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Further Information

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SPR Reading Guidance



Emergency Assistance to Vulnerable Households Affected by El Niño Induced Drought in Swaziland
Standard Project Report 2016

World Food Programme in Swaziland, Kingdom of (SZ)



World Food Programme

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Table Of Contents

Country Context and WFP Objectives

Country Context

Response of the Government and Strategic Coordination

Summary of WFP Operational Objectives

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

Achievements at Country Level

Supply Chain

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

Project Objectives and Results

Project Objectives

Project Activities

Operational Partnerships

Performance Monitoring

Results/Outcomes

Story Worth Telling

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

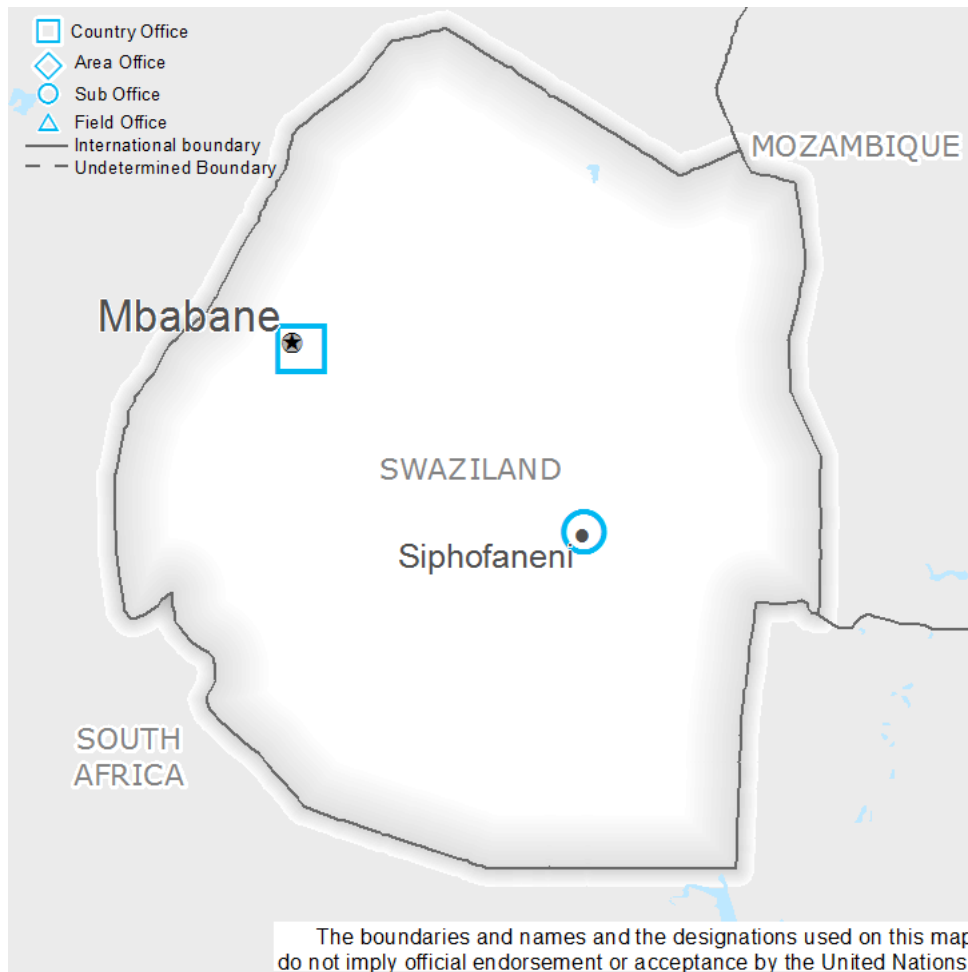
Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Resource Inputs from Donors

Country Context and WFP Objectives



Country Context

The Kingdom of Swaziland has a population of 1.1 million people and ranks 150 out of 188 in the 2015 Human Development Index. Despite its status as a lower middle-income country, 63 percent of Swazis live 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 major concern in Swaziland: stunting affects 26 percent of children under five years. Among children under 5 years, 2 percent are wasted and 6 percent are underweight. The Cost of Hunger in Swaziland report found that 3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is lost annually to child malnutrition.

Swaziland is ranked 128 out of 188 countries in the Gender Inequality Index. Factors contributing to increased vulnerability among women and girls include poor access to income generating opportunities and social services; and gender-based violence.

Swaziland is also vulnerable to drought, primarily in the south-east and nearly 77 percent of Swazis rely on subsistence farming for their livelihoods. In 2015/16, Southern Africa experienced the driest agricultural season of the past 35 years as a result of the El Niño phenomenon. Swaziland was one of the countries in the region hardest hit by the drought. The exceptional lack of precipitation, compounded by the impact of poor rainfall the previous year, resulted in significant losses of rain-fed yields, underperforming irrigated crops, and poor pasture conditions. This has contributed to an increasingly vulnerable situation, with food insecurity affecting over 30 percent of the Swazi population and 350,000 people in need of food assistance.

Gross domestic product (GDP) growth decelerated from 6.5 percent in the early 1990s, decreasing to an estimated 1.3 percent in 2016, significantly below the targeted 5 percent annual average growth rate. Significant reduction of revenues from the Southern Africa Custom Union (SACU) in 2016 and the depreciation of the South Africa's Rand to which the Swaziland Lilangeni is pegged have negatively affected the economic outlook of the country.

Response of the Government and Strategic Coordination

WFP is cognizant of the priorities of the Government of Swaziland as enshrined in its National Development Strategy (NDS), the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Programme (PRSAP); therefore programmes are designed and are aligned with national development plans and the UNDAF (2016-2020); and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As a result of the high prevalence rate of HIV in the country, the Government is committed to enrolling and retaining clients on anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and tuberculosis (TB) treatment, part of the country's development goal of improving life expectancy from 49 years to 60 years. As a strategy to support access and adherence to HIV treatment, nutrition has been prioritized in the extended Multi-sectoral National Strategic Framework for HIV and AIDS (eNSF) under the strategic programme interventions for people living with HIV (PLHIV). It is also a key activity in the National Health Sector Strategic Plan II. WFP's nutrition interventions build on current assistance in the national HIV response, with the aim to support nutrition services to strengthen adherence to ART and TB treatment, emphasizing further decentralization and integration into health services.

Swaziland is part of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement and has recognized chronic malnutrition as one of the primary development challenges. Under the Government Programme of Action (2013-2018) and Swaziland Development Index, stunting reduction targets have been set. WFP is a leading partner in developing the capacity of the Government to address childhood undernutrition and is the country SUN multilateral convener. In collaboration with other United Nations (UN) agencies, WFP supported the Government in developing a comprehensive national Stunting Action Plan, including a Nutrition Advocacy and Communications Strategy that lay out concrete actions to strengthen the multi-sectoral approach to mother and child nutrition. WFP also supported the development of the National Food and Nutrition Policy. Efforts towards the country's development goal of reducing stunting to 10 percent by 2022, has started to produce results - in four years, the stunting rate for children under five reduced by almost five percent, from 30.9 percent in 2010 to 25.5 percent in 2014.

In the coordination of humanitarian action, the Government of Swaziland, through the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), has the primary role in the initiation, coordination, and implementation of humanitarian assistance in the country. The NDMA, in collaboration with the humanitarian community in the country, has adopted a sectoral approach as the coordination structure for all emergencies, and the framework is articulated in the National Multi-Hazards Contingency Plan.

For effective coordination of the drought response, an inter-sectoral coordination platform to facilitate bi-weekly inter-cluster coordination meetings was put in place, chaired by the NDMA and co-chaired by the UN. In response to the El Niño induced drought, a state of emergency was declared in February 2016 and the Government launched the National Emergency Response Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (NERMAP) and requested financial and technical support to implement the plan.

Within the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) humanitarian action is coordinated by the Resident Coordinator supported by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, to ensure synergy among humanitarian actors. For the purposes of the drought response, a drought UN Technical Working Group is in place for joint planning and review of activities and is chaired by WFP.

Summary of WFP Operational Objectives

The drought emergency coincided with WFP's initiative to review its strategic direction in Swaziland, mainly focusing on the provision of technical assistance to the Government to achieve full national ownership of food and nutrition security initiatives. While this strategic shift remains a priority for WFP in Swaziland, the occurrence of the drought required WFP to prioritize the emergency response. Since the start of the crisis, WFP supported the national response leveraging on its strengths by providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable groups affected by the El Niño induced drought as well as providing support in the endeavor to understand the impact of the drought through various assessments.

In 2016, WFP's programmatic priorities in Swaziland focused on emergency assistance to drought-affected people, as well as to improve food security and livelihoods of the most vulnerable people affected by HIV and AIDS and

poverty. WFP assisted the Government in providing:

- Nutrition assessments, counseling, and support to people living with HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), as well as, pregnant and lactating women with moderate acute malnutrition, while also supporting their families with a monthly household ration.
- WFP supported the Government to provide safety nets for young orphans and vulnerable children.
- WFP's technical assistance contributed to developing comprehensive strategies to address child undernutrition, particularly to prevent stunting.

All WFP projects aimed to support the Government's capacity to manage food and nutrition security interventions, with the objective to gradually hand over food and nutrition initiatives to the Government of Swaziland.

During the reporting period, WFP implemented:

Immediate Response Emergency Operation: IR-EMOP 200954 (April 2016 – July 2016), was launched to provide emergency assistance to the most vulnerable households affected by the El Niño induced drought with targeted general distributions (GD) through in-kind food distribution. The project was the precursor as WFP was preparing for the full-scale response through the EMOP which was launched in June 2016.

Emergency Operation: EMOP 200974 (June 2016 – April 2017), provides emergency assistance to the most vulnerable households affected by the El Niño induced drought with targeted general distributions (GD) through in-kind food and cash-based transfers (CBT). The project supports the Government's response under the National Emergency Response Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (NERMAP) and aims at improving and stabilize household food consumption for drought-affected groups. Secondly, the EMOP supported the strengthening of the national Early Warning, Disaster Management and Response and Food Security Monitoring systems and the capacity of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

Development project: DEV 200353 (January 2012 – June 2017) implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Health, assisted PLHIV, TB, and pregnant and lactating women while also supporting their families, by providing nutrition assessments with care and support services. It contributed to improving the quality of life for these clients by improving their nutritional recovery, treatment success and survival rate. WFP also provides support to their families through a monthly household ration consisting of maize, pulses and vegetable oil to complement the client support and help families cope with the costs of care. It also aims at capacity strengthening of the Ministry of Health and the Swaziland National Nutrition Council (SNNC) with the view to handing over the implementation of the project in the future. Capacity development efforts focus on project management, monitoring and reporting, storage and inventory management.

Development project: DEV 200422 (November 2012 – December 2017) provides nutritious meals to orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in pre-school age attending community-led day care centres called neighbourhood care points (NCPs), across the country. The project aims to increase OVC access to nutritious food and basic social services, such as early childhood education, psychosocial support and basic health services provided at the NCPs. It also aims to strengthen the capacity of the Government to provide assistance to OVC with the prospect of eventually handing over the project. In consideration of the increased needs as consequence of the drought, the Government of Swaziland has requested WFP to continue the project.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

In 2016, WFP's operations in Swaziland expanded significantly due to the emergency response to assist the most vulnerable populations affected by the El Niño induced drought. WFP simultaneously maintained its on-going development projects (DEVs). The fast expansion of operations brought considerable funding challenges. However, WFP was able to diversify the overall donor base compared to previous years.

WFP immediately started advocating for funding to the emergency response and it managed to mobilize resources from pooled funding mechanisms specialized in rapid response, including the United Nations' Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). This enabled WFP to launch an immediate response operation (IR-EMOP) in May 2016 that assisted the most vulnerable people before scaling up through the main emergency operation (EMOP).

A majority of donor contributions were confirmed in the second half of the year enabling WFP to procure food commodities for delivery in the third and fourth quarters of the year. Due to donor flexibility and a conducive local context, WFP was able to introduce cash-based transfers (CBT) under the EMOP in addition to in-kind food distributions, which enabled WFP to tailor its response to more efficiently meet the needs of the people it served in targeted locations. WFP was also able to attract funding from non-traditional donors for the two development projects.

In October 2016, WFP received a request from the Government of Swaziland to provide assistance to an additional 100,000 people during the lean season, increasing the number of people who required assistance by WFP under the EMOP to 250,000 people. To address the increased requirement, WFP advocated for additional resources, by engaging in further dialogue with the donor community, arranging donor visits and producing additional advocacy and visibility material.

While the increased resource mobilization efforts did attract some additional funding, WFP was unable to scale up as per planned projections by December 2016. To account for the growing needs during the lean season, even with reduced resources WFP increased the number of beneficiaries reached by food distributions in December by 22 percent. The number of beneficiaries planned to be reached through cash-based transfers was significantly increased, however, due to limited resources the expansion of assistance through CBT was not possible by December 2016.

In order to address the constrained resources on the development project 200353, WFP prioritized and was able to maintain the provision of nutritious specialized food, Super Cereal, to malnourished clients throughout the year; while the distribution of the household food ration were temporary on hold from July to October.

Limited resources were available in 2016 for development project 200422, and the assistance to OVC had to be halted in May. However, joint resource mobilization efforts from the government and WFP have resulted in positive response from the donor community and WFP plans to resume activities in early 2017.

The categorization of Swaziland as a lower middle-income country and the limited presence of donors in the country poses challenges for resource mobilization efforts. However, WFP applied a number of mitigation actions to reduce this risk: it strengthened its resource mobilization strategy and engaged in further dialogue with non-traditional donors to WFP Swaziland, identifying funding opportunities that allowed for the implementation of both food and cash-based transfers.

WFP with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and Delivering as One, started rolling out a Business Operational Strategy (BOS). The BOS is a framework guiding UN business operations at the country level by eliminating the duplication of processes within business operations. It facilitates the strategic planning, management, monitoring and reporting of the UNCT's joint support to programme delivery through common business operations to support delivery of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

While the framework will make most headway in 2017, some improvements have already taken place in 2016. For example, Information Technology (IT) services have established an inter-agency IT backup support (IT Support provided to other agencies in case of absence of focal IT personnel) and have implemented a common communications infrastructure (new common fibre link for faster internet access at affordable rates).

Achievements at Country Level

WFP focused on supporting the delivery of national development goals by strengthening food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable people, particularly those facing challenges of food insecurity, chronic malnutrition, and HIV. WFP's long-term objective in the country is to transition from a partner supporting direct implementation to a strengthened advocacy and advisory role. In 2016, however, with the widespread impact of the El Niño induced drought, WFP provided large-scale emergency assistance to drought-affected people, while simultaneously maintaining the ongoing development projects.

In response to the El Niño induced drought WFP was able to swiftly expand interventions and collaborate effectively with partners and donors. WFP was able to provide emergency assistance for up to 152,967 people affected by the drought, of which 30,879 people received cash-based transfers (CBT). This was the first time WFP introduced CBT in its operations in Swaziland, and its successful implementation can be attributed to strong partnerships forged with implementing partners and service providers, and a conducive context with well-functioning local markets in the areas where cash transfers were provided. By the end of the year, WFP improved and stabilized household food consumption considerably for drought affected people.

DEV 200353 and DEV 200422 combined 74,212 vulnerable people were reached with nutritious foods. In addition, WFP enhanced the Government's capacity to manage food and nutrition interventions, including food security assessments and monitoring and emergency preparedness and response. WFP also continued to build the capacity of the Ministry of Health to integrate nutrition services into Swaziland's maternal and child health services by providing technical assistance, management, coordination and monitoring of the Food by Prescription programme.

WFP's achievements in 2016 demonstrated emergency response readiness while simultaneously supporting capacity strengthening with local partners to eventually transition food and nutrition security interventions to the government. Despite operational limitations, particularly for the DEV projects, funding challenges were met with a strong resource mobilization strategy that diversified overall funding for WFP's activities in Swaziland.

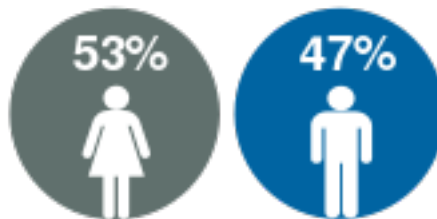
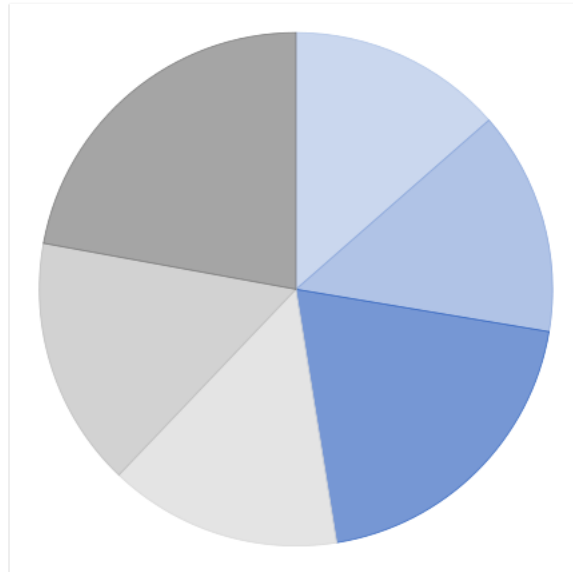


Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	30,772	33,311	64,083
Children (5-18 years)	32,025	35,783	67,808
Adults (18 years plus)	45,015	50,273	95,288
Total number of beneficiaries in 2016	107,812	119,367	227,179

Country Beneficiaries by Gender and Age

- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)
- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)



Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Development Project	744	5	10	439	-	1,198
Single Country EMOP	5,426	571	1,248	-	-	7,245
Single Country IR-EMOP	785	71	175	-	-	1,031
Total Food Distributed in 2016	6,956	646	1,433	439	-	9,474

Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Single Country EMOP	610,510	-	-
Total Distributed in 2016	610,510	-	-

Supply Chain

Swaziland is a net importer of food commodities and produces less than its total cereal requirements. This was particularly accentuated in 2016 due to the El Niño induced drought, maize production was 64 percent lower than the previous year and lowest recorded in decades.

In 2016, WFP procured in total 11,422 mt of commodities for operations. In addition to direct procurement processes, WFP's Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) was utilized, to access pre-positioned reserves in the Southern Africa region. WFP reduced the lead time for procurement and receipt of food commodities as well as supporting procurement at competitive prices, hence maximizing the available resources. In 2016, WFP procured 85 percent of food through the GCMF. To guarantee the food safety and quality, independent food inspection companies were appointed to conduct quality inspections of the food in the country of origin.

Swaziland is a landlocked country hence, regional and international procured commodities enter through neighbouring countries. Good road networks facilitated efficient transport of food to storage facilities and WFP used external contractors for transportation of food commodities. WFP has one main warehouse, located in Siphofaneni, in the Lubombo region.

Due to the expansion of WFP's emergency operations in 2016 the country office procured more than three times the commodities compared to the previous year. WFP successfully handled the rapid expansion of operations, by introducing improvements to its storage management system and infrastructure. Storage capacity was increased by 20 percent and improvements were made to the quality of the storage tents by replacing five units and repairing two to avoid water leakage; the accessibility to the storage units was improved, and the handling capacity increased by doubling the number of trucks that can be loaded or offloaded at any one time.

Under development project (DEV) 200353, WFP delivered food commodities to health facilities with secure storage spaces. Assistance to orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), through DEV 200422 was provided through many small distribution sites called neighbourhood care points (NCPs), throughout the country. This capillary distribution allowed WFP to reach national coverage, this mode of operating posed transportation challenges, as some NCPs are remote, hard to reach and have limited on-site storage capacities, requiring WFP to deliver a maximum of two months requirements at any one time.

In 2016, WFP minimized delays in deliveries by strengthening coordination between transporters, WFP warehouse and field monitoring staff, to identify and maintain solutions for timely food deliveries.

Efforts to increase supply chain efficiency and reducing costs included:

- The introduction of a new contract system which allowed WFP to use more transporters per location thus mitigating the risk of relying on the availability of only one transporter;
- The engagement of a new handling company at the warehouse that introduced an automated conveyor system for loading and off-loading of consignment in boxes, such as vegetable oil, significantly reducing handling time and potential damages to the packaging of commodities with the manual system;
- The regular review of expenditure and availability of resources for transport, storage, and handling.

Good working relations with contracted transporters as well as good food handling practices by WFP ensured that food reached beneficiaries in timely and safe manner. In 2016, WFP Swaziland recorded insignificant post-delivery losses, of less than 0.01 percent. To maintain good overall handling of commodities, the country office conducted training with cooperating partners and staff managing food at health facilities and neighbourhood care points. Training included information sessions on standard operating procedures for first in, first out (FIFO) storage practices and offered technical support to improve logistics planning for food commodities during provision of assistance.

In 2016, WFP introduced cash-based transfers (CBT) for the first time in its programme operations. WFP conducted assessments to expand its knowledge base of the financial services, mobile payments and banking platforms that are available in the country and could possibly be used for cash interventions. Thanks to recommendations from these assessments, WFP was able to select the most cost-effective option for delivery of CBT in terms of beneficiary reach. The selected service provider facilitated distribution of cash to beneficiaries through e-money cash accounts, allowing people to receive money from local mobile money agents in their communities as opposed to having to travel longer distances to bank facilities. This delivery mechanism also mitigated against risks involved with physical handling of cash. To mitigate the risk that limited expertise and insufficient human resources at country level to implement the CBT, WFP staff received targeted training on CBT and shared knowledge with its cooperating partners. Technical support was leveraged from the expertise available at regional and headquarters level.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Beans	-	73	73
Corn Soya Blend	-	143	143
Maize	-	1,155	1,155
Peas	-	102	102
Vegetable Oil	-	204	204
Total	-	1,677	1,677
Percentage	-	100.0%	

Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

Commodity	Total
Beans	92
Corn Soya Blend	100
Maize	7,306
Peas	1,654
Vegetable Oil	592
Total	9,745

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

In 2016, WFP commissioned a centralized operation evaluation of Development Project (DEV) 200353, Food by Prescription (FBP), with the purpose to provide accountability and learning for the future design and implementation of the project. The evaluation completed by an external evaluation firm in September 2016 provided an independent overview of the impact of the operation. The project review indicated positive results overall, it also provided recommendations on areas that can be improved. The evaluation acknowledged that WFP is the only development partner with experience and know-how in implementing the project in Swaziland and is uniquely positioned to

continue the programme and further strengthen the capacity of government counterparts.

The evaluation made the following key recommendations:

1. WFP to promote and support stronger integration of nutrition assessment, counselling and support (NACS), provided through the FBP, into health services, including incorporation of key programme indicators into the national Health Management Information System (HMIS);
2. WFP to work with Ministry of Health on the development of a handover strategy with clear timelines and responsibilities;
3. WFP to explore use of alternative transfer modalities (cash or vouchers);
4. WFP to promote stronger linkages to livelihood activities for graduating clients.

Following the evaluations, WFP strengthened stakeholder engagement in a series of ongoing technical assistance projects and consultations to prepare for eventual handover and to ensure informed decision-making about the programme design. In the last quarter of 2016, WFP supported the review of the FBP guidelines. WFP also engaged in discussions with higher management at Ministry of Health, who has acknowledged that financial responsibilities for the FBP programme should be gradually included in Government's budget. WFP will continue to implement the evaluation recommendations in 2017 and will include relevant activities in its Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP).

In 2016, WFP also continued to implement recommendations of the external operation evaluation of DEV 200422, supporting orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) conducted in 2014. The evaluation found that WFP should strengthen its advocacy for continued provision of social safety nets targeting OVC and a multi-sectoral approach to social protection. In 2016, WFP extended DEV 200422 through 2017 following an agreement with the government that the assistance needed to be maintained, while further engagement continues to support an enabling environment to ensure sustainable comprehensive services for OVC. WFP has been an active partner in social protection coordination, working together with the Social Welfare department in the Deputy Prime Minister's office.

Lessons learned from nutrition technical assistance initiatives included the added value of partnering with UN agencies with complementary strengths, and the continued need to advocate for high-level engagement to ensure nutrition coordination mechanisms, policy frameworks, and action plans are functioning optimally. In 2016, WFP together with partners continued to support the development of a multi-sectoral national Stunting Action Plan and a nutrition advocacy strategy.

From the drought response, WFP learned that there is still an important role for WFP to play in disaster preparedness, response and resilience, particularly leveraging on its global and local technical expertise. A Lessons Learned exercise from the WFP L3 Southern Africa El Niño Emergency is planned to be conducted in early 2017.

Project Objectives and Results

Project Objectives

The El Niño phenomenon in 2015-2016 resulted in below-average rainfall and poor forecasts for crop production and food security throughout Southern Africa including Swaziland.

WFP's Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IR-EMOP) 200954 commenced on 15 April 2016 and aimed to provide emergency food assistance to the drought affected population in Swaziland.

The primary objective of the one month intervention was to provide emergency food assistance targeting the most vulnerable households affected by the El Niño induced drought, through in-kind food distributions. The project supported the Government's response under the National Emergency Response Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (NERMAP), to improve and stabilize household food consumption for drought-affected groups.

Planned assistance under this IR-EMOP was in line with WFP Strategic Plan (2014-2017), Strategic Objective 1: To save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies.



Approved Budget for Project Duration (USD)

Cost Category	
Direct Support Costs	65,293
Food and Related Costs	570,294
Indirect Support Costs	44,491
Total	680,078

Project Activities

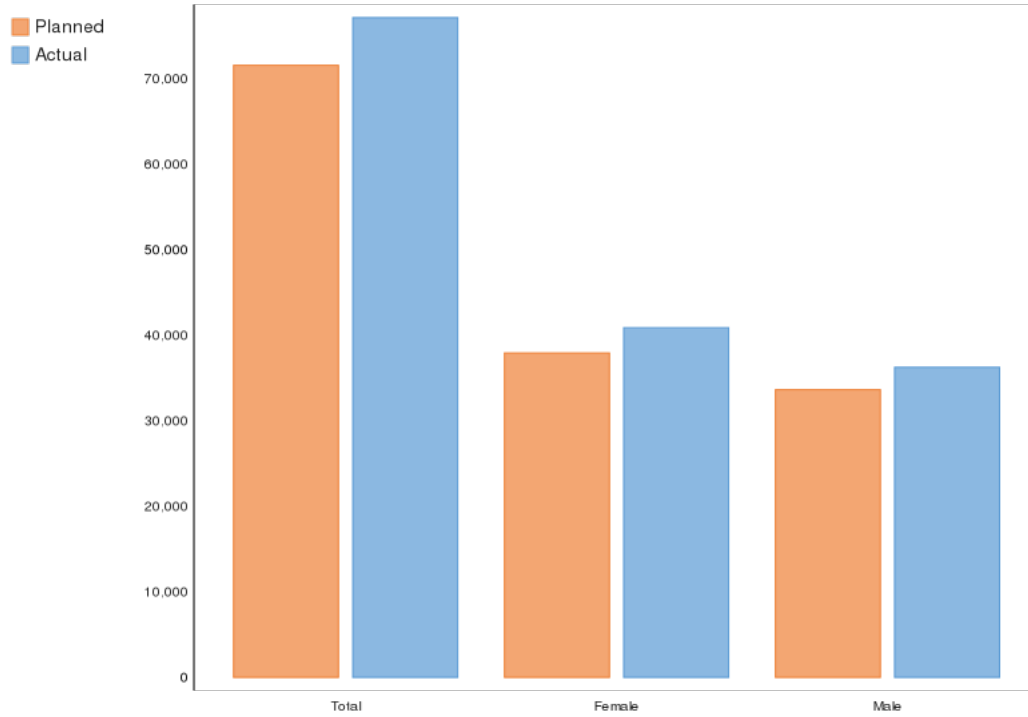
WFP's IR-EMOP in 2016 targeted areas worst affected by the drought in Lubombo and Hhohho regions. WFP coordinated with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to conduct geographic targeting based on vulnerability assessment findings. WFP and cooperating partners conducted household targeting based on the food distribution targeting criteria developed by NGOs under the Food Security Consortium, NDMA and WFP. The criteria took into account food insecurity, demographic and socio-economic factors. Among the demographic indicators, consideration was given to female-headed households, child-headed households, and households headed by the elderly. Additional considerations included socio-economic indicators, health status and disabilities among household members, livelihoods sources, assets, and wealth.

Food distribution through the IR-EMOP started in June 2016. WFP initially planned to reach a total of 71,565 beneficiaries. However, due to increased needs and resources available, WFP exceeded the target and reached a total of 77,147 beneficiaries.

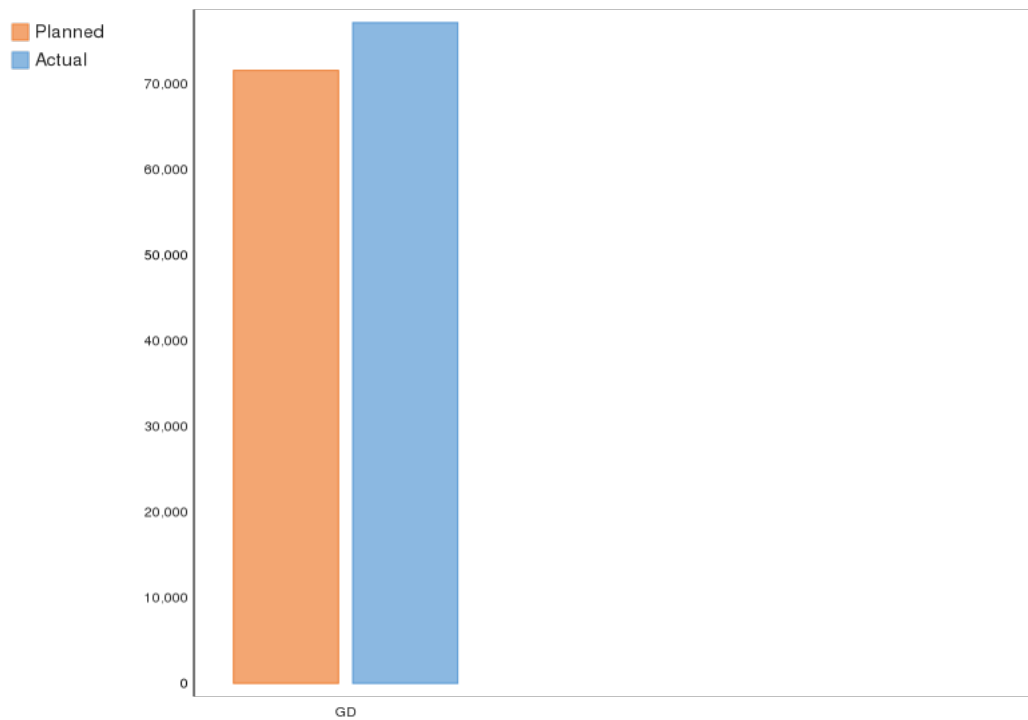
During the distribution of in-kind food assistance, WFP provided food commodities to cover 84 percent of daily energy requirements. WFP provided rations based on the number of people in a household, while the national guidelines in the National Emergency Response Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (NERMAP) informed the size of rations. WFP and the Government continued to closely monitor the drought and food security situation in case any improvements in the nutritional value composition of the food basket were required should the food security situation deteriorate.

Cooperating partners informed and raised awareness on gender, food security, and nutrition issues during sensitization sessions with beneficiaries before food distribution.

Annual Project Beneficiaries

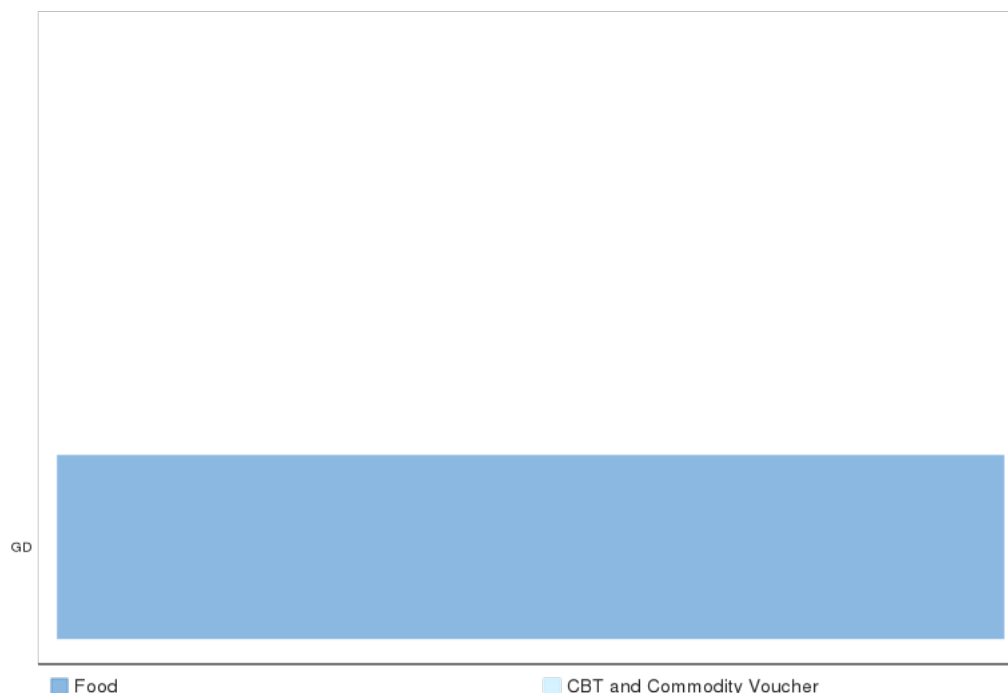


Annual Project Beneficiaries by Activity



GD: General Distribution (GD)

Modality of Transfer by Activity



GD: General Distribution (GD)



Annual Project Food Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Beans	-	73	-
Maize	716	785	109.7%
Peas	179	102	57.0%
Vegetable Oil	64	71	109.8%
Total	959	1,031	107.5%

Operational Partnerships

WFP aligned activities under the IR-EMOP to the national drought response, coordinated by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) reporting to the Deputy Prime Minister's Office. For effective coordination of the response, and to strengthen partnerships to achieve operational goals, the NDMA facilitated biweekly inter-sector coordination meetings. The meetings provided a forum to address implementation issues, prioritisation in light of limited availability, and to ensure coordination among stakeholders. WFP co-chaired the coordination meetings as the chair of the UN technical working group on drought.

The UN working group was instrumental in coordinating support by the UN Country Team (UNCT) to the national emergency response. Through coordinated efforts, the UN was able to access funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and provide immediate assistance through life-saving activities. Additionally, the UN working group developed a Humanitarian Needs Overview and a Humanitarian Response Plan to articulate needs and response, and to provide regular reports on progress and gaps.

NGO partners focused on food relief, food security and development activities are part of the Food Security Consortium (FSC). The Consortium is coordinated by the Coordinating Assembly of NGOs (CANGO), Swaziland's

NGO umbrella organisation. As part of the coordination between NDMA and the FSC, WFP's partners were assigned geographic areas based on their local presence, previous experience and knowledge of the humanitarian situation on the ground. This allocation mechanism ensured effective coordination and implementation of activities.

Together with FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP co-chaired the agriculture and food security sector. WFP also actively contributed to the health and nutrition sector, and in collaboration with UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Population Fund (UNFPA), supported a comprehensive health and nutrition assessment in March 2016.

To facilitate implementation of the activities of the IR EMOP and EMOP 200974 that followed, WFP collaborated with four non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - Africa Co-operative Action Trust (ACAT), Caritas, Save the Children, and World Vision. The partners were responsible for targeting, food distribution, community mobilization and monitoring the effectiveness of food distribution during implementation, which was complemented by WFP monitoring oversight.

Performance Monitoring

WFP's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan details how monitoring activities are implemented, and includes information on staffing, monitoring coverage, processes, output and outcome monitoring, and resources required for monitoring.

Monitoring activities were carried out by WFP field monitoring assistants (FMAs) and by the cooperating partners (CPs) and included process and output monitoring.

Process monitoring was carried out by WFP to assess the adherence to procedures by partners during food distributions and the effectiveness of the implementation. Process monitoring tracked implementation progress and listed factors that influenced expected outcomes of the interventions. Field monitors recorded detailed findings and produced a separate report for immediate follow-up.

During output monitoring, CPs collected a set of basic indicators before and after distribution. These indicators included the number of beneficiaries, gender, age, and type and quantity of food delivered to the beneficiaries. CPs used regular data collection tools provided by WFP to record information which was entered into the Country Office Monitoring and Evaluation Tool (COMET), a WFP corporate database which stores beneficiary data to enhance country office reporting processes.

For more effective data collection, mobile devices were used to record information for most monitoring activities, allowing WFP to obtain more reliable and accurate data and improve efficiency.

Based on lessons learned from 2015, improvements were made to the consolidation and use of findings from evaluations to inform project design and monitoring. WFP also improved analysis, reporting and systematic data storage. WFP has established an escalation system to act in an appropriate and timely manner to emergencies by strengthening the monitoring toolkit.

Results/Outcomes

Under the IR-EMOP, WFP delivered one month of emergency food assistance to 77,147 drought affected people who received 1,031 mt of mixed commodities. IR-EMOP 200954 was immediately followed by the launch of the full-scale Emergency Response Operation (EMOP) 200974, with a duration of 11 months. The IR-EMOP allowed WFP and partners to prepare and create systems and structures needed for the full-scale operation.

Story Worth Telling

Xolile lives in Sithobela in Swaziland's Lubombo region. All her life, she and her family have lived of subsistence farming. When they planted maize, sorghum and cassava in October 2015, they did not get any harvest as the crops failed due to a delay in rainfall as a result of the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Being dependent on their own harvest, the family tried to plant again in December 2015 without success. By June 2016, their situation had deteriorated as they had already used up all their food reserves by the beginning of the lean season earlier in the year.

Xolile describes that it is very difficult to get access to food this time around. Sometimes she asks her neighbours, but often the adults just don't eat, that way at least the kids get some food for the night. Frequently, the whole family

has to go to bed hungry.

Xolile says that she has never witnessed a time as difficult as this in her life and a lot of people fall sick from hunger and have to visit the clinic, even if it's just to get a proper meal at the hospital. WFP's food distributions, which started in June 2016, changed their lives for the better. Rationing wisely, the maize, beans and oil will last Xolile's household until the next food distribution and maintains the hope for an improved upcoming agricultural season remains.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Cover page photo © WFP/ Theresa Piorr "A young woman and her children collect WFP emergency food at a distribution point in Sithobela, Lubombo region"

Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
Total Beneficiaries	33,636	37,929	71,565	36,259	40,888	77,147	107.8%	107.8%	107.8%
By Age-group:									
Children (under 5 years)	4,294	5,010	9,304	4,629	5,400	10,029	107.8%	107.8%	107.8%
Children (5-18 years)	10,735	12,166	22,901	11,572	13,115	24,687	107.8%	107.8%	107.8%
Adults (18 years plus)	18,607	20,753	39,360	20,058	22,373	42,431	107.8%	107.8%	107.8%
By Residence status:									
Residents	33,636	37,929	71,565	36,259	40,888	77,147	107.8%	107.8%	107.8%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
General Distribution (GD)	71,565	-	71,565	77,147	-	77,147	107.8%	-	107.8%

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned (food)	Planned (CBT)	Planned (total)	Actual (food)	Actual (CBT)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (food)	% Actual v. Planned (CBT)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
General Distribution (GD)	14,313	-	14,313	15,429	-	15,429	107.8%	-	107.8%

Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)

Beneficiary Category	Planned (male)	Planned (female)	Planned (total)	Actual (male)	Actual (female)	Actual (total)	% Actual v. Planned (male)	% Actual v. Planned (female)	% Actual v. Planned (total)
General Distribution (GD)									
People participating in general distributions	6,727	7,586	14,313	7,252	8,177	15,429	107.8%	107.8%	107.8%
Total participants	6,727	7,586	14,313	7,252	8,177	15,429	107.8%	107.8%	107.8%
Total beneficiaries	33,636	37,929	71,565	36,259	40,888	77,147	107.8%	107.8%	107.8%

Resource Inputs from Donors

Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Purchased in 2016 (mt)	
			In-Kind	Cash
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Beans	-	73
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Maize	-	798
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Peas	-	102
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Vegetable Oil	-	72
		Total	-	1,045