



## Mdumezulu Community Lubombo Region

### Introduction

The agenda is accomplished by the Women and Youth Project which is funded by the European Union, implemented by COSPE in partnership with Gcama Mfati, Luvatsi, Kwakha Indvodza and Swaziland Community multimedia network. This agenda elaboration was conducted in 10 communities within the Lubombo and Shiselweni Regions. This activity was carried out with 10 groups from the 10 communities, a combination of both women and youth participants, all together there were 248 participants.

The agenda elaboration intends to raise issues that the participants deem to be issues of concern in their different communities. Issues that are barriers to their economic and social freedom. Issues that are relevant to rural women and youth, in order to participate and contribute to the development of their communities while reinforcing effective mechanisms for women and youths' rights to promotion, participation and representation at all levels. It is in this context, that the groups were able to elaborate this Agenda on the different major problems that the members (women & youth) face in their communities. Aside from the issues, possible solutions and different actors thought to be implicated in the following up of the agenda are also described in the document.

### Seven(7) Issues identified.

#### 1. Poor road infrastructure

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Solution</u>	<u>Actors</u>
Difficulty to transport our products to customers and it becomes difficult for customers to reach our production sites.	Raise a community fund/trust where each family contributes monthly and funds will be used to construct roads through community meetings seeking advice from developed communities where proper roads have been constructed.	Bucopho, CDC, Ministry of works and transport, Inner council, Inkhundla council



## 2. Lack of support for businesses

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Solution</u>	<u>Actors</u>
There is under population within the community due to lack of government basic facilities like schools, health centers and the like thus local people are bound to relocate and support distant businesses. If rather the schools were built locally everyone contributed towards the building of the school with the promise to give preference of tenders to the local suppliers.	Training community members about business empowerment and encouraging them to understand what impact they share by supporting local businesses in their community to be a developed one.	Community members, Community leaders, Developed business owners

## 3. Poor water and sanitation

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Solution</u>	<u>Actors</u>
No rivers in the community make it difficult to have consumable water or even and conduct agricultural business e.g. gardening and rearing poultry.	Water harvesting using tanks, available tanks to be fixed or reconstructed. Monitoring of wet lands.	CDC, Rural water, EWSC, Water aid, Land development, Bucopho, Geology, inner council.



#### 4. Lack of business knowledge

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Solution</u>	<u>Actors</u>
Less engagement in business empowerment activities happening in the community	Invite Non-Governmental Organizations for more business trainings, build networks with successful business owners to get information on how to a business.	NGOs, Ministry of education, Media, other developed

#### 5. Difficulty to access business funds

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Solution</u>	<u>Actors</u>
Long and tedious processes/protocol and too much information required in order to access the funds e.g. surety and their application forms are complicated.	Invite funding institutions to come in our community to teach on how they can easily get funds and also ease the requirements to grant their funds	Youth fund, Bucopho, Inner council, MP, Banks. Other funding institutions.

#### 6. Poverty and hunger

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Solution</u>	<u>Actors</u>
climate change	Engage in agricultural programs that teach about how to fight climate change. Formation of youth organizations.	Community leaders, Eswatini Environmental Authority, Ministry of Tourism, youth council, youth



### 7. Difficulty in business registration

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Solution</u>	<u>Actors</u>
Similarities of the laws when registering small or established businesses and companies, hinders smaller businesses to acquire trading licenses, due to high fees.	Business should be categorized. The Ministry of Commerce should visit communities to educate them on business registration and the business costs should differ.	Ministry of Commerce and Trade. CDC, Constituency.