



Highlights

- Due to lack of funds, March 2018 marked the last distributions for the Food by Prescription Project.
- Assistance to Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) reached 55,500 beneficiaries in April 2018, which is more than planned as additional children were found to be attending NCPs during school closure.
- WFP's PEPFAR funded project distributed the final rations for the project.

WFP Country Strategy

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Swaziland Country Strategic Plan (Jan 2018-June 2019)	8.14 m	4.09 m	1.36 m
Strategic Outcome 1: Improved Nutrition	3.45 m	186,000	1.14 m
Strategic Outcome 2: Social Protection	4.69 m	3.9 m	223,771

*Jan 2018 – June 2018

GENDER MARKER 2A

Strategic Outcome 1: Children under five, ART, TB and PMTCT clients in Swaziland have improved nutritional status in line with National Targets by 2022

Strategic Outcome 2: The National Social Protection System in Swaziland is able to target and assist the most food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations throughout the year, including in response to shocks.

Operational Updates

HIV and Nutrition:

WFP provides assistance to people living with HIV and TB through the Food by Prescription programme. The programme offers nutrition assessments, counselling and support services to malnourished clients receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART), treatment for TB, or the prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) services, as well as support to their families through a monthly household ration. Due to lack of funds, food assistance through the Food by Prescription Project was halted in March 2018.

WFP and the Government aim to improve treatment and recovery outcomes by mainstreaming nutrition into HIV and TB support services.

WFP is the implementing partner for a USAID PEPFAR project following the drought, which focuses on nutrition intervention targeting people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children.

In April, WFP distributed the last of the rations and May will entail monitoring and close of project activities.

Social protection for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC):

WFP provides a social safety net for young orphans and vulnerable children in the form of nutritious on-site meals reaching 52,000 orphans and vulnerable children under eight years of age who attend neighbourhood care points (NCPs), many of whom live with relatives or in child-headed households.

NCPs provide a safe place for boys and girls to equally access food and basic social services, such as early childhood education, psycho-social support and basic health services.

WFP also trains caregivers at the NCPs on commodity management and good nutrition practices, as well as messaging on gender and protection issues.

In Numbers

About **177,000** people will be food insecure during the peak of the lean season

58,261
People Assisted
April 2018



Operational Updates Continued

Drought Recovery and Food Security:

- The food security situation in Swaziland has not fully recovered following the 2016/2017 El Niño drought emergency.
- In addition, the country recently experienced several shocks negatively impacting the agricultural sector and therefore food security. The experienced shocks included:
 1. Prolonged dry spells coupled with extremely high temperatures resulting in poor plant growth and crop failure in some areas
 2. Hailstorm and flooding in some areas resulting in crop damage
 3. Severe crop damage from the Fall Armyworm has been identified in the northern part of the country; however, more areas susceptible to possible outbreaks.
- For the 2017/2018 lean season, pockets of food insecurity remain, particularly affecting most vulnerable groups, such as the poor and very poor, including households with orphans and vulnerable children mostly in the South-Eastern part of the country.
- Results of pre-harvest assessment indicate that the country will have less than normal harvest and product will be below national requirements due to delayed start of agriculture season and fall army worm that affected the 2017/18 agriculture season.

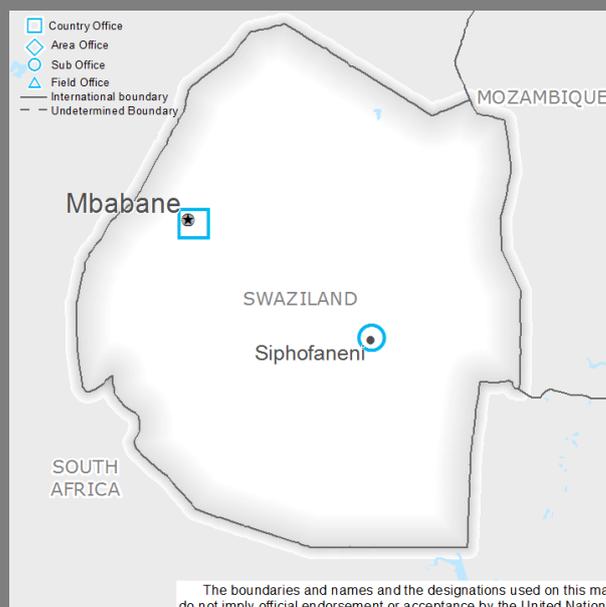
WFP Swaziland Strategic Engagement:

- The Government of Swaziland has launched the Zero Hunger Strategic Review exercise aimed at developing a roadmap to achieve SDG2: end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. An interim Country Strategic Plan has been devised to align with Government priorities.
- WFP is discussing the provision of technical assistance to the Government in developing a Home-Grown School Feeding pilot.

Challenges

- **Economic Forecast:** Economic growth in the country has remained constrained since the 2015/2016 drought, with a 2017 projection of 1.9 percent and a 2018 projection of 1.3 percent. This is also affected by Swaziland's dependency on SACU revenue, which has been reduced.
- The predicted increases in commodity prices such as fuel, water and electricity will likely cause increases in food prices.

Country Background



Despite its status as a lower middle-income country, 63 percent of Swazis lives below the national poverty line. Swaziland has a very high HIV prevalence, affecting 26 percent of the population between the ages of 15-49. Life expectancy is 49 years, and 45 percent of children are orphaned or vulnerable. Chronic malnutrition is a main concern in Swaziland: stunting affects 26 percent of children under five. Swaziland is vulnerable to drought in the south east. An estimated 77 percent of Swazis rely on subsistence farming for their livelihoods.

WFP's strategic priorities in Swaziland are to improve food security and livelihoods of the most vulnerable people affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty. WFP assists the Government in providing nutrition assessment, counselling, and support to people living with HIV/AIDS, TB, and pregnant and nursing women, while also supporting their families.

Additionally, WFP supports the Government in providing safety nets for young orphans and vulnerable children. WFP's technical assistance contributes to developing comprehensive strategies to address child undernutrition, particularly to prevent stunting. All WFP projects aim to support Government capacity to manage food and nutrition security interventions.

Population: **1.1 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
148 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **26% of children between 6-59 months**

Donors for 2018

South Africa, Multilateral Funds, Japan