

WFP ESWATINI Country Brief December 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

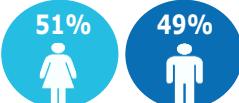
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In Numbers

26,991 people assisted in December 2025



USD 2.4 million six-month net funding requirement (January to June 2026) representing 50 percent of the total requirement.

124.2 MT of food assistance distributed to 862 Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs)

Operational Updates

- In December 2025, WFP assisted 26,991 pre-primary children at Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) through the distribution of 124.2 MT of food, including a new commodity, sardine fish donated from Japan, to enhance dietary diversity and nutrition for young children.

Livelihood Support

- In December, WFP distributed livelihood starter kits to caregivers serving at Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) across the Manzini Region to strengthen their economic resilience and support income-generating activities. The kits included baking equipment, poultry production inputs, food processing and preservation materials, and detergent-making supplies. These caregivers play a critical role in preparing and serving meals at NCPs, which WFP supports as community-based platforms providing daily meals, care, and early childhood support to vulnerable children, often on a voluntary basis and without financial compensation. Each caregiver group received a tailored kit aligned with the livelihoods training provided by WFP in 2024, ensuring the support is practical, skills-based, and sustainable, while reinforcing both household livelihoods and the continued functionality of NCPs.

Smallholder Farmer Support

- WFP provided agricultural inputs to the Njelu Youth in Action Group in Nhlabeni, a site supported under WFP's integrated climate resilience and youth empowerment programming. The support included seedlings, pesticides, and farming tools to enable the group to continue cultivating their 1.72-hectare plot of land, strengthening productive capacity, climate-smart agriculture practices, and youth-led livelihoods.

Energy Efficiency

- Under the Just Energy Project, implemented in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WFP conducted sensitization campaigns at six schools and two Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs). The sessions targeted caregivers and school staff, focusing on safe handling, maintenance, and energy-efficient practices for institutional cooking technologies. Live demonstrations showcased the proper use of pressure cookers, while the Ministry of Education and Training reinforced the importance of adopting efficient cooking solutions within school feeding programmes. Interactive discussions enhanced users' confidence in operating the equipment, contributing to improved meal preparation efficiency and reduced fuel consumption. In addition, WFP's cooperating partner, STREEC, installed biogas systems at six sites, further strengthening access to sustainable energy solution.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2026)

Total Requirement (In USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
80.26 m	40.68 m	2.4 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 2026

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.

Research, Assessments and Monitoring

- WFP concluded data collection for Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) activity implementation monitoring, enhancing evidence-based programme management. In addition, a baseline assessment was conducted in 46 newly enrolled schools under the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, funded by the Mastercard, to inform programme planning, implementation, and performance tracking.

Economic Forecast

- Eswatini's economic growth is projected at around 4.3 percent in 2025, driven by investment in infrastructure and the services sector, according to the IMF. Inflation slowed to 2.3 percent in December 2025, reflecting easing price pressures, as reported by the Central Statistical Office (CSO). Structural challenges, including high unemployment and dependence on South Africa's economy, continue to constrain inclusive growth. Medium-term stability will depend on fiscal consolidation, public financial management reforms, and private sector development, as highlighted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

Food Security and Agriculture

Impact of November-December Rainfall and Hailstorms on Livelihoods

- In December 2025, Eswatini experienced severe weather events that caused significant damage to livelihoods and infrastructure. A powerful hailstorm accompanied by strong winds swept through parts of the country, particularly in the Hhohho and Manzini regions, leaving at least approximately 2 819 people and 563 households in unsafe living conditions. Nine schools and two health facilities suffered structural damage, and key water supply infrastructure, including solar-powered boreholes, was destroyed, threatening water access for communities. The storms also damaged feeder roads, limiting market access for smallholder farmers and constraining the movement of goods and services at the peak of the agricultural season. The Government of Eswatini, through NDMA and partners, provided emergency relief, tarpaulins, food parcels, and building materials, but estimates SZL76 Million (approximately USD 4.62 million) is needed for full recovery.

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.