

Country strategic plan revision

Eswatini country strategic plan, revision 6

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	<i>January 2020 – December 2025</i>	<i>Extension by 1 year</i>	<i>January 2020 – December 2026</i>
Beneficiaries	331,852	20,147	351,999
Total cost (USD)	76,838,626	3,419,908	80,258,534
Transfer	64,581,670	2,482,568	67,064,237
Implementation	3,556,748	645,170	4,201,918
Direct support costs	4,010,527	83,443	4,093,970
Subtotal	72,148,944	3,211,181	75,360,126
Indirect support costs	4,689,681	208,727	4,898,408

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL: RD

1. RATIONALE

- In response to the Government of Eswatini's request for continued support, WFP Eswatini will extend the current Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2020–2025) by one year, through December 2026. This extension will provide the necessary time to plan and develop the next CSP (2026–2031) in close collaboration with national counterparts and stakeholders, while remaining in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2026–2030. Additionally, this revision will increase the budget under Activity 3, Outcome 3 by USD 2.8 million to allow for the continuation of the homegrown school feeding (HGSF) programme to 50 existing schools and 40 new schools (15% of primary schools¹), identified in partnership with the Government. Through this continuation, WFP will work with the Government to enable smallholder farmers (SHF) to operate as producers for the HGSF programme.
- Increasing food insecurity despite increased rainfall.** Despite improved rainfall patterns during the 2024/2025 agricultural season, Eswatini continues to face persistent food insecurity. The positive effects of the rainfall are expected to be realized post-harvest. However, structural challenges such as high poverty levels, prolonged economic downturns, and rising food prices continue to limit household access to sufficient and nutritious food, particularly among vulnerable and low-income populations. These underlying factors contribute to chronic food insecurity in both rural and peri-urban communities, underscoring the continued need for resilience-building and sustainable food system interventions.
- Increasing malnutrition rates,** with 25 percent of children under the age of five being stunted, with the highest rates among children aged 18 to 23 months (35 percent)². Due to increasing food insecurity and malnutrition rates, the Government of Eswatini has requested WFP Eswatini to continue to prioritise support to the population group that is most prone to malnutrition (2-6 years). Food provided by the government as part of the school feeding programme (maize meal, beans and rice) lacks diversity, is usually delivered

¹ [Ministry of Education and Training](#)

² [UNICEF, Child nutrition in Eswatini](#)

late particularly at the start of the school year and is insufficient to cover the feeding of every child throughout the year.

4. **Smallholder farmers lack access to markets.** In Eswatini, SHFs constitute approximately 70% of the population and are critical to the country's food security and rural economy. Most SHFs cultivate on Swazi National Land under customary tenure, relying on rain-fed agriculture to produce staples like maize, legumes, and vegetables. Despite their critical role, SHFs often face significant challenges accessing formal markets due to limited infrastructure, weak value chains, and inadequate market information. This restricts their ability to increase their incomes.³
5. **Eswatini HGSF pilot project decentralised evaluation.** The 2023 *Evaluation of linking Eswatini Smallholder Farmers to the Homegrown School Feeding Market (HGSF) in Eswatini from 2019 to 2021*⁴ found that the programme was well aligned to national priorities related to education, nutrition, agriculture, poverty alleviation, and social protection. Though the programme faced a number of challenges, it was still able to demonstrate the added value of HGSF in Eswatini across various parameters, including improved nutrition, enhanced food security, promotion of economic empowerment, stimulation of the local economy, support for education, provision of social protection, fostering collaboration, and contribution to sustainable development. The evaluation reported that the HGSF pilot programme was highly regarded by all stakeholders, particularly farmers. With the learning from the pilot programme and a better understanding of the programme by all stakeholders, the Government of Eswatini has requested WFP to continue into the next phase of the HGSF programme. WFP will support the Government to establish a clear sustainability and transition roadmap aligned with Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) recommendations.

2. CHANGES

Strategic orientation

6. The strategic orientation of the CSP remains unchanged.

CSP outcomes

7. **Responding to increasing food insecurity and malnutrition rates.** This revision will allow for the scale-up of the successful HGSF pilot programme. The continued HGSF programme would provide diversity to the meals, introduce an animal source protein and fill part of the gap in the delayed and insufficient provision of maize and beans from the government. WFP will work closely with schools and the Ministry of Education to ensure there is no duplication in delivery of maize and beans. From March to August 2025, WFP will continue to support the original 50 schools that formed part of the HGSF pilot programme with vegetables and eggs. From September 2025 to December 2026, WFP will scale the pilot programme incorporating learnings from the evaluation, to an additional 40 schools (20,000 new beneficiaries). WFP will transfer maize, beans and oil, through an in-kind modality, and eggs and vegetables, procured from local SHF, through a value voucher modality to an additional 40 new schools in Shiselweni, Lubombo, Manzini and Hhohho, at a cost of USD 0.38 per child per day.

³ Aligned with Strategy 4 of the [National Development Plan 2023/24 – 2027/28](#) to ensure strong business linkages for improved marketing of products.

⁴ [Evaluation of linking Eswatini Smallholder Farmers to the Home-grown School Feeding Market \(HGSF\) in Eswatini from 2019 to 2021](#), October 2023.

8. ***Empowering SHF through market access.*** WFP Eswatini is committed to supporting the Government of Eswatini in transforming the agricultural sector by empowering SHFs to enhance local production and access sustainable markets. This initiative aligns with Eswatini's National Development Strategy (NDS) and the Strategic Roadmap (2019–2030), which prioritize poverty reduction, food security, and inclusive economic growth through agriculture. WFP's intervention focuses on building resilient agricultural systems, enhancing technical capacity, and developing market linkages to ensure sustainable livelihoods for SHFs. Through this revision, WFP will partner with FAO, IFAD and Eswatini Water and Agriculture Development Enterprise to stimulate local productivity of SHFs and link the excess produce to national markets including schools, hospitals and local supermarkets. The Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and Marketing Project (SAPEMP) aims to reach 19,600 SHF households. Of these, WFP will provide targeted support to 2,000 SHFs from the four regions targeted by the HGSF programme, with tailored assistance focused on procurement readiness and improving linkages to the HGSF supply chain, contributing to Government priorities around local production and school feeding.
9. ***Reduction of beneficiary numbers at Neighbourhood Care Points (NCP):*** In 2024, WFP reached 26,500 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) through 863 NCP. The proposed revision seeks to adjust the beneficiary planning figure to 27,500, from the original figure of 38,500 OVC. This adjustment is based on realistic beneficiary trends and aims to enhance targeting accuracy and resource alignment for continued impact at community level.
10. ***Strengthening Government capacity to enhance the National School Feeding Programme (NSFP) in Eswatini.*** Over the life of the CSP, WFP Eswatini has established itself as a key technical support partner to the Ministry of Education. The Government fully implements and funds the NSFP. Conducting a SABER will support the government in identifying ways to more effectively and efficiently implement the NSFP. SABER is a diagnostic tool used to assess the countries' policy frameworks, financial capacities, institutional capacity and coordination, design and implementation, and community roles. The SABER will provide the country with a detailed report on the status of the NSFP, as well as a capacity strengthening strategy and roadmap. The roadmap will provide a path toward improving national capacities to deliver quality school feeding sustainably. The assessment will be coordinated by an international WFP consultant in collaboration with the government.
11. Targeting approach and beneficiary analysis: The HGSF programme will reach 20,000 school children (approximately 9,800 males and 10,200 females) from 40 new schools, which were identified in partnership with the government.
12. Transfer modalities: WFP Eswatini will provide maize, beans and oil through an in-kind modality and eggs and fresh vegetables through the value voucher modality to strengthen the local markets. The value vouchers will be restricted to vegetables and eggs, as specified by the Government. WFP Eswatini and the Government have identified retailers in sufficient proximity to each vulnerable school and these retailers will be contracted and registered as service points into SCOPE. Each school will nominate two school committee members, who will be registered into SCOPE, and able to redeem the vouchers. Retailers will deliver the commodities to schools on a weekly basis.
13. Partnerships: The main partners are the Government of Eswatini (Ministry of Education), with additional collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (including the ministry's parastatals), Ministry of Health, FAO and other agricultural apex bodies. WFP will engage with partners to mobilize transitional financing and technical support for the sustainability of the national programme.
14. Supply chain: WFP will register 40 new schools and provide vouchers alongside training on voucher use and track food quantity and quality to support retailer performance monitoring. Product descriptions for eggs and vegetables have been developed to align with national standards, or WFP-defined specifications where standards do not exist. These

specifications will be included in contracts with retailers and shared with schools and monitors. Contracts will also include clauses on food safety and quality (FSQ) compliance. WFP will procure maize and beans from the National Maize Corporation (NMC) who will ensure commodities meet quality standards, after which WFP will distribute, to schools that require these commodities, once per school term, ensuring efficient, cost-effective, and timely delivery. This approach reduces transport costs, limits post-harvest losses and supports local agriculture.

15. Transition/handover strategy: The SABER, July to September 2025, will provide the Government with milestones and a roadmap to enable more effective implementation of their existing NSFP. WFP will continue to work closely with both the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education and Training, offering technical support and capacity strengthening to each ministry, with the aim of handing-over the HGSF schools to the Government at the end of 2026. A transitioning package will also be provided to government reinforcing SABER recommendations, highlighting lessons learned from the HGSF Evaluation and ongoing HGSF programme to inform recommendations for scale up at a national level, including management of payment systems.
16. Risk Management: In June 2024, WFP conducted an FSQ risk assessment and developed a digital receiving checklist and risk-based monitoring tools, now integrated into WFP's monitoring system. FSQ questions will be included in monitoring questionnaires to assess storage, handling, and preparation of fresh foods and meals, helping identify and address risks. To ensure accountability and proper use of vouchers, product descriptions and FSQ clauses will be included in retailer contracts. Schools will receive training on using the digital checklist to verify food quality, trace rejected items, and assess retailer performance. WFP staff, monitors, and partners will also receive FSQ and hygiene training. A market assessment confirmed retailers' capacity to supply eggs and vegetables, and WFP will continue monitoring prices and engaging retailers to avoid shortages and price spikes.

Beneficiary analysis

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME, ACTIVITY & MODALITY								
CSP Outcome	Activity	Modality	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-18 years)	Boys (0-18 years)	Total
1	1	CBT	Current	63,578	57,161	44,008	44,353	209,100
			Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
			Revised	63,578	57,161	44,008	44,353	209,100
		In-kind	Current	9,273	8,337	6,420	6,470	30,500
			Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
			Revised	9,273	8,337	6,420	6,470	30,500
		Commodity vouchers	Current	3,911	3,515	2,706	2,728	12,860
			Increase/decrease	0	0	0	0	0
			Revised	3,911	3,515	2,706	2,728	12,860
3	3	In-kind	Current	0	0	40,141	39,251	79,392
			Increase/decrease	0	0	9,680	10,320	20,000
			Revised	0	0	49,821	49,571	99,392
		CBT	Current	0	0	11,952	12,440	24,392
			Increase/Decrease	0	0	9,605	10,542	20,147
			Revised	0	0	21,557	22,982	44,539
TOTAL (without overlap)			Current	76,762	69,013	93,275	92,802	331,852
			Increase/Decrease	0	0	9,605	10,542	20,147
			Revised	76,762	69,013	102,880	103,344	351,999

Transfers

TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (USD/person/day) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY					
	Strategic outcome 1			Strategic outcome 3	
	Activity 1			Activity 3	
Beneficiary type	Residents	Residents	Residents	Schoolchildren (home-grown school feeding)	Neighbourhood care point (orphaned and vulnerable children)
Modality	Food	CBTs	Commodity vouchers	Food	Food
Cereals	333.33			150	150
Pulses	83.33			40	40
Oil	30.00			7.50	7.50
Fish					30
Salt					
Sugar					
SuperCereal ⁵				75	75
SuperCereal Plus					
Micronutrient powder					
Total kcal/day	1,766			1,040*	1,008*
% kcal from protein	10.5			13.3	13.4
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)		0.5	0.52	0.17	
Number of feeding days per year	180	180	180	264	264

⁵ Please note that if WFP encounters difficulties in sourcing SuperCereal with sugar in the market, as was the case in 2023, WFP will use a mixture of Corn-Soya-Blend and sugar as a suitable alternative.

* In a five-day week, the children in neighbourhood care points consume beans on three days, and fish on the other two days. This means that by the end of the month, they will have consumed roughly the same number of calories as children under the school feeding programme.

TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE						
	Current budget		Increase/decrease		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	22,586	8,838,016	1,854	820,375	24,440	9,658,391
Pulses	5,923	7,994,315	288	564,991	6,211	8,559,306
Oil and Fats	1,369	1,759,794	83	166,765	1,452	1,926,559
Mixed and blended foods	1,198	958,320	- 381	- 304,920	817	653,400
Other	479	2,166,762	- 7	- 22,981	472	2,143,781
TOTAL (food)	31,555	21,717,206	1,836	1,224,230	33,391	22,941,436
CBT (USD)		27,236,814		644,603		27,881,418
TOTAL (food & CBT USD)	31,555	48,954,021	1,836	1,868,833	33,391	50,822,854

3. COST BREAKDOWN

17. This revision will increase the total budget by USD 3.4 million, which largely sits under CSP Outcome 3 for scale-up of a successful pilot of the HGSF programme.

TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)				
WFP strategic outcomes	WFP Strategic Outcome 1	WFP Strategic Outcome 3	WFP Strategic Outcome 4	Total
CSP outcomes	CSP 1	CSP 2	CSP 3	
Focus area	Crisis Response	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	
Transfer	- 487,107	538,581	2,431,093	
Implementation	235,193	46,691	363,286	645,170
Direct support costs				83,443
Subtotal				3,211,181
Indirect support costs				208,727
TOTAL				3,419,908

TABLE 4: OVERALL CSP COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)				
WFP strategic outcomes	WFP Strategic Outcome 1	WFP Strategic Outcome 3	WFP Strategic Outcome 4	Total
CSP outcomes	CSP 1	CSP 2	CSP 3	
Focus area	Crisis Response	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	
Transfer	34,322,581	3,668,134	29,073,521	67,064,237
Implementation	1,753,491	860,325	1,588,102	4,201,918
Direct support costs	1,952,800	273,141	1,868,029	4,093,970
Subtotal	38,028,872	4,801,601	32,529,653	75,360,126
Indirect support costs	2,471,877	312,104	2,114,427	4,898,408
TOTAL	40,500,749	5,113,705	34,644,080	80,258,534