



WFP NAMIBIA

COUNTRY BRIEF

March 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Impact of multi-shocks continue to strain vulnerable households, with food-security needs remaining high even after the national drought-response programme ended.
- WFP is supporting the Government of the Republic of Namibia to reinforce emergency preparedness, social protection, and food-systems resilience under its Country Strategic Plan (2025–2029).
- WFP urgently needs additional funding to sustain food-security, systems-strengthening, and resilience interventions nationwide.

IN NUMBERS



11,800 total people assisted in February 2026



47%
Male



53%
Female



USD 0.59M (March – August 2026) representing 18% net funding requirements

Photo Caption & Credit: Children receive routine screening for early signs of malnutrition at WFP-supported food assistance sites. © WFP/Theodor Uukongo

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Namibia's hosts a population of 3 million people across 824,292 Km², earning the distinction of being the world's third least densely populated country. In 2025, Namibia became the only country globally to be reclassified from an Upper-Middle-Income Country (UMIC) to a Lower-Middle-Income Country (LMIC).
- Despite recurring climate- and shock-related hazards, including floods, devastating drought and pest infestations, Namibia's humanitarian and food security situation improved in 2026. This is reflected in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis for July–September 2025, with projections through June 2026. The assessment estimated 456,000 people in need, a significant reduction from 1.15 million during the same period the previous year. This improvement is attributed to combined impact of WFP's response to the El Niño induced drought through complementary nutrition-sensitive food assistance, government-led drought relief interventions, contributions from development partners, and the effects of good rainfall.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) [Country Strategic Plan \(CSP\) \(2025–2029\)](#) offers technical support to the Government of the Republic of Namibia to respond to this evolving context through four interlinked strategic outcomes: 1) strengthening programmes and systems for emergency preparedness response and early action (2) support to social protection systems to effectively benefit the most at-risk people; (3) strengthening food systems and improving livelihood of smallholder farmers (4) on-demand services.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Early Childhood Development (ECD) Feedings

- With financial support from the European Union and technical collaboration with UNICEF, WFP assisted the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture (MEIYSAC) and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW) in the national roll-out of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre Feeding Programme across all 14 regions, reaching more than 100,000 children. During the reporting period, WFP expedited the procurement of essential cooking equipment and utensils worth N\$ 184,250 (USD 10,908) for the provision of safe and nutritious meals at ECD centres.
- To guide improvements, a baseline data collection is ongoing in selected ECD centres in Kunene, Oshikoto and Hardap regions.

2024/25 Namibia El Niño Drought Response After Action Review

- Following the 2024/2025 El Niño-induced drought, the worst to hit southern Africa in the past 40 years, the Government through the Office of the Prime Minister's Directorate of Disaster Risk Management (DDRM) initiated a coordinated national response with support from partners. This response was implemented through 4 modalities: food assistance, livestock support, water provision, and seed and horticulture interventions.
- A national state of emergency was declared on 22 May 2024, in line with the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis for April–September 2024, which estimated that 1.2 million people, nearly half of the population, facing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above).
- To assess performance, document lessons, and identify opportunities for strengthening future emergency responses, DDRM, with technical support from WFP, conducted an after-action review (AAR) of the food-assistance modality.
- Key recommendations include reinforcing DDRM institutional structures, expanding monitoring and evaluation capacity, refining targeting criteria, investing in supply-chain preparedness and digital systems, and improving coordination and donor-alignment mechanisms. These findings will guide a broader external multi-stakeholder AAR scheduled for April 2026.

Resilience and Livelihood Support: Osire Area-Based Joint Programme

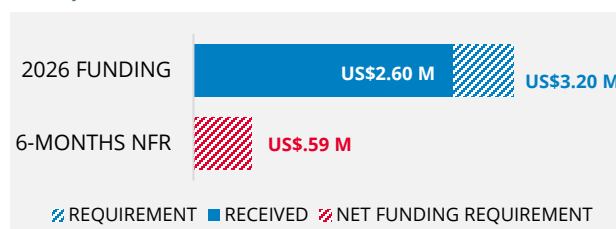
- In 2025, WFP and UNHCR, in partnerships with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security (MHAISS) established an agricultural project at Osire Refugee Settlement. WFP provided technical support as part of the broader efforts to improve food production for refugees and asylum seekers.
- To build on these efforts, WFP, UNHCR, MHAISS and partner organizations conducted a multi-agency joint assessment mission at Osire Refugee Settlement to 1) assess food security levels among refugees in Osire, 2) analyse livelihood opportunities and constraints, including access to work and land, 3) identify gaps in access to basic services such as health, education, and WASH, 4) identify opportunities for durable solutions (e.g. local integration, self-reliance) and 5) guide planning for future humanitarian assistance and resource allocation. Data analysis is ongoing and will be critical for designing evidence-based interventions.

Republic of Korea Rice Donation

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) of the Republic of Korea has donated, 4,896 metric tons of rice valued at USD 3.6 million, with the consignment officially launched in March 2026. Food distributions are ongoing across all 14 regions of the country. To ensure commodities meet required quality specifications, and to re-enforce hygiene and packaging standards, WFP provided technical support to the Government by conducting inspections of transportation and storage facilities.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

WFP Namibia Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2025-2029)



Donors

The Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the European Union, the Government of the Republic of Namibia, the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and WFP Multilateral.