



WFP Namibia Country Brief

Highlights

- The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture developed a draft School Feeding policy with technical assistance from WFP. Various actors approved the draft policy during a two-day meeting in Windhoek in October.
- WFP alongside representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) participated in a Joint Rapid Assessment Mission organised by USAID to monitor the impact of the El-Nino induced drought in the Kunene Region.
- Among other findings, the assessment showed that some livestock farmers are migrating with their livestock to areas providing better grazing.

WFP Assistance

Technical assistance to strengthen the Namibian School Feeding Programme (June 2015 – May 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
	1.2 m	700,000 (58%)

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.

Strengthening Food & Nutrition Security Monitoring in Namibia (September 2014 – August 2016)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
	900,000	900,000 (100%)

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).

Operational Updates

Through the technical assistance of WFP, the Ministry of Education Arts and Culture (MoEAC) has developed the Namibian School Feeding draft policy aiming to strengthen the coordination and implementation management of the National School Feeding programme.

During a two-day meeting held in Windhoek on 24-25 October, various actors reviewed and approved the draft policy. Through this policy, the ministry is looking at possibilities of sourcing much of the food for the school meals from local producers, including smallholders, and adding other nutritious commodities to the meals. A shift to buying locally will stimulate production of a variety of foods needed to diversify the school meals. The policy also aims to enhance partnerships in order to create opportunities for longer-term benefits of cash and in-kind support, and technical assistance. These efforts are expected to boost the economy and act as a catalyst for further development of the school feeding programme.

The same meeting also reviewed the implementation of the School Feeding Roadmap, which was established in 2012. The Roadmap laid a foundation for subsequent studies and assessments aiming to enhance an evidence-based approach to implementing the programme. Based on the set targets, stakeholders identified activities still to be fully implemented and discussed challenges and solutions. Among other findings, the review showed that the ministry had managed to develop a school feeding policy; a total of 2,340 MoEAC staff members were trained on School Feeding Procedures and Standards while peer learning took place through study tours to the Global Child Nutrition Forum in Cape Verde and study visits to share best practices on how countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia have managed to link their school feeding programmes to local food production.

A Joint Rapid Assessment by USAID, WFP, FAO and the Office of the Prime Minister on the impact of the El Nino drought in the Kunene region showed the result of 53,000 people each receiving 12.5kg of maize meal and sometimes fish from the Government. To support food production through the dry-land scheme, the Ministry of Agriculture has subsidised tractor-powered ploughing services for farmers using both government and private tractors.

Challenges

As the effects of the drought take its toll in some regions, including Kunene, some livestock farmers are being forced to take tough measures, including migrating with their animals to regions with better pasture and selling their cattle to buy drought-resilient goats.

Widespread search for pasture is fuelling conflicts as host villagers fear this may cause overgrazing and leave their animals with nothing to eat.

The Joint Rapid Assessment findings also showed a rural to urban migration pattern which could contribute to the development of squatter settlements and a crime increase in urban areas.

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 187 countries (2015). An estimated 42.3 percent of the population is undernourished due to high rates of poverty at 26.9 percent, unemployment, 28 percent, HIV and AIDS (13.3 percent) and 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 2013 and 2015.

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.

Population: **2.3 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **126 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper Middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **24% of children between 6-59**

Donors

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

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