



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

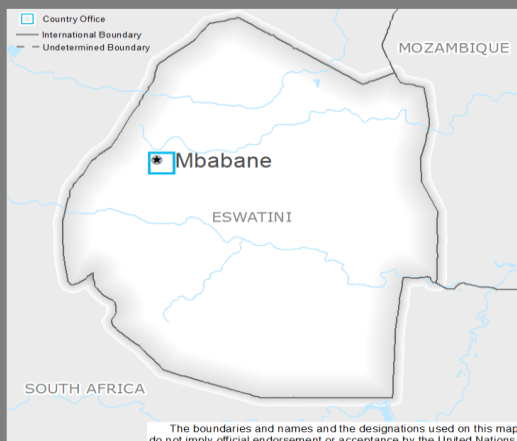
WFP Eswatini Country Brief January 2021



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.



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**

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

Income Level: **Lower Middle**

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

In Numbers

0 mt food assistance distributed*

US\$ 0 cash-based transfers made*

US\$ 1.4 m six-month (March–August 2021) net funding requirements

* All food and cash distributions in January were suspended due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and related measures, and in compliance with government directives.

Operational Updates

- WFP provides social safety nets for 55,000 orphans and vulnerable children under 5 years at the 1,700 Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) in Eswatini through access to food and basic social services. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and associated containment measures, WFP Neighbourhood Care Points food distributions have been suspended as of January 2021.
- WFP works with the Government in implementing a sustainable, nutrition-sensitive, shock-responsive national school meals programme. The 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. The schools closed in late December and since the country is in the second wave of COVID-19, new regulations with strict guidelines were enforced. This affected the opening of schools, which normally open in January, as well as the scheduled food distributions.
- WFP participated in the quarterly school feeding panel meeting hosted by the Ministry of Education and Training, where the HGSF's progress in 2020 was presented to all partners in the country.
- WFP continued 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+) in conducting 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, through the national organizations Eswatini Network of Young Positives (SNYP+) and Membatsise

Country Strategic Plan (2020–2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
32.5 m	16.6 m	1.4 m

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.

Home-Based Care, also supported 40 women and young people (8 males and 32 females) living with HIV through livelihood activities (poultry and gardening). They were also trained in dietary diversity, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

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 57,000 (December 2020–March 2021) will receive food assistance and 94,000 people (June 2020–March 2021) will be supported with cash-based transfers (CBT).
- Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and associated containment measures, as well as government directive to halt in-kind distributions, all

URT interventions were put on hold as the Government was also distributing food and cash. WFP will resume distributions in February.

- WFP is leading the logistics pillar to support the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 response. WFP was requested to coordinate the logistics response of development partners and agencies by identifying logistical needs, bottlenecks and gaps in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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), Foreign, Commonwealth & Development office, Germany, Global Fund, Japan, Multilateral, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)