



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	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: Learners at Hillside Primary School in Goreangab Dam, Katutura Windhoek eating their mid-morning meal of fortified maize blend porridge.

Main Photo

Highlights

- On 3 March 2017, Namibia celebrated Africa Day for School Feeding. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture in partnership with WFP and sponsors from the private sector commemorated the day at Hillside Primary School in Goreangab Dam, Windhoek. This day was celebrated to raise awareness of school feeding as an important food safety net for protection against hunger and investment in the education of children.
- WFP Namibia undertook a mission on data analysis and visualization in March. The mission aimed to train WFP staff in country offices on the use of android based open data kit (ODK) for data collection, processing, analysis and reporting.

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.



March 2017

Operational Updates

- The second edition of the Africa Day for School Feeding was observed in Namibia jointly by the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, WFP and other key partners that support the Namibian School Feeding Programme. The celebration took place at Hillside Primary School in Goreangab Dam, Windhoek on the 3rd of March 2017. The theme for this year celebration was "Home Grown School Feeding: Investment in Youth and Children to Harnessing the Demographic Dividend".
- Africa Day for School Feeding was instituted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government during the 26th AU Summit, in recognition of the immense value of home grown school feeding to enhancing retention and performance of children in school, and in boosting income generation and entrepreneurship in local communities. In the fight against hunger, school feeding is a sound investment that will secure the future of the next generation. Hence the need for government to foster partnership with and other stakeholders for the sustainability of the school feeding programme. WFP as a partner highlights the importance of systems' and capacity strengthening as key to ensuring that the programme effectively responds to the learners' needs and also contributes to Zero Hunger.
- WFP supported a refresher training in Open Data Kit (ODK) and ONA for country office staff and government counterparts in Ondangwa. In Namibia, ODK has been used by the country office and relevant government counterparts for data collection and analysis. The training was aimed at providing the basic programming principles of ODK in terms of development of data collection tools and the migration of the collected data into ONA. This training came at an opportune time when the Office of the Prime Minister was in the process of data collection for the March 2017 Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring and Reporting.

Challenges

- Emergency activities such as the outbreak of army worm, flooding in the Northern Region of Namibia and other priorities hampering government ability to continue with the implementation of planned 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 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

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