

WORLD VISION ESWATINI

2026–2030 National Strategy

**ESWATINI THAT CARES.
CHILDREN WHO THRIVE.**

Working towards an Eswatini where every child grows up safe, healthy and full of potential.



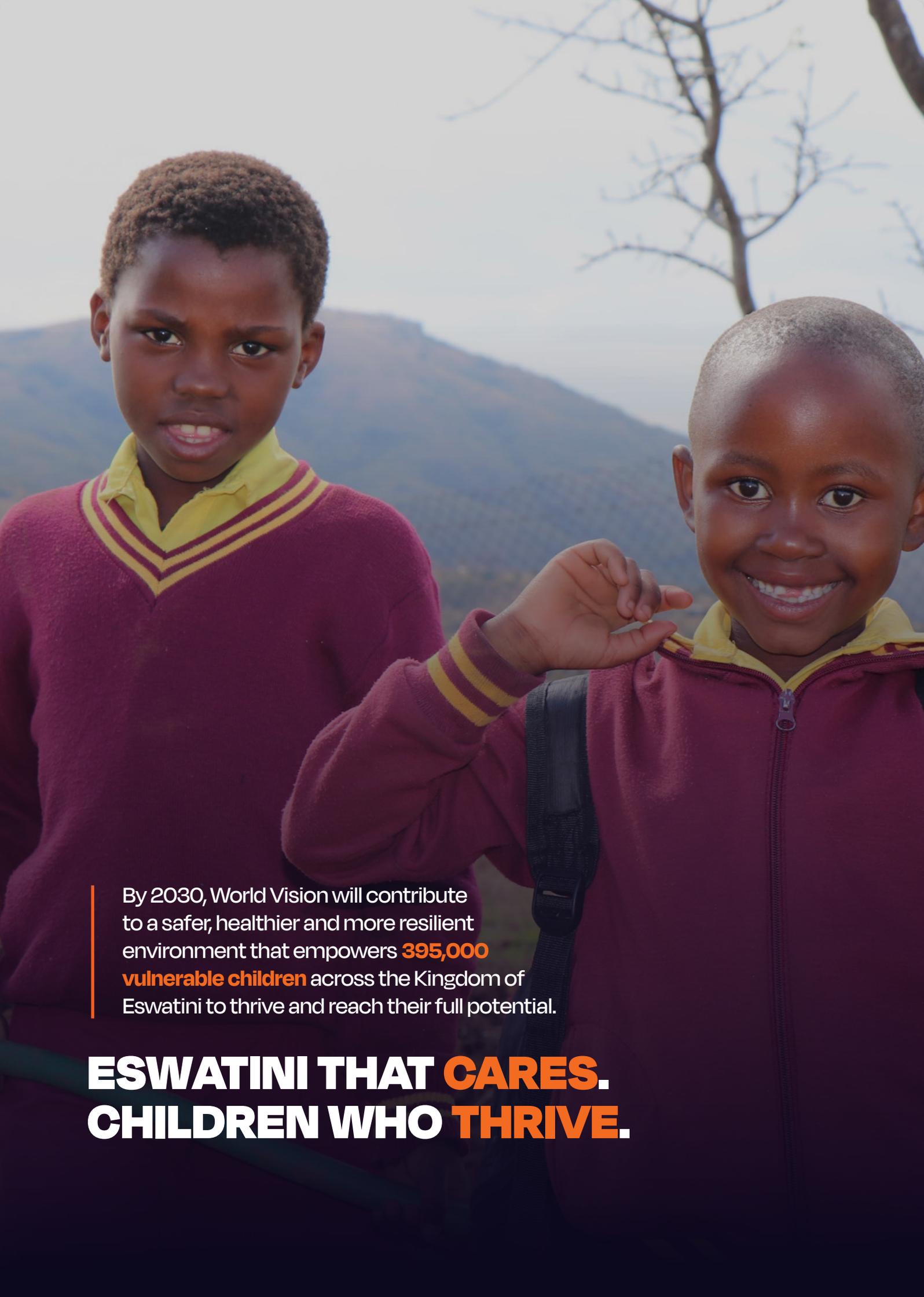
**World Vision Eswatini
National Strategy
FY 2026 – 2030**

World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation dedicated to working with children, families and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

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By 2030, World Vision will contribute to a safer, healthier and more resilient environment that empowers **395,000 vulnerable children** across the Kingdom of Eswatini to thrive and reach their full potential.

**ESWATINI THAT CARES.
CHILDREN WHO THRIVE.**



FOREWORD

Eswatini stands at a pivotal moment. Despite significant progress in health outcomes and community resilience over the past decade, too many of the Kingdom's children still face daily realities of hunger, violence and exclusion. In the face of a shifting global funding landscape and rising climate pressures, the need for coordinated, locally anchored action has never been greater.

This document outlines World Vision Eswatini's national strategy and bold ambitions for 2026 to 2030. It is our plan to build on what works, deepen our partnerships with Government and civil society and focus our resources where they are needed most: towards securing a future where Eswatini's most vulnerable children can thrive.

By 2030, World Vision Eswatini will contribute to a safer, healthier and more resilient environment that empowers over 395,000 vulnerable children across the Kingdom of Eswatini to thrive and reach their full potential.

This strategy was shaped by rigorous landscape analysis, consultations with partners, communities and children, and alignment with Eswatini's National Development Plan 2023–2028. It is built on the clear conviction that sustainable change for children requires collaboration across government ministries, faith communities, local organisations, donors and the private sector.

We present this strategy as both a declaration of intent and an invitation to partner. We look forward to working alongside the Government of Eswatini, our peer organisations, and the communities and children we serve to make this vision a reality.

TOTAL INVESTMENT: US\$ 68 MILLION

World Vision in Eswatini:

FOCUSED ON CHILDREN. **BUILDING ON STRENGTHS.**

World Vision has been working in Eswatini since 1992. As a Christian relief, development and advocacy organisation, we are dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. We believe every child is created in the image of God and deserves life in all its fullness. That conviction—combined with evidence, partnership and accountability—shapes a strategy that is both ambitious and grounded.

During the previous strategy period (2021–2025), World Vision Eswatini reached more than 357,000 children across 29 constituencies with an investment of over US\$ 96 million.

Working across 21 operational areas in close partnership with government ministries, faith leaders, civil society organisations and the private sector, we strengthened birth registration systems,

improved household food security, facilitated delivery of maternal, child-health and HIV programs, expanded water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) access in schools, clinics and communities, and reinforced child protection mechanisms. Women's participation in community decision-making reached 83%; individuals gaining access to clean water increased from 65% to over 77%, and comprehensive knowledge of HIV and AIDS amongst adolescents grew to 74% in supported communities.

This strategy—covering 2026 to 2030—builds on these foundations. It reflects our continued commitment to ministry impact, operational excellence and faithful stewardship of the finances and people entrusted to this work. World Vision works in close partnership with government ministries, faith leaders, civil society organisations, donors and the private sector.

Our Approach: Strength and Commitment

Locally Rooted

As a locally registered organisation, our staff live and work in the communities they serve. Oversight is provided by our local Board of Directors.

Integrated Programming

We connect health, WASH, nutrition, child protection and livelihoods, because interconnected problems require a multisector response.

Faith-Based Identity

Our Christian values drive our work to ensure every child experiences the love of God.

Government Partnership

We align with national priorities and embed our programmes within government systems for lasting impact.

Child-Centred

Because we believe that every child is created in the image of God and deserves to live life in all its fullness, the well-being of children is at the centre of everything we do.

Evidence and Learning

We measure what we do, learn from what doesn't work and adapt. Accountability to children and communities drives how we operate.

Operational Excellence

We maximise impact using agile operational systems that meet international standards, deliver at scale and respond quickly to changing needs

Faithful Stewardship

We are accountable to those who entrust us with resources. Every dollar is allocated strategically, managed transparently and made to go further.

Purpose-Driven People

We invest in our people. Our professionally equipped and personally dedicated staff are empowered to deliver on our bold ambitions.

ESWATINI LANDSCAPE AND GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE:

Eswatini is a lower-middle-income country of 1.2 million people with significant and persistent child vulnerability. With 52% of the population projected to live below the international poverty line, the challenges facing children are urgent.

THE CHALLENGES FACING CHILDREN

29.4%

Child stunting¹
Under 5 years

26%

Experience severe household hunger²

1 in 3

Girls experience sexual violence by age 18³

58.2%

Youth unemployment⁴

30%

Access to Water Sanitation and Hygiene services⁵

53%

Birth registration rate⁶
Limiting access to services

250K+

People in food crisis⁷
IPC Phase 3+, avg 2019–2024

24.8%

Adult HIV prevalence⁸
Highest globally

These challenges are deeply interlinked. Poor WASH access drives malnutrition and disease. Economic insecurity exposes children to violence and exploitation. Harmful cultural norms, including acceptance of physical punishment and gender-based violence, persist in communities. Climate-induced shocks are intensifying food insecurity, particularly in Lubombo and Shiselweni, the most vulnerable regions.

At the same time, Eswatini has notable assets. The country has achieved strong health coverage metrics, electricity access at 86%, and has met UNAIDS 95:95:95 HIV treatment targets. A rich network of faith communities and local institutions provides a foundation for locally-led transformation and the Government's National Development Plan 2023–2028 provides a clear national framework for progress.

Sources

¹ UNICEF, WHO and World Bank. Joint Malnutrition Estimates. New York: UNICEF, 2023. Based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), Eswatini, 2023.

² MICS 2021–2022.

³ Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini. Violence Against Children and Youth Survey (VACS): Findings from the Kingdom of Eswatini, Final Report. Mbabane: Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini, 2023.

⁴ International Labour Organization. Youth Unemployment Rate, Eswatini (Ages 15–24). ILOSTAT, World Bank World Development Indicators, 2023. Available at: data.worldbank.org.

⁵ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP). Eswatini: Estimates on the Use of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. Geneva: WHO/UNICEF, 2023.

⁶ MICS 2021–2022 birth registration data.

⁷ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Eswatini Acute Food Insecurity Situation. Rome: IPC Global Support Unit, 2019–2024 average.

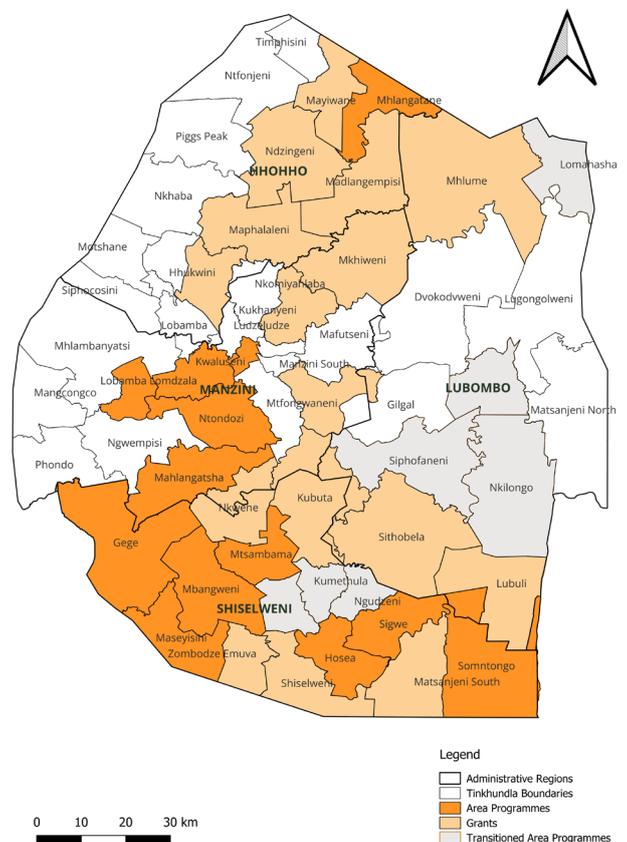


WHERE WE WORK:

World Vision Eswatini currently operates 11 programme areas supporting 13 constituencies, alongside goal-specific national grant projects being implemented in 25 additional constituencies nationwide.

During this strategy period, World Vision will maintain and deepen our presence across Eswatini's four regions. While programme areas are largely concentrated in the south of the country, World Vision continuously tracks vulnerability across the country, ensuring a rapid and targeted response in disaster-prone regions such as Lubombo when needed.

Since beginning operations in Eswatini in 1992 World Vision has successfully transitioned 19 programme areas to community management. Some of these areas continue to benefit from goal-specific projects (as noted in the map). This long-term commitment to locally led sustainability continues into this strategy, with selected programme areas advancing towards community ownership in the 2026 to 2030 period.



STRATEGY OVERVIEW:

Our Plan to Achieve Our Vision

The strategy to achieve our vision is designed to deliver two priority outcomes: **ending violence against children** and **strengthening food security and nutrition**. These challenges do not exist in isolation, and our response is designed accordingly. Technical interventions are delivered through a multisectoral approach spanning Child Protection; Health, HIV and Nutrition; and Livelihoods programmes including Food Security and Economic Empowerment. At the centre of this integration is WASH, serving as the catalytic thread that addresses root causes of child vulnerability and creates the conditions for lasting change. Cross-cutting themes—including advocacy, faith and transformational development among others—run through the work to support equality and sustainability; while six strategy initiatives will operate as distinct, aligned projects to advance key priorities.

By 2030, World Vision will contribute to a safer, healthier and more resilient environment that empowers **395,000 vulnerable children** across the Kingdom of Eswatini to thrive and reach their full potential.

END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

GUARD Framework

STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

HEART Framework



CATALYTIC WASH AS A STRATEGIC DRIVER

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

INTEGRATED TECHNICAL AREAS



WASH



Food Security



Health, HIV and Nutrition



Child Protection



Economic Empowerment

CROSS CUTTING THEMES



Climate Resilience



Gender, Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion



Advocacy



Christian Faith and Development



Disaster Preparedness and Anticipation

STRATEGY INITIATIVES

- Integrated Climate Action
- Universal WASH Service Coverage
- Full Continuum of Care to Protect Children
- Government Partnership and Sustainability
- Grant Revenue Growth
- Creative Financing Models

This strategy directly supports Eswatini's National Development Plan (NDP) 2023–2028 and contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

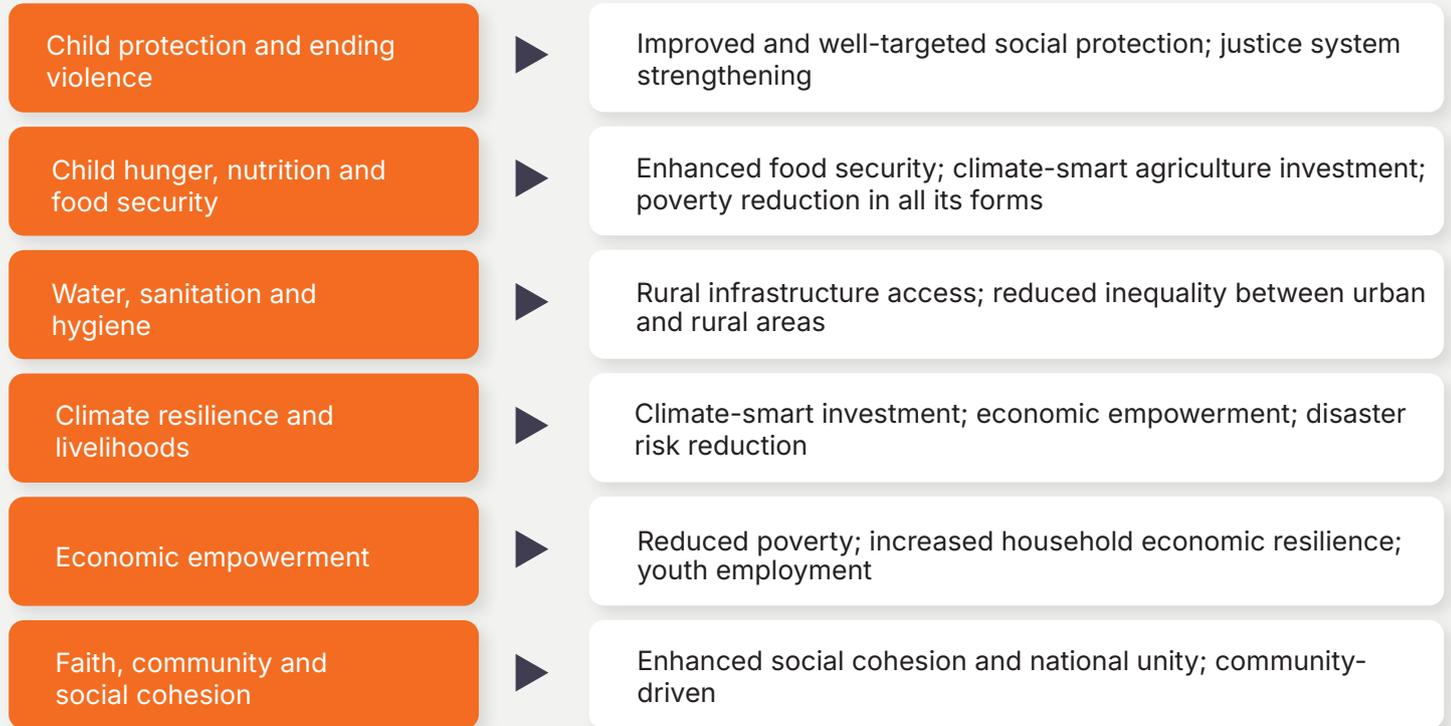


STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT: Advancing National Priorities

This strategy directly supports Eswatini's National Development Plan (NDP) 2023–2028.

World Vision Eswatini Strategic Focus

National Development Plan 2023–2028



ADDRESSING CURRENT CHALLENGES:

Violence against children, hunger and malnutrition, and inadequate access to water and sanitation are Eswatini's most critical challenges hindering the well-being of Eswatini's most vulnerable children and their communities. This strategy responds to these challenges through integrated, layered programmes that address both immediate needs and the systemic conditions that sustain them.



Violence Against Children

One in four girls and nearly one in three boys in Eswatini will experience violence in their lifetime.⁸ Sexual violence, physical punishment, exploitation and gender-based violence are widespread, driven by harmful norms, weak legal enforcement and under-resourced protection systems. Children with disabilities and orphans are up to four times more at risk.⁹



Hunger & Malnutrition

Nearly one in three children under five in Eswatini is stunted as a result of chronic malnutrition,¹⁰ and over 250,000 people face crisis-level food insecurity each year.¹¹ Climate shocks, poverty and poor WASH access drive hunger. Contaminated water increases disease burden, inadequate sanitation undermines food production, and economic shocks leave families unable to feed their children.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Only 30% of people in Eswatini have access to all three basic WASH services.¹² In rural areas, only 65% have access to clean water within a 30-minute round trip of their home, and just 17% of rural households have handwashing facilities with soap and water.¹³ Inadequate access to water, sanitation and hygiene carries direct consequences for children: stunted growth, preventable disease, girls exposed to risk when collecting water and lack of hygiene in schools.

Sources

⁸⁻⁹ Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini. *Violence Against Children and Youth, Kingdom of Eswatini: Findings from the Violence Against Children and Youth Survey, 2022 (Final Report)*. Mbabane, Eswatini: Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini, 2023.

¹⁰ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organisation (WHO), and The World Bank Group. *Levels and Trends in Child Malnutrition: Key Findings of the 2023 Edition*. Geneva: WHO, 2023.

¹¹ Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Deputy Prime Minister's Office. *Annual Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Report*. Mbabane: Government of Eswatini, 2022. (Published in coordination with WFP and FAO under the SADC RVAA Programme.)

¹² WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP). *Eswatini WASH Data*. washdata.org. Accessed August 2025.

¹³ washdata.org

ACHIEVING OUR STRATEGIC OUTCOMES:

Integrated Frameworks for Delivery

Grounded in our Christian faith and principles, this strategy presents two programming frameworks to drive delivery. The **GUARD framework** (Guide, Understand, Advocate, Respond, Defend) tackles violence against children, and the **HEART framework** (Healthy Eating and Resilience for Tomorrow) links nutrition, clean water, climate-smart farming and household economic resilience.

Ending Violence Against Children

Addressing violence against children requires action across the full prevention-to-response continuum. The **GUARD Framework** organises World Vision's response across families, schools, communities and government systems. Interventions are phased and sequenced, starting with awareness and safe environments, building towards community empowerment and institutionalising change for long-term sustainability.

Key intervention areas include:

- **Behaviour change:** working with faith leaders and communities to shift the harmful norms driving violence
- **Economic resilience:** supporting adolescents and households to build financial stability that reduces children's exposure to risk
- **Survivor support:** strengthening reporting and referral pathways, case management and psychosocial services
- **Systems and policy:** advocating for stronger legal frameworks and building data systems to drive government accountability
- **Child-led advocacy:** ensuring children's voices shape policy
- **WASH:** access to WASH services reinforces all of this, reducing risks for girls collecting water and making schools and healthcare facilities safe to use

Over 93,000 children will be reached directly, with more than 395,000 people positively impacted over the next five years.

Strengthening Food Security & Nutrition

Hunger and malnutrition require taking action at every level, from household to the health system. The **HEART Framework** organises World Vision's response across families, schools, communities and government systems. Interventions are phased and sequenced, starting with awareness and safe environments, building towards community empowerment and institutionalising change for long-term sustainability.

Key intervention areas include:

- **Health and nutrition:** equipping families and caregivers with practical skills to improve child nutrition at home and in schools
- **Economic empowerment:** strengthening household resilience through savings groups, livelihoods support and market access
- **Climate resilience:** building community capacity for climate-smart agriculture and disaster preparedness to protect food production against drought and environmental shocks
- **Systems and policy:** advocating for nutrition policy and government investment in food and health services
- **Child voice:** amplifying children's voices on hunger through community advocacy and World Vision's global ENOUGH campaign
- **WASH:** expanding access to clean water and sanitation, enabling safe food preparation and reducing the disease burden that drives malnutrition

Over the next five years, more than 391,000 people will be reached, including over 165,000 children, through integrated food security and nutrition interventions.



TECHNICAL AREAS: WASH as a Catalytic Driver

WASH as a technical approach is embedded across both the GUARD and HEART Frameworks because clean water and safe sanitation are fundamental to child safety, health and dignity.

Water, sanitation and hygiene are a critical catalyst across World Vision’s programme interventions, enabling and reinforcing outcomes in health, nutrition, education and child protection. Reliable access to safe water and improved sanitation reduces disease, supports better nutrition, improves school attendance and protects children—especially girls—from risks associated with unsafe water access and inadequate sanitation facilities. As such, WASH is integrated across multiple sectors and serves as a foundational enabler of sustainable child well-being and community resilience.

Key intervention areas include:

- **Safe water access:** developing and rehabilitating climate-resilient water systems to ensure reliable access to safe drinking water for communities, schools and healthcare facilities
- **Sanitation and hygiene behaviour:** promoting community-led sanitation, handwashing, menstrual hygiene management and household hygiene practices to reduce waterborne diseases
- **Health and nutrition integration:** strengthening the links between WASH, child health and nutrition outcomes by improving hygiene practices that prevent waterborne diseases and encouraging gardens to support child nutrition
- **Education and child protection:** improving WASH facilities in schools, including gender-sensitive sanitation and menstrual hygiene facilities supports school attendance and safety
- **Systems strengthening:** supporting government capacity for WASH planning, service delivery and maintenance systems increases sustainability of water infrastructure
- **Community ownership:** empowering water committees and local leadership structures to manage, maintain and protect water systems for the long-term.

US\$ 13M

joint investment by
World Vision Eswatini and
Government of Eswatini to
improve access to Water,
Sanitation and Hygiene
across 18 constituencies.

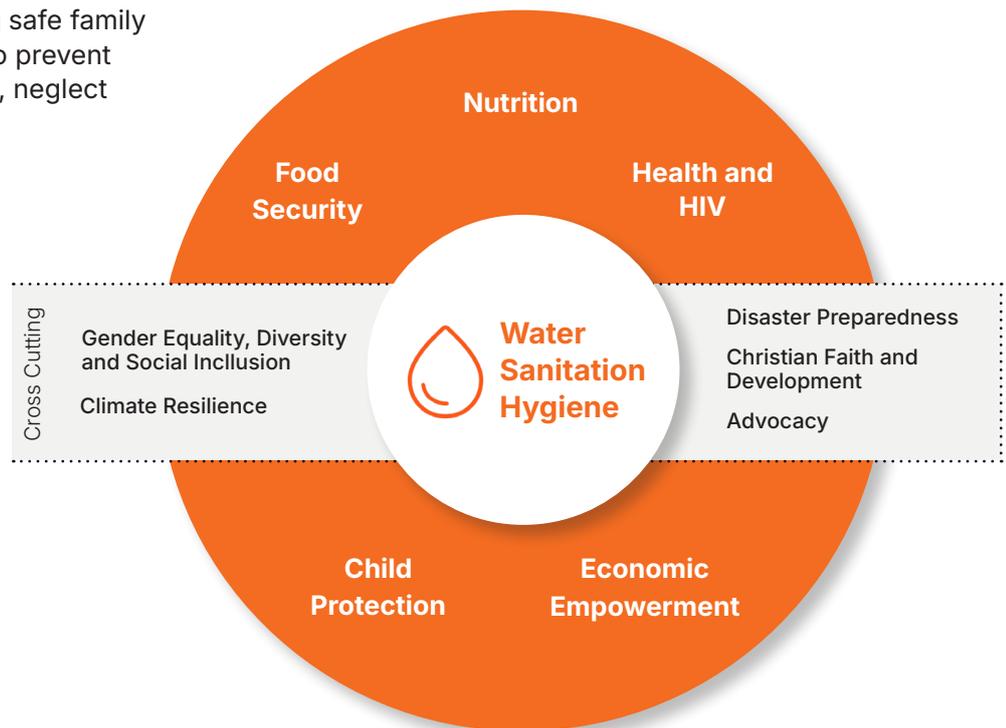
TECHNICAL AREAS:

A Multisector Approach for Interconnected Challenges

Technical programming integrates **WASH** with **Child Protection, Health, HIV and Nutrition** and Livelihoods interventions including **Food Security** and **Economic Empowerment**. This multisector approach addresses the root causes and systemic barriers to child well-being.

At the core of this approach is the integration of **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**, which acts as a foundational enabler across sectors—supporting improved health outcomes, strengthening nutrition, enhancing safe learning environments and reducing protection risks for children.

- **Child Protection:** strengthening safe family and community environments to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children
- **Food Security and Economic Empowerment:** building household resilience through livelihoods support, savings groups, climate-smart agriculture and market access
- **Health, HIV and Nutrition:** improving access to essential health services, strengthening community health systems and promoting better nutrition and caregiving practices



This integrated approach is further strengthened by several cross-cutting priorities that ensure sustainability, equity and long-term impact:

- **Climate Resilience:** supporting communities to adapt to climate shocks and protect livelihoods and food systems
- **Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI):** ensuring programmes reach and empower the most vulnerable and marginalised groups
- **Advocacy:** influencing policies, systems and public investment to scale sustainable solutions for children
- **Faith and Transformational Development:** partnering with faith leaders and faith communities to inspire values-based transformation and strengthen community engagement
- **Disaster Preparedness and Anticipation:** building community capacity to anticipate, prepare for and respond to shocks and emergencies

STRATEGY INITIATIVES:

Six strategy initiatives will run alongside this work as distinct, aligned projects that advance our priorities.



Universal Water Service Coverage:

A flagship project, partnering with government to achieve universal service coverage across 18 constituencies.



Strengthening Strategic Partnerships with Government:

Formalising partnerships with key ministries to align programming with national priorities and embed interventions within government systems.



Scaling Up Integrated Climate Action:

Leveraging national and global climate funds to expand community-led climate resilience models across Eswatini.



Leading in Violence Prevention and Response:

Implementing evidence-based models and advocating for policy reform to make Eswatini safer for children and families.



Expand Grant Revenue:

Diversifying income streams to secure at least 70% of total revenue from non-sponsorship sources.



Transformative Finance:

Connecting mature savings groups with innovative financing mechanisms to unlock new capital for communities.

2026-2030 TARGETS AND INVESTMENT:

How we will measure our impact

Strategy performance will be measured through a clear monitoring framework of key performance indicators. By consistently tracking our progress and assessing learning, we can leverage data for decision-making and programme adaptation to meet the evolving needs of communities.

US\$ 68M

Total investment over 5 years

395,000

Vulnerable Children Impacted

125,000

Caregivers 18+ reached
Parents and community members

60,000

Youth supported
with Health, HIV and Nutrition, Socioeconomic Empowerment and Child Protection programmes

89,000

Households supported
with Health, HIV and Nutrition, Socioeconomic Empowerment and Child protection programmes

93,000

Children directly supported
with protection package including violence prevention and response

391,000

People access food

165,000

Girls and boys 0-18 years
directly served with nutrition and resilience building package

329,000

People gaining water access
in partnership with the Government of Eswatini

93,747

People gaining access to sanitation facilities

18

Constituencies
Reaching universal WASH coverage

Investment by Sector



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

US\$ 24.1M

IMPACT: 329,000 children & adults



Disaster Response and Preparedness

US\$ 12.9M

IMPACT: 391,000 children & adults



Food Security and Economic Empowerment

US\$ 9.6M

IMPACT: 100,000 children & adults



Child Protection and Advocacy

US\$ 7.7M

IMPACT: 395,000 vulnerable children



Health, Nutrition and HIV

US\$ 7.7M

IMPACT: 85,000 children & caregivers



Sponsorship Operations

US\$ 5.8M

IMPACT: 35,000 children per year



Cross Cutting including Faith and Development and GEDSI

US\$ 779K



Every child in Eswatini deserves to grow up healthy, safe, and full of potential. Achieving this requires coordinated action across government, civil society, and the local and global donor community.

Visit our website: wvi.org/eswatini.



To partner in this work or to learn more, please get in touch.

World Vision Eswatini

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*Our vision for every child, life in all its fullness.
Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so.*