



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

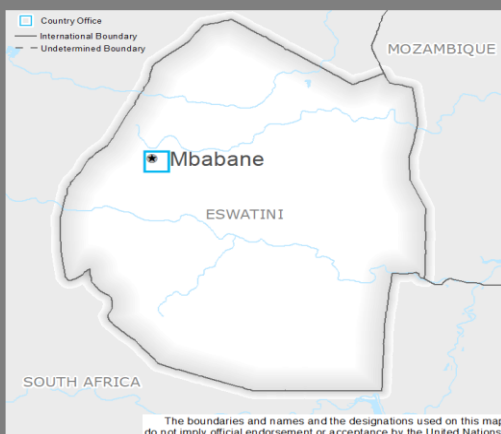
# WFP Eswatini Country Brief August 2020



## Operational Context

Despite its status as a lower middle-income country, 69 percent of the rural population in Eswatini 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 and 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. Smallholder agriculture remains the backbone of rural livelihoods in the country, with over 70 percent of the country's total population (60 percent of whom are women) relying on subsistence farming.

WFP has been present in Eswatini since the late 1960s, providing emergency relief and implementing development projects to strengthen the education and health sectors. Today, WFP supports the Government of Eswatini in improving food and nutrition security and creating safety nets for the most vulnerable people impacted by poverty, and HIV and AIDS.



Population: **1.1 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **173 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Lower Middle**

2019 Global Hunger Index: **97 out of 117 countries**

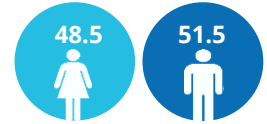
## In Numbers

**89.1 mt** food assistance distributed

**US\$ 2.9 million** cash-based transfers made between January and July 2020

**US\$ 3.2 million** six-month (September 2020–February 2021) net funding requirements

**67,694 people assisted**  
in AUGUST 2020



## Operational Updates

- WFP provides social safety nets for 55,000 orphans and vulnerable children under 5 years at 1,700 Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) in Eswatini through access to food and basic social services.
- WFP works with the Government in implementing a sustainable, nutrition-sensitive, shock-responsive national school meals programme. The pilot for a Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) project started in September 2019, targeting 50 schools and 24,392 students. WFP works with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to empower local smallholder farmers to provide schoolchildren with food that is safe, diverse, nutritious and local.
- WFP, through the local purchase programme, is supporting the Government in linking smallholder production to the school feeding programme. Twenty smallholder farmer organizations have been identified to supply 878 mt of maize and 235 mt of beans for the HGSF pilot programme. Prior to the re-opening of schools (Grade 7) on 24 August 2020, WFP worked with the Ministry of Education and Training to supply 28 primary schools under the HGSF pilot projects across the country with food commodities, including maize and beans, which were procured locally from small holder farmers.
- WFP continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), the Ministry of Tinkhundla and Administration (MTAD), and the Swaziland Network of Young Positives (SNYP+) to conduct integrated treatment literacy activities to empower communities through better nutrition, uptake of and adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) and tuberculosis (TB) medication, and sexual and reproductive health services. WFP is also supporting the SNYP+ to strengthen the livelihood of 23 young people (4 males and 19 females) living with HIV.

## Country Strategic Plan (2020–2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>26.3 m</b>	<b>11.4 m</b>	<b>3.2 m</b>

### Strategic Result 01: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 01:** Vulnerable populations in shock-affected areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during times of crisis

**Focus Area:** Crisis Response

**Activity 1:** Provide food and/or cash-based transfers to food insecure populations affected by shocks, including children.

### Strategic Result 03: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes

**Strategic Outcome 02:** Smallholder farmers, particularly women, have enhanced capacities to supply structured markets with nutritious foods by 2024

**Focus Area:** Resilience Building

**Activity 2:** Strengthen the capacities of smallholder farmers, particularly women, to supply nutritious foods to structured markets, including schools

### Strategic Result 05: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 03:** Vulnerable populations, particularly women, children, adolescent girls and people living with HIV, have access to integrated and shock-responsive social protection systems by 2030

**Focus Area:** Resilience Building

**Activity 3:** Provide evidence and strengthen national systems and capacities for designing and implementing nutrition-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection programmes, including school feeding.

## Crisis Response

- In response to the impact of COVID-19 and erratic drought conditions, WFP is implementing a crisis response through unconditional resource transfers (URT). The URT aims to provide humanitarian assistance to the COVID-19 and drought-affected populations for 11 months starting in June 2020 until March 2021 through food and cash transfers. A total of 45,000 (October 2020–March 2021) will receive food assistance and 94,000 people (June 2020–March 2021) will be supported with cash-based transfers (CBT). Of this, WFP will support 2,000 people living with chronic illness with CBT. Nutritional conditions will form the basis for targeting the beneficiaries under this activity.
- WFP has continued to support 411 refugees in the country. The assistance is done in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and CARITAS. This support will be ending in September 2020.
- WFP is leading the logistics pillar to support the Ministry of Health-led COVID-19 response. WFP was requested to coordinate the logistics response of development partners and agencies by identifying

logistical needs, bottlenecks and gaps of the international community in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Monitoring and Assessments

- Data from the [Eswatini Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis](#) has indicated that an estimated 330,000 people (29 percent of the population) have been classified to be facing IPC Phase 3 (crisis) level of acute food insecurity or worse, requiring humanitarian support from June to September. These numbers are expected to increase to 366,240 during the peak of the lean season (October 2020–March 2021).
- The Lubombo and Shiselweni region have been reported to be the worst-affected regions in the country. In the current period, 32 percent of the rural population (292,794 people) and 17 percent of the urban population (37,424 people) are in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), representing 89 percent and 11 percent of the total population in Crisis or worse nationwide, respectively. In addition, the proportion of the population under Phase 3 is significantly higher in rural areas (42 percent of the affected population) than in urban areas (27 percent).
- WFP conducted a data collection in August on the livelihood support for people living with HIV (UBRAF support). The data analysis and report will be finalised in September.
- During the reporting period, monitoring of the Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs), revealed a significant increase in the number of children reached, which can be attributed to school children accessing the NCPs as schools were closed. Some NCPs witnessed up to two- and three-fold increases, which led to early depletion of food stocks in most NCPs.
- The baseline and first post-distribution monitoring (PDM) reports for the crisis response activity were finalised in August, which resulted in meetings with partners to address key challenges identified and discuss lessons to improve activity implementation.

## Economic Forecast

- According to the Central Bank of Eswatini, the economy has recorded a technical recession in the first quarter of 2020, mainly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic activities are said to have fallen by 6.5 percent on a year-on-year basis in the first quarter of 2020, from a revised decline of 1.2 percent in the last quarter of 2019.

## Donors

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), United Kingdom, Germany, Global Fund, Japan, Multilateral, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)