Middle income countries (MICs) today are home to more than half of the world’s 805 million hungry despite their increased economic resources and government capacity to provide social safety net programmes for those at risk of food insecurity.

Eliminating hunger requires the commitment of national governments, the international community, private sector, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to work in partnership to address hunger.

The Zero Hunger Challenge launched by the UN Secretary General at the Rio+20 event and Goal 2 of the emerging Sustainable Development Goals provide stakeholders with an opportunity to turn the vision of zero hunger into a reality.

Namibia is party to the African Union’s Malabo Declaration in which African Heads of State committed to ending hunger in Africa by 2025. This ambitious goal requires investments in Agriculture, social protection and other strategies that aim to reduce inequality, improve human capital and promote better nutrition and health outcomes.

The WFP recognises that eliminating hunger in MICs will require a new approach. WFP’s strategic shift from direct programme delivery to provision of technical assistance in Namibia is informed by this reality.

Through its years of accumulated knowledge and technical expertise in food and nutrition security analysis and programming, WFP is able to support national efforts to eliminate hunger.
Partnership with the Government of Namibia:

> WFP’s partnership with government is aimed at strengthening the national and regional capacities of the government to assess, plan and respond to food security needs. To this end, WFP’s technical assistance involves refining food security analysis and monitoring tools/systems, and strengthening the evidence base on food and nutrition security in the country. This evidence base serves to inform policy, programme design and implementation of national food-based programmes. Support is also provided in facilitating peer learning through south-south cooperation, capacity building, and strategic guidance on food security and food assistance interventions, all aimed to support government efforts to end hunger by 2025.

UN collaboration on Food Security:

> WFP works in partnership with other United Nation’s organizations through the United Nations Development Partnership Framework (UNPAF). WFP, UNICEF and WHO are members of the Namibian Alliance for Improved Nutrition (NAFIN) and support the government in implementing the country’s Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Implementation Plan (2013-2016) in the areas of food and nutrition security. WFP collaborates with other UN agencies to integrate nutrition analysis into the Food Security Monitoring System of the Namibian Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NamVAC).

Evidence shows that some countries have made progress to eliminate hunger. Brazil has reduced hunger by almost two thirds while China and Indonesia have reduced hunger by more than half. These good practices demonstrate that eliminating hunger is possible if the right policies and strategies to improve food security and nutrition are implemented.

Leveraging private sector involvement in food security programmes:

> WFP supports government to establish private sector partnerships such as initiatives that harness complementary local resources for food security programmes. WFP supports efforts to enhance the capacity of government service providers in school feeding service delivery to ensure the smooth functioning of the programme.

Supporting south-south cooperation:

> WFP will continue to work in partnership with its global network of partners to share lessons and develop workable anti-hunger solutions with Namibia through south-south cooperation. Peer learning will continue to be facilitated to exchange ideas and knowledge with countries that have made progress in addressing food and nutrition insecurity.