



WFP Namibia Country Brief June 2023

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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**

2022 Global Hunger Index: **78 out of 121 countries**

In Numbers

Net Funding Requirements:

USD 5.9 m (July – December 2023)

People Assisted in June 2023:

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

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

Cash Based Transfers - Value Vouchers: 3,000 food-insecure households, equivalent to 17,800 beneficiaries.

Operational Updates

Nutrition Value Addition

Knowledge and skills on value addition and food preservation reduce food waste for smallholder farmers. WFP, with funding from UNAIDS, recently implemented value addition initiatives in the regions of Zambezi, Oshana, and Oshikoto. The programme reached over 600 individuals (27 percent male, 73 percent female), including smallholder farmers, people living with HIV/AIDS, youth, women, and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

The training, which was conducted by the University of Namibia, focused on various value addition and food preservation techniques that could be employed by smallholder farmers. Participants were taught how to produce ketchup and jam from tomatoes, as well as how to use solar dryers for food preservation. The latter technique involves drying spinach, butternut, and onions – an effective method for extending the shelf life of these perishable foods.

In addition to practical skills, the training also emphasized the importance of other key factors in food waste prevention. This included the significance of WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) practices, the value of a balanced diet, and the crucial role of breastfeeding during the first 1000 days of a child's life.

Transformative and Sustainable Food Systems

The Ondera food systems project has made significant progress in its journey towards achieving self-reliance and sustainability. With the support of WFP since 2021, the community successfully cultivated and sold 12 tonnes of wheat for the first time, thereby creating a valuable source of income. In the subsequent phase of expansion, the community planted and harvested 9.5 tons of maize and established a chicken coop by investing their own funds to accommodate over 200 broilers. These collective endeavours represent crucial steps taken towards eliminating hunger and fostering food self-reliance in Namibia.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017–2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
51 m	22.6 m	5.9 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.

During the reporting period, the Berseba Integrated Food Systems Project received practical training from agriculture extension officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform. The training focused on important aspects of sustainable agriculture, including crop rotation, irrigation, and pest control. To overcome the challenging climate of the region and achieve high yields, the project implemented an irrigation system and established two shade net areas covering a total of 720 square meters. Moreover, the project obtained various agricultural inputs including seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, hardware, and pesticides. As part of the integrated food systems project, a chicken coop was constructed on-site to accommodate 500 layers and increase egg production. This initiative was driven by the local community's high demand for eggs, which serve as a valuable source of nutrition and income.

The Brazilian Embassy in Namibia, led by H.E Ambassador Vivian Loss Sanmartin along with the Humanitarian Cooperation team from the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) led by Minister José Solla, visited two projects supported by the Brazilian government: the Tsumkwe and Epako Clinic Integrated Food Systems Project in Otjozondjupa and Omaheke Region. During the visit, the delegation had the chance to engage regional leadership on additional areas of cooperation.

Saving Lives and Livelihood Project

In line with the African Union's objective of vaccinating at least 70 percent of the African population with safe and effective vaccines, WFP signed a service level agreement with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and a framework agreement with the Mastercard Foundation.

Through its diverse and global supply chain network, WFP successfully procured 200 temperature monitoring devices, 10 laptops, and 10 monitors, with all the necessary IT accessories. This procurement is just one aspect of the project, which has the potential to significantly contribute towards Namibia's vaccination targets. With the government's support, WFP aims to implement the next phase of the project by procuring a warehouse and hiring staff for effective implementation. The procurement is part of WFP's capacity strengthening to the government and is vital to ensure the seamless and timely delivery of vaccines across Namibia, especially in remote areas.

Donors

2022-2023 Donors: Brazil, Deloitte, British High Commissioner, Japan, African Group of Ambassadors, Government of the Republic of Namibia.

Photo: Tomato jam produced as part of the nutrition value addition programme in Zambezi Region. © WFP/Likando Arthur