



WFP Namibia Country Brief July 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 invasions and recently the COVID-19 pandemic which has had a profound impact on food security, health and nutrition. 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.

Through the Namibia Country Strategic Plan (2017–2023), WFP provides food assistance to vulnerable people affected by shock, ensures adequate capacity strengthening to the Government, 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 smallholder 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: **2.5 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper-middle Income**

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

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In Numbers

Net funding requirements:

US\$ 4 m six-month (August 2021 – January 2022)

People assisted in July 2021

Cash Based Transfers: 1,775 households in Omusati Region

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

Operational Updates

United Nations Food Systems Summit

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) as the leading national convenor for the United Nations Food Systems Summit with support from WFP and FAO Namibia coordinated national dialogues on 29 July – 16 August. During the summit, the committees established a task force (the national Task Team and the Technical Task Force) to advance the national dialogues' agenda. These national dialogues aim at shaping and supporting the national pathways to sustainable food systems from a broad range of stakeholders whilst recommending game changing solutions. Additionally, the summit provides opportunities for stakeholders to engage in preparations for the Summit in September 2021 and contribute to the Namibian Food System Position Paper.

Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) Study

Building on the results of the previously held FNG virtual technical validation workshop, a final phase of the FNG process was held through a virtual workshop with representatives from ministries and the private sector to discuss the findings and develop recommendations for the final report. The FNG findings were divided into two thematic areas: a) Agricultural production, diversification, fortification, and private sector; and b) Vulnerabilities, health, social protection, and school feeding. Conclusively, the FNG study is currently undergoing finalization for a high-level launch in September.

Namibia Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP)

WFP with support from the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) held a HGSFP Virtual Capacity Building Workshop for Regional Directors, Deputy Directors, School Inspectors, School Principals, the National School Feeding Programme (NSFP) focal persons and Head teachers for Mobile School Units in Kunene region. The presentations provided an overview on the HGSFP with orientations to school menus, HGSFP procurement guidance, HGSFP Funds utilization guidance, HGSFP Food Quality control, School health, Hygiene and Nutrition, HGSFP Monitoring,

Photo: Thomas Nampweya at an Integrated Community-based Food System Project. WFP/ Nomhle Kangootui

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	4 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

Evaluation and Reporting. Overall, the workshop aimed to capacitate the main actors/implementers on aspects pertaining to a successful HGSFP.

Food Assistance Programme: *Vouchers*

WFP as a technical partner to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), alongside the Namibian Red Cross Society commenced the registration and issuance of food vouchers to 1,700 communities in Kunene region. This Japan funded initiative is a provision of food assistance using market-based approaches such as vouchers to stimulate the local economies and support food insecure households severely affected by Covid-19 and consecutive years of prolonged drought, including locust invasion in 2020.

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

WFP as a technical partner to the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPESW) and the Catholic Aids Action (CAA) commenced the first distribution of CBT in Omusati region. Three (3) distribution cycles are projected for Omusati region, targeting a total of 1,775 households, and 5,000 households in Khomas region. In Omusati, targeted households received cash at mobile pay points through a national Financial Service Provider. The interventions will enable targeted food insecure households affected by shocks to increase and enhance their access to adequate food and nutrition during and in the aftermath of crises.

Integrated Community-based Food Systems Projects

The Country Office (CO) continued to collaborate with various rural constituencies to support the implementation of integrated community-based Food Systems projects to address poverty and food 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.

Partnerships

UN SDGs High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

WFP participated in the UN SDGs High Level Political Forum side event on "*Harnessing the linkages between human, animal and environmental health and well-being to effectively combat biodiversity loss, prevent future pandemics and achieve sustainable development*". The CO shared ongoing initiatives supporting the Namibian Government and partners to transform school feeding into a homegrown solution that promotes fruit and vegetables for nutritious diets particularly at schools and health centers whilst fulfilling micronutrient requirements for pregnant and lactating mothers. WFP's current food systems approach highlighted as a critical factor to stimulating the local economy by supporting smallholder farmers. In promoting the cultivation of indigenous fruits and vegetables, the approach is part of a sustainable solution to address malnutrition and stunting at the national level.