

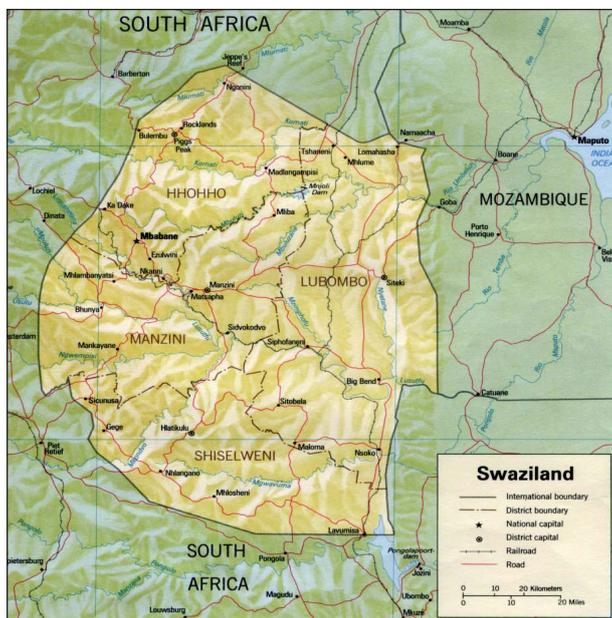
# COUNTRY FACTSHEET



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

## ESWATINI 2019

Embassy of Switzerland  
Swiss Cooperation Office for Southern Africa



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

### SWISS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Switzerland is contributing towards reducing poverty and vulnerability in Eswatini by increasing resilience among food insecure households; reducing new HIV infections and promoting employment among young people, who represent more than half of the population.

### Context

The kingdom of Eswatini is one of the world's last remaining absolute monarchies. Despite being a lower middle-income country, 63 percent of Swazis live below the poverty line.

The country has a very high HIV/AIDS prevalence of 26 percent and life expectancy of 49 years. A total 45 percent of children are orphaned or vulnerable. A massive increase in HIV testing and antiretroviral (ARV) treatment has however cut the rate of new infections by almost half since 2011. Of adults living with HIV, 80 percent are receiving ARVs.

Chronic malnutrition is a main concern with stunting affecting 26 percent of children under the age of five. The country is vulnerable to drought and an estimated 77 percent of Swazis rely on subsistence farming for livelihoods.

### Switzerland's support

Switzerland has been supporting Eswatini in the food security and HIV/AIDS domains through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) regional programme since 2005. Support is provided through the Seeds and Markets Programme with the primary objective of improving food and nutrition security for smallholder farmers through promoting new varieties of seeds. Together with various local partners, Switzerland also supports a programme for the prevention of HIV/AIDS among young people between the ages of 10 and 24. The purpose of the programme is to lower the incidence of infection with the AIDS virus in this segment of the population and to improve the quality of life for young people afflicted by the disease.

### SDC PROGRAMMES

#### Food security

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) region has high stunting rates/chronic malnutrition of children under 5 years of between 23 and 49 percent. Eswatini stunting rate is 26 percent. In the food security domain, Switzerland is active in eSwatini through two major programmes – the **Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA)** and the **Seeds and Market Programme (SAMP)**.

The RVAA programme supports SADC and its Member States to reduce vulnerability of households to disaster risks through increasing their preparedness for response and recovery and in strengthening their resilience.

The Eswatini Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) has been instrumental in conducting vulnerability assessments and analyses (VAA) that incorporate urban vulnerability, nutrition, HIV and



In the food security domain, smallholder farmers are promoting commercially viable community seed production to improve food and nutrition security.

gender mainstreaming among other issues. Results from these assessments have informed humanitarian and development policies and response. For example in 2016, the eSwatini government used the VAA results to declare drought emergency and mobilize resources for response to affected communities.

Through SAMP which is meant to improve food and nutrition security through the promotion of commercially viable community seed production is enabling smallholder farmers to produce and exchange seeds that are adaptable to their country's climatic conditions. Groups of smallholder farmers are participating in their own seed production since 2012 and a number have graduated into forming associations and even seed enterprises. This has increased farmers self-reliance in food production and has increased their income.

---

## HIV/Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights

Switzerland supports Eswatini and its population to reduce new HIV infections among young people (10-24 years) thereby contributing to SDG 3.3, which is to end the epidemic of HIV by 2030. HIV prevalence in Swaziland is 27.5 percent.

The **Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL)** programme is strengthening systems in the Ministries of Education in order to integrate care and support and HIV prevention in the sector to improve education outcomes.

The programme ensures improved access to care and support, HIV/AIDS prevention and sexual and reproductive health and rights for children and youth particularly vulnerable girls and young women. The CSTL programme has facilitated the development of national models that guide HIV prevention in schools and remove barriers to teaching and learning.

The CSTL programme has resulted in reduced school drop-outs, increased school enrolment and pass rates, kept girls in school in the process reducing teen related pregnancies.



The HIV/SRHR programme is working towards reducing new infections among young people and is ensuring that they adhere to treatment for continued viral suppression.

Through the **Safeguard Young People** against HIV and improve Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), the SDC is contributing to an improved SRHR status of young people with a special focus on HIV prevention. Through the Ministry of Education, eSwatini is supported to integrate components of **Comprehensive Life Skills Education (CLSE)** into the Education Sector Policy, to cover all learners from primary to secondary school.

In order to help individuals and communities to heal from the impact of HIV/AIDS, Switzerland is supporting the **Regional Psychosocial Support Programme** that mobilizes and capacitate government and civil society to provide psychosocial support to families and communities with children affected by HIV/AIDS, poverty and conflict.

Support to the SADC Secretariat on **Strengthening Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting Systems for Orphans, Vulnerable Children & Youth (OVC&Y)** enables Eswatini to make sound evidenced based decisions on issues that are relevant for OVC&Y, in particular on HIV/AIDS programming, by improving their monitoring and evaluation systems.

---

## Transversal themes: Gender equality, HIV/AIDS, governance and climate change

Switzerland places high importance in achieving **gender equality** and improvements in **governance** issues across all programmes. Gender equality is a priority at programme and institutional level. **HIV/SRHR** is mainstreamed in all food security activities, in order to reduce the burden of labour for people living with HIV. Three of the most important dimensions of good governance (non-discrimination, participation, accountability) are also mainstreamed in all programme activities working closely with Government structures at various levels. **Climate smart** approaches are also used in programme design and implementation in order to address the specific vulnerabilities in various communities.

---

## Partners

World Food Programme	
Biowatch South Africa	United Nations Population Fund
Africa Centre for Agrobiodiversity	Media in Education Trust
GRM Zimbabwe International	Voluntary Services Overseas

---

## Facts and Figures

Surface area	17,364 Km <sup>2</sup>
Population	1.3 million (2016)
Annual Population growth	1.8%
Life expectancy at birth	49 years
Per Capita GDP	2'800USD

\*Source: World Bank

---

## Impressum

### Embassy of Switzerland in Zimbabwe

9 Lanark Road,  
Belgravia, P.O. Box 3440,  
Harare - Zimbabwe  
Phone: +263 (24) 2703 997/8 & 2703 827

[harare@eda.admin.ch](mailto:harare@eda.admin.ch)

[www.eda.admin.ch/harare](http://www.eda.admin.ch/harare)

Facebook: [@SwissEmbassyHarare](https://www.facebook.com/SwissEmbassyHarare)