



World Food Programme

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LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Namibia Country Brief September 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 1.1** net funding requirements for the next six months (October '25 – March '26), representing 30 percent of funding requirements

**138,153** people assisted through 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)

**175,776** people assisted in September 2025

## Situation Update

### IPC Acute Food Insecurity

- The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report was published on the 13th of October 2025. The report provides an update on the food security situation in the country "published". The analysis shows a notable improvement in food security compared to the previous year, with the number of people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or higher dropping from 1.15 million to 456,000 (15% of the analysed population) between July and September 2025. This improvement is attributed to above-average rainfall, increased crop yields, and better rangeland and water conditions.
- The situation is expected to deteriorate during the 1st projection period (October 2025 to March 2026), which is the lean season, with projections indicating that 612,000 people (20% of the analysed population) will face high levels of acute food insecurity. The discontinuation of the government's drought relief programme in August 2025, coupled with high unemployment (36.9%) and poor livestock conditions in drought-prone regions, are some of the key drivers of this anticipated decline. Kunene, Kavango West, Zambezi, and Omaheke are projected to be the most affected regions.

## Operational Updates

### Supporting livelihoods and strengthening national capacities for food system transformation

- WFP, in partnership with the British High Commission (BHC), supported the implementation of an integrated food systems project in Oshikoto Region. The intervention, which includes a vegetable garden and poultry unit at Mateus Nashandi Combined School, has directly improved dietary diversity and reduced dropout rates for 350 learners. Eggs are supplied 2–3 times monthly for learner consumption, and surplus produce is sold at neighbouring schools for income generation.
- Beyond the school, 28 households, of which 86 percent are female-headed (24 female-headed; 4 male-headed) across likokola, Oshendje, and Okakwiyu villages were supported with setting up backyard gardens and received agricultural inputs and training on good agricultural practices. This support has enabled small-scale food production, improved household nutrition, and created income-generating opportunities.

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| Country Strategic Plan (2025-2029) |                                     |                                                      |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Total Requirements<br>(in USD)     | Allocated Contributions<br>(in USD) | Six-Month Net<br>Funding<br>Requirements<br>(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: A smallholder farmer from the Ikokola village collecting spinach from her garden ©WFP/Theodor Uukongo*

## Donors

Brazil, Capricorn Foundation, Japan, Republic of Namibia, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, UN-CERF, UK/FCDO, USA

education and skills transfer, with training provided on food preservation and sustainable farming techniques. During a recent site visit, BHC commended the project's outcomes, highlighting its role in building resilience and promoting sustainable local food systems.

## Enhancing nutritional outcomes through soup kitchen

- WFP, with funding support from the Republic of Korea and in partnership with Catholic AIDS Action (CAA), implemented a community-based soup kitchen programme aimed at providing freshly prepared hot meals to 9,247 children aged 6 months to 9 years across Zambezi, Hardap, and Omaheke regions.
- In Zambezi, 28 soup kitchens operated reached 3,493 children. Nutritional assessments conducted at baseline and endline revealed measurable improvements in child health, including recovery from malnutrition in eight children. In Hardap, ten kitchens served 1,227 children, with six previously malnourished children showing improvements from critical to moderate levels. Omaheke's 30 kitchens reached 4,527 children, with strong community engagement and positive feedback from local leaders and caregivers.
- The initiative was characterised by strong local ownership, with active participation from community volunteers, schools, and traditional authorities. Despite operational challenges, the programme demonstrated significant impact in improving child health, school attendance, and household resilience. As the programme concludes, children are expected to transition to EU-funded Early Childhood Development centre (ECD) feeding programmes, ensuring continuity of support.

## Monitoring

- WFP, in collaboration with UNICEF, the Nutrition and Food Security Alliance of Namibia (NAFSAN), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Farmer for Resilience (F4R), supported joint monitoring efforts aimed at strengthening local capacity and improving data quality across 19 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres. The initiative was implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW) and the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture (MEIYSAC), and focused on decentralised monitoring through targeted training and field assessments.
- Of the fourteen monitoring visits planned, seven were successfully completed, representing 50 percent coverage. Through a "Training of Trainers" approach, volunteer cooks and edu-carers were capacitated to conduct anthropometric measurements and baseline assessments, enabling consistent data collection and nutritional tracking at community level in the ECD feeding programme. Inclusive monitoring was ensured through the participation of 86 marginalised children, including 8 with disabilities and 54 orphans.
- Beneficiary feedback highlighted appreciation for the ECD feeding programme and Government commitment to provide a conducive environment for school going children, while also underscoring contextual challenge such as unemployment, making it difficult for parents to provide a daily meal for the children. These insights are guiding programme adjustments and informing rollout plans to improve service delivery and ensure sustained impact.