



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

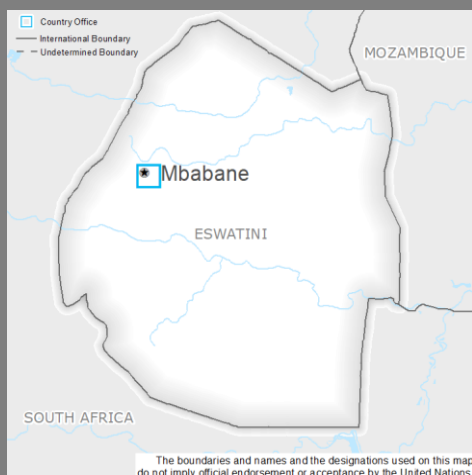
WFP Eswatini Country Brief March 2022



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.



Population: **1.1 million**

2019 Human Development Index:
138 out of 189 countries

Income Level: **Lower Middle**

2021 Global Hunger Index: **69 out of 116 countries**

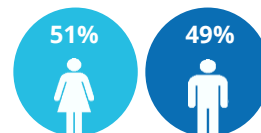
In Numbers

932 mt food assistance distributed in March 2022

US\$ 277,008 cash-based transfers made in March 2022

US\$ 2 million six-month (April-September 2022) net funding requirements

113,227 people assisted in March 2022



Operational Updates

- Through access to food, WFP provides social safety nets for 59,000 orphans and vulnerable children under 5 years at the 1,700 Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) in Eswatini. NCP partners continued with monthly monitoring, captured distributors reports in COMET (*country office tool for managing programme operations effectively*) and shared their monthly reports. The review of the NCP strategy led by a WFP consultant is ongoing. The review is coordinated by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office through the Children's Services department conducted with other stakeholders.
- Under NCP food production, some NCPs have completed their maize harvesting and have started planting beans and vegetables for the winter season. Some NCPs have also received infrastructure inputs (maize storage tanks, fence, irrigation, and maize crib materials). NCPs have also planted fruit trees as part of their production. Not only does this food production project provide diverse and nutritious meals to the children, it also benefits households and smallholder farmers through the received trainings and practice of the conservation agriculture (CA) concept in their own fields for food security at the household level.
- WFP works with the Government, through the Ministry of Education and Training in implementing a sustainable, nutrition-sensitive 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 smallholder farmers to provide schoolchildren with food that is safe, diverse, nutritious, and local. The introduction of eggs to the food basket is currently ongoing, and farmer organizations have received their layer chickens. WFP is currently developing terms of reference to conduct a joint decentralised evaluation for the HGSF pilot titled "*Evaluation on linking smallholder farmers to home-grown school feeding market in Eswatini from 2019 to 2021*".

Country Strategic Plan (2020–2025)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
49.9m*	25m	2m

*Following the imminent approval of an ongoing budget revision.

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.

- Beneficiaries continue to receive poultry production inputs (broilers and chickens). Monitoring is ongoing for the 220 people living with HIV, adolescent girls and young women living with HIV, and key populations (those at increased risk of HIV) under poultry and cash crop production, and financial management for the livelihood activities that is supported by UNAIDS through the Swaziland Network of Young (SNYP+) and Membatsise Home Based Care.
- WFP together with the Government under the Ministry of Agriculture is supporting a project titled “Eswatini Integrated Agricultural Information Management System” (IAMIS). The IAMIS is designed to improve the performance management information systems for monitoring, evaluation and performance of food systems and livelihood programmes, through the design and development of an integrated online (web-enabled) system. Effective November 2021, the project has a life of 6 months, with possible extension should the funds be available to continue.

- Staff and implementing partners were trained on mainstreaming gender across all their activities. Implementing partners were also trained on the WFP gender policy, protection and accountability to affected populations, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and monitoring approaches.

Crisis Response

- In response to the impact of COVID-19, WFP is implementing a crisis response through unconditional resource transfers (URT) to affected populations. A total of 30,385 people (from Oct 2021 – March 2022) were supported with cash-based transfers (CBT). An additional 230 beneficiaries were supported under the cash for work modality.
- WFP also provides humanitarian assistance to drought-affected populations. In the month of March 2022 WFP distributed food to 27,105 beneficiaries.

Donors

