



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

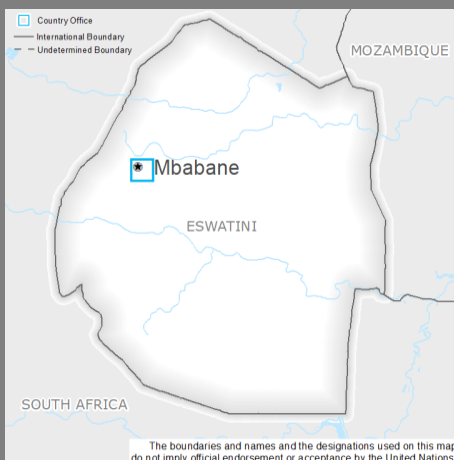
# WFP Eswatini Country Brief July 2021



## 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 works with the Government of Eswatini in improving food and nutrition security and creating safety nets for the most vulnerable people impacted by poverty, 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**

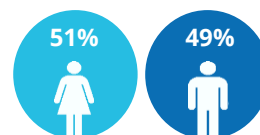
## In Numbers

**170,565 mt** food assistance distributed in July

**US\$ 1,603,335** cash-based transfers made between February-March 2021

**US\$ 5.6 million** six-month (August 2021 to January 2022) net funding requirements

**53,553 people** assisted in July 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. WFP continues food distribution at NCPs for the provision of hot meals during the lockdown announced during the civil unrest and in response to the COVID-19 control measures. As the Ministry mandated to coordinate matters pertaining to children, the Deputy Prime Minister's Office through the Children's Services department is reviewing the NCP strategy with other stakeholders.
- WFP, together with the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Save the Children, and ADRA, are currently training NCP caregivers and smallholder farmers in conservation agriculture. This concept aims to promote local food production by maximizing harvest from small pieces of land, and empower NCPs to produce maize, beans, and vegetables for their own production as it encourages sustainability. This concept on sustainable food production is now being implemented in 254 NCPs, and 80 individual smallholder farmers have received training. The goal is to reach 595 NCPs by the end of December. In March, the first bean harvest commenced from the one of the NCPs in Luhlangotsini, in the Hhohho region.
- Two smallholder women farmer groups have been identified to receive assistance in egg production. Site inspections have been concluded and trainings on production are scheduled to be conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Eswatini National Agricultural Union (ESNAU), the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Save the Children.
- WFP works with the Government in implementing a sustainable, nutrition-sensitive and national school feeding programme. The Home-Grown School

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Photo: Fourteen-year-old Ncediso Magagula watering vegetables at an NCP garden. WFP/Sakhile Nsingwane

## Country Strategic Plan (2020–2025)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>32.5m</b>	<b>20.6m</b>	<b>5.6m</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.

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. Schools were closed for the entire month of July due to the ongoing civil unrest in the country, as a result 24,899 pupils who receive meals through the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Pilot project were not reached for the entire month. Schools will resume activities on 9 August amidst the peak of the COVID-19 third wave across the country.

- Seven smallholder farmer groups have concluded commodity price negotiations and they have started receiving contracts, commodity bags and stitching machines to help ease the aggregation process. A total of 700 mt of maize grain and 11 mt of beans will be sourced locally.

- Through the Business Unusual Fund (BUF), the capacity of four smallholder women farmer groups under HGSF at Maphalaleni and Mhlambanyatsi tinkhundla was strengthened on Gender and Financial Equality, as well as on Financial Literacy. These activities were conducted in collaboration with UNFPA and Centre for Financial Inclusion – FINCLUDE.
- Through the Swaziland Network of Young (SNYP+) and Membatsise Home Based Care, 220 people living with HIV, including adolescent girls and women, and those at increased risk of infection, were identified for the livelihood activities supported by UNAIDS. These activities include poultry production and crop production. They will be implemented in the four regions of the country, in Mhlangatane, Mayiwane, Somntongo, Hosea, Zombodze Emuva, Mafutseni, Lubulini, Hlane, Sithobela constituencies.

**Crisis Response**

- In response to the impact of COVID-19, WFP is implementing a crisis response through unconditional resource transfers to affected populations. A total of 156,443 people were supported with cash-based transfers from January to June 2021).
- WFP also provides humanitarian assistance to drought-affected populations. In the month of March WFP distributed food to 68,230 beneficiaries and cash-based transfers to 88,213 beneficiaries.
- WFP is also providing technical and financial support for the 2021 Eswatini Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis. This is done in support to the Deputy Prime Minister's Office through the Eswatini Vulnerability Assessment Committee (Swazi VAC). The process is expected to provide the needed evidence for WFP response activities for the period September 2021 – March 2022. Results are expected end of July 2021.

**Donors**

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, UN CERF, the Kingdom of Eswatini and Multilateral.