



UNITED  
NATIONS

A



**World Conference  
of the United Nations  
Decade for Women:**

**Equality, Development and Peace**

**Copenhagen, Denmark  
14-30 July 1980**

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/CONF.94/NR/48 \*

15 July 1980

ENGLISH ONLY

UN LIBRARY  
JUL 18 1980  
UN/ISA COLLECTION

NATIONAL REPORT SUBMITTED BY SWAZILAND \*\*

\* National reports are reproduced by photo-offset and issued in the languages of submission only.

\*\* The designations employed, the presentation of material and the views expressed in this paper are those of the Government of Swaziland and do not necessarily reflect the practices and views of the Secretariat of the United Nations in any of these respects.

WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN  
IN COPENHAGEN, DENMARK FROM THE 14TH TO THE 30TH JULY 1980.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND.

Swaziland is the smallest country in Southern Africa. It has a maximum length of 192 Kilometres from South to North, and 144 Kilometres from East to West, with an area of 17,363 square Kilometres. It is larger than Kuwait, smaller than Massachusettes and about the same size as Wales. It has a population of nearly 600,000.

It is almost completely surrounded by the Transvaal and Natal Provinces of the South African Republic and is some 368 Kilometres from Johannesburg. About 96 Kilometres of its Eastern border adjoins Mozambique and the Port of Maputo is less than 160 Kilometres away and several points are within 64 Kilometres of the Indian Ocean.

Within this compact egg-shaped area is a wide range of climatic and scenic variety. The country falls neatly into four Main Geographical regions which run like shelves from North to South. The first three of these regions known as the Highveld, Middleveld and Lowveld - are roughly equal in size. The fourth, the Lubombo is Considerably smaller.

Swaziland is one of the few remaining Kingdoms in Africa. It is headed by the longest - reigning Monarch in the World His Majesty King Sobhuza II The INGWENYAMA (Lion).

Until recently, outside influences have been relatively slight and in the last few years Swaziland has emerged into the twentieth Century with traditions and a culture distinctively its own. This is one of the main reasons why Swaziland is an almost absolute peaceful Independent country since 1968.

Like all developing countries Swaziland has tried to achieve the major Targets of 1975 Mexico City Conference in relation to equality, development and peace.

I. PEACE

## I. PEACE :-

Until recently Swaziland has enjoyed peace & stability in comparison with other countries. As we are all aware peace is a pre-requisite to development. Therefore, it is our wish and prayer that other countries of the world could be blessed with peace.

## II. EQUALITY :-

It is encouraging to mention that some few women are beginning to enter some fields which were usually reserved for men.

### (A) Political opportunities:

The status of Swazi women was always recognised in the traditional - Political system.

There is no Political descrimination of sexes in Swaziland. During the post colonial Government there was only one woman in Parliament and later anot one, was nominated into the house of Assembly. In the present Government, there are now four women Parliamentarians. Also as part of Government concern some women have been elected to serve in Town Councils. Political awareness as such is gradually gaining a significant momentum seen by a lot of interest in what is going on the political forum of their country and the outside world. Some University women students now seek degrees with politics as one of their majors.

### (B) Education :-

1, Formal education is offered to every child through the Ministry of Education.

2, Children of school going age of both sexes have equal opportunities to acquire standards of their ability, capability and desire. For instance in 1976 we had 50% male children in Primary schools and 49.3% females.

3, The Swaziland Government is aiming at Universal Primary education by 1985.

4, We appreciate the remarkable high percentage of womwn teachers in Primary schools. For instance in 1976, 78% of Primary teachers were females.

5, In Secondary schools 42% were female teachers revealed in 1976.

6, In 1976 secondary enrolment was 47% girls.

### (C) Adult Literacy Education :-

In 1976, 77% females enrolled for adult education-

### (D) University Education.:-

1, The local University of Botswana and Swazilan has more females than male students.

2, Since Independence, after matriculation Government offers Loan-Scholarships payable on completion to qualifying Swazi students regardless of sex. On the whole women are showing more zest for higher education.

(E) Administration Carder:-

For instance, in 1976 there were 49 females and 427 males in Government Service

III DEVELOPMENT :-

The Swazi women have made great effort towards development since 1975. Some of the projects started earlier, but have been strengthened towards maturity. e.g.

- (a) Women in development project started in 1978.
- (b) Vocational training project started in 1977
- (c) Community development project in rural areas e, g. women's centres, rural water supply.
- (d) Pre-school projects started in 1965
- (e) Marketing projects e.g. Farm produce and handicraft industry.
- (f) Poultry farming in rural areas, started in 1969
- (g) Rural education centres started in 1978
- (h) Fisheries started in 1975
- (i) Rural Health Community Workers
- (j) Pigs production project aided by the National Council of Negro Women (U.S.A).
- (k) Adult literacy programme
- (l) Two Homes (Orphanages) constructed by Zondle Women's Organisation
- (m) Queen Gwamile Scholarship Fund (The Swaziland Committee of the International Year of the Women in 1975 founded the scholarship Fund in honour of the King's grand-mother Queen Gwamile)
- 1V) Three examples of development projects
  - (a) Health
  - (b) Education
  - (c) Employment

1. Health Project

In the field of Medical and Nursing Services more are females compared to males. Most of the work in health services is done by government and Missionaries

There are ten female Doctors and over 500 nursing staff.



Swaziland is still developing its health services. There are at present three government hospitals and two Mission hospitals. Attached to hospitals are rural health centres. There are 69 rural clinics of which 32 are Government owned.

#### A Rural community Health Workers

The health Workers are trained for 6 weeks duration and the objectives are :-

(a) In Swaziland Tradition middle - aged women acted as mid-wives to assist child bearing and post natal care hence health has found it fit to strengthen health services in rural areas

(b) Identification of more health problems in consultation with local chiefs and formal leaders. Because of shortage of trained nurses, health community workers act as an extended arm of clinic nurses

#### B Subject taught

(a) Improved health methods of Mid-wifery

(b) Nutrition education during pregnancy and lactation period (mother and child care)

(c) How to identify signs and symptoms of infectious diseases and early reporting of same to the nearest clinic or health centre

(d) National rural water supply and sanitation e.g. protection of wells and construction of latrines.

This helps to prevent spread of communicable diseases like diarrhea and typhoid.

(e) The importance of immunization is emphasized

(d) There are 302 rural health workers already trained and 700 more are required according to project plan to cover the Kingdom

2 The project is jointly financed by UNICEF and the Swaziland Government.

#### D Evaluation

The project started about two years back and the general observation is that rural women appreciate the effectiveness of these services

E As a self-help-project this has helped the rural community because health services were brought to them. It has also helped the clinic nurse who is far from the peripheral

#### II Educational Project

##### A Vocational training

For various reasons young women leave school before completion due to shortage of classrooms and school fees. The Swaziland government has tried to tackle this problem of school drop-outs by creating Vocational training or Courses in each district attached to the Farmers' Training centres of the

Ministry of Agriculture since 1971

In addition to this the National Women's Organisation (Lutsango) started a Vocational Training in the Capital City in 1977 to cater for the Urban un-employment for school leavers. The courses are for eight months duration

(A) Objectives

(a) This is to help young women to acquire knowledge and skills which will help in running their homes more effectively and generate finance to ~~meet~~ meet their basic needs. The subjects taught are Dress making handicraft poultry keeping, horticulture, nutrition health education.

(b) The school system does not have enough money to cover all the educational requirements. There was 43.7% of school-drop-outs in 1976

(c) Instructors are trained by the government and publications concerning the courses are made to make the public aware of such Institutions since the capacity is limited to 20 students per course per centre many applicants are not admitted

(d) A follow-up programme is made to evaluate the usefulness of the course.

(e) Swaziland government and the Lutheran Church based in Geneva (SIDA) finance the courses

(f) The home Economics section was involved in the process of identification and design of the project programme

III Employment

Women in development

A pilot project in the northern part of Swaziland directed towards full intergration of rural women is making a tremendous success

The general objectives of the project are to :-

(i) maximise the role of women by means of increasing the capacity to perform in the home and family, in domestic agriculture and wage employment through small business enterprises and co operative groups.

(ii) enhance and compliment the rural development area scheme in achieving total developments in the northern Rural Development area (N R D A )

(iii) to improve skills and higher production in the area.

(IV) to motivate rural communities towards SELF RELIANCE

(V) intergrate with health centres, home economics and voluntary Women's organisations

(b) The project group is composed of rural women and school-leavers. the project is funded by the U N / DTCD, New York, UNISEF Nairobi and the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland- The project is manned by community Development workers, and deals specifically with the following components namely:-

Income generating activities, appropriate technology devices and pre-school education for three - to - five olds. Thus for the project has trained 232 women in skill training and are now self employed and absorbed in cooperative groups.

Income earner by these women range from E108.00 (130.12 U.S Dollars) and E150.00 (180.00 US Dollars)

An important component of the project is the production of labour - saving devices using local materials. These include Solar water heaters sola food driers, stoves, wooden machines, maize grinders etc. A unit with 31 devices is used as the training and demonstration depot. The devices produced by the women cut down tremendously on cost

There is no doubt that the training given in the N.E.D.A. has created awareness and enthusiasm in the 3 years of its operation. Women in development is playing a role in motivating the community to seek solutions to their problems that are within their means.

A group of workers and rural women have been out recently to other countries for more technical skills in order to fit in the over all economic development of the country.

Being encouraged by these efforts, we hope in the coming year 1985 will have progressed to meet the desired goals of

PEACE DEVELOPMENT and EQUALITY.