



Country strategic plan revision

Namibia Country Strategic Plan, Revision 1

Gender and age marker code: 4

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 January 2025 – 31 December 2029	None	1 January 2025 – 31 December 2029
Beneficiaries	110,000	69,800	179,800
Total cost (USD)	17,077,124	6,607,555	23,684,679
Transfer	10,841,018	5,624,922	16,465,940
Implementation	2,789,319	490,640	3,279,958
Direct support costs	2,429,250	109,600	2,538,850
Subtotal	16,059,588	6,225,161	22,284,749
Indirect support costs	1,017,537	382,394	1,399,930

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL: CD

1. RATIONALE

1. In 2024, Namibia faced one of the most severe droughts, influenced by the El Niño climate pattern, which significantly impacted agriculture and food security across all 14 regions of the country, with 41% of the population experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above)¹, and exceeding the scope of WFP Namibia's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2025-2029. To enable WFP to respond to this humanitarian crisis, this CSP revision 1 will increase the budget by USD 6.6 million and the number of beneficiaries by 69,800.
2. *Increased food insecurity due to the El Niño induced drought.* Namibia's deteriorating food security is mainly driven by the impact of the 2023 - 2024 El Niño on crop and livestock production, drought/dry spells and erratic rainfall, price shocks, economic decline, and high youth unemployment. Many households depend on crop and livestock farming, which relies heavily on seasonal rains. However, dry spells and sporadic and insufficient rainfall in January and February 2024 led to crop wilting, which negatively impacted the next harvest season. From now until March 2025, food insecurity is expected to worsen. This is expected to bring the total number of people facing serious food shortages to approximately 1.26 million, or 41% of the population (IPC Phase 3 and above).²
3. On 22 May 2024, His Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, President of the Republic of Namibia, declared a National State of Emergency in response to the ongoing drought crisis.

¹ IPC. 2024. [Namibia integrated food security phase classification acute food insecurity analysis, October 2024-March 2025](#)

² IPC. 2024. [Namibia integrated food security phase classification acute food insecurity analysis, October 2024-March 2025](#).

This was followed by the release of the Government's Drought Response Plan in July 2024. The plan aims to assist 341,000 households, with a focus on at-risk groups, including pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG), persons with disabilities, food-insecure indigenous populations, and individuals living with HIV. The total cost of the programme is estimated at USD 42 million, with a current funding gap of USD 26 million. To address the shortfall, the Government has appealed to humanitarian agencies and partners for complementary support. In response, WFP will complement the Government's Drought Response Plan by assisting 179,800 individuals in IPC Level 3+ areas, with activities planned from October 2024 to April 2025. In order to achieve this, WFP has mobilised USD 6.9 million from a number of donors, as well as internal multilateral allocations.

4. *Increasing malnutrition and stunting.* Malnutrition remains a critical challenge in many regions across Namibia with severe consequences for children, communities, and human capital development. The preliminary Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey results³ indicate a prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) for under-fives between 2.5 – 11.8%. Acute malnutrition among PBWG was notably high, up to 11.2% in some regions. The survey also indicated very high stunting rates in 6 of 14 Regions, above 30%, with national rates across Namibia ranging from 23.5 - 42.5%.
5. *Decline in food production and increased vulnerability of at-risk rural communities and Indigenous Peoples*⁴. The El Niño-induced drought has significantly impacted crop-producing regions, reducing livestock pasture and water availability. This has disrupted agricultural productivity, limiting opportunities for agricultural labour and depressing wages. Consequently, these challenges have contributed to adverse economic conditions and unfavourable market conditions in affected areas. Additionally, households have limited food stocks, which were already depleted by the start of the lean season, resulting in most rural households resorting to more severe coping strategies.
6. In response to the Government's appeal for assistance, this revision enables WFP to mobilize contributions for crisis response and nutrition activities. The planned response includes the provision of emergency food assistance through commodity vouchers for the most at-risk households, targeted malnutrition prevention via supplementary value vouchers for PBWG and children under 5, and supplementary feeding in at-risk communities through soup kitchens. These interventions will be complemented by social behaviour change communication (SBCC) initiatives to enhance programme effectiveness.

2. CHANGES

Strategic orientation

7. There is no change in the strategic orientation of the CSP.

CSP outcomes

8. *In response to increased food insecurity*, WFP Namibia will increase the number of planned beneficiaries from 110,000 to 179,800 under CSP Outcome 1, activity 1 to enable WFP to scale-up its El Niño induced drought response in alignment with the Government's appeal for support through three key emergency food assistance interventions namely 1) commodity vouchers for the most at-risk households, 2) soup kitchens through a

³ The SMART survey results have not yet been endorsed by the Government.

⁴ Namibia's Indigenous Peoples are diverse, have various sources of livelihood, such as pastoralism, hunting and gathering and nomadism, and face distinct challenges, such as extreme poverty, low literacy rates, high mobility, social stigmatization and landlessness. The majority of Indigenous Peoples are San, who experience severe socioeconomic challenges, relying heavily on State-run food aid and having a life expectancy that is 22 percent lower than the national average. Ombudsman Namibia. 2022. [Guide to Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Namibia](#).

- commodity voucher modality and 3) nutrition-sensitive value vouchers to PBWG and children under 5. Additionally, this revision will introduce commodity voucher and capacity strengthening modalities under CSP outcome 1, activity 1. At the request of the Government, WFP will shift some beneficiaries from value voucher to commodity voucher modality. Commodity vouchers are being introduced to support the government's transition from in-kind food assistance to a voucher-based system. This modality helps reduce logistics costs and enhances the efficiency of social protection programmes.
9. *Addressing increasing malnutrition and high stunting rates.* Under CSP Outcome 1, activity 1, WFP will target 20,183 PBWG and 40,366 children under 5 with nutrition-sensitive value vouchers⁵, to complement the Government Drought Response for communities at-risk in Ohangwena, Omaheke, Omusati, Oshikoto, and Otjozondjupa regions. Through Output 3.3, all transfers will be complemented by SBCC that promotes appropriate nutrition and health practices, especially among the people most at risk.
 10. *Supporting at-risk rural communities and Indigenous Peoples.* Under CSP Outcome 1, activity 1, for 14,592 (household size of 6) at-risk drought-affected households, WFP will mirror the government's assistance programme, providing the same commodities, with an addition of instant porridge, through a commodity voucher modality. The commodity vouchers provided by WFP will fill the gap by providing support to at-risk populations in Hardap, Kavango East, Kavango West, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omaheke and Zambezi regions. Additionally, and where possible, WFP will support soup kitchens in Hardap, Kavango East, Kavango West, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omaheke and Zambezi regions, through a commodity voucher modality, targeting 28,493 ⁶at-risk children.
 11. Targeting approach and beneficiary analysis: WFP activities will complement the Government's which, due to funding limitations, will not be able to provide a full basket to targeted beneficiaries. Under CSP Outcome 1, activity 1, value vouchers (Activity 2) will top up to the Government's Special Feeding Programme. The soup kitchen activity will aim to target children aged 6 months to 9 years, who are at risk of malnutrition or have been discharged from the malnutrition programme. Targeting will be done using a 4-layer approach, including regional targeting, prioritising regions in IPC phase 3 and 4, and constituencies with the most food insecure populations. Identification of these constituencies will be done in consultation with government at regional level. Following this, villages in IPC 3+ will be further prioritised using a similar approach at constituency level. At village level, households meeting the WFP approved criteria will be prioritised. The same targeting approach will be applied for the soup kitchens. However, at centre level, blanket targeting will be applied. The risk of double-counting will be mitigated by cross-checking beneficiary lists and completing beneficiary adjustments to eliminate overlaps during the data entry and data validation stages.
 12. Transfer modalities: This revision will introduce commodity voucher and capacity strengthening modalities under CSP outcome 1, activity 1. Capacity strengthening activities will include supporting Government to transition from in-kind assistance to CBT and commodity voucher, and the implementation of SBCC activities. The soup kitchen modality was selected to fill the food basket gap in government's assistance programme mirrored in activity 1. This approach was requested by the Government and applicable to all Development Partners. Soup kitchen interventions will therefore be implemented in the same areas as commodity voucher interventions in order to fill the food basket gap.
 13. Partnerships: WFP will work with the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management and other government entities and partners, including the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty

⁵ Where feasible, based on market functionality and infrastructure.

⁶ The total beneficiaries counted in paragraphs 9 and 10 (103,634) exceeds the increase amount in Table 1 (69,800). This is due to some beneficiaries already having been accounted for in the original CSP.

Eradication and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Health and Social Services. At the United Nations country team level, WFP – as chair of the United Nations emergency humanitarian focal points team – and the United Nations Resident Coordinator have been requested by the Prime Minister to coordinate the development partners forum to complement the Government's response. WFP will also partner with UN agencies including UNICEF and UNFPA as part of the drought response.

14. Country office capacity: As part of its surge staffing for the El Niño response, WFP Namibia will augment its capacity as required. This could include a programme emergency coordinator, a programme officer, two programme assistants, a supply chain associate, and a nutrition associate. To enhance effectiveness for drought response, WFP will hire vehicles and procure additional IT equipment.
15. Service provision: WFP will increase its on-demand service provision budget (Activity 5) to accommodate a donor in-kind contribution of 5,000 MT of rice to the Government in support of the El Niño drought response. WFP will ensure the food safety and quality (FSQ) assurance of the rice donation. WFP will receive the rice donation at the port under "free out" terms, meaning WFP will manage the discharge, handling, and customs clearance. The handover to the Government will occur at the port warehouse, after which the Government will assume responsibility for the associated costs. WFP will handle the rice's storage and management at the warehouse for up to one month before the Government takes full ownership for distribution to drought-affected populations.
16. M&E: WFP and partners will conduct post-distribution and process monitoring at household level to establish whether transfer entitlements are distributed in a timely, orderly, and safe manner. WFP and Cooperating Partners (CP) will conduct monitoring visits to soup kitchen, value voucher and commodity voucher sites as applicable, to undertake on-site risk assessments and provide risk mitigation measures where possible, assessing compliance with FSQ protocols and practices, provide training to relevant WFP, government and CP focal points on applicable FSQ practices and risk management, as well as stock management and attendance registers whilst measuring milestones on the planned programme cycle. A predefined M&E and FSQ checklist will be provided to focal points undertaking the monitoring. Training and guidance on the implementation and use of the checklist will also be provided.
17. Accountability to affected populations, protection risks, restrictions of gender and disabilities: WFP's community feedback mechanism (CFM) is in place⁷. WFP will address grievances through multiple CFM modalities, including help desks at distribution sites managed by WFP field monitors and implementing partners, suggestion boxes, an online feedback form, and a dedicated email address for government counterparts and cooperating partners to raise concerns. Additionally, a feedback module will be integrated into retailer monitoring to ensure continuous tracking and resolution of issues.
18. Transition/handover strategy: WFP's continued work on strengthening national capacity and systems for social protection and human capital development under CSP outcome 2 and food systems under CSP outcome 3 will enable the Government to anticipate and respond to shocks without WFP's direct provision of food assistance.
19. Risk Management: In the event of funding shortfalls, WFP will prioritize life-saving assistance, the strengthening of systems for emergency preparedness, such as national forecasting and disaster response systems, and the mitigation of climate risks for the communities at greatest risk. The overarching goal is to enhance the synergy and functionality of the national systems that further enable the Government to provide life-saving assistance, while building capacities for communities to withstand future shocks.

⁷ With the exception of a hotline, which is pending final approvals on legal terms and data privacy.

Beneficiary analysis

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY CSP OUTCOME, ACTIVITY & MODALITY							
CSP Outcome	Activity	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-18 years)	Boys (0-18 years)	Total
CSP 1	1 CBT (Children under 2)	Current	32,336	28,676	25,964	23,024	110,000
		Decrease	- 13,593	- 12,057	- 10,916	- 9,679	- 46,245
		Revised	18,743	16,619	15,048	13,345	63,755
	1 CV (GFA)	Current	-	-	-	-	-
		Increase	34,113	30,252	27,391	24,289	116,145
		Revised	34,113	30,252	27,391	24,289	116,145
TOTAL <i>(without overlap)</i>		Current	32,336	28,676	25,964	23,024	110,000
		Increase/ decrease	20,520	18,195	16,475	14,610	69,800
		Revised	52,856	46,871	42,439	37,634	179,800

Transfers

TABLE 2: Food ration (g/person/day) or cash-based transfer value (USD/person/day) by CSP Outcome and Activity					
CSP Outcome	CSP 1				
Activity	Activity 1				
Beneficiary type	Children aged 6-23 months	Children aged 24-59 months	PBWG	Vulnerable families (6 per HH)	Soup kitchens
Modality (food or cash)	CBT	CBT	CBT	Commodity Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Total kcal/day ⁸	300	450	1000	587	816
% kcal from protein	10.9	10.9	10.9	13	10.9
CBT and Commodity Vouchers (USD/person/day)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.17	0.43
Number of feeding days per year	120	120	120	90	36 ⁹

⁸ Calculated in line with WFP guidelines using the [NutVal](#) food basket. WFP will complement the Government's food basket and social grants with WFP contributing 28 percent of the cost of a nutritious diet per beneficiary per day while social grants contribute 11 percent and drought relief 19 percent. Beneficiaries can afford only 17 percent of the cost of a nutritious diet. These calculations take into account the impact of drought on agriculture, assuming that beneficiaries can afford only half of their usual contributions during climate shocks such as droughts.

⁹ The soup kitchens are provided with commodity vouchers for 3 times a week, because this complements existing feeding programmes.

	Current budget		Increase/decrease		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
CBT (USD)	-	1,386,000		3,809,593		5,195,593
TOTAL (CBT USD)	-	1,386,000		3,809,593		5,195,593

3. COST BREAKDOWN

20. In order to respond to the Government's call for assistance in addressing the impacts of the El Nino induced most at-risk populations, WFP will increase its crises response budget by USD 5.7 million. Additionally, WFP will increase its service provision budget by USD 339,961, to accommodate a donor contribution of rice in support of the Government's response plan.

WFP strategic outcomes	WFP Strategic Outcome 1	WFP Strategic Outcome 4	WFP Strategic Outcome 4	WFP Strategic Outcome 5	Total
CSP outcomes	CSP 1	CSP 2	CSP 3	CSP 4	
Focus area	Crisis Response	Root Causes	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	
Transfer	5,292,729	0	0	332,193	5,624,922
Implementation	482,871	0	0	7,768	490,640
Direct support costs	<i>(no figures in the grey cells)</i>				109,600
Subtotal					6,225,161
Indirect support costs					382,394
TOTAL					6,607,555

WFP strategic outcomes	WFP Strategic Outcome 1	WFP Strategic Outcome 4	WFP Strategic Outcome 4	WFP Strategic Outcome 5	Total
CSP outcomes	CSP 1	CSP 2	CSP 3	CSP 4	
Focus area	Crisis Response	Root Causes	Resilience Building	Resilience Building	
Transfer	7,501,302	2,404,954	5,932,722	626,963	16,465,940
Implementation	1,009,221	698,735	1,512,441	59,561	3,279,958
Direct support costs	763,056	502,511	1,212,449	60,835	2,538,850
Subtotal	9,273,578	3,606,200	8,657,612	747,359	22,284,749
Indirect support costs	602,783	234,403	562,745	0	1,399,930
TOTAL	9,876,361	3,840,603	9,220,357	747,359	23,684,679