



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

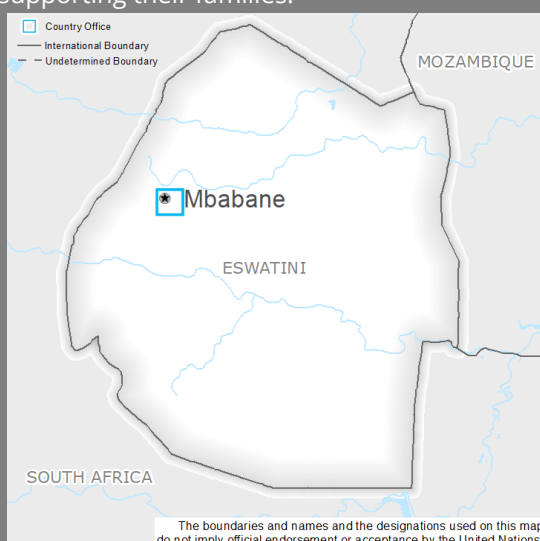
WFP Eswatini Country Brief December 2018



Operational Context

Despite its status as a lower middle-income country, 63 percent of Swazis live 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.



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**

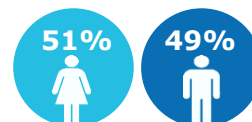
Chronic malnutrition: **26% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

253.1 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 11.27 m six months (January-June 2019) net funding requirements, representing 93% of total

54,280 people assisted
in December 2018



Operational Updates

HIV and Nutrition:

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, food assistance for people living with HIV and TB has been halted since April 2018 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 PEPFAR and the Global Fund through the Government of Eswatini.

Social protection for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC):

WFP provides a social safety net 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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**Main
Photo**

Credit: © WFP/Theresa Piorr
Caption: Women carrying their rations at a food distribution.

T-ICSP (2018-2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
12.08 m	1.77 m	11.27 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

Activities:

- 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
- Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance to government entities responsible for the coordination and provision of nutrition services

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

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance to government entities involved in social protection
- Provide on-site meals to orphans and vulnerable children in pre-primary school at neighbourhood care points
- Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance to government entities that manage and use food security monitoring and analysis

Strategic Result 1: Access to food

Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted food insecure households in Eswatini are able to meet their basic food requirements in times of shock

Activities:

- Provide food and cash-based transfers to targeted food insecure populations affected by shocks

Monitoring

- All 12 health facilities were visited in December as planned. Health facilities have noted an increasing trend in the number of malnourished PLHIV and malnutrition-related deaths after WFP food assistance stopped in April. Field Monitors note that health facility staff are getting increasingly reluctant to provide data while there are no distributions.
- 329 out of 392 monitoring visits to neighbourhood care points were completed in December (83.9%). It was noted that many NCPs were closed due to school holidays and the festive season.

Challenges**El Niño and Food Security:**

- According to the November update of the Eswatini Meteorological Services there is a 70 percent probability of an El Niño event occurring during the 2018/19 agricultural season.
- The start of the agricultural season has been delayed due to prolonged dry spells.
- The food security situation in Eswatini has not fully recovered following the 2016/2017 El Niño drought emergency. While the previous agricultural season showed slight improvements, about 245,000 people (26% of the population) are projected to be in IPC phases 3 and 4 for the 2018/2019 season.
- In view of the current lack of support programmes targeting the most vulnerable households, the number is expected to further increase.
- The Fall Army worm is now endemic and has been declared by the Ministry of Agriculture as one of the biggest threats to food security.

Economic Forecast:

- The Eswatini government is currently facing fiscal challenges; these conditions have negatively impacted service delivery in most sectors and vulnerability levels. Additionally, observed and proposed increases in commodity prices will lead to further increases in the cost of living, negatively impacting purchasing power especially vulnerable groups and the poor.
- 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.

Lean Season Response

WFP Eswatini is in the process of conducting a budget revision to make provision for the lean season response targeting 165,723, which is about 67% of the population requiring humanitarian assistance as depicted by the revised IPC figures. WFP's response will consist of both in-kind and cash transfers for an initial period of 6 months from January to June 2019. Preliminary discussions with ECHO and OCHA have been held but to date no funding has been received to enable assistance.