

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME ESWATINI

2020 Annual Country Report Highlights



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



PEOPLE ASSISTED
202,917



FOOD DISTRIBUTED
3,230 mt



CASH TRANSFERRED
USD 4,841,139

HOME-GROWN SCHOOL FEEDING: A WIN-WIN FOR SMALLHOLDER FARMERS AND SCHOOLCHILDREN

WFP and FAO support smallholder farmers to access structured markets through their home-grown school feeding (HGSF) programme. Minor Shongwe is 41 years old, a mother to 5 children and belongs to the Asikhuleni Madingizwe multipurpose co-operative in Mpuluzi. This farmers' organisation has 20 members (17 women and 3 men). Minor has been able to pay for her children's school fees in a timely manner with the money she receives from selling her maize through the HGSF programme. "I have been farming for the past 10 years. I used to grow maize and sell to my neighbours. Some customers would take the maize on debt and pay after 6 months. Life in farming was hard before WFP came with this programme. We are happy with the price they are buying from us" says Minor. She added that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, their expenses have doubled but the money she gets through the HGSF programme is assisting her in a significant way.

The HGSF pilot is currently supporting 50 schools and 24,392 students. The food basket has improved with the addition of vegetables. The HGSF basket consists of maize grain, rice, beans, vegetables (cabbage, spinach, tomatoes, and onions), vegetable oil and peanut butter with a proposal to also introduce eggs soon. School feeding is an education intervention that enables access to education through increased attendance and retention rates, while improving the nutrition and increasing the productive potential of school children later in life.

"The introduction of the HGSF programme improved our concentration levels in classrooms. A majority of pupils come from under privileged backgrounds and families headed by children and depend on school meals. The closure of schools due to the pandemic left a number of young children hungry", says Zodwa Dlamini, a student at Timphisini High school.

The national scale-up of the HGSF programme will be a game changer in providing a sustainable local market to local smallholder farmers and to support enhanced nutrition for schoolchildren.

CONTRIBUTIONS

USD 13.2 million

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COVID-19 IMPACT AND ADAPTATION



Despite Eswatini's status as a lower middle income country, 58 percent of the rural population live below the national poverty line and 25 percent are extremely poor. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Eswatini's economy faced severe economic and social challenges and the Government had begun fiscal consolidation. Weak governance, and a difficult business environment compounded low growth with high inequality and unemployment.

The pandemic hit Eswatini hard, exacerbating its vulnerabilities and creating immediate financing needs. Eswatini experienced increased vulnerability to the virus given the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, the country's proximity to South Africa, the most impacted country by COVID-19 in sub-Saharan Africa, which in turn added a burden on the already pressured health care system. The Government declared a national emergency and imposed a partial lockdown since mid-March, which included travel bans and closure of non-essential activities. These measures, combined with lower external demand, had a pronounced effect on the economy, declining real GDP by 3.4 percent.

CROSS-CUTTING RESULTS



WFP seeks to use the 2030 fund to address capacity gaps and evidence generation for the effective, sustainable provision of technical assistance and coordination support of national food and nutrition security policies and programmes utilising gender-transformative approaches. The Gender Transformation Programme and Gender and Age Marker processes were initiated to ensure that food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls, and boys are addressed.



Climate change, mostly erratic rainfall and prolonged dry spells, has intertwined with food security and environmental protection in the country. Results from the Integrated Context Analysis highlighted that existing levels of chronic food insecurity were linked to exposure to climatic shocks and environmental degradation. Food insecurity is highest in lowland areas where chronic drought and land degradation is highest. WFP implemented asset creation activities in Kwaluseni and Lobamba, provided support to communities that promoted environment protection including collection of rubbish along water ways and roads and provided technical support to the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs in developing the National Adaptation Strategy.

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Strategic outcome 1: Vulnerable populations in shock-affected areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during times of crisis



125,375 people (including those affected by COVID-19) received food and cash assistance



66 staff members from co-operating partners were trained in the use of the SCOPE - beneficiary and transfer management system - mobile app

Strategic outcome 2: Smallholder farmers, particularly women, have enhanced capacities to supply structured markets with nutritious foods by 2024



19 percent increase in women participating in the smallholder farmers market initiative as compared to 2019



WFP and FAO provided moisture meters, weighing scales, commodity bags, stitching machines and hermetic bags to farmers for use at aggregation centres

Strategic outcome 3: Vulnerable populations, particularly women, children, adolescent girls and PLHIV, have access to integrated and shock-responsive social protection systems by 2030



77,542 children assisted through the home-grown school feeding programme and neighbourhood care-points



23 families with people living with HIV participated in income generating livelihood activities.

522,000 people were reached through social behaviour change communication on HIV/TB/nutrition/sexual reproductive health integrated treatment

PARTNERS

Adventist Development Relief Agency, African Cooperative Action Trust, Family Life Association of Eswatini, European Union, Eswatini Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, Food and Agriculture Organisation, Germany, Global Fund, Japan, Mobile Telecommunication Network, Save the Children, Swaziland Network of Young Positives and Membatsise Home-Based Care, Surveyor's General and the Central Statistics Office, University of Eswatini (ENSWA), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS, United Nations Populations Fund, United Kingdom, World Health Organization, World Vision Eswatini, UN Pooled Funds

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