



WFP Namibia Country Brief February 2025

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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.



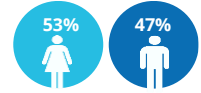
In Numbers

USD 3.1 million net funding requirements for the next six months (March '24 – August '25), representing 34 percent of funding requirements

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

6,297 people assisted in February 2025 through vouchers

17,709 people assisted in February 2025



Operational Updates

Commodity Vouchers for El Nino Response: WFP Namibia's acting Country Director Tiwonge Machiwenyika alongside the Japanese Ambassador, H.E. Shinichi Asazuma, visited the Kunene region to assess the impact of the recently concluded Japan-funded commodity voucher programme. The delegation, which included the Governor of Kunene Region, Honorable Marius Sheya, visited beneficiaries in Queen Sofia Farm and the De Riet Settlement.

The community members shared how the commodity voucher programme gave them access to essential food items during the El-Nino induced drought period. Through the support from the Namibian Government and the People of Japan, WFP reached 26,556 people in the Kunene and Ohangwena regions with life saving commodity vouchers for three months.

The distributed commodity vouchers included 3 x 20kg maize meal, 3 x 750ml cooking oil, 12 x canned fish, and 12 x 1kg instant porridge per household for the three-month assistance period.

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**

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Namibia

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	3.1 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.

Photo: Japanese Ambassador, H.E. Shinichi Asazuma in Kunene Region with a commodity voucher programme participant ©Theodor Uukongo

Special Feeding Programme Transitioning to Cash Based Transfer (CBT) Capacity & Systems Strengthening Workshop: In February 2025, WFP and the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication, and Social Welfare conducted an internal workshop on the Cabinet directive for the transitioning of the Special Feeding Programme to CBT Programme. The workshop documented the strengths and weaknesses of the current programme and the opportunities and threats of transitioning to map a strategy and road map for the roll-out of a CBT programme. Some of the significant opportunities for the successful implementation of the transition is the harmonisation of the beneficiary management system, digitising beneficiary information and ensuring an efficient beneficiary specific cash-based transfer modality is implemented. A roadmap and implementation plan have been developed which will see that all the necessary areas toward transitioning are met within the targeted timeframe. Proposed plans include the implementation of a comprehensive stakeholder engagement as well as a stakeholder management plan.

Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF): WFP, in partnership with Namibia's Office of the Prime Minister and with funding from CERF, is addressing critical drought relief gaps through a Community Voucher Programme in Kavango East and West. The first phase, included wet feeding through soup kitchens and nutritional monitoring was completed by February 2025, ensuring 14,054 children under the age of 8 received essential food support to prevent malnutrition.

The programme is already delivering results. Through the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, WFP is also strengthening food security by providing nutritious meals to schoolchildren while supporting local farmers like who supply fresh produce to schools. To ensure transparency and advocacy, WFP has captured human-impact stories that showcase the programme's success. These stories not only highlight the resilience of affected communities but also support donor engagement, reinforcing the need for sustained assistance. Through these targeted interventions, WFP is empowering communities, enhancing resilience, and fostering long-term food security in Namibia.

Donors

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