



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

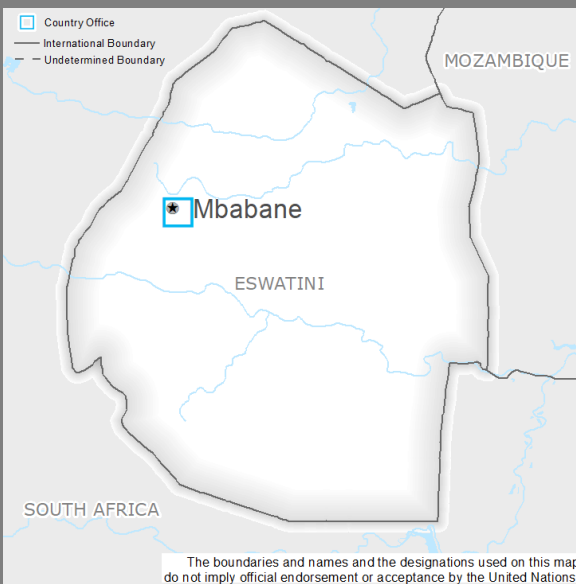
WFP Eswatini Country Brief January 2019



Operational Context

Despite its status as a lower middle-income country, 70 percent of rural population live below the national poverty line and 25 percent are extremely poor. 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 the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable impacted by poverty and HIV/AIDS. WFP assists the Government in creating safety nets and 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: **1.1 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **141 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

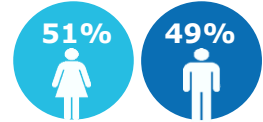
Chronic malnutrition: **26% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

239 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 9.31 m six months (February-July 2019) net funding requirements, representing 77% of total

54,640 people assisted in January 2019



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) and TB treatment and support to their families through a monthly household ration. Due to lack of funds, food assistance has been halted since April 2018 leaving 24,000 people without vital support, including 4,000 clients who received specific nutritional support.

Social protection:

WFP targets the most food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations throughout the year, including in response to shocks. WFP provides social safety nets for 55,000 for young orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) of pre-primary school age across Eswatini at neighbourhood care points (NCPs) through access to food and basic social services. In addition, WFP works with government to review and enhance government capacity to design and implement a sustainable, nutrition-sensitive, shock-responsive national school meals programme. The pilot for a Home-Grown School Feeding project will start in February 2019. The national school feeding programme was the only social protection programme that could demonstrate the ability to be shock-responsive during the El Niño response of 2018.

Lean Season Response

WFP Eswatini CO conducted a budget revision to make provision for the lean response targeting 165,723 people, about 67% of the population requiring humanitarian assistance as indicated by the revised Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) figures. WFP's response will consist of both in-kind and cash transfers for an initial period of five months from February to June 2019. Preliminary discussions with ECHO and OCHA have been held but to date no funding has been received to enable assistance.

Contact info: Theresa Piorr (theresa.piorr@wfp.org)
Officer-in-Charge: Cissy Byenkya
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/eswatini

Main Photo

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

T- ICSP (2018-2019)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
17.4 m	6.89 m	9.31 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 nutritious meals to orphans and vulnerable children in pre-primary Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs), primary and secondary schools, including through a Home-Grown School Feeding programme
 - 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

Challenges

El Niño and Food Security:

- The meteorology department confirms the probability of an El Niño at 86 percent during the 2018/19 agriculture season.
- The start of the agriculture season has been delayed due to prolonged dry spells. Most farmers haven't cultivated their fields.
- The food security situation in Eswatini has not fully recovered following the 2016/2017 El Niño drought emergency. While the previous agriculture 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 vulnerability levels and service delivery in most sectors.
- GDP growth in the country has remained weak since the 2015/2016 drought, with 2017 growth of 0.2% and a 2018 projection of -0.9%. The impact of a combination of various factors has resulted in the gradual reduction in the revenue from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and further increased public debt.

Zero Hunger Review

WFP and partners engaged in the development of a Zero Hunger Strategic Review that was commissioned by the Government to optimize systems and institutions to achieve zero hunger in Eswatini by 2030. A draft was finalized and is now under review at the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development. The review will inform WFP Eswatini's Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024).

Donors

South Africa, Japan, Multilateral Funds

Monitoring

- No health facilities were visited in January as distributions were halted in April 2018 and health facility staff have become reluctant to share client data.
- 534 out of 564 sites were monitored.
- Because of school holidays, FMAs reports noted that some NCPs had suspended their operations.
- Jan-Feb commodity dispatching was started mid- January (due to holidays).