



WFP Namibia Country Brief

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	103, 6113 (82 %)

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. These studies and surveys have generated benchmarks for measuring progress and programme results.

WFP and the MoEAC 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 frameworks.

Credit: WFP/Victoria Kamara
Caption: Sharing is caring. WFP staff handing over food to a school learner at the Otjomuise Primary School.

Highlights

- Namibia UN Country Team celebrated Nelson Mandela Day. As of the activities, WFP Namibia visited Otjomuise Primary School in the informal settlement of Windhoek and handed over food items to children in pre-primary.
- As part of mainstreaming gender through programmes, WFP staff participated in a two-day training workshop on Mainstreaming Gender into United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF). The workshop was aimed at equipping UN Staff including WFP and government partners with skills and knowledge required to integrate gender throughout the UNPAF development process.

Under its partnership agreement with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), WFP provides technical assistance to improve capacity in Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) Monitoring and Analysis. WFP also helps strengthen systems for monitoring food and nutrition security at the 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 inculcate best practices in programming, WFP provides training to government officials and has facilitated peer learning and knowledge sharing through South-South Cooperation.

To this end, WFP's collaboration with OPM has resulted in the launch of Namibia's 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 also supported the 'Namibia Zero Hunger Strategic Review,' which was led by the government and resulted in the development of the Zero Hunger Road Map in line with 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.

Operational Updates

- Every year on International Nelson Mandela Day (18 July), people around the world are asked to dedicate 67 minutes of their time towards a global movement for good, representing the 67 years Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity. This year, WFP jointly commemorated Nelson Mandela Day with other UN Agencies. WFP Namibia staff donated food to a school and clothing items to an orphanage. This initiative contributes to national efforts that are aimed at ending hunger and poverty in Namibia.
- Gender equality and equity as well as women's empowerment are essential to achieve food and nutrition security in Namibia. The UN Development System plays a critical role in ensuring that a gender perspective is properly reflected in national development processes and has the responsibility to address gender equality through operational activities for development in Namibia. In an effort to strengthen capacity and promote gender equality through its programmes, WFP participated in a two-day training workshop in Windhoek from 12 – 13 July 2017. The training focused on strengthening the capacity of UN staff and government partners to acquire gender analysis skills and create a pool of gender advocates in gender mainstreaming within the UN programmes, guided by the United Nations Partnership Framework. Moreover, WFP has been committed to mainstreaming gender throughout its work in Namibia. Through the country office Gender Action Plan, WFP will build the capacity of women and men through training and by strengthening food assessment reporting systems for the generation of gender disaggregated data. Furthermore, the Gender Action Plan seeks to provide a deeper analysis for gender sensitive programming for all national food and nutrition security programmes.
- As part of advocacy for zero hunger in Namibia, WFP in collaboration with the National Planning Commission, the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare and other line ministries facilitated and provided coordination support for the production of the Zero hunger Newsletter Volume two, Issue one of 2017. This bi-annual publication showcases efforts that the Government of Namibia and partners are making towards achieving zero hunger in Namibia. Since its inception in 2016, the newsletter has been a key resource in understanding different ministry activities that are linked to the Government goals of eradicating poverty, ending hunger and achieving food and nutrition security.

Challenges

- Financial constraints for the implementation of WFP CSP planned activities continue to be a challenge due to the economic down turn that the country is facing. However, resource mobilisation with both the private sectors and Government is ongoing to generate funding for activities.

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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