



World Food Programme

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WFP Namibia Country Brief April 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: **78 out of 121 countries**

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In Numbers

Net Funding Requirements:

USD 3.6 m (May – October 2023)

People Assisted in April 2023:

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

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

Cash Based Transfers: Value Vouchers: 3,000 food-insecure households, equivalent to 17,812 beneficiaries.

Operational Updates

Nutritious School Meals at Mbora Primary School

WFP has worked with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) on a pilot project in the Kavango East Region. The project involved setting up a one-hectare garden at the Mbora Primary School. OPM allocated funds while WFP provided additional funding for the irrigation system and technical support for the project's costing and design. The installation of the drip irrigation system was completed successfully in April 2023, and an official site handover by OPM and WFP is expected in the coming months. The project's primary objective is to encourage the learners at Mbora Primary School to consume healthy, nutritious, and diverse diets. WFP will continue to provide technical support and guidance to OPM and Mbora Primary School to ensure the project's success.

Cash-Based Transfers: Value Vouchers to Flood Affected Communities

In April 2023, the teams from WFP and OPM worked together to roll out a social protection programme to assist households affected by floods in the Oshana and Ohangwena regions. This programme will not only help these communities restore their livelihoods but also provide access to nutritious food through a voucher programme that uses an integrated digital social assistance platform developed in partnership with the Mobile Telecommunications Company.

Additionally, the teams visited temporary camps hosting the affected communities to analyze the situation and develop a suitable social protection programme for a May 2023 roll-out. During this visit, families expressed their need for livelihood support and initiatives that would generate income for their households.

Photo: Value voucher beneficiaries in Omaheke Region redeeming the food basket funded by the Japanese Government. 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	3.6 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

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.

Partnerships: Namibia Aspiring Farmers Association (NAMAFA)

Namibia's unemployment rate is 34% and the youth unemployment rate is 48%. To reduce these staggering statistics, the country requires all industries and actors to play an active role. Through the Memorandum of Understanding with the Aspiring Farmers Association of Namibia (NAMAFA), WFP will provide youth and recent graduates an internship opportunity to gain experience and critical agricultural and project management competencies. This will improve their employability skills, support their entrepreneurial endeavours, or create an avenue to kickstart their agri-related careers.

This collaboration strongly speaks to WFP Namibia's focus on advancing the role of youth and women in the agricultural sector whilst, contributing to youth employment, rural economic transformation and national food and nutrition security.

The NAMAFA and WFP teams have already started working in two sites: Berseba and Mbora.

Monitoring

Emergency Response and Preparedness

As a part of emergency response and preparedness efforts, WFP has donated 40 tablets to the Office of the Prime Minister - Disaster Risk Management Division for data collection and processing. This move is expected to enhance the division's ability to collect information and process it effectively.

Donors

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