



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Namibia Country Brief

December 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) 2017–2024, 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**

2023 Human Development Index: **139 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Upper-middle income**

2023 Global Hunger Index: **78 out of 121 countries**

In Numbers

Net Funding Requirements:

USD 4.4 m (December 2023 – May 2024)

Total people assisted in November 2023: 13,187

Home-Grown School Feeding Programme: 10,985 school children

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

Operational Updates

1000 Days Campaign in Kunene Region

The 1000 days nutrition awareness campaign achieved remarkable success by impacting approximately 160 women through effective sessions, backed by collaborations with the Ministry of Health and Social Services, Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, GIZ and the Kunene Regional Council.

Sessions covered diverse topics such as undernutrition, overnutrition, the first 1000 days, nutrition for people living with HIV/AIDS, food safety, and food preservation, demonstrated the campaign's success in delivering impactful and informative content.

The cooking demonstration by GIZ received positive feedback from 60 women, emphasizing its simplicity and reliance on locally available ingredients.

Strategic consultations with regional leadership facilitated plans, including material handover with meticulous inventory management. Joint efforts by WFP and the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) in value addition training benefited 30 women, and collaboration on the graduation ceremony with regional council management was successful.

COP28 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties in Dubai, UAE

During COP28 from 30 November to 12 December, WFP Namibia, in collaboration with the Namibian government and UNDP, achieved significant milestones, showcasing a strong commitment to climate action. The Namibian Pavilion at the event addressed crucial topics, including Green Hydrogen Production, Blue Bonds, and partnerships with the EU and Japan. The announcement by Kelp Blue to issue blue bonds for ocean restoration highlighted Namibia's dedication to environmental sustainability. Collaborations with the EU on hydrogen advancement and an MoU with Japan for carbon capture projects demonstrated Namibia's global partnerships. Active participation in initiatives like the Global Decarbonization Accelerator and substantial financial commitments underscored Namibia's contribution to global climate finance. The nation's impactful presence and achievements at COP28 reflect a dynamic commitment to addressing urgent global challenges and promoting a climate-resilient world.

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 (2017–2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
51 m	23.3 m	4.4 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.

RAM Information Management Ecosystems

The 5-8 December, a WFP workshop on information and data management delivered significant results, bringing together 35 colleagues from 13 country offices (COs) and participants from the Regional Bureau. It effectively addressed challenges related to WFP's extensive data, emphasizing transparency and efficiency. Despite past issues, including reproducibility, inconsistent data quality, and limited transparency, WFP demonstrated a strong commitment to improvement. The introduction and demonstration of the Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) Information Management Ecosystem, a suite of tools developed by WFP RAM, showcased tangible outcomes in overcoming challenges. The workshop, featuring engaging presentations, live demos, hands-on exercises, and feedback sessions, actively involved participants in refining these tools. Importantly, the event facilitated tailored support assessments by the HQ RAM team, fostering collaboration among COs and significantly enhancing the overall effectiveness of data management processes.

Food Systems – Solar Borehole handover

WFP, in collaboration with the Brazilian government and the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Land Reform, addressed water challenges at the Olukula food systems project in the Ohangwena region by drilling a borehole. The solar-powered borehole and water tanks were handed over to the Olukula community on 18 December, which previously lacked water access. The Olukula clinic and food systems project, incorporating poultry and horticulture, demonstrated remarkable growth, and generated over USD 800 in profits within three months. The community actively participates, supported by a well-organized committee, and the headman expressed willingness to allocate additional land for project expansion at the clinic.

Home Grown School Feeding (HGSFP) Accountability

An accountability mission for school feeding took place during the first two weeks of December in the four regions of Zambezi, Kavango East, Kavango West, and Omaheke to understand challenges and propose solutions for the upcoming year. Findings revealed challenges in fund disbursement, feeding patterns, price fluctuations from smallholder farmers, and procurement delays. Issues related to cooking fuel, food safety, school gardening, and community involvement were identified. Despite challenges, the programme positively contributed to education and nutrition outcomes and reduced dropouts. Recommendations from the mission include smart cooking initiatives, capacity strengthening, menu adjustments, and increased collaboration with key ministries for sustainable implementation. Furthermore, more frequent accountability missions are proposed to ensure the programme's effectiveness and alignment with national goals.

Donors

2022-2023: *Brazil, Deloitte, Capricorn Foundation, British High Commission, Japan, African Group of Ambassadors, Government of the Republic of Namibia.*

Photo: *Value addition training in Kunene region. WFP/Claudia Altorio*