



WFP Namibia Country Brief June 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

As an upper-middle-income country, Namibia has a population of 2.4 million. The country has experienced several emergencies such as recurrent floods and drought, insect and worm invasion and the current emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic which had a profound impact on population's food security, health and nutrition. To this end, insufficient food production and reliance on poorly adapted rain-fed agriculture and external markets for food suggests that poor households are particularly less resilient to shocks and vulnerable to food price inflation.

Under Namibia Country Strategic Plan (2017–2023), WFP ensures adequate capacity strengthening to the Government, provides food assistance to vulnerable people affected by shock and facilitates effective policies and best practices. The addition of Strategic Outcome 4 to the current CSP aims to strengthen food systems and increase the production capacity of small holder farmers.

WFP has been present in Namibia since 1990 as a technical partner to the Government, facilitating the development and transfer of knowledge, maintaining capacities to supplement food security and nutrition programmes.



Population: **2.3 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **130 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Upper-middle Income**

2020 Global Hunger Index: **70 out of 107 countries**

In Numbers

People assisted in June 2021

HGSFP ~3,800 school learners in Kunene and Omaheke region.

Community-based Livelihood Projects: ~355 households benefitting from 3 community-based food systems projects, including **110** prisoners from the Windhoek Correctional Service.

US\$ 5.8 m six-month (June – November 2021) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Namibia Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP)

WFP supported the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) in the implementation of the emergency school feeding project in Kunene Region. The project is designed to address acute hunger, prevent malnutrition in school children and their families, in addition to keeping children in school for continuous learning. Targeting learners from vulnerable food and insecure households, the project was implemented at 19 different schools in Kunene Region.

An orientation workshop was held on 8 June 2021 whereby 33 participants partook, comprising of school Principals, the National School feeding focal people and the Head Teachers for the Mobile Schools units. The workshop aimed to orient the implementers to the emergency school feeding project and build their capacity to implement projects effectively. Consequently, 3,000 school learners and households benefited from this project, receiving dry take-home rations supply for one month and other food commodities.

The Namibian Government, represented by the Namibia Planning Commission (NPC), held a side event on 25 June 2021 to discuss their participation in the Global Coalition for healthy school children. The main discussions highlighted the country's efforts to ensure zero hunger, sustained school feeding, efficient food systems, good practices, opportunities, and related gaps, and Namibia's nomination to be a part of the Global coalition on school feeding.

Food Assistance Programme: *Cash Based Transfer (CBT)*

WFP as a technical partner to the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPESW) alongside Catholic Aids Action (CAA), finalized the verification and sensitization of 1,775 beneficiaries in Omusati region for the distribution of CBT scheduled to begin on 9 August 2021. This Echo funded project is targeted to food insecure households and individuals severely affected by COVID-19. The assistance, which includes support to communities living around informal settlements in Khomas region, will cover 3 months for 5,125 CBT beneficiaries, tallying 6,900 beneficiaries for the two regions.

Integrated Community-based Food Systems Projects

The Country Office (CO) in collaboration with various rural settlement constituencies continued to support the implementation of integrated community-based food systems

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Photo: *Kunene River Basin Women Project*
WFP/ Jacobus Munjanu

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017–2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
23.7 m	17.3 m	5.8 m

Strategic Result 01: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 01: 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

Strategic Result 05: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 02: 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

Strategic Result 01: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 03: Targeted food insecure households affected by shocks in Namibia benefit from enhanced access to adequate food and nutrition during and in the aftermath of crises

Focus Area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

- Provide food assistance to vulnerable people affected by shocks.

Donors

2020-2021 Donors: Brazil, European Union, Germany, Japan, and United States of America, UNICEF, and USAID

projects to address poverty and nutrition insecurity in the country. To date, 7 out of 14 regions have projects implemented to intensify the production of quality nutritious food at the following sites: Tsumkwe Integrated Community & Clinic Project, Stampriet Integrated Community-School based Project, Olukulo clinic and the Opuwo Kazentjindire Muharuka Maternity Waiting Home Project.

Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) Study

WFP in partnership with NPC and other government and private sector institutions held the first phase of the COHA workshop from 15 to 23 June in Otjiwarongo. This workshop is a turning point advocacy for African governments to delve into dialogues and policies to curb undernutrition and stunting in children and its long-term effects on key sectors of Health, Education and Labor Productivity. The COHA preliminary results were validated by the national multi-sectoral technical team with support from an international consultant: Addisu Bekele in preparation for a high-level launch of the report.

Food Systems Summit

WFP in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) were nominated as technical partners to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), the convenor for the Food Systems Summit scheduled for September 2021. A task team of which WFP is a part has been selected to help fast track the national food system dialogues, actions, and finally a national consolidated paper.

Partnerships

- WFP continued to facilitate meetings with local donors and partner organizations to confer the status of social protection programmes, climate change and nutrition projects implemented by the CO and present the COHA and FNG preliminary results.

Assessments

WFP in partnership with other UN Agencies, under the coordination of NPC contributed to the Voluntary National Review (VNR) to submit the second VNR National Report for Namibia towards the 2021 High Level Political Forum. The VNRs are intended to track progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda. For the 2021 reporting period, Namibia reported a decline in poverty through the implementation of social safety net policies (social grants) and social protection. Progress was made to ensure gender equality whilst the health sector made continuous improvement in HIV (3.31 in 2018 to 2.81 in 2020), TB incidences (524 in 2018 to 486 in 2019), birth support and related country wide maternal mortality (311 per 100,000 in 2019).

The Mobile Vulnerability Assessment System (mVAM)

WFP is currently facilitating a mVAM data collection survey to enable daily updates and the dispensation of monthly reports. Throughout this procedure, WFP is supplementing to global publications of the Hunger Map comprised of significant food insecurity trends.