Republic of Namibia

Office of the Prime Minister

Namibia 2025/26 Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) Main Report

By

Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NAMVAC)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of the 2025/26 Namibia Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) conducted by the Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee to inform national food and nutrition security policy and planning. Using a trend-based Integrated Food Security Phase Classification approach and multi-sectoral data sources, the assessment provides an evidence-based analysis of food security, nutrition, and livelihood conditions.

The 2025/26 VAA shows that the country's food security situation has improved compared to the previous year. Between July and September 2025, around 456,000 people (15 percent of the analysed population) were facing high levels of acute food insecurity. This is a major improvement from 2024, when 1.15 million people were in crisis levels. The improvement is mainly due to above-normal rainfall during the 2024/25 season, better crop harvests, improved grazing conditions, and coordinated assistance from government and partners.

As per the July 2025 Crops (Post-Harvest), Livestock & Food Security Situation Report from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAFWLR, 2025), crop production in communal farming areas increased by 75 percent, improving household food stocks. Livestock conditions also improved due to good grazing and better water availability. Despite these improvements, the food security situation is expected to worsen during the lean season (October 2025 to March 2026). During this period, about 612,000 people (20 percent of the population) are projected to face high food insecurity. This increase is linked to the end of the government drought relief programme in August 2025, high unemployment, reduced income, rising food prices, and the exhaustion of household food stocks. The situation is expected to improve again from April to June 2026 when new harvests become available.

Overall, the 2025/26 assessment shows that Namibia has made progress in improving food security, but the gains remain fragile. Weather shocks, pests, diseases, poverty, and limited employment continue to affect households, especially in rural areas. Strengthened social protection, timely agricultural support, and improved livelihood opportunities are still needed to protect vulnerable populations and reduce the impact of future shocks.

GLADICE PICKERING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

DDRM	Directorate Disaster Risk Management
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Products
GSU	Global Support Unit
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
MAFWLR	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform
MoHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Security
NAMVAC	Namibia Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Committee
NDVI	Normalized Difference Vegetation Index
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organization
NSA	Namibia Statistics Agency
NUST	Namibia University of Science and Technology
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
RC	Regional Council
UN	United Nations
UNAM	University of Namibia
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
VAA	Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background and discussion

The Office of the Prime Minister, through the Directorate Disaster Risk Management (DDRM) conducts annual livelihood Vulnerability Assessments and Analyses (VAA), as provided for by section 13 of Disaster Risk Management Act, 2012 (Act No. 10 of 2012). The assessments collect and analyze livelihood and food security data to inform policy food and nutrition security.

The assessments are conducted by the Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NAMVAC), through primary and secondary data collection methods. NAMVAC, is a multi-sectoral body which consists of staff members from Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs), Regional Councils(RC), Local Authorities, University of Namibia(UNAM_, Namibia University of Science and Technology(NUST) and the United Nations agencies (FAO, WFP, UNDP, WHO, UNICEF & UNFPA).

However due to financial constraints, no household primary data was collected. The 2025/26 Namibia Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) employed a trend-based analytical approach, reviewing classifications from 2020 to 2024 in accordance with Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) protocols. Due to the absence of newly collected household-level outcome indicator data, the analysis utilized historical trends of outcome indicators alongside new contributing factors such as seasonal rainfall performance, market prices, crop and livestock production data, nutrition admission trends for 2025, water access, fuel prices, and inflation rates.

Key datasets included the 2025 SMART nutrition survey from the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), as well as the July 2025 Crops (post-harvest), Livestock, and Food Security Situation Report from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAWFLR). These were supplemented by additional data on market prices, rainfall and seasonal performance, and findings from previous IPC assessments, enabling a comprehensive review of trends in food security, nutrition, and livelihoods nationwide.

The analysis was conducted during a two-week workshop held in Swakopmund from 21 July to 1 August 2025, with active participation from NAMVAC members representing regional councils, government ministries, academic institutions, and United Nations agencies. Using the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Manual, Version 3.1, participants applied a consensus-based approach to classify and estimate populations for three analysis periods: the current period (July–September 2025), Projection 1 (October 2025–March 2026), and Projection 2 (April–June 2026). In line with IPC protocols, the analysis was rated at a Medium Evidence Level (Level 2). This method ensured that, despite the

absence of new household data, a credible and evidence-based assessment was produced to guide food security planning and response interventions.

1.2. Objectives

The main goal of the assessment and analysis is to deliver timely, reliable information regarding Namibia's current state of food and nutrition security in order to support evidence-based planning and decision-making.

The following are some of the specific goals of the vulnerability assessment and analysis:

- Evaluate the nation's status in terms of food and nutrition security, currently and in the future.
- Examine how hazards may affect people's access to, use of, and stability of food, non-food items, and services in the present and the future.
- Assess factors affecting health and nutrition status of women of childbearing age and children under five years old.
- Monitor food security and livelihood patterns as part of early warning.
- Identify the needs for interventions and policy-related actions.
- Offer recommendations to stakeholders and policymakers.

1.3. Secondary data information sources

Other sources of data included but not limited to:

- Ministry of Mines and Energy Fuel Price Review
- Ministry of Works and Transport (Namibia Meteorological Services) on climate outlook and seasonal forecast
- Regional Councils and Local Authorities on local reports
- Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) on demographic, price and other information
- World Food Programme (WFP) data on Seasonal Rainfall performance
- Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) and Vegetation condition
- Namibia Water Corporation Ltd weekly dam bulletins
- Office of the Prime Minister on the Hazards (acute events or ongoing conditions e.g., natural, socio-economic, conflict) happening at the Households

1.4. Limitation of the Analysis

While this IPC analysis meets the minimum requirement in terms of classification as per the IPC protocol, addition primary data collection would strengthen the accuracy of the IPC classification, which was not feasible in that specific case due to limited resources. Coming from an El Nino year with drought, it would have been best to have outcomes to show the impact of the improvement as well as the changes that have occurred in the season at household level. The 5-year reference years had unusual shocks during the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the El Nino and that would easily skew the results.

2. KEY FINDING OF THE ASSESSMENT

2.1 Seasonal Rainfall Performances

The Analysis used a historic based analysis of the rainfall performance for the past Five (5) years with their associated Food Insecurity classification as follows:

2.1.1. Seasonal Rainfall Performance October 2024- May 2025

According to the Namibia Meteorological Services Climate Bulletin monthly reports, from October 2024 to May 2025, above-normal rainfall was recorded over a large part of the country. Normal rainfall levels were observed in the Zambezi region, the eastern parts of Kavango East and Kavango West, the fringes of eastern Kunene and western Omusati, as well as parts of Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Hardap, and Kharas regions (Figure 2.1.)

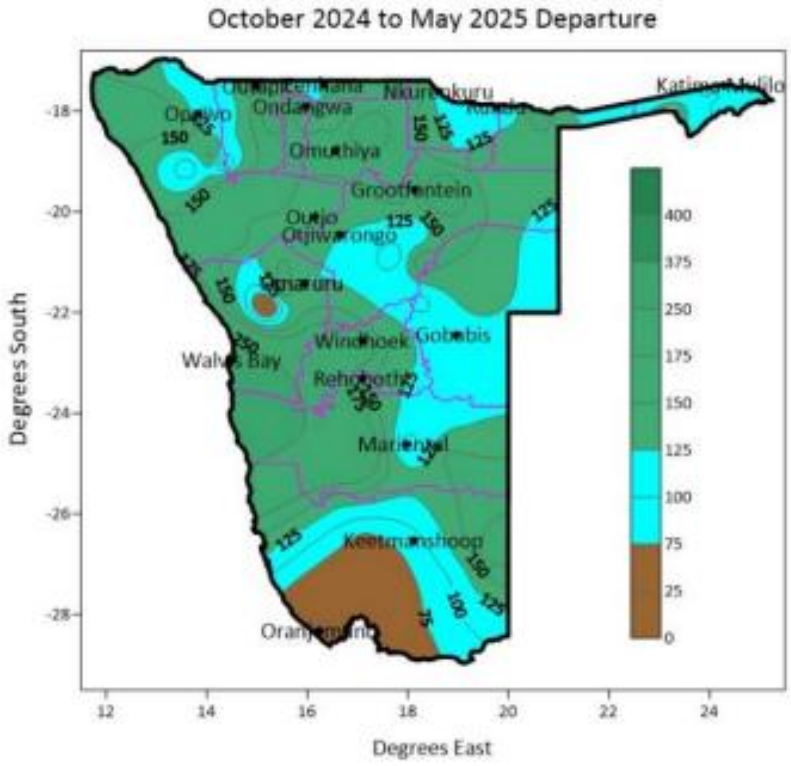

Figure 2. 1: Seasonal Rainfall Performance October 2024-May 2025

Source: Namibia Meteorological Service

2.1.2. Seasonal Rainfall Performance October 2023-May 2024

On a seasonal scale (1 October 2023 to 30 May 2024), the percentage of normal shows that the bulk of the country observed below normal rainfall (colored red) while few places around the country observed normal rainfall (yellow) (Figure 2.2.)

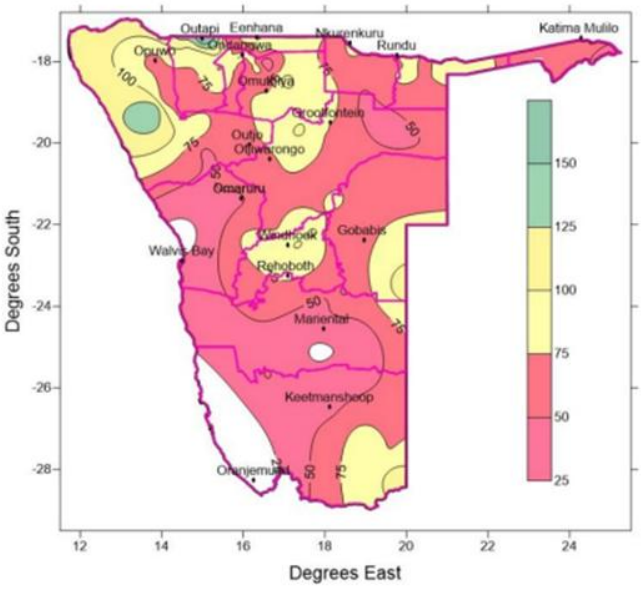

Figure 2. 2: Seasonal Rainfall Performance for October 2023- May 2024
Source: Namibia Meteorological Service

2.1.3. Seasonal Rainfall Performance October 2022-May 2023

The bulk of the northern regions ended the rainy season with average rainfall, except for the Kunene, Omusati, Oshana, and western Oshikoto regions. In contrast, most parts of the /Kharas, Hardap, Erongo, Kunene, Omusati, Oshana, western Omaheke, and Oshikoto regions closed the rainfall season with below-average rainfall. Using the decile method, which ranks the frequency and distribution of rainfall based on historical records, the drought conditions were categorized from extreme drought to near normal (close to the median). Areas that experienced extreme drought include Ondangwa in Oshana, Oshikuku and Outapi in Omusati, Kamanjab in Kunene, Omaruru in Erongo, Maltahöhe in Hardap, and Karasburg in /Kharas, while Aruab in /Kharas experienced severe drought. Overall, Erongo and Kunene were generally in extreme drought conditions, with the country experiencing below-normal to normal rainfall accompanied by pockets of drought (Figure 2.3).

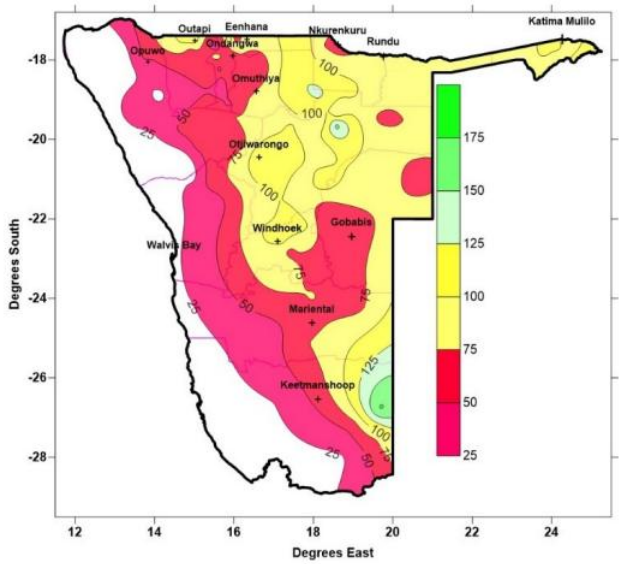

Figure 2. 3: Seasonal Rainfall Performance for October 2022-May 2023

Source: Namibia Meteorological Service

2.1.4. Seasonal Rainfall Performance October 2021 to April 2022

The seasonal rainfall performance (1 October 2021 to 30 April 2022) was above average over the bulk of the country. There are however areas of concern in the Omusati, Oshana and Otjozondjupa regions. The areas under the red color are above average, blue normal and yellow below normal (Figure 2.4).

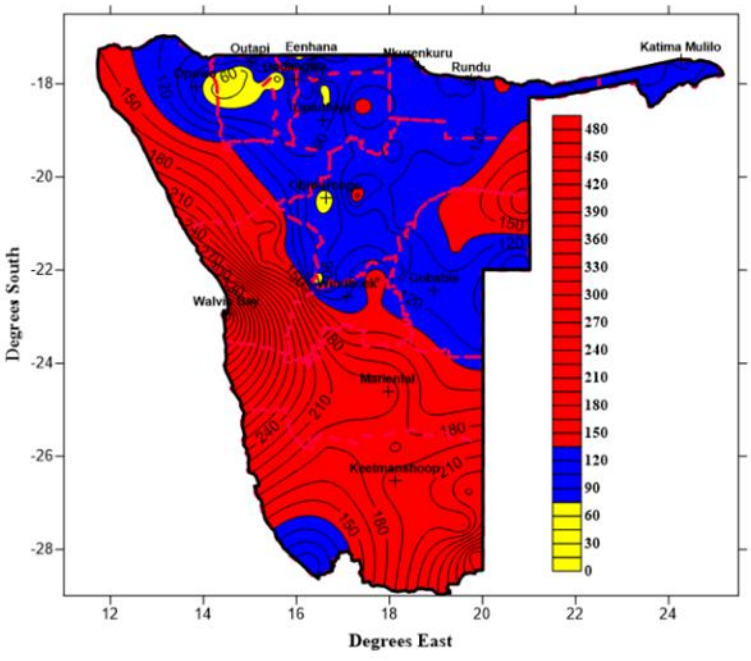

Figure 2. 4: Seasonal Rainfall Performance for October 2021-April 2022

Source: Namibia Meteorological Service

2.1.5. Seasonal Rainfall Performance for October 2020- April 2021

During the 2020/2021 rainfall season (Figure 2.5), most parts of the central Zambezi Region recorded average rainfall, while above-average rainfall was observed across other areas of the region. The season began in November 2020 over the northeastern parts of the country and extended to the rest of Namibia towards the end of December. However, in the Zambezi Region, the rains ended prematurely in March 2021. Some areas within the Oshana, Omusati, western Kunene, and western Erongo regions experienced below-average rainfall for the season, with Omusati and Kunene receiving most of their rainfall mainly in March 2021 as shown by (Figure 2.5).

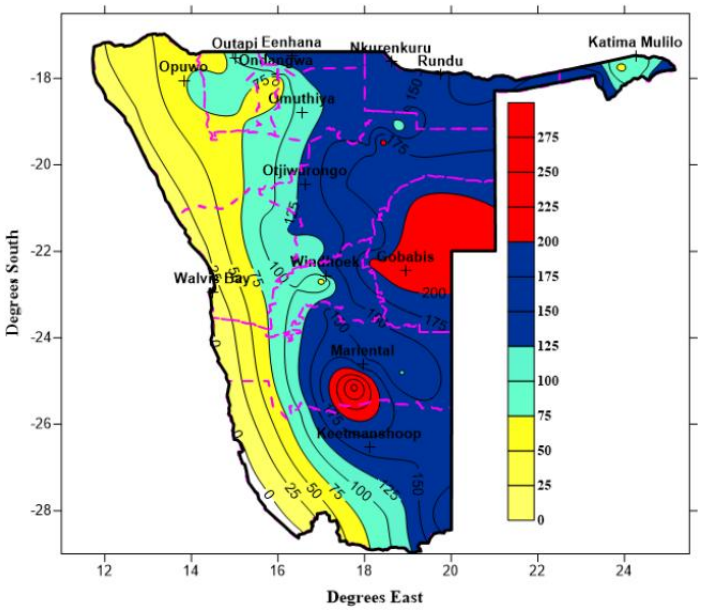

Figure 2. 5: Seasonal Rainfall Performance for October 2020-April 2021

Source: Namibia Meteorological Service

2.2. The Namibia 2025/26 Economic performance

2.2.1 Fuel Prices

When fuel and energy prices go up, it increases the cost of transport, farming, processing and storing food. That means foods—especially staples—become more expensive. For households, especially low-income ones, more of their budget must go to fuel and utilities instead of food. As food prices climb, their ability to buy enough good food decreases, so they are more likely to face food insecurity.

From August 2024 to July 2025, fuel prices in Walvis Bay showed moderate fluctuations across all fuel types. Petrol prices started at N$21.12 in August 2024 and gradually decreased to N$20.25 by October 2024, remaining stable until January 2025. Prices then slightly increased to N$20.67 in February, peaked at N$21.17 in March, and declined again to N$20.37 by June and July 2025. Diesel (50ppm) followed a similar trend, starting at N$21.57 in August 2024 before dropping steadily to N$19.72 from October 2024 to January 2025. It rose to N$21.42 in March 2025 and then decreased to N$19.92 by June and July 2025. Diesel (100ppm) mirrored these movements, beginning at N$21.67 in August 2024, dipping to N$19.82 between October 2024 and January 2025, rising to N$21.52 in March, and settling at N$20.02 by mid-2025. Overall, the trend indicates that fuel prices generally declined towards the end of 2024, peaked slightly in March 2025, and then stabilized at lower levels through mid-2025 (Table 2.1.).

Table 2. 1: Fuel Prices in Walvis Bay from August 2024 to July 2025

Period	**Fuel prices in Walvis Bay**		
	Petrol	**Diesel 50ppm**	**Diesel 100 ppm**
Aug-24	21.12	21.57	21.67
Sep-24	21	20.47	20.57
Oct-24	20.25	19.72	19.82
Nov-24	20.25	19.72	19.82
Dec-24	20.25	19.72	19.82
Jan-25	20.25	19.72	19.82
Feb-25	20.67	20.92	21.02
Mar-25	21.17	21.42	21.52
Apr-25	20.67	20.62	20.72
May-25	20.67	20.62	20.72
Jun-25	20.37	19.92	20.02
Jul-25	20.37	19.92	20.02

Source: Ministry of Mines and Energy

2.2.2 Price for Cereal at National Level

The three most expensive commodities over the period are sorghum grain, mahangu grain, and maize meal. Sorghum grain shows the highest prices overall, starting at N$200.00 in 2020, dropping to N$151.62 in 2021, and then fluctuating before sharply increasing to N$281.50 in 2024. Although it slightly decreased to N$274.08 in early 2025, it still remains very high compared to previous years. Mahangu grain also shows a similar trend, starting at N$162.22 in 2020, dipping in 2021, and then gradually rising to N$210.75 by mid-2025, indicating a steady increase in price over time. Maize meal, while cheaper than the grains, has also shown a consistent upward trend from N$56.94 in 2020 to N$76.18 in early 2025. Overall, all three commodities have become more expensive over the years, with sorghum grain experiencing the sharpest increase, showing the growing cost of staple foods across the country

Table 2. 2: Price for Cereal of the most staple crops from 2020 to Mid - 2025 at National Level

		YEARS					
ITEM	**Unit of Measurement**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**Jan - June 25**
Maize,meal	5kg	56.94	58.07	62.18	71.42	67.84	76.18
Mahangu meal	2.5g	42.55	47.15	48.16	48.12	54.08	57.15
Mahangu grain	20g	162.22	132.19	137.39	150.13	158.38	210.75
Sorghum meal	500g	14.88	15.83	15.83	15.81	16.91	21.62
Sorghum grain	20kg	200.00	151.62	170.83	157.11	281.50	274.08

2.3 Food Security status across the country

2.3.1. Water availability across the country

2.3.1.1. Dam water level

Figure 2.6., shows that the Neckartal, Naute, and Swakoppoort dams are performing the best this season. Neckartal Dam is almost completely full at 98.3% of its capacity and also has the largest storage capacity, around 850 Mm³. Naute Dam follows closely with 95.8% of its capacity filled, while Swakoppoort Dam is also doing very well at 92.1%. On the other hand, Otjivero Silt Dam has the lowest water level, holding only 8.1% of its full capacity. Overall, most dams have improved or maintained strong water levels compared to last season, with only a few, like Otjivero Silt, remaining very low, as at 07 July 2025.

The total content of the country's dams stood at 85% as of 07 July 2025, compared to 55% during the same period last year, representing an increase of 30%. The water level of most dams with Nerkartal at 98%, Naute Dam at 95%, Swakoppoort at 92%, Von Bach at 89% and Hardap at 70% (Namibia Water Corporation Ltd dam bulletins).

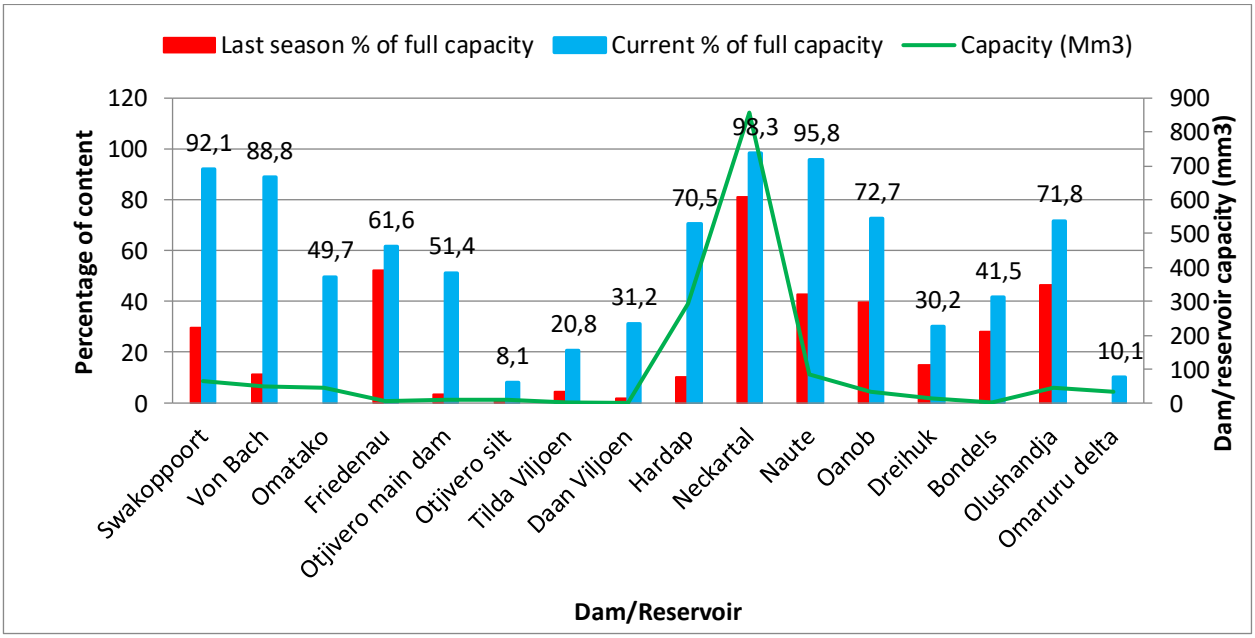

Figure 2. 6: Dam water level

Source : Namibia Water Corporation Ltd dam bulletins

2.3.1.2. Water availability at Household and at community level

The water catchment areas and river streams in most parts of the country have recharged and is expected to sustain livelihoods until the next rainfall season. The water levels have increased due to above-average rainfall recharging the underground aquifers, leaving households with sufficient water for both human and livestock consumption (MAFWLR, 2025).

2.3.2 Crop and livestock production

2.3.2.1 Livestock body condition

Livestock body condition is good for large stock due to the availability of adequate grazing, and fair for small stock which are affected by internal parasites in many parts of the country. However, the conditions vary from region to region due to variation in the grazing condition (MAFWLR, 2025).

2.3.2.2 Grazing condition

Given the good and consistent rainfall received this season, pasture establishment has responded positively in most parts of the country. The overall grazing condition is in a range of good to fair (MAFWLR, 2025).

2.3.2.3 Exposure to hazards

Food security in Namibia continues to face significant challenges due to exposure to multiple hazards despite improved rainfall that initially raised hopes for recovery from past droughts. The emergence of fall armyworms and African migratory locusts has posed major threats to crop production, with the Zambezi region experiencing severe maize damage, while other regions such as Kavango East and West, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Oshana, and Omusati reported minimal to moderate losses. In addition, livestock production has been undermined by outbreaks of lumpy skin disease, further affecting household food supply and livelihoods. Climate-related shocks, including floods, heavy rains, and waterlogging, have also disrupted agricultural activities, compounding the risks to food security and leaving many communities vulnerable (MAFWLR, 2025).

2.3.2.4 Crop production in communal area

The chart shows that communal cereal production has been steadily decreasing over the five-year period. Production started very high in 2020/2021 at about 74,888 metric tons, then dropped to 58,797 tons in 2021/2022. It fell even further to 29,492 tons in 2022/2023 and reached its lowest point in 2023/2024 at just 13,597 tons, before rising slightly to 23,775 tons in 2024/2025. When compared to

the five-year average of around 40,000 tons, production was only above average in the first year. In all the other years, production remained well below the average, showing a clear downward trend. Comparing the last two years specifically, production increased from 13,597 tons in 2023/2024 to 23,775 tons in 2024/2025, which shows some improvement, although it still remains far below the historical average.

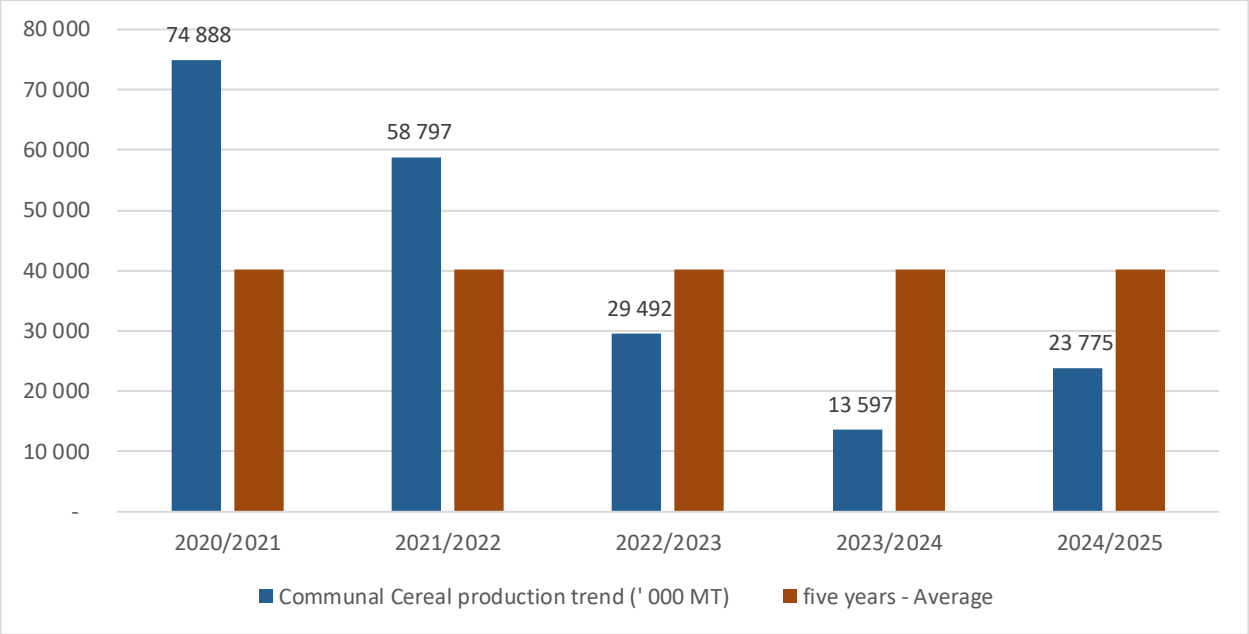

Figure 2. 7: Summary of Cereal production (crop growing regions) in '000 MT from 2020/21 to 2024/25 cropping season by MAFWLR(2025)

Source: MAFWLR

2.3.2.5 Household's main current source of income

At national level, the three main sources of household income are salaried jobs (26.8%), other informal or unspecified activities (27.9%), and business activities (10.9%). Most regions follow this pattern, although the specific order differs. Regions such as Khomas, Erongo, Hardap, and Otjozondjupa rely heavily on salaried employment as their primary income source. In contrast, Kavango West stands out with most households depending on farming (44.9%), followed by high levels of households with no income (29.9%). Omusati also shows a high share of households with no income (42.8%) and significant reliance on remittances (28.2%). Several northern regions—including Ohangwena, Oshana, and Zambezi—show a large proportion classified under "other" income sources, indicating diverse informal activities. Overall, the data show that while formal employment is the leading income source nationally, many regions still depend heavily on farming, informal activities, or remittances, with some experiencing notably high levels of households reporting no income at all as shown by Table 2.3.

Table 2. 3: Household's main current source of income by Area

Area	**Household's main source of income**								
	No income	Farming	Fishing	Business	Salaried job	Hourly job	Artisan work	Remittance	Other
National	**18.20%**	**7.90%**	**0.20%**	**10.90%**	**26.80%**	**4.40%**	**0.90%**	**2.80%**	**27.90%**
Kharas	24.00%	7.60%	0.00%	4.80%	36.70%	2.80%	0.10%	0.00%	23.90%
Erongo	11.50%	1.30%	0.60%	6.80%	41.10%	2.00%	2.40%	1.40%	32.90%
Hardap	13.70%	8.90%	0.00%	4.70%	42.70%	3.90%	0.40%	5.90%	19.80%
Kavango East	3.50%	17.10%	0.00%	7.50%	11.90%	8.40%	0.00%	2.60%	48.90%
Kavango west	29.90%	44.90%	0.70%	11.10%	8.40%	2.72%	1.00%	0.00%	1.20%
Khomas	13.00%	2.10%	0.10%	19.00%	46.70%	6.30%	0.60%	2.70%	9.60%
Kunene	24.40%	14.50%	0.00%	8.10%	15.30%	2.40%	0.50%	6.20%	28.90%
Ohangwena	11.00%	18.20%	0.00%	6.10%	13.00%	2.80%	1.10%	5.90%	41.80%
Omaheke	20.20%	8.60%	0.00%	9.30%	31.20%	3.80%	0.60%	2.40%	23.90%
Omusati	42.80%	5.60%	5.10%	16.30%	0.80%	0.90%	0.50%	28.20%	0.00%
Oshana	8.90%	2.80%	0.10%	15.40%	21.30%	1.40%	1.80%	0.00%	49.20%
Oshikoto	30.00%	3.50%	0.00%	9.80%	15.10%	5.20%	0.80%	0.30%	35.30%
Otjozondjupa	11.90%	6.50%	0.00%	12.70%	32.20%	8.50%	2.20%	8.80%	17.10%
Zambezi	14.50%	6.10%	1.30%	15.70%	13.00%	6.20%	0.20%	1.80%	41.20%

Source: MOHSS, SMART Survey 2025

2.3.2.6 Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

2.3.2.6.1 Access to safe/improved water for drinking and cooking

Table 2.4., shows that, nationally, access to protected or treated water sources is very high at 93.9 percent, with only 6.1 percent relying on unsafe or untreated sources. The regions with the highest access to safe water are Khomas at 99.8 percent, Oshana at 99.7 percent, and Erongo at 98.9 percent. Regions with moderately high access include Hardap, Kavango East, and Otjozondjupa. The lowest levels of access to safe water are found in Kunene at 77.3 percent, Kharas at 79.8 percent, and Omusati at 90.3 percent, meaning these regions have the highest use of unprotected water sources. Overall, most regions have strong access to improved water, though a few still rely heavily on untreated sources.

Table 2. 4: Access to safe/improved water for drinking and cooking by Area

Area	Access to safe/improved water for drinking and cooking	
	Protected/treated water sources	Unprotected/untreated water sources
National	**93.90%**	**6.10%**
Kharas	79.80%	20.10%
Erongo	98.90%	1.10%
Hardap	97.50%	2.50%
Kavango East	96.70%	3.30%
Kavango west	93.10%	6.90%
Khomas	99.80%	0.20%
Kunene	77.30%	22.70%
Ohangwena	90.80%	9.20%
Omaheke	90.20%	9.60%
Omusati	90.30%	9.70%
Oshana	99.70%	0.30%
Oshikoto	90.50%	9.20%
Otjozondjupa	96.10%	3.90%
Zambezi	93.00%	7.00%

Source: MOHSS, SMART Survey 2025

2.3.2.6.2 Access to sufficient water (households using protected/treated sources with protected containers)

Across the country, 56.1 percent of households access at least 15 litres per person per day, while 43.9 percent fall below this level. The regions with the highest access are Oshana at 63.4 percent, Zambezi at 63.3 percent, and Kavango West at 61.8 percent. Several regions fall around the national average, including Hardap, Kavango East, Ohangwena, and Omusati. The regions with the lowest access are Kunene at 41.4 percent, Kharas at 48.6 percent, and Erongo at 50.4 percent, where many households do not reach the minimum daily water requirement. This shows that although more than half of households meet the recommended quantity, many regions still face water shortages.

Table 2. 5: Access to sufficient water (households using protected/treated sources with protected containers) by Area

Area	Access to sufficient quantity of water	
	Proportion of households that use domestic water collected from protected/treated sources with protected containers only	
	≥ 15 lpppd	< 15 lpppd
National	**56.10%**	**43.90%**
Kharas	48.60%	51.40%
Erongo	50.40%	49.60%
Hardap	61.20%	38.80%
Kavango East	59.10%	40.90%
Kavango west	61.80%	38.20%
Khomas	52.80%	47.20%
Kunene	41.40%	58.60%
Ohangwena	60.30%	39.70%
Omaheke	53.40%	46.60%
Omusati	56.80%	43.20%
Oshana	63.40%	36.60%
Oshikoto	50.90%	49.10%
Otjozondjupa	54.90%	45.10%
Zambezi	63.30%	36.70%

Source: MOHSS, SMART Survey 2025

2.3.2.6.3 Access to handwashing devices

Table 2.6., Nationally, 32.6 percent of households have a designated handwashing device, and most devices use a sink with tap water at 64.7 percent. The regions with the highest presence of handwashing devices are Khomas at 57.8 percent, Hardap at 53.5 percent, and Erongo at 49.3 percent. Several other regions have moderate levels, including Kharas and Oshana. The lowest levels are found in Zambezi at 5.5 percent, Kunene at 11.4 percent, and Kavango West at 11.6 percent, meaning these areas have limited access to proper handwashing facilities. For the type of device used, sinks with tap water are most common in all regions, particularly in Erongo, Otjozondjupa, and Zambezi, while regions such as Omusati and Kavango West depend more on pouring devices or buckets.

Table 2. 6: Access to handwashing devices

Region	Type of handwashing device				
	HH with a specific handwashing device	Sink with tap water	Buckets with taps	Pouring device	Other
National	**32.60%**	**64.70%**	**12.70%**	**7.90%**	**14.70%**
Kharas	48.80%	80.20%	14.30%	2.20%	3.30%
Erongo	49.30%	83.90%	12.20%	0.60%	3.30%
Hardap	53.50%	54.60%	22.20%	0.20%	23.00%
Kavango East	25.40%	37.60%	15.60%	8.30%	38.50%
Kavango west	11.60%	42.60%	19.10%	38.30%	0.00%
Khomas	57.80%	75.50%	16.60%	6.70%	1.20%
Kunene	11.40%	66.20%	7.40%	20.60%	5.90%
Ohangwena	24.90%	19.40%	3.00%	4.5%(	73.10%
Omaheke	15.50%	82.10%	6.70%	9.00%	2.20%
Omusati	15.40%	39.20%	11.80%	42.20%	6.90%
Oshana	38.30%	36.60%	8.90%	11.60%	24.60%
Oshikoto	19.20%	43.30%	8.50%	22.00%	26.20%
Otjozondjupa	30.50%	86.70%	16.60%	3.50%	2.20%
Zambezi	5.50%	80.30%	2.80%	0.30%	11.10%

Source: MOHSS, SMART Survey 2025

2.3.2.6.4 Availability of water and soap at handwashing stations

Table 2.7., shows that nationally, 86.8 percent of households have water available at handwashing stations and 72.9 percent have soap, while 71.1 percent have both water and soap. The regions with the highest combined availability are Erongo at 93.4 percent, Kharas at 86.4 percent, and Khomas at 77.0 percent. Moderate levels are seen in Kunene, Oshikoto, Zambezi, and Hardap. The lowest availability is found in Ohangwena at 20.7 percent and Kavango West at 48.9 percent, showing major gaps in hygiene resources. Overall, although many regions have good access to water and soap, a few regions still face serious shortages that can increase health risks.

Table 2. 7: Availability of water and soap at handwashing stations by Area

Area	Water and soap availability at handwashing station		
	Water availability for handwashing	Soap availability for handwashing	Soap and Water Availability
National	**86.80%**	**72.90%**	**71.10%**
Kharas	97.60%	87.20%	86.40%
Erongo	99.40%	93.80%	93.40%
Hardap	87.20%	65.30%	64.50%
Kavango East	99.10%	66.10%	66.10%
Kavango west	85.10%	48.90%	48.90%
Khomas	95.10%	78.40%	77.00%
Kunene	85.50%	79.70%	75.40%
Ohangwena	25.90%	20.70%	20.70%
Omaheke	97.80%	52.60%	52.60%
Omusati	70.60%	634.00%	60.40%
Oshana	70.60%	77.20%	65.70%
Oshikoto	93.70%	82.40%	81.00%
Otjozondjupa	86.70%	5580.00%	55.30%
Zambezi	97.20%	77.80%	77.8%

Source: MOHSS, SMART Survey 2025

2.4 Malnutrition cases

2.4.1 Total number of Malnutrition Cases recorded in the Regions

Across the reporting period from June 2024 to June 2025, the regions with the highest malnutrition case numbers overall are Ohangwena, Kavango East, and Khomas. Ohangwena recorded the largest spikes, particularly in April 2025 with 916 cases, and consistently showed high figures throughout the year. Kavango East also reported high cases, especially in September 2024 with 615 cases and several months above 150 cases. Khomas had high and steady caseloads, frequently ranging between 170 and 298 cases. Other regions with moderately high cases include Oshana, Kunene, Otjozondjupa, and Omusati, which showed occasional peaks but lower totals than the top three regions. The lowest levels of malnutrition cases are seen in Zambezi, //Kharas, and Omaheke, which consistently reported smaller numbers across most months. Overall, the data shows major regional differences, with some areas experiencing persistent high malnutrition while others maintain relatively low and stable caseloads.

Table 2. 8: Total number of Malnutrition Cases recorded in the Regions by the Period

	Total number of Malnutrition Cases recorded in the Regions by the Period													
	Regions													
Period	//Kharas	Erongo	Hardap	Kavango East	Kavango West	Khomas	Kunene	Ohangwena	Omaheke	Omusati	Oshana	Oshikoto	Otjozondjupa	Zambezi
Jun-24	48	52	90	79	27	188	77	116	71	78	68	56	73	26
Jul-24	22	41	51	183	34	120	121	387	17	64	74	36	98	54
Aug-24	22	27	63	165	70	188	120	215	70	116	492	117	100	55
Sep-24	38	39	80	615	66	189	130	269	51	163	85	64	70	75
Oct-24	24	141	68	178	63	258	137	617	51	183	98	128	111	91
Nov-24	94	54	100	142	44	190	102	210	82	212	56	78	81	47
Dec-24	26	25	81	110	50	124	162	128	91	119	93	37	59	51
Jan-25	115	35	73	235	169	171	155	365	86	123	45	46	121	18
Feb-25	41	60	68	238	67	298	104	131	150	159	99	80	197	250
Mar-25	39	72	94	187	54	167	107	218	200	95	88	59	112	28
Apr-25	49	38	125	197	58	231	145	916	93	54	127	69	165	53
May-25	24	59	100	104	41	226	88	77	92	193	71	34	85	20
Jun-25	30	140	78	131	26	228	81	119	51	121	58	46	55	17

Source: MOHSS

Across the reporting period, the regions with the highest number of malnutrition-related deaths overall are Otjozondjupa, Ohangwena, and Kavango East. Otjozondjupa shows repeated high counts, including peaks of 11 deaths in June 2024 and June 2025, and several other months with noticeable increases. Ohangwena also records multiple months with elevated deaths, particularly in December 2024 and January 2025. Kavango East consistently reports moderate to high deaths throughout the period, with several months reaching four to six cases. Regions with moderate but less frequent deaths include Omusati, Oshikoto, Hardap, and Erongo, which show occasional increases but generally lower totals than the top three regions. The lowest levels of deaths are observed in Zambezi, Kunene, Kavango West, Khomas, and //Kharas, where most months record zero or very few deaths. Overall, while deaths occur across all regions, only a few areas repeatedly experience higher mortality linked to malnutrition.

2.4.2 Total Number of deaths due to Malnutrition

Table 2. 9: Total number of deaths due to malnutrition recorded in the Regions by Period

	Total Number of Malnutrition related deaths recorded in the Regions													
Period	**//Kharas**	**Erongo**	**Hardap**	**Kavango East**	**Kavango West**	**Khomas**	**Kunene**	**Ohangwena**	**Omaheke**	**Omusati**	**Oshana**	**Oshikoto**	**Otjozondjupa**	**Zambezi**
Jun-24	0	3	5	3	0	0	2	1	1	3	0	3	11	1
Jul-24	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aug-24	1	1	0	6	1	2	1	6	6	8	1	3	1	0
Sep-24	0	0	4	4	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	2	1	0
Oct-24	0	0	2	3	0	1	1	4	1	4	0	0	3	0
Nov-24	2	2	2	5	0	2	0	2	4	2	0	1	2	0
Dec-24	2	2	0	3	0	1	1	8	4	2	0	5	3	0
Jan-25	0	0	0	3	0	4	1	6	1	6	1	3	5	1
Feb-25	1	1	0	4	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	2	`	2
Mar-25	0	0	3	4	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	1	3	4
Apr-25	1	3	2	4	0	0	2	0	4	2	0	3	8	4
May-25	0	1	2	2	2	4	1	1	4	1	0	3	9	0
Jun-25	0	3	5	3	0	0	2	1	1	3	0	3	11	1

Source: MOHSS

3 Regional Integrated Food Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC) Historical Classification Based On Current Periods

3.1. //Kharas Region

Over the five reporting periods, the share of people in Phase 3 (crisis) varied and did not follow a single steady trend, so the data is best described as fluctuating. The most common Phase 3 value (the mode) is 15 percent. The two periods with the highest combined share of people in Phase 3 and above are 2021 Oct and 2023 Jul (each with 25 percent in Phase 3+). The Phase 3 values ranged by 15 percentage points between their lowest and highest observations (Table 3.1). From the current classification supported with secondary evidence, the classifications were then derived from these numbers.

Table 3. 1: Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications in //Kharas Region

Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications					
Date	**Phase 1**	**Phase 2**	**Phase 3**	**Phase 4**	**Phase 5**
2019 Oct	50	35	15	0	0
2020 Jul	50	40	10	0	0
2021 Oct	40	35	15	10	0
2022 Sept	55	30	15	0	0
2023 Jul	40	35	25	0	0

3.2. Erongo Region

Over the five reporting periods, the share of people in Phase 3 values also fluctuate across the five periods; the modes for Phase 3 are 15 and 20 percent (both values occur). The two highest periods for people in Phase 3 and above are 2021 Oct (25 percent) and 2020 Jul (20 percent). The range of Phase 3 values across the period is 15 percentage points (Table 3.2). From the current classification supported with secondary evidence, the classificatins were then derived from these numbers.

Table 3. 2: Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) in Erongo Region

Date	**Phase 1**	**Phase 2**	**Phase 3**	**Phase 4**	**Phase 5**
2019 Oct	35	50	15	0	0
2020 Jul	35	45	20	0	0
2021 Oct	40	35	20	5	0
2022 Sept	40	55	5	0	0
2023 Jul	20	65	15	0	0

3.3. Hardap Region

Over the five reporting periods, the share of people in Phase 3 shows a fluctuating pattern across the years with modes of 15 and 20 percent (both occur). The two highest years for Phase 3 and above are 2019 Oct and 2023 Jul (each 20 percent). The Phase 3 values vary by 10 percentage points from lowest to highest (Table 3.3). From the current classification supported with secondary evidence, the classifications were then derived from these numbers.

Table 3. 3: Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) in Hardap Region

Date	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
2019 Oct	50	30	20	0	0
2020 Jul	50	35	15	0	0
2021 Oct	50	35	15	0	0
2022 Sept	50	40	10	0	0
2023 Jul	50	30	20	0	0

3.5. Kavango East Region

Over the five reporting periods, the share of people in Phase 3 is highly variable across the five periods (fluctuating) and several Phase 3 values occur as modes (10, 15, 20, 30 and 35 percent appear most often). The two highest periods for Phase 3 and above are 2021 Oct (40 percent) and 2023 Jul (35 percent). The Phase 3 range across years is 25 percentage points. From the current classification supported with secondary evidence, the projected periods were then derived from these numbers.

Table 3. 4: Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) - Kavango East

Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) - Kavango East

Date	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
2019 Oct	60	30	10	0	0
2020 Jul	45	40	15	0	0
2021 Oct	25	35	35	5	0
2022 Sept	35	45	20	0	0
2023 Jul	30	35	30	5	0

3.5. Kavango West Region

Over the five reporting periods the population in IPC Phase 3 fluctuates but has a clear most common value of 20 percent (mode). The two highest years for Phase 3 and above are 2023 Jul (40 percent) and 2021 Oct (30 percent). The Phase 3 values range by 15 percentage points. From the current classification supported with secondary evidence, the classifications were then derived from these numbers (Table 3.5).

Table 3. 5: Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) in Kavango West

Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) - Kavango West					
Date	**Phase 1**	**Phase 2**	**Phase 3**	**Phase 4**	**Phase 5**
2019 Oct	50	30	20	0	0
2020 Jul	55	25	20	0	0
2021 Oct	40	30	25	5	0
2022 Sept	55	25	20	0	0
2023 Jul	35	25	35	5	0

3.6 Khomas Region

Over the five reporting periods the population in IPC Phase 3 fluctuates over time and the most common Phase 3 value is 20 percent. The two highest periods for Phase 3 and above are 2020 Jul and 2021 Oct (each with 25 percent in Phase 3+). The Phase 3 values span a 15 percentage-point range (Table 3.6). From the current classification supported with secondary evidence, the projected periods were then derived from these numbers.

Table 3. 6: Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) in Khomas

Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) - Khomas					
Date	**Phase 1**	**Phase 2**	**Phase 3**	**Phase 4**	**Phase 5**
2019 Oct	50	30	20	0	0
2020 Jul	40	35	25	0	0
2021 Oct	35	40	20	5	0
2022 Sept	70	20	10	0	0
2023 Jul	45	40	15	0	0

3.7 Ohangwena Region

Over the five reporting periods the population in IPC Phase 3 shows fluctuation across the years and the most frequent Phase 3 value is 20 percent. The two highest periods for people in Phase 3 and above are 2021 Oct (40 percent) and 2023 Jul (25 percent). The Phase 3 range across the period is 20 percentage points (Table 3.7). From the current classification supported with secondary evidence, the classifications were then derived from these numbers.

Table 3. 7: Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) in Ohangwena

Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) - Ohangwena					
Date	**Phase 1**	**Phase 2**	**Phase 3**	**Phase 4**	**Phase 5**
2019 Oct	35	45	20	0	0
2020 Jul	50	30	20	0	0
2021 Oct	30	30	35	5	0
2022 Sept	40	45	15	0	0
2023 Jul	45	30	25	0	0

3.8 Omaheke Region

Over the five reporting periods the population in IPC Phase 3 values fluctuate through the reporting years and the most common Phase 3 value is 20 percent. The two highest periods for Phase 3 and above are 2023 Jul (30 percent) and 2019 Oct (25 percent). Phase 3 ranges by 15 percentage points between its lowest and highest values (Table 3.8). From the current classification supported with secondary evidence, the classifications were then derived from these numbers.

Table 3. 8: Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) - Omaheke

Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) - Omaheke					
Date	**Phase 1**	**Phase 2**	**Phase 3**	**Phase 4**	**Phase 5**
2019 Oct	45	30	25	0	0
2020 Jul	60	20	15	5	0
2021 Oct	50	25	20	5	0
2022 Sept	55	25	20	0	0
2023 Jul	35	35	30	0	0

3.9 Omusati Region

Over the five reporting periods the population in IPC Phase 3 is variable (fluctuating) and its most common value is 20 percent. The two highest periods in terms of Phase 3 and above are 2019 Oct and 2021 Oct (each 20 percent). The Phase 3 values cover a 15 percentage-point range (Table 3.9). From the current classification supported with secondary evidence, the classifications were then derived from these numbers.

Table 3. 9: Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) – Omusati

Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) - Omusati

Date	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
2019 Oct	50	30	20	0	0
2020 Jul	80	15	5	0	0
2021 Oct	50	30	20	0	0
2022 Sept	55	30	15	0	0
2023 Jul	45	35	20	0	0

3.10 Oshana Reginon

Over the five reporting periods the population in IPC Phase 3 fluctuates across the years and the mode for Phase 3 is 10 and 15 percent (both occur). The two highest periods for Phase 3 and above are 2023 Jul (20 percent) and 2019 Oct (15 percent). The Phase 3 range was 10 percentage (Table 3.10). From the current classification supported with secondary evidence, the classifications were then derived from these numbers.

Table 3. 10: Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) – Oshana

Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) - Oshana

Date	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5
2019 Oct	45	40	15	0	0
2020 Jul	60	30	10	0	0
2021 Oct	40	50	10	0	0
2022 Sept	35	50	15	0	0
2023 Jul	50	30	20	0	0

3.11 Oshikoto Region

Over the five reporting periods the population in IPC Phase 3 values fluctuate and the modes are 15 and 20 percent. The two highest periods for Phase 3 and above are 2021 Oct (30 percent) and 2022 Sept (20 percent). The Phase 3 values vary by 10 percentage points. From the current classification supported with secondary evidence, the classification were then derived from these numbers (Table 3.11).

Table 3. 11: Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) – Oshikoto

Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) - Oshikoto					
Date	**Phase 1**	**Phase 2**	**Phase 3**	**Phase 4**	**Phase 5**
2019 Oct	55	30	15	0	0
2020 Jul	60	25	15	0	0
2021 Oct	40	30	25	5	0
2022 Sept	45	35	20	0	0
2023 Jul	50	30	20	0	0

3.12 Kunene Region

Over the five reporting periods the population in IPC Phase 3 shows an overall upward movement and is the only region here with a steadier increase in Phase 3 values across the five periods (steady increase). The most common Phase 3 values are 20 and 25 percent. The two years with the highest people in Phase 3 and above are 2020 Jul and 2021 Oct (each 30 percent). The Phase 3 range is 10 percentage points (Table 3.12). From the current classification supported with secondary evidence, the classifications were then derived from these numbers.

Table 3. 12: Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) – Kunene

Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) - Kunene					
Date	**Phase 1**	**Phase 2**	**Phase 3**	**Phase 4**	**Phase 5**
2019 Oct	40	40	20	0	0
2020 Jul	50	20	20	10	0
2021 Oct	40	30	25	5	0
2022 Sept	45	25	25	5	0
2023 Jul	35	35	30	0	0

3.13 Otjozondjupa Region

Over the five reporting periods the population in IPC Phase 3 fluctuates over time and the mode for Phase 3 is 15 percent. The two highest periods for Phase 3 and above are 2023 Jul (20 percent) and 2019 Oct (15 percent) (Table 3.13). The Phase 3 range across the period is 10 percentage points. From the current classification supported with secondary evidence, the classifications were then derived from these numbers.

Table 3. 13: Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) – Otjozondjupa

Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) - Otjozondjupa					
Date	**Phase 1**	**Phase 2**	**Phase 3**	**Phase 4**	**Phase 5**
2019 Oct	50	35	15	0	0
2020 Jul	55	30	15	0	0
2021 Oct	45	40	15	0	0
2022 Sept	55	35	10	0	0
2023 Jul	45	35	20	0	0

3.14 Zambezi Region

Over the five reporting periods the population in IPC Phase 3 values fluctuate and the mode for Phase 3 is 20 percent. The two highest periods for Phase 3 and above are 2021 Oct (30 percent) and 2023 Jul (25 percent) (Table 3.14). The Phase 3 range is 15 percentage points. From the current classification supported with secondary evidence, the classifications were then derived from these numbers.

Table 3. 14: Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) - Zambezi

Integrated Food Insecurity Phase classification historical classifications (current) - Zambezi					
Date	**Phase 1**	**Phase 2**	**Phase 3**	**Phase 4**	**Phase 5**
2019 Oct	45	35	20	0	0
2020 Jul	55	25	20	0	0
2021 Oct	40	30	20	10	0
2022 Sept	50	40	10	0	0
2023 Jul	40	35	25	0	0

4 NAMIBIA POPULATION AT RISK TO FOOD INSECURITY

4.1 CURRENT ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION OVERVIEW (JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025)

4.1.1. Current Acute Food Insecurity Situation Overview

Between July and September 2025, approximately 456,000 people in Namibia (15 percent of the population), are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). This is a reduction from the previous year's record of 1.15 million during the similar season. Three regions (Kunene, Kavango West and Zambezi) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), calling for urgent action to protect livelihoods and reduce food gaps. The remaining regions are classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), implying a need for disaster risk reduction interventions to protect livelihoods.

Kunene stands out as the most food-insecure region, with 25 percent of its population in Phase 3 followed by Kavango West (20 percent) and Zambezi (20 percent). Households in these areas are only marginally meeting minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies. During this period, the majority of households in Phase 3 show a significant depletion of food stocks, forcing them to adopt negative livelihood coping strategies, such as selling assets and livestock, begging, piecework and informal selling. These strategies are a direct response to difficulties in purchasing food due to a lack of income, high unemployment rates, and persisting effects from prolonged dry spells. The above-average rainfall received during 2024/25 caused floods which affected crop production output in most regions especially Kunene, Zambezi, Ohangwena, Oshana, Omusati, Oshikoto.

The regions classified in Phase 2 (Kharas, Erongo, Hardap, Kavango East, Khomas, Omaheke, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto and Otjozondjupa) have minimally adequate food consumption but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without engaging in stress-coping strategies. This improvement is attributed to above-average rainfall received across the country which boosted crop productivity, improved rangelands, social safety nets and the humanitarian food aid.

Nationally, overall staple crop production in communal areas (maize, sorghum, pearl millet) increased by 75 percent from 13,597MT in 2023/24 to 23,775MT in 2024/2025, while green scheme production yielded a total of 16,740MT, from 10,560MT recorded in the previous season, representing a 59 percent increase (MAFWLR, 2025). This has boosted household food stock in crop growing regions with the majority expected to last until December 2025. Good rangeland conditions are observed across the country and livestock body conditions are in good state, and expected to remain stable into the next rainfall season 2025/26. Despite the above-average rainfall received,

animal disease outbreaks (lumpy skin disease) were confirmed across the country except in Kharas and Hardap Regions, causing economic losses.

The water catchment areas and river streams in most parts of the country have recharged and are expected to sustain livelihoods until the next rainfall season (December 2025). The water levels have increased due to above-average rainfall recharging the underground aquifers, leaving households with sufficient water for both human and livestock consumption. The total content of the country's dams stood at 85 percent as of 7 July 2025, compared to 55 percent during the same period last year, representing an increase of 30 percent. The water levels appear as high for some dams like Neckartal with a level of 98 percent, Naute at 95 percent, Swakoppoort at 92 percent, Von Bach at 89 percent and Hardap at 70 percent. As of June 2025, Namibia's National Strategic Food Reserves (NSFRs) stock levels stood at approximately 3,505.77 MT, which represents about 15 percent of their total holding capacity of 22,900 MT, as of 30 June 2025. This stock level is expected to increase further due to a significant cereal production during the 2024/2025 season.

Although the overall food security situation in the country has improved due to favourable rainfall, several underlying factors continue to drive significant portions of the population (about 15 percent) into food insecurity. High levels of poverty and unemployment have significantly limited household purchasing power, reducing the ability of vulnerable families to access sufficient and nutritious food. Flooding, waterlogging, and heavy rains have further compounded the problem by destroying critical infrastructure such as roads, thereby disrupting market access and the movement of food supplies.

In addition, the prevalence of pests and diseases have undermined agricultural productivity, while chronic hunger remains particularly acute in marginalized communities. Moreover, the late and inadequate supply of agricultural inputs—including seeds and tractors, fuel—delayed household production and left many farmers with limited resources needed to plant and cultivate in a timely manner, which would have otherwise helped them boost crop production and improve household food security, the summary is shown below in the table and a more comprehensive map showing these communities.

4.1.2 Current acute food insecurity situation map and population table (July - September 2025)

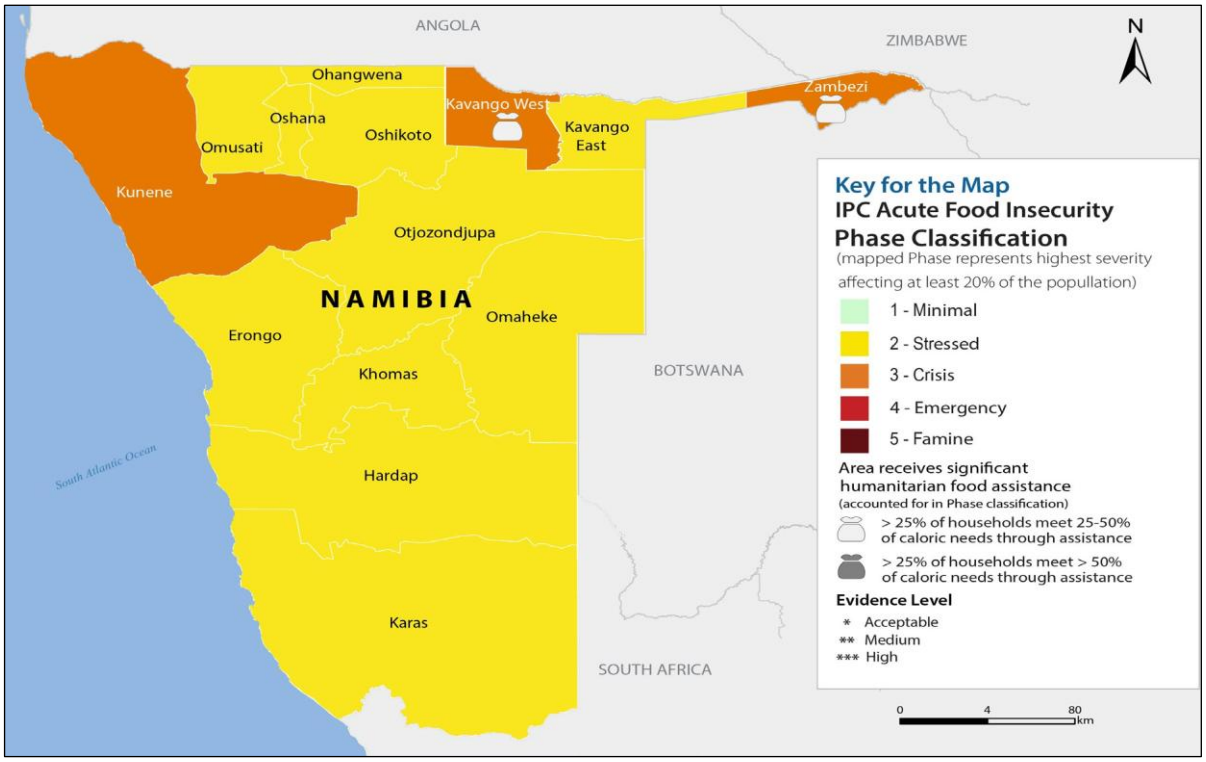

Figure 4. 1: Map for the current acute food insecurity situation: July - September 2025

Table 4. 1: Population table for the current period: July – September 2025

Region	Population analyzed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Kharas	109,893	49,452	45	43,957	40	16,484	15	0	0	0	0	2	16,484	15
Erongo	240,206	132,113	55	84,072	35	24,021	10	0	0	0	0	2	24,021	10
Hardap	106,680	53,340	50	37,338	35	16,002	15	0	0	0	0	2	16,002	15
Kavango East	218,421	98,289	45	87,368	40	32,763	15	0	0	0	0	2	32,763	15
Kavango West	123,266	61,633	50	36,980	30	24,653	20	0	0	0	0	3	24,653	20
Khomas	494,605	247,303	50	173,112	35	74,191	15	0	0	0	0	2	74,191	15
Kunene	120,762	54,343	45	36,229	30	30,191	25	0	0	0	0	3	30,191	25
Ohangwena	337,729	135,092	40	151,978	45	50,659	15	0	0	0	0	2	50,659	15
Omaheke	102,881	36,008	35	51,441	50	15,432	15	0	0	0	0	2	15,432	15
Omusati	316,671	158,336	50	110,835	35	47,501	15	0	0	0	0	2	47,501	15
Oshana	230,801	103,860	45	92,320	40	34,620	15	0	0	0	0	2	34,620	15
Oshikoto	257,302	128,651	50	90,056	35	38,595	15	0	0	0	0	2	38,595	15
Otjozondjupa	220,811	110,406	50	88,324	40	22,081	10	0	0	0	0	2	22,081	10
Zambezi	142,373	64,068	45	49,831	35	28,475	20	0	0	0	0	3	28,475	20
Grand Total	**3,022,401**	**1,432,894**	**47**	**1,133,841**	**38**	**455,668**	**15**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**		**455,668**	**15**

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

4.2 FIRST PROJECTION ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION OVERVIEW (OCTOBER 2025 - MARCH 2026)

4.2.1. First Projection Acute Food Insecurity Situation Overview

Namibia's first projection period (October 2025 to March 2026) is the lean season, which peaks in December and January. The onset of rains come at the beginning of the projection period, when crops are established. During this period, the number of people expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (Phase 3 or above) is likely to increase from 456,000 to 612,000 people (20 percent of the analyzed population).

A total of 12 regions—with 20 to 30 percent of their populations—are projected to be classified in Phase 3. Kunene (30 percent of the population), Kavango West, Omaheke and Zambezi with (25 percent of the population each), remain the top four regions with the highest populations projected to face Phase 3 or above. Each of the remaining eight regions— Kharas, Hardap, Kavango East, Khomas, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana and Oshikoto, will likely have 20 percent of their population in Phase 3 or above.

Otjozondjupa and Erongo are projected to be the only regions in Phase 2 (15 percent of their population). Erongo is a region with diversified economic activities (tourism, mining, fishing, oil and gas and green hydrogen) and it has an employment rate at 68 percent. Otjozondjupa heavily relies on rain-fed agriculture, which is projected to receive normal-above rainfall, indicating favourable agricultural activities. The region also benefits from mining and tourism activities, further enhancing livelihood opportunities.

The main factors expected to worsen food security include below-normal rainfall in the Kunene, Erongo, and Kharas regions. The recent harvest is anticipated to last in most communal crop-producing areas until December, after which many households will depend on market purchases until the next harvest in April 2026, likely driving up food prices. During the peak of the lean season (October 2025 to March 2026), reduced labour opportunities due to poor pasture and declining livestock health will lower household incomes and purchasing power.

Dry conditions may also lead to veld-fires, further degrading pasture. Farmers will face higher costs for animal feed, supplements, and veterinary care. The government's countrywide drought relief program ended in August 2025, and this, combined with limited humanitarian funding, will leave many households vulnerable, potentially increasing malnutrition rates. Households relying on livestock and

subsidies will be most affected, further weakening their purchasing power. Additionally, the

population experiencing Phase 3 will likely rise, driven by persistent poverty and high unemployment. National unemployment stands at 37 percent, with Kavango West (53 percent), Kavango East (52 percent), and Ohangwena (47 percent) regions recording the highest rates, exacerbating food insecurity risks in these areas.

From October 2024 to August 2025, the Government of Namibia provided drought relief assistance to affected households in the form of a food basket comprising 20 kilogram of maize meal, four tins of tinned fish (400g each), and 750 millilitres of cooking oil. The discontinuation of food aid is expected to significantly affect vulnerable households, particularly those without their own food stocks, and will likely exacerbate food insecurity and hardship during the lean season.

4.2.2 Key Assumptions for Projection period one (October 2025 - March 2026)

Rainfall and temperature: Though the rainfall has been projected to be above normal in most of the areas, the seasons benefit from the rainfall will only be realized after the harvest during the second projection period. During this projected period (corresponding to the lean season), most households will have exhausted their food stocks by December 2025. Above-average temperatures are also expected countrywide.

Economic shocks: With the recent withdraw of the food relief Programme in August 2025, the majority of the households that rely on this assistance will be forced to find alternative ways to access food. Following the El Nino phenomena which was associated with severe drought, most of the household income sources were affected and are still yet to recover. Those households who depends on livestock as their source of income lost their livestock during the drought year in 2019 and the majority did not yet fully recover.

Livestock: Improved pasture growth and water availability (dams, boreholes, rivers, iishana) are expected to support livestock until the end of the rainy season by December 2025. Flooding in low-lying areas may restrict pasture access, forcing herds onto higher ground and causing overgrazing. Wet conditions also increase the risk of livestock diseases (internal/ external parasites, foot rot, heart water, pulpy kidney, anthrax). Farmers will need to provide supplementary feeding and ensure timely vaccination to limit losses.

Depletion of own stock: Household food stocks are likely to be depleted by December 2025, increasing reliance on markets until the March 2026 harvest. The impact of normal to above- normal rainfall is expected to be felt later in the year. Food availability should improve from April 2026, although localized production failures may occur in flood-prone areas.

High food prices: Food prices are expected to begin increasing with diminishing household stocks by end of December 2025. Transport bottlenecks and inflation during the rainy season may also keep prices high in remote areas. Livestock prices will rise due to herd depletion, benefiting households with animals but increasing meat prices for consumers. Livestock trade may remain constrained by veterinary regulations (VCF "Red Line," vaccination, certification, quarantine) and poor infrastructure during the rains.

Poor nutrition situation: Nutrition outcomes are expected to deteriorate during the lean season due to reduced food access and declining health sector funding. Vitamin A supplementation and deworming coverage are already below WHO standards and may decline further.

Humanitarian assistance: The phase-out of food assistance from the Government by August 2025 is likely to increase vulnerability among poor households, particularly outside surplus-producing regions. Households with limited assets may continue to struggle despite overall improved availability.

4.2.3 First projection for the acute food insecurity situation map and population table (October 2025 - March 2026)

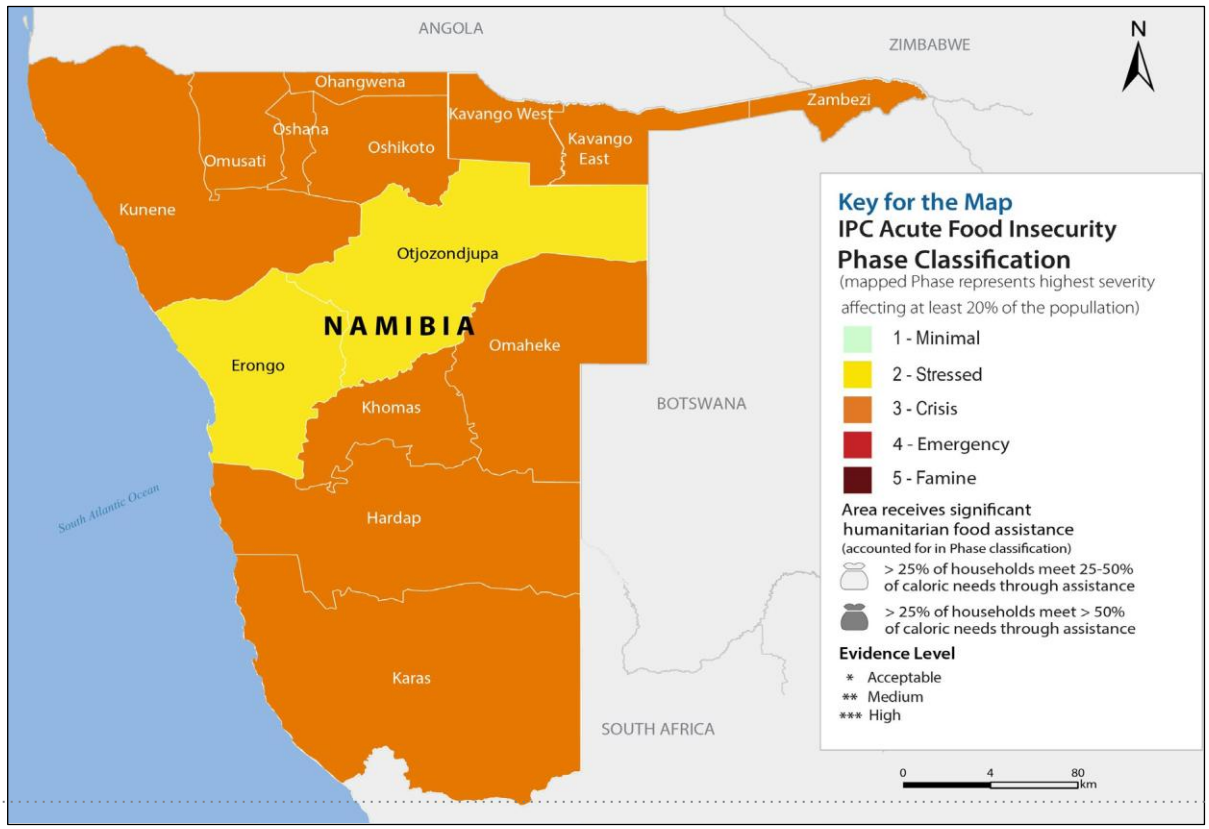

Figure 4. 2: Map for the first projection for the acute food insecurity situation: October 2025 - March 2026

Table 4. 2: Population table for the first projected period: October 2025 – March 2026

Region	Population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Kharas	109,893	38,463	35	49,452	45	21,979	20	0	0	0	0	3	21,979	20
Erongo	240,206	72,062	30	132,113	55	36,031	15	0	0	0	0	2	36,031	15
Hardap	106,680	48,006	45	37,338	35	21,336	20	0	0	0	0	3	21,336	20
Kavango East	218,421	87,368	40	87,368	40	43,684	20	0	0	0	0	3	43,684	20
Kavango West	123,266	49,306	40	43,143	35	30,817	25	0	0	0	0	3	30,817	25
Khomas	494,605	222,572	45	173,112	35	98,921	20	0	0	0	0	3	98,921	20
Kunene	120,762	36,229	30	48,305	40	36,229	30	0	0	0	0	3	36,229	30
Ohangwena	337,729	101,319	30	168,865	50	67,546	20	0	0	0	0	3	67,546	20
Omaheke	102,881	30,864	30	46,296	45	25,720	25	0	0	0	0	3	25,720	25
Omusati	316,671	126,668	40	126,668	40	63,334	20	0	0	0	0	3	63,334	20
Oshana	230,801	92,320	40	92,320	40	46,160	20	0	0	0	0	3	46,160	20
Oshikoto	257,302	102,921	40	102,921	40	51,460	20	0	0	0	0	3	51,460	20
Otjozondjupa	220,811	99,365	45	88,324	40	33,122	15	0	0	0	0	2	33,122	15
Zambezi	142,373	49,831	35	56,949	40	35,593	25	0	0	0	0	3	35,593	25
Grand Total	**3,022,401**	**1,157,294**	**38**	**1,253,174**	**41**	**611,932**	**20**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**		**611,932**	**20**

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

4.3 SECOND PROJECTION ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY OVERVIEW (APRIL - JUNE 2026)

4.3.1. Second Projection Acute Food Insecurity Overview

The impact of the rainy season will be felt during the second projection period (April – June 2026) when the crop harvest is expected as well as improved livestock body conditions.

The number of people projected to experience Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse) is expected to decrease to 408,000 in the second projected period. None of the population has been classified in IPC Phases 4 (Emergency).

In the second projection period, 13 regions are expected to experience improvements in food security, moving into Phase 2, as households begin to consume food from their own production. However, Kunene region is projected to remain in Phase 3, with the highest proportion of food insecure people (20 percent). Furthermore, due to high proportion of marginalised communities that face persistent hunger regardless of rainfall conditions, significant improvement in Kunene's situation is unlikely.

Normal to above-average rainfall across the country is expected to positively influence food security by increasing water availability for drinking, irrigation, and livestock care, boosting agricultural production, creating farming employment, improving grazing, as well as the availability of wild fruits and fish.

On the downside, areas prone to flooding, such as Ohangwena, Omusati, Zambezi, Kavango West, Kavango East, and Oshana are likely to face challenges such as outbreaks of waterborne diseases like malaria and displacement of communities. These issues could limit access to essential services including healthcare, markets, and schools, potentially undermining some of the gains in food security.

4.3.2 Key Assumptions Projection period two (April – June 2026)

Crops: With the start of the harvest, food surpluses are expected in Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Kavango East, Kavango West, and Zambezi. Improved rainfall is anticipated to support high yields and strengthen household food security. Surpluses are expected to reduce reliance on markets, although flood-prone areas may still experience localised losses.

Livestock: Abundant pasture is expected across most regions, improving livestock body condition and productivity. This reduces the need for commercial feed, lowering costs for farmers, while water availability continues to support herd health and resilience.

Markets and economy: Food prices are expected to decrease as harvests reach the markets, improving household access and affordability. Livestock trade may benefit from better grazing conditions and reduced feed dependency.

Water resources and livelihoods: Rivers, dams, boreholes, catchment areas, and underground aquifers are expected to recharge, ensuring improved household and livestock water access. Water-dependent livelihoods (fishing, weaving, small- scale irrigation, and agriculture) are likely to expand, especially in rural areas, improving household income and resilience

Nutrition and health: UNICEF emergency nutrition funding in five regions is expected to provide localised support. Improved water access is likely to enhance hygiene and reduce disease, although benefits may not be evenly distributed across all areas.

4.3.3 Second projection acute food insecurity situation map and population table (April - June 2026)

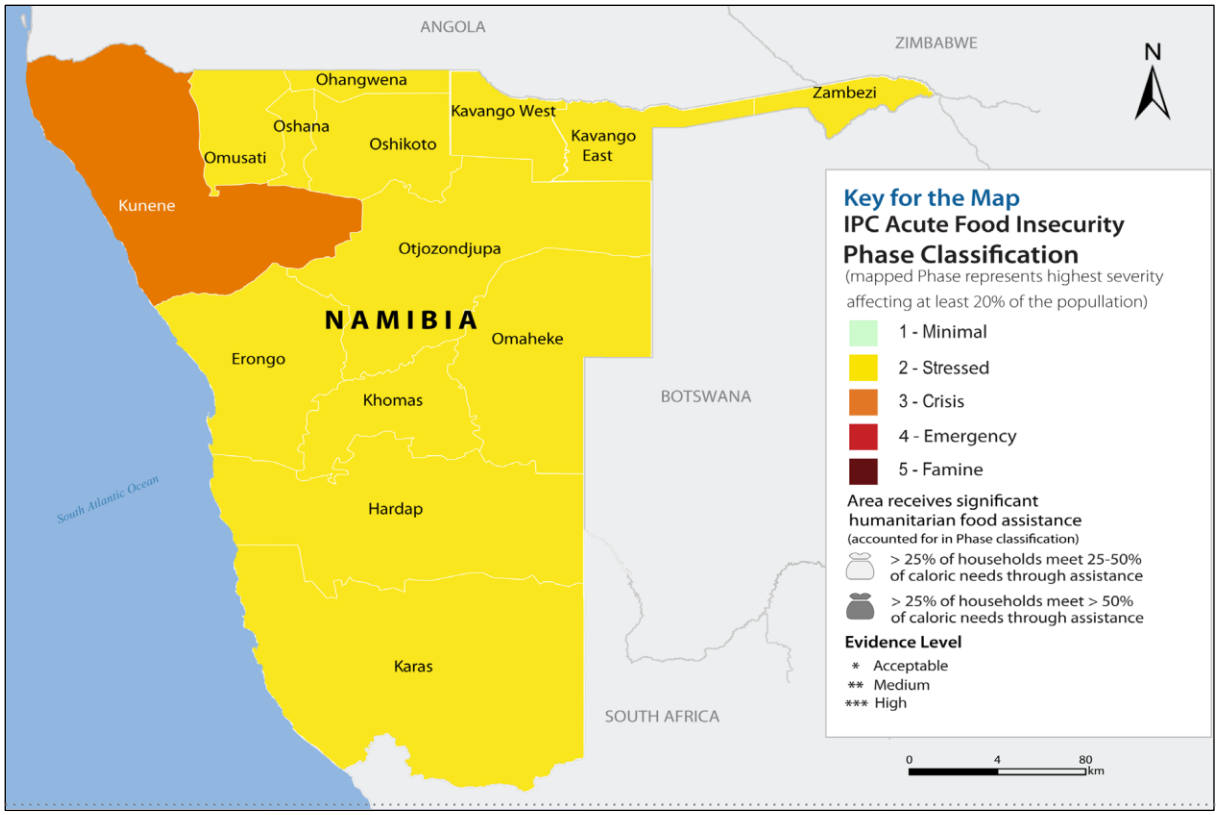

Figure 4. 3: Map for the second projection for the acute food insecurity: April – June 2026

Table 4. 3: Population table for the second projected period: April – June 2026

Region	Population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Kharas	109,893	43,957	40	49,452	45	16,484	15	0	0	0	0	2	16,484	15
Erongo	240,206	108,093	45	108,093	45	24,021	10	0	0	0	0	2	24,021	10
Hardap	106,680	58,674	55	32,004	30	16,002	15	0	0	0	0	2	16,002	15
Kavango East	218,421	98,289	45	87,368	40	32,763	15	0	0	0	0	2	32,763	15
Kavango West	123,266	55,470	45	49,306	40	18,490	15	0	0	0	0	2	18,490	15
Khomas	494,605	272,033	55	148,382	30	74,191	15	0	0	0	0	2	74,191	15
Kunene	120,762	48,305	40	48,305	40	24,152	20	0	0	0	0	3	24,152	20
Ohangwena	337,729	151,978	45	151,978	45	33,773	10	0	0	0	0	2	33,773	10
Omaheke	102,881	41,152	40	46,296	45	15,432	15	0	0	0	0	2	15,432	15
Omusati	316,671	142,502	45	126,668	40	47,501	15	0	0	0	0	2	47,501	15
Oshana	230,801	103,860	45	103,860	45	23,080	10	0	0	0	0	2	23,080	10
Oshikoto	257,302	141,516	55	77,191	30	38,595	15	0	0	0	0	2	38,595	15
Otjozondjupa	220,811	121,446	55	77,284	35	22,081	10	0	0	0	0	2	22,081	10
Zambezi	142,373	56,949	40	64,068	45	21,356	15	0	0	0	0	2	21,356	15
Grand Total	**3,022,401**	**1,444,224**	**48**	**1,170,255**	**39**	**407,921**	**13**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**		**407,921**	**13**

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.

4.4 Situation monitoring

The key factors to monitor include:

- Prices for staple commodities during the pre-lean and lean seasons.
- Inflation and its impact on the Namibian Dollar against the US dollar and the Euro.
- Seasonal rainfall performance (flooding, heavy rains, storms, water logging, crop pests and water borne diseases).
- Employment, income and labour opportunities.
- Access to agricultural inputs (financial, physical).

5 CONCLUSION

The 2025/26 VAA shows that Namibia made strong progress in food security after several difficult years marked by drought and other shocks. The favourable rainfall of the 2024/25 season helped households recover by improving crop production, grazing conditions, and water availability. As a result, the number of people facing high levels of food insecurity decreased significantly from the previous year. Most households were able to rely on their own production for several months, and the overall national food situation improved.

However, the assessment also shows that the improvement is temporary and not yet secure. Many families still depend on unstable income sources, and high unemployment continues to limit household purchasing power. The country's National Strategic Food Reserves remain low, leaving limited national capacity to respond to future emergencies. Persistent challenges such as pests, animal diseases, floods and damage to infrastructure also continue to threaten agricultural production and access to markets.

During the first projection period—the lean season from October 2025 to March 2026—food insecurity is expected to rise again as household food stocks decline and families become more dependent on the market. The end of the drought relief programme will worsen the situation for poor and vulnerable households, many of whom are still recovering from past shocks. The assessment shows that more than 600,000 people may fall into IPC Phase 3 during this period, especially in regions such as Kunene, Kavango West, Zambezi and Omaheke. Without assistance, many households will have to rely on negative coping strategies that weaken their long-term resilience.

The situation is expected to improve again in the second projection period (April to June 2026) when new harvests become available. Most regions will return to IPC Phase 2, showing reduced stress. However, certain regions, especially Kunene, are likely to remain in crisis because of long-term environmental and socio-economic challenges that require targeted and sustained support.

Overall, Namibia continues to face a cycle of shocks and partial recoveries. The assessment concludes that while short-term improvements are possible during good rainfall years, the country remains vulnerable. Long-term food security will require stronger investments in agriculture,

improved water management, better access to inputs, stronger early-warning systems, and expanded social protection programmes. Strengthening these areas will help reduce vulnerability, protect livelihoods, and improve the resilience of communities across the country.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Urgent action is required to reduce food consumption gaps and protect livelihoods for populations, especially those classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The following response priorities are proposed:
2. Continue with provision of welfare grants (social grants or social assistance) to qualified beneficiaries, as well the provision of food assistance to marginalised communities and Conditional Basic Income Grant through cash transfer (previous known as Food Bank) to qualifying beneficiaries in urban and peri-urban areas.
3. Strengthen the provision of the rural water supply programme to address water shortages and accelerate the provision of sanitation facilities in all communities.
4. Strengthen the nutrition programme for assessing acute malnutrition cases, and refer cases to existing feeding programmes.
5. Carry out a persistent food insecurity assessment, to help identify the underlying long-term drivers of hunger beyond short-term shocks. This would provide evidence for targeted policies and programs that strengthen resilience, improve livelihoods, and reduce reliance on emergency relief, thereby supporting sustainable food security in the country. This would also help Namibia prioritise resources, guide social protection programs, and monitor progress toward sustainable food security.
6. Strengthen veterinary and pest control services.
7. Enhance timely supply of agricultural inputs such as tractors, fuel, and seeds. This will enable farmers to prepare land and plant on schedule, thereby improving productivity and reducing vulnerability to food insecurity.
8. Strengthen the first 1,000 days nutrition campaign due to high stunting rates (29.5 percent) as per the SMART survey 2025.
9. Conduct SMART surveys annually to ensure continuous and reliable monitoring of nutrition and food security trends. Since the last survey was conducted last year, it is recommended that another round be carried out this year to provide updated evidence for planning and interventions.
10. Introduce food-for-work programmes to provide immediate food support to vulnerable households while engaging them in community development activities, in both urban, peri-

urban and rural areas. This approach helps address short-term food insecurity and, at the same time, building or rehabilitating community assets (such as water points, roads, or markets) that support longer-term livelihood resilience.

11. Ensure fair land access for home/community gardens, prioritizing marginalized groups and women to boost resilience.
12. Strengthen the awareness creation of the Solar Revolving fund to build resilience by providing relief to electricity users