

WFP supports school feeding becoming home-grown

Namibia: The World Food Programme (WFP) in Namibia strives to ensure that food security and nutrition is a priority. By providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Art and Culture (MoEAC) on the Namibian School Feeding Programme – over 360,000 learners have access to at least one nutritious meal at school during each school day. This meal, that comprises of a nutritious fortified maize blend meal, is the driving force that ensures learners have enough energy to make it through the day and ensures improved concentration amongst learners.

It is against this backdrop that WFP provided technical assistance to the MoEAC on preparing and finalising the Namibian School Feeding Policy, which was submitted to the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) together with its implementation plan. This policy promotes advocacy on food security and nutrition and ensures measures are put in place that can contribute to improved equitable access, quality learning and education for all children in Namibia. Once ratified by cabinet, the policy will streamline intersectoral coordination and strengthen multi-sectoral partnerships hence enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness with which the MoEAC manages school feeding.

The School Feeding Policy also makes provision for small-scale farmers to be linked to schools, by providing a market for their products. As small-scale farmers often fall victim to food insecurity, especially during droughts and floods, most of their food goes to waste including approximately 40% of perishable foods (Namibia Zero Hunger Strategy, 2017) due to a lack of reliable markets and the use of inappropriate post-harvest technologies.

The MoEAC is developing a Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP), with technical support from WFP. This project will provide smallholder farmers with a sustainable structured market (schools) thereby stimulating food production. The HGSFP aims to help smallholder farmers become more self-sufficient, increase household income while enriching school meals with nutritious fresh foods. The HGSFP will complement the ongoing School Feeding Programme, which is fully funded and managed by the MoEAC and aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 'Zero Hunger' and SDG 4 'Quality Education'.



Hillside Primary School learner enjoying maize blend. She is one of over 360,000 learners benefiting from the Namibian School Feeding Programme across the country. WFP