



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Namibia Country Brief March 2022



## Operational Context

An upper-middle-income country, Namibia has a population of 2.5 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 6.6 m** (April – September 2022)

**People Assisted in March 2022**

**Home Grown School Feeding Programme:** 13,915 school children

**Integrated Community-based Food Systems**

**Projects:** 1,457 beneficiaries

## Operational Updates

### CBT Food Voucher Demonstration

WFP with representation of the Prime Minister and select members of Cabinet observed a food voucher demonstration to cement understanding of the voucher process and demonstrate WFP's technical capacity to the government. Since implementation, this programme has reached a total of 2,700 vulnerable households in Kunene and Ohangwena regions impacted by COVID-19, drought, and migratory locusts. The voucher system has been adopted for utilisation by the Office of the Prime Minister for its national drought relief programme.

### Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)

A multi-sectoral team comprised of Nutrition and Food Security Alliance of Namibia, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, FAO and the Ministry of Gender Equality Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare visited Omaheke Region in response to concerns raised by the regional management team on increased hospital admissions for severe acute malnutrition (SAM). More than 90 percent of hospital admissions for SAM are children under 5 years, from marginalised families living in informal settlements of Omaheke Region.

The root causes of malnutrition were observed to be multi-factorial and linked to deeper social issues such as high unemployment rates and food insecurity. At the conclusion of the visit, the multi-sectoral team drafted an action plan with key roles of stakeholders.

### Climate Change and Adaptation

WFP through the project *Strengthening the Integrated early warning system in Namibia* provides technical support to government for an enhanced drought monitoring system linked to early mitigation action and long-term investments for drought resilient communities.

This work is carried out through various systems such as crop monitoring during the planting and harvesting season, seasonal rainfall monitoring, and household hunger live monitoring.

**Photo:** A cash-based transfer beneficiary presenting her voucher ID to the retailer for verification. WFP/Luise Shikongo

## WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2017–2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
46 m	18.3 m	6.6 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

### Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Programme

WFP continued to support the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) in the implementation of the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSF). In March 2022, WFP supported national baseline assessments in 6 regions, across 25 schools for the enrolment and upscaling of the HGSF pilot phase. The assessment focused on school children's anthropometric measurements while aiming to gain insights from smallholder farmers.

Further, WFP undertook a joint mission to Kunene region with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform; MoEAC, the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the National Planning Commission to strengthen collaboration between key sectors and jointly engage and sensitize regional leadership and grassroots communities on the HGSFP. The joint mission resulted in enhanced buy-in and programme ownership at regional and community level.

### Integrated Community-based Food Systems Projects

WFP conducted community engagement sessions with food systems implementing stakeholders, service providers and beneficiaries from the Windhoek Female Correctional Facility, Aminuis Corridor 4 and across several primary and secondary schools in the Khomas, Hardap, //Karas and Omaheke regions.

WFP's food system approach is designed to improve livelihoods by scaling up production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management of various crop and livestock commodities at correctional and health facilities, schools, and the most vulnerable communities.

### Partnership

WFP continued to expand its partnership base by engaging local potential donors and partners such as the Embassy of Japan, Old Mutual Namibia, Cirrus Capital, and the Ministry of Finance to name a few.

### Monitoring

WFP continued to analyse key indicators on stunting and malnutrition from Omaheke and Ohangwena regions to inform the current state of stunting and malnutrition in Namibia and alter government programmes and policy dialogues.

### Donors

2021-2022 Donors: Brazil, European Union, Japan, African Group of Ambassadors, Government of the Republic of Namibia

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