School feeding is an important food safety net in Namibia, where 330,000 learners receive a daily nutritious mid-morning meal. WFP supports the Namibian School Feeding Programme (NSFP) by providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) in areas of policy and strategic guidance; knowledge generation and management; systems development and strengthening; and capacity building.

WFP’s technical assistance to the school feeding programme has included working with MoEAC to develop various tools, including a school feeding manual, a monitoring and evaluation plan and a web-based information management system to improve programme efficiency and effectiveness. WFP has assisted the Ministry in undertaking studies and surveys to identify and address bottlenecks in the school feeding programme and to inform programme design and budget processes. The studies and surveys have generated benchmarks for measuring progress and programme results.

WFP and the Ministry also collaborate in training officials at the national and regional level to build management and implementation capacity for school feeding. In addition, WFP is supporting the Ministry to enhance partnerships with actors including the private sector in order to expand the school feeding resource base and support network in Namibia.

WFP and the MoEAC are jointly exploring the possibility of integrating smallholder farmers into the school feeding supply chain to diversify school meals, create jobs and promote economic development in the country. WFP is also assisting the Ministry with the development of a school feeding policy to mainstream the NSFP into national legal frameworks.

Under its partnership agreement with the Office of the Prime Minister, WFP provides technical assistance to improve capacity in Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) Monitoring and Analysis. WFP supports food and nutrition security monitoring assessments, and helps to strengthen systems for monitoring food and nutrition security at household level. This assists in developing situational analyses to inform response initiatives.

Given the recurrence of floods and droughts in Namibia, WFP also provides programme support to enhance the Government’s capacity to assess, plan and respond to emergency food needs. This assistance includes the development of FNS monitoring systems, and tools for food security data collection, analysis and reporting. To support sustainable implementation of food security activities and inculcate best practices in programming, WFP provides training to government officials and has also facilitated peer learning and knowledge sharing through south-south cooperation.

To this end, WFP’s collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister has achieved the launch of Namibia Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring Plan which aims at guiding current and future food and nutrition security monitoring activities in Namibia. These collaborative efforts are helping to enhance evidence-based planning and policy decision making and emergency responsiveness.

WFP has supported the Government in the urban vulnerability assessments through the development of data collection and analysis tools. WFP has also supported the ‘Namibia Zero Hunger Strategic Review’ government initiative, which resulted in the development of the Zero Hunger Road Map in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 2 (End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture). The Strategic Review provides a deeper analysis of the food security and nutrition situation in the country, identifies areas that require strengthening and provides recommendations that will promote a multi-sectoral approach and guide results-oriented actions.

**Technical assistance to strengthen the Namibian School Feeding Programme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Total Received (in USD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.2 m</td>
<td>700,000 (58%)</td>
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**Highlights**

- WFP participated in a scoping mission led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in collaboration with the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management to identify concrete areas of intervention and address shortcomings of existing capacities, gaps and needs related to disaster risk management.

- The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, with technical assistance from WFP, is in the process of upgrading the Namibian School Feeding Information System (NaSIS). The system is currently being uploaded and will be ready for use by the end of January 2017.
**Operational Updates**

- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) undertook a scoping mission to assess Namibia’s Disaster Risk Management Information System from 28 November to 02 December. WFP participated in the mission together with the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management.

- The mission, which is a follow up to the National Disaster Risk Initiative, served to strengthen Information management by mapping disaster risk management information systems being used at different institutions, identifying focal points and provide recommendations to address the gaps. This will be accompanied by a clear action plan to ensure effective implementation of the recommendations.

- The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, with technical support from WFP has finalized the upgrade of the Namibian School Feeding Information System (NaSIS). The improved system is equipped with new functionalities that will ensure consistent data entry, automatic generation of reports and ease of use. The improved version of NaSIS is scheduled to go live by the end of January 2017 and will be systematically decentralised to the school level, where school feeding focal points will be entering data directly into the system. This way, the system will be able to capture data on a real time basis hence contributing to timely report generation by the MoEAC.

- The Office of the Prime Minister, Directorate of Disaster Risk Management has completed preliminary findings of the Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring Bulletin report for October 2016. The bi-annual bulletin produced with WFP providing technical assistance analyses food security trends and vulnerability in the rural areas of Namibia. The findings from the assessment show that drought conditions continues to affect Namibia as the food insecure population still stands at 34 percent. This is due to poor seasonal rainfall which has led to crop failure, and lack of water for human consumption and livestock.

**Challenges**

- The El Niño induced drought has had negative impact on Namibia’s economic performance, particularly on the agricultural sector. This is linked to poor rain rainfall performance and subsequent delay of cropping activities.

- The Food Inflation in Namibia averaged 8 percent in 2016. This has impacted negatively on WFP’s capacity development initiatives as the Government tends to divert resources towards relief operations such as the Drought Relief programme to assist the most vulnerable people.

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**Country Background & Strategy**

Namibia is an upper middle income country with a population of 2.3 million people. On the UNDP Human Development Index, it is ranked 126 out of 188 countries (2015). An estimated 42.3 percent of the population is undernourished due to high rates of poverty at 18 percent, unemployment, 28 percent, HIV and AIDS (16.9 percent) and general household income disparities. Approximately, 70 percent of the population depends on agriculture for all or part of their livelihoods, while 40 percent are smallholder farmers growing grain crops mainly for their own consumption. Cropping conditions are generally poor and characterised by erratic rainfall and frequent floods and droughts. Namibia imports an average of 60 percent of its food requirements which leaves it vulnerable to external price increases. The poor are often unable to meet their food requirements and the Namibian Government, on average, provides food assistance to 300,000 people annually and nearly double or more in times of severe drought, as in 2015 and 2016.

WFP’s focus in Namibia has shifted from food assistance to providing technical assistance to the Government. The aim is to strengthen national capacities to end hunger by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of food safety net programmes, such as school feeding and relief operations, and to enhance the Government’s capacity to assess, plan and respond to food security needs.

WFP has been present in Namibia since 1990.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population: 2.3 million</th>
<th>2015 Human Development Index: 126 out of 188</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income Level: Upper Middle</td>
<td>Chronic malnutrition: 23.8% of children between 6-59</td>
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**Donors**

Government of Namibia  
Office of the United States Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), USAID

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