

WFP Namibia Country Brief

June 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.



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

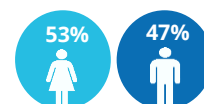
USD 0.1 million net funding requirements for the next six months (July '25 – December '25), representing 4 percent of funding requirements

10,785 people assisted through food vouchers

25,585 children served warm meals at soup kitchens

36,370 people assisted in June 2025

Operational Updates



Strengthening Health Supply Chains: MoHSS TSL Training

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Saving Lives and Livelihoods (SLL) initiative was launched in June 2021 as a USD1.5 billion, three-year partnership between Africa CDC and the Mastercard Foundation. Initially focused on COVID-19 vaccination, the initiative has evolved to support the strengthening of broader public health systems across Africa.

WFP was appointed by Africa CDC as the in-country logistics (ICL) partner of last resort for 17 African Union Member States, including Namibia, given WFP's recognition for its logistics expertise. Since then, WFP has supported the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) in enhancing health supply chain capacities, particularly in remote areas.

In 2023, WFP donated and installed two pharmaceutical-grade reefer containers at Oshakati and Rundu Medical Stores to improve cold storage for temperature-sensitive medical products. These assets will be officially handed over at the end of the SLL project in December 2025.

From 23–27 June 2025, WFP and Africa CDC conducted two key trainings in Rundu to strengthen Temperature-Sensitive Logistics (TSL) within the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI). 20 participants from various health facilities and districts attended sessions on TSL fundamentals and reefer container operations.

The training aimed to build MoHSS/EPI staff capacity in Good Distribution Practices, TSL, and Quality Management Systems, equipping them to manage cold chain systems effectively. This initiative marks a significant step in enhancing Namibia's health supply chain resilience and emergency preparedness.

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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

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: TSL and Reefer Training for the Ministry of Health and Social in Rundu, Namibia by WFP and Africa CDC © WFP/Supply Chain

WFP has appointed the Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) as its implementing partner for the BHA-funded Value Voucher Food Assistance Programme in the Otjozondjupa and Oshikoto Regions. To ensure effective delivery, WFP conducted onboarding training from 16–27 June 2025, covering registration, distribution, gender protection, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). A train-the-trainer model equipped four master trainers, while 40 enumerators and 12 distribution staff were trained for field implementation.

In parallel, 20 NRCS staff in Otjozondjupa received PSEA training to engage communities sensitively and effectively. Educational materials and multilingual outreach (English, Oshiwambo, Damara/Nama) supported awareness sessions in the constituencies of Okakarara, Otavi, Grootfontein, and village of Neu Sommerau, reaching 538 beneficiaries. PSEA posters were displayed at retail sites, and multiple reporting channels were established to promote accountability.

This joint initiative enhances operational readiness, strengthens community protection, and reinforces WFP's commitment to empowering local partners and building resilient emergency response systems.

Monitoring

WFP conducted a mission in Oshikoto Region - covering the constituencies of Tsumeb, Guinas, and Nehale LyaMpingana - to accelerate the rollout of Research Assessment and Monitoring baseline activities under the BHA-funded Value Voucher Food Assistance Programme. The mission was instrumental in building local capacity, ensuring data quality, and preparing for effective implementation.

The Namibia Red Cross Society, as the newly engaged cooperating partner, received hands-on training in key monitoring tools such as Post-Distribution, Retailer, and Outcome Monitoring, along with nutritional assessments for children under five, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers. Enumerators were trained on all monitoring indicators to enhance interview quality with beneficiaries.

WFP also supervised registration and card distributions in the two constituencies of Guinas and Tsumeb, while providing training in the constituency of Okongo. Community sensitization, field setup assessments, and improvements in coordination and data collection were also addressed. Continuous feedback was shared with the implementing partner and follow-up actions were agreed upon. Similar activities were successfully replicated in Otjozondjupa Region, Grootfontein, Okakarara, Tsumkwe, Otjiwarongo and Otavi constituencies, expanding the programme's reach and preparedness.

Donors

Brazil, British High Commission, Capricorn Foundation, CERF, Government of the Republic of Namibia, Japan, NAMIBRE, NAMDIA Foundation, The Republic of Korea, UNAIDS UBRAF, USA