



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	1 m (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, as well as capacity building.

WFP's technical assistance to the school feeding programme includes working with the 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 the 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.

Highlight

- Key actors in the private and public sectors, including WFP, held a workshop in Windhoek on 16 November 2017. The was to review and validate the draft public-private partnership strategy and get consensus on the roles the public and private sectors will play to foster a stronger partnership on school feeding.
- Representatives from WFP and the Government participated in a seminar on shock responsive social protection held in Peru from 30 – 31 October 2017.
- The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Namibia visited a school benefiting from the Namibian School Feeding Programme.

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, prevent, 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 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 to guide 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 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

- The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture in Partnership with WFP held a National Stakeholders Workshop on Public Private Partnership for the Namibia School Feeding Programme on 16 November 2017. The aim of the workshop was to review and validate the draft PPP strategy for school feeding as well as discuss and gain consensus on the different roles the private and public sector will play to foster a stronger partnership on school feeding. The workshop was attended by high-level government officials from different Ministries and members of the private sector. The workshop was held after extensive stakeholder consultations at regional and national level on strengthening the engagement between MOEAC and the private sector in Namibia. These consultations allowed the Ministry to introduce the concept of Public Private Sector support to the school feeding programme.
- H.E. Zhang Yiming, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Namibia, visited Otjomuise Primary School in Windhoek, one of the schools benefiting from the Namibia School Feeding Programme. The school visit, which took place on 22 November 2017, was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. The aim of the visit was to assess the needs of the school feeding programme and look at the possibility of the Chinese Embassy supporting the programme.
- One staff from WFP Namibia together with a government official from the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare participated in a two-day shock responsive social protection regional seminar for Latin America and the Caribbean in Peru, Lima, organised by WFP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, which took place on 30 - 31 October 2017. The purpose of the seminar was to share experiences on how governments have and can make their social protection to be more shock responsive given an increase in disasters and climate change. Being prone to floods and droughts, Namibia can learn from the Latin American experience while sharing their own.

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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