

## COUNTRY STRATEGY

Since 2012, WFP's focus in Namibia has shifted from food assistance to providing technical assistance to the Government to strengthen national capacities to end hunger. Specifically, WFP's technical assistance aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of existing national food based safety net programmes, such as a school feeding programme and relief operations, and to enhance the capacity of government to assess, plan and respond to food security needs.

WFP has been present in Namibia since 1990.



As yet another drought grips this arid country, the Namibian Government's food assistance is a lifeline for 580,000 affected people. Photo © WFP

## OPERATIONS

	Project Duration	Planned number of people	Total requirement (in USD)	Total received (in USD)	Total Funded (%)	6 Months Net Funding Requirement (in USD)*	Top 5 Donors
Technical assistance to strengthen the Namibian School Feeding Programme	2012-2018	320,000	2,028,674	1,163,112	57%	n/a	Ministry of Education/ Government of Namibia
Strengthening Food & Nutrition Security Monitoring in Namibia	2012-2017	N/A	1,686,360	900,000	53%	n/a	USAID/OFDA

\*January – June 2016

**Summary of WFP Assistance:** WFP provides technical assistance to the Government in two priority areas. The first is strengthening the Namibian School Feeding Programme (NSFP), which is part of the country's social safety nets. WFP's technical assistance in this context focuses on i) Knowledge generation and management; ii) Strengthening and developing systems for impact monitoring; iii) Programme support and capacity building; and iv) Provision of policy and strategy advice on hunger related issues.

The second priority area is to strengthen government capacity to assess, plan and respond to emergency food needs resulting from natural disasters and other shocks by providing technical assistance in the areas of i) Food Security Monitoring and Analysis; ii) Systems Strengthening; iii) Capacity Building and iv) Programme Support.

WFP supports the Government's priorities to eradicate poverty and hunger; these are consistent with the Zero Hunger Challenge and Sustainable Development Goal 2 – to "end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture." WFP's assistance is in line with the UN Partnership Framework for 2014-2018, which defines the role of the UN system in Namibia.

## OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

ACHIEVEMENTS	ISSUES/CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WFP provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture with data analysis and drafting of school feeding implementation reports for the second and third academic terms. The reports assist the Ministry in identifying and responding to operational gaps and inform NSFP annual planning and budgeting.</li> <li>The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, supported by WFP, concluded its countrywide training of role players in the NSFP to improve their knowledge of their responsibilities in the NSFP and to build capacity in the use of the Namibia School Feeding Programme Information System. The NSFP provides a daily hot mid-morning meal to more than 320,000 learners and is an important part of Namibia's social safety nets. WFP's technical assistance to the Ministry is aimed at strengthening the NSFP through capacity building and programme implementation, knowledge generation and management and enhanced monitoring and evaluation.</li> <li>The second bi-annual Namibia Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring Bulletin was released and shared with relevant stakeholders in November. Compiled by the Office of the Prime Minister with technical assistance from WFP, the bulletins update the Government and other stakeholders on the food and nutrition security status in the country and enable timely response adjustments in government responses to prevent hunger.</li> <li>The research phase of the Zero Hunger Strategic Review (ZHSR) being undertaken by the Government with support from WFP was completed in October. The preliminary findings and recommendations of the research team were shared with stakeholders in November and the final report is expected in February 2016. The ZHSR is expected to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the prevailing Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) situation, to recommend actions to address gaps in the response by government and its partners and to accelerate progress towards ending hunger in Namibia.</li> <li>WFP supported the Office of the Prime Minister and the City of Windhoek in planning the implementation of urban vulnerability assessments. Two pilot assessments in the capital city, Windhoek, and the town of Rundu in north-eastern Namibia will be carried out in early 2016 under the SADC Urban Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis programme. The assessments are the first of its kind in Namibia and will support evidence-based planning and decision-making by the Government and its partners on food and nutrition security in urban settings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government resource constraints continue to impede progress in implementing food diversification in the Namibian School Feeding Programme.</li> <li>There is a need to expand Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring activities to the remaining eight of Namibia's 14 regions, from the current six regions. This would strengthen the knowledge base on food security and nutrition in the country, enhance the availability of accurate food and nutrition security information, improve the information base for national strategic planning and policy formulation and strengthen early warning systems. The desired expansion is constrained by limited government resources.</li> </ul>

## PARTNERSHIPS

WFP has an agreement with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to provide technical support to the Namibian School Feeding Programme. WFP also has a strategic partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister to support the Government in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the emergency food assistance programme. UNICEF and the Ministry of Health and Social Services complement WFP's efforts to support food and nutrition security monitoring and analysis. WFP, together with UNICEF and WHO, are active members of the Namibian Alliance for Improved Nutrition (NAFIN), the multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder platform that meets quarterly to advance the nutrition agenda. WFP has also supported NAFIN in the development of the SUN Multi-Sectoral Country Nutrition Implementation Plan (2013-2016).

## COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Since independence in 1990, Namibia has enjoyed relative stability and strong economic growth at an average of 4.8 percent between 1990 and 2014, and is categorised as an upper middle income country. This growth, however, has not translated into reduced poverty or equitable income distribution as Namibia ranks 127 out of 187 countries according to the 2014 Human Development Index. Despite significant reductions between 1990 and 2014, national prevalence rates for key drivers of food insecurity remain high: poverty stands at 26.9 percent (down from 29 percent in 2013) (Poverty and Deprivation in Namibia 2015), unemployment at 28.1 percent (Labour Survey 2014), and HIV/AIDS at 16 percent (Namibia Aids Response Progress Report 2015). The 2014 Global Hunger Index ranks Namibia at 51 out of 120 countries assessed, with an index score of 16.9 still indicating a "serious food problem" despite improving from a score of 21 in 1995.

In 2013, 16 percent of the population was reported as severely food insecure and 22 percent moderately food insecure (EFSA 2013). Heavy reliance on food imports makes Namibia susceptible to high food prices, which increases pressure on vulnerable households' food security. Low income earners struggle to meet their minimum daily food intake requirements, as reflected in the fact that 42.3 percent of the population are undernourished (The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015) and 24 percent of children under age five are stunted (Demographic and Health Survey 2013). Government food assistance, part of its drought aid schemes, has become an important part of people's coping strategies. During the drought in 2013, more than 700,000 people received government food aid while 578,480 affected people have been identified as in need of food aid as a result of the current drought (Namibia Rural Food Security and Livelihood Vulnerability Assessment Report 2015/2016).

