



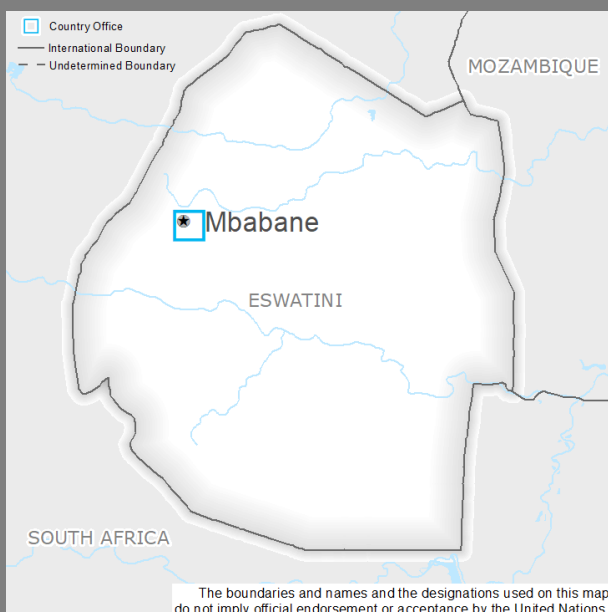
WFP Eswatini Country Brief

May 2018

Operational Context

Despite its status as a lower middle-income country, 63 percent of Swazis lives below the national poverty line. Eswatini 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 Eswatini: stunting affects 26 percent of children under the age of five. Eswatini 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, tuberculosis, and pregnant and nursing women, while also supporting their families.



Population: **1.3 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
148 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

Main Photo

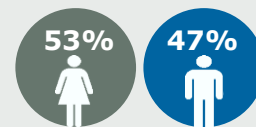
Credit: © WFP/Caitlin Fowler
Caption: Children receiving food at a neighbourhood care point

In Numbers

64 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$1.13 m six months (Jun-Nov 2018) net funding requirements, representing 47% of total

35,548 people assisted
in May 2018



Operational Updates

HIV and Nutrition:

WFP provides assistance to people living with HIV and TB through the Food by Prescription programme. WFP and the Government aim to improve treatment and recovery outcomes by mainstreaming nutrition into HIV and TB support services. 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, the project has been halted indefinitely leaving 24,000 people without vital support, including 4,000 clients who receive specific nutritional support needed to sustain treatment. The project previously received funding from the Global Fund through the Government of Eswatini.

Following the recent drought, WFP is implementing partner for a USAID PEPFAR project which focuses on nutrition intervention targeting people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children. In May, WFP completed 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 around 55,000 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.

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Further information: <http://www1.wfp.org/countries/eswatini>

WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)		
8.14 m	4.09 m	1.13 m
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 1: Children under five, ART, TB and PMTCT clients in Eswatini have improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2022		
3.45 m	0.19 m	0.97 m
Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs		
Strategic Outcome 2: The National Social Protection System in Eswatini is able to target and assist the most food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations throughout the year including in response to shocks		
4.69 m	3.90 m	0.16 m

Monitoring

- The food security situation in Eswatini has not fully recovered following the 2016/2017 El Nino drought emergency.
- In addition, the country recently experienced several shocks negatively impacting the agricultural sector and therefore food security. The experienced shocks included:
 - Prolonged dry spells coupled with extremely high temperatures resulting in poor plant growth and crop failure in some areas
 - Hailstorm and flooding in some areas resulting in crop damage
 - 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.

WFP Country Activities

SO 1	Activity 1: Provide nutrition treatment services to malnourished clients on ART, TB, and/or PMTCT treatment and provide cash transfers to households of malnourished clients on ART, TB and/or PMTCT treatment
	Activity 2: Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance to government entities responsible for the coordination and provision of nutrition services
SO 2	Activity 3: Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance to government entities involved in social protection
	Activity 4: Provide on-site meals to orphans and vulnerable children in pre-primary school age at neighbourhood care points
	Activity 5: Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance to government entities that manage and use food security monitoring and analysis

Challenges

- Economic Forecast:** GDP growth in the country has remained constrained since the 2015/2016 drought, with 2017 growth of 0.2% and a 2018 projection of -0.9%. This is also affected by Swaziland's dependency on Southern African Customs Union (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.

WFP Eswatini Strategic Engagement

The Government of Eswatini has begun a 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.

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.

Donors 2018

South Africa, Japan, Multilateral Funds

