



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Namibia Country Brief

November 2025



Operational Context

Namibia is a lower-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: **Lower-middle income**

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

In Numbers

USD 739,601 net funding requirements for the next six months (December '25 – May '26), representing 17 percent of funding requirements

3,687 people assisted through food vouchers

12,038 school children reached through the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme

15,725 people assisted in November 2025

Operational Updates

- **WFP strengthened national capacity for social protection and school feeding through targeted workshops:** During the reporting period, WFP delivered capacity-strengthening workshops to equip Government and partners with tools to improve social protection and school feeding programmes. The sessions focused on developing a roadmap for digital systems integration, enhancing food safety standards, and scaling sustainable school feeding models that protect vulnerable populations and improve child nutrition. Robust monitoring practices were emphasized to ensure accountability and measurable impact. Partners also received training on effective targeting methodologies to promote equitable and efficient programme implementation, reinforcing evidence-based decision-making.
- **Digital Transformation for Social Protection:** A key priority was accelerating digital transformation to strengthen social protection delivery. Namibia operates the Commodity Beneficiary Management Information System (CBMIS), owned and managed by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), and the Namibia Integrated Digital Assistance Service (NIDAS), developed in partnerships with Mobile Telecommunications Company (MTC). WFP is supporting efforts to harmonize these platforms and enhance interoperability, enabling secure data sharing across ministries, thus improving coordination and effective targeting of vulnerable households. Further integration of early warning systems and school feeding monitoring tools into a unified framework is essential for timely, evidence-based decisions during food insecure periods.
- **School-based programmes:** To complement the national school feeding programme and strengthen local food systems, WFP, in partnership with the Desert Research Foundation, advanced the establishment of school-based food systems (integrated horticulture and poultry production) at three sites. Evidence from the Home-Grown School Feeding pilots shows strong government commitment and growing interest in scaling up models that link schools with local production, lowering costs, reducing external dependency, strengthening local supply chains and addressing gaps in food safety, storage, and compliance. WFP will continue providing technical support, sharing best practices, alongside tighter supplier oversight to ensure safe, sustainable outcomes.

Contacts : rawan.taha@wfp.org ; luise.shikongo@wfp.org

Country Director Naouar Labidi

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	0.7 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: Participants engaged at the food safety and Quality and Targeting training in Windhoek © WFP/Theodor Uukongo

• **Coordination and Targeting:** Coordination remains critical, as multiple ministries, including Ministry of Education, Innovation, Sports, Youth, Arts and Culture (MEISYAC), Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAFWLR) and Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW), play key roles in school feeding and social protection. WFP is working to strengthen collaboration through national working groups to ensure programmes are efficient, inclusive, and gender sensitive.

• **Complementary Nutrition Sensitive Food Assistance**

Support for Drought Affected Populations: Between October 2024 and November 2025, WFP implemented a USD 500,000 nutrition-sensitive food assistance programme, funded by the Republic of Korea, to support drought-affected communities in Hardap and Zambezi. The programme reached 24,480 people through commodity vouchers for 20,958 vulnerable individuals and soup kitchens serving 3,522 children. Monitoring showed improved food consumption scores, with 48.5 percent of households at acceptable levels, 38.1 percent borderline, and 13.4 percent poor. Harmful coping strategies declined, with emergency measures dropping to 8.5 percent and 57.9 percent of households reporting none. Malnutrition remained very low (GAM 0.8 percent, SAM 0.2 percent), well below WHO emergency thresholds. These results reflect the programme's impact, reinforced by complementary government drought response efforts.

Monitoring

• **ECD Monitoring:** WFP collaborated with MGECW and MEISYAC to set baselines for Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres. In Oshana and Ohangwena regions, 16 centres across six constituencies were assessed, receiving instant porridge, nutrition training, and anthropometric tools for children enrolled (20–90 per centre). Data analysis is underway to guide evidence-based programming and strengthen feeding interventions. These efforts support the nationwide ECD Feeding Programme targeting over 2,000 centres, aiming to improve child nutrition, boost school readiness, and reinforce social protection, with EU financial support.

• **VAA Workshop:** The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) convened an online workshop to review and strengthen the Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) tool, marking a critical step toward enhancing Namibia's emergency preparedness and social protection systems. The session engaged over 40 stakeholders from key ministries, academic institutions, and development partners, including UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and UNFPA. Discussions focused on refining the VAA data collection tool, with emphasis on improving questionnaire quality and relevance to generate accurate, actionable data. Strengthening this tool reinforces Namibia's capacity for evidence-based decision-making, enabling faster, targeted responses to vulnerabilities and shocks.

Donors

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