



WFP Namibia Country Brief

Highlights

- The Government of Namibia releases the second issue of the Zero Hunger Newsletter raising awareness of activities being implemented by various actors that are contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.
- A total of 37 percent of the population in 12 regions, excluding //Karas and Khomas, are spending 65 percent of their income on food leaving very little to spend on other household needs.
- Climate experts project the likelihood of flooding in some areas, including Zambezi and Kavango.

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.

Credit: WFP/Victoria Kamara

Caption: Some learners at Immanuel Ruiters Primary School in Walvis Bay enjoy their mid-morning meal of rice and vegetables provided by a local businessman in the Erongo Region.

Main Photo

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 the sustainable implementation of food security activities and instil 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 SDG 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.



January 2017

Operational Updates

- The second issue of the Zero Hunger Newsletter was made public on 30 January 2017. The production of the bi-annual Newsletter was coordinated by the National Planning Commission (NPC) with technical assistance from WFP. The Newsletter provides a platform for various actors supporting the Government of Namibia to achieve Zero Hunger to showcase their activities. In 2017, WFP will strengthen its advocacy support to the Government aimed to highlight programmes contributing to the implementation of the five-year Zero Hunger Road Map and to encourage participation by various actors in programmes seeking to end hunger and malnutrition in Namibia.
- WFP provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture in developing the Namibian School Feeding Training Manual Trainers' Guide. This guide will be crucial in providing training strategies to prospective trainers working in the National School Feeding Programme both at regional and circuit level. The guide is designed to enhance the training capacity of Ministry of Education staff and to ensure increased regularity of training, consistency of messaging and also increase efficiency and effectiveness by which trainings are undertaken.

Challenges

- Climate experts have projected high chances of heavy rains that could lead to flooding in some areas, including Zambezi, Kavango East and West. If flooding occurs, this will have adverse impact on food production.
- Namibia is battling an outbreak of the African Armyworm (*Spodoptera exempta*) with cases reported in the regions of Omusati, Kavango East and West, Ohangwena and Zambezi. Outbreaks have also been reported in some neighbouring countries including Zambia and South Africa. The Government has instituted control measures to ensure that the pest does not cause extensive crop damage and worsen the current food insecurity situation.
- The proportion of people severely food insecure increased from 4 percent to 6 percent between March and October 2016 in 12 of the 14 regions, excluding //Karas and Khomas (Namibia Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring Report, FNSM, October 2016).
- The FNSM Report also showed that a total 37 percent of the population are spending more than 65 percent of their income on food leaving very little to spend on other household needs. In addition, very poor minimum dietary diversity was observed in children under the age of two years. About 77 percent received one or two of the four minimum recommended food groups while only 1.8 percent met the minimum dietary diversity threshold.

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. 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

Contact info: Tsitsi Matope tsitsi.mutungamiri@wfp.org

Country Representative: Jennifer Bitonde

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/namibia