



# WFP Namibia Country Brief

October 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**

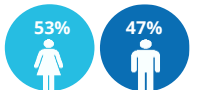
## In Numbers

**US\$ 14.1 million** net funding requirements for the next six months (November '24 – April '25)

**11,412** school children reached through the home-grown school feeding programme

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

**28,044** people reached through cash-based transfers



## Operational Updates

### Crises Response: Emergency Food Assistance (Vouchers)

WFP is complementing Namibia's national drought emergency response by providing essential food aid through commodity vouchers to communities facing food insecurity in affected regions. In October, 4,507 households received food assistance. This includes 1,123 households in Kunene, 1,617 households in Zambezi with distributions valued at US\$ 56,630 (N\$ 911,988), and 1,767 households in Ohangwena with distributions valued at US\$ 59,034 (N\$ 950,646). Through this targeted support, WFP aims to address urgent food needs and alleviate the effects of drought on vulnerable communities in Namibia.

### Service Provision: Retailer Assessment

WFP collaborated with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, local authorities, and the Mobile Telecommunications Company (MTC), to assess 146 retailers across 9 regions in October 2024. These retailers will support WFP's emergency drought relief by delivering food closer to affected communities.

WFP also partnered with MTC to establish a credit facility with major food suppliers in the Zambezi Region to address credit access challenges for small and medium enterprises. This initiative enables retailers to obtain food commodities on credit under favourable terms. WFP aims to expand this model to all regions where the voucher programme operates, enhancing retailers' participation in the food supply chain.

### Food Systems: World Food Day Commemoration

WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Omaheke Regional Council, and other development partners, hosted the 2024 World Food Day commemoration on 16 October 2024, in the Omaheke Region. This year's theme, "Right to Foods for a Better Life and a Better Future: Leave No One Behind," emphasized the importance of equitable food access and highlights global efforts to end hunger and food insecurity.

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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	14.1 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.

To unlock the country's potential for creating sustainable household and community food solutions, WFP supported a smallholder farmer from the Omaheke Region with agricultural inputs, including water tanks, drip irrigation systems, wire steel, shade nets, and seedling trays. Further, WFP provided food parcels to four vulnerable families selected by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform and the Omaheke Regional Council.

### Disaster Risk Reduction: The Eighth High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction

WFP participated in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Disaster Preparedness workshop and the 9th session of the Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Declaration of the Eighth High-Level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction, adopted on October 24, 2024, in Namibia, reaffirms Africa's commitment to implementing the Programme of Action for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The declaration highlights key outcomes, including the endorsement of the Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System and a call for increased budgetary allocations and innovative financing to support disaster risk reduction. It emphasizes the importance of strengthening national systems for disaster loss and damage data collection, promoting nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, and integrating disaster risk reduction into development strategies across all sectors. Additionally, it underscores support for the Africa Urban Resilience Programme and the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative.

This declaration aims to accelerate progress toward achieving the goals of the Sendai Framework, align with Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, and enhance WFP's efforts in disaster risk reduction while ensuring food security is upheld amid growing disaster risks.

### Partnerships: DRD Visit to Namibia

WFP's Deputy Regional Director for Southern Africa, Ms. Adeyinka Badejo-Sanogo, visited Namibia from 20-30 October 2024, to gather strategic insights for the upcoming presentation of the second-generation Country Strategic Plan (2G CSP) to the Executive Board in November 2024. During her visit, she engaged with staff, government officials, development partners, and UN representatives to deepen understanding of WFP operations and strengthen cooperation toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) under the 2025–2029 2G CSP.

In the Omaheke and Hardap regions, she highlighted WFP's commitment to supporting Namibia in addressing El Niño-induced droughts and advancing sustainable strategies to enhance food security.

### 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

Photo: Willem Westhuizen showing the impact of the drought in the Hardap Region ©WFP/Theodor Uukongo