



World Food Programme

# WFP ESWATINI Country Brief January 2025

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## Operational Context

Eswatini is located at the intersection of major climatic zones, influenced by air masses from various origins, such as summer rains, high temperatures, and occasional cyclones. As a result, the country's agro-ecological zones create diverse climatic conditions across its varied topography and ecosystems.

Eswatini has experienced torrential rainfall that has significantly impacted farmers, causing widespread flooding, crop damage, soil erosion, and substantial losses. This threatens the livelihoods of both subsistence and commercial farmers due to damaged fields and reduced harvests. Excessive rainfall can also lead to waterlogging and increase the risk of crop diseases, exacerbating food insecurity. Furthermore, poor households become highly vulnerable to shocks and food price inflation, which worsens the country's food insecurity and nutritional challenges.

In this context, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) provides food assistance, strengthens government capacity, and supports the development of effective policies. In partnership with the government, WFP works to improve the country's food systems and enhance the production capacity of smallholder farmers.



Population: **1.2 million**

2023 Human Development Index: **142 out of 193**

Income Level: **Lower-Middle**

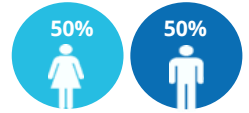
Chronic malnutrition; **25 percent of children under 5**

## In Numbers

**USD 2.2 million** six-month net funding requirements (February to July 2025) representing 48 percent of total requirements

**64.48** of food assistance distributed to **217** neighbourhood care points (NCPs)

**6,154** people assisted in January 2025



## Operational Updates

**Budget revision:** The WFP Eswatini Country Office (CO) is currently working on a budget revision that is expected to be approved by April 2025.

**Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF):** In January, the CO held a meeting with retailers to work on the planning, logistics, communication and delivery order for the next distribution phase under the HGSF planned to resume in the second school term in May 2025. The CO has now organized a work plan with clear responsibilities for the next distribution of eggs and vegetables to schools. The project is expected to resume in May.

**Children Social Food Safety Net:** In January, WFP provided support to approximately 6,154 orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs) in 217 neighbourhood care points (NCPs). WFP is also supporting the government of Eswatini with the development of standard operation procedures for NCPs to provide guidelines for the Social Centres in alignment with the NCP strategy. This aims to improve the efficiency and standardization of NCP operations while fostering accountability and ensuring proper registration of NCPs.

**Livelihood Projects:** WFP is working in collaboration with the UNDP to enhance the capacity of local farmers by providing support for energy efficiency. This initiative will benefit two schools, six NCPs and two smallholder farmers with the aim of improving sustainability and operational efficiency in their agricultural activities.

**Operational Challenges:** WFP is expected to reduce direct implementation and use cooperating partners as well as capacitate the national government. With the existing reduced CO structure, the office is segregating duties and assigning activities to personnel to fulfil the implementation of planned activities and provide necessary support to the government.

**Achievements:** The new Head of Office has successfully joined and settled in the CO to provide support to colleagues and office operations. He is currently being introduced as per protocol to partners, embassies and other organizations WFP is working with. The CO has successfully completed a session on the Annual Performance Plan.

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**Country Strategic Plan (2020-2025)**

| Total Requirement (In USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>76.83 m</b>             | <b>39.07m</b>                    | <b>2.2m</b>                                 |

**Strategic Result 01: Everyone has access to food**

**Strategic Outcome 01:** Vulnerable populations in shock-affected areas can meet their basic food and nutrition needs during times of crisis.

**Focus area:** *Crisis Response*

**Activities 1:** Provide food and/or cash-based transfers to food insecure populations, including children affected by shocks

**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 food by 2024

**Focus area:** *Resilience Building*

**Activities 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*

**Activities 3:** Provide evidence and strengthen national systems and capacities for designing and implementing, nutrition-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection programmes, including school feeding.

**Operational updates (continued)**

**Monitoring and assessment:** The monitoring of the eggs and vegetable programme in schools, under the Home-Grown School Feeding is ongoing with the help of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Under this project, ADRA will continue assisting in the post-delivery monitoring services of eggs and vegetables in the Manzini and Lubombo regions, covering both primary and high schools. This project also provides onsite trainings to school's staff on proper handling, storage and preparation of vegetables and eggs to ensure nutritious and well-balanced meals served to pupils.

**Economic forecast:** The economic outlook is positive, although downside risks remain. Growth is predicted at 4.9 percent for 2024, underpinned by improvements in industry and services, then tapering in 2025 due to slowing agriculture growth. Overall, a slight economic recovery is expected due to falling interest rates although growth levels are set to remain minor, this is according to an African Development Bank report recently published.

**Impact of heavy rain on the economy and farmers:**

**Economic Impact:** reduced crop production due to flooding can lead to decreased income for farmers and potential food insecurity.

**Infrastructure:** flooding can also damage irrigation systems, roads and bridges, further hindering agricultural activities.

**Crop damage:** flooding from heavy rains inundates farmlands, destroying planted crops and preventing new planting, leading to significant harvest losses.

**Soil erosion:** the torrential rain can wash away topsoil, reducing soil fertility and impacting future crop yields.

**Waterlogging:** Excessive water can lead to waterlogged crops, increasing the risk of fungal diseases and root rot.

**Donors**

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Commission, Germany, Global Fund, Japan, Multilateral Funding, Private Donors, the Kingdom of Eswatini and United Kingdom, United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDs (UNAIDS), Multi Partner Trust Fund and UNDP *(in alphabetical order)*