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.

In Numbers

- 0 mt food assistance distributed
- US$ 757,305 cash-based transfers made in February 2021
- US$ 5.4 million six-month (April–September 2021) net funding requirements
- 82,548 people assisted with cash-based transfers in February 2021

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 disease (COVID-19) pandemic and associated containment measures, food distributions at the NCPs have been suspended as of February 2021. WFP will resume food distribution in March.

- WFP, together with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Save the Children and ADRA, are currently training NCP caregivers and smallholder famers in conventional agriculture. This concept was adopted in Zimbabwe and its main aim is to promote local food production, maximize harvest in a small piece of land, and empower NCPs to produce maize, beans and produce vegetables for their own production as it encourages sustainability. This production is currently being implemented in 14 NCPs, and 80 individual smallholder farmers have received training. The main aim is to reach 595 NCP’s by the end of December.

- WFP works with the Government in implementing a sustainable, nutrition-sensitive, shock-responsive national school feeding 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 2020, 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 continued to collaborate with the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Health...
Country Strategic Plan (2020–2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32.5 m</td>
<td>16.6 m</td>
<td>5.4 m</td>
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**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.

Organization (WHO), the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), the Ministry of Tinkhundla and Administration (MTAD), and the Swaziland Network of Young Positives (SYNP+) 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 service

**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–April 2021) will receive food assistance and 94,000 people (June 2020–March 2021) will be supported with cash-based transfers (CBT).

- Due to the 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. WFP will resume food distributions in March.

**Donors**

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Germany, Japan, and Multilateral