



Highlights

- An external review on WFP’s technical assistance on food security to the Government has been finalized. The review analysed the efficiency and effectiveness of WFP technical assistance to food based programmes in areas such as capacity strengthening, disaster risk reduction and resilience building as well as data collection and management.
- WFP Namibia participated in a three day training workshop on Southern Africa’s Regional Food Security. The workshop aimed to train WFP senior managers and programme leaders to facilitate dialogue with experts in specific areas of capacity development to enhance food and nutrition security, reduce poverty and promote development and growth.



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 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 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 (OPM), 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 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 also facilitated peer learning and knowledge sharing through south-south cooperation.

To this end, WFP’s collaboration with OPM has achieved 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 enhance evidence-based planning and policy decision-making and emergency response capacity.

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.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Victoria Kamara
Caption: School learners in Havana Primary School having their mid-morning meal of porridge and soup that is provided by the Ministry of Education and some individual sponsors.



May 2017

Operational Updates

- Two staff members from WFP Namibia country attended a workshop on Southern Africa's Regional Food Security from 10 -12 May 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The workshop provided training in programme management, including selecting the appropriate programme, designing and implementing key features and following up with appropriate assessment, monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure the success of the programme. Moreover the workshop explored the role of education in enhancing food security and models of social protection. It reinforced the capacity of participants to interact with technical advisors and experts who work with Government and resource partners in the implementation of social protection programmes. The workshop helped to build capacity for WFP staff to advocate for governments to implement food and nutrition social protection strategies.
- WFP has undertaken an external review of its technical assistance on food security to the Office of the Prime Minister. The review evaluated programme performance and identified existing successes and challenges of the Government's measures to address hunger resulting from disasters. These findings provide opportunities for WFP Namibia to refine technical support to strengthen the Government's capacity to design and implement effective food based programmes as well as manage the supply chain of food assistance programmes.
- In line with the WFP Corporate Partnership Strategy, WFP Namibia participated in a partnership meeting, 8-12 May, in Johannesburg, South Africa. The meeting aimed to map resource partner support to enhance mobilization of resources for the Country Strategic Plan. The meeting furthermore provided tools and strategies to guide country offices in developing their partnership plans and messaging, including strategies and guidelines to promote private sector partnerships.
- In an effort to popularise the new Country Strategic Plan, WFP engaged with the Government of Namibia, NGOs, the private sector, the European Union and other UN agencies to outline the new orientation and seek views on food and nutrition related issues as well as explore partnership opportunities to strengthen collective efforts in supporting the Government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 2 and 17.

Challenges

- Resource mobilisation for the implementation of the WFP Namibia Country Strategic Plan is a challenge due to financial constraints experienced by the Government.

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 at 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

Contact info: Obert Mutumba obert.mutumba@wfp.org

Country Representative: Jennifer Bitonde

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