



# Standard Project Report 2015

## World Food Programme in Swaziland, Kingdom of (SZ)

### Assistance to Orphaned and Vulnerable Children at NCPs and Schools

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200422
Project Category	Development Project
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	263,900
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	52,000
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	50,845

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	November 14, 2012
Planned Start Date	January 01, 2013
Actual Start Date	January 01, 2013
Project End Date	April 30, 2016
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	12,020,383
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	155,895
Direct Support Costs	1,773,555
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	N/A
Indirect Support Costs	976,488
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,926,321</b>

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	3,741
Actual Commodities 2015	1,856
Total Approved Commodities	16,958

# Table Of Contents

## **COUNTRY OVERVIEW**

Country Background

Summary Of WFP Assistance

## **OPERATIONAL SPR**

Operational Objectives and Relevance

Results

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

Story Worth Telling

Progress Towards Gender Equality

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Outputs

Outcomes

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

Inputs

Resource Inputs

Food Purchases and In-Kind Receipts

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

Post-Delivery Losses

Management

Partnerships

Lessons Learned

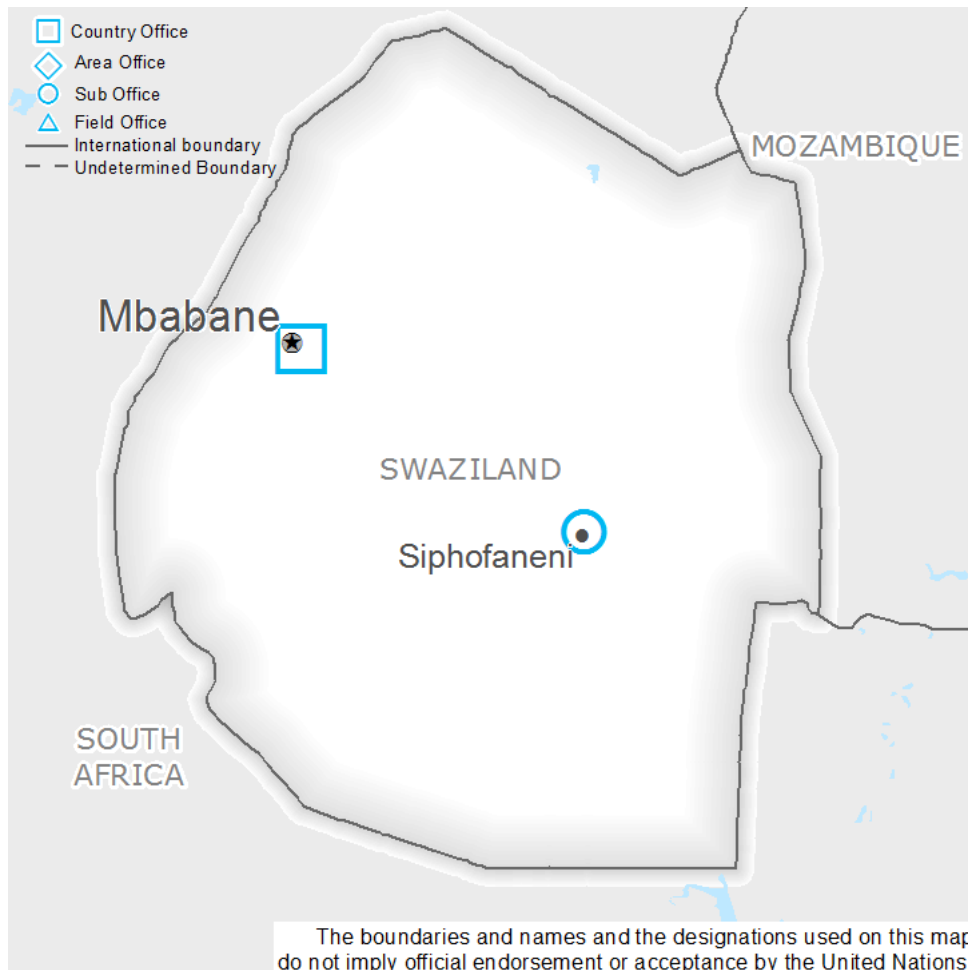
Endnotes

Operational Statistics

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

# COUNTRY OVERVIEW



## Country Background

The Kingdom of Swaziland has a population of 1.1 million people and ranks 150 out of 188 in the 2015 Human Development Index. While Swaziland is a lower middle income country, 63 percent of Swazis live below the national poverty line (less than USD 1.25 per day). Swaziland faces significant development challenges including high income inequality, high unemployment and the impact of HIV and AIDS.

Swaziland has a very high HIV prevalence: 26 percent of the population between the ages of 15-49 and 41 percent of pregnant women receiving antenatal care live with HIV. Life expectancy is 49 years and 45 percent of children are orphaned or vulnerable. The country has made significant progress to achieve Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 6 to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases by 2015.

Swaziland is ranked 115 out of 187 countries in the Gender Inequality Index. Factors contributing to increased vulnerability among women and girls include weak legislation; poor access to income generating opportunities and social services; and gender-based violence. Swaziland is on track to reach MDG 2, to achieve universal primary education, and MDG 3, to promote gender equality.

Chronic malnutrition is a concern in Swaziland: Stunting affected 25.5 percent of children under five years in 2014, a decline from 31 percent in 2010. Factors associated with stunting in Swaziland include poor infant feeding practices, low birth weight, poor levels of postnatal care, HIV/AIDS, poor access to sanitation, and maternal education. Among children under 5 years, 2 percent were wasted and 6 percent were underweight in 2014. The Cost of Hunger in Swaziland report found that 3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is lost annually to child malnutrition. Swaziland is partially on track to achieve MDG 1, but targets to reduce poverty and achieve decent work for all are

unlikely to be fully met.

Swaziland is vulnerable to drought in the south-eastern part of the country. The 2015 spike in food insecurity disrupted five consecutive years of declining rates of food insecurity. An estimated 23.5 percent of Swazis are moderately to severely food insecure as of the early lean season in 2015, and food insecurity is expected to worsen as lean season progresses. Chronic food production deficits and rising food prices have serious implications for food access, particularly among the 77 percent of Swazis who rely on subsistence farming for their livelihoods.

Constrained economic growth is expected to hinder implementation of social policies benefiting vulnerable Swazis in years of increased need. GDP growth stood at an estimated 2.5 percent in 2014, significantly below the targeted 5 percent annual average growth rate. From 2015, a decline in Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) revenue, and forecasted suboptimal performance in the agriculture sector are expected to constrain government finances.

## Summary Of WFP Assistance

WFP assistance aims to improve food and nutrition security and the livelihoods of the most vulnerable households impacted by poverty and HIV/AIDS. From 2016, WFP will introduce a new Country Strategy with the objective to gradually handover food and nutrition initiatives to the Government of Swaziland. To achieve this, WFP will transition from a partner supporting direct implementation to a strengthened advocacy and advisory role.

In 2015, WFP implemented three Development Projects (DEVs) targeting the most vulnerable Swazis: orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and malnourished people living with HIV and tuberculosis (TB). The projects together reached 102,598 beneficiaries. In addition, WFP enhanced the government's capacity to manage food and nutrition security interventions, including food security monitoring and emergency preparedness and response.

DEV 200422 provided support to OVC aged two to eight years attending community-run child care centres called neighbourhood care points (NCPs). DEV 200508 augmented DEV 200422 by providing food assistance to caregivers of OVC at NCPs, who prepared meals and provided complementary services for OVC.

WFP, under DEV 200353 and in partnership with the Ministry of Health, assisted people living with HIV and TB to improve treatment adherence and health outcomes by providing nutrition assessments with care and support services.

WFP's main achievements in 2015 demonstrated readiness to support full transition of food and nutrition security interventions to the government. WFP provided food assistance to young OVC while partnering with UN agencies to provide technical assistance toward strengthening the national social protection system to absorb OVC as a vulnerable population and to advocate for nutrition-sensitivity in safety nets.

As the multilateral convener of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, WFP acted as a leading partner in developing the capacity of government to address childhood undernutrition. The prevention of stunting became a key priority in the national development agenda in part thanks to WFP advocacy. WFP supported the development of the National Nutrition Policy and national Stunting Action Plan that will lay out concrete actions to strengthen the multi-sectoral approach for mother and child nutrition.

These activities contributed to progress toward Millennium Development Goals 1, 2, 3 and 6. WFP activities supported the priorities of the Government of Swaziland, through the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Programme, and aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2011-2015.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	28,000	29,345	57,345
Children (5-18 years)	12,969	14,072	27,041
Adults (18 years plus)	8,547	9,665	18,212
<b>Total number of beneficiaries in 2015</b>	<b>49,516</b>	<b>53,082</b>	<b>102,598</b>

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Development Project	1,770	85	301	774	0	2,931
<b>Total Food Distributed in 2015</b>	<b>1,770</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,931</b>

# OPERATIONAL SPR

## Operational Objectives and Relevance

One of the results of Swaziland's high HIV prevalence is that 45 percent of children are orphaned or vulnerable. Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) require strong social safety nets to mitigate the effects of HIV and AIDS on poverty and ensure their basic needs are met. In 2015, as food insecurity worsens as a result of El Nino-related drought conditions, crop losses, and increasing food prices, safety nets are even more crucial to support children to grow up to lead healthy, productive lives.

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development (MTAD) and the overall coordination of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (DPMO), Development Project 200422 aims to increase children's access to nutritious food and basic social services, such as early childhood education, at community-led centres called neighbourhood care points (NCPs). This project previously provided school meals in secondary schools; this component of the programme was successfully handed over to government in early 2014. The complementary development project (DEV) 200508 provided food assistance to volunteer caregivers at NCPs. Development project 200422 will close in April 2016 unless additional funds are secured.

The expected outcomes of this development project are to increase equitable access to education and to strengthen the capacity of the government to provide assistance to OVC. The objectives are aligned with WFP Strategic Objective 4 "to reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger". OVC assistance directly contributes to government priorities outlined in the family strengthening, or impact mitigation, thematic area of the extended National Strategic Framework for HIV and AIDS (eNSF) for 2014-18, and aligns with priorities of the National Development Strategy, and the Government of Swaziland's National Plan of Action for Children (2011-2015). It also aligns with pillars 2 and 3 of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF, 2011-2015), and contributes towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 1 and 3 and the Zero Hunger Challenge goals.

## Results

### *Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution*

Development Project 200422 targets OVC aged two to eight years who are attending NCPs in all four regions of Swaziland. In 2015, WFP assisted 50,845 children, or 98 percent of the planned totals, despite severe funding constraints. These children are too young to attend primary school, and can not afford to attend private pre-schools or daycare centres. Volunteer caregivers who manage the NCPs provide children with services such as early education and links to basic health care, as many of the children can not yet access other social safety nets such as school meals or education grants available to older OVC in primary schools.

In 2015, WFP provided OVC with two meals per day on weekdays. Children received Super Cereal, a nutrient-fortified corn soya porridge, for breakfast and maize meal, peas and fortified vegetable oil for lunch. Though beans were originally planned to be distributed instead of peas, peas were substituted as a more cost-effective option with better availability. Rations were based on WFP standards, as well as the nutritional guidelines for NCPs and school feeding, which are issued by the Swaziland National Nutrition Council.

WFP provided 50 percent of the planned food in the reporting period. The main factor posing a risk to WFP's ability to ensure consistent assistance to young OVC is funding constraints. Limited resources forced WFP to reduce or stop food assistance in certain months. In January, February and May, when shortfalls were extreme, no distributions took place. For the remaining 9 months of the year, WFP provided at least one meal of Super Cereal to all targeted children, but in 7 of the 9 months, the second meal was reduced or cut from the ration. However, by temporarily reducing entitlements, WFP avoided a complete halt in distributions for most of the year, ensuring that NCPs remained open and continued to provide essential services.

In-kind food assistance was chosen because the government requested food as the most efficient way to support children, and because providing food at NCPs supports the objective of increasing their attendance, and their access to educational and other services. Based on market analyses, and considering Swaziland is a net importer of food, partners considered food assistance to be more cost effective than cash transfers. Market prices, as well as food production trends, continue to indicate higher food prices in Swaziland compared to neighbouring countries.

The choice for in-kind food assistance was also confirmed as appropriate by a 2014 external Operation Evaluation (OpEv) commissioned by WFP to assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of the assistance to OVC and their caregivers.

Note: Wheat soya blend was not provided in this project.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Total Beneficiaries</b>	25,480	26,520	52,000	24,914	25,931	50,845	97.8%	97.8%	97.8%
<b>By Age-group:</b>									
Children (under 5 years)	20,384	21,216	41,600	19,931	20,745	40,676	97.8%	97.8%	97.8%
Children (5-18 years)	5,096	5,304	10,400	4,983	5,186	10,169	97.8%	97.8%	97.8%
<b>By Residence status:</b>									
Residents	25,480	26,520	52,000	24,914	25,931	50,845	97.8%	97.8%	97.8%

Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
HIV/TB: Mitigation&Safety Nets	52,000	-	52,000	50,845	-	50,845	97.8%	-	97.8%

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>HIV/TB: Mitigation&amp;Safety Nets</b>									
Orphans and vulnerable children receiving food assistance	25,480	26,520	52,000	24,914	25,931	50,845	97.8%	97.8%	97.8%
<b>Total participants</b>	25,480	26,520	52,000	24,914	25,931	50,845	97.8%	97.8%	97.8%
<b>Total beneficiaries</b>	25,480	26,520	52,000	24,914	25,931	50,845	97.8%	97.8%	97.8%

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food/cash/vouchers during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants.

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Beans	549	-	-
Corn Soya Blend	1,030	607	59.0%
Maize Meal	2,059	996	48.4%
Peas	-	238	-
Vegetable Oil	103	15	14.8%
Wheat Soya Blend	-	-	-

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Total	3,741	1,856	49.6%

## Story Worth Telling

Sandile Khumalo\* and his wife do their best to take care of their 13 children and grandchildren in Swaziland's Matsanjeni Inkhundla in the southern Shiselweni Region. Struck by the impact of an extensive dry period, which started at the beginning of the year, they can no longer grow enough maize to support themselves. Last season the family lost all their crops. This season, expecting poor rains to continue, the family decided not to plant because they could not risk losing their investment to another failed season. They buy food on credit from a neighbour, and are only able to afford two meals a day.

The family has long relied on their community's Nkutijini NCP to help with meeting their children's basic needs and to prepare them for primary school. The waterhole at the NCP is also the family's primary source of water.

The Khumalo family's youngest child, Gugu\*, attends Nkutijini NCP, where she gets two nutritious meals a day. Her favourite part of attending the NCP is playing with her friends. The community institution has alleviated some of the family's troubles, and will continue to assist them to get through the current drought.

If food was no longer provided to the NCP, it would likely close. Gugu and the other boys and girls would lose access to nutritious meals and basic services and early education, which might mean they are less prepared to enter primary school when they are old enough to enroll. Gugu's parents could not afford to send her to a private pre-school and they would have more difficulty making sure the family has enough to eat.

\*Names changed

## Progress Towards Gender Equality

WFP aims to promote gender equality through DEV 200422 by enabling equal access to education. The 2014 Operational Evaluation concluded that the project adequately incorporated gender concerns in the design and targeting. Key gender-sensitive indicators for this project are the sex-disaggregated outcomes related to NCP enrolment and attendance, which show equal access to education for boys and girls: the ratio of girls to boys enrolled in NCPs is 1.05. NCPs prepare both boys and girls to start primary education, and the government's provision of free primary education means that girls from resource-constrained families will get to attend primary school without being overlooked in favour of educating boys. In this way, the program contributes to the achievement of the national vision for primary education: "attainment of quality in educational opportunity for all pupils of school going age irrespective of their socio economic background, with the ultimate goal of enhancing their productive capacity, thus improving the quality of their lives."

WFP's provision of on-site meals at NCPs may also reduce the likelihood that food, if given as a take-home ration, could be split unequally between boys and girls in their households. The food is cooked by volunteer caregivers, the majority of whom are women. WFP field monitors engage with community leadership to advocate for men to get involved in the caregiver programme. The caregivers receive training on food preparation and nutrition which are skills that the men can apply at home with their own families. Partner organizations provide complementary services at NCPs that promote gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence in communities.

The project document for DEV 200422 proposed marking bags with messages aimed at reducing the risk of gender-based violence. However, this initiative could not be implemented within the reporting period due to funding shortfalls.

WFP traditionally seeks the beneficiaries' opinions on food assistance and access to education, but due to the OVC's young age, it was not possible to interview them on such issues. WFP standard gender cross-cutting indicators related to decision-making about take-home rations and gender balance among food management committees were not applicable because children are fed on-site and the project does not have food management committees. Overall, the information available indicates that WFP assistance to OVC adequately reaches boys and girls, and contributes to their equal access to education.

## Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Due to the young age of OVC, it is not possible to interview the beneficiaries about safety conditions. However, the volunteer caregivers provide valuable insights into the security situation of OVC attending NCPs as they are well-informed about child protection and how to report issues to WFP and local leaders.

According to the caregivers, children travel short distances to NCPs located within their communities during daytime hours, making the risk of incidents during their commute very low. Caregivers reported no incidents of insecurity or threatened safety on behalf of the children. WFP's assistance allows many children to access child safety and protection services at NCPs, which are part of the minimum package of services as defined by the national NCP strategy.

To prevent the main security concern at NCPs, theft, most sites have secure food storage areas. WFP and cooperating partner field monitors visit each NCP to ensure safe storage procedures are followed. WFP monitors and partners sensitized community leaders and members to bolster community support to NCPs.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
SWAZILAND, HIV/TB: Mitigation&Safety Nets , <b>Project End Target: 2016.04</b> , <b>Base value: 2014.12</b> , <b>Latest Follow-up: 2015.07</b>	=100.00	100.00		100.00

## Outputs

In 2015, WFP reached 1,594 NCP sites, thereby achieving full national coverage of food assistance. Assistance under this project began in 2013 with 1,300 NCPs, and the project increased its target to 1,565 NCPs in 2014 after careful review of community needs throughout the project. MTAD and WFP agreed to further increase the number of NCPs to 1,594 in 2015 after new communities requested assistance. This has enabled WFP to meet the needs of vulnerable children aged two to eight years for whom there are few other social protection services available.

WFP was able to distribute 50 percent of the planned food, reaching 98 percent of the planned 52,000 children throughout the year. Shortfalls forced a temporary halt in distributions to vulnerable children, but assistance resumed once additional funds were secured. WFP assistance enabled children to access complementary services including early education, psychosocial support, child protection, and links to health care at nearby clinics. In each NCP, WFP planned to provide OVC with two meals a day on weekdays. WFP and Save the Children field monitors visited all 1,594 NCPs to help caregivers facilitate smooth operations and encourage them to continue to provide services at NCPs.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
<b>SO4: HIV/TB: Mitigation&amp;Safety; Nets</b>				
Number of pre-schools assisted by WFP	school	1,565	1,594	101.9

## Outcomes

DEV 200422 was designed to improve access to education for OVC, as measured by the gender-disaggregated enrolment and attendance rates of children at NCPs. In 2015, WFP monitoring results show that attendance in WFP-assisted NCPs meet the target of 80 percent for boys (at 81 percent), and nearly meet the target (at 79 percent) for girls. WFP was able to maintain high attendance, with only a slight decrease since 2014, despite brief halts in distributions due to funding shortfalls.

The gender ratio of OVC enrolled at NCPs showed that slightly more girls than boys are enrolled. This is likely because of a slightly higher female-to-male ratio of OVC between two and eight years in the country. The enrolment and attendance rates disaggregated by gender suggest that WFP assistance enables boys and girls to access early childhood education equally.

Attendance rates in NCPs are related to food availability. Results of a 2012 baseline assessment of NCP operations indicated that enrolment and attendance at NCPs was in decline before WFP re-started food assistance. Results also suggested that the low attendance was related to an extended lack of food before this project started: up to 65



percent of the NCPs surveyed in 2012 were to be closed and caregivers attributed this to the fact that children will not attend regularly if meals are not provided consistently. Through this project, almost all NCPs started functioning again and attendance rates have remained high since the program began in 2013. WFP indicators related to attendance in primary schools were chosen in the table because this was the closest indicator to demonstrate attendance at NCPs.

Regular attendance is crucial for the children to benefit optimally from the services provided in the NCPs as these services prepare children for primary school when they cannot afford to go to formal preschools or daycare centres. High enrolment and attendance rates at NCPs in 2015 indicate that children also had regular access to complementary services provided at NCPs. The package of NCP services laid out in national policy is designed to contribute to the goal that all children – regardless of their home circumstances – are able to grow up in a safe, loving, non-discriminatory, child-friendly, supportive environment, and to develop into adults with the intellect, values and capacities needed to be responsible and productive Swazi citizens. NCP services emphasize early childhood care and development, to adequately support children during the formative years of childhood.

In previous years, the project also supported secondary school feeding. The secondary school meals component was successfully handed over to the government in 2014, thus the Ministry of Education now tracks secondary school meal programme outcomes. After the handover, WFP remained available to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Education as requested, for example by promoting south-south learning on sustainable finance mechanisms for nutritious school meals through supporting the attendance of senior Ministry of Education officials to the 2015 Global Child Nutrition Foundation Forum.

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
<b>SO4 Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger</b>				
<b>Increased equitable access to and utilization of education</b>				
<b>Attendance rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools</b>				
<i>NEIGHBORHOOD CARE POINTS - SWAZILAND , Project End Target: 2016.04 Collected from NCPs registers , Base value: 2013.01 WFP programme monitoring Baseline survey , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Collected from NCPs registers , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Collected from NCPs registers</i>	>80.00	70.00	87.00	79.00
<b>Attendance rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools</b>				
<i>NEIGHBORHOOD CARE POINTS - SWAZILAND , Project End Target: 2016.04 Collected from NCPs registers , Base value: 2013.01 WFP programme monitoring Baseline survey , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Collected from NCPs registers , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Collected from NCPs registers</i>	>80.00	70.00	93.00	81.00
<b>Gender ratio: ratio of girls to boys enrolled in WFP-assisted pre-schools</b>				
<i>NEIGHBORHOOD CARE POINTS - SWAZILAND , Project End Target: 2016.04 Collected from NCPs registers , Base value: 2013.01 WFP programme monitoring collected from NCPs records , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Collected from NCPs registers , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Collected from NCPs registers</i>	=1.00	1.00	1.05	1.06

## Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

WFP efforts to develop operational capacity under this project have focused on ensuring the quality provision of meals and complementary services at community level, and strengthening monitoring and evaluation and the coordination of the NCP programme. WFP continued these activities in 2015 in line with the recommendations of the 2014 Operational Evaluation and partner consultations carried out in the development of a new country strategy, to strengthen sustainability of WFP assistance in social protection.

To build the capacity of caregivers at NCPs, field monitors from WFP and cooperating partner Save the Children conducted regular site visits. Support visits built on previous trainings. They focused on monitoring and strengthening caregiver practices in ration measurement, food safety and management, and record-keeping. These efforts ultimately ensured efficient delivery of food assistance to children at NCPs and yielded accurate monitoring information to inform project decisions.

In policies such as the eNSF and the National Plan of Action for Children, the government acknowledges that NCPs are an important platform for providing basic services to young, vulnerable children, and food assistance has been recognized as a way to increase access to these services. WFP has been the main partner providing food assistance to OVC and the providers of care and support to these children.

In 2015 WFP began the consultative processes for a new country strategy. WFP consulted partners, including government, donors, and UN agencies, to identify views on how WFP can more effectively support the government to provide social protection services to vulnerable children. Stakeholders identified that the expense of food-based social protection interventions, especially in the face of expected diminishing local and external resources for social services, has implications for the sustainability of food assistance at NCPs in the long-term. WFP and partners are working together to find sustainable solutions to enable children's access to social protection services, whether through the continuation of assistance at NCPs or other innovative platforms.

Partners agreed the most effective course of action to achieve scaled impact is to focus on strengthening national social protection institutions and systems, ensuring comprehensive and well-coordinated services. Therefore, in preparation for the project end in April 2016, WFP provided technical assistance to MTAD and the DPMO to enhance access to social services for young OVC. WFP worked with the government, UN agencies and development partners to shape the policy framework guiding social protection institutions and ensure gender and nutrition-sensitivity are key objectives of social protection systems. Jointly with the UN, WFP has advocated that these systems should find ways to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, including young OVC, who will face a gap in social assistance initiatives when NCP food assistance ends.

These efforts resulted in the first high level national dialogue on social protection sponsored by the United Nations Social Protection Working Group. The dialogue aimed to create a wide consultation on social protection issues with the ultimate view of developing a comprehensive social protection policy and strategy that will enhance access to social services for the most vulnerable, and promote greater coordination to strengthen the effectiveness of social protection systems. Partners agreed on key actions to make progress toward this agenda.

The preparations for the handover of this project coincided with the worst drought Swaziland has experienced in recent history, which resulted in 23.5 percent of the population being food insecure as of July 2015. The situation has deteriorated as the agriculture lean season, typically October through March, progresses. Additionally, the looming economic crisis in South Africa, Swaziland's neighbour and most important trading partner, is expected to impact Swaziland's resources to provide social services. OVC have been identified as one of the most vulnerable populations in need of support to weather the impacts of the drought.

Given these circumstances, DEV 200422 was extended until April 2016 to allow for assistance to continue in a time of increased need. Further engagements with the government on the future of social services for OVC will continue, as WFP works to support a transition to full national ownership of food and nutrition security interventions, including social protection services for vulnerable children. In partnership with UN agencies, WFP will continue to work toward the establishment of a national social protection coordination mechanism and policy. The UN, through its new UNDAF (2016-20) will continue to maximize the support available to government to ensure assistance is well-coordinated, sustainable and nationally-owned.

Following the 2014 handover of the school meals programme to the Ministry of Education, WFP remained available to provide technical assistance as requested. In 2015, WFP facilitated learning trips for senior education officials to the Global Child Nutrition Foundation Forum to examine lessons from around the world on sustainable financing for nutrition-sensitive school meals programmes.

## Inputs

### Resource Inputs

By the end of 2015, DEV 200422 had secured approximately three quarters of the financial resources needed for the year, and about half of the resources needed for the project over its entire duration.

MTAD and the DPMO contributed human resources and technical inputs. The Government of Swaziland supported food assistance interventions by continuing to facilitate the import of commodities.

Donor	2015 Resourced (mt)		2015 Shipped/Purchased (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
Private Donors	0	32	0
Swaziland	0	2,549	633
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,581</b>	<b>633</b>

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

## Food Purchases and In-Kind Receipts

In 2015, Super Cereal and maize meal were purchased regionally. Peas and vegetable oil were purchased outside the region. WFP will continue to explore opportunities for local purchases, and plans to prioritise assistance to smallholder farmers with a view to develop local suppliers for food assistance interventions.

Commodities	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Corn Soya Blend	0	763	0	0
Maize Meal	0	1,426	0	0
Peas	0	136	102	0
Vegetable Oil	0	0	0	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,326</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>15</b>

## Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

DEV 200422 operates through many small distribution sites throughout the country, allowing WFP to reach national coverage. However, this mode of operating can pose transportation challenges, as some NCPs are remote and hard to reach. In 2015, WFP minimized delays in deliveries by strengthening coordination between transporters, WFP warehouses, and field staff to identify and maintain solutions for timely food deliveries.

## Post-Delivery Losses

WFP incurred minimal losses in 2015. Good food handling practices by WFP and contracted transporters ensured that food reached the beneficiaries. WFP also provided support to the NCP caregivers on food management, which was done by regularly visiting and monitoring the sites.

## Management

### Partnerships

Under Development Project 200422, WFP's main partners are MTAD and DPMO. Under the national strategy for NCPs, MTAD is the government ministry responsible for coordinating NCP services at all levels. WFP's partnership with MTAD enables it to better access communities, building their support for NCPs and the caregivers. At national level, an NCP coordinator from MTAD works with regional MTAD representatives to partner with WFP in resolving community issues related to the operation of NCPs. Furthermore, MTAD regional officers have been available to provide support to WFP field monitors to ensure community relations with NCPs facilitate smooth operations. DPMO

offers several safety nets for OVC, including educational grants for school-age OVC, a NCP gardening project and a planned pilot cash transfer programme for OVC. However, there remains a gap in services for the youngest OVC who are not yet of school age, thus the assistance provided by WFP at NCPs is crucial to ensure comprehensive access to social services for all vulnerable children.

In addition to the planned partnership with government, in 2015 WFP partnered with Save the Children to monitor implementation of all NCP initiatives, including the meals for OVC, and food assistance to caregivers under the complementary project DEV 200508. This partnership extended WFP's ability to monitor the programme and better support caregivers by increasing frequency of on-site visits in the two most remote of Swaziland's four regions. The site visits ensured caregivers were informed on how to best deliver quality services for OVC. The partnership contributed to community awareness and support of caregivers through outreach to local leaders and citizens.

WFP also participated in the UN Social Protection Working Group whereby UN agencies work with government to enhance the national social protection system. With the Working Group members, WFP advocated that the national social protection system should be inclusive of the most vulnerable children, and promoted linkages between nutrition and social protection programmes to maximize their effectiveness in supporting children to grow up to lead healthy, productive lives. As the co-convenor of the Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) Movement in Swaziland, WFP works with the Swaziland National Nutrition Council to advise on how social protection initiatives can achieve results in nutrition, most recently working with the government to incorporate and track nutrition goals in the planned EU- and World Bank-funded pilot cash transfer initiative targeting OVC.

WFP contributes technical support to initiatives to strengthen community capacity to care for children with partners such as the Deputy Prime Minister's Office and Palms for Life Fund. WFP offers knowledge on the NCP network throughout the country, as well as best practices on outreach to NCPs and management of food assistance at community level.

WFP works with the National Emergency Response Council for HIV and AIDS (NERCHA), the coordinating body of the national HIV and AIDS response, to enhance HIV-sensitivity of social protection programmes. WFP also participates in the Swaziland Joint United Nations Programme of Support for HIV and AIDS (JUNPS), whose partners include FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC and WHO. This project contributes to the Impact Mitigation pillar of the JUNPS.

Partnership	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total		1		9

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
<b>Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services</b>		
SWAZILAND, HIV/TB: Mitigation&Safety Nets , <b>Project End Target:</b> 2016.04 , <b>Latest Follow-up:</b> 2015.12	=1.00	2.00
<b>Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners</b>		
SWAZILAND, HIV/TB: Mitigation&Safety Nets , <b>Project End Target:</b> 2016.04 , <b>Latest Follow-up:</b> 2015.12	=100.00	100.00

## Lessons Learned

In 2015, WFP overcame funding constraints, stretching limited resources to continue providing a valuable safety net to young OVC, and supported the development of new strategies to improve children's access to social services through national systems beyond the NCP project's closure. Lessons learned throughout the project's implementation have been used to develop goals for how WFP will engage to strengthen social protection systems through a new country strategy.

The 2014 Operational Evaluation of WFP assistance to OVC made several key recommendations for WFP's future programming, including: continue assistance to OVC in NCPs until a national comprehensive safety net is available for them; strengthen sustainability of safety nets for OVC; and support government to develop a comprehensive social protection system for OVC in one voice with UN agencies and partners. Partner consultations to develop the new country strategy established the way forward for WFP to implement recommendations of the Operational Evaluation. Further consultation with government stakeholders and development partners confirmed commitment of

partners towards WFP pursuing this mode of engagement on social protection.

Resource constraints were identified as the top risk to WFP's ability to fully implement assistance to OVC at NCPs. WFP took mitigating actions, attempting to diversify the resource base for the project and advocating for more effective use of resources for social protection. The extension of food assistance to OVC at NCPs was validated by partners as a short-term solution to fill the gap in services for young vulnerable children until systems strengthening efforts can be implemented to meet children's needs through national social protection initiatives. The government's capacity and financial resources available to absorb the program, were identified as the second greatest risk to WFP support to young OVC, thus WFP will continue to assist in ensuring access to social protection for vulnerable children with a view to achieve full national ownership.

In 2015, WFP learned that the best way to continue to have an impact on nutrition and ensure the youngest OVC are included in social protection systems is to work in closer partnership with government, UN agencies and other development partners on capacity development to enhance national social protection systems. Given resource constraints, WFP cannot commit substantial funds to the operation of social protection systems, but can provide technical assistance to ongoing initiatives, maximizing the contribution of this assistance to programme effectiveness. The Operational Evaluation identified entry points related to WFP corporate strengths including technical assistance in nutrition, supply chain management, and monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance. WFP will focus on more sustainable capacity development efforts, leveraging the resources committed by partners to optimize achievement of nutrition and HIV outcomes of social protection systems.

One example of how WFP is already shifting to more sustainable assistance is the engagement with national social protection working groups. Building on WFP contributions to the UN Social Protection Working Group in 2014, WFP advocated for nutrition- and HIV-sensitivity of safety nets through the 2015 National Social Protection dialogue. This dialogue reaffirmed government commitment to developing a comprehensive national social protection strategy and laid out key steps to enhancing the social protection system, which WFP will continue to support in 2016.

## Endnotes

Funds attributed to the Government of Swaziland were originally donated from the Government of Japan (JICA). The Governments of Japan and Swaziland chose WFP as a sub-recipient of the funds via an agreement with the Government of Swaziland's Ministry of Economic Planning and Development.

## Operational Statistics

### Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
HIV/TB: Mitigation&Safety Nets	52,000	-	52,000	50,845	-	50,845	97.8%	-	97.8%

### Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
Private Donors	WPD-C-02409-01	Maize Meal	0	32	0
Swaziland		Corn Soya Blend	0	0	328
Swaziland		Maize Meal	0	0	304

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
Swaziland	SWA-C-00006-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	763	0
Swaziland	SWA-C-00006-01	Maize Meal	0	1,396	0
Swaziland	SWA-C-00006-01	Peas	0	374	0
Swaziland	SWA-C-00006-01	Vegetable Oil	0	15	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>2,581</b>	<b>633</b>