



World Food Programme

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WFP Namibia Country Brief

February 2024



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**

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 2.5 m (March – August 2024)

Total people assisted in Jan-Feb 2024: 13,187

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

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

Operational Updates

Tsumkwe Fresh Produce Farm

During the months of January and February 2024, WFP under the leadership of the Green Belt team (an independent taskforce) led a multidisciplinary team with skills consisting of hydrology, civil engineering, project management, commercial agribusiness, and support management to activate infrastructure at the Tsumkwe Fresh Produce Farm. This included wildlife fencing with posts and droppers of a nearly 3 km perimeter, the drilling of two new boreholes, and the refurbishment of an existing borehole. In addition, mechanised de-bushing was scheduled to use 22+ ton graders and bulldozers, and pre-planning took place for future wildlife ridging around the perimeter of the farm as per the Ministry of Environment's nature and conservation guidelines.

The team further seeded 2,500 fresh produce cultivars in six seed-trays, assisted by four women aged 18 and 35 - two from the Ju'/Honasi community. Two WFP teams engaged the Ju'/Honasi community within a 100km radius of Tsumkwe to solicit and enumerate a wide range of food security and related issues in relation to the impending launch of the Tsumkwe Fresh Produce Farm. Further, WFP hosted Reinke Irrigation as part of a consortium along with Viribus and Hortfin, two agribusiness advisories on appropriate fruit cultivars for Tsumkwe's micro-climate.

Mobile Storage Unit Handover

During the reporting period, WFP explored solutions to expand storage facilities for the Namibian Government. Drawing on its expertise in logistics and supply chain management for the UN system, WFP handed over a Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) to the Namibian Correctional Service (NCS) and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).

With a combined storage capacity of 450 metric tonnes, the MSU plays a vital role in supporting the Divundu Correctional Facility, which is one of the largest NCS producing farms in the country. It further helps the NCS maintain the quality of its grains and safeguards them against potential contamination, such as pests and moisture, which can cause spoilage or deterioration.

Moreover, it also assists the OPM in reducing food waste and ensuring a consistent supply of food rations to vulnerable communities as part of drought and disaster response programmes.

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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	2.5 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.

Rapid Rural Transformation Initiative

Following a south-south learning visit to Madagascar to witness the progress of the Rapid Rural Transformation (RRT) projects in two remote areas, WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) and the Office of the Prime Minister in Namibia (OPM) to identify potential sites for implementing the RRT initiative. Through consultations, it was determined that Okondjombo village in the Kunene Region and Tjaka settlement in the Omaheke region showed great potential for success.

As a follow-up to the mission, WFP’s research and monitoring unit, in partnership with the Ben Hur Development Center accredited to MURD, conducted a baseline assessment from 12 to 15 February 2024. Eight enumerators, consisting of four females and four males from the Tjaka community, were identified and participated in the data collection exercise.

The primary objective of the baseline assessment was to collect and establish benchmark figures for measuring the impact of the RRT intervention. The data will serve as a reference point for evaluating the progress of the initiative.

Second Generation Country Strategic Plan

On 28 February 2024, WFP conducted a workshop to validate its second-generation (2G) Country Strategic Plan (CSP). It solicited inputs from Government and validated the strategic direction of WFP Namibia. During the workshop, WFP provided an overview of the strategic shifts going into the 2G CSP, focus areas, theory of change, investment approach, transition plan as well as the CSP outcomes and activities that will form part of the Line of Sight (LoS).

The Government affirmed the alignment of the CSP’s strategic pillars to national priorities, especially the Namibia Agricultural Investment Plan. Recommendations included emphasising children in the Human Capital Development Pillars and repackaging of activities in the LoS.

Donors

2023-2024: Brazil, Deloitte, British High Commission, Japan, African Group of Ambassadors, Government of the Republic of Namibia.

Photo: Dr George Fedha, WFP’s Country Director and Representative, and Mr. Raphael Tuhafeni Hamunyela, Commissioner-General of the Namibian Correctional Service, at the MSU handover ceremony. ©WFP/Luise Shikongo.