



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Namibia Country Brief November 2021



Operational Context

An upper-middle-income country, Namibia has a population of 2.4 million. The country has experienced recurrent floods and drought, insect and worm invasions, and recently the COVID-19 pandemic, all having 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 7.7 m (December 2021 – May 2022)

People Assisted in September 2021

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

Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP): 11,687 learners attending 28 schools in seven regions (Omaheke, Kunene, Ohangwena, Kavango East, Kavango West, Zambezi East and Zambezi West).

Community-based Livelihood Projects: 1,659 beneficiaries

Operational Updates

Namibia Home Grown School Feeding Programme

The HGSFP was officially launched in the Kunene Region on 12 November 2021, thus planned for implementation across 28 schools in seven regions of Namibia.

Training for volunteer cooks was conducted by final year students from the Namibia University Science and Technology: school of Culinary Arts and Hospitality. It placed emphasis on food hygiene, food storage and preservation, quality checks, nutrient retention, food safety and the use of food waste for compost. The training sessions were recorded with the support of an audio-visual expert, as a result, the recordings will be compiled into short video clips and disseminated at several schools currently implementing the programme.

Although the HGSFP was recently launched and implemented, some schools have recorded a rise in the attendance and the class participation of its learners.

Cash Based Transfers (CBT)

WFP as a technical partner to the Office of the Prime Minister, alongside the cooperating partner, the Namibian Red Cross Society, issued the last cycle of food assistance using food vouchers to 2,700 vulnerable households in Kunene and Ohangwena Regions.

Furthermore, WFP as a technical partner to the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPEWSW) alongside the Catholic Aids Action (CAA), provided food assistance using cash to 1,775 households in Omusati Region. The programme was similarly designed to benefit 5,125 households in Khomas Region, however, the total number of beneficiaries allocated to Khomas was further split into 60% for Kunene and 40% for Khomas due to a higher number of vulnerable households in Kunene Region. The cash-based transfers empowers vulnerable families by enabling them to meet their basic needs.

Integrated Community-Based Food Systems Projects

WFP recruited service providers to support the establishment, management and scaling-up of integrated community-based food systems projects, aimed to produce adequate and quality fruits and vegetables. To date, the projects have been set up and are operational at several health centres, community-based groups, and schools across the country. The projects use high yield appropriate and adaptable technologies such as

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	7.7 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

hydroponics, drip irrigation and greenhouse technology, aimed to increase nutritious and energy-rich food intake for pregnant and nursing women.

Additional engagement and partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) is expected to officialise the above activities at grassroot level.

Nutrition: Evidence Generation

The Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study and Fill-the-Nutrient Gap (FNG) studies were presented and passed in cabinet on 30 November 2021. Both studies are scheduled for an official launch in 2022. The COHA study shows that undernutrition among children is a social issue that affects the whole economy, and countries are losing significant sums of money due to continued child undernutrition.

The FNG is an analytical process comprised of a secondary literature review in combination with Cost of the Diet (CotD) optimized to understand local drivers that affect the availability, cost, and affordability of a nutritious diet.

Climate Change and Adaptation

WFP provided technical assistance to the Government of Namibia on strengthening early warning systems. Automated climate-based early warning systems have been set up at Namibia's Meteorological Services to produce seasonal maps and the provision of mobile crop monitoring devices for data collection by MAWLR.

As requested by the National Committee on Climate Change, WFP conducted training workshops for government officials, enabling them to collect data using Open Data Kit (ODK), and Global Information System (GIS) for appropriate statistical interpretation and evidence generation. Through this activity, technical assistance is provided on issues relating to disaster risk planning, resilience building, early action and long-term structural investment in building drought resilient communities.

To further strengthen the capacity of government, Ms. Irene Ferrari, a representative from WFP Headquarters, Rome, supported MAWLR and Met Services in setting up monitoring systems in preparation for the upcoming rainy season. Ms. Ferrari further conducted refresher trainings on data collection and data analysis to be conducted monthly by Agricultural Extension Officers across the crop growing regions of Namibia in so doing informing smallholder farmers on climate outlooks.

Partnerships

WFP hosted three breakfast meetings with Executive Directors, development partners and the African group of Ambassadors on 22, 29 and 30 November, to provide an update on its strategic pillars of Rural Transformation; 2) Food Systems; 3) Human Capital Development and 4) Cross-cutting issues (digital transformation, climate resilience, youth, and women empowerment) and further to exchange ideas on how WFP can best engage and support the Government in 2022.