicated by the same problems that affect the availability of statistics on the Eswatini migrant stock abroad. The statistics presented only show Emaswati who migrated for education purposes supported through the government scholarship system. Over the period 2019 to 2021, the Government of Eswatini, through the government-supported scholarship, managed to send 274 students to further their studies in various countries. Figure 12 shows a gradual increase of Emaswati studying abroad over the years from 45 in 2019 to 117 in 2021.

**Figure 12. Number of Emaswati studying abroad through the government scholarship programme, 2019–2021**



Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Scholarship Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, August 2022.

Analysis by country of study shows that most of the students were enrolled in South African universities. Several of the countries where students are enrolled are mainly in the Southern African region. Table 14 shows the number of Emaswati studying abroad by country.



**Table 14. Number of Emaswati studying abroad by country, 2019–2021**

Country	2019	2020	2021
South Africa	1	99	110
Botswana	19	20	20
Zambia	14	27	27
Zimbabwe	4	4	4
Namibia	1	4	4
Uganda	3	3	3
Cuba	3	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>171</b>

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Scholarship Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, August 2022.

## A.4. Irregular migration

This section presents statistics of breach in legislation, as well as measures taken by the State to enforce immigration and other relevant legislation. These statistics are proxy to illustrate trends and patterns of irregular migration occurring within, towards and out of the country. However, this data does not represent the full picture of irregular migration and may only highlight those tendencies; also this is dependent on the State's effectiveness in addressing irregular migration.

Irregular migration is “movement of persons that takes place outside the laws, regulations, or international agreements governing the entry into or exit from the State of origin, transit or destination” (IOM, 2019). According to IOM, no clear and universally accepted definition of irregular migration exists. From the viewpoint of destination countries, one becomes an irregular migrant when they enter or stay in a country without satisfying the immigration laws of that country. From the perspective of countries of origin, crossing borders with inadequate travel documents or leaving a country without satisfying the administrative requirements of that country indicates irregularity of the movement (IOM, n.d.). In practice, however, the term “irregular migration” typically applies to migrants who do not satisfy the requirements of applicable immigration laws while entering, working and residing in transit and destination countries.

Additionally, this notion of irregular migration also includes persons who entered and resided in a country for some time in accordance with immigration laws, but became irregular due to any of the various circumstances. For example, migrants who overstay their residence permission in the destination country automatically become irregular migrants. Thinking of irregular migration in this manner helps to see that migration categories are fluid rather than rigid, and that the challenge of irregular migration is present in all countries.

Irregular immigration is not uncommon in Eswatini. During the period under review, the Government of Eswatini detained, prosecuted and deported migrants for immigration-related offences.

Over the period 2015 to 2021, the data from REPS, a total of 3,003 were arrested for being in the country irregularly as a result of breaching the Immigration Act. The data in Table 15 shows a gradual increase in the number of people found to be irregularly present in the country, with a spike observed in 2019 and 2020, which could be attributed to the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

**Table 15. Number of persons reported to be irregularly present in the country by year, sex and region, 2015–2021**

Region	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Hhohho	86	14	83	9	77	13	76	8	124	15	221	66	135	19	946
Manzini	74	14	102	8	68	5	45	7	56	2	16	0	1	0	398
Shiselweni	161	36	115	23	168	59	129	34	151	56	117	59	78	32	1 218
Lubombo	66	1	57	3	32	3	47	0	107	0	112	4	4	5	441
<b>Total</b>	<b>452</b>		<b>400</b>		<b>425</b>		<b>346</b>		<b>511</b>		<b>595</b>		<b>274</b>		<b>3 003</b>

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from REPS administration data, August 2022.

Note: M stands for male; F stands for female.

Analysis by nationality of persons arrested for being in the country undocumented and region of residence in Eswatini. In the Hhohho region, most of the persons arrested were South Africans, Tanzanians and Indians. Table 15 shows the statistics for Hhohho Region.

**Table 16. Persons found to be irregularly present in the country by citizenship – Hhohho Region, 2015–2021**

Country	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Mozambique	15	0	7	0	8	0	2	0	10	0	5	10	0	0
South Africa	42	6	23	6	25	9	32	3	39	11	124	31	84	15
Pakistan	5	0	8	0	5	0	6	0	8	1	3	0	6	0
Kenya	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
India	6	3	28	0	20	1	16	0	33	1	32	5	17	0
Nigeria	8	1	4	1	3	1	1	0	9	0	12	1	7	2
Bangladesh	0	0	1	0	7		5	0	10	0	2	0	3	0
Zambia	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ghana	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0

Country	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
United Republic of Tanzania	4	0	10	2	5	2	9	2	10	1	35	18	10	1
China	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	1	7	1	1	0
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botswana	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Namibia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Malawi	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Belgium	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethiopia	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>19</b>

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from REPS administration data, August 2022.

Note: M stands for male; F stands for female.

In the Manzini Region, most of the people arrested for being undocumented in the country were from Mozambique, India and Bangladesh. Table 17 shows the number of undocumented nationals by country of citizenship.

**Table 17. Persons found to be irregularly present in the country by citizenship – Manzini Region, 2015–2021**

Country	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Mozambique	44	14	45	6	55	5	18	4	29	2	6	0	0	0
South Africa	5	0	6	0	0	0	7	3	4	0	2	0	0	0
Pakistan	5	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Lesotho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	3	0	29	2	7	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	0
Nigeria	11	0	1	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
Bangladesh	6	0	12	0	3	0	13	0	11	0	3	0	1	0
Zambia	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Egypt	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from REPS administration data, August 2022.

Note: M stands for male; F stands for female.

Comparing to other regions in the Lubombo Region, the Mozambicans dominated the numbers of undocumented persons arrested. This can be explained by the fact that the Lubombo Region shares a border with Mozambique. Pakistanis were also identified as a significant group entering and staying in the country undocumented. Table 18 shows the undocumented migrants in the Lubombo Region.

**Table 18. Persons found to be irregularly present in the country by citizenship – Lubombo Region, 2015–2021**

Country	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Mozambique	44	1	19	1	13	2	37	0	92	0	104	4	0	0
South Africa	2	0	1	0	5	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
Pakistan	6	0	18	0	4	0	4	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Lesotho	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	9	0	10	0	8	0	2	0	5	0	2	0	0	0
Nigeria	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Bangladesh	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Zambia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congo (the)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Botswana	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Somalia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
China	2	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Malawi	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from REPS administration data, August 2022.

Note: **M** stands for male; **F** stands for female.

In the Shiselweni Region, the South Africans dominated the number of persons found to have been in the country undocumented. Table 19 shows the number of undocumented migrants by sex and year.

**Table 19. Persons found to be irregularly present in the country by citizenship – Shiselweni Region, 2015–2021**

Country	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Mozambique	5	0	4	0	3	1	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	1
South Africa	155	35	109	23	158	58	121	34	146	51	112	59	78	31
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lesotho	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nigeria	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bangladesh	1	0	0	0	6	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Uganda	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
China	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
Congo	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>32</b>

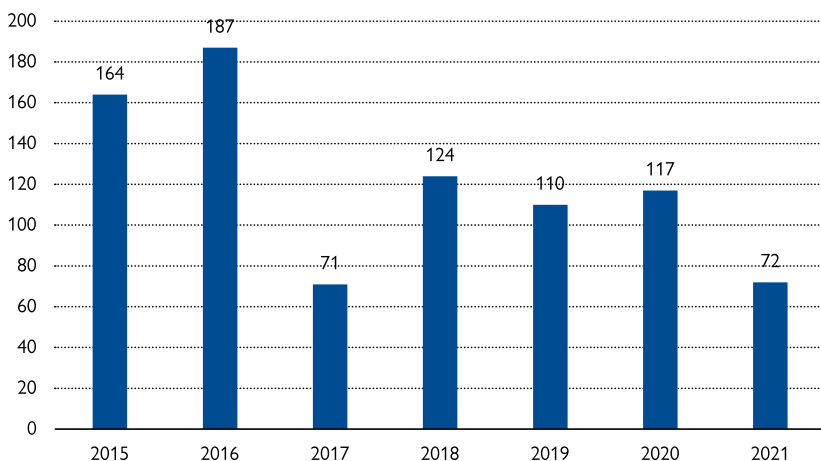
Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from REPS administration data, August 2022.

Note: M stands for male; F stands for female.

#### A.4.1. Persons detained in breach of the Immigration Act in His Majesty's Correctional Services

There were immigration-related detentions recorded for the period under review. The number of immigration-related detentions was fluctuating with 164 persons convicted and detained in 2015. The highest detentions were noted in 2016 (187 persons). Figure 13 shows the numbers of persons detained for violating the Immigration Act.

**Figure 13. Number of persons convicted for violating the Immigration Act by year, 2015–2021**



Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from REPS administration data, August 2022.

Analysis by country of origin there were more South Africans and Mozambicans detained at the HMCS. Males constituted most of the persons who breached the Immigration Act. Table 20 shows the sex and country of citizenship for person who breached the Immigration Act.

**Table 20. Number of persons detained/convicted for breaching the Immigration Act by year, country of citizenship and sex, 2015–2021**

Country of citizenship	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
South Africa	33	4	29	2	20	1	22	7	30	0	31	5	10	2
Mozambique	80	2	78	1	38	1	16	0	51	0	28	0	43	2
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
India	11	0	19	3	2	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
United Republic of Tanzania	17	0	12	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Uganda	0	3	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zambia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Malawi	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	32	2	0	0
Pakistan	0	0	15	0	1	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Bangladesh	0	0	2	0	1	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nigeria	0	0	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Burundi	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Botswana	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ghana	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	0
Zimbabwe	1	0	0	0	5	0	3	0	3	0	8	0	2	0
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cameroon	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ethiopia	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somalia	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from REPS administration data, August 2022.

Note: **M** stands for male; **F** stands for female.

## A.4.2. Indication of irregular migration routes

Eswatini does not have well-defined migration routes; however, they have informal crossings along the borderline. The informal crossings were instituted to allow communities close to the border line to cross into South Africa or Mozambique as they are related. The informal crossings are managed by the Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force.

As part of the Migration Profile development process, the Migration Task Force visited a sample of informal crossings. Table 21 is the summary of observations.

**Table 21. Migration Task Force observation on informal crossings**

Border crossing	Key findings
Mbuzini	From the gathered facts, it was concluded that Mbuzini Crossing is a busy border crossing and used as a “normal” (informal) route of crossing to and from South Africa by quite a number of people. People travel from as far as Manzini. Students also are among those crossing to South Africa, as local schools are further away from their homesteads than those in South Africa. The people use national identification documents to report to the border control soldiers. It is a privilege zone between Eswatini and South Africa.
Machobeni	At some crossing points like Machobeni, most people cross from South Africa to and from Eswatini for seasonal employment in the sugarcane fields. The fence that separates the two countries directly leads to the N2 road (Piet Retief and Pongola roads), and taxis can be found waiting for people who are crossing to South Africa for various reasons. Also, transports from Eswatini drop people off at the fence where they cross and also picks them from the same location. There is an economic activity. Due to the unrest and COVID-19, most students are now studying in South Africa.
Mshololo	Most people are now using different entry points not manned by South African soldiers to avoid being sent back to Eswatini. People travel to buy groceries from South Africa, and this is because it is cheaper for them and avoid taxes. This is the informal crossing between South Africa and Eswatini.
Mananga Border Gate	The formal border gate is not that busy on a daily basis. However, people have resorted to an informal crossing point that is next to the main border gate. Most people who use the informal crossings are children attending school in South Africa and their parents because they do not have the required documents to cross between the two borders. During the harvesting season of the sugarcane plantations in Eswatini, the informal crossing becomes busier by mire seasonal workers who utilize it for their movements and transportation of goods.

Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Migration Technical working group site tour, August 2022.

The common observation across all the visited sites is that data that is collected at informal crossings is insufficiently detailed, thus making it difficult to have the information of where people are coming from and where they are going. The crossings are prone to human trafficking since people always fail to produce proper and sufficient documentation as legal parents of the children. Formal border posts are far from the informal crossings, which makes many people resort to using the informal crossings. People have limited knowledge on how important it is to use the formal crossing points. Most of the factors encouraging the irregular crossing are drivers like poverty and better employment opportunities. There was also evidence that international migrants also use the informal crossings to transit into South Africa.

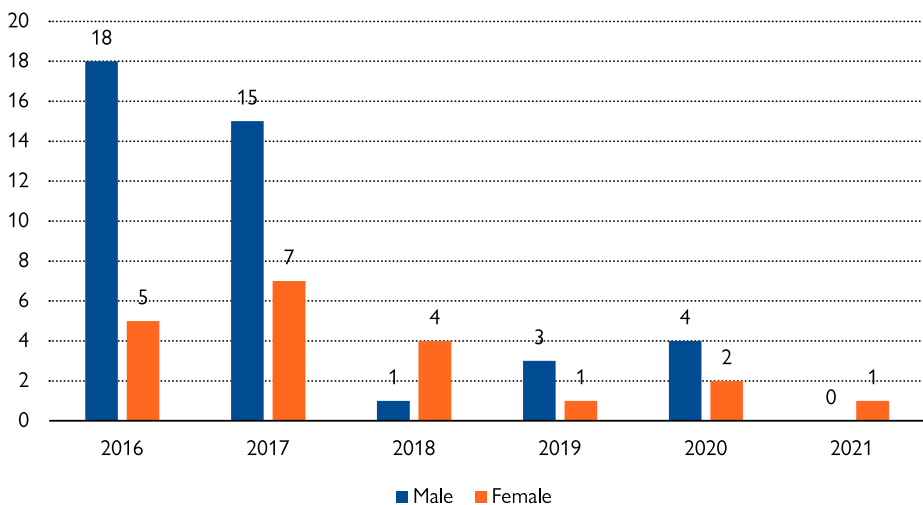
## A.5. Human trafficking

According to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, trafficking in persons is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs (ILO, 2009; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2020).

Eswatini is a source, transit and destination country of victims of human trafficking. It has been observed that Eswatini is a source of Emaswati victims being trafficked primarily for labour exploitation in neighbouring countries (mostly South Africa and to a lesser extent, Mozambique). Eswatini has also been identified as a transit country for various African and Asian nationals.

During the period 2016–2018, 50 survivors of trafficking were detected. The majority of victims were male in the period 2016–2017. However, in 2018, an increase of female victims was noticed.

**Figure 14. Reported victims of trafficking by sex and year, 2016–2021**



Source: Authors' elaboration based on data from the Eswatini People Trafficking and People Smuggling Office, August 2022.



The reported destinations for the victims were identified as Eswatini (67%), South Africa (29%) and Mozambique (4%).

There are also several cases reported under the trafficking in persons statistics where the form of exploitation is unknown. These are cases that were intercepted before the exploitation purpose has taken place, yet officials detected serious indicators that there was an intention to exploit. Most of these cases are still pending or the victim has been repatriated.

## A.6. Internal migration

Unlike international migration, internal migration is a complex concept. According to the Eswatini Central Statistics (Government of Eswatini, 2017a), internal migration is the movement between various regions, cities and between rural and urban areas within the country of origin.

Data on internal migration was derived from several questions asked in the census. These questions included place of enumeration, place of birth, place previously residing and length of stay in current place of residence. The place of birth information, coupled with the place of enumeration, produced information on lifetime in-migrants, outmigrants and non-migrants. In addition, recent migrants were measured from the question of length of stay in the current place.

### A.6.1. Lifetime migration

The volume of lifetime migration and interregional migration is shown in Table 22. There has been considerable internal movement of persons in their lifetime within Eswatini. A visible migratory is confined to Manzini Region, where there are more in-migrants (22.1%) than the other regions, Hhohho (15.8%) and Lubombo (14.4%).

**Table 22. Lifetime in-migration and outmigration by region, 2017**

Region	Total population	Non-migrants	%	In-migrants	%	Outmigrants	%	Net migration	Not stated	%
Hhohho	312 970	262 130	83.5	49 552	15.8	36 959	11.8	12 593	1 288	0.4
Manzini	346 201	268 253	77.5	76 400	22.1	45 250	13.1	31 150	1 548	0.4
Shiselweni	201 412	184 755	91.7	16 169	8	50 407	25	-34 238	488	0.2
Lubombo	209 198	178 491	85.3	30 158	14.4	39 663	19	-9 505	549	0.3

Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

Table 23 shows migrants for the period 1986 to 2017. Generally, the table indicates that internal migration has increased in the country over the past three decades. It increased from 101,649 migrants in 1986 to 192,279 in 2017. It can also be seen that the Shiselweni Region recorded a negative net migration over the past three decades, with the highest being in 2017 and 1997.

**Table 23. Internal migration trends by region, 1986–2017**

	Census year	Region			
		Hhohho	Manzini	Shiselweni	Lubombo
Total population	1986	178 936	192 596	155 569	153 958
	1997	255 445	280 972	198 978	194 323
	2007	282 734	319 530	208 454	207 731
	2017	312 970	346 201	201 412	209 198
Internal net migration	1986	2 295	4 914	-27 035	19 807
	1997	7 316	19 142	-32 636	6 178
	2007	12 672	19 040	-31 381	-331
	2017	12 593	31 150	-34 238	-9 505
Internal in-migrants	1986	26 312	34 060	8 024	33 253
	1997	43 562	63 119	16 944	39 503
	2007	52 423	72 037	20 615	39 503
	2017	49 552	76 400	16 169	30 158
	1986	24 017	29 146	35 059	13 446
	1997	36 246	43 977	49 580	33 325
	2007	39 751	52 997	51 996	39 403
	2017	36 959	45 250	50 407	39 663

Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

Table 24 shows that Shiselweni Region sent out about over 250 people for every one person coming in. Number of outmigrants and the net migration rate indicates that Manzini is a heavy in-migration region.

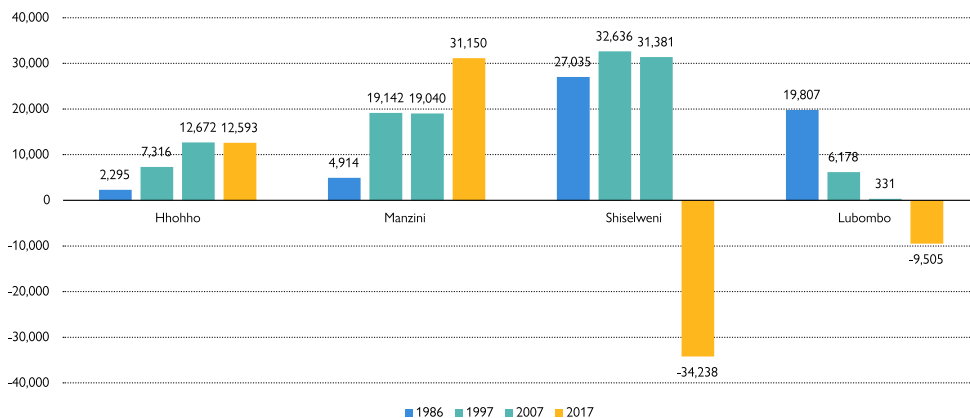
**Table 24. Lifetime in-migration rate by region, 2017**

Region	Net migration	In-migration rate	Outmigration rate	Net migration rate	Not stated
Hhohho	12 593	158.3	118.1	40.2	1 288
Manzini	31 150	220.7	130.7	90.0	1 548
Shiselweni	-34 238	80.3	250.3	-170	488
Lubombo	-9 505	144.2	189.6	-14.4	549

Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

A clear picture of net migration over the past 32 years is shown in Figure 15. Although the number of migrants was highest in 1986, the volume of migration for both Shiselweni and Lubombo regions is now negative.

**Figure 15. Net migration trends according to regions, 1986–2017**



Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

## A.6.2. Interregional migration streams

Table 28 presents streams of lifetime internal migrants to each region and from the results, it can be seen that about 55 per cent of those residents in the Hhohho Region during the 2017 PHC were previously residing in Manzini Region. The totals in Table 25 show that Manzini and Shiselweni regions have higher numbers of migrants at 27.7 per cent and 26.3 per cent respectively.

**Table 25. Distribution of lifetime migrants by interregional migration streams, 2017 (%)**

Previous region of residence (Migration origin)	Current region (Migration destination)									
	Hhohho	%	Manzini	%	Shiselweni	%	Lubombo	%	Total	%
Hhohho	0	0.0	20 621	36.5	8 546	21.9	8 528	26.3	37 695	22.7
Manzini	20 707	54.7	0	0.0	18 042	47.2	10 820	39.4	49 569	22.7
Shiselweni	3 051	22.7	6 573	31.8	0	0.0	4 301	34.3	13 925	26.3
Lubombo	6 430	22.6	9 608	31.7	8 365	30.9	0	0.0	24 403	23.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>30 188</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>36 802</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>34 953</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>30 849</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>132 792</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

### A.6.3. Demographic characteristics of internal migrants

Migration tends to be selective by age and sex. The extent of selectivity can be seen when the age–sex composition of the internal migrants is compared with the age–sex composition of the total population. Table 26 shows that females have a somewhat stronger representation with 59.5 per cent among migrants than males at 40.5 per cent.

**Table 26. Age–sex distribution of internal migrants, 2017**

Age	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%	Sex ratio
0–4	5 296	49.1	5 490	50.9	10 786	2.8	96.5
5–9	10 293	48.9	10 740	51.1	21 033	5.5	95.8
10–14	11 852	48.0	12 817	52.0	24 669	6.4	92.5
15–19	14 014	46.8	15 901	53.2	29 915	7.8	88.1
20–24	17 865	42.6	24 102	57.4	41 967	11.0	74.1
25–29	20 026	40.7	29 139	59.3	49 165	12.8	68.7
30–34	19 222	40.2	28 597	59.8	47 819	12.5	67.2
35–39	15 920	41.3	22 661	58.7	38 581	10.1	70.3
40–44	11 642	40.6	17 047	59.4	28 689	7.5	68.3
45–49	8 969	37.6	14 864	62.4	23 833	6.2	60.3
50–54	6 096	33.4	12 149	66.6	18 245	4.8	50.2
55–59	4 921	32.9	10 036	67.1	14 957	3.9	49.0
60–64	3 367	30.0	7 862	70.0	11 229	2.9	42.8
65–69	2 243	27.4	5 937	72.6	8 180	2.1	37.8
70–74	1 366	23.5	4 455	76.5	5 821	1.5	30.7
75–79	956	24.6	2 930	75.4	3 886	1.0	32.6
80+	716	19.8	2 904	80.2	3 620	0.9	24.7
Not stated	367	46.5	423	53.5	790	0.2	86.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>155 131</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>228 054</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>383 185</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>68.0</b>

Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

### A.6.4. Reasons for internal migration

Employment (28.9%), marriage (25.8%) and family (25.3%) are the major reasons behind migrants leaving their previous regions of residence. Of the migrants, 32 per cent left Shiselweni for marital reasons; 28.5 per cent of those who previously resided in Hhohho left in order to reunite with their family (Government of Eswatini, 2017a). In Table 27, it is also evident that education is also a significant reason, with 10.8 per cent of the people migrating to other regions.

**Table 27. Per cent distribution of internal migrants according to reason of migration, 2017**

Reasons for migration	Region of previous residence				
	Hhohho	Manzini	Shiselweni	Lubombo	Total
Education	10.5	10.8	11.0	11.0	<b>10.8</b>
Business	1.2	1.9	1.2	1.2	<b>1.4</b>
Employment	26.0	29.8	28.4	32.3	<b>28.9</b>
Marriage	25.5	21.8	32.0	27.3	<b>25.8</b>
Family	28.5	26.8	21.0	21.8	<b>25.3</b>
Health	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	<b>0.3</b>
Agriculture	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.8	<b>0.4</b>
Conflict	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.0	<b>1.3</b>
Others	5.1	3.3	3.3	3.1	<b>4.4</b>
Not stated	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.3	<b>1.4</b>

Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

## A.6.5. Urbanization

The information is used to determine the degree of urbanization by assessing and comparing changes in the proportion of a population residing in urban/rural areas, as well as changes in the percentage of the total population living in urban areas. Information on urbanization in the 2017 PHC was derived from the enumeration area where the persons resided during data collection and by also analysing urban area/town population sizes. *Urbanization* is defined as the shift of a population from rural to urban residency, resulting in a gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas (Government of Eswatini, 2017a).

The urban population growth rate has varied from census to census in the last 30 years, as the urban population has increased from 154,979 in 1986 to 259,766 in 2017 as shown in Table 28. Notably, maximum urbanization took place between 1986 and 1997. The urban–rural ratio indicates the rate of change brought about by urbanization in a country, and in the 1986 census, for every 100 persons who are residents in rural areas, 29.5 persons were residents in urban areas.

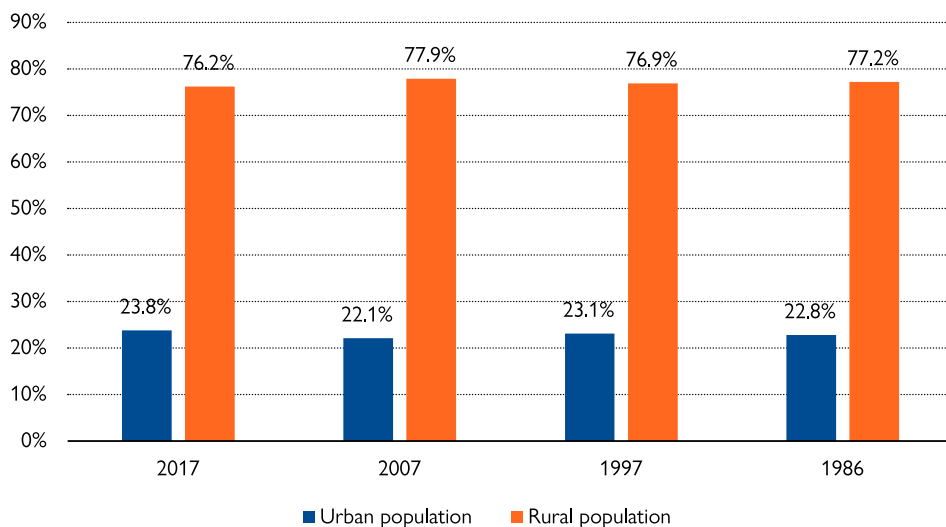
**Table 28. Urban–rural population, 2007 and 2017**

Census year	Urban population	Percent urban change	Rural population	Percent rural change	Urban–rural ratio
2017	259 766	15.3	833 472	5.1	31.2
2007	225 293	5.1	793 156	10.9	28.4
1997	214 428	38.4	715 290	36.0	30.0
1986	154 979		526 080		29.5

Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

The percentage distribution of the population in urban and rural areas over the years has been consistent. In the 2017 PHC, 76 per cent of the population lived in rural areas, whereas only 24 per cent lived in urban areas; this is shown in Figure 16.

**Figure 16. Population distribution between urban and rural areas, 1986–2017**



Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

The common trend of urban–rural population in Eswatini is that the majority of people are living in rural areas rather than urban areas in all the regions. Notably in Table 29, Manzini region has the highest urban–rural ratio, indicating that it has the largest concentration of urban dwellers, which represents about 66 urban residents for 100 persons living in rural areas. All other regions recorded an urban–rural ratio below the national ratio; it is further noted that Shiselweni has the least urban–rural ratio.

**Table 29. Urban–rural ratio by region, 2017**

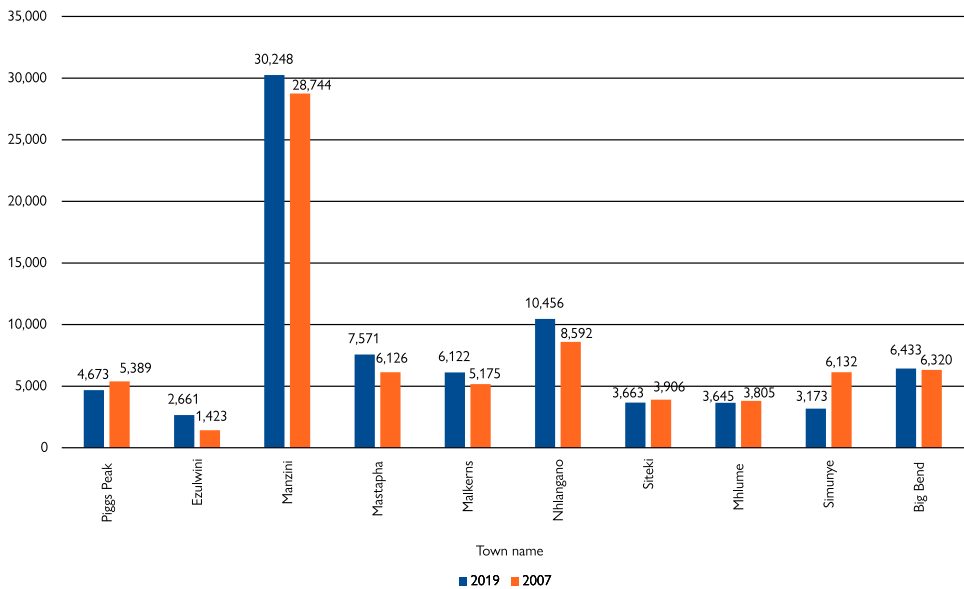
Name	Total	Urban	Rural	Urban–rural ratio
Eswatini	1 093 238	259 766	833 472	31.2
Hhohho	320 651	73 956	246 695	30.0
Manzini	382 945	141 877	241 068	66.3
Shiselweni	204 111	14 217	189 894	7.5
Lubombo	212 531	29 716	182 815	16.3

Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

## A.7.1. Town population

The movement of people from rural areas to urban areas, as well as from one town to another, results in growth in the size of the population in a town. These changes in population lead to other changes in land use, economic activity and culture within that town. Figure 17 shows the estimated population of selected towns and cities in Eswatini from the 2007 to 2017 censuses. There has been significant growth in towns, such as Nhlangano, Ezulwini and Matsapha. However, Simunye town has experienced a loss in the size of its population in the last 10 years.

**Figure 17. Distribution of population in selected towns, 2007–2017**



Source: Government of Eswatini, 2017a.

This suggests that towns/cities with a higher initial urban population share tend not to achieve faster economic growth when compared to towns with a low initial urban population share.





# **PART B. IMPACT OF MIGRATION**

## **B.1. Introduction**

This part examines available evidence on the link between migration and development in Eswatini from studies and data collected in the areas of demography, economics (including labour markets), human development, the environment and society. It must be noted that the impacts of migration in these areas, and vice versa, are far-reaching, complex and difficult to measure (IOM, 2011). Migration is a key enabler for social and economic development in countries of origin and destination. With the growth in human mobility set to continue and likely to accelerate in the coming decades, governments, social partners (workers and employers' organizations), the private sector and civil society increasingly recognize the relevance of migration to all pillars of sustainable development.

In this vein, development encompasses various dimensions, including, but not limited to meaningful employment, income inequality, poverty alleviation, gender equality, and access to universal education, health and formal social protection (de Haas, 2007). However, there are also social costs related to migration, including for children and older persons who remain in place of origin, as well as the challenge of the so-called brain drain. The migration of highly educated or skilled segments of the population can have negative impacts on development, especially in small developing countries. In destination countries, the skills of migrants are often underutilized due to difficulties in obtaining legal documentation and recognition for qualifications acquired abroad. Governments should embrace the contributions that migrants and migration make to countries of origin and destination, address the challenges associated with migration, and improve data collection and dissemination on the contributions of migration and migrants.

## **B.2. Migration and human development**

This section uses the notion of human development as defined by the UNDP. Human development “is about enlarging freedoms so that all human beings can pursue choices that they value” (UNDP, 2016). The definition emphasizes the ability of individuals and households to make rational choices and participate in processes that influence their lives.

Studies of human development impacts of migration largely focus on how remittances are used. The assumption here is that the way remittances are disposed of determines their impact at multiple levels. While the focus on remittances is understandable, given their potential impacts on macroeconomic indicators, it

is worthwhile to think of migration as a positive development outcome, even in the absence of meaningful economic returns to the migrant-sending household. Migration may constitute, in and of itself, a manifestation of the will and autonomy of the individual and the household to address the local restrictions to welfare (Adams, 2003).

Furthermore, in the absence of complete information about remittances, researchers will more likely underestimate the impact of remittances on Eswatini's economy and society. The lack of specific studies focusing on Eswatini makes it difficult to conclude how the issue of migration affects human development in the country.

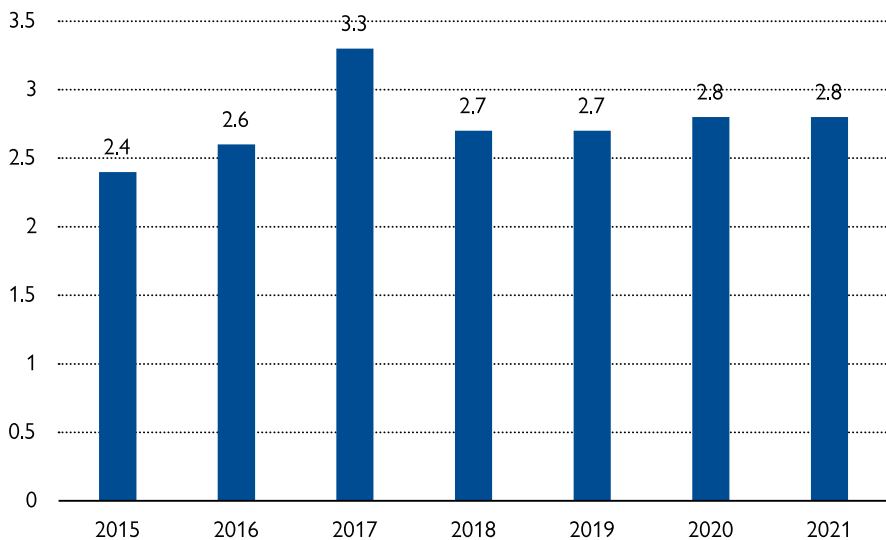
However, the studies conducted in the Southern African region on migration and remittances suggest that, for most households, migration remains a survival strategy employed by households to navigate a precarious economic situation. Remittances enable families and households to avoid absolute poverty, keep children in school, purchase plots of land and buy construction materials, among many other uses. Remittances, therefore, undoubtedly have indirect and direct impacts on both economic and human development.

With the continued immigration into Eswatini, this has the potential of population substitution as the migrants contribute to fertility issue. Migrations may affect the values of the key demographic indicators such as fertility rates, as it has the potential of separating couples across international boundaries or by altering the incentives of those who might have children. Also, the continued rural–urban migration and interregional migration pose a threat to regional development and agriculture production as the younger population moves to urban areas.

### **B.3. Migration and socioeconomic development**

Migration has contributed to economic development in different ways, with most of the focus being on the financial contributions of the Emaswati in the diaspora, which have been estimated to about USD 2.8 million (World Bank, n.d.e) and one of the largest contributions to the GDP. Figure 18 shows the estimated remittances received in Eswatini over the years.

**Figure 18. Remittances received by year, 2015–2021**



Source: World Bank, n.d.e.

South Africa is one of the countries to which most Eswatini adults migrate (FinMark Trust, 2021); for this reason, remittances are an important source of income to receivers in Eswatini. The total value of formal remittance transactions in the period 2017–2019 varied between ZAR 1 million and ZAR 2 million (approximately USD 65,500 and USD 131,000) per month (ibid.).

In addition, the number of tourists and business investors has a positive effect on revenue collection, which impacted on Eswatini's GDP during the period. There is evidence of contribution through foreign investment via multinational companies establishing offices, as well as a host of world-renowned hotels in urban and semi-urban areas. Furthermore, the improvement of money transfer platforms, such as FNB cross-border instant money, Shoprite, Mukuru, MoneyGram and Mobile Money has expanded the reach of the service beyond the Eswatini borders, making it easier to transact businesses and send money across different parts of the country.

Remittances, particularly cash transfers, have been the most tangible contribution of the diaspora to the home country (IOM, 2018). In-kind and social remittances are also thought to be significant, although concrete data on non-cash transfers to the country are lacking. Through these and other activities, emigrants help ensure their continued participation in the economic, social, political, religious and other spaces as transnational migrants.

Remittances to Eswatini are transferred through formal and informal channels. Informal channels, such as friends and relatives of recipients bringing money to Eswatini on short visits, constitute a significant, albeit unknown, proportion of the true sum of remittances (FinMark Trust, 2021). There are several reasons for the choice of informal channels, such as the following: (a) not all senders or recipients of remittances have bank accounts, which formal channels often require; (b) irregular migrant status in the country of residence of either the sender or the recipient may preclude or discourage the use of formal channels, which often require the presentation of identification or documents; and (c) formal channels are often deemed inconvenient and viewed with a lack of trust.

Given the increased amount of remittances sent across the globe and their potential and actual impact in receiving countries, after years of deliberation through various platforms including the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the United Nations General Assembly included migration as the tenth SDG. Target 10(c) focuses on reducing the transaction cost of remittances to less than 3 per cent by 2030. The African Institute for Remittances established in 2015 and headquartered in Nairobi aims at developing mechanisms and improving policy framework for remittances in Africa. It is thus important to identify ways to maximize the development benefits of remittances and improve transfer mechanisms, including reducing costs of transferring remittances to Eswatini; with the objectives being to:

- Leverage the potential impact of remittances on socioeconomic development;
- Reduce the transfer costs of remittances;
- Develop appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks for remittances, payment and settlement systems.

In recent years, some labour-exporting countries have used diaspora wealth to increase the assets held by domestic banks at home through the securitization of future flows of remittances. Future-flows securitization means the issuer of debt can use future or anticipated assets as security. Future-flow securitization of remittances also improves the credit rating of a labour-exporting country, thus encouraging financing by traditional instruments (Newland and Tanaka, 2010).

Apart from their entrepreneurial potential, migrant communities abroad are said to have a pro-trade effect. In other words, the existence of migrant networks abroad positively affects trade in the country of origin, at least in theory. Proponents of the pro-trade effects of migration argue that migrants can overcome trade barriers that African countries face, help enforce contracts when the institutional context of trade is weak, provide requisite information, and boost

trade in differentiated goods (Adams and Page, 2003), especially so-called *nostalgic goods* or *culture goods*.

### **B.3.1. Internal remittances**

There is a shortage of research on internal remittance flows in Eswatini. While official international remittances are documented by the Central Bank of Eswatini and estimated by the World Bank, there is no available source of information on internal remittances in the country. There are some data on mobile money transfers from service providers, but it is not disaggregated according to the migration status of the senders. Moreover, such data is not readily available, not to mention the quality is often unreliable. More reliable data on internal remittances, including those sent via mobile money transfers, are needed, and new methods for capturing this data should be investigated. Therefore, there is a need to explore the contribution of internal remittances to the general national development (Newland and Tanaka, 2010).

### **B.3.2. Tourism**

Eswatini recorded a total of 345,300 tourists in 2020, ranking 144th in the world in absolute terms (WorldData.info, n.d.). Smaller countries regularly perform lower in comparison to the absolute number of guests. By putting the tourist numbers in relation to the population of Eswatini, the result is much more comparable: With 0.29 tourists per resident, Eswatini ranked 78th in the world. In Southern Africa, it ranked 3rd. Eswatini generated around USD 7.30 million in the tourism sector alone. This corresponds to 0.15 per cent of its GDP (ibid.).

### **B.3.3. Migration employment and labour markets**

The lack of adequate administrative data and regular surveys on emigration complicates efforts to evaluate the consequences of emigration for the labour market and the employment situation in the country. Perhaps the single most critical impact of emigration is brain drain, that is, the departure of relatively highly skilled persons from the country. Emigration of skilled persons implies that the country does not fully enjoy the returns to human capital investments made during education and training. Additionally, there is no doubt that Eswatini may struggle to replace the skills and experience of its expatriates abroad. The evidence with which to evaluate both the nature and impacts of emigration during the period covered by the current migration profile is scarce. The National Household Census 2017 reported that the country is experiencing an increase in population mobility, which may have been stimulated by the global economy and rapid developments in the means and ease of travel across borders (Government of Eswatini, 2017a).

Emigration still appears to be an event of the young males, as they appear to be more inclined to move the most mainly in search of employment and education; the negative impact of emigration on this sector cannot be overemphasized.

The impact of immigration on Eswatini's labour market and employment situation can be evaluated by examining the educational levels and skills sets of migrant workers, as well as the sectors in which they earn a living. A key finding of the National Skills Audit Report said that about 14 per cent of specialist or professional skills are imported because of the absence of adequate skills and experience in the country (Government of Eswatini, 2021a). The Research and Development Survey validates the undersupply of technical skills in the country, yet these skills are important for the growth of manufacturing and industrialization activities (Government of Eswatini, 2017b). The study also reported that the current graduates did not have the skills that industries would need. Industry-specific hard skills are scarce, but even more concerning is the lack or scarcity of even soft skills such as communication, critical thinking and problem solving. The results further revealed that the current supply of both the soft and hard skills needed for future industrial use is insufficient, as there is a low to no supply of such skills training at higher educational institutions. This evidence shows that there is an opportunity for Eswatini to harness the gains of immigration. However, there are other sectors such as education that are oversupplied and might be disadvantaged by immigration.

Some Eswatini in the trade sector, specifically in retail, claim they face competition from migrant businesses, particularly those of Asian origin and Chinese migrants. This is also confirmed by the Labour Force Survey (Government of Eswatini, 2021c) and the immigration data on work permits. However, there are no empirical studies on or evidence of the presence of migrant workers in Eswatini having any negative effects on the business and employment opportunities of Eswatini nationals.

## **B.4. Migration and health**

The Joint External Evaluation of the implementation of the International Health Regulations 2005 – which was conducted in 2018 across 19 technical areas – revealed limited capacity and major gaps under the ports of entry. This poses a great risk of the international spread of diseases between Eswatini, neighbouring South Africa and Mozambique, as well as other countries in Southern Africa.

While a significant proportion of rural households and an increasing number of urban-based informal settlements in Eswatini rely on migrant remittances for

their sustenance, high population mobility has been identified as one of the key drivers of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Annual incidence of HIV among persons aged 15 years and older in Eswatini is 1.13 per cent: 1.41 per cent among females and 0.85 per cent among males. This corresponds to approximately 6,000 new cases of HIV annually among persons aged 15 years and older in Eswatini. Prevalence of HIV among adults ages 15 years and older in Eswatini is 27.0 per cent: 32.5 per cent among females and 20.4 per cent among males. This corresponds to approximately 197,000 people living with HIV ages 15 years and older (Government of Eswatini, 2019). Uniformity in the distribution of the infection rate is attributed to the country's good roads and communications infrastructure that evens out the differences between regions (IOM, 2006).

Eswatini as a country sends a number of mineworkers to South African mines that put them at risk of contracting tuberculosis and silicosis. Migration has also contributed significantly to the incidence of silicosis and tuberculosis, because of a convergence of occupational, environmental and lifestyle-related risk factors, including the following: (a) exposure to silica dust; (b) living conditions; (c) migration; and (d) mobility. Southern African countries – Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa and Eswatini in particular – face substantial challenges in the systems delivering health services to mineworkers, where public health systems remain ill-equipped to deal with the complex needs of these special groups. Therefore, migration has also contributed to the increase of tuberculosis cases in the country. Migration may also contribute to risk behaviours among migrants as they find themselves in stressful, unfamiliar and unhealthy places, which put them at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases (Pathfinder International, 2008).

The SADC has long recognized the various challenges facing the countries of the region in terms of meeting the health needs of the migrant nature of their populations and the control of communicable diseases as the main priorities. HIV, tuberculosis and malaria are the greatest causes of morbidity and mortality in the region.

The SADC has prepared a policy to address these issues. The main policy areas identified in the framework include the following: (a) developing regional harmonization and coordination of communicable disease control protocols; (b) ensuring the equitable access to health services by cross-border mobile populations; (c) coordinating regional public health surveillance and epidemic preparedness; (d) producing information, education and health promotion messaging for mobile populations; (e) commissioning operational research and dissemination of strategic information; and (f) developing legal, regulatory and administrative reforms (IOM, 2015).





## **PART C. MIGRATION GOVERNANCE**

This section provides an overview of the key national policies, legislative frameworks and institutional arrangements involved in migration governance in Eswatini, as well as international cooperation on migration.

### **C.1. Migration-related legislation**

#### **C.1.1. Constitution of Eswatini 2005**

The 2005 Constitution permits citizenship by birth, marriage and registration. Article 26 guarantees free movement of Eswatini citizens within Eswatini. The Constitution also allows for migrants to obtain Eswatini citizenship through registration after having been in the country for a period of five years or alternatively have fulfilled the traditional Khonta requirements.

#### **C.1.2. Citizenship Act, 1992**

The process for the acquisition of Eswatini citizenship is laid down in the 2005 Constitution. The Citizenship Act, 1992, further stipulates requirements for acquisition of citizenship by naturalization. Citizens of other nations who desire to acquire Eswatini citizenship are permitted to do so through these means.

#### **C.1.3. Immigration Act, 1982 and Immigration Regulations 1987**

All laws relating to conditions and place of entry, admission, residence, employment and removal of persons from Eswatini are stipulated in the Immigration Act, 1982 and the Immigration Regulations, 1987. Regulations on the right of abode and citizenship, for example, on indefinite residence status, are also included. The Immigration Department in the MOHA applies stipulations on immigration and management of the ports of entry in Eswatini.

Despite the implementation of the Immigration Act, persons still sometimes use unauthorized routes to enter Eswatini. Family relations across borders and distance to the official exit and entry points among other factors and processes, encourage Africans, especially from South Africa and Mozambique, to enter Eswatini with or without any documentation. Eswatini's signing of migration protocols of the SADC and the African Union, among others, accounts for the ease with which immigrants arrive in the country. Consequently, border management has been a major task for the Immigration Department, REPS and other government ministries, departments and agencies whose activities involve maintaining security in the country.

### **C.1.4. Refugees Act, 2017**

The treatment of the status of refugees in the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees was adopted by the Government of Eswatini. A Refugees Status Determination Board was set up to apply the act to manage refugee issues, such as the granting of refugee status to persons fleeing to the country. The country also has a refugee centre at Malindza.

### **C.1.5. People Trafficking and People Smuggling (Prohibition) Act, 2009**

The Act introduces penalties for trafficking and smuggling offences, provides protection and support for “trafficked or smuggled persons”, and establishes a task force for the prevention of people trafficking and people smuggling. The Task Force, which was established in 2009 under the Office of the Prime Minister, formulates policies and programmes to prevent trafficking and smuggling, develops protective programmes for victims, and produces educational resources to increase public awareness of the issue. It meets regularly and consists of representatives from various government offices, including the Social Welfare Department and the MOFAIC, and up to five civil society representatives with expertise in trafficking or smuggling. In 2019, the country launched the National Strategic Framework and Action Plan to Combat People Trafficking (2019–2023), under the leadership of the Office of the Prime Minister. The Action Plan scales up prevention measures, facilitates prosecution of traffickers and includes the adoption of multisectoral consultations.

### **C.1.6. National Multi-Hazard Contingency Plan (2019–2020)**

The National Disaster Management Agency – in consultation with other government ministries, United Nations agencies, NGOs and the private sector – includes strategies to address the displacement impacts of natural disasters, including flash floods, drought, storms and wildfires. The National Multi-Hazard Contingency Plan’s response strategies are comprehensive and sector-specific; it designates the lead and support agencies responsible for each type of response, specific activities to be carried out and their duration, expected results and budget estimates. For example, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Emergency Shelter, and Non-Food Items Sector Response Plan seeks to ensure the provision of temporary camps to accommodate displaced persons, as well as basic shelter materials, food and non-food item family packages, and rehabilitation and reconstruction materials for affected families.

### **C.1.7. Eswatini Investment Promotion Act, 1998**

The Government sought external support to address the challenges faced by the local economy, leading to significant emigration from the country. Investment in the economy was sought and the Eswatini Investment Promotion Authority was then set up, with a mandate to attract investment into the country (as specified in the Eswatini Investment Promotion Act, 1998). The authority's role is to attract, encourage, facilitate and promote local and foreign investment in Eswatini and initiate, coordinate and facilitate the implementation of government policies and strategies on investment, as well as provide a one-stop information and support facility to local and foreign investors.

### **C.1.8. Draft National Labour Migration Policy (2019)**

Developed by the MOLSS, the draft NLMP includes a guiding principle to ensure that migrant workers are able to register in social security systems and access employment-related injury, sickness, invalidity and survivor benefits. Maternity leave provisions set out in the Constitution and the Employment Act, 1980 (as amended), and compensation as well as medical treatment provisions set out in the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1983, apply to all employees regardless of nationality.

### **C.1.9. National Tourism Policy and the Implementation Plan (2010)**

With the leadership of the Ministry of Tourism in harnessing Eswatini's tourism potential, the Government of Eswatini encourages tourism that is internationally competitive while at the same time being environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

### **C.1.10. Draft Eswatini Tourism Bill (2019)**

The bill is aimed at guiding the nation on the tourism industry, and one of its objectives is the development and promotion of sustainable tourism for the benefit of Eswatini, its residents and its visitors.

## **C.2. Southern Africa Development Community regional-level frameworks, protocols and policies**

Migration management in Eswatini, as with most other countries, is governed by frameworks at various levels – regional, subregional and international. Instruments that stipulate definitions, standards, roles and responsibilities for good

migration management include treaties, conventions, protocols, agreements and action plans, some of which have been mentioned in previous sections and are discussed in greater detail in this section.

### **C.2.1. Southern Africa Development Community Protocol on Employment and Labour, 2013**

The Protocol provides and recognizes the following: (a) importance of collective bargaining; (b) social dialogue and consultations among employers, (c) trade unions and government; (d) equal treatment and social protection for workers and their families; (e) protection of migrant workers; (f) paternity leave in addition to maternity leave; (g) protection of children and young persons, as well as people with disabilities; (h) education and skills development and decent work; and (i) strengthening labour market information systems.

### **C.2.2. Southern Africa Development Community Protocol on Facilitation of Movement of Persons, 2005**

The Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons, drafted in 2005, currently provides a regional legal framework on migration in the SADC Region. Although the Protocol has a legal binding mechanism, it has not yet come into force as too few member States have ratified it to date.

### **C.2.3. Southern Africa Development Community Labour Migration Policy 2013**

This Policy has been developed to reflect, contribute to and refine existing legal frameworks at regional, bilateral and national levels, as well as international and regional legal instruments and obligations relating to migration and labour.

### **C.2.4. Southern Africa Development Community Protocol on Education and Training**

Article 3(a) of the SADC Protocol on Education and Training states as an agreed objective of member States “to work towards the relaxation and eventual elimination of immigration formalities in order to facilitate freer movement of students and staff within the region for the specific purposes of study, teaching, research and any other pursuits relating to education and training”.

## **C.2.5. The Southern Africa Development Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights, 2003**

The Charter's overall objective is "to facilitate through close and active consultations among social partners, a spirit conducive to harmonious labour relations within the region," and which sets out seven specific objectives: (a) ensure the retention of the tripartite structure of the three social partners, namely governments, organizations of employers and organizations of workers; (b) promote the formulation and harmonization of legal, economic and social policies and programmes, which contribute to the creation of productive employment opportunities and generation of incomes in member States; (c) promote labour policies, practices and measures, which facilitate labour mobility, remove distortions in labour markets and enhance industrial harmony and increase productivity in member States; (d) provide a framework for regional cooperation in the collection and dissemination of labour market information; (e) promote the establishment and harmonization of social security schemes; (f) harmonize regulations relating to health and safety standards at workplaces across the region; and (g) promote the development of institutional capacities, as well as vocational and technical skills in the region.

The Charter sets the foundation for ensuring that the basic human rights of migrant workers and their rights to freedom of association, collective bargaining, and access to social security and decent work are guaranteed.

## **C.3. Regional frameworks – Africa level**

### **C.3.1. African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights**

The Charter gives every individual the right to equal protection under the law and prohibits the mass expulsion of non-nationals.

### **C.3.2. Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention)**

Signed by the heads of State and government of the member States of the African Union in 2009, the Convention presents five objectives: (a) promote and strengthen regional and national measures to prevent or mitigate, prohibit and eliminate root causes of internal displacement, and provide durable solutions; (b) establish a legal framework for preventing internal displacement, and for protecting and assisting internally displaced persons in Africa; (c) establish a legal

framework for solidarity, cooperation, promotion of durable solutions and mutual support between States parties, in order to combat displacement and address its consequences; (d) provide for the obligations and responsibilities of States parties, with respect to the prevention of internal displacement and protection of, and assistance, to internally displaced persons; (e) provide for the respective obligations, responsibilities and roles of armed groups, non-State actors and other relevant actors, including civil society organizations, with respect to the prevention of internal displacement and protection of, and assistance to, internally displaced persons.

## **C.4. International frameworks**

### **C.4.1. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**

In September 2016, heads of State and government from the 193 United Nations Member States adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and recognized the need for a comprehensive approach to migration. As a result of the New York Declaration, United Nations Member States agreed to cooperate in the elaboration of the Global Compact for Migration, adopted in December 2018. Eswatini is signatory to the Global Compact for Migration. Through 23 objectives, the Global Compact for Migration calls for improved migration data, strengthened migration governance and specific recommendations across specific areas, from smuggling to remittances, migration detention, human trafficking, labour migration and many others.

### **C.4.2. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda by the 193 United Nations Member States in 2015 marks the first time that migration is formally recognized as a development topic and integrated into the global development agenda. The 2030 Agenda provides a framework to address the complex and dynamic relationship between migration and development. Eswatini is committed to working towards achieving the SDGs.

The central reference to migration is made in Target 10.7, which calls to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”. Many other targets also directly reference migration and, for others, migration is a cross-cutting issue. Overall, implementation of the SDGs provides an opportunity to protect and empower mobile populations to fulfil their

development potential and benefit to individuals, communities and countries around the world.

## **C.5. International treaties**

### **C.5.1. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees**

Grounded in Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention (adopted on 1951 in Geneva) recognizes the right of persons to seek asylum from persecution in other countries.

### **C.5.2. Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees**

The Protocol (adopted on 1967 in New York) consolidates previous international instruments relating to refugees and provides the most comprehensive codification of the rights of refugees at the international level. In contrast to earlier international refugee instruments, which applied to specific groups of refugees, the 1951 Convention endorses a single definition of the term “refugee” in Article 1. The Protocol uses the term “stateless person” to define a person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law.

### **C.5.3. Migration for Employment Convention (Revised 1949)**

Article 1 of this ILO Convention states that each member of the ILO for which this Convention is in force undertakes to make available on request to the International Labour Office and to each member the following: (a) information on national policies, laws and regulations relating to emigration and immigration; (b) information on special provisions concerning migration for employment and the conditions of work and livelihood of migrants for employment; and (c) information concerning general agreement and special arrangements on these questions concluded by the member.

### **C.5.4. Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provision) (No. 143)**

This ILO Convention recalls provisions of the following: (a) Migration for Employment Convention and Recommendation (Revised), 1949; (b) Protection of Migrant Workers (Underdeveloped Countries) Recommendation, 1955; (c) Employment Policy Convention and Recommendation, 1964; (d) Employment

Service Convention and Recommendation, 1948; and (e) Fee-Charging Employment Agencies Convention (Revised), 1949.

### **C.5.5. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children**

The purposes of the Protocol are as follows: (a) prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children; (b) protect and assist the victims of such trafficking, with full respect for their human rights; and (c) promote cooperation among States Parties in order to meet those objectives.

### **C.5.6. 2002 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air**

The Protocol is aimed at the protection of rights of migrants and the reduction of the power and influence of organized criminal groups that abuse migrants.

## **C.6. Bilateral labour agreements**

Eswatini signed an MOU related to migration with the Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China in 2015. The MOU covers cooperation on immigration issues and transnational crimes, especially human trafficking, and facilitates the exchange of information on the prevention of crime and exchange visits for officials.

Eswatini participates in bilateral discussions with several countries, including on migration-related issues. The President of South Africa and the King of Eswatini met in March 2019 to discuss ways to address congestion at the Ngwenya Border Post, and both leaders have agreed that ministers should ensure that the issue of congestion at border posts is attended to. As a result, the 24-hour port of entries pilot between Eswatini and South Africa and Eswatini and Mozambique were launched.

Eswatini also engages in bilateral negotiations with Rwanda on migration issues, which have led to the development of a draft MOU. Other joint bilateral commissions exist between Eswatini and Botswana, Cuba, India, Mozambique, Namibia and Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China.



In 1975, Eswatini signed a bilateral labour agreement with South Africa relating to the establishment of an office for an Eswatini Labour Representative in South Africa, the welfare of Eswatini citizens in South Africa and the movement of persons across the common border. In 2017, Eswatini signed a bilateral labour agreement with Mozambique to allow Mozambican nationals who have been residing in Eswatini since 1997 to obtain work permits without meeting the standard permit requirements for foreigners.

## **C.7. Eswatini's institutional framework for migration**

The overall coordination and governance of migration issues in Eswatini is housed by MOHA. The primary role of the ministry is the responsibility of developing the country's migration policy and regulating immigration. It controls, regulates and facilitates immigration and the movement of persons through Eswatini's formal ports of entry. The Immigration Act, 1982 empowers the Minister of Home Affairs to develop regulations on immigration. The Ministry houses the Immigration Department, which is responsible for border management and control, citizenship services, and the orderly immigration of persons through the issuance of permissions, permits and visas to enter and/or reside in Eswatini. The Ministry also houses the Refugees Department and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Department that deals with refugees and asylum-seekers. In executing its mandate, it works with other ministries to ensure a well-coordinated intergovernmental approach to migration. Rules and regulations concerning migration are available on government websites. The website of MOHA includes information on visas and permits, visa requirements, visa validity, visa application procedures, types of temporary residence permits, and permit requirements. Migration laws – including the Immigration Act, 1982, Citizenship Act, 1992 and the Immigration Regulations, 1987 (Draft bill for immigration and citizenship) – are also publicly available on the website. Some of the structure in place to coordinate migration in Eswatini include the following:

**Citizenship Board** – This is appointed by His Majesty the King and draws its members from various sectors of society. The Board have the exclusive authority to: (a) grant or cancel citizenship by registration; (b) investigate and where appropriate revoke the citizenship of any person under section 49; (c) advice the Minister responsible for citizenship on any other aspects relating to citizenship; and (d) do such things as are incidental or related to the exercise of its powers.

**Ministerial Advisory Committee** – This is appointed by the minister, and its role is to advise the minister on issues of emigration and migration and investigate issues related to that.

**Temporal Residence Permit Committee** – The Committee has members from the Eswatini Investment Promotion Agency, MOHA, MOET, MOLSS, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade and Ministry of Health. The Committee ensures that resident's permits for employment are provided in a way that do not disadvantage the Emaswati citizens.

**Training and Localization Board** – The board is under the MOLSS and its members include MOHA, MOLSS, trade unions, Business Eswatini and Federation of Eswatini Business Community. The role of the Board is to ensure that the skills in the country are consummate with the industrial needs.

**Refugees Status Determination Board** – This board is constituted by MOHA, MOFAIC, REPS, MOET and NGOs. It is responsible for the determination of refugees' status.

**Labour Advisory Board** – The Board is housed in the MOLSS and is constituted of the MOHA, MOLSS, trade unions, Business Eswatini and Federation of Eswatini Business Community. Its duties are to advise the Government on the skills needs for the country and influence the importation of skilled labour.

MOHA collects monthly data on the number of visas processed, citizenships granted and permit applications and approvals. This data is presented to the Parliament on a quarterly basis but is not published.

The MOLSS formulates and coordinates issues relating to labour migration. The Steering Committee on Implementation – instituted by the draft NLMP, an interministerial coordination mechanism on labour migration – is responsible for the operationalization of the draft NLMP. It meets on a regular basis and is chaired by the MOLSS. It also includes the MOFAIC, MOHA, Ministry of Health, CSO, civil society organizations and businesses. In addition, interministerial collaboration on migration issues occurs on an ad hoc basis.

The draft NLMP deals with migrant workers, including internal and cross-border migration, and describes the patterns of labour migration that take place within, into, out of and through Eswatini. It addresses various labour migration issues, including the following: (a) return and reintegration of Emaswati migrant workers; (b) protection of migrant workers' rights in Eswatini; (c) portability of social security for migrant workers; and (d) development of coordination mechanisms to regulate labour migration and combat human trafficking. The draft NLMP has an implementation strategy that clearly outlines specific activities to be undertaken, responsible organs and timelines. The draft NLMP outlines gender sensitivity as

a principle and aims for “a non-discriminatory labour migration framework that ensures equal opportunities for all, promotes gender empowerment and contains provisions for workers, and work seekers regardless of level of skills”.

The periodic Integrated Labour Force Survey conducted by the CSO and the MOLSS collects data on the percentage of migrant workers in the workforce, disaggregated by sector but not by sex. Eswatini’s population and housing censuses include questions on migration. The 2017 Population and Housing Census questionnaire contains a section titled “Emigration”, which captures data disaggregated by sex, age, destination, year of departure and activity abroad. The census also captures information on migrants in Eswatini through questions on their country of birth, citizenship and place of previous residence, integrated into other sections.

For example, in efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, MOHA and the Ministry of Health have collaborated to ensure that movements into Eswatini are closely monitored and regulated through health screenings at border checkpoints.

Through the MOFAIC, the Government of Eswatini has recognized the importance and significance of the diaspora population. The MOFAIC, through support from IOM Eswatini, has conducted diaspora engagement mapping and efforts are in place to mainstreaming and integrating the diaspora into local development, which involves mobilization of their entrepreneurial spirit, remittances, professional expertise and innovation by government and multiple other stakeholders. As of January 2021, Eswatini has set up a Diaspora Engagement Unit within the MOFAIC.



# PART D: KEY FINDINGS, POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## D.1. Findings on current migration trends

Throughout the period under review, Eswatini had a migration stock of 2.2 per cent (23,732) of the national population in 2017. Migrants were mainly from other African countries, with Mozambique being the biggest country of origin. The main reasons of staying in the country for migrants are work, marriage and family reunification. Migration in Eswatini appears to be dominated by persons of young age (19–35 years). Eswatini simultaneously plays the role of source, destination and transit country, it is predominantly a country of origin.

Comprehensive, timely and quality data on migration in Eswatini are rarely available from national sources, and international sources are often more useful. Much migration data is not disaggregated by age, sex, educational status, occupation and skills level. This lack of useful, timely data is a setback in the efforts to manage migration in Eswatini. It is hoped that improved data collection and sharing mechanisms, anticipated in next five years, will represent a considerable change for migration management in the country and subsequent updates to the Eswatini Migration Profile.

### D.1.1. Immigration

About 36.1 per cent migrated into Eswatini for employment. Also, administrative data showed that 2,906 Temporary Work Permits were issued by the Immigration Department to persons from 77 countries, with the top 10 countries of origin being South Africa (41%), Zimbabwe (8.8%) and Pakistan (8.2%), among others. The three major sectors that were issued with Temporary Work Permits included sales (24%), technical education (15%) and manufacturing (14%). According to the National Skills Audit Report, 3 per cent of companies and establishments stated that they imported or employed non-Swati (Government of Eswatini, 2021a). The sectors that import most skills include the following: (a) health (34%); (b) wholesale and retail (12%); (c) manufacturing (11%); and (d) agriculture, forestry and fishing (8%).

A total of 4,611 migrants were enrolled in local schools, of which 53 per cent were males and 47 per cent females over the 2016–2019 period.

A total of 1,507 new asylum applications were launched during the 2017–2021 period. The most nationality of persons seeking asylum were from the following: (a) Democratic Republic of the Congo (622); (b) Somalia (398); and (c) Burundi (133). There is a total of 263 refugees in Eswatini, with a gradual increase from 52 persons in 2017 to as high as 84 persons in 2021.

A total of 153 persons naturalized their stay in Eswatini for the period 2015–2021, of which 73 persons were classified as persons above 21 years, 66 persons were women married to Emaswati men and 14 were minors.

### **D.1.2. Emigration**

A total of 32,448 people have emigrated from the country in the past 12 years prior to the 2017 census, and these have migrated to most parts of the world, comprising of all sex and age groups. This is an increase of 8,392 people in the number of emigrants when compared to those who emigrated in the past 12 years prior to the 2007 census. The emigration trends are characterized by persons of middle age (20–49 years of age) for both sexes. African countries, with South Africa and Mozambique, are the main destinations for Emaswati emigrating.

Eswatini has an employment agreement with South Africa for employment in the mining sector. Over the years, Eswatini has been sending mineworkers. The number of mineworkers has gradually decreased over the years, with only 1,739 persons in 2021 compared to 3,508 in 2015, which shows about 50 per cent decrease.

Over the period 2019–2021, the Government of Eswatini, through the government-supported scholarships, managed to send 274 students to further their studies in various countries. Most of the students were studying in South African universities.

### **D.1.3. Irregular migration**

Over the period 2015–2021, data from REPS shows that a total of 3,172 were arrested for being in the country illegally, therefore breaching the Immigration Act. Also, the HMCS recorded immigration-related detentions. The detentions were fluctuating, with 164 persons convicted and detained in 2015. The highest detention was noted in 2016 (187 persons). Indians, Mozambicans and South African nationals were the main nationalities detained for violating the immigration Act.

### **D.1.4. Human trafficking**

Eswatini is a source of Emaswati victims and a transit country for various African and Asian nationals being trafficked for sexual and labour exploitation. During the period 2016–2018, 50 victims of trafficking were detected. Most of the victims of trafficking were male compared to females. The rates of different types of human trafficking, particularly sex and labour trafficking, may be high in Eswatini. There is often low awareness of these phenomena and knowledge of how to prevent and address them.

### **D.1.5. Irregular migration routes**

Eswatini does not have well-defined migration routes; however, the country has informal crossings along the borderline. The common observation across all the informal crossings is that data collected are not sufficient to understand the characteristics of the migrants using the entry points. This makes the crossings entry points for human trafficking.

### **D.1.6. Internal migration**

There has been considerable internal movement of persons in their lifetime within Eswatini. A visible migration movement is confined to the Manzini Region, where there are more in-migrants (22.1%) than the other regions such as Hhohho (15.8%) and Lubombo (14.4%). Internal migration has increased in the country over the past three decades. It increased from 101,649 migrants in 1986 to 192,279 in 2017.

## **D.2. Findings on migration policies**

The Migration Profile presented information about the governance framework for migration in Eswatini. There are multiple institutional actors in place to manage migration. However, it is too early to tell their impact on migration management. Although migration is a complex phenomenon that, at once, gives rise to multiple problems and opportunities, some issues may receive less attention due to the multiplicity of institutional actors. There is a danger of overlapping priorities, duplicating efforts and poor accountabilities of actors involved. In terms of policies, it is too early to tell their impact on migration management. However, Eswatini has taken some critical initial steps to put migration governance institutions, legislative frameworks and policy arrangements in place. These arrangements have a lot of potential to boost the potential of the Government of Eswatini in migration governance.

### D.3. Findings on the impacts of migration

Migration has proven to be an important part of Eswatini's development and is increasingly being recognized as part of its development strategy. Migration affects all sectors in the country, which, in turn, affects migration dynamics. These impacts can present challenges, as well as opportunities.

Studies in various parts of the world have sought to demonstrate the potential of migration for driving development at origin. One can summarize the potential impacts of migration as follows:

- (a) Countries of origin can tap into the wealth of diaspora communities and direct it towards development at origin, through remittances and other financing mechanisms. The diaspora community has a pro-trade effect through, for example, facilitating information about markets and products.
- (b) Remittance flows have a positive effect on balance of payment deficits, and they remedy shortages of foreign currency. Governments of labour-exporting countries can use remittances as security or insurance for incoming future flows of private capital, thereby increasing their credit ratings.
- (c) Literature hypothesizes that remittances increase household consumption, investments in education, health and social insurance and poverty alleviation.

Very little disagreement, if any, exists around the notion that migration and remittances have potential for economic development in the country of origin. However, there is no clear evidence available in Eswatini to establish the actual impacts of migration and remittances on development in the country. This is due to the lack of more accurate data on migration and robust migration data management systems. Consequently, both positive and negative impacts of migration on migrant-sending households, families, communities and the country are prone to underestimation. In the absence of sound data management systems and reliable trustworthy data, it is considerably difficult to ascertain the extent to which the potential of migration and remittances hypothesized in literature could be realized in Eswatini.

### D.4. Findings on migration governance

Eswatini has robust national frameworks for migration governance and has introduced several legal instruments, policies and interventions at the national level to address migration issues in the country. Moreover, the Government of



Eswatini is signatory to several conventions and protocols on migration at the regional and international levels and works on migration issues with many regional and international actors. It is expected that Eswatini will align its approach to migration management with the SDGs and other global and regional frameworks that govern migration and to which it is a signatory.

## **D.5. Recommendations concerning improvements to migration statistics and the overall evidence base**

The Government of Eswatini has various ministries, departments and agencies that produce data. However, much of the data remains inaccessible to the public (and even across ministries), with available data often patchy and of inconsistent quality. Many critical data gaps remain to be bridged through improved data collection, analysis and dissemination. The migration data that are available are rarely disaggregated by characteristics critical to policymakers (age, sex, education, and profession, skills and skill level, among others).

Although the Immigration Department was able to provide data on many topics, the last census in 2017 rendered these data less than timely. The national census includes key migration questions, and it acts as the main source of relevant migration data. Furthermore, other data sources were rarely able to supplement census data due to the lack of the data requested, unavailability and challenges of comparability. However, the following are recommended:

- (a) Develop a national migration data management strategy. This will provide guidance on data-sharing, hopefully between key migration actors in the country to ensure that these data gaps are bridged. It is expected that the data and analysis that will be produced through the national migration data management strategy will feed into future updates of the Migration Profile and towards implementing, monitoring and review of the Migration Profile.
- (b) Conduct a nationally representative household survey to better understand the role and impact of the diaspora, transfers received through informal channels and social remittances.
- (c) Conduct an assessment of migration data management in Eswatini. The assessment will establish the existing sources of migration data that could potentially yield important migration data for analysis and policymaking, including administrative databases and registries. In addition, assessment of institutional capacity, resources and facilities for the collection, processing, sharing and analysis of migration data. This in turn will make the access and use of migration data easy.

- (d) IOM and other institutions should continue to expand their capacity development initiatives in Eswatini. Data gaps can be filled through tailored research studies including evidence-based and policy-oriented research projects on the following areas: (i) a profile on immigrants in Eswatini to identify the reasons (drivers) for their migration to Eswatini, their length of stay, nature of employment and impact on Eswatini's local and national development. This study may include the perceptions that immigrants have on migration in Eswatini as a monitoring and evaluation activity to determine best practices and failed attempts. This will in turn lead to identifying challenges to address through training and capacity-building; (ii) an understanding the social remittances (such as knowledge/skills transfer, values to benchmark and others) that Eswatini diaspora make to ensure that the contributions of the Eswatini diaspora are acknowledged and recognized in practice. Eswatini diplomatic missions abroad will act as resources in conducting surveys or interviews among Emaswati nationals; and (iii) assessment of the flow and impact of regular monetary remittances, both international and domestic, as one of the objectives for the African Institute of Remittances.

## **D.6. Recommendations regarding the migration governance framework**

The successful design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of migration-related policies and programmes hinges on a coherent plan by all relevant stakeholders in Eswatini. This report strongly recommends the establishment of an official institutional framework for the implementation of the Migration Profile.

- (a) A National Migration Technical Review Board/Commission should be established and sufficiently resourced so it can assume the key role in migration management in the country. Regular updates to the Eswatini Migration Profile, under the leadership of the Migration Technical Review Board/Commission, will ensure that policymakers have access to relevant and up-to-date migration data and analysis to inform their decision-making. Good practices from other countries, such as making legal provisions for updating the Migration Profile, should be explored.
- (b) The Government of Eswatini should develop and implement a comprehensive migration governance framework, including through the development of the National Migration Policy, Diaspora Engagement Policy, finalization and implementation of the NLMP. The success of these policies will depend on the following: (i) concrete and achievable implementation strategies;

- (ii) ability to design a migration framework that goes beyond voluntary and labour migration to encompass the variety of migration experiences, namely both forced and voluntary migration, in a coherent framework to maximize the benefits of migration while minimizing its negative impacts; and (iii) willingness of migrants and diaspora members to register with the Government, while upholding its obligations under international conventions and laws and while maintaining its sovereign right to control its borders and territory.
- (c) A monitoring and evaluation system should be developed and implemented in order to close the data gaps around migration to inform policies.
- (d) The Government of Eswatini should continue its efforts to ensure that it meets the minimum standards for addressing the problems of trafficking and smuggling. By ensuring vigorously investigation and prosecution of trafficking offenses, including government officials suspected of complicity in human trafficking.
- (e) The Government of Eswatini and concerned stakeholders should cooperate to improve the capacity of relevant ministries, departments and agencies by effectively implementing migration policies, laws and regulations. Improvements are needed in the skills and knowledge of some officials, and in the administrative procedures for migration governance. Equally, the existence of porous borders remains a significant challenge to the country in the effective management of migration. Thus, improvements are needed in border management infrastructure, systems and personnel.
- (f) Engage border communities using diverse methodologies and based on trust, inclusivity, respect, commitment, flexibility and mutual understanding and adopt relevant border surveillance strategies including foot, vehicular and aerial (including unmanned aerial vehicles) means to monitor and patrol the areas between border control posts.
- (g) The Government of Eswatini should ensure linkages are made between the migration governance framework and the national security policy through adoption of a national security policy that takes cognizance of human security issues and links migration to both human and national security.

## **D.7. Recommendations regarding mainstreaming migration into development**

- (a) Policy and initiatives that nurture circular migration will likely improve the flow of remittances in the country. It is recommended that MOHA take the lead in mobilizing other institutional actors to identify and experiment with various approaches of fostering circular migration.
- (b) Encouraging participation of the diaspora in public life at origin, including in social and economic initiatives, can boost patriotism and unlock the investment potential of the diaspora.
- (c) Increased involvement of the Government in facilitating more affordable remittance transmission channels that could boost the value of remittances. It can also encourage people to use formal routes of remittance.
- (d) The Government of Eswatini and its development partners should resource the CSO to mainstream migration into relevant surveys, including the census. This will lay a foundation for the mainstreaming of migration in the country based on evidence.
- (e) Do more to measure, anticipate and report on internal migration trends in the future, especially in the health, labour and education (schools) sectors.

# ANNEX

## Annex 1. Entry visas issued by country

Nationality	Visas	Per cent
Afghan	34	0.3
Albanian	6	0.0
Algerian	58	0.5
Angolan	321	2.5
Armenian	2	0.0
Australian	3	0.0
Azerbaijani	3	0.0
Bahraini	1	0.0
Bangladeshi	578	4.6
Belarusian	9	0.1
Beninese	18	0.1
Bhutanese	3	0.0
Bolivian	5	0.0
Bulgarian	54	0.4
Burkinabe	15	0.1
Burundian	73	0.6
Cameroonian	316	2.5
Cabo Verdean	9	0.1
Central African	7	0.1
Chadian	2	0.0
Chinese	1 063	8.4
Colombian	9	0.1
Comorian	12	0.1
Congolese	765	6.1
Costa Rican	4	0.0
Cuban	10	0.1
Danish	1	0.0
Djiboutian	59	0.5
Dominican	2	0.0
Dutch	1	0.0
Ecuadorian	4	0.0
Egyptian	299	2.4
National of the United Arab Emirates	2	0.0
National of Equatorial Guinea	35	0.3

Nationality	Visas	Per cent
Eritrean	17	0.1
Ethiopian	386	3.1
Fijian	2	0.0
Filipino	97	0.8
French Guianese and Guadeloupian	10	0.1
Gabonese	10	0.1
Georgian	9	0.1
Guatemalan	9	0.1
National of Guinea-Bissau	60	0.5
Guinean	67	0.5
Honduran	1	0.0
Icelander	13	0.1
Indian	2 433	19.3
Indonesian	43	0.3
Iranian	32	0.3
Ivorian	67	0.5
Jordanian	18	0.1
Lao	1	0.0
Lebanese	21	0.2
Liberian	24	0.2
Libyan	3	0.0
National of Liechtenstein	11	0.1
Macedonian	7	0.1
Malian	33	0.3
Mauritinian	3	0.0
Mexican	16	0.1
Moroccan	65	0.5
National of Myanmar	2	0.0
Nepalese	38	0.3
Nicaraguan	1	0.0
Nigerian	1 675	13.3
Nigerien	49	0.4
Pakistani	2 714	21.5
National of the Occupied Palestinian Territory	1	0.0
Panamanian	2	0.0
Papua New Guinean	1	0.0
Paraguayan	2	0.0
Peruvian	27	0.2

Nationality	Visas	Per cent
National of the Republic of Korea	2	0.0
Romanian	78	0.6
Rwandan	181	1.4
Saint Lucian	1	0.0
Salvadoran	1	0.0
National of Sao Tome and Principe	3	0.0
Saudi	11	0.1
Senegalese	75	0.6
Somali	112	0.9
South African	1	0.0
South Sudanese	12	0.1
Sri Lankan	39	0.3
Sudanese	47	0.4
Syrian	2	0.0
Tajik	1	0.0
Thai	35	0.3
Togolese	26	0.2
Tunisian	195	1.5
Turkish	1	0.0
Uzbek	2	0.0
Vanuatuan	2	0.0
Venezuelan	1	0.0
Vietnamese	14	0.1
National of the Virgin Islands	1	0.0
Yemeni	5	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12 602</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Annex 2. Classes of entry permits

Class A	A person who is offered specific employment by a specific employer, who is qualified to undertake that employment and whose engagement is that employment will be of benefit to Eswatini.
Class B	A person, being a holder of a dependant's pass who is offered specific employment by a specific employer, whose engagement in that employment will be of benefit to Eswatini.
Class C	A person who is a member of the missionary society approved by the Government of Eswatini and whose presence in Eswatini will be of benefit to Eswatini.
Class D	A person who intends to engage whether alone or in partnership in the business of agriculture or animal husbandry in Eswatini and who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Has acquired or has received all permission that may be necessary in order to acquire an interest in land of sufficient size and suitable of the purpose; and</li> <li>(b) Has in their own right and at full and free disposition capital and other resources for the purpose and whose engagement in that business will be of benefit to Eswatini.</li> </ul>
Class E	A person who intends to engage, whether alone or in partnership in prospecting for minerals or mining in Eswatini and who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Has obtained, or is assured of obtaining, any prospecting or mining right or licence that may be necessary for the purpose; and</li> <li>(b) Has in their own right and at their full and free disposition sufficient capital and other resources for the purpose and whose engagement is of benefit to Eswatini.</li> </ul>
Class F	A person who intends to engage, whether alone or in partnership in a specific trade, business or profession (other than a prescribed profession) in Eswatini and who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Has obtained, or is assured of obtaining, any licence, registration or other authority or permission that may be necessary for the purpose; and</li> <li>(b) Has in their own right and at their full and free disposition sufficient capital and other resources for the purpose and whose engagement is of benefit to Eswatini.</li> </ul>
Class G	A person who intends to engage, whether alone or in partnership, in specific manufacturing in Eswatini and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Has obtained, or is assured of obtaining, any licence, registration or other authority or permission that may be necessary for the purpose; and</li> <li>(b) Has in their own right and at their full and free disposition sufficient capital and other resources for the purpose and whose engagement in manufacturing is of benefit to Eswatini.</li> </ul>



Class H	<p>A member of a prescribed profession who intends to practice that profession, whether alone or in partnership in Eswatini and who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Possesses the prescribed qualification;</li> <li>(b) Has in their own right and at their full and free disposition sufficient capital and other resources for the purpose and whose practice of that profession will be of benefit to Eswatini.</li> </ul>
Class I	<p>A person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Is not less than 21 years of age; and</li> <li>(b) Has in their own right and at their full and free disposition an assured annual income of not less than the prescribed, being an income that is assured and that is described from a source other than any such employment, occupation, trade, business or profession as is referred to in the description of any of the class specified in this schedule and being income that either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Is derived from source outside and will be remitted to Eswatini;</li> <li>(ii) Is derived for property situated or pension or annuity payable from source in Eswatini; or</li> <li>(iii) Will be deriving from sufficient investment capital to produce such assured income that will be brought into and invested in Eswatini</li> </ul> </li> <li>(c) Undertake not to accept paid employment of any kind should be granted an entry permit of this class, and whose presence in Eswatini will be of benefit to Eswatini.</li> </ul>
Class J	<p>A person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Is not in employment, whether paid or unpaid, and who under the repealed act was issued with Residence Permit, or who would, on application, have been entitled to the issue of such permit; or</li> <li>(b) Has been a resident of Eswatini for continuous period of 10 years;</li> <li>(c) Has Konaed according to Emaswati laws and customs; and</li> <li>(d) Proves to the satisfaction of the Chief Immigration Officer that has applied for and has not been refused full Emaswati citizen status.</li> </ul>

## Annex 3. Number of entry permits for employment by country/place of origin

Country/Territories/Area	Number of permits	Per cent
South Africa	16 697	36.2
Zimbabwe	5 125	11.1
India	3 184	6.9
Pakistan	2 855	6.2
China	2 438	5.3
Taiwan Province of the People's Republic of China	201	0.4
Bangladesh	1 640	3.6
Philippines (the)	1 358	2.9
Mozambique	1 269	2.8
Nigeria	1 232	2.7
Zambia	1 048	2.3
United States of America	927	2.0
United Kingdom	843	1.8
Ethiopia	814	1.8
Ghana	741	1.6
Uganda	695	1.5
Democratic Republic of the Congo	671	1.5
Kenya	367	0.8
Portugal	356	0.8
Malawi	273	0.6
United Republic of Tanzania	250	0.5
Cameroon	240	0.5
Lesotho	184	0.4
Botswana	182	0.4
Sri Lanka	164	0.4
Republic of Korea	166	0.4
Egypt	138	0.3
Germany	126	0.3
Myanmar	113	0.2
Cambodia	98	0.2
Kingdom of the Netherlands	94	0.2
Canada	93	0.2
Mauritius	89	0.2
Italy	86	0.2

Country/Territories/Area	Number of permits	Per cent
Rwanda	79	0.2
Ireland	76	0.2
Brazil	70	0.2
Malaysia	55	0.1
Australia	53	0.1
Mauritania	47	0.1
Spain	47	0.1
Belgium	45	0.1
France	43	0.1
Niger (the)	40	0.1
Austria	30	0.1
Cyprus	30	0.1
Netherlands Antilles	30	0.1
Denmark	28	0.1
Israel	28	0.1
Côte d'Ivoire	35	0.1
Viet Nam	25	0.1
Islamic Republic of Iran	24	0.1
Japan	24	0.1
Afghanistan	23	0.0
Bulgaria	21	0.0
Angola	20	0.0
Cuba	20	0.0
Sierra Leone	20	0.0
Sweden	19	0.0
Eritrea	18	0.0
Nepal	18	0.0
New Zealand	18	0.0
Finland	17	0.0
Togo	17	0.0
Romania	15	0.0
Senegal	15	0.0
Serbia	15	0.0
Switzerland	14	0.0
Albania	13	0.0
Burundi	13	0.0
Sudan (the)	13	0.0
Greece	12	0.0

Country/Territories/Area	Number of permits	Per cent
Guinea-Bissau	12	0.0
Indonesia	12	0.0
Mali	12	0.0
Namibia	12	0.0
Russian Federation	11	0.0
American Samoa	10	0.0
Argentina	9	0.0
Jordan	9	0.0
Benin	7	0.0
British Virgin Islands	7	0.0
Gambia (the)	7	0.0
Norway	7	0.0
Ukraine	7	0.0
Yemen	7	0.0
Madagascar	6	0.0
Türkiye	6	0.0
Burkina Faso	5	0.0
Czechia	5	0.0
Lebanon	5	0.0
Peru	5	0.0
Bolivia	4	0.0
French Guiana	4	0.0
Kyrgyzstan	4	0.0
Liberia	4	0.0
Morocco	4	0.0
Singapore	4	0.0
Thailand	4	0.0
Algeria	3	0.0
Ecuador	3	0.0
Lithuania	3	0.0
South Sudan	3	0.0
Syrian Arab Republic	3	0.0
Colombia	2	0.0
Georgia	2	0.0
Hungary	2	0.0
Mexico	2	0.0
Occupied Palestinian Territory	2	0.0
Paraguay	2	0.0

Country/Territories/Area	Number of permits	Per cent
Saint Lucia	2	0.0
Tunisia	2	0.0
Andorra	1	0.0
Armenia	1	0.0
Belarus	1	0.0
Bermuda	1	0.0
Cayman Islands	1	0.0
Chile	1	0.0
Croatia	1	0.0
Dominican Republic	1	0.0
Gabon	1	0.0
Guyana	1	0.0
Iraq	1	0.0
Qatar	1	0.0
Somalia	1	0.0



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