

# Mapping the Growth of MSMEs in Eswatini:

2023 Blended FinScope Survey Making Good Progress



**ESEPARC**

ESWATINI ECONOMIC POLICY  
ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH CENTRE



**The 2023 Blended MSME FinScope Survey in Eswatini is a crucial initiative to comprehensively understand the financial landscape and access to financial services for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country.**



The Centre for Financial Inclusion (CFI) together with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade, in partnership with Eswatini Economic Policy Analysis and Research Centre (ESEPARC) and the Central Statistical Office (CSO), is conducting a comprehensive survey to better understand the financial landscape and access to financial services for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country. This survey, known as the FinScope Survey, is a global initiative developed by FinMark Trust (FMT) in South Africa and is conducted in over 30 countries worldwide.

The previous FinScope Survey in Eswatini was conducted in 2017/18, and now, five years later, it is time to measure the progress made since then. With MSMEs playing a vital role in the country's economy, providing employment and income for a large part of the population, it is important to understand their interaction with financial services and how financial inclusion contributes to the growth of the sector.

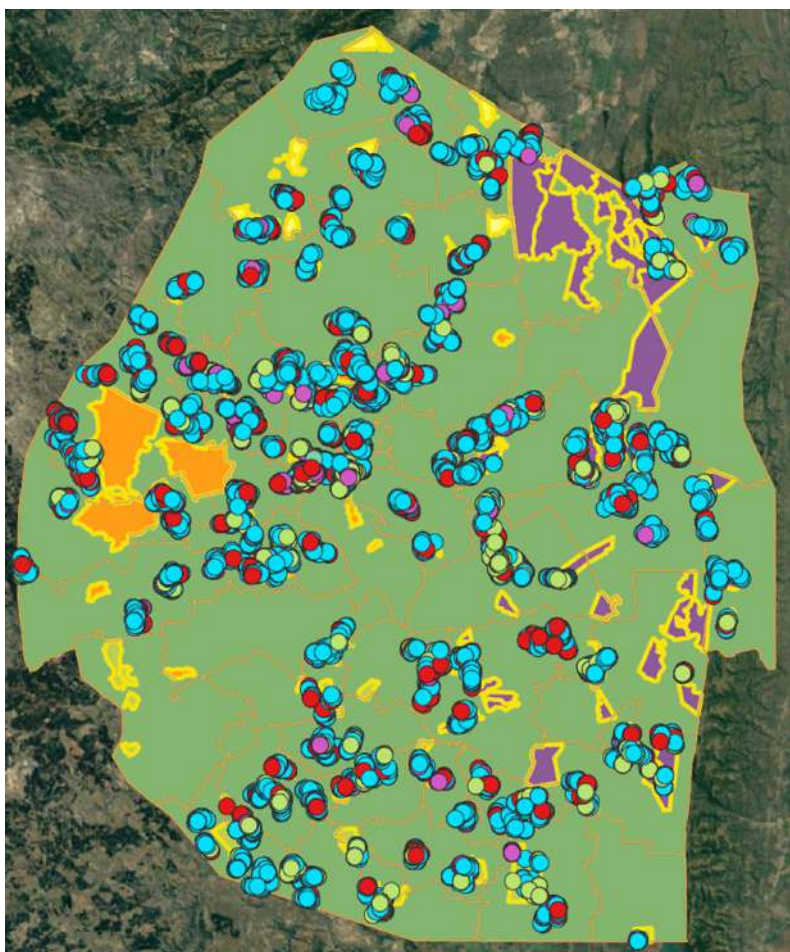
The 2023 Blended MSME FinScope Survey is being implemented in two phases. The first phase, currently underway, is a listing exercise to build a comprehensive list of MSME businesses in Eswatini. A total of 320 Enumeration Areas (EA) have been selected for this exercise, targeting areas with a high probability of hosting MSMEs. Data collection involves visiting households and MSME business structures in these areas to determine the number of people who own businesses at household level and or have business structures in their homes or commercial/trading spaces.

The aim of this exercise is to gather quality data and have a thorough understanding of the type of businesses owned by MSMEs in Eswatini. This will help identify their specific financial service needs and track the growth of the sector. The CFI emphasises the importance of accurate and up-to-date information to inform policy decisions and drive the development and growth of MSMEs in the country by enhancing the level of financial inclusion.

The FinScope Survey is a powerful tool that has been used globally to measure financial inclusion and access to financial services. Its results provide valuable insights into the financial landscape and the impact of different policies and initiatives on the growth of the sector. With the 2023 Blended MSME FinScope Survey, Eswatini is once again taking important steps towards promoting financial inclusion and supporting the development of its MSMEs.



<b>Do you currently run/ own a business or does anyone own a business in the household/business unit?</b>	<b>Freq</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1. Diplomat	14	0%
2. <b>No, no-one owns a business</b>	21,064	62%
3. No one in the household	3,041	9%
4. Refused, do not want to participate in Survey	291	1%
5. Respondent is willing to do an interview, but is not available today	35	0%
6. Yes, someone owns a business in household or business structure in commercial/trade space	9,263	27%
<b>Total Households and Business Structures visited in Phase one</b>	<b>33,708</b>	<b>100%</b>



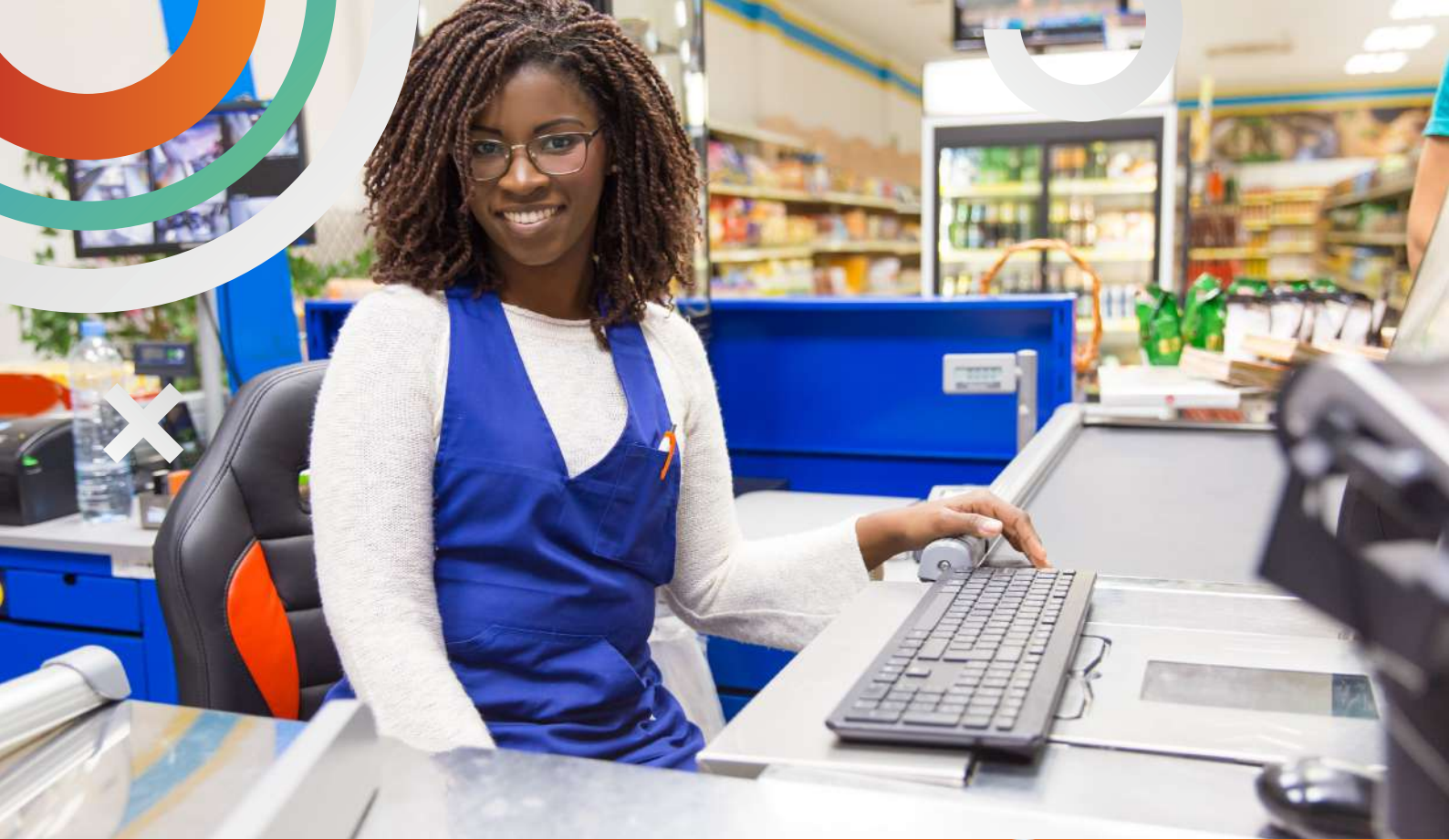
### MAP OF ESWATINI SHOWING PROGRESS MADE IN PHASE ONE: THE LISTED EAs

Households and Business Entities are requested to open their doors to ESEPARC data collectors as they visit their establishments to conduct the Survey. Much appreciation to the households and businesses that have opened their doors and allowed the data collectors to do the listing.

Phase two will commence soon where 3,500 in-depth interviews will be conducted with the select business owners in the 320 EAs across the country to study much more deeply the issues that affect MSME business growth as well as examine access to and use of financial services available in the Eswatini economy.







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Generating Evidence,  
Shaping Decisions.



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