



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP NAMIBIA

Country Brief

April 2019



Operational Context

WFP's focus in Namibia shifted from food aid to providing technical assistance to the Government. The aim is to strengthen national capacities to end hunger by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of food systems to include: safety net programmes, such as school feeding and relief operations, and to enhance the Government's capacity to assess, plan and respond to food security needs.

WFP has been present in Namibia since 1990.



Population: **2.3 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **126 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **23.8% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

US\$0.5 m six months (May-October 2019) net funding requirements, representing 7.1% of total

Operational Updates

- **Climate Change Study:** Contributing to improved knowledge on the impact of climate change, WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, conducted a climate analysis study focusing on past, current and future climate trends and its effects on food security in Namibia. Using domestic and global satellite models, the study provided an information database with a forward looking at precipitation, changes in rainfall patterns and crop seasons, vegetation coverage, temperature and its implication on agricultural activities and climate induced disasters.
- **National Determined Contribution (NDC) partnership plan:** The Ministry of Environment and Tourism received a total amount of 4 million Euro funding for the implementation of National Determined Contribution (NDC) partnership plan. The funds will be utilized in two phases: Phase one will focus on improving and establishing an integrated monitoring system that will allow government to report on energy, waste, industrial processes, product use, Agriculture, forestry and other land use. Under this phase, WFP will provide technical support to improve capacity of the Met service for the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Office the Prime Minister in strengthening early warning systems. Phase two will focus on activities addressing mitigation and adaptation.
- **Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA):** WFP supported the Government through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) with the preparation for the May 2019 VAA data collection. The support was to revise data collection tools to mainstream gender, nutrition, health, HIV and hazards. In addition, WFP formed part of the team that facilitated trainings to over 100 regional ToTs on VAA data collection tools and use of ODK. The VAA scope of coverage has expanded from the six regions in 2016 to now covering all the fourteen regions of the country in both the rural and urban areas with up to 333 sentinel sites.

Contact info: Elvis G. Odeke (Elvis.Odeke@wfp.org)
Country Director: BaiMankay Sankoh - baimankay.sankoh@wfp.org
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Namibia

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
7.2 m	3.1 m	0.5 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Vulnerable populations in Namibia are enabled to meet their food and nutrition needs throughout the year.

Focus area: *Root Causes*

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening to the government entities responsible for national shock-responsive safety net programmes.
- Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance to the government entities responsible for school feeding Gravida.

Strategic Result 5: Developing Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome #: Government Policy dialogue and programme design is informed by evidence and enhanced knowledge of hunger issues throughout NDP5 period

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening to government entities involved in hunger-related policy and programming.
- Provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare and partners involved in the implementation of the Zero Hunger Road Map

- **Economic Forecast:** The Namibia Government is currently facing fiscal challenges; these conditions have negatively impacted on service delivery in most sectors and vulnerability levels. Additionally, increases in commodity prices has led to further increases in the cost of living, further negatively impacting purchasing power especially the vulnerable groups and the poor. Food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate has been rapidly increasing in the past several months, nearly doubling from 3% in October 2018 to 5.8% in March 2019. This increase in food prices raises concern for food security.
- **Drought:** Following the Cabinet Decision memo on the drought response, the Office of the prime Minister and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry were tasked to mobilize stakeholders to strategize on how the drought decision memo will be implemented. For this task, WFP is the prime technical partner to supporting the tasked government ministries to develop the Drought Response Plan. With the support from WFP, the first draft of the response plan was presented to Cabinet for endorsement.

Challenges

- Resource mobilisation for the implementation of the WFP Namibia Country Strategic Plan continues to be a challenge due to financial constraints experienced by the Government.
- Drought situation will impede the gains made with past developments in food security. The drought has affected over 257,000 people across the country and deaths of 64,000 livestock. Without adequate funding, WFP will not be able to respond to the national call to support Government interventions for the drought affected population.

Operational Updates

- **Advocacy:** Considering the prevailing and persistent drought conditions in Namibia which led to the Cabinet Decision memo on drought response, there has been a renewed focus on improved communication to the public on the programmes that government implements in emergencies. In support, through OPM, WFP developed communication brochures for the drought relief programme which the OPM administers. The brochure is targeting regional grass root stakeholders including the private sector, local Government administrators, traditional authorities and the community members. Key messages in the brochure include the programme objectives, criteria for selection of beneficiaries, coordination mechanisms as well as procedures for public donations to the relief programme.

Donors

Government of Namibia, Russian Federation, Other UN Agencies and Multilaterals funding