



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

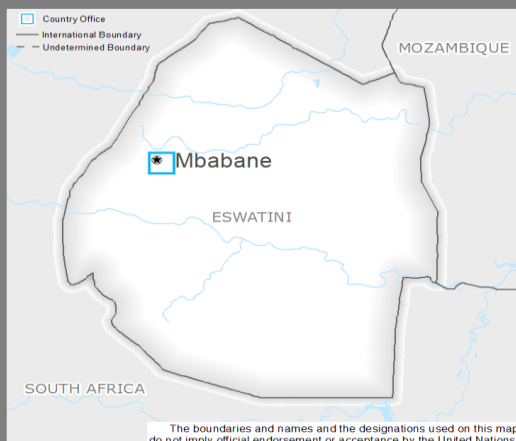
# WFP Eswatini Country Brief March 2021



## 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**

2019 Human Development Index:  
**138 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Lower Middle**

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

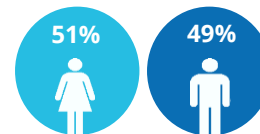
## In Numbers

**883,947 mt** food assistance distributed in March

**US\$ 1.6 million** cash-based transfers made between February and March 2021

**US\$ 5.4 million** six-month (April–September 2021) net funding requirements

**180,835 people assisted**



## 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. The Deputy Prime Minister's office has given WFP the approval for the continuation of provision of hot meals at the NCPs following a lockdown that was announced earlier in the year in response to the COVID-19 control measures. Food distributions at the NCPs will resume this April 2021.
- WFP, together with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Save the Children, and ADRA, are currently training NCP caregivers and smallholder farmers in conventional agriculture. This concept was adopted in Zimbabwe and its main aim is to promote local food production, maximise harvest in a small piece of land, and empower NCPs to produce maize, beans, and 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 goal is to reach 595 NCPs by the end of December. In March, WFP had the first bean harvest from the one of the NCPs in Luhlangotsini.
- 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 reopened in March 2021, and food deliveries have been made to schools while onsite school feeding will resume once the situation allows.

## Country Strategic Plan (2020–2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>32.5 m</b>	<b>17.1 m</b>	<b>5.4 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.

- WFP, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF), supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Eswatini National Nutrition Council (ENNC) as part of the Technical Working Group on the Impact of COVID-19 on Diet and Nutrition Assessment, which is yet to be rolled out.
- WFP also supported the Scale-Up Nutrition (SUN) in gathering success stories on the contributions made by the private business sector towards nutrition in Eswatini. For instance, GALP Eswatini through the water, sanitation, and food security projects, supported 2,325 people from vulnerable households and school children from the Sigwe constituency. Eswatini Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (ESWADE), under the smallholder market-led six-year project, developed the National Nutrition Mainstreaming strategy (2018 – 2023) and trained household farmers on permaculture, food processing and preservation, food safety and hygiene for income generation.

## Crisis Response

- In response to the impact of COVID-19, WFP is implementing a crisis response through unconditional resource transfers (URT). A total of 94,000 people from June 2020–March 2021 were supported with cash-based transfers (CBT).
- WFP also provides humanitarian assistance to drought-affected populations. In March, WFP distributed food to 68,230 beneficiaries and CBT to 88,213 beneficiaries.

## Donors

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