



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Namibia Country Brief August 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

Income Level: **Upper-middle income**

2022 Human Development Index: **142 out of 193 countries**

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

In Numbers

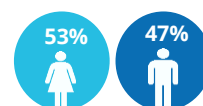
USD 858.231 net funding requirements for the next six months (October '25 – February '26), representing 19 percent of funding requirements

45,972 people enrolled for food vouchers

25,585 children served warm meals at soup kitchens

12,038 school children reached through the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (Tier 2)

83,595 people assisted in August 2025



Operational Updates

Advancing Nutrition Knowledge Through Training of Trainers: As part of the USAID/BHA funded complementary nutrition sensitive support for the drought affected populations, WFP conducted a 4-day Training of Trainers (ToT) in Oshikoto Region, marking a pivotal step in strengthening community-led nutrition initiatives.

A total of 31 participants (27 women and 4 men) were equipped with essential knowledge and practical skills in maternal, infant, and young child feeding (MIYCF). The training covered critical topics such as the first 1,000 days of life, maternal nutrition, exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, hygiene and sanitation, and the strategic use of value vouchers to improve dietary diversity.

A strong focus on facilitation techniques ensured participants are well-prepared to cascade knowledge and mentor others within their communities. Participants also developed actionable plans to establish and sustain peer care groups. These groups will serve as inclusive platforms for caregivers of children under five, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers to exchange experiences, adopt recommended practices, and reinforce positive nutrition and childcare behaviours.

This initiative is a significant step in community-based nutrition programming in Namibia, fostering local ownership and laying the foundation for behaviour change in vulnerable communities.

ECD Feeding Programme Training of Trainers Roll Out: To strengthen the implementation, monitoring, and accountability of the ECD Feeding Programme at community level, WFP organized a Training of Trainers (ToT) from 1–4 September 2025.

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.

Operational Updates (cont.)

The sessions targeted four regional clusters in Otjiwarongo, serving Oshikoto, Khomas, Erongo, and Otjozondjupa; Keetmanshoop serving //Kharas, Hardap, and Omaheke; Rundu, serving Kavango East, Kavango West, Ohangwena, and Zambezi, and Outapi serving, Kunene, Oshana, and Omusati.

A total of 121 regional and community-level participants attended the training aimed to build foundational skills in child nutrition, hygiene, preparation of fortified porridge, usage of data collection tools, and oversight procedures. Participants showed readiness to cascade the training and apply monitoring tools at the constituency level. Field visits to selected ECD centres provided opportunities for practical application and informed regional rollout planning.

The ECD Feeding Programme aims to improve child nutrition through the provision of fortified porridge at 3,000 ECD centres nationwide. The programme is implemented in partnership with the Government of Namibia, through the Ministry of Gender Equality & Child Welfare (MGECW) and the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture (MEIYSAC)—with technical support from UNICEF and WFP.

Monitoring: Between mid-August and early September 2025, WFP provided oversight for distributions and monitored retailers in the BHA-funded regions of Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, and Ohangwena.

The oversight focused on monitoring value voucher distributions, assessing accountability to affected populations, evaluating retailer performance, verifying beneficiary targeting, and strengthening community engagement and accountability mechanisms.

Community mobilization, led by the constituency office with support from local leaders, indicated that distributions were largely successful, with beneficiaries expressing appreciation for the flexibility of the voucher system.

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.

Photo: A child enjoying a warm meal as part of WFP supported community soup kitchen initiative in Gobabis, Omaheke Region © Theodor Uukongo