



## WFP Namibia Country Brief

## Highlights

- WFP is providing leadership to craft strategies on how the UNCT will support the Government in achieving its development priorities.
- WFP supported the Government through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) to produce the Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring report which analyses the vulnerability and livelihoods in rural areas.
- WFP is providing support to government through a secretariat established to organize a national conference and a workshop on disability.

## WFP Country Strategic Plan

Country Strategic Plan (July 2017–June 2022)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
	6.0 m	884,654 (15%)

WFP has shifted from operational support to technical assistance and capacity-strengthening with Government taking a leadership role and ownership of the programmes. The core of WFP's strategy in Namibia is to strengthen government capacities to assess, plan and respond to food security needs and promote the achievement of zero hunger.

WFP Namibia's country strategic plan consolidates WFP's role as a technical partner to the Government with a view to facilitating the development and transfer of knowledge and maintaining capacities to supplement government food security and nutrition programmes.

The changes WFP aims to contribute to deliver on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2 and 17 include strengthening the management of the national emergency relief safety net programmes to effectively meet the food and nutrition needs of vulnerable people throughout the year. Government assessment and analysis capacity for improved policy and programme formulation.

In Namibia, WFP will support work for the achievement of SDG targets 2.1 for food access and 17.9 for capacity strengthening through two strategic outcomes which include activities corresponding to government priorities. These strategic outcomes are as follows:

### Strategic outcome 1 (SO1)

Vulnerable people in Namibia are enabled to meet their food and nutrition needs all year round.

### Strategic Outcome 2 (SO2)

Government policy dialogue and programme design in Namibia are informed by enhanced evidence and

knowledge of hunger issues throughout the NDP5 period.

By providing technical support to the Government of Namibia, WFP will:

- provide demand-driven support for the enhancement of national systems and programmes;
- generate evidence to inform policy dialogue and reform and programme design and implementation;
- support coordination and advocacy;
- promote and facilitate South-South and triangular cooperation; and
- strengthen individual capacities through training and other modalities.

WFP will ensure that programme design for all strategic outcomes is nutrition-sensitive. It will adjust assessments and tools such as the food and nutrition security monitoring system to include nutrition information, and will advocate for dietary diversity and nutrient-dense foods in government food assistance programmes.

The ultimate objective of WFP's work in Namibia is to enable national institutions to absorb sufficient capacity to take over from WFP in sustainably ending hunger and improving nutrition for every woman, man, girl and boy in Namibia.

## Operational Updates

- The year 2018 brings new opportunities for the UN System in Namibia in its effort to support Namibia attain its development aspirations. The UN Country Team in Namibia is in the process of developing the next plan- UNPAF 2.0 - Partnership Framework (UNPAF 2019-2023) which will articulate how the UN system will support Namibia to achieve its development priorities as pronounced in its policy frameworks such as the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP 5), the Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Blue Print as well as the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP). The UNPAF will be aligned to the country's priorities and orient UN programming to the 2030 Agenda. WFP is a chair for the Thematic Working Groups on Economic Progression Pillar and that of the Environmental Pillar. Through these groups WFP is providing leadership to craft strategies on how the UN country team will support the Government in meeting targets related to the achievements of the two pillars at the national level.
- Despite the prospect of another drought, household food security was still satisfactory following improved agricultural production in the 2016/17 rainfall season, according to a report released in December 2017. The report, titled 'Agricultural Inputs and Household Food Security Situation Report', compiled by the Namibia Early Warning and Food Information Unit (NEWFIU), states that in major communal crop producing regions it was observed that most households were still dependent on the last season's food stocks. According to most households interviewed for the report, food stocks were still sufficient to sustain them until the next harvest in May. However, a few instances of food insecurity were reported, especially in areas that suffered the effects of poor rainfall, excessive rainfall and damage caused by last season's army worm invasion.
- WFP is providing support to government through a secretariat established to organize a National Conference and a workshop on Disability. This workshop will bring together all actors to reduce the progressive removal of existing barriers and obstacles to disability with due regard to its impact on lives and conditions of persons with disabilities. The conference and workshop will propose key strategies that will drive disability mainstreaming in Namibia.

## Challenges

- Resource mobilisation for the implementation of the WFP Namibia Country Strategic Plan is a challenge due to financial constraints experienced by the Government.

## 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 125 out of 188 countries (2016). An estimated 42.3 percent of the population is undernourished due to high rates of poverty at 18 percent, unemployment, 34 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.

Population: **2.3 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper Middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **23.8% of children between 6-59**

## Donors

Government of Namibia

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