



WFP Namibia Country Brief

September 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Namibia is an upper-middle-income country with a population of 3 million people. The country has experienced recurrent floods and drought, insect and worm invasions, and the COVID-19 pandemic, all impacting profoundly the country's food security, health, and nutrition. Insufficient food production and over-reliance on poorly adapted rain-fed agriculture and external markets for food, result in poor households being highly vulnerable to shocks and food price inflation.

In this context, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), provides food assistance to people at-risk affected by shocks, ensures capacity strengthening to the Government, and facilitates effective policies. In addition, WFP strives to strengthen the country's 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**

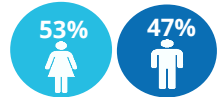
In Numbers

USD 10.8 million net funding requirements for the next six months (October '24 – February '25)

10,985 school children reached through the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme through technical support and in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture

1,457 beneficiaries reached through the integrated community-based food systems projects

12,442 people assisted in September



Operational Updates

Crisis Response / Drought: Japan and Korea support drought-affected communities in Namibia

In September 2024, WFP received contributions of USD 500,000 (N\$ 9 million) from the Government of Japan and USD 500,000 (N\$ 9 million) from the Republic of Korea to provide critical food and nutritional support to El Niño-induced drought-affected households in Namibia.

The Government of Japan's contribution will enable WFP to provide food commodity vouchers, redeemable at selected retailers, to 27,000 people impacted by the drought. This includes 16,000 people in the Kunene Region and 11,000 in the Ohangwena Region.

The Republic of Korea's contribution will help WFP support 24,500 people at risk of malnutrition. This includes 9,000 people in the Hardap Region and 12,000 in the Zambezi Region, who will receive commodity vouchers redeemable at selected retailers. Additionally, 3,500 children across both regions will receive nutritious meals through wet feeding (short-term intervention to meet immediate food-needs).

News release: [Japan on WFP.org](#) ; [The Republic of Korea on WFP.org](#)

Nutrition: Implementation of Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) activities in Bernafay, Stampriet and Schlip.

Based on the initial findings of the SBCC in August 2024, WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Social Services at the regional level, alongside members of the Advanced Community Health Care Services Namibia (CoHeNa), to conduct group nutrition education sessions. These sessions reached 81 participants, comprising 68 women and 13 men, including health workers, community assistants, and HIV advocates. Key topics addressed included the significance of maternal nutrition, the initiation of breastfeeding soon after birth, exclusive breastfeeding, and the integration of complementary feeding. Focus was placed on the nutritional requirements for those living with HIV/TB, emphasizing the vital role that balanced diets play in managing their health conditions. The sessions utilized visual aids to enhance participant engagement and facilitate group discussions.

Additionally, cooking demonstrations were provided to reinforce the educational content delivered. This SBCC initiative is integrated with projects aimed at value addition and food systems to enhance the availability, accessibility, and affordability of local food.

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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	10.8 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: *Mother and child participating in the SBCC training in Hardap Region* ©WFP/Joseph lilonga.

Climate Action: Early Warning Training

WFP and the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) developed a comprehensive Early Warning System (EWS) platform that offers up-to-date information and scenario modelling for Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) in Namibia. This initiative addresses the data gaps recognized in FNS as part of broader strategic policy goals. The initial phase, financed through the Joint SDG Fund, has been completed and is operational on GRN's infrastructure. It includes a selection of FNS indicators that inform the EWS.

WFP, in conjunction with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) conducted an interactive training workshop to facilitate system use and to set the stage for the platform's launch by the Prime Minister. The second phase will expand to include all FNS indicators, incorporate artificial intelligence for improved EWS and scenario analysis, enhance decision support capabilities, and create connections to Namibia's Emergency Operation Centres. Given Namibia's current emergency status, this platform will play a pivotal role in delivering essential situation assessments to support timely and informed decision-making.

Crises Response / Drought: WFP RBJ Surge Team Assesses and Strengthens WFP Namibia's Drought Response Preparedness

WFP recently welcomed a specialized team from its Regional Bureau in Johannesburg to enhance its preparedness for the El Niño-triggered drought crisis. The team assessed the Country Office's capacity to respond, focusing on vulnerable groups, particularly women and children under five. The experts, specializing in supply chain, Cash-Based Transfers (CBT), finance, technology, gender, and protection, worked to refine the CBT programme, strengthen internal controls, and ensure the efficiency of digital platforms for food assistance. They also provided training on gender, protection, and inclusion to integrate these aspects into the overall response strategy.

A key outcome of the mission was the creation of a readiness check matrix, along with recommendations aimed at improving programme design, delivery systems, and retailer preparedness. This initiative ensures that WFP's emergency response is effective and equitable, while prioritizing the protection and dignity of the affected populations.

School Feeding: Technical support to the Ministry of Education, Arts, and Culture (MoEAC) on the implementation of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) sector reform

WFP is extending its technical expertise and enhancing systems for the MoEAC in Namibia, aimed at broadening the national school feeding initiative to include ECD centers. This collaboration focuses on creating a lasting school feeding programme that serves 16,800 children effectively while upholding stringent food safety and hygiene standards. The initiative specifically targets the most vulnerable communities situated near primary schools participating in the national school feeding scheme.

Donors

Brazil, British High Commission, Capricorn Foundation, Government of the Republic of Namibia, Japan, NAMIBRE, NAMDIA Foundation, The Republic of Korea, UNAIDS UBRAF, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), CERF (in alphabetical order)