

## COUNTRY STRATEGY

Following the closure of a refugee PRRO in April 2013, WFP's focus in Namibia shifted from the provision of food assistance to that of technical assistance. This aligns with WFP's goal to ultimately strengthen government capacity to sustainably manage food assistance programmes for vulnerable people, including school children. WFP provides technical support to the Government in key areas aimed at

- 1) improving the efficiency and effectiveness of food-based safety net programmes and
- 2) enhancing the Government's preparedness for emergencies, including improving hunger assessments and response options.

WFP has been present in Namibia since 1999.



## OPERATIONS

	Project Duration	Planned number of people	Total requirements (in USD)	Total received (in USD)	Total Funded (%)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*	Top 5 Donors
Technical assistance to strengthen the Namibian School Feeding Programme	2012-2015	n/a	770,470	770,470	100%	-	Government of Namibia
Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring in Namibia	2012-2017	n/a	1,686,360	900,000	53%	-	USAID/OFDA

\*January-June

### Summary of WFP Assistance:

Technical assistance in Namibia is provided through two trust funds, which were established in 2012 to utilize contributions from the Government of Namibia and the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). Upstream technical support is focused on

- i) Knowledge Generation and Management;
- ii) Strengthening Monitoring Systems;
- iii) Capacity Building and Technical Assistance; and
- iv) Policy Guidance on hunger-related issues. In 2012, the Ministry of Education (MOE) established a strategic partnership with WFP to improve the Namibian School Feeding Programme (NSFP).

In 2012, WFP also signed a two-year partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to strengthen government capacity to assess, plan, and respond to emergency food needs resulting from natural disasters and other shocks. More specifically, WFP assists the Government with food security monitoring and analysis, as well as strengthening systems that manage and track commodities to more effectively respond to Namibia's food needs. WFP also provides technical support with logistics and managing the supply chain Management, and overall capacity building and programme support where required.

WFP assistance in Namibia supports the Government's efforts towards Millennium Development Goal 1 (MDG 1): eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. WFP also aligns with Namibia's Fourth National Development Plan (NDP 4) and the United Nations Partnership Framework (2014-2018) for the country.

ACHIEVEMENTS	ISSUES/CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the reporting period, WFP strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Education (MoE) to implement the national school feeding programme. Approximately 95 percent of schools involved in the feed programme throughout the country utilize the M&amp;E tools developed through WFP’s technical assistance; the tools help schools individually monitor their own feeding programmes. Subsequent to WFP peer learning initiatives, there is renewed interest from the management of the MOE to apply lessons learned at the Global Child Nutrition Forum (GCNF) which took place in September/October 2014, especially with respect to Home Grown School Feeding.</li> <li>• WFP is supporting the Government in producing quarterly food and nutrition security monitoring bulletins, which provide information and early warnings on shocks. The bulletins ensure that timely, evidence-based decisions are made when obstacles to food security emerge in Namibia.</li> <li>• Through WFP’s partnership, the Government has become more confident in involving additional stakeholders to improve nutrition and food security monitoring.</li> <li>• In addition, the Office of the Prime Minister and WFP are working together to develop a Food Security Monitoring Plan, which will be introduced and adopted in 2015. The consultative process aims to ensure government/local partners’ full ownership of food security monitoring activities in the country.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WFP assistance to MoE has resulted in their increased interest to diversify school meals under the programme. However, limited resources inhibit WFP and MoE from implementing an initiative that works towards diet diversity in schools. While the Namibian government has recognized the importance of the school feeding programme and has made concerted efforts to include this into national development plans and legal frameworks, funding continues to pose an issue.</li> </ul>

**PARTNERSHIPS**

In 2012, WFP Namibia signed a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Education to provide technical support to the Namibian School Feeding Programme. During the same year, WFP also succeeded in establishing a strategic partnership with the office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to support the Government in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the emergency food assistance programme. In addition, UNICEF complements the efforts of WFP to support OPM to develop and strengthen food and nutrition security monitoring in the country. WFP Namibia together with UNICEF and WHO are active members of the Namibian Alliance for Improved Nutrition (NAFIN), which is the multi-sectorial, multi-stakeholder platform that meets quarterly to advance the nutrition agenda in Namibia. As a member of NAFIN, WFP also works towards the development of the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement’s Country Nutrition Implementation Plan (2013-2016).

**COUNTRY BACKGROUND**

Since gaining independence in 1990, Namibia has enjoyed relative stability and strong economic growth at an average rate of 4.8 percent, and is categorized as an upper middle-income country. This growth, however, has not translated into reduced poverty rates or equitable income distribution. With a population of 2.3 million people, unemployment rate in 2013 was estimated at 29.6 percent of the total labor force, with 33.1 percent of those unemployed being females compared to 25.8 percent for males. Namibia is one of the countries in the southern African region hit hard with the “triple threat” of HIV, tuberculosis, and malnutrition. Namibia’s HIV prevalence is sixth highest in the world, standing at 13.3 percent. Namibia is ranked 127 out of 187 on the 2014 Human Development Index.



Food security in Namibia is characterized by extreme variability in levels of food production, large volumes of coarse grain imports, and disparity in household income levels. In 2013, 16 percent of the population was reported to be severely food insecure and 22 percent moderately food insecure (EFSA 2013).

Namibia’s food insecurity is mainly linked to structural poverty compounded by high HIV/AIDS prevalence rates and recurrent natural disasters. In 2014, 29 percent of the population were living below the poverty line, with the highest poverty levels concentrated in the northern part of the country and areas prone to natural disasters. Heavy reliance on food imports also makes Namibia susceptible to high food prices, which threatens vulnerable households’ access to food. Approximately 29 percent of children under age five are stunted.

Food assistance, remittances and social grants have become an important part of food insecure populations’ coping strategies and sometimes represent a significant proportion of income. Every year, the government’s drought aid scheme provides food assistance, which has become an income transfer for the most vulnerable segment of the population. As a strong democracy with a stable political environment, Namibia has been a favorable destination for refugees and asylum seekers. As conditions in neighboring countries have improved, most refugees have returned home, with only 3,000 now left in Namibia. Plans are underway to resettle these refugees in a third country or integrate them into the local community.