



WFP Swaziland Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Food by prescription	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
DEV 200353 (Jan 2012 – Dec 2017)	10.7m	4.6 m (42%)	321,825 (59%)

*May 2017 – November 2017

WFP provides assistance to people living with HIV and TB through the Food by Prescription programme. The programme offers nutrition assessments, counselling and support services to malnourished clients receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART), treatment for TB, or the prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) services, as well as support to their families. WFP and the Government aim to improve treatment and recovery outcomes by mainstreaming nutrition into HIV and TB support services. Concerns over the food security situation during the lean season and its impact on people under ART and TB/Drug Resistant-TB treatment is compounded by the limited funding for this programme. The project has been extended to December 2017.

Assistance to Orphaned and Vulnerable Children at NCPs and Schools	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
DEV 200422 (Jan 2013 – Dec 2017)	20.7 m	11.1 m	-

*May 2017 – November 2017

WFP provides a social safety net for young orphans and vulnerable children. WFP provides nutritious on-site meals to 52,000 orphans and vulnerable children under eight years of age who attend neighbourhood care points (NCPs), many of whom live with relatives or in child-headed households. NCPs provide a safe place for boys and girls to equally access early education and care services. In the aftermath of the drought, the project is expected to resume in August 2017. WFP also continues to support the Government to strengthen social protection systems.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Theresa Piorr
Caption: A young woman and her children collect WFP emergency food at a distribution point in Sithobela, Lubombo region.

Highlights

- In May, WFP ended the El Niño-induced drought EMOP. WFP assisted in total over 230,000 beneficiaries with emergency assistance, of which 142,000 received Cash Based Transfers (CBT). In May, 56,973 people received CBT.
- In June, WFP assisted in total 7,932 beneficiaries through the Food by Prescription programme. Assistance to Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) is planned to resume in August 2017.
- WFP's Food by Prescription project remains underfunded, as a pipeline break, is expected in September 2017.

Emergency Assistance to Drought-affected Population in Swaziland	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	Beneficiaries Reached
EMOP 200974 (Jun 2016 – May 2017)	16.8 m	12.7 m (76%)	230k

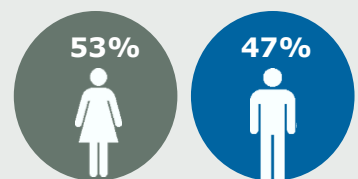
*May 2017 – November 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A EMOP 200974

In May, WFP ended the El Niño-induced drought EMOP after helping up to 230,000 beneficiaries. WFP provided humanitarian assistance through food rations to 124,000 people and cash transfers to 142,000 people affected by the drought. The primary objective of the EMOP was to provide emergency food assistance targeting the most vulnerable households affected by the drought through in-kind food distributions and cash based transfers (CBT). This was the first time CBT modalities were adopted by WFP in Swaziland. The project supported the Government's response under the National Emergency Response Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (NERMAP), to improve and stabilize household food consumption for drought-affected groups. WFP continues to closely monitor the food security situation to tailor its assistance to best meet the needs on the ground.

In Numbers

People Assisted
7,932 in June



June 2017

Operational Updates

Drought and Food Security:

- WFP conducted the last food distribution under the Emergency Operation (EMOP) in April reaching 71,090 people with a 45-day ration. Cash Based Transfers (CBT) assistance, which was extended through May, reached 142,027 people in April and 56,973 in May.
- Over the course of the EMOP, WFP provided humanitarian assistance through food rations to 124,000 people and cash transfers to 142,000 people affected by the drought.
- The Government's National Disaster Management Agency has coordinated a multi-sectoral assessment to gauge the impact of the drought. Its final report is expected in the coming weeks. Preliminary findings from the agricultural survey point to a 37 percent increase (68,240 ha) of land under cultivation from last year.
- The 2017 Annual Vulnerability Analysis Assessment has conducted its data collection phase. Results are expected in July with the report finalised August.

HIV and Nutrition:

- WFP is the implementing partner for a USAID's PEPFAR project which focuses on nutrition intervention targeting people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children. Project implementation started in March for selected health facilities in the most food insecure areas.
- WFP's Food by Prescription project has been extended to December 2017. However, it remains underfunded, there are risks of pipeline breaks, and the current caseload is resourced only until September 2017.

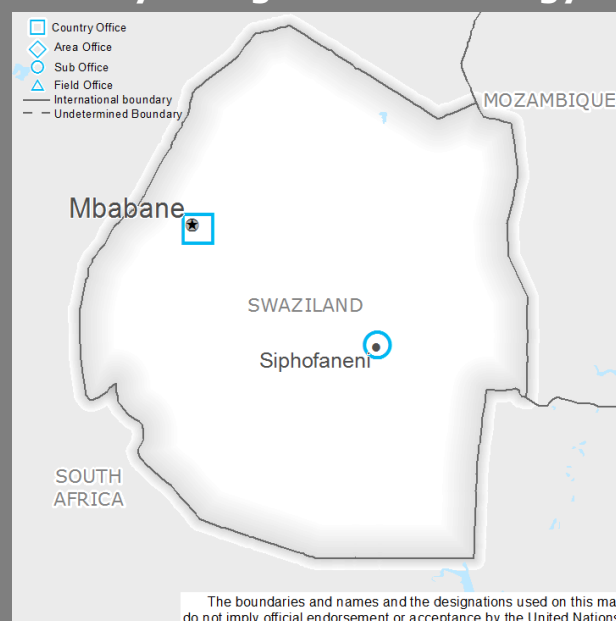
Social protection for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC):

- Thanks to recent funding, assistance to OVC through DEV 200422 will be resumed in August 2017. The project has been halted since May 2016 due to lack of resources.

Challenges

- Negative Economic Forecast:** Swaziland faces fiscal and economic challenges, with poor predictions for Southern Africa Customs Union revenue, continued slow economic growth and the devaluation of the South Africa Rand, to which the local currency is pegged.
- WFP Swaziland Country Strategy development:** Swaziland's economic situation may also hamper advances in WFP's country strategy approach, which aims towards full national ownership, financial and operational, of food and nutrition security initiatives. An interim Country Strategic Plan has been devised to align with Government priorities. The government is weighing options around the conduct of a Zero Hunger Strategic Review in Swaziland, to develop a roadmap to achieve SDG2: end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

Country Background & Strategy



Despite its status as a lower middle income country, 63 percent of Swazis lives below the national poverty line. Swaziland has a very high HIV prevalence, affecting 26 percent of the population between the ages of 15-49. Life expectancy is 49 years and 45 percent of children are orphaned or vulnerable. Chronic malnutrition is a main concern in Swaziland: stunting affects 26 percent of children under five years. Swaziland is vulnerable to drought in the south east. An estimated 77 percent of Swazis rely on subsistence farming for their livelihoods.

WFP's strategic priorities in Swaziland are to improve food security and livelihoods of the most vulnerable people affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty. WFP assists the Government in providing nutrition assessment, counselling, and support to people living with HIV/AIDS, TB, and pregnant and nursing women, while also supporting their families.

Additionally, WFP supports the Government in providing safety nets for young orphans and vulnerable children. WFP's technical assistance contributes to developing comprehensive strategies to address child undernutrition, particularly to prevent stunting. All WFP projects aim to support the government's capacity to manage food and nutrition security interventions.

WFP has been present in Swaziland since the 1960s. After closing the country office in 1997, it re-opened in 2002 to alleviate the impact of HIV/AIDS, drought, and poverty.

Population: **1.3 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
148 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **26% of children between 6-59 months**