

Republic of Namibia

Office of the Prime Minister

**Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring
in Namibia**

2015 - 2017

Background

1. Namibia, like many other countries in Southern Africa has not been immune to the negative impacts of recurrent natural disasters such as floods and droughts on the livelihoods of its vulnerable communities. Such disasters have over the years increased the communities risk to food insecurity, eroded their livelihood coping capacities and significantly reduced their resilience.
2. Following another drought episode in 2012/2013 agricultural season, the Government and its partners undertook an Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) which revealed that a total of 330,925 Namibians were severely food insecure and another 447,577 were moderately food insecure. This prompted the government to declare an emergency and intervene with food and non-food assistance to the affected communities. The EFSA also recommended that the Namibian Government establish a Food Security Monitoring System as a medium-to long term measure to enable the government to monitor food security trends and alert decision makers before the situation worsens.
3. Currently a number of monitoring systems exist within various government ministries, however there is no synergy among the various systems and as a result most of the information gathered is not properly analyzed and presented in a holistic manner to inform decisions. Hence there is a need to establish a food security monitoring/surveillance system that will allow the Namibian Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NamVAC) to track changes in the food and nutrition status of vulnerable populations and generate appropriate information that will influence decision making and policy formulation. This recommendation is in line with the Cabinet Decision Number 7th/07.05.13/001, which approved the establishment of a food security monitoring system in Namibia in order to enhance early warning and preparedness and response measures to natural disasters.
4. Since 2011, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) has been working closely with the World Food Programme (WFP) to enhance national capacity to assess, plan and respond to food needs resulting from natural disasters and other shocks. In September 2012, OPM and WFP signed a partnership agreement to collaborate in the following areas (i) capacity building in logistics and emergency food security assessment; (ii) Information generation and management; (iii) food assistance programming and food distribution monitoring and (iv) strengthening systems for food tracking and information management. Since 2011, WFP has mobilized approximately US\$1.03 million from the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to provide technical assistance to the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management in food security analysis, food assistance programme support and logistics until 2016.
5. The needs for the establishments of a functional food security monitoring system in Namibia however are greater and requires more resources to be identified in order to supplement WFP funding. For instance, with the limited resources, OPM and WFP has managed to roll out periodic food security monitoring in various sentinel sites in 5 regions only. In order to keep abreast of the food security situation in the whole country, more sentinel sites need to be established, equipped with monitoring tools, trained and capacitated to lead and undertake food security monitoring at regional level.

6. WFP has a full-fledged Regional Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) unit that works closely with the Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee (RVAC) to strengthen the capacity of national VACs (NVACs) in food security and vulnerability assessments and monitoring. WFP has provided training opportunities to NVACs including NamVAC in new methodologies and has provided a platform for countries in Southern Africa to share lessons. Due to the classification of Namibia as an upper Middle Income Country (MIC), WFP has secured limited funding to support food security activities in Namibia. However WFP's long standing experience in food security analysis and mapping, its wide network of partners and access to food security experts as well as its well-developed VAM tools and systems could help Namibia to improve its food security monitoring capacities.
7. Since the establishment of a strategic partnership with WFP in 2012, OPM has spent more than US\$108,000 on capacity building and food security assessment. This amount complemented resources brought in through WFP. OPM is currently seeking a total of US\$ 1,686,360 from government and donor sources to continue supporting the establishment of a sustainable food security monitoring system in Namibia, and to cover funding gaps for WFP's technical support to the government over a period of three years starting January 2015.

Project Rationale

8. Recent natural disasters (floods and drought) in Namibia have exposed wide gaps in availability of information on household food security situation which is needed to target emergency interventions to the most vulnerable populations. Tracking the impact of these events on livelihoods has also been difficult. While a number of monitoring systems currently exist within various government ministries, the information generated from these systems is not harmonized and properly analyzed to inform response decisions. Food Security and Crop Assessments carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture twice per year collect information on food availability. However, gaps remain in understanding food access and food utilization at household level. In addition, NamVAC which is mandated to coordinate food security and vulnerability assessment activities/information has limited technical capacity to effectively collect, analyze and report on food security information in a systematic manner.
9. The above challenges clearly demonstrate the need for improved food security monitoring to provide real-time information for evidence-based decision-making. The need to forecast the onset and extent of seasonal food insecurity and appropriate response options and anticipate implications of different transfer modalities on markets cannot be overemphasized. Strengthening the technical capacity of NamVAC to effectively coordinate existing systems, analyze data and generate information products useful for early detection and warning for timely decision making would make remarkable improvement in Namibia's emergency response programmes.

Project Objectives

10. The main objective of this initiative is to:-

- a. Undertake a comprehensive review of food and nutrition situation in the country in order to understanding existing food and nutrition security related strategies in the country, identify any gaps present in the national response and provide potential measures in priority areas to accelerate progress towards achieving food security and improved nutrition in Namibia.
- b. Establish an functional food security monitoring system in Namibia that will allow the Government of Namibia to:
 - i. Generate timely, accurate and valuable information on key food security and nutrition indicators in the country.
 - ii. Determine the effects of shocks/natural disasters on vulnerable population groups,
 - iii. Monitor the appropriateness and timeliness of the response options and transfer modalities and their impact on markets, food security and nutrition at household and individual levels.
 - iv. Adopt appropriate geographic and beneficiary targeting mechanisms and capture the changing seasonal context to be addressed by flexible programme planning.

Project Implementation Arrangements

11. The overall coordination of the project lies with OPM which is the main government institution responsible for coordinating vulnerability assessments in the country. The Namibian Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NamVAC) Secretariat within DDRM will be technically supported by WFP and the Food Security Monitoring Task team, which is a multi-sectoral team that was established in 2013 to spear head and oversee the implementation of the food security monitoring activities. The technical task team currently comprises of the following institutions:
 - Office of the Prime Minister
 - Ministry of Agriculture, Water and forestry
 - Ministry of Health and Social services
 - Namibia Agronomic Board
 - National Statistics Agency
 - World Food Programme
12. This project will form an integral part of the on-going partnership framework between OPM and WFP which aims at strengthening government capacity to assess, plan and respond to food security needs resulting from natural disasters and other shocks. WFP support will be technical in nature with special focus mainly on supporting food security assessments and monitoring, developing tools for assessments, training food security champions, supporting data analysis, reporting and learning and knowledge sharing in and outside the country.

17. The Food Security Monitoring will use a blend of secondary and primary information to track changes in the food security monitoring indicators. Primary information will only be collected to fill gaps where they have been identified. The food security indicators, which will be monitored include crop production, commercial food imports, staple foods availability and market prices and performance, income sources and expenditures, coping strategies, commodity prices, terms of trade, food consumption patterns, nutrition, water and sanitation among others.

18. The FSMS will use existing government information channels and mechanisms to collect data. Data collection will be undertaken by the Government and partners through existing structures within ministries and partner institutions at national and regional level. Primary data will flow from sentinel sites to constituencies and regional offices in transit to NamVAC for analysis (Figure 2).

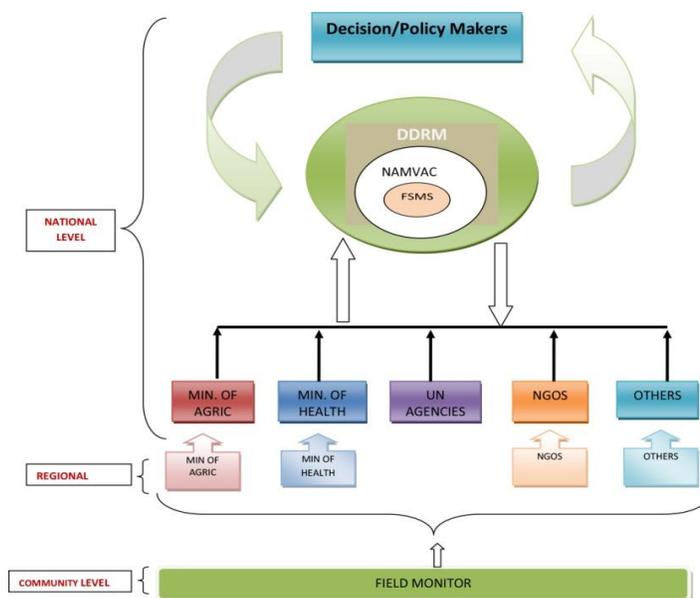


Figure 2: Information Flow Mechanisms

19. The FSMS is not a duplication of existing systems but is a system that seeks to create linkages between information systems (Figure 3) that reside in different government institutions. Analysis of information relevant to food security and generated through these various systems will be harmonized to provide a holistic picture of the food security situation in the country.

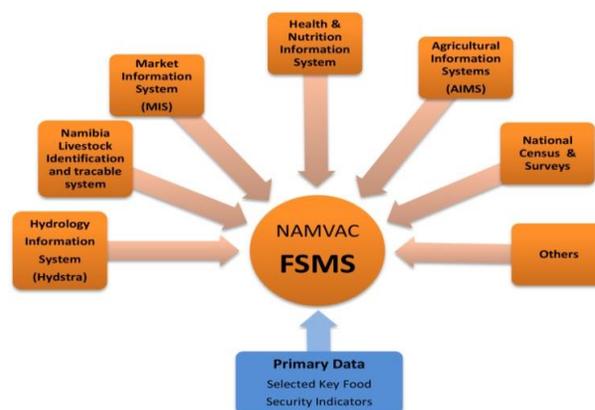


Figure 3: Links with existing information systems

Performance Monitoring

20. A Food Security Monitoring Plan will be developed to provide guidance on the implementation of the FSMS. The plan will define the conceptual framework of food security monitoring, contextualize the implementation of FSM in Namibia, define the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders, identify funding mechanisms and develop a Logical framework of the FSM.

21. The Logical Framework will define results to be achieved, set targets for each result, identify indicators that will be used to measure the achievement of results. Through a multi sectoral consultative process, the FSM results will be defined, monitored, assessed and reported on.

Expected Outputs

- A functional food security monitoring system to inform decisions
- Quarterly Food Security Monitoring updates or bulletins
- A regularly updated food Security situational map
- A team of capacitated government Food Security Monitoring champions
- A Comprehensive Food Security Survey to serve as a baseline study
- A Strategic Review of the Food and Nutrition Security Situation in the Namibia

Sustainability

22. The establishment of the food security monitoring system in Namibia under the auspices of NamVAC is in line with NamVAC's long term plan to strengthen its food security monitoring component (NAMVAC Strategic Plan 2012 – 2017, National Disaster ACT). The establishment of a food security monitoring system is further supported by the 2013 Cabinet Decision Number 7th/07.05.13/001 which was established following the successful implementation of the EFSA that input into the declaration of the drought emergency and highlighted gaps in food security monitoring. The existence of an institutionalized multi-stakeholder platform, NamVAC that coordinates annual food security and vulnerability assessments provides a high chance of the sustainability of food security monitoring in Namibia.

Project budget

23. In order to implement the planned activities, the Office of the Prime Minister is seeking for funding from government and donors in the amount of **US\$1,686,360** for the next three years. This funding will go to WFP in order for the organization to continue providing technical support to the government in food security assessments and monitoring. Since 2011, WFP has mobilised a total of US\$1.28 million towards technical support to DDRM in food assistance programme and logistical support and food security assessments. This includes significant programme and administrative support including staff time that WFP has invested under OPM/WFP partnership at an estimated value of roughly US\$250,000 per annum. This amount however is no longer available due to funding constraints WFP is currently experiencing. OFDA has made a new pledge of an additional US\$500,000 towards WFP's technical assistance to the Government of Namibia. However there is still a funding gap of US\$1,686,360 to cover costs related to the establishment of functional food security monitoring system in Namibia and undertake a strategic review of the food and nutrition security situation in the country.

Strengthening Food Security Monitoring in Namibia - Budget breakdown

Programme Activity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
1) Food Security Analysis	Cost	Cost	Cost	Total
Food security monitoring/assessment (data collection, analysis and reporting)	107 163	107 163	107 163	321 489
Roll out of Food security monitoring in all regions	12 600	12 600	12 600	37 800
Strategic Review of the food and nutrition security situation	200 037	-	-	200 037
Comprehensive Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA)	88 825	-	-	88 825
Evaluation of the Food Security Monitoring system			75 436	75 436
Geographic Information System support	2 550	2 550	2 550	7 650
Sub Total	411 175	122 313	197 749	731 237
2) Food Security monitoring systems, tools and equipment	Cost	Cost	Cost	Total
Andriods for data collection	30 800	-	-	30 800
SPSS software and licence	12 000	2 200	2 200	16 400
IT equipment	25 600			25 600
GIS software	10 000			10 000
Automated Price Data System	-	-	-	-
Sub Total	78 400	2 200	2 200	82 800
3) Capacity Development (training/peer learning)	Cost	Cost	Cost	Total
FSM training	70 000	70 000	70 000	210 000
Training materials (conference, printing and dissemination)	14 000	14 000	14 000	42 000
Regional food security conference, training, exchange visits, peer learning	20 000	20 000	20 000	60 000
Sub Total	104 000	104 000	104 000	312 000
4) Programme Administration	Cost	Cost	Cost	Total
Programme and Administrative support (vehicle lease, running and maintenance, support staff, office supplies, ICT, Communications etc)	150 000	150 000	150 000	450 000
Sub Total	150 000	150 000	150 000	450 000
Total	743 575	378 513	453 949	1 576 037
Indirect Support Costs (7%)	52 050	26 496	31 776	110 323
Grand Total	795 625	405 009	485 725	1 686 360

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

PROJECT OBJECTIVE: STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENT CAPACITY TO ASSESS, PLAN AND RESPOND TO FOOD SECURITY NEEDS RESULTING FROM NATURAL DISASTERS AND OTHER SHOCKS.		Contribution to MDGs 1 and 8
Goals 1. To strengthen food security analysis and monitoring in Namibia.		
Outcome	Indicator	Project target and data source
Outcome 1: Strengthened government capacity for food security surveillance, analysis and timely decision making and response	1.1 % of government food assistance interventions informed by the food security assessments	Target: 100 % of government interventions implemented following food security monitoring assessments Source: Project progress reports, MOU
Output	Indicator	
Output 1: Capacity developed through OPM/WFP organized actions including technical assistance and training of government staff involved in food security monitoring	1.1 Number of Regional Councils utilizing the food security monitoring system and tools to monitor trends in food security 1.2 Number of quarterly food security monitoring updates/bulletin produced 1.3 Number of government counterparts trained in Food Security Analysis	
Output 2: Technical support provided and systems developed through WFP organized actions including technology transfer	2.1 A functional food security and nutrition system developed 2.2 A food and nutrition security monitoring plan established and implemented 2.3 A comprehensive Food Security Survey undertaken and report adopted 2.4 A strategic Review of the Food and Nutrition Security situation conducted and road map developed	

