



Republic of Namibia  
Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture

# NAMIBIAN SCHOOL FEEDING POLICY IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN (2019 – 2024)



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## Background

The Namibian School Feeding programme (NSFP) has remained an integral part of the government's strategy to address inequalities and expand access to educational opportunities for all children, particularly those from food insecure households. School feeding has received strong political support as evidenced in various government policies and strategies where it is embedded including the National Development Plans 4 and 5, the Blue Print on Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication and the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) – all of which advocate for school feeding as a vehicle to address hunger and enhance education.

The NSFP has been in existence since 1991, at the time managed by the World Food Programme (WFP) for four years. The government took full management of the programme in 1996 under the Ministry of Education. Since then the school feeding programme has expanded rapidly to reach over 330,000 learners (from 78,000 in 1996) in over 1,400 schools in all 14 regions of the country.

In 2012, the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) carried out a case study on the school feeding programme to establish its characteristics, the different trade-offs in design and implementation, the institutional structure, the link to local agricultural production and the process of transitioning to national ownership. The study identified gaps in the implementation and management of the programme and advanced recommendations on how to address the gaps. This led to the development of a five-year road map (2012) by multiple stakeholders, which defined actions required to address the gaps identified in the study. One of the key recommendations of the case study was the urgent need for a national school feeding policy for Namibia.

## The Namibian School Feeding Policy

The MoEAC, with the technical support from WFP, developed a school feeding policy for Namibia which was finalized in 2018. The policy, which was validated by multi-sectoral stakeholders in October 2016, lays down the mandate, goal and objectives of school feeding in Namibia. It establishes the principles governing the planning, implementation and management of the NSFP and sets out the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders. The policy is further intended to improve the equitable access, quality learning and education for all children in Namibia. It provides ways for addressing hunger thus establishing the role of school feeding as a social safety net particularly for food insecure households.

## School Feeding Policy Implementation Action Plan

The school feeding policy implementation plan will guide the execution of the policy. The action plan is a multi-stakeholder framework that articulates key strategies, targets and activities along with a corresponding budget set out to support the attainment of the objectives set out in the school feeding policy over a 5-year period.

**Vision :** To create an enabling environment for learning by reducing hunger among school children, optimise their health and nutrition.

**Mission:** Support the provision of balanced and diversified meals at schools that promotes nutrition and health of learners.

**Goal:** To provide a framework for improving school attendance and retention, nutrition and health and learning outcomes of all children in Namibia.

**Objectives of the School Feeding Policy:** (1) Enhance access, retention and learning outcomes through timely access to diverse nutritious food in schools; (2) Enhance nutrition and health of learners; (3) Support Smallholder producers by linking them to the Namibia School Feeding Programme and (4) Strengthen coordination and sectoral linkages in the management, implementation and monitoring of the Namibia School Feeding Programme.

The policy along with its Implementation Plan will be reviewed 5 years after its ratification by government. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture will over-see and coordinate the execution of the School Feeding Implementation Plan in coordination with other stakeholders.

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POLICY OBJECTIVE 1: Enhance access, retention and learning outcomes through timely access to diverse nutritious food in schools.															
Strategy	Activity	Output	Key Indicators	Baseline	Timelines and Targets per year					Budget (NAD '000)					Lead/ Responsible Entity
					2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	
Ensure timely delivery of food to schools	Source/order and transport maize blend to all schools	Learners receive school meals in the right quantity, quality and on time.	Quantity of food delivered to schools as a share of the food ordered.	80%	85%	90%	90%	95%	95%	131,000	137,550	144,100	150,650	150,650	Lead: MoEAC Support: Technical Partner, MAWF
	Strengthen supply chain management, monitoring and reporting on food deliveries to all schools		Quantity of food delivered before the beginning of term.	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP, MAWF
Expand and upgrade school feeding infrastructure.	Facilitate the establishment and improvement of school feeding infrastructure to facilitate timely preparation of food.	Adequate infrastructure in place and operational/in use.	% of schools with the required school feeding infrastructure  Cost efficient school feeding infrastructure established.	30%	30%	45%	50%	70%	90%	-	804	900	800	800	Lead: MoEAC Support: Min of Works &Transport, WFP
	Equip kitchens with energy saving stoves, and other Non-Food-Items (NFIs).	Kitchens equipped with energy saving stoves  School feeding infrastructure equipped with adequate NFIs	% of school kitchens equipped with energy saving stoves and relevant NFIs.	30%	30%	45%	50%	70%	90%	-	100	120	150	200	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP, Ministry of Environment, NUST
Scale up school feeding programme to secondary schools and Early Childhood Development Centers (ECDs)	Conduct a feasibility study on expansion of school feeding to secondary schools and ECDs	Mode of expansion of school feeding to secondary schools and ECDs, articulated.	% progress made towards expansion of school feeding to secondary schools and ECDs.	0%	-	100%	-	-	-	-	130	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: Ministry of Gender, Poverty Eradition, Agriculture, MoHSS, WFP, UNICEF.
	Develop a project to gradually phase in school feeding into secondary schools and ECDs									-	20	70	40	50	Lead: MoEAC Support: Ministry of Gender, Poverty Eradition, Agriculture, MoHSS, WFP, UNICEF.
	Source, process and transport maize blend (or other form of food) to secondary schools and ECDs									-	3,930	11,790	19,650	39,300	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP/Tech Support
Sub-Total										131,000	142,534	156,980	171,290	191,000	792,804

POLICY OBJECTIVE 2: Enhance nutrition and health of learners through provision of balanced and fortified meals																
Strategy	Activity	Output	Key Indicators	Baseline	Timelines and Targets per year					Budget (NAD '000)					Lead/ Responsible Entity	
					2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024		
Explore/ ensure the diversification of nutritious meals in schools.	Promote and facilitate the establishment of school gardens.	A functioning school garden in all schools	% of participating schools with functioning school gardens	27%	30%	40%	50%	60%	80%	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: MAWF Support: MoEAC, FAO, WFP	
	Engage the private sector and other potential actors to supplement the school diet with nutritious food.															
Enhance health, hygiene and nutrition education in schools	Expand the School Total Led Sanitation Programme to all schools.	Application of good sanitation, health and nutrition practices enhanced in schools communities.	% of schools that are engaged in activities that promote good sanitation and health practices.	-	20%	30%	50%	70%	100%	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: MAWF Support: MoEAC, MoHSS, UNICEF, School Boards.	
	Align school health programmes with the Health Promoting School Initiative (HPSI)	All school children reached by comprehensive health promotion programs	Extent of integration of health education across the Curriculum (%)	-	20%	30%	50%	70%	100%	-	50	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: MoHSS, UNICEF	
			% Number of children dewormed against plan	-	50%	60%	70%	80%	100%	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: MoHSS, UNICEF	
	Improve food preparation and hygiene standards in all schools benefiting from school feeding	All schools practicing improved food preparation and hygiene standards	% compliance with standards	-	50%	60%	60%	70%	100%	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: MoHSS, WFP	
	Promote HIV/AIDS education, awareness raising and dangers of alcohol and drug abuse and provision of psychosocial support	Awareness raised about HIV/AIDs and Drug	# of Schools with active awareness campaigns on HIV/ AIDs and Drug abuse.	-	20%	30%	50%	70%	100%	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: MoHSS, UNFPA, UNICEF	
		Abuse amongst school going children.														
		Children needing psychosocial support assisted	# of schools with operational psychosocial support systems.	-	-	100	600	800	1,000	-	70	50	50	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: MoHSS, UNFPA, UNICEF	

POLICY OBJECTIVE 2: Enhance nutrition and health of learners through provision of balanced and fortified meals															
(continued) Strategy	Activity	Output	Key Indicators	Baseline	Timelines and Targets per year					Budget (NAD '000)					Lead/ Responsible Entity
					2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023 / 2024	
Promote and strengthen food quality and safety	Capacity building/ training of NSFP focal points, cooks and school management on food handling at the school level	NSFP personnel trained/capacitated on food handling at all levels.	# of personnel capacitated	-	100	500	700	200	-	10	30	50	25	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: MAWF, MoHSS, WFP
		Reduction in the quantity of food spoilt due to poor handling	% reduction in food spoilage and losses	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	-	70	-	50	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: MAWF, MoHSS, WFP
	Conduct a food safety and quality assessment	Food safety and quality assessment in place	% compliance rate to recommendations of the assessment	-	30%	50%	70%	80%	90%	135	-	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP, Private Sector, NUST, MoHSS, MAWF
	Develop/enhance guidelines on proper storage and food management	Food storage and management guidelines in place	% adherence rate by schools	-	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	-	50	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: MAWF, MoHSS, WFP
Sub-Total										145	270	100	125	0	640



POLICY OBJECTIVE 3: Support Smallholder producers by linking them to the Namibia School Feeding Programme.															
Strategy	Activity	Output	Key Indicators	Baseline	Timelines and Targets per year					Budget (NAD '000)					Lead/ Responsible Entity
					2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023 / 2024	
Promote diversification of school meals through sourcing of locally produced and available foods	Develop and implement a pilot project on linking schools to smallholder producers (Home Grown School Feeding Programme) in line with recommendations of the feasibility study.	Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP) pilot project designed and in place	% completion of the pilot project design		80%	100%	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP, MAWF, FAO
		HGSP pilot implemented	% of schools with diversified school meals that are locally sourced	-	-	5%	20%	40%	60%	6,550	13,755	28,820	45,195	45,195	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP, MAWF, FAO
	Develop alternative school meal menus based on local food preferences that meet requisite nutrition standards.	Nutritious School menus developed	% of schools with diversified school meal menus	-	-	5%	20%	40%	60%	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: MoHSS, WFP, MAWF, FAO
Strengthen the capacity of smallholder producers to supply locally produced and available foods to schools.	Increase access to agricultural credit facilities and other agricultural inputs for smallholder producers and SMEs	Productivity for small holder producers improved.	% quantity of food produced and sold to schools.	-	5%	20%	25%	30%	40%	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: MAWF Support: MoEAC, WFP, Min of Industrialization, FAO
		SMEs involved in purchase and delivery of locally produced food items to schools.	% of targeted smallholder farmers and SMEs supplying food to schools	-	5%	20%	25%	30%	40%	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: Min of Industrialization and SME Dev, MAWF Support: MoEAC, WFP, Agri-bank
	Organize farmers into groups or cooperatives and train them on good agricultural practices and marketing	Farmers formed into groups	# of farmers cooperatives or farmer groups formed, trained and functional.	-	20	30	40	50	60	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: MAWF Support: MoEAC, FAO, WFP, AGRIBUZZDEV, AMTA, Agri-Bank
Strengthen the capacity of regions, circuits and schools to procure locally available foods.	Develop procurement guidelines.	Procurement guideline developed, adopted and operational	% rate of adherence to procurement guidelines	-	0%	10%	20%	40%	60%	-	100	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP
	Train regional, circuit and school boards on food procurement and record keeping. (separate outputs)	Staff and school board members trained	# of schools trained	-	-	140	280	420	-	-	30	50	70	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP
Sub-Total										6,650	13,885	28,870	45,265	45,195	139,865

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: Strengthen coordination and sectoral linkages in the management, implementation and monitoring of the Namibia School Feeding Programme (NSFP).															
Strategy	Activity	Output	Key Indicators	Baseline	Timelines and Targets per year					Budget (NAD '000)					Lead/ Responsible Entity
					2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	
Accelerate the decentralization of NSFP	Review and expand the MoEAC Sector Specific Service Delivery Standards (SSSDS) for NSFP	NSFP integrated in the SSSDS of the MoEAC	% progress to completion	0%	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC
	Train regional, circuit and school boards on management and implementation of school feeding	Staff /regional circuit and school boards trained on management and implementation of school feeding	% of Regional, Circuit and school boards trained on NSFP	40%	50%	70%	100%	100%	-	50	100	150	200	50	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP
	Establish a sub-vote within the school feeding budget at the regional level.	Regional Directorates are responsible and accountable for the management of the school feeding programme	# of Regional Directorates that are managing the school feeding programme.	0	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP
Enhance monitoring, evaluation and reporting	Capacity building for regional officers for improved M&E and supply chain management	Quality, timeliness and regularity of monitoring, reporting and accountability strengthened	% utilization of M&E tools and systems, at the school, circuit and regional level.	60%	70%	90%	100%	100%	100%	50	100	100	50	50	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP
	Decentralize NaSIS to school level and link NaSIS to EMIS	NASIS decentralized to schools and operational  NaSIS linked to EMIS	% increase in improved data entry at school level	10%	50%	100%	-	-	-	50	200	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP

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(continued) Strategy	Activity	Output	Key Indicators	Baseline	Timelines and Targets per year					Budget (NAD '000)					Lead/ Responsible Entity
					2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	2019/ 2020	2020/ 2021	2021/ 2022	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	
Strengthen multi-sectoral coordination and partnerships for school feeding.	Advocate for the inclusion of school feeding as an agenda item in relevant forums	Multi-sectoral complementary support, collaboration and resource base of the school feeding programme strengthened	# of Forums in which school feeding is discussed	1	1	8	16	16	16	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP, MOPESW
	Promote collaboration and partnerships for school feeding at the national and regional level.	Joint programmes developed and implemented with relevant stakeholders.	# of joint programmes developed with line ministries/ sectors and other partners.	1	2	4	5	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: MAWF, MOHSS, OPM, MOPESW, MGECW, Regional Councils, Regional Education Directorates, WFP
	Under the framework of South-South Cooperation, undertake educational exchange visits in Africa and beyond, to promote learning and sharing of best practices	South-South missions strengthened	# of missions undertaken resulting in strategic partnerships	0%	0%	3	4	4	4	-	100	100	100	100	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP
	Develop a private partnership strategy for school feeding.	Private sector strategy developed that falls under the framework of FENSI.	Private sector strategy adopted and put to use	-	50%	100%	-	-	-						Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP, Private Sector, Global Child Nutrition Forum
			# of private sector actors engaged to support school feeding	-	20	30	40	60	80	-	-	-	-	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: WFP, Private Sector, Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Strengthen advocacy for school feeding	Conduct awareness raising campaigns on school feeding	Community participation and ownership of school feeding programme strengthened	# of volunteers for school feeding	30%	50%	70%	90%	100%	100%	50	50	50	50	-	Lead: MoEAC Support: Ministries of: Gender, Poverty, Rural Development; Health; MTISD, WFP, School Administration, PTAs, Regional Councils, Regional Directorates
Sub-Total										200	550	400	400	200	1750
Grand Total										137,995	157,239	186,350	217,080	236,395	935,059





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