



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

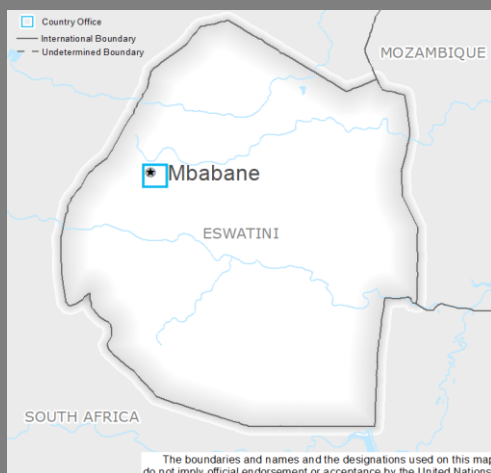
WFP Eswatini Country Brief August 2018



Operational Context

The classification of Eswatini as a lower middle-income country camouflages several development challenges: high rates of poverty at 59 percent and inequality with Gini coefficient of 49.3. 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 Eswatini 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.



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Population: **1.3 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **144 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

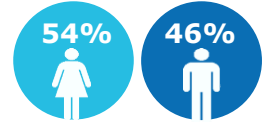
Chronic malnutrition: **26% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

237mt of food assistance distributed

US\$2.25 m six months (Aug 2018-Jan 2019) net funding requirements, representing 63% of total requirements

54,278 people assisted
in August 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 about 24,000 people without vital support, including 4,000 clients who receive specific nutritional support needed to rehabilitate malnutrition sustain treatment. The project previously received funding from the Global Fund through the Government of Eswatini.
- WFP is further supporting the Ministry of Health in its evidence generation agenda to assess the impact of nutrition on HIV and TB treatment outcomes with a view to support advocacy efforts of investment in nutrition.

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 is also supporting the Ministry of Education and Training in evaluating the national school feeding programme with the overall objective of ensuring that the programme is well-targeted, evidence-based, nutrition-sensitive and shock responsive.

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Main Credit: © WFP/Caitlin Fowler

Photo Caption: Children receiving food at a neighbourhood care point

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
7.41 m	4.06 m	2.25m

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

Monitoring

- Eswatini is still recovering from the aftermath of the 2016/17 El Nino. While the 2017/18 agriculture season showed some slight improvements, about 165,000 people will be in IPC phases 3 and 4.
- 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 2018/2019 lean season, a high probability of an El Nino together with high temperatures has been forecasted which will negatively impact the food security situation of the country. The Government through the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) has activated the various sectors to ensure that the situation is closely monitored, and preparedness activities commence to mitigate the impacts of the El Nino.

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.
- As of 01 August 2018, the VAT rate was hiked to 15% which will result in food access made even more limited to those vulnerable households.

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, UBRAF