



World Food Programme

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WFP Namibia Country Brief May 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**

In Numbers

Net Funding Requirements:

USD 5 m (June – November 2023)

People Assisted in May 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

Food Systems

WFP plays a crucial role in helping the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) to achieve its goals in Namibia. To this end, WFP participated in the Ministry's Annual Planning Workshop in Swakopmund 8 – 12 May. The workshop aimed to evaluate progress in the ministry's programmes for the 2022/23 Financial Year, develop an extended Strategic Plan for the next two years, and create the Ministerial Annual Work Plan for the 2023/24 fiscal year.

As part of the 2023/24 fiscal year, WFP and FAO will be working closely with the ministry to enhance food production. This partnership aims to improve the self-sufficiency of resettled populations and strengthen the production capacities of smallholder farmers. One of the focus areas will be the Calueque-Oshakati Canal, where technical assistance in the form of training and agricultural inputs will be provided to increase food production.

Environmental and Social Risks Workshop

WFP's environmental social safeguard framework includes the screening of programme activities for environmental and social risks. This is a crucial step in protecting not just WFP but its beneficiaries from any unintended impacts from its activities.

WFP Namibia developed an environmental and social safeguards strategy for its projects. This includes specific measures such as expanding irrigation, fertilizer, and cropland; managing water, nutrients, and land; reducing food loss; promoting dietary changes and engaging smallholder farmers and critical stakeholders at every phase of production.

Contacts: luise.shikongo@wfp.org rawan.taha@wfp.org

Country Director: Dr George Fedha

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Namibia

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	5 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.

Photo: MAWLR planning workshop WFP/ Ndaindila Haindongo

WFP and Hydrogene De France (HDF) development stakeholder engagement

In May, WFP and Hydrogene De France (HDF) carried out an engagement exercise in Swakopmund, Erongo Region, to consult with key stakeholders on an ancillary community development initiative centered around an integrated food systems agri-project.

The community was engaged to facilitate a community-based planning approach. The session was attended by members of the peri-urban areas and other smaller groups within the settlements. All stakeholders welcomed the initiative wholeheartedly.

The project will be rolled out in various phases with the ultimate view of creating and promoting climate smart and sustainable agricultural practices, improving livelihoods, strengthening the capacities of the community and local leadership, while leveraging agrotourism.

Social Protection Booklet

WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare to conduct a three-day working session to develop a comprehensive booklet with various Social Protection (SP) programmes across different sectors. The booklet would serve as a one-stop-shop for all information related to SP programmes and institutions, making it easier for individuals and institutions to find appropriate programmes. Moreover, it would prevent duplication of efforts and streamline the referral process.

The working session was attended by 25 participants – 15 females and 10 males – from all facets of the SP sector and provided an opportunity to discuss the government's approach to social protection and its implementation plan. This enabled participants to understand how their organizations could contribute to the implementation process.

The booklet aims to support WFP's assistance to the government for programme coherence and consolidation of SP programmes in Namibia. This would not only improve coordination and information flow but also reduce fragmentation within the sector.

Donors

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