



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Namibia Country Brief

July 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**

2022 Human Development Index: **142 out of 193 countries**

Income Level: **Upper-middle income**

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

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In Numbers

Net Funding Requirements:

US\$ 3.9 m (August 2024 – January 2025)

Total people assisted in May 2024: 12,442

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

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

Operational Updates

WFP and partners celebrate progress of Home-Grown School Feeding Programme in Namibia

WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) and the Federative Republic of Brazil, recently undertook a site visit to evaluate the progress of the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP) at Stampriet Combined School Integrated Food Systems Project in the Hardap Region. Launched in 2021, this initiative has since shown remarkable success. The school now produces 5,000 chicken eggs monthly and various vegetables, generating enough income to pay two gardeners' salaries. On a weekly basis, learners gain practical knowledge in agriculture, business, and economics through hands-on experience in the garden and chicken coop.

The project further supplies fresh produce and eggs to local businesses, provides healthy meals for learners, and donates surplus to a community soup kitchen. During the visit, high-ranking officials including the Deputy Minister of MoEAC, and Ambassador of Brazil to Namibia, expressed their satisfaction with the project's achievements, highlighting its positive impact on education and community development.

UN response to the hunger crises in Namibia

According to the recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, approximately 1.4 million Namibians, nearly half of the country's population, are experiencing acute food insecurity — a figure that has doubled since the previous year. The crisis spans all 14 regions, with cereal production plummeting by 53% and dam water levels dropping by 70%, compared to last year.

Consequently, Namibia declared a National State of Emergency on May 22, 2024, becoming the fourth country in the region to announce a national disaster due to drought triggered by El Niño. In response to this emergency, Reena Ghelani, the United Nations (UN) Assistant Secretary-General and Climate Crisis Coordinator for El Niño/La Niña, undertook a week-long mission to Namibia from 16 to 19 July 2024. During her visit, she observed the severe impacts of drought in Omaheke, a region also plagued by malnutrition.

Ms. Ghelani was joined by Ms. Andrea Noyes, Head of the Regional Office for Southern & Eastern Africa at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which is increasing its efforts to address the crisis. Full news release available [here](#).

Berseba Village Council Visit

WFP, at the invitation of the Berseba Village Council, attended a meeting to discuss the sustainability of the Berseba Integrated Food Systems Project known as the Berseba Food Basket.

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	3.9 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.

The council underscored the community's commitment to ensuring the ongoing success of the project. Currently, the Berseba team is in the process of preparing the land for the upcoming planting season, with a focus on cultivating beetroot. Acknowledgment was further given to the significant contributions of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), particularly through their agricultural extension officer, whose extensive support has been invaluable to the project. To enhance project documentation, as well as monitoring and evaluation processes, WFP announced its plan to donate two laptops to the initiative and provide training for project volunteers in computer usage and data entry skills.

WFP Strengthens NAMVAC Capacity on food security and nutrition analysis.

Namibia, through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), recently conducted a workshop to enhance the capabilities of the Namibian Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NAMVAC) in Vulnerability Assessment Analysis (VAA) and Integrated Phase Classification (IPC). Supported by WFP and other UN agencies, the workshop trained 65 participants in data management and analysis for the 2024/2025 VAA and IPC. The VAA, based on WFP methodology, will provide crucial insights into Namibia's current El Niño response and food security status. This data will project future scenarios, informing high-level decisions on humanitarian and development assistance. The report will serve as a key tool for emergency declarations and response planning.

Building on previous efforts, including a June 2024 workshop that revealed a significant food insecurity crisis, this workshop demonstrates WFP's ongoing commitment to supporting Namibia's fight against food insecurity through technical expertise and capacity building.

Nutrition Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) Baseline

Namibia is grappling with persistent challenges of stunting and wasting, stemming from various undernutrition interconnected factors. A key contributor to this issue is suboptimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, encompassing both breastfeeding and complementary feeding. To address this complex problem, WFP partnered with the Advanced Community Health Care Services Namibia (CoHeNa) to conduct a rapid assessment in the Hardap Region. This study aimed to evaluate the current knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) related to nutrition among three vulnerable groups: people living with HIV/TB, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and caregivers of children under five. The baseline assessment, carried out in Stampriet and Bernafay Resettlement Farm, surveyed a representative sample of the population. The findings from this crucial study will inform the development of a Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) strategy, aimed at improving nutrition practices and enhancing the nutritional status of these vulnerable populations in Namibia.

Photo: Ericah Shafudah, WFP Deputy Country Director and Hon. Faustina Caley, Deputy Minister of MoEAC during the monitoring visit at Stampriet Combined School Integrated Food Systems Project. ©WFP/Luise Shikongo.

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