



World Food Programme

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WFP Namibia Country Brief

June 2024



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, 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: **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**

In Numbers

Net Funding Requirements:

US\$ 6 million (July 2024 – December 2024) net funding requirements

Total people assisted in June 2024: 12,442

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

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

Operational Updates

Farmer to Farmer Capacity Building

WFP collaborated with Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Initiative, a USAID-initiated programme to provide technical assistance through highly skilled volunteers from the United States to farmers, agricultural groups, agribusinesses, service providers, and other agricultural institutions in developing countries. The programme's objective is to foster sustainable advancements in food security as well as in the production, processing, and marketing of agricultural products. In June 2024, a team of four experts specializing in agriculture and management visited Namibia and conducted capacity-building sessions at WFP and government supported sites in the Omaheke Region, specifically at the Ben Hur Rapid Rural Transformation Project and the Epako Food Systems Project. These training sessions covered a range of topics including pest control, farm management, project governance, soil and water quality in agriculture, and agricultural best practices.

Evaluation of WFP's Environmental Policy

WFP conducted a global assessment of its environmental policy, with an independent evaluation team visiting numerous countries selected to be part of this exercise, including Namibia. They engaged with WFP staff, government agencies, UN agencies, cooperating partners, and NGOs, to understand strategies for environmental and social sustainability. The evaluation found WFP significantly influences implementation of environmental management systems and social safeguards, with best practices observed in the Home-grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP), food systems sites, and WFP's supply chain strategy (2025 - 2029).

Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP) Oversight Mission

WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Arts, and Culture (MoEAC) undertook an oversight, monitoring, and evaluation mission to the HGSFP Pilot Schools in Kunene Region. The mission aimed to assess the performance and impact of the HGSFP, identify areas for improvement, and enhance its overall effectiveness. By examining academic results and attendance records, the analysis aimed to correlate the benefits of school feeding with educational outcomes, thereby demonstrating the programme's effectiveness in promoting learning and development. These findings also aim to provide actionable recommendations for stakeholders to address them, ensuring an efficient implementation of the HGSFP.

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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	6 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.

Early Childhood Development Sector Reform Programme Supported by the European Union (EU)

WFP and UNICEF as a technical partner to the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare and Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) will support the expansion of the national school feeding programme to early childhood development (ECD) centres in all 14 regions. Funded by the EU, this initiative will strengthen ECD services through the revised National Integrated Early Childhood Development policy (NIECD) 2022.

To inform the implementation of the programme, WFP and UNICEF undertook structural evaluations and organized community feedback sessions at five Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres in each of the Omaheke, Kunene, Kavango West, and Khomas regions. Continuous pivotal activities involve engaging with communities and stakeholders on matters of food safety, health, and hygiene, as well as disseminating best practices. The ECD feeding initiative is set to commence in July 2024 throughout all regions of Namibia.

Capacity Building Workshop on Multi-Dimensional, Poverty and Social Protection

WFP participated in a national workshop with the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication, and Social Welfare, bringing together 45 participants from government, state-owned enterprises, and UN agencies. The workshop aimed to build Namibia's capacity for evidence-based social protection policies amid the global crisis. As a core member of the national social protection committee, WFP provided expertise on linking food security and social protection programmes. This collaboration allows government to refine targeting, select suitable programme modalities, and strengthen M&E practices. The workshop is a significant step towards creating robust, sustainable, and inclusive social protection systems in Namibia, ensuring support for the most vulnerable populations.

Reefer Delivery

As part of the Saving Lives and Livelihoods Project to vaccinate 70 percent of Africa, WFP undertook a mission to inspect the readiness of medical centers in Kavango West and Oshikoto regions for new Pharma Grade refrigerated containers and backup generators which were recently delivered for medical supply storage. Recommendations from the mission include container installation, cold chain training for personnel, and follow-up visits to assess effectiveness. This effort forms part of WFP's strategy to boost national supply chain networks through capacity building and response initiatives.

Digital Solutions for Social Assistance

In May 2024, the Namibian government declared a state of emergency due to a prolonged drought worsened by El Niño.

To improve preparedness for effective response, WFP facilitated a thorough system walkthrough and practical demonstration for a locally developed integrated platform for social assistance. This initiative, led by the digital transformation team and attended by both management and staff, supports mobile beneficiary registration, data cleaning, identity deduplication, beneficiary card issuance, e-voucher management, and business intelligence. Developed in collaboration with the Mobile Telecommunications Company (MTC), this solution aligns with WFP's Global Assurance Framework and promotes local ownership and sustainability.

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

Photo: WFP Deputy Country Director, Ericah Shafudah, with the Farmer-to-Farmer team ©WFP/Ndaindila Haindongo