



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 – Jun 2017)	10.7 m	4.6 m (42%)	321,825 (59%)

*May 2017 – October 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 – October 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. Due to the drought impact, the project has been extended throughout 2017, to allow for assistance to continue in a time of increased need. 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 April, WFP conducted the last food distribution of the Emergency Operation (EMOP). A Budget Revision was approved to extend cash based transfer (CBT) activities through May.
- In April, WFP assisted 213,238 people with emergency assistance, of which 71,090 received food and 142,148 received CBT. In May, 56,973 people received CBT.
- WFP's Food by Prescription project remains underfunded, and pipeline breaks are expected in July 2017.

Emergency Assistance to Drought-affected Population in Swaziland	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
EMOP 200974 (Jun 2016 – Mar 2017)	16.8 m	12.7 m (76%)	N/A

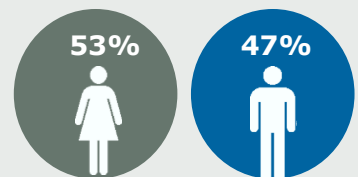
GENDER MARKER 2A EMOP 200974

The primary objective of the EMOP was to provide emergency food assistance targeting the most vulnerable households affected by the El Niño induced drought through in-kind food distributions and cash based transfers (CBT). 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. The EMOP targeted 250,000 people and ended in May 2017 coinciding with the next harvest. Food distribution ended in April but CBT were extended one month and phased out in May. WFP closely monitored the food security situation to tailor its assistance to best meet the needs on the ground.

In Numbers

350,000 people in need of food assistance

65,473
People Assisted
May 2017



Operational Updates

Drought and Food Security:

- In April, WFP conducted the last food distribution under the EMOP, reaching 71,090 people with a 45 day ration. CBT assistance, which was extended through May, reached 142,000 people in April and 56,973 in May.
- The Government is coordinating a multi-sectoral assessment to update information on impact of the drought at the peak of the lean season and the final report will be published in the coming weeks. Preliminary findings from the agricultural survey point to a 37 percent increase (68,240 ha) of land under cultivation compared to last year.
- The 2017 Annual Vulnerability Analysis Assessment is starting early June with results expected by end of June and the report finalised by end of August.

HIV and Nutrition:

- WFP is the implementing partner for 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. It remains underfunded and pipeline breaks are expected in July 2017.

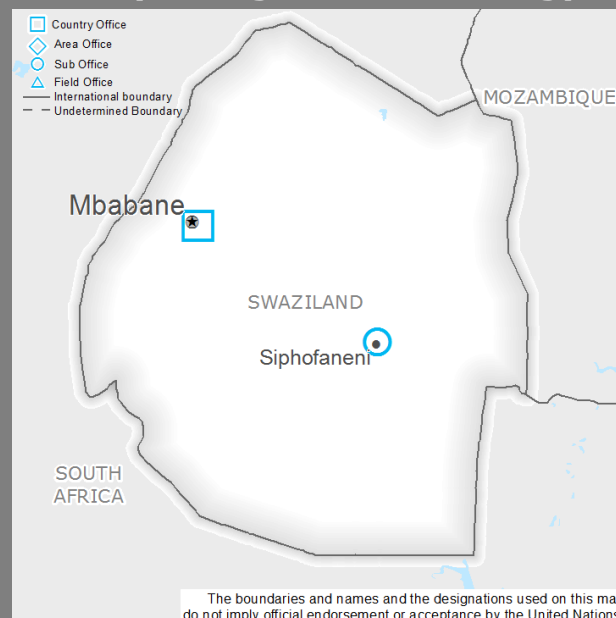
Social protection for Orphans and Vulnerable Children:

- Thanks to recent funding, assistance to orphans and vulnerable children through DEV 200422 will resume in 2017. The project has been halted since May 2016 due to lack of resources.

Challenges

- **Drought and Food Security:** Results from the Swaziland Vulnerability Analysis Committee and IPC analysis indicate that 350,000 people are in need of emergency food assistance, with 640,000 potentially affected by some degree of food insecurity at the peak of the lean season (November 2016 - April 2017).
- **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. The Government has endorsed the priorities of the draft strategy.

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. 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.

Following the declaration of a state of emergency in February 2016, WFP emergency response to the El Niño-induced drought complements government efforts in the most severely affected regions.

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

Population: **1.1 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
150 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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