The Namibian School Feeding Programme (NSFP) is one of the national food-based safety nets implemented by the government to promote equitable participation in education for all children in Namibia. It also aims to contribute to improved learner attendance, retention and performance in addition to improving their health and nutrition.

The programme supports more than 320,000 learners (approximately 80% of the total enrolled in Namibia) in selected pre-primary and primary schools across the country. It is linked to local food purchases, which boosts local economies and contributes to job creation throughout the school feeding supply chain. Managing a programme of this magnitude efficiently requires considerable resources, a steady flow of funds and strong governance and accountability in programme management and implementation. WFP provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the Namibian School Feeding Programme in order to improve its performance and maximise its effectiveness in reaching the programme’s objectives.
Setting up a comprehensive M&E system to help programme managers responsible for the implementation of the NSFP to assess the consistency and effectiveness of programme operation relative to its design. The M&E system provides managers with data that tracks daily operations and ensures that everything is running according to plan. This data also tracks the quality of services delivered, which enables managers to determine if activities need adjustment.

Establishing baseline data on school feeding to identify/monitor changes in output at regular intervals during programme implementation and to promote accountability among programme implementers. The evaluation system will focus on programme outcomes and its impact on learners.

Establishing a web-based information management system to capture/store data on beneficiaries, status of schools facilities and items, food utilisation, community participation and contribution, and other indicators. Managers use this information to generate reports, which allows them to refine and optimise the school feeding approach in order to better deliver the programme to beneficiaries.

Developing M&E tools to facilitate data collection and reporting. A set of tools including reporting formats, a baseline questionnaire, beneficiary registers, delivery notes and monitoring checklists have been developed and introduced in all schools benefiting from the school feeding programme.

Establishing an M&E Plan to guide the implementation of school feeding M&E activities in the country. Using a results-based approach, the plan articulates the programme’s desired outputs and outcomes as well as the inputs and activities required to achieve such results. The roles and responsibilities of programme managers at all levels are well defined and guidelines for programme evaluation are provided in the plan. To further strengthen and sustain monitoring of programme results, WFP works with the Ministry of Education, Art and Culture to increase staff capacity to monitor and provide regular information on the programme’s performance. This capacity is built through training and coaching and by facilitating peer-learning and knowledge sharing with other countries implementing a similar programme. The Namibian School Feeding Programme M&E system has become a cornerstone for accountability, management and policy decisions that bring about positive adjustments in the design and implementation of the feeding programme.