



WFP Namibia Country Brief September 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

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:

USD 7 m (October 2021 – March 2022)

People Assisted in September 2021

Cash Based Transfers (CBT): 1,775 households in Omusati Region

Food Voucher Programme: 2,700 households in Kunene and Oshana Region

Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP): 1,472 learners from HGSFP four pilot schools in Kunene Region.

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

Operational Updates

United Nations Food Systems Summit

UN Namibia hosted the Third Sustainable Development Dialogue Series (SDDS) on 17 September 2021 under the theme: *“Unlocking resources for sustainable development: Follow-Up to the National Food Systems Summit Dialogues.”*

The SDDS, an initiative of UN Namibia, seeks to foster multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary exchange of knowledge and information on contemporary issues that influence the achievement of the SDGs. This comes on the backdrop of the Food Systems Summit which was convened by the UN Secretary-General to accelerate action and establish the future direction for sustainable food systems as well as the recently concluded Namibia National Food Systems Dialogues.

Namibia Home Grown School Feeding Programme

The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture with support from the Country Office continued with the pilot phase of the HGSFP at four selected schools in Kunene Region. The implementation of this programme empowers schools to buy produce directly from local smallholder farmers as part of the school feeding programme to diversify the meals of learners. The HGSFP improves livelihood for smallholder farmers as they supply produce to schools, improves their market access, and supplements their income.

Food Assistance Programme: *Cash-Based Transfers*

WFP as a technical partner to government (Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare) alongside its cooperating partners: Namibian Red Cross Society and Catholic Aids Action continued with the issuance of CBT.

This programme improves livelihoods exponentially through enhanced household purchasing power, increased dietary diversity and reduced levels of under-five malnutrition. Marginalized communities and households severely affected by COVID-19 and

Photo: RD interacting with beneficiaries at Epako Integrated Community-Based Food Systems Project. © WFP/Nesto Netusalem

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	7 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

consecutive years of prolonged drought and locust invasion are empowered to support local retailers, thus stimulating the local economy.

Integrated Community-Based Food Systems Projects

WFP in partnership with the Omaheke Regional Council and Omaheke Innovation Village “the O-Space” is addressing poverty and food insecurity in Namibia through climate smart agricultural production techniques” through Epako Integrated Community-Based Food Systems Project.

Beneficiaries of the Epako Community Based Food Systems Project in Omaheke region, previously Pregnant and Lactating Women, volunteer at the project site to reduce the effects of malnutrition, stunting and wasting in their communities. Supported by WFP, they now engage to enhance household food and nutrition security while participating in community-based training/skills transfer on nutritional best practices, with linkage to markets for their produce through the O-Space.

Partnership

WFP continues to engage potential donors and partners by expanding its partnership base with government and international financial institutions such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and the Environment Investment Fund.

WFP Regional Director Familiarization Exchange

Mr. Haile Menghastab, WFP’s Regional Director visited Namibia to interact with local stakeholders, cooperating partners, development partners/ donors and Government institutions for an on the ground understanding as well as provide strategic direction on food and nutrition priorities, emerging food systems, aimed at accelerating support towards zero hunger.

South to South Cooperation: Egypt - Namibia Digital Transformation Agenda

WFP alongside government officials partook in the International Cooperation Forum, organized by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, thereafter, visited project sites aimed at enhancing food and nutrition security and prompt delivery of services to communities through digital solutions. These include the Egyptian Knowledge Bank, an online learning and teaching platform enabling the delivery of mobile learning to remote and migratory communities affected by COVID-19.

Moreover, the team visited project sites designed for the e-governance of programmes such as the HGSFP, social protection single registry systems, online integrated disaster risk information hub, e-registration of voucher systems, and warehouse management. On adoption of these programmes, WFP will ensure long-term and updated data storage and efficiencies in beneficiary transactions.