



# WFP Namibia Country Brief

May 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## Operational Context

An upper-middle-income country, Namibia has a population of 3.02 million people. The country has experienced recurrent floods and drought, insect and worm invasions, 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, and maintaining capacities to supplement food security and nutrition programmes.



Population: **3.02 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **139 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Upper-middle income**

2022 Global Hunger Index: **78 out of 121 countries**

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## In Numbers

**USD 2 million** (June 2024 – November 2024) net funding requirements.

**Total people assisted in May 2024:** 13,187

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

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

### Operational Updates

#### The Tsumkwe Groundbreaking Event

The Tsumkwe Agriculture Hub and Integrated Food Systems Project, a joint venture between the WFP and the Otjozondjupa Regional Council, was recently inaugurated. Spanning 50 hectares, the project's initial phase has already created 54 jobs, with a focus on opportunities for women and youth. The project's primary objectives are to increase access to nutritious food, create jobs, and enhance skill development for the residents of Tsumkwe Constituency and the wider region, traditionally hunters and gatherers. During the groundbreaking ceremony, the Vice President of the Republic of Namibia and Project Patron, H.E. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, emphasized the importance of food security to human dignity and security. She expressed her appreciation for WFP's dedication to helping Namibia achieve self-sufficiency in food production. The project, which employs advanced climate smart agricultural technologies and methodologies, aims to foster community resilience and self-sufficiency, while also generating income through local markets.

#### Enhancing Food Security and Education through Digital Transformation

The Namibia School Feeding Information Management System (NaSIS) strengthens the Namibia School Feeding Programme (NSFP) through the integration of digital tools such as electronic school rolls, digital meal vouchers, and real-time tracking of attendance. This technological advancement has facilitated the efficient distribution of meals, optimized resource allocation, and promoted local food sourcing. The successful outcomes and best practices from NaSIS have been documented and shared on the WFP's Knowledge Exchange Platform. These findings are expected to promote the replication of NaSIS in other regions or countries facing similar challenges. Key factors for successful replication include robust stakeholder engagement, technical support, sustainable funding, suitable digital infrastructure, and policy alignment.

#### Piloting Moringa for School Feeding

WFP in partnership with the Namibia Nature Foundation and the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), undertook a feasibility study in the Kavango East and West regions. The study aimed to assess the potential of incorporating Moringa into local school children's diets via the home-grown school feeding programme. The initiative seeks to equip schools and local smallholder farmers with the skills to sustainably grow, produce, and use Moringa, capitalizing on its nutritional advantages. The results from the field assessment suggest that further evaluations and research are necessary before moving forward to the project implementation phase.

# 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	2 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.

**Photo:** The initial development phase of the fishpond section under the Tsumkwe Integrated Food Systems Project

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## Rapid Rural Transformation (RRT) Initiative

After initiating the installation of the RRT infrastructures in Ben Hur, the subsequent phases in addition to agricultural and economic development, involved assisting the local community in setting up a governance framework for this project, thereby fostering community ownership and ensuring the sustainability of the initiative. From May 22 to May 24, WFP and the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) collaborated with the Tsjaka community and its leaders to establish governance structures, resulting in 80 percent female representation, to support the community in selecting members for the RRT committee.

The committee is composed of representatives from various segments including the school, Rural Development Centre, youth groups, regional council, individuals with disabilities, traditional authorities, and the farmers' association within the Omaheke Region. The next phase involves convening all management committee members to outline their roles and expectations, offering induction training, developing terms of reference, and drafting a constitution. Additionally, the project will necessitate opening a bank account, for which signatories will be appointed.

## Vulnerability Assessment Analysis and the Integrated Phased Classification

Given the ongoing El Niño developments, anticipated challenges in food security and nutrition call for strategies supported by solid evidence to ensure effective preparedness and response. Recently, the Office of the Prime Minister convened an extensive technical assessment workshop with over 30 stakeholders from the Namibian Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NamVAC) at both regional and national levels. The primary goal was to analyze data and update the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and the Annual Vulnerability Assessment Analysis.

These critical assessments and analyses provide timely, evidence-based insights that support informed decision-making, particularly concerning the impacts of various shocks and hazards on livelihoods, food access, and nutritional security. Furthermore, training was provided on utilizing and uploading information onto the IPC platform, including justifying indicators and conducting regional analyses. Consequently, Namibia declared a state of emergency effective from 22 May 2024.

## The Sunflower Harvest

WFP, as a strategic partner of the Government, joined the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) to partake in a historic sunflower harvesting at Shandikongoro Green Scheme Irrigation Project. Sunflower oil will be processed and packaged on site and sent to the market, for the first time in 6 years. WFP and MAWLR reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen ongoing collaboration to achieve shared values of food and nutrition security, this is in addition to solidifying and exploring opportunities to support the next sunflower planting season, specifically increasing the participation of smallholder farmers and communities.

**Donors** Brazil, British High Commission, Capricorn Foundation, NAMDIA Foundation, UNAIDS UBRAF, Government of the Republic of Namibia