



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

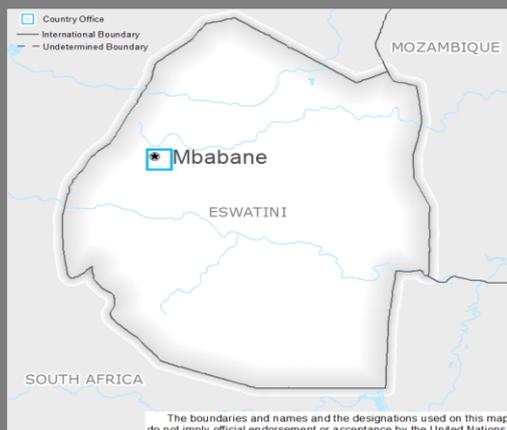
WFP Eswatini Country Brief November 2020



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.



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Population: **1.1 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **173 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Lower Middle**

2019 Global Hunger Index: **97 out of 117 countries**

In Numbers

437.135 mt food assistance distributed

US\$ 4.2 million cash-based transfers made between January and November 2020

US\$ 6.1 million six-month (December 2020-May 2021) net funding requirements

114,753 people assisted in November 2020



Operational Updates

- WFP provides social safety nets for 55,000 orphans and vulnerable children under 5 years at the 1,700 Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) in Eswatini through access to food and basic social services.
- WFP works with the Government in implementing a sustainable, nutrition-sensitive, shock-responsive national school meals programme. The pilot 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 local smallholder farmers to provide schoolchildren with food that is safe, diverse, nutritious and local.
- WFP, together with Ministry of Agriculture and FAO supported the capacity strengthening of smallholder farmers through trainings. Four farmer organizations were trained on post-harvest management, marketing, public procurement, gender, protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), group dynamics and diet diversity.
- WFP facilitated a visit for the Ministry of Works to get an understanding of the farmer's experience and challenges under the local purchase (Sigangeni and Umsoco Farmer organizations).
- WFP participated in the quarterly School Feeding Panel meeting hosted by the Ministry of Education and Training, where the HGSF's progress in 2020 was presented to all partners involved with schools in the country.
- WFP continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), the Ministry of Tinkhundla and Administration (MTAD), and the Swaziland Network of Young Positives (SNYP+) to conduct integrated treatment literacy activities to empower communities through better nutrition, uptake of and adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART) and tuberculosis (TB) medication, and sexual and reproductive health services. Eighty-five (85) HGSF smallholder farmers (72 percent females and 28 percent males) were sensitized and educated, through the integrated treatment literacy, on issues of ART, TB, sexual reproductive health and rights, and nutrition.
- WFP, through SNYP+ and Membatsise Home-Based Care, has also supported 23 young people (4 males and 19 females) living with HIV through livelihood activities (poultry and gardening).

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of recurrent drought and poor agriculture productivity, WFP, in support of the Ministry of Agriculture, is currently undertaking a market assessment. The market assessment aims to determine the functionality of market systems (cereals, non-cereal foods, and non-food items) in Eswatini, focusing on main food commodities. The findings will inform the design and implementation of humanitarian assistance programmes in 2020/2021.
- During the reporting period, distribution monitoring was conducted by partners to assess beneficiary satisfaction with the support provided, and the availability of products and prices in the market. All (100 percent) beneficiaries reported that they received their transfer value while a few reported that they received less cash than expected. At least 72 percent of feedback and issues shared by beneficiaries were addressed. The market monitoring revealed that at least the main 3 food products (maize meal, beans, and vegetable oil) were always available in the market with only a shortage reported by 4 percent of the markets for beans. Prices for oil and maize meal were reported to be stable compared to the previous month while the price for beans showed an increase. This indicates that considerations need to be made whether the current transfer value is still adequate to meet household food needs. Food assistance (in-kind) baseline data collection is ongoing, and the results are expected by mid-December 2020.
- Monitoring of Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) continued to reveal that the number of children accessing food is higher than the registered children, with at least 160 percent having accessed NCPs in October 2020. Almost all NCPs (99 percent) reported that they received their food commodities timely. At least 91 percent of NCP caregivers reported to have received a combination of trainings on basic health, NCP management, and hygiene practices.

Economic Forecast

- According to the Central Bank of Eswatini, the economy has recorded a technical recession in the first quarter of 2020, mainly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic activities are said to have fallen by 6.5 percent on a year-on-year basis in the first quarter of 2020, from a revised decline of 1.2 percent in the last quarter of 2019.

Donors

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Foreign, Commonwealth & Development office, Germany, Global Fund, Japan, Multilateral, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Country Strategic Plan (2020–2024)		
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
32.5 m	14.07 m	6.1 m

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.

Crisis Response

- In response to the impact of COVID-19 and erratic drought conditions, WFP is implementing a crisis response through unconditional resource transfers (URT). The URT aims to provide humanitarian assistance to the COVID-19 and drought-affected populations for 11 months starting in June 2020 until March 2021 through food and cash transfers. A total of 57,000 (December 2020–March 2021) will receive food assistance and 94,000 people (June 2020–March 2021) will be supported with cash-based transfers (CBT). Of this, WFP will support 2,000 people living with chronic illness with CBT. Nutritional conditions will form the basis for targeting the beneficiaries under this activity.
- WFP is leading the logistics pillar to support the Ministry of Health-led COVID-19 response. WFP was requested to coordinate the logistics response of development partners and agencies by identifying logistical needs, bottlenecks and gaps of the international community in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.