



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP ESWATINI

Country Brief

May 2025



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**

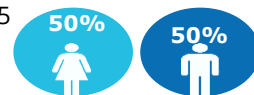
Chronic malnutrition; **25 percent of children under 5**

In Numbers

227.2 MT of food assistance distributed to **861 NCPs**

USD 0.5 million six months net funding requirements, representing 14 percent of total requirement (June to November 2025)

26,682 people assisted in May 2025



Operational Updates

Children Social Food Safety Net

In May 2025, WFP provided support to 26,628 orphaned and vulnerable children (OVCs) in 861 neighbourhood care points (NCPs). WFP is also supporting the government of Eswatini with the development of standard operating 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

Under the UBRAF-funded livelihoods support, WFP has assisted 30 beneficiaries with income-generating activities aimed at strengthening resilience among vulnerable populations affected by HIV. The project focuses on improving food and nutrition security through sustainable livelihoods, particularly for individuals living with or affected by HIV and those living with disability. In May 2025 four beneficiaries who were awaiting delivery of layer chickens have now received them and have started selling eggs, contributing to improved household income and self-reliance.

Climate Resilience

WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), FAO, NAMBoard, CFI, and the Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development (MTAD), trained 24 participants (17 youth and 7 community leaders) on improved vegetable production, market access, post-harvest handling, financial management, and shifting from subsistence to business-oriented farming.

Challenges

Funding Constraints: Due to lack of funding, the Eswatini Office continues to face staffing gaps, including the absence of a dedicated communications officer. This has limited the ability to document and share programme impact, affecting visibility, donor reporting, and partner engagement.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2025)

Total Requirement
(In USD)

76.83 m

Allocated
Contributions (in USD)

39.3m

Six Month Net Funding
Requirements (in USD)

0.5 m

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.

Monitoring and Assessments

In May 2025, WFP successfully completed data collection for the annual Vulnerability Analysis and Assessment (VAA), which included a key component of the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA). The exercise aimed to provide updated insights into the food security and vulnerability status of households across Eswatini. The data will inform national planning, targeting, and early warning systems. Analysis of the collected data is currently underway, with results expected to guide programming and policy decisions for the upcoming lean season and broader resilience-building efforts.

Economic Forecast

The economic outlook in 2025 remains cautiously optimistic, with growth forecasted at 3.9%, supported by stronger performance in industry and services. However, agricultural growth is expected to slow, reflecting broader regional trends. Risks such as global trade tensions, inflationary pressures, and fiscal constraints remain challenges. Continued domestic reforms and efforts to mobilize capital are essential to strengthening economic resilience and sustaining development, consistent with the African Development Bank's regional projections (African Development Bank, 2025).

Key points about the impact of heavy rain on the Economy and farmers in Eswatini

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 the United Kingdom. Additional support has been provided by the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and, Multi partner Trust fund (MPTF) and the United Nations Development Programme.