



Breaking Local Finance Government Finance Gridlock

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Presentation Outline

- Introduction - Eswatini as a country
- Introduction - Ezulwini Municipality
- SDGs & Eswatini/Ezulwini Context
- Financing SDGs and our view in Ezulwini Municipality
- Conclusion

Introducing Eswatini (Formerly Swaziland)....



Source: Esri

MARK NOWLIN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

- Small landlocked country in Southern Africa bordering Republic of South Africa (3/4) and Mozambique (1/4)
- Eswatini has a land area measuring 17,363km²
 - 178 km² considered Urban
 - 17,073 recorded as rural
- Estimated population of 1,2 million Emaswati
- About 71% of people reside in non-urban areas
- Strong economic and trade links with South Africa
- Local currency (Lilangeni) pegged 1:1 to South African rand

Introducing Ezulwini Municipality....

- 3-Tier Structure in Eswatini's urban local government
 - Cities, Town Councils & Town Boards
- Ezulwini Municipality located in High-veld region between Manzini & Mbabane Cities
- Ezulwini a popular tourist destination due to beautiful scenery, luxury hotels & cultural attractions, we also have shebas breast which is a famous mountain and hiking trail
- Ezulwini is new destination for big corporate head offices – *expected future growth*
 - First National Bank
 - Eswatini Revenue Authority
 - ESSCOM
 - CBE – *recent which is the reserve bank*
- Ezulwini Municipality is committed to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Ezulwini Municipality & Sustainable Development Goals....

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



- Ezulwini...By virtue of it being an urban local authority,
- Core SDG deliverable is Goal 11 which focuses on *“making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.”*

- Ezulwini Municipality committed SDGs implementation & directly and indirectly responsible for the implementation of **14** of the 17 SDGs.

Ezulwini Municipality & Sustainable Development Goals

- Eswatini classified as a lower-middle income country
- Country vulnerable to impacts of climate change especially drought & floods
- Urban population of Eswatini grows at an average annual rate of 1.61%.
 - main challenge for Eswatini's cities and urban environments managing heavy dependence on ecosystem services, which results in the depletion and degradation of natural resources and biodiversity and the efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, while prioritizing public health service delivery and quality of life.
- United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG, September 2023), recognises that only about 15 per cent of SDGs targets are on track worldwide;
- UNDGS (2023) further paints a rather morose picture when it comes to financial support for SDG implementation - estimates that a gap of around US\$ 4.2 trillion per year for SDG implementation.
- Eswatini & Ezulwini by extension also faced challenge of limited resources to support SDGs agenda
- Ezulwini Municipality incorporates SDG implementation into its Integrated Development Plan, which is a budget based Strategic Plan
 - *Challenge with this financing model is limited resources from the budget*

Sustainable Development Goals Financing Pathways

- Local Government Finance from 3 main sources
 1. *Intergovernmental transfers - from national fiscus*
 2. *Borrowing – Urban Government Act of 1969 gives us power to borrow*
 3. *Own sources – taxes & levies etc*
- These sources have challenges & are inadequate to meet SDG financing needs
- Local governments need to tap into funds beyond conventional space for effective SDG implementation

- Municipalities can try several combinations/avenues from the International Community....for example
 1. **Green Climate Funds (GFC)** – helps countries realize their national Determined Contributions towards a low carbon economy –
 - a) GFC focus is on SDG 13 but has impact on other SDGs
 - b) Kingdom of Eswatini a beneficiary of GFC (USD 899,000) funding for green infrastructure, green open spaces & urban agriculture
 2. **Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund** – innovative pooled funding multi-partner instrument
 - a) To date funded 230 joint programmes focused on integrated social protection, stimulated over 1,000+ partnerships working together alongside the UN to support the SDGs, tested over 300 innovative solutions to accelerate the 2030 Agenda.
 3. **Public-private Partnerships** – unlocking private sector investment critical for SGD financing & PPPs offer a possible solution

Ezulwini municipality lessons

- Ezulwini municipality recently adopted its Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP)
- The Plan outlines a number of infrastructure-based interventions that have to be undertaken by Council.
 - development of continuous pedestrian walkways and cycling lanes,
 - installation of solar powered streetlights
 - construction of link roads for ease of movement and road infrastructure upgrades.
- CMP interventions are linked to SDG 11 which calls for the creation of cities and human settlements that are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Funds required for these interventions range from E 289 556 124,00 for short-term interventions to E 259 411 270,80 for long-term interventions, with a total cost for CMP implementation sitting at E 705 704 504,40 (USD 38,8m).



Recommendations

- Implementing SDGs is crucial for global progress and these are some of the recommendations for progress since SDGs are a global commitment to eradicate poverty, promote equality and leave no-one behind
- **Education and awareness** – raise awareness about SDGs among communities and stakeholders
- **Effective communication** - there is a need to translate “complex UN language” into everyday terms to be able to engage a wider audience
- **Collaboration and best practices** – share knowledge and collaborate with others to learn from successful implementation
- **Link programmes to SDGs** - align existing initiatives and programmes with specific SDGs where possible

- **Interconnected Goals** - We need to recognize that SDGs are interconnected and progress in one area can impact another
- **Innovation beyond bubbles** – Look beyond innovation silos and explore cross
- **Regional context** – acknowledge regional diversity and tailor approaches accordingly

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