



WFP Swaziland Country Brief

Highlights

- In January 2018, WFP assisted almost 7,000 people through the Food by Prescription programme. Due to funding shortfalls, there are pipeline breaks for some commodities.
- Assistance to Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) reached 55,500 beneficiaries in January 2017, which is more than planned as additional children were found to be attending an increased number of NCPs

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	1.04 m
Strategic Outcome 1: Improved Nutrition	3.45 m	186,000	843,000
Strategic Outcome 2: Social Protection	4.69 m	3.9 m	204,000

*Jan 2018 – June 2018



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.

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's PEPFAR project following the drought, which focuses on nutrition intervention targeting people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children.

As of the end of December, the PEPFAR project had supported a maximum of 25,315 OVCs and approximately 2,095 people living with HIV with specialised food (PlumpyNut and/or PlumpySup).

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

86,771
People Assisted
January 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.
- The latest VAA preliminary results state that about 177,000 people will be food insecure during the lean season, due to a combination of reduced income opportunities and poor agricultural performance leading to high reliance on purchases and relatively high food prices.
- The Food and Nutrition security cluster is conducting a situation overview assessment, the results of which will be available mid-March. These will provide the required early warning data to decide on next steps.

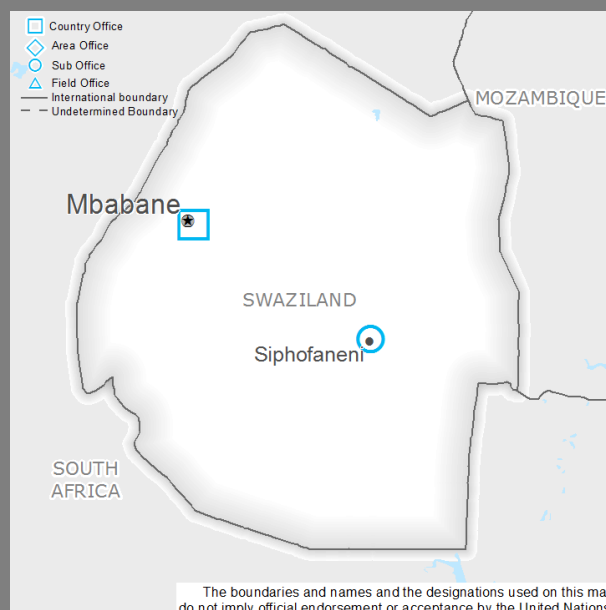
WFP Swaziland Strategic Engagement:

- WFP and the Government are in the planning stages for a Zero Hunger Strategic Review in Swaziland, to develop 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% and a 2018 projection of 1.3%. 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 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