



World Food Programme

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WFP Namibia Country Brief March 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**

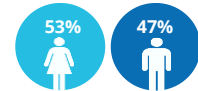
In Numbers

USD 3.1 million net funding requirements for the next six months (March '25 – 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 March 2025 through vouchers

17,709 people assisted in March 2025



Operational Updates

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

As part of the reinforcement of accountability to affected populations, a total of 1,581 beneficiaries from 14 villages in Oshikoto Region, Namibia, participated in a Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) awareness initiative. Following training, enumerators immediately engaged communities, delivering clear messages that were well received. People serving as part of the drought response gained a strong understanding of PSEA, its implications, and reporting channels. To reinforce awareness, posters were placed at distribution sites including messages such as 'humanitarian assistance is free' and 'you do not need to provide any sexual favors to receive aid'. A contact number was also provided where victims can report incidents. The initiative empowered enumerators and constituency administrators to educate communities on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse. The positive response indicates increased awareness and accessibility to reporting mechanisms. Ongoing monitoring and reinforcement will be crucial in sustaining vigilance and ensuring effective reporting.

MTC Financial Service Provider (FSP) Contract for the Drought Emergency Response

WFP has signed a contract with the Mobile Telecommunications Company (MTC) valid until 31 March 2026. The contract is not tied to a ceiling value, but the total anticipated transfer amount is USD 2,919,459.15, with a 5 percent service fee charged by MTC. MTC's role includes contracting, training, and managing retailers, as well as providing the Namibia Integrated Digital Assistance Service (NIDAS) digital platform for beneficiary registration, transfer management, and payment reconciliation. All data processed through NIDAS remains securely owned and controlled by WFP.

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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.

Operational updates (continued)

Soup Kitchen Oversight

WFP Namibia conducted an oversight mission to soup kitchens in Kavango East and West from the 17th to the 19th of March as part of its emergency response to the El Niño-induced drought. The mission included strengthening the capacity of 67 cooks through refresher training on nutritious meal preparation, food safety, and hygiene. Moreover, engagements with the Cooperating Partner ensured better alignment with approved menus and food distribution plans. Moving forward, WFP will continue providing technical support and oversight to enhance the efficiency and impact of the soup kitchen program.

BHC Mission – Establishment of Vegetable Gardens at Household Level

WFP conducted a mission to Oshikoto Region from the 3rd to the 7th of March 2025 to support the establishment of 28 vegetable gardens at household level, funded by the British High Commission. This project aims to promote consumption of fresh vegetables at household level, thereby improving nutrition and supporting healthier diets for vulnerable families. The team facilitated community sensitization, conducted baseline assessments, and verified garden sites to ensure sustainability. Essential inputs, including seeds, fertilizers and tools were distributed to 28 households, strengthening their capacity for food production. Engagements with local authorities reinforced community ownership, laying the foundation for improved household nutrition and food security.

Donors

Brazil, British High Commission, Capricorn Foundation, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Government of the Republic of Namibia, Japan, NAMIBRE, NAMDIA Foundation, The Republic of Korea, UNAIDS UBRAF, United States of America

Photo: © Theodor Uukongo, Soup kitchen meals as part of the CERF grant in Kavango East region.