



WFP Namibia

COUNTRY BRIEF

May 2026



105,813 households reached with rice bags in May 2026 (53% female, 47 % Male)



2,326 mt of rice distributed

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 requires additional funding to sustain food security, systems strengthening, early warning, emergency preparedness, and resilience interventions nationwide.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Namibia’s vast landscape houses 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 the outbreaks of African migratory locusts, 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.
- 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.

Reporting Period: May 2026

Photo Caption & Credit: Beneficiaries in the //Kharas Region receiving their allocated rice. © WFP/Theodor Uukongo

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

National Rice Distributions

- In 2026, the Republic of Korea, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA), contributed 4,896 metric tons (MT) of rice valued at US\$3.6 million to support drought-affected communities in Namibia. This assistance targets 384,935 households across all 14 regions, helping to cushion against the lingering effects of the 2024/2025 El Niño-induced drought.
- For equitable access and needs-based targeting, the response is led by the national and regional Directorate of Disaster Risk Management structures (DDRM), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).
- As of May 2026, a total of 58,148 bags (40 kg), approximately 48 percent of the consignment, have been distributed to 105,813 households. Distributions remain ongoing across the remaining regions and are expected to continue through December 2026. Implementation has, however, been affected by key operational constraints, including rising fuel costs and limited transport availability.
- This contribution comes at a critical time, as households continue to face increasing living costs, particularly for food and fuel, driven in part by the impacts of the Middle East crisis.

Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation Capacities

- WFP continues to support Government capacity strengthening to enhance programme effectiveness, accountability, and evidence-based decision-making.
- During the reporting period, WFP facilitated a Monitoring Foundation course for 14 technical focal points from the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture; the National Planning Commission; the Office of the Prime Minister; the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Land Reform; and the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare.
- This initiative forms part of ongoing efforts under the WFP–Government partnership framework to strengthen national monitoring and evaluation systems. The training focused on enhancing technical capacities in data collection, analysis, and reporting, thereby contributing to improved programme oversight and more effective delivery resilience, social protection, and emergency response interventions.

National After-Action Review: 2024/2025 El Niño-Induced Drought Response

- WFP provided technical assistance to OPM, DDRM, to conduct a national After-Action Review (AAR) of the 2024/2025 El Niño-induced drought response. The AAR was conducted through a structured and participatory

process involving over 80 stakeholders, including Government institutions (OPM DDRM, and line ministries), UN agencies, as well as NGOs and private sector partners. The review assessed performance across key sectors, including Food Assistance, Water, Health and Nutrition, Livestock and Seeds, in alignment with the National Drought Response Plan.

- The review highlighted the need for a rapid scale-up of operations, robust multi-stakeholder collaboration, and effective resource mobilization and response systems. The findings underscore the need to transition from reactive response models to anticipatory, data-driven systems, with increased investment in early warning, preparedness, and long-term resilience. A comprehensive AAR report is currently being finalized to inform strategic transition and sustainable considerations for future emergency responses.

Nutrition

- Since 2021, WFP has supported the development of Integrated Food Systems Projects targeting people living with HIV (PLHIV), TB patients, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children, aimed at strengthening community resilience and enhancing local food production to improve dietary diversity and nutrition outcomes.
- During the reporting period, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), engaged in advocacy and resource mobilization efforts under the Global Fund Grant Cycle 8 (GC8) window to secure funding to scale up this programme for greater impact.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

WFP Namibia Country Strategic Plan (2025-2029)



Donors

European Union, Federative Republic of Brazil, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, the Government of the Republic of Namibia and WFP Multilateral (In alphabetical order).