

Transformative Initiative Namibia

Global Programme Transformation of Food Systems (GP TES)

The Challenge in Namibia

About 70% of Namibia's population depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, while Namibia remains a net importer of food commodities. The Namibian government declared addressing **food and nutrition security a national priority**, particularly in the face of increased vulnerability to climate change (causing pro-longed droughts), external shocks, high unemployment rates (especially among the youth), multidimensional household poverty levels and rising inequalities. Expectedly, Namibia faces severe nutrition challenges in form of the **'triple-burden of malnutrition'** with undernutrition occurring alongside overnutrition and 'hidden hunger' (micro-nutrient deficiencies). This not only affects communities, families and especially young children, but it is a public health crisis that impacts socio-economic development. Namibia's current social protection systems are inefficient and fragmented, while there is a widespread lack of awareness and poor nutritional practices among adults and children. This perpetuates the generational cycle of malnutrition, limiting access to healthier food choices and hindering efforts to improve overall food security and well-being.

The current food systems do not provide sufficient nutritious, safe, and diverse diets that are available, affordable and accessible to everyone in Namibia. While multi-sectoral policies and strategies were developed, their **implementation is a recurring challenge**, with actors across all sectors often operating in silos and **coordination not being sufficiently prioritised**.

Background

The Global Programme Transformation of Food Systems (GP TES), commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) within the Special Initiative "Transformation of Agricultural and Food Systems (SI AGER)", strengthens **Initiatives** worldwide that shape food systems towards healthier diets for all at all times within the planetary boundaries. In Namibia, the Global Programme supports the **Nutrition and Food Security Alliance of Namibia (NAFSAN)** – constituted in March 2020 – a member-based umbrella body for Namibian civil society, academia, private sector, and a few individual members. Members and partners of the alliance contribute to food security and are committed to the eradication of malnutrition in Namibia. As Namibia's SUN Civil Society Alliance, NAFSAN is leveraging its role as official representative and high-level technical partner to the Namibian government to promote a multi-sectoral approach to coordination and collaboratively implementing nutrition and food system-related policies and strategies. The alliance further develops and provides reliable information and advocates for a various positive changes within Namibia's food systems.

Objective

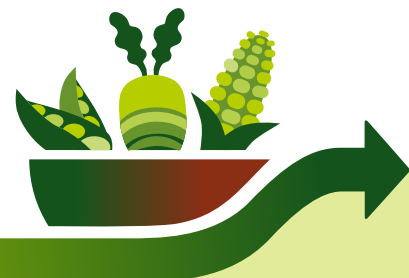
NAFSAN, as the Initiative in Namibia, aims to move towards fair, healthy, empowering and sustainable food systems and significantly reduce all forms of malnutrition in Namibia. This shall be achieved through **improved coordination among stakeholders from various sectors at national/sub-national levels**, as well as better **nutrition awareness and local organic food production and consumption**.

Project name	Global Programme Transformation of Food Systems (TES)
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Primary: Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, and Oshikoto Regions Secondary: Khomas, Hardap, and Erongo Regions
Project Partner	Nutrition and Food Security Alliance of Namibia (NAFSAN)
Duration	05/2025 – 12/2026



Facilitation of a session on the importance of the First 1000 Days, as part of the 'Nutrition-for-Health: Embracing our Namibian Food Systems' training in Gobabis, Omaheke Region. ©NAFSAN 2024

Backyard 'container' gardening in urban informal settlements in Mariental (Hardap Region), using simple yet very effective water-saving techniques. ©NAFSAN 2024



Approach and Activities

The Initiative in Namibia follows a partnership-based, holistic approach and is based on the following pillars. The activities are aligned with and in support of Namibia's revised National Food and Nutrition Security Policy [NFNS, 2021], Namibia's Strategy for the Transformation of the Agri-Food Sector [STAS, 2025], as well as Namibia's One Health National Strategy [OHS, 2024].

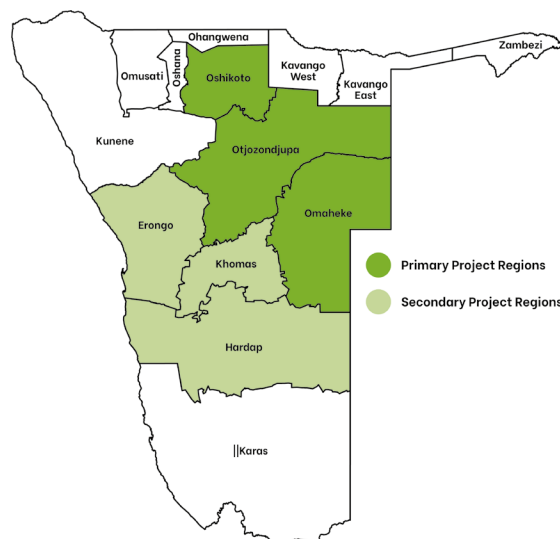
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** At national and sub-national level, the initiative engages key stakeholders, such as the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, Ministry of Health and Social Services, development partners, communities, civil society, academia and the private sector through consultative meetings, workshops and dialogues on food system transformation. As recognised umbrella body and member of various technical working groups, NAFSAN engages decision makers and implementers at national level and in at least 6 of the 14 regions to help establish effective multisectoral coordination mechanisms and ensuring flow of communication into and out of these regions.
- **Capacity Strengthening:** The initiative further strengthens the knowledge, skills and capacities of institutions, partners and communities for food system transformation, hereby finding and fostering synergies among national and regional initiatives, frameworks and stakeholders.
- **Advocacy:** The initiative continuously develops and provides a wide range of Information, Education, and Communication materials to increase knowledge and awareness of food system transformation and to foster transformative practices and approaches that inspire and empower stakeholders. Parliamentarians, media practitioners and other influential decision- and policy makers benefit from the highly engaging information sharing sessions.

Towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



More information can also be found on NAFSAN's website: www.nafsan.org

Project Focus Regions



Examples from the field

- **Making meaningful progress in the fight against child malnutrition at sub-national level:** NAFSAN supports the work of the Omaheke Regional Malnutrition Task Force as a multi-sectoral body to combat high rates of hospital read-mission and deaths through targeted interventions from government and civil society, representing different sectors, such as health, education, agriculture and social protection. With support from the initiative, NAFSAN is able to introduce this model now into other project regions.
- **RightStart Namibia** as platform for collaboration and sharing of resources to overcome several inter-generational challenges by focusing on integrated early childhood development. NAFSAN actively supports the Namibian Government and various Civil Society Organisations involved.



Launch of Namibia's Strategy for the Transformation of the Agri-food Sector (STAS) by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, supported by GIZ Namibia, NAFSAN, UN Agencies and other national stakeholders in Windhoek, on 6 Nov. 2024. ©MAFWLR 2024