



World Food Programme

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WFP Namibia Country Brief January 2023



Operational Context

An upper-middle-income country, Namibia has a population of 2.5 million people. The country has experienced recurrent floods and drought, insect and worm invasions, and the COVID-19 pandemic, which all have 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 suggest that poor households are vulnerable to shocks and food price inflation.

Through the Namibia Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 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**

2021 Human Development Index: **139 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Upper-middle income**

2022 Global Hunger Index: **70 out of 107 countries**

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In Numbers

Net Funding Requirements:

USD 1.4m (February 2023 – July 2023)

People Assisted in December 2022 and January 2023:

Home-Grown School Feeding Programme: 11,730 school children

Integrated Community-based Food Systems Projects: 1,457 beneficiaries

Operational Updates

Food Systems - Ondera First Wheat Harvest and Maize Meal Planting

WFP in partnership with the Oshikoto Regional Council and the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare has been scaling up agricultural activities at Ondera Resettlement Farm. The project has an end-goal of enhancing local capacities to manage every phase of production for community-based food self-sufficiency. After successfully harvesting 12.5 tons of wheat (valued at NAD 153,000), which has since supported disaster management programmes by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), the project is currently in its second phase of implementation through the planting of maize.

Overall, this project aims to enhance productive capacity of vulnerable communities, particularly youth and women, thereby strengthening equitable access to adequate, safe, and healthy foods.

South to South Learning Visit

In December 2022, WFP in partnership with OPM, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, the Namibian Correctional Service (NCS) and Ongula Village Homestead led a South-South learning visit to Harare, Zimbabwe.

The aim was to witness different projects led by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water & Rural Development, and learn from some of the best practices that can be replicated in Namibia.

The visit explored local flagship projects such as dairy farms, seed and fertilizer manufacturing sites and agricultural development projects. As part of the recommendations, WFP in collaboration with local actors, will incorporate best practices on resilience and asset creation into the existing food systems projects, thereby creating a culture of collaboration and mutual aid for improved livelihoods.

Namibian Correctional Services – Food Systems Partnership

In 2022, WFP signed Memoranda of Understanding with the NCS, Impact for Africa S.p.A. (IFA), and Lithon Project Consultants Pty (Ltd) (Lithon). As part of the action plan, these parties are required to develop, prepare, and execute a food systems pilot project incorporating all phases of production (from production, processing, distribution, aggregation, marketing, and consumption).

Photo: WFP Regional Director, Mr Menghestab Haile, with Namibian Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah © 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	20.5 m	1.4 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

Strategic Result 04: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 04: Governmental institutions in Namibia have capacity to conduct analysis that supports planning towards transformative and resilient food systems by the end of 2023.

Focus Area: Resilience Building

Activities: Support government entities to strengthen food systems in the country.

Strategic Result 08: Enhance global partnership

Strategic Outcome 05: Government and development partners in Namibia are supported by an efficient and effective supply chain and digital services and expertise throughout the CSP period.

Focus Area: Resilience Building

Activities: Support government and development partners with supply chain and digital services and expertise.

As a result of this agreement, the parties launched an integrated food production project on 12 January 2023, in the Hardap Region. This ground-breaking social-impact investment project will support government's efforts towards rural economic transformation and sustainable food systems, as envisaged under the UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) through enhanced Partnerships (SDG 17) by the year 2030.

Regional Directors Visit

Mr. Menghestab Haile, WFP's Regional Director (RD) for Southern Africa embarked on a four-day working visit from 11-14 January 2023. The mission's objectives were to initiate high-level engagement and officiate the launch of the cropping activities at NCS in Hardap Region.

Further, a high-level courtesy meeting was held with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and various Executive Directors from key ministries. Resultantly, the meeting attested to solid partnerships between WFP and the various ministries aimed at upscaling programmes to improve food systems and attain food self-sufficiency in Namibia.

The RD also engaged with the private sector, financial institutions, and development partners with the aim of making agriculture an attractive sector for youth. Such a development will increase agricultural production while also reducing youth unemployment rates which are currently at nearly 49 percent for youth aged 15-24 (Trading Economics, 2022).

As part of the outcomes, RD attested to Namibia's good governance and excellent network, positioning the country as a digital education leader in Southern Africa.

Partnerships

Flying Labs

WFP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Flying Labs Namibia, a social impact organization and part of an international network of locally led knowledge hubs with expertise in drones, data, robotics, and artificial intelligence. The partnership is critical in expanding the use of drone technology, including smart agriculture and remote sensing, as well as catalysing innovative ways to combat the effects of climate change.

AMTA

WFP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Agro Marketing and Trade Agency (AMTA) aimed to strengthen agro-logistics, set up hubs for packaging and cold-storage of fresh produce; and provide skills transfer for climate-responsive supply chain and market systems.

Ongula Village Homestead

WFP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ongula Village Homestead aimed at: mobilizing agricultural extension services for 50 surrounding households; co-creating a centre of excellence for food systems, enhancing opportunities for skills development and youth employment.

Donors

2022-2023 Donors: Brazil, Deloitte, Japan, African Group of Ambassadors, Government of the Republic of Namibia.