



WFP Namibia Country Brief May 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

As an upper-middle-income country, Namibia has a population of 2.4 million. The country has experienced several emergencies such as recurrent floods and drought, insect and worm invasion and the current emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic which had a profound impact on population's food security, health and nutrition. To this end, insufficient food production and reliance on poorly adapted rain-fed agriculture and external markets for food suggests that poor households are particularly less resilient to shocks and vulnerable to food price inflation.

Under Namibia Country Strategic Plan (2017–2023), WFP ensures adequate capacity strengthening to the Government, provides food assistance to vulnerable people affected by shock 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 small holder 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: **2.4 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **130 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Upper-middle Income**

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

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In Numbers

US\$ 5.8 m six-month (June – November 2021) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Food Assistance Programme: Vouchers

In partnership with the Government through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), WFP is piloting a food assistance programme using vouchers in Kunene and Ohangwena regions, targeting 2,700 beneficiaries. The programme will be launched in June focusing on food insecure households severely affected by Covid-19 and consecutive years of prolonged drought, including locust invasion in 2020. A retail assessment was finalized in the two regions to determine the capacity of retailers and the feasibility for using vouchers as a transfer modality, prices variation as well as availability of commodities on the market. The results were conclusively positive for the voucher programme in all dimensions.

Namibia Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP)

To diversify school meals, WFP is supporting the government through the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) to Pilot the HGSFP. A high-level inter-sectoral consultation meeting on HGSFP was held to orient senior government officials, developmental partners, and the academia on the HGSFP. This resulted in enhanced national buy-in, as well as an establishment of coordination mechanisms to support the implementation of the programme. In addition, a high-level consultation meeting on Global Coalition for school feeding was conducted with the aim to engage and invite the Government to join the Global Coalition. The Government agreed to join the rest of the countries on the coalition and is in the process of formalizing the agreement by signing a declaration of support to the coalition.

Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) study

In the last quarter of 2020, WFP embarked on a Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) study. The FNG study was designed to gain insights and develop strategies to address one of the direct causes of malnutrition. The preliminary results of the study were presented to the national technical taskforce. WFP has embarked on sensitizing high-level government officials including ministers to present these findings and get their buy in towards the implementation of the recommendations. The final report is expected to be finalized in July. Once in place, the final findings of the FNG will enable government to make informed policy decisions on the food security needs for vulnerable communities e.g. children under five years, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and the adolescent girl child.

Nutrition: School Menus for the HGSFP

The piloting of the HGSFP in the country is due to commence in June. The pilot will ensure that school children receive diversified nutritious school meals. WFP supported to develop nutritious cost-effective school menus for the HGSFP. These menus were adjusted to reflect geographical diversity and local preference, the menus integrated indigenous and nutritious local foods envisaged to make a difference in the lives of several vulnerable school children in the pilot regions.

Photo: WFP Country Director, Dr George Fedha, on a field visit at the Dobe Border Post about 54km from Tsumkwe for the inspection of integrated Community-based Livelihood Projects. WFP/ Nomhle Kangoouti

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017–2023)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
23.7 m	17.3 m	5.8 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.

Donors

2020-2021 Donors: Brazil, European Union, Germany, Japan, and United States of America, UNICEF, and USAID

Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)

WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), as part of capacity building for medical practitioners with the management of SAM Inpatient, held a practical content-oriented Trainer of Trainers (ToT) benefiting 17 participants from 4 regions. The workshop capacitated medical practitioners working in pediatric wards and outpatient departments to manage patients appropriately especially children under the age of 5 years experiencing SAM.

Integrated Community-based Livelihood Projects

Due to the rising trends in hunger and malnutrition in Namibia, there is an increasing urgency to address key drivers of food and nutrition insecurity. This situation calls for the need to create sustainable livelihoods opportunities and building resilience among vulnerable communities through the implementation of new solutions and strategies to transform food systems. The CO is supporting the Government through the implementation of integrated community-based projects to improve food and nutrition as well as linking small-holder farmers to sustainable markets. WFP in collaboration with several communities in the country. The initiative is aimed at transformations of rural areas through linkages to food systems and human capital. To date, the projects have been set up and are operational at four health centres, two communities and two schools. Plans are underway to scale up these projects and impact several vulnerable communities across the country.

Partnerships

- WFP in partnership with the Catholic Aids Action (CAA) activated its emergency response to enable nutritious meals through soup kitchens targeting women and children in communities that have migrated to urban areas due to drought in Kunene region.
- WFP facilitated meetings with local donors and partner organizations to confer the status of social protection programmes, climate change and nutrition projects implemented by the CO.
- The CO is in the process of developing stakeholders mapping and analysis to identify potential donors and partners that will support the country programmes going forward.

Assessments

WFP in coordination with the Government and UN agencies led the rapid assessment for Angolan migrants in Namibia's Omusati and Kunene region. Key findings indicate that Omusati the two regions are hosting 3,449 migrants from Angola and 800 internal migrants. Key recommendations include: the need for shelter assistance, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), food and nutrition, health services including sexual reproductive health services. The assessment findings will inform national responses to address migrants humanitarian needs.

A market assessment was conducted in Hardap, Kunene, Ohangwena and Zambezi regions to inform evidence-based adjustments to the HGSP pilot as a result of the impact of COVID-19 on food systems. The assessment revealed that 54.9% of respondents from all regions were negatively affected by COVID-19 regulations, ensuing into an impact on trading activities, influencing food price increases and the non-availability of essential or diversified food. The study concluded that the disruption of food supply chains provides a firm justification for a re- introduction of the school feeding programme while strengthening shock resilient household food production systems since access to adequate, safe, and nutritious food for most school children has been jeopardized due to the outbreak.