



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Namibia Country Brief October 2022



Operational Context

An upper-middle-income country, Namibia has a population of 2.5 million people. The country has experienced recurrent floods and drought, insect and worm invasions, and the COVID-19 pandemic, which all have had a profound impact on food security, health, and nutrition. Insufficient food production and reliance on poorly adapted rain-fed agriculture and external markets for food suggest that poor households are vulnerable to shocks and food price inflation.

Through the Namibia Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2017–2023, WFP provides food assistance to vulnerable people affected by shock, ensures adequate capacity strengthening to the Government, and facilitates effective policies and best practices. The addition of strategic outcome 4 to the current CSP aims to strengthen 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: **2.5 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **139 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Upper--middle income**

2020 Global Hunger Index: **70 out of 107 countries**

In Numbers

Net Funding Requirements:
USD 3.7 m (November 2022 – April 2023)

People Assisted in October 2022:

Home-Grown School Feeding Programme: 11,730 school children

Integrated Community-based Food Systems Projects: 1,457 beneficiaries

Operational Updates

Nutrition: 1000 Days Campaign

WFP in partnership with the World Health Organization launched the 1000 Days Campaign – a period from conception to a child’s second birthday. Supporting the Government, the campaign was opened at Olukula Village, in Ohangwena Region on 19 October.

The objectives of the 1000 Days Campaign are to: 1) capacitate Community Health Workers (CHWs), pregnant and lactating women and the public on the importance of the 1000 days. 2) Encourage healthy food choices through cooking demonstrations to show beneficiary mothers how to use locally available foods to prepare a variety of nutritious indigenous dishes. 3) Demonstrate various food preservation methods. 4) promote good hygiene practices.

Participants were mainly mothers and CHWs numbering about 500 attendees. A similar campaign is scheduled for 2 November at Tsumkwe Clinic in Otjozondjupa Region.

Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP)

WFP continues to support the implementation of the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSF) as spearheaded by the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. In October, WFP supported the review and assessments of the programme across 29 schools nationwide. The assessment aimed to record best practices and lessons learned from the pilot which will inform the upscaling and expansion of the HGSFP to additional schools countrywide.

World Food Day

The World Food Day Event was commemorated on 15 October at Uukwiyuushona village in Oshana Region. Under the theme “*Leave no one behind. Better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*”, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform undertook the preparations.

To demonstrate WFP’s national food systems approach during World Food Day, WFP sponsored a 55-year-old female farmer and kindergarten owner from Oshana Region through the set-up of a 0.5 hectares shade-netted food systems project. These items - valued at N\$60,000 (US\$ 3,500) are meant to facilitate the production of spinach, carrots, cabbage, and beetroot amongst other vegetables.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017–2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
46 m	20.5 m	3.7 m

Strategic Result 01: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 01: Vulnerable populations in Namibia are enabled to meet their food and nutrition needs throughout the year.

Focus Area: *Root Causes*

Activities: Provide capacity strengthening to the government entities responsible for national shock-responsive safety net programmes; Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance to the government entities responsible for school feeding

Strategic Result 05: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 02: Government Policy dialogue and programme design is informed by evidence and enhanced knowledge of hunger issues throughout NDP5 period

Focus Area: *Resilience building*

Activities: Provide capacity strengthening to government entities involved in hunger-related policy and programming; Provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare and partners involved in the implementation of the Zero Hunger Road Map

Strategic Result 01: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 03: Targeted food insecure households affected by shocks in Namibia benefit from enhanced access to adequate food and nutrition during and in the aftermath of crises

Focus Area: *Crisis Response*

Activities: Provide food assistance to vulnerable people affected by shocks

Strategic Result 04: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 04: Governmental institutions in Namibia have capacity to conduct analysis that supports planning towards transformative and resilient food systems by the end of 2023.

Focus Area: *Resilience Building*

Activities: Support government entities to strengthen food systems in the country.

Strategic Result 08: Enhance global partnership

Strategic Outcome 05: Government and development partners in Namibia are supported by an efficient and effective supply chain and digital services and expertise throughout the CSP period.

Focus Area: *Resilience Building*

Activities: Support government and development partners with supply chain and digital services and expertise.

This assistance will diversify dietary intake for 19 children attending the kindergarten and a household of 7 people (26 beneficiaries in total). The surplus will be sold at the local market for income generation and profits.

As part of the global school meals coalition, WFP and FAO filmed the experiences and cooking methods of a chef at Mphe Thuto Primary School (MTPS) in Omaheke Region. Due to its unique combination of culturally appropriate balanced meals and cooking techniques, the film was successfully chosen and showcased at the global Junior World Food Day on 14 October. Link [Here](#).

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction

WFP alongside other UN Agencies in Namibia continue to capacitate the Government on early warning systems for disaster risk management. WFP thus joined the City of Windhoek, alongside Government Offices, Ministries, and other UN Agencies to celebrate the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. The event was held on 13 October, under the theme “*Early Warning and Early Action for All*.” Overall, the day aimed to promote a national culture of disaster reduction, prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

Cash Based Transfers (CBT)

In response to rising food prices, WFP received donor funding from the SDG Fund to build national resilience for smallholder farmers’ food production in the country and from the Japanese Government to increase access to nutritious food for food insecure households.

WFP in partnership with the Government through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Health and Social Services is piloting a cash assistance programme in Kunene, Oshikoto and Omaheke regions. Additionally, through the national Dryland Crop Production Programme, WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform will integrate a support subsidy using e-vouchers to complement the food value voucher in Kunene Region.

Overall, all three regions are targeting over 15,960 beneficiaries (12,600 for the value voucher programme and 3,360 beneficiaries for the input subsidy voucher) severely affected by COVID-19, price instability and consecutive years of prolonged drought.

The programmes will be launched in November 2022. To date, beneficiary registration has commenced.

Partnerships

On 5 October 2022, WFP facilitated meetings for WFP Angola with the Executive Director of OPM in Namibia, and the Ambassador of Angola accredited to Namibia, to confer on humanitarian aid and resilience building programmes for Angolan migrants in Namibia.

Donors

2021-2022 Donors: Brazil, Japan, African Group of Ambassadors, Government of the Republic of Namibia.