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.

In Numbers

Net Funding Requirements:
USD 6.4 m (August 2023 - January 2024)

People Assisted in July 2023:

Home-Grown School Feeding Programme: 11,730 school children
Integrated Community-based Food Systems Projects: 1,457 beneficiaries

Operational Updates

Namibia School Feeding Information Management System (NASIS)

On 4 July, the Namibia School Feeding Information Management System (NASIS) was launched by WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. The main objective of this platform is to enhance the monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and implementation procedures of the Namibia School Feeding Programme (NSFP) in public schools. By utilizing this comprehensive school feeding system, digital school registrations can be improved along with electronic meal vouchers and attendance tracking systems. NASIS makes it possible to effectively monitor student enrolment rates as well as track attendance and other important performance indicators.

Transformative and Sustainable Food Systems

In a significant effort to upscale diverse and nutritious local food production, WFP supported vulnerable communities in Schlip, Tsumkwe, and Berseba to increase egg production. Each project received 500 chickens (egg layers), totalling 1,500 chickens. The Tsumkwe and Schlip Integrated Community Based Food Systems Project are strategically located at clinics and through their respective soup kitchens, they aim to increase the accessibility and consumption of healthy and nutritious foods for pregnant and breastfeeding women, people living with HIV and patients treated for TB.

The Berseba Basket Food Systems Project aims to transform rural lives and livelihoods through increasing the production capacities of youth and women. In preparation for the summer cropping season, WFP has supported the Berseba community in constructing two greenhouses.

In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, the communities in Schlip and Berseba were trained on poultry production techniques and equipped with knowledge for market access.

In July, WFP organized an introductory computer literacy and data entry training for beginners at the Ondera Digital Hub with a total of 13 participants (7 females and 6 males). The trainees collected data on various activities at the farm, including those related to the food system site.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017–2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51 m</td>
<td>22.6 m</td>
<td>6.4 m</td>
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**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 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.

WFP further facilitated a one-year pro bono unlimited data package from Mobile Telecommunications Company (MTC) for the Ondera digital hub. To date, a total of five desktop computers, eight laptops, and three printers have been successfully connected to the internet.

The establishment of this hub is expected to have a positive impact on employment rates in the community, particularly for young people and women. By equipping them with computer skills and providing access to technology resources such as internet connectivity, it opens new opportunities for growth and development.

**Value for Money Study**

Despite being an upper middle-income country, Namibia still experiences significant levels of inequality. The school feeding programme implemented by the government serves as a crucial safety net for numerous children from impoverished rural regions in Namibia. In collaboration with Harvard University, WFP is supporting the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to conduct a value for money study on the National School Feeding Programme (NSFP) aimed to evaluate the cost and economic benefits derived from the NSFP across the country.

Overall, the value for money study will assess the total costs associated with operating the NSFP annually, the benefits and costs of school feeding, the unit cost (per child reached) of delivering school meals, and the equity impact of the programme disaggregated by socioeconomic status and gender.

**Qualitative Data Analysis Training**

To address some of the programmatic challenges related to research and evidence generation, the WFP Regional Evidence Generation Block and Evaluation team organized a qualitative data analysis training at the Namibia country office from 24 to 27 July. At the three-day training, WFP representatives from Namibia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Malawi enhanced their skills across various aspects of qualitative research. This included refining techniques like coding data for analysis, thematic analyses with an emphasis on interpreting findings accurately and effectively reporting results.

The training sessions fostered interactive discussions amongst participants while providing a comprehensive learning experience. The country offices received invaluable technical guidance regarding data analysis for ongoing research projects. Additionally, they shared insights on lessons learned from previous exercises involving data collection and analysis methods.

**Donors**


Photo: Chicken coop at the Tsumkwe Integrated Food Systems Project. © WFP/Luise Shikongo.