

Revision of the Eswatini country strategic plan (2020–2024) and corresponding budget increase — For approval by vote by correspondence

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 January 2020– 31 December 2024	One-year extension	1 January 2020– 31 December 2025
Beneficiaries	263 292	312 972	576 264
<i>(USD)</i>			
Total cost	32 460 522	17 452 575	49 913 097
Transfers	25 287 915	15 741 758	41 029 674
Implementation	2 024 011	491 407	2 515 418
Adjusted direct support costs	3 167 436	154 230	3 321 666
Subtotal	30 479 363	16 387 395	46 866 758
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	1 981 159	1 065 181	3 046 339

Gender and age marker:* 3

* <http://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

Draft decision

The Board approves by vote by correspondence the revision of the Eswatini country strategic plan (CSP) (2020–2024) and the corresponding budget increase of USD 17,452,575 outlined in the present document.

Rationale

1. This revision seeks to align the Eswatini country strategic plan (2020–2024) with the recently finalized United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework for 2021–2025 (UNSDCF). It is proposed that the CSP be extended for an additional year to December 2025 to align it with the UNSDCF timeframe. In addition, WFP will integrate resilience building and climate adaptation into the CSP activities to support smallholder farmers and strengthen the capacities of national institutions, in alignment with UNSDCF outcome 4, “strengthening natural resource management, climate resilience and environmental sustainability”.

2. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) results show that between April and September 2021, over 209,000 people (18 percent of the population) are expected to experience high acute food insecurity. While this represents an improvement from January to March 2021, the emergency response required still exceeds the capacity of national social safety net programmes, potentially resulting in long-term vulnerability for the most vulnerable households. Urgent assistance is required, particularly for the nearly 49,900 people in IPC phase 4 (emergency) and 159,100 people in IPC phase 3 (crisis). Economic losses, high food prices and comparatively restricted market access related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) are among the principal drivers of food insecurity affecting peri-urban and poor rural areas.

Changes

Strategic orientation

3. This revision does not change the strategic orientation of the CSP. In alignment with UNSDCF outcome 4, which focuses on climate resilience and environmental sustainability, WFP will introduce a resilient production model to activity 2 in support of 3,000 smallholder farmers, in particular women. The model will focus on the provision of climate adaptation technologies and technical training to optimize productivity. WFP will also provide a starter input package (seeds, fertilizer, pesticide, irrigation equipment) to establish production plots in 1,700 neighbourhood care points (NCPs). The resulting production will support meals in the NCPs, and the income from sales will help finance continued agricultural production.
4. The introduction of the resilient production model will facilitate the sustainable production of food for orphaned and vulnerable children in NCPs who currently receive WFP food assistance. In accordance with a partial exit strategy, a subset of these children will benefit from the school feeding programme run by the Ministry of Education and Training by the end of 2022. In parallel, orphaned and vulnerable children under 3 will benefit from food sustainably produced in the NCPs. WFP has updated the language in the line of sight to accurately reflect the renewed focus on sustainable production. Specifically, strategic outcome 2 and activity 2 have been rephrased.
5. Under activity 1, WFP plans to complement the government response and support an additional 71,000 vulnerable people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Guided by the IPC results, WFP will continue to focus on IPC phase 3 and IPC phase 4 households in urban and peri-urban areas, specifically targeting seasonal and informal labourers, people with high dependency ratios, populations most at risk for malnutrition, migrants and refugees and people living in areas under lockdown or movement restriction or high-risk epicentre areas. WFP and its partners will implement the principles of the new WFP protection and accountability to affected populations policy, paying special attention to people with disabilities.
6. Also under activity 1, and subject to the outcomes of the harvest periods, WFP will adjust the caseload by an additional 223,073 people during the lean season response (2021/2022 and 2023/2024). Households with children age 6–23 months, people living with HIV and tuberculosis, pregnant and lactating women and girls and orphaned and vulnerable children will continue to be prioritized to reduce deterioration of their nutrition outcomes and contribute to breaking the cycle of malnutrition. According to the 2021 Eswatini vulnerability assessment committee, the stunting rate is 25 percent overall for children under 5 and 35 percent for children age 18–23 months. WFP will continue to support nutrition-sensitive treatment literacy among people living with HIV and tuberculosis through a social behaviour change communication package.

7. WFP uses a combination of in-kind food rations and cash-based transfers. The majority of beneficiaries (80 percent) are supported through cash-based transfers, which has been identified as the most appropriate modality through market assessments. WFP also provides malnourished HIV and tuberculosis patients and pregnant and lactating women and girls with commodity vouchers for nutritious foods. WFP is in the initial stages of discussions with the Government to channel assistance through national social protection programmes. The discussions focus on harmonization and flexibility in transfer mechanisms and values, targeting and the potential integration of emergency transfers by WFP or other humanitarian actors.
8. WFP's response supports the overall United Nations intervention as described in the UNSDCF and associated plans of the United Nations disaster management team. Complementarities across plans will be sought and supported for long-term collective outcomes. WFP will coordinate with other United Nations entities and relevant clusters and sectors as appropriate, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization and the agriculture and food security, logistics, information technology, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene clusters and sectors.
9. Weather-induced risks (drought, prolonged dry spells and flooding) and limited funding pose major challenges to operations. To continue delivering the expected outcomes, WFP has put in place mitigation actions that include heightening engagement with the Government in early warning evidence generation and engagement with a broader donor base, with a focus on investment in capacity strengthening activities.
10. WFP will continue to use remote monitoring and reporting systems to limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19. WFP uses remote complaint and feedback mechanisms, including two-way call centres, where possible.
11. The decentralized review of the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) pilot project under activity 2 (support to smallholder farmers) and activity 3 (school meals), for which evidence is currently being generated, will be conducted in 2022 and will inform the scale-up of the HGSF approach to more schools under the government's national school feeding programme.

Beneficiary analysis

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND MODALITY							
Strategic outcome	Activity	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0–18 years)	Boys (0–18 years)	Total
1	1	Current	58 265	50 145	39 571	39 818	187 799
		Increase	88 277	81 609	61 870	62 317	294 073
		Revised	146 542	131 754	101 441	102 135	481 872
2	2	Current	6 000	6 000			12 000
		Increase	2 000	1 000			3 000
		Revised	8 000	7 000			15 000
3	3: Home-grown school feeding	Current			11 806	12 686	24 392
		Increase			0	0	0
		Revised			11 806	12 686	24 392
	3: Orphaned and vulnerable children	Current			28 335	26 665	55 000
		Increase			0	0	0
		Revised			28 335	26 665	55 000
Total (without overlap)		Current	64 254	56 145	71 672	71 211	263 292
		Increase	90 288	82 609	69 910	70 275	312 972
		Revised	154 542	138 754	141 582	141 486	576 264

Transfers

	Strategic outcome 1			Strategic outcome 2	
	Activity 1			Activity 3	
Beneficiary type	Resident	Resident	Resident	Schoolchildren (home-grown school feeding)	Neighbourhood care points (orphaned and vulnerable children)
Modality	Food	Cash-based transfers	Commodity voucher	Food	Food
Cereals	333.33			150.00	150.00
Pulses	83.33			40.00	40.00
Oil	30.00			7.50	7.50
Total kcal/day	1 766	1 766	1 766	756	756
% kcal from protein	10.5			11.4	11.4
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)		0.35	0.52		
Number of feeding days per year	180	180	180	264	264

Food type/ cash-based transfer	Current budget		Increase		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	10 127	3 448 251	3 267	1 376 538	13 393	4 824 789
Pulses	2 636	3 185 964	858	917 478	3 495	4 103 442
Oil and fats	660	554 081	194	242 970	854	797 051
Mixed and blended foods	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (food)	13 423	7 188 296	4 319	2 536 986	17 742	9 725 282
Cash-based transfers		13 458 681		7 190 979		20 649 659
Total (food and cash-based transfer value)	13 423	20 646 976	4 319	9 727 965	17 742	30 374 941

Cost breakdown

12. This revision effects a one-year extension across all strategic outcomes through December 2025. An upward adjustment in the budget has also been made under strategic outcome 1 to account for an increase in caseloads for the COVID-19 response and lean season assistance. Separately, due to recent school closures, the home-grown school feeding resources will be carried forward and allocated to the years 2021 and 2022.

	Strategic result 1/ SDG target 2.1	Strategic result 3/ SDG target 2.3	Strategic result 5/ SDG target 17.9	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	
Focus area	Crisis response	Resilience building	Resilience building	
Transfers	8 426 325	2 534 488	4 780 946	15 741 758
Implementation	209 341	313 010	(30 944)	491 407
Adjusted direct support costs				154 230
Subtotal				16 387 395
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)				1 065 181
Total				17 452 575

	Strategic result 1/ SDG target 2.1	Strategic result 3/ SDG target 2.3	Strategic result 5/ SDG target 17.9	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	
Focus area	Crisis response	Resilience building	Resilience building	
Transfers	26 705 986	3 013 164	11 310 524	41 029 674
Implementation	1 153 897	639 285	722 236	2 515 418
Adjusted direct support costs	2 142 226	513 906	665 534	3 321 666
Subtotal	30 002 449	4 166 015	12 698 294	46 866 758
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	1 950 159	270 791	825 389	3 046 339
Total	31 952 608	4 436 806	13 523 683	49 913 097