



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Namibia Country Brief

March 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) 2017–2023, 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 1.9 m (March 2023 – September 2024)**

**Total people assisted in March 2024: 12,442**

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

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

### Operational Updates

#### Bridging the Gap: Gender in Focus for WFP's Second-Generation Country Strategic Plan (2GCSP)

WFP Namibia's initiative to combat hunger's root causes led to a strategic two-day workshop on gender and social norms in Windhoek, Namibia, on 11-12 March. The workshop, a critical part of WFP's pilot on the social norms curriculum, aimed at crafting effective strategies and programmes. It united 17 government partners and WFP technical staff to explore the intersection of societal norms with food security and nutrition challenges. This gathering marked a significant step forward in the implementation of WFP's 2GCSP, enhancing collective understanding of gender dynamics affecting communities. Participants identified gender norms that block access to food, nutrition, and resources, affecting decision-making and the empowerment of women and girls. The workshop focused on developing actionable strategies to integrate gender equality into joint efforts, thereby ensuring more inclusive and effective programme outcomes.

#### National Validation Workshop

On 25-28 March, WFP engaged in a national workshop spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Land Reform (MAWLR). This pivotal event focused on reviewing and advancing the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP) and the Revised Drought Management Policy. The NAIP is strategically divided into four core areas: Agriculture Production and Agri-Business Enhancement; Boosting Food and Nutrition Security alongside Human Capacity; Promoting Sustainable Resource Management; and Strengthening the Enabling Environment alongside Responsive Institutions. WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), supported the second pillar of the NAIP and contributed to refining the Revised Drought Management Policy. Key achievements from the workshop included consensus on the integration of circular economy principles, improving access to finance, agricultural inputs, and water resources, aiming to bolster agricultural resilience and sustainability.

#### Youth led innovative and transformative projects

In a significant effort to promote youth entrepreneurship in agriculture, WFP and The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) embarked on a field mission between March 25-29, 2024. The mission aimed to evaluate the progress and potential of three rural projects, spearheaded by young Namibian entrepreneurs. These innovators had previously gained recognition at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Rural Innovation and Transformation Expo held in the Democratic Republic of Congo in September 2023. Through detailed interviews and assessments, the team explored avenues for providing support and opportunities to scale these transformative projects.

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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	1.9 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.

Partnerships

Memorandums of Understanding

In a strategic move to advance digital transformation, resilience, early warning systems, and rural development, WFP has formalized partnerships through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). A notable MoU with the Office of the Prime Minister marks a commitment to these core areas. Concurrently, WFP has established collaborations with the Oyayone Foundation and Aloe Agri-Tech. These partnerships are dedicated to enhancing food systems, rolling out school-based programmes, and fostering agri-business skills among women and youth. Through these collaborative efforts, WFP and its partners aim to accelerate progress towards comprehensive food and nutrition security.

Enhancing Collaboration on Community-Based Food Systems through Strategic Partnerships

A pivotal meeting on 25 March with national government officials, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), and the Embassy of Brazil in Namibia aimed to reinforce governmental engagement in integrated, community-based food system initiatives. This collaboration, backed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Brazil and WFP, saw participation from key stakeholders including ABC representatives, the Brazilian Ambassador to Namibia, Her Excellency Vivian Loss Sanmartin, and officials from the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, Ministry International Relations and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), and Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. The meeting underscored the Government's strong commitment to these projects, demonstrated through the designation of dedicated focal points from each involved ministry, ensuring effective coordination and ownership of the initiatives.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In a significant step towards bolstering evidence-based strategies for climate resilience, WFP facilitated a collaborative field study with the University of Colombia to assess innovative climate-smart solutions for Africa's food systems. Conducted in partnership with the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM), this mission took place in the Omaheke Region, at the designated site for the Rapid Rural Transformation (RRT) project. The study involved comprehensive data collection, including key informant interviews with local communities and government officials across various ministries. Scheduled for presentation in April 2024, the findings are set to enrich a larger research endeavour, promising to advance the application of climate-smart technologies, strategies, and techniques in enhancing food system resilience against climate challenges.

Donors

2023-2024: Brazil, British High Commission, Capricorn Foundation, NAMDIA Foundation, UNAIDS UBRAF, Government of the Republic of Namibia

Photo: RRT site drone footage in Omaheke Region.  
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