

## Biometric innovation for the Namibian Food Bank project

**13 July, Windhoek:** The World Food Programme (WFP) hosted a training on SCOPE from 9-13 July 2018 the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MPESW) staff members and the Namibian Food Bank Street committees.

SCOPE is a WFP information technology (IT) based digital assistance management information system used for registration of beneficiaries, digital distribution and transfer of food or cash assistance to the beneficiaries. Its biometric registration process ensures accuracy of tracking and accounting of food, vouchers or cash for target beneficiaries. The MPESW expressed interest to adopt this system to mainstream the management of the Namibia Food Bank project, having witnessed SCOPE in action in WFP Zimbabwe. This training was therefore a first step towards the adoption of the technology and its subsequent piloting by the MPESW.

Through SCOPE, WFP will be providing capacity building through innovative technology which is aimed at improved service delivery by the MPESW. This will be the first time that WFP transfers this system to the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN). If successful, the coverage will be increased geographically.

During the training, participants undertook a practical session in which they were taught how to use the SCOPE equipment, including how to capture fingerprints of beneficiaries with the biometric fingerprint devices, printing of beneficiary cards and how to use the system effectively. The system, once adopted, will bring efficiency in the management of the Food Bank programme for Namibia. It will help to ensure that Namibians have access to the food they need, in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, 'Zero Hunger'.



SCOPE trainees during the practical session. WFP