

Knowledge Institutions in Africa and their development 1960-2020

eSwatini

Introduction

This report about the development of the knowledge institutions in Eswatini was made as part of the preparations for the AfricaKnows! Conference (2 December 2020 – late February 2021) in Leiden, and elsewhere, see www.africaknows.eu.



Reports like these can never be complete, and there might also be mistakes. Additions and corrections are welcome! Please send those to dietzaj@asc.leidenuniv.nl

Highlights

- 1 eSwatini's population increased from only 0.4 million inhabitants in 1960, via 0.8 million in 1990 and 1,1 million in 2020.
- 2 The adult literacy rate is quite high for African standards, 88%, with no major difference between men and women. The Mean Years of Schooling for eSwatini's adults increased from 4.2 to 6.8 years between 1990 and 2018.
- 3 The education index improved from .407 to .541 between 1990 and 2018; net primary school attendance is currently high (83%), and secondary school attendance is 42% (with girls lagging behind boys); the 'Expected Years of Schooling for children' increased from 9.6 to 11.4.
- 4 For all education variables the situation in 2000 had deteriorated compared to 1990, but afterwards the situation recovered and further improved.
- 5 Regional inequality is limited in eSwatini, and has further improved between 1990 and 2018 for all variables. Manzini Region shows the best performance, and Lubompo (and in some years Shiselweni) the worst performance. However, these 'worst' regions showed most progress.
- 6 The gross enrolment rate for higher education is only 7% and there are only ca 8,000 students in eSwatini's higher education institutions. But there are also between 2,000 and 4,000 Swazi students abroad during the last decade.
- 7 eSwatini's higher education started in 1942, and currently there are four public and three private tertiary knowledge institutions in the country, with most of those either in Manzini or in Hhohho/Mbabane. Lubompo region does not have a single tertiary knowledge institution yet.
- 8 There are only a few think tanks and museums in the country.

Part 1: The Story

Eswatini's demographic and education development

The Kingdom of eSwatini was a British colony from 1902 to 1968 under the name of Swaziland. The kingdom became independent in 1968. In 2018 the official name was changed from Kingdom of Swaziland to Kingdom of eSwatini.

eSwatini's population increased from 336,583 in 1960 to 1.1 million in mid-2020. In 1960, only 4.1% of the population lived in cities (only 13,664 people), while the urban population has increased to 30% or 347,895. eSwatini's largest city is Manzini, but the capital city is Mbabane, and the royal capital is Lobamba .

eSwatini's life expectancy increased from 42.5 years for males and 46.6 years for females in 1960 to 57.0 years for males and 65.6 years for females currently. The median age first decreased from 17.1 years in 1960 to 14.7 years in 1985. Since then, it started to increase and is presently 20.7 years. In 1960 an average woman gave birth to 6.7 live-born children, which increased to 6.9 in 1975. Since then, the fertility rate is decreasing and currently an average woman gives birth to 3.03 live-born children¹.



Source: geology.com

1 <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/swaziland-population/>

Literacy and enrolment

eSwatini's literacy rate is quite high (88% in 2018 and no major difference between adult men and adult women). Of the youth (15-24 years old) 7,015 males and 3,886 females were regarded as illiterate in 2018. For the adult population as a whole these figures are 39,469 for males and 41,960 for females.

eSwatini's population of primary school age children (6-12 years) is about 206,194 children². Education is compulsory from age 6 to age 12 (7 years). Currently, 82.5% of the primary school age group attend primary school. Children with the age to attend secondary school (13-17) are 134,493. 41.7% are attending secondary school according to the latest figures (2015): males 47% and females lagging behind at 36%. Finally, 121,274 people are in the age category to attend tertiary education (people between 18 and 22). Gross enrolment rates for tertiary education decreased from 7.7% in 2011 to 6.8% in 2013 with females at 6.6%, and males at 7.0%. This means that Eswatini currently only has ca 8,000 students in its higher education institutions. However, relatively many eSwatini students study abroad: in 2011 >4,000 and in 2017 this had diminished to 2,400³.

Regional differentiation of education results in Eswatini, 1990-2018

The information provided by the Globaldatalab about the subregional human development index, its components and its indicators (<https://globaldatalab.org/shdi>) provides data for the period between 1990 and 2018, and uses four regions. Between 1990 and 2018 the population of eSwatini as a whole increased with 139%, from 820,000 to 1.14 million, but regional differences are considerable. See table 1 in part 2: "the data". The population of Manzini, the region of the biggest city, has increased more rapidly than the other regions, and the population of the southern region, Shiselweni, almost stagnated.

The Globaldatalab provides data about the education index (one of the three indexes that together form the Human Development Index), and about two relevant indicators: mean years of schooling, showing the average education level of the adult population per region, and expected years of education, showing the expected number of years current children will attend schools.

We present the data for the years 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2018 (the latest year available at the moment). Please see tables 2-4 in part 2.

Education index

The education index of eSwatini deteriorated between 1990 and 2000, and did so in all four regions. After 2000 the situation became much better and between 1990 and 2018 the education index improved from .407 to .541 (on a 0 to 1 scale). Although the differences between the four regions are not very big, Manzini always had the best education

² <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/sz>

³ radingeconomics.com/swaziland/total-outbound-internationally-mobile-tertiary-students-studying-abroad-all-countries-both-sexes-number-wb-data.html

conditions, and Lubombo always the worst. But improvements have been most rapid in Lubombo and least rapid in Manzini, so over time the regional inequality diminished.

Mean Years of Education for Adults

The same story can be told about the indicator for education results for adults, the ‘Mean Years of Schooling’. That increased from 4.2 to 6.8 between 1990 and 2018, but it deteriorated between 1990 and 2000. The best region was again Manzini, but the improvements here were the slowest. The worst region used to be Shiselweni, but after 2000 that position has shifted to Lubombo, and Shiselweni showed the fastest improvements. As a result the regional inequality levels slightly improved.

Expected Years of Education for Children

For African standards, eSwatini’s children already had a relatively high number of ‘expected years of education’ in 1990, and regional differences were, and have always been very small. The situation first deteriorated between 1990 and 2000, and improved afterwards. For an average of 9.6 expected years of education the situation improved to 11.4 years in 2018 and there were hardly any regional differences anymore. Lubombo, the worst region in 1990 showed the fastest improvements.

Eswatini’s tertiary knowledge development

eSwatini currently has seven universities or other tertiary institutions. There are four public ones and three private ones, two of them with a religious background, see tables 5 and 6 in part 2. University education started in 1946. The number of private tertiary institutions started to grow from 1995 onwards. There are also some think tanks (in Mbabane) and museums in eSwatini (more spread out in the country). The 4icu ranking of African universities lists none of the universities in Eswatini as among the 200 top universities of Africa.

Historically the development of the number of universities is as given in the table below.

eSwatini’s universities and other tertiary institutions 1960 – 2020

Type	1960	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Public	1	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Private	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	3
Total	1	2	2	4	5	5	5	5	6	7

(Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (<https://www.4icu.org/bj/>), and <https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/>), World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); and the websites of the institutions, if available.



University of Eswatini⁴



Southern African Nazarene University⁵

Regional distribution of the public and private universities in Eswatini

Almost all tertiary institutions in eSwatini are located in or near the capital city Mbabane or the city Manzini. The only exception is Ngwane College which is located in Nhlngano in the south. See table 7.



⁴ <https://www.uneswa.ac.sz/about/contacts/>

⁵ <https://sanuswd.wordpress.com/contact-us/>

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Linzi_Lewis/publication/327744020/figure/fig1/AS:672452199854083@1537336506373/Regions-of-Swaziland-1.png

Think tanks and other knowledge institutions in eSwatini


According to the 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report, there are 5 think tanks or research institutes in eSwatini, outside the university system, but only for one of them further details have been given. See table 8 in part 2.

Museums in eSwatini

Most museums in eSwatini are historical cultural museums, and with locations in various parts of the country. We listed three of those in table 9 in part 2.

Part 2: The Data

Map and Table 1: Regions in eSwatini, and population in 1990 and 2018

Map	Region / Région	Population x 1000		'18/'90
		1990	2018	
	Hhohho	220	280	1.27
	Lubombo	170	230	1.35
	Manzini	240	420	1.75
	Shiselweni	190	200	1.05
	Total		820	1140

Source for tables 1-4: Globaldatalab, version 4.0 <https://globaldatalab.org/shdi/shdi/>

Map:

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Linzi_Lewis/publication/327744020/figure/fig1/AS:672452199854083@1537336506373/Regions-of-Swaziland-1.png

Table 2: eSwatini: Education index 1990-2018⁶

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Hhohho	422	403	507	552	1.31
Lubombo	367	351	463	501	1.37
Manzini	429	409	527	559	1.30
Shiselweni	388	371	487	527	1.36
Total	407	388	501	541	1.33
Inequality	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	

Table 3: eSwatini, Regional data for 'mean years of schooling for adults'

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Hhohho	4.6	4.2	5.9	7.2	1.57
Lubombo	3.6	3.3	4.8	5.6	1.56
Manzini	4.8	4.4	6.7	7.3	1.52
Shiselweni	3.5	3.2	4.9	6.1	1.74
Total	4.2	3.9	5.7	6.8	1.62
Inequality	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.3	

⁶ The HDI data, and its components go from 0 (worst level) to 1 (best level). We present the figures x 1000. The inequality figure is the highest value divided by the lowest value in a particular year.

Table 4: eSwatini, Regional data for ‘expected years of schooling for children’

Region	1990	2000	2010	2018	2018/1990
Hhohho	9.7	9.5	11.1	11.3	1.16
Lubombo	8.9	8.7	11.0	11.3	1.27
Manzini	9.7	9.5	10.9	11.3	1.16
Shiselweni	9.7	9.5	11.7	11.7	1.21
Total	9.6	9.3	11.2	11.4	1.19
Inequality	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	

Table 5: Public universities in eSwatini

University	Year of establishment	Location
Eswatini College of Technology (https://universitycompass.com/universities/Swaziland-College-of-Technology.php) (4icu rank: unranked)	1946	Mbabane
William Pitcher Training College (http://wpc.ac.sz/)	1962	Manzini
University of Eswatini (formerly known as University College of Swaziland (http://www.uneswa.ac.sz/) (4icu rank: 1 in Eswatini)	1982 (1976)	Kwaluseni (near Mbabane)
Ngwane College (4icu rank: unranked)	1982	Nhlangano (in Shiselweni)

(Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (<https://www.4icu.org/bj/>), and <https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/>), World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); and the websites of the institutions, if available.

Table 6: Private Universities in eSwatini

University and its website, and 4icu rank, if given	Year of establishment	Location	Religious affiliation
Limkokwing University of Creative Technology (https://www.limkokwing.net/) (4icu rank: unranked)	1991	Mbabane	No
Southern African Nazarene University (http://www.sanu.ac.sz/) (4icu rank: 2 in Eswatini)	2010	Manzini	Yes
Eswatini Medical Christian University (http://www.emcu.ac.sz/)	2019	Mbabane	Yes

(Sources: Wikipedia: Universities, 4ICU (<https://www.4icu.org/bj/>), and <https://www.4icu.org/top-universities-africa/>), World Higher Education Database (https://www.whed.net/results_institutions.php); and the websites of the institutions, if available.

Table 7: Regional distribution of the public and private universities in eSwatini, 2020

Region	Public universities	Private universities	Total universities	Number of tertiary knowledge institutions per million inhabitants
Hhohho, (Mbabane)	1	2	3	10.7
Lubombo	0	0	0	0.0
Manzini	2	1	3	7.1
Shiselweni (Nhlangano)	1	0	1	5.0
Total	4	3	7	6.1

Regions: see map and table 1, at the start of part 2

Table 8: Think tanks and other knowledge institutions in eSwatini

Think tanks AND THEIR WEBSITES IF WORKING, CHECK!	Year of establishment	Location
Swaziland Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SEPARC) (https://www.separc.co.sz/)	2008	Mbabane

(Sources; https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=think_tanks (for: 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report); <http://africathinktanks.org/think-tanks>)

Table 9: Museums in eSwatini

Museums	websites	Location
Ezulwini Handicrafts Centre	http://afrotourism.com/activity/ezulwini-handicrafts-centre/	Ezulwini Valley
Indingilizi Gallery	https://www.wander.am/travel/mbabane-58773/places/indingilizi-gallery-110846	Mbabane
Swaziland Cultural Village	https://www.tripadvisor.nl/Attraction_Review-g297900-d480129-Reviews-Swazi_Cultural_Village-Manzini_Manzini_District.html	Manzini

(source: Wikipedia: Museums, and other sources, like <https://www.arts-store.com/mus%C3%A9es-museums-world-1/>). Not included: cultural centres

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