



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Namibia Country Brief January 2025



Operational Context

Namibia is an upper-middle-income country with a population of 3.02 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. Notably, the El Niño phenomenon has led to severe drought conditions, resulting in crop failures and increased food insecurity, this coupled with insufficient food production and over-reliance on poorly adapted rain-fed agriculture and external markets for food, results 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**

2024 Global Hunger Index: **86 out of 127 countries**

In Numbers

USD 4.3 million net funding requirements for the next six months (February '25 – July '25)

11,412 school children reached through the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (Tier 2)

32,178 people assisted through commodity vouchers (Tier 1)

43,590 people assisted in January 2025



Operational Updates

Food Print: Around Namibia in 47 Recipes

Between January 20-24, 2025, WFP in Namibia tested 47 recipes in preparation for the website development, book design, and eventual launch of *Food Print: Around Namibia in 47 Recipes*. This digital cookbook celebrates the culinary traditions and stories of women across all 14 regions. This initiative aims to empower women by showcasing their culinary talents and fostering economic opportunities. Over 70 recipes were submitted through various channels, with the final selection prioritizing cultural, nutritional, and geographical diversity. The recipe testing, conducted by 6 culinary students at the Namibian University of Science and Technology, is a key step towards the book's release. Beyond the recipes, the book will include sections on health, business, and inspiring stories of women entrepreneurs, promoting both healthy lifestyles and economic empowerment. *Food Steps: Around Namibia in 47 Recipes* will serve as a platform to amplify women's voices, preserve culinary heritage, and inspire future generations, particularly young women, to explore food as a means of job creation and cultural expression.

Impact Assessment of USAID-Supported Water Infrastructure on Food Security and Nutrition in Northern Namibia

A WFP assessment in Kaoko Otavi, Olukula, and Opuwo found that USAID-supported rehabilitation of gardens and boreholes yielded positive results in several key areas. Improved crop growth was observed across all sites, contributing to enhanced community nutrition. The projects also facilitated agricultural skills development within the communities. Specific outcomes included increased farming initiatives in Kaoko Otavi, spurred by a

Country Strategic Plan (2025-2029)		
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
51 m	23.3 m	4.3 m

Strategic Result 01: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.

Strategic Outcome 01: Crisis-affected populations in Namibia are able to meet their food, nutrition needs in times of crises.

Focus Area: Crisis response

Activities: Provide unconditional resource transfers to crisis-affected populations, in line with the Government's response; Provide capacity strengthening to the Government for the anticipation of and response to shocks, leveraging early warning and emergency preparedness.

Strategic Result 04: National programmes & systems are strengthened

Strategic Outcome 02: By 2030, national social protection systems in Namibia are strengthened to more effectively benefit the most at-risk people and promote human capital development.

Focus Area: Root causes

Activities: Provide technical assistance, facilitate coordination, and generate evidence for Government institutions aimed at strengthening inclusive and gender-responsive safety nets and social protection and promoting diversified household food consumption.

Strategic Result 04: National programmes & systems are strengthened

Strategic Outcome 03: By 2030, national food systems in Namibia are strengthened to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, ensuring the most at-risk communities have access to affordable healthy diets.

Focus Area: Resilience building

Activities: Enhance partnerships, policies and technical assistance to the Government, other actors, and communities to build inclusive, sustainable, and resilient local food systems to improve access to healthy diets.

Strategic Result 05: Humanitarian & development actors are more efficient & effective

Strategic Outcome 04: By 2030, the Government and other actors in Namibia, especially those focusing on food systems, have leveraged WFP services and expertise in supply chains, enabling them to effectively support the people most at-risk.

Focus Area: Resilience Building

Activities: Provide on-demand services and supply chain solutions to the Government and other partners working on the food-energy-water nexus.

rehabilitated borehole and school garden; increased food production at Olukula's clinic garden, despite resource limitations; and improved crop yields and maternal nutrition in Opuwo, thanks to a new water softener. While the projects strengthened food security and livelihoods, challenges such as water scarcity and resource constraints persist. Future efforts focused on expanding water storage capacity and providing additional training could further enhance project sustainability.

Commodity Vouchers for El Nino Response

In January, commodity voucher distributions in Kunene Region, Ohangwena and Zambezi reached 5,363 households, equivalent to 32,178 people. Retailer monitoring was conducted for five retailers in both Outjo and Khorixas Constituencies in Kunene Region. The distributed commodity voucher per household included 2 x 20kg maize meal, 2 x 750ml cooking oil, 8 x canned fish, and 4 x 2kg instant porridge (covering distribution cycles 2 and 3). These food distributions are anticipated to improve food access and nutrition for vulnerable households in the face of ongoing drought conditions.

Resuming of School and Home-Grown School Feeding Activities

On Monday the 13th of January, around 900,000 learners in 2,036 of Namibian schools, of which 1,740 are state schools resumed learning for a new school year. Of these learners 11,412 benefitted from nutritious meals as part of the home-grown school feeding activities in 29 schools in 7 regions of Namibia. These students indirectly benefit through WFP's technical and financial support.

Donors

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

Photo: WFP Cookbook Recipe Testing ©Olivia-Joan De Celestino