Gender Country Profile

Swaziland

General

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MALES</th>
<th>FEMALES</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population under 15</td>
<td>260,507</td>
<td>254,811</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total population over 15</td>
<td>465,996</td>
<td>469,934</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All data from CIA, 2017*

Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health</th>
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<th>FEMALES</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live birth</td>
<td>389</td>
<td></td>
<td>2015 est.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births</td>
<td>50.4</td>
<td></td>
<td>2016 est.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births</td>
<td>65.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2012 UN Statistics, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births</td>
<td>55.9</td>
<td></td>
<td>2012 UN Statistics, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births attended by a skilled health professional</td>
<td>88</td>
<td></td>
<td>2014 WHO, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy for men</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2016 est.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy for women</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
<td>2016 est.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All data from UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2017*

Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>MALES</th>
<th>FEMALES</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth literacy rate, ages 15-24</td>
<td>93.53%</td>
<td>96.02%</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate, ages 15+</td>
<td>87.44%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net enrolment rate in primary education</td>
<td>79.79%</td>
<td>79.44%</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education</td>
<td>66.25%</td>
<td>65.8%</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education</td>
<td>5.19%</td>
<td>5.47%</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All data from UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2017*

- Female graduates from tertiary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 18.4%
- Female teachers in primary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 70.8%
- Female teachers in secondary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 47.5%
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**Economic Activity**
- Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (2016) (World Bank, 2017): 63.6%
- Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (2016) (World Bank, 2017): 39.7%
- Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution, or with a money mobile service provider (2011) (UN Statistics, 2017): 36.66%

**Decision-Making**
- Proportion of seats held by women in National Parliament (2016) (World Bank, 2017): 6%

**Human Rights**
- Girls married before 15 (UNICEF, 2016): 1%
- Females married between 15 and 19 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 7%
- Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2016): Insufficient data
- Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during the last 12 months (UN Women, 2016): Insufficient data

**Health**
Swaziland has the highest HIV prevalence in the world, with 28.8% of their adult population living with HIV (AVERT, 2016).

Approximately one-third (33 per cent) of HIV infected pregnant women in Swaziland do not have access to prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services. As a result, HIV prevalence among pregnant women has steadily increased in the country since 1992 from 3.9% to 37% in 2013 (WHO, 2014; AVERT, 2016).

After implementation of PMTCT services in 2014/15, UNAIDS reported that 95% of pregnant women living with HIV received antiretroviral treatment. In the same year, less than 500 children (aged 0-14 years) were newly infected with HIV, compared to 1600 in 2010 (AVERT, 2016).

**Education**
A UNGEI report on Swaziland notes that “although there are more female teachers than males, there are more male head teachers; this absence of female role models in leadership positions may impact girls’ perceptions of their own abilities” (UNGEI, n.d.).

A 2015 report by UNICEF notes that current literacy rates for the country stand above 90%. However, the same report also points out that one of the key issues to be addressed by the
Ministry beyond 2015 will be to develop specific literacy and numeracy proficiency standards, which may then inform assessments undertaken during the national census surveys (UNICEF, 2015, p. 62).

**Economy**
Approximately 31% of the population in Swaziland is employed, with 40% of males and 24% females employed. Most women are found in the informal sector, mainly in micro-enterprises and in agricultural and food production sectors; participation of women in non-agricultural wage employment remains low (WHO, 2014).

**Governance**
Women’s representation in Swaziland remains low; representation has fluctuated from about 8% in the 7th parliament (1998 - 2003) to 20% in the 8th parliament (2003 - 2008) and then declined to about 14.5% in the 9th parliament (2008 - 2013) and a slight decline to 14% in the current parliament (2014 - 2018) (UN Swaziland, n.d.).

**Human Rights**
Around 12% of women aged 15-49 years are in a polygamous marriage. Females getting married at a younger age is also fairly common; 9% of women now aged 20-49 were married by the time they were 18, and 1.3% were married by the age of 15 (AVERT, 2016).

**Swaziland SDG Progress Profile**
- Swaziland is currently ranked 116th for overall performance under the SDGs, with a median rank of 107th.
- Swaziland has ranked 148th in the UN’s 2015 Gender Inequality Index (GII) (UNDP, 2015).

**SDG 4: Achieve universal access to affordable and quality education at all levels.** (Data retrieved from SDG indicator profiles, 2016)
- Expected years of schooling (years): 11.3 (significant challenges remain)
- Literacy rate of 15-24 years old (%): 93.5 (significant challenges remain)
- Net primary school enrolment rate (%): 84.7 (major challenges must be overcome)

**SDG 5: Achieve gender equality, protect and empower women, the youth and persons in vulnerable situations.**
(Data retrieved from SDG indicator profiles, 2016)
- Women in national parliaments (%): 6.2 (major challenges must be overcome)
- Female years of schooling (% male): 109.7 (SDG threshold met)
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- Female labor force participation (% male): Insufficient data
- Unmet demand for contraceptives (%): 22.7 (significant challenges remain)

Violence and abuse are major concerns affecting women and children. Approximately one in three females experienced some form of sexual violence as a child and one in four females experienced physical violence as a child (UDAF, 2015).
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References


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