



WFP Namibia Country Brief

Highlights

- The UN Country Team in Namibia successfully undertook a school feeding field visit which aimed to strengthen knowledge on the Namibian School Feeding Programme and provide insight on WFP’s partnership with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture.
- WFP participated in a United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) roll-out workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. The objective of the workshop was to provide an overview of key UN activities and functions at country level, in support of national policies, priorities and programmes.

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.

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 help 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). 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.

Credit: WFP/Victoria Kamara
Caption: 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



February 2017

Operational Updates

- The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) organized a school feeding field visit to Immanuel Ruiters Primary School in the Erongo Region as part of the UN Country Team's retreat activities. The school visit on 07 February 2017 was intended to share experiences and gain knowledge about the Namibian School Feeding Programme, good practices and areas of complementarity. During the visit, MoEAC acknowledged the impact in the lives of 330,000 school learners and how the programme is contributing towards addressing hunger, the impact of HIV/AIDS, and addressing gender inequality. The school visit highlighted the continuous technical support that WFP provides to the national government for ownership and leadership in furthering the development and diversification of the School Feeding Programme.
- WFP has commissioned an external review of WFP's technical assistance to the Office of the Prime Minister under the project "Technical Assistance to Food Assistance Programmes in Namibia" and "Improving Food Security Monitoring in Namibia." The review aims to evaluate the programme, highlighting areas of success and identify challenges and gaps. The review was commissioned to strengthen government's capacity to design and implement effective food based programmes as well as manage the supply chain effectively.
- WFP Namibia participated in the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) roll-out workshop organised by the United Nations Regional Development Group for Eastern and Southern Africa in collaboration with the Development Operations Coordination Office. The workshop was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 20 – 22 February 2017, for country offices in Southern and Eastern Africa that are developing their new UNDAF. The workshop aimed to provide guidance and support, drawing on national strategic planning processes as well as monitoring and evaluation systems to track progress towards the SDGs; and highlight corrective actions required in the context of development cooperation in countries where UNDAFs are aligned to national development priorities/plans.

Challenges

- The impact of the drought continues to affect WFP's implementation of programmes as government focuses on drought relief programme to reach the most vulnerable people.

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: Obert Mutumba obert.mutumba@wfp.org

Country Representative: Jennifer Bitonde

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