



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Namibia Country Brief August 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 6.8 m (September 2023 – February 2024)

Total people assisted in August 2023: 13,187

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

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

Operational Updates

Food Systems

WFP supported the Berseba and Stampriet food systems projects to expand the production of diverse and nutritious foods. This was done by installing two flat top shade-houses and low-cost, highly efficient drip irrigation, at each site. The installation was successfully completed by Skydrip and Eden Fields. Through the partnership with the Namibia Community Skills Development Foundation (COSDEF), WFP supported the Epako and Tsumkwe Food Systems project to access the market and generate incomes. For instance, the Tsumkwe Project Site generated over NAD 22,000 (USD 1,146) from egg sales, that are supplied to the local lodge monthly.

School Feeding - Hydroponic Gardens

From 8 to 10 August, WFP and UNICEF conducted oversight visits in Omaheke region to assess the progress of hydroponic gardens that were set up in three schools: Mokganedi Thlabanello High School, Omuhaturua Primary School, and Chief Sofia Primary School. The assessment concluded that the schools faced challenges in managing the hydroponics, including water access, water salinity, maintenance, and lack of training. The key recommendations given were financial support for repairs, water access support, effective communication channels, training support, promotion of hydroponic farming techniques and the mitigation of postharvest losses.

IT and Digitalization- [Tololi](#)

A successful test order from Tololi, an agricultural e-commerce platform, was done in Ohangwena region, Ndola constituency, Mwadinomho Combined School by a home-grown school feeding focal teacher. The entrepreneurial venture connects smallholder farmers from rural areas to markets, i.e. lodges, restaurants, and schools. The platform is expected to support smallholder farmers transition to commercial farming. Following the successful test order, piloting will take place in September.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017–2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
51 m	23.3 m	6.8 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.

Namport Assessment in Walvis Bay and Lüderitz

WFP currently utilizes five ports in Southern Africa: Dar es Salaam, Durban, Beira, Maputo, and Nacala. Amid growing stress on the Durban port, WFP conducted a port capacity assessment to identify efficient entry points and corridors through Namibia. WFP in collaboration with the BLG Logistics conducted assessments of the Walvis Bay and Lüderitz ports in late August. The team had engagements with the Walvis Bay Corridor Group team, TransNamib (Rail), Namibia Port Authority and private logistics firms. This assessment aims to optimize commodity handling of approximately USD 400 million annually and unlock future capacity for WFP operations in Southern Africa. It will determine whether WFP can make financial savings compared to existing port and corridor services in the region and offer alternative routes to solve existing bottlenecks.

WFP and Got Produce

WFP has established a strategic collaboration with Got Produce Global Brands (GPG) to champion hydroponics for climate-smart agriculture. This partnership is designed to empower youth and women by imparting valuable farming expertise, bolstering climate-resilient cultivation techniques ideal for arid regions. The objective is to guarantee that households attain ample food security and optimal nutrition through the adoption of climate-smart technology. WFP and GPG will work jointly to mobilize resources for these activities.

Resource Mobilization - Brazilian Funds

WFP Namibia has received a generous donation of USD 120,000 from the Government of Brazil. This contribution aims to improve food accessibility and address malnutrition in five regions of Namibia: Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Hardap, Kunene, and Ohangwena. This is the third contribution that WFP has received from the Government of Brazil. The timing is crucial as Namibia continues to face challenges such as prolonged droughts, escalating food prices, and the aftereffects of COVID-19 pandemic. The funds will be used to strengthen food systems in local communities, schools, and health centres.

Donors

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

Photo: Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing at Got Produce hydroponics greenhouse with WFP Deputy Country Director Ms. Ericah Shafudah and CEO Got Produce Deborah Walliser.
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