



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

PRESS RELEASE

NAMIBIA LIVELIHOOD VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS (VAA)

AND THE

**INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION (IPC) ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY
COMMUNICATION REPORT, 2023/2024; MEDIA BRIEFING**

BY

I-BEN NATANGWE NASHANDI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

30 August 2023

Members of the Media,

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

Good afternoon

1. It is my distinct honour and privilege to welcome you all to this short briefing on the outcomes of the 2023/2024 Livelihood Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis.
2. As we may be aware, 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 and further aid the understanding of threats of natural and socio-economic disasters to food and nutrition security.
3. The assessment was conducted by staff members from Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs), Regional Councils, Local Authorities, civic society organizations (Namibia Red Cross Society), University of Namibia and the United Nations agencies (FAO, WFP, UNDP, WHO & UNICEF).
4. The 2023/24 VAA was conducted between May and July of 2023 and covered both urban and rural areas in all 14 regions. The primary data collected was supplemented by secondary data from key sectors:-

5. Key Findings:

- (a) Rainfall performance: According to the Namibia Meteorological Services 2022/2023 seasonal report, Namibia experienced below normal and sporadic rainfalls which culminated in a combination of flash floods and dry spells in some parts of the country. This has subjected communities to prospects of lower crop yields, impacts on livestock, and ultimately reduced household food stocks compromising food security at household levels.

- (b) Grazing and Livestock: Grazing conditions are generally poor in most regions across the country and this has an effect on the livestock body conditions (MAWLR, 2023).

- (c) Food Security status (Crop Harvests): According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR, 2023) Crop Prospects, Food Security and Drought Situation Report for July 2023, the 2022/23 estimates shows that the nation has harvested 153,000 MT, which is 9% less than the harvest of 168,200 MT from previous season (2021/22) but 23% above the 10 years' average production of 124,200 MT.

- (d) Erratic and limited rainfall distribution since the start of the agricultural season in November has resulted in abnormal dry conditions affecting the northern part of the country and resulted in poor crop performance. Additionally, poor rainfall over the north-

western and southern parts of the country during the 2022/2023 agricultural season has negatively impacted pasture biomass conditions, particularly in the crop growing regions as most of the areas crop fields did not mature but rather withered before it reached the mature age and lowering cereal production expectations.

Some households in Ohangwena, Oshana and Omusati regions experienced flood during the ploughing season early 2023 which resulted in the affected households not being able to cultivate during this agricultural season. Furthermore, occurrences of livestock diseases and pests also hampered the livestock production especially in Kavango West and East.

- (e) Water Provision status: The assessment shows that about 85 percent of the population gets their water from private and public taps and 7 percent from boreholes. About 20 percent of the population in Kavango West, Omaheke and Kunene region get most of their water from boreholes. Moreover, about 76.4 percent of the population walks less than 2.5 km to water points, 18.1 percent between 2.5 km to 5 km and 5.6 percent walks more than 5 km to water points, especially in Kavango West, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Zambezi walks more than 5km to water points.
- (f) Cereal production: With little rainfall received this year and flash floods experienced in Ohangwena, Oshana and Omusati, all crop growing regions (Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Kavango

East, Kavango West and Zambezi) experienced a poor harvest. The Namibia

- (g) Food Insecurity Status: Between the months of July to September 2023, approximately 579,000 people in Namibia (22 percent of the population) are estimated to be facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and requiring urgent humanitarian assistance.

During the current period most households do not have any food stocks, most having indicated stocks lasting less than one month and those who had stocks lasting between one to three months have already depleted their food stock. As a result, households have already experienced difficulties in purchasing food due to lack of income and high unemployment rates.

It is projected that during the period October 2023 – March 2024, the number of people expected to experience food insecurity would further rise to 695,000 people (26% of the population).

6. With the anticipated El Niño, which is likely to affect us during the 2023/24 agricultural season, the situation in the country will be negatively affected due to more dry and limited rainfall, which could put food security in the country at risk. Therefore, the projected population 491,000 anticipated to be in Phase 3 or above during April to June 2024 is likely to increase.

7. Government would like to reiterate the government's commitment of ensuring that no Namibian citizen will die as a result of hunger due to the disasters. It is on this basis that the Government through the Office of the Prime Minister will roll-out the drought relief programme (food assistance) to all affected subsistence farmers in rural areas in all the 14 regions, effective 01 October 2023 to June 2024, while livestock support programme will be implemented from 01 October 2023 to 31 March 2024. The programme is expected to cost government N\$ 892,4 million.

8. The drought relief programme consists of:
 - Food relief distribution-coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister and implemented by Regional Councils across the country in all 14 regions.
 - Water Provision
 - Livestock support such as marketing incentives, subsidies on lease of grazing, subsidies on transport to grazing areas and subsidies on fodder purchased.

9. As per the usual procedure, Regional Councils would oversee and facilitate the identification and registration of beneficiaries at village level. This should be done through transparent platforms, preferably community meetings coordinated by community leaders to identify and register households that are in dire need of this assistance. The Office of the Prime Minister will communicate all the administrative procedures to be

followed by regions during the rolling out of the drought relief programme on food distribution.

10. Similarly, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform will communicate all the administrative procedures and requirements for affected farmers to benefit from the livestock support and water provision interventions.
11. I therefore call upon Regional Councils to ensure that the drought programme is effectively and efficiently implemented and monitored.
12. In conclusion, issues of disasters such as drought cannot be responded to in isolation, it requires multi-sectoral approach. I would like to take this opportunity to call upon the business fraternity and development partners to come on board and meet the government halfway in responding to this phenomenon. Some have already done so, and we express our appreciation.

It is now my pleasure to launch the Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Report 2023, and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity Communication Report

I thank you!

NAMIBIA

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

JULY 2023 – JUNE 2024

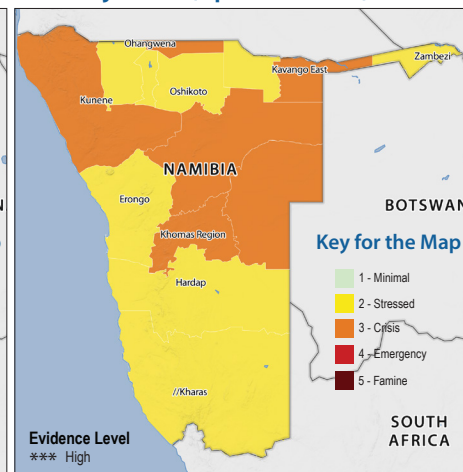
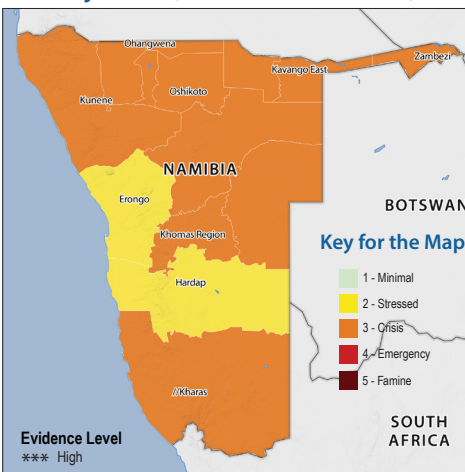
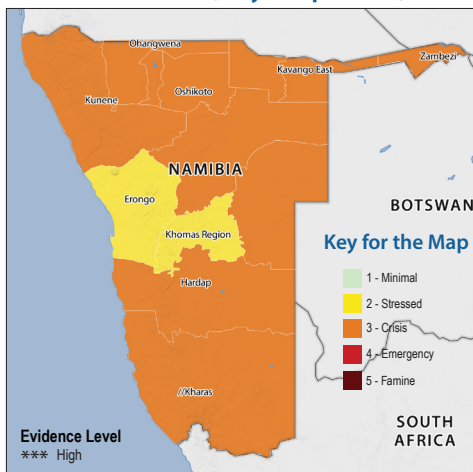
Published on August XX, 2023

CURRENT SITUATION: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023		1st PROJECTION: OCTOBER 2023 - MARCH 2024		2nd PROJECTION: APRIL - JUNE 2024	
579,000 22% of the population analysed People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5 0 People in Catastrophe	695,000 26% of the population analysed People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5 0 People in Catastrophe	491,000 19% of the population analysed People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5 0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4 13,000 People in Emergency		Phase 4 65,000 People in Emergency		Phase 4 4,000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3 566,000 People in Crisis		Phase 3 630,000 People in Crisis		Phase 3 487,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2 969,000 People in Stressed		Phase 2 943,000 People in Stressed		Phase 2 1,012,000 People in Stressed
	Phase 1 1,094,000 People in food security		Phase 1 1,004,000 People in food security		Phase 1 1,139,000 People in food security

Current Situation (July - Sept 2023)

1st Projection (Oct 2023 - Mar 2024)

2nd Projection (Apr - Jun 2024)



Note: According to IPC Acute Food Insecurity classification protocols, an area is classified in a specific IPC Phase when at least 20% of the population in the area are experiencing the conditions related to that Phase or above.

Overview

Food insecurity exists when people have limited capacity physically and economically to access adequate food at household level. In the current period, July to September 2023, 579,000 people in Namibia (22 percent of the population) face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and required urgent action to reduce food gaps and protect livelihoods. Only two regions, Erongo and Khomas were classified in IPC Phase 2, Stressed, and need action for livelihood protection, while all the other 12 regions were classified in IPC Phase 3, Crisis. Namibia's deteriorating food security is mainly driven by the drought/dry spells/erratic rainfall, prices shocks, economic decline, and unemployment.

In the projected period 1, from October 2023 to March 2024 695, 000 people (26 percent of the population) are expected to be in IPC Phase 3 or above. Erongo and Hardap regions are expected to be in IPC Phase 2, Stressed and all other regions are expected to be in IPC Phase 3, Crisis. Erongo region is anticipated to remain in IPC Phase 2, Stressed due to government interventions and possible employment opportunities from the mining sector ; while Khomas region is expected to fall in IPC Phase 3, Crisis. An improvement for Hardap region from IPC Phase 3, Crisis to IPC Phase 2, Stressed will be due to the government planned intervention of drought relief in terms of food support to the region. The food security situation is expected to worsen with 4 percent since this period represent the first half of Namibia's lean

Key Drivers

- Dry spells**
 Namibia faced adverse effects of dry spells and erratic rainfall, impacting crop and livestock production. Livestock mortality rates rose due to insufficient grazing land and water, while crop harvests also dwindled in affected regions.
- Price shocks**
 Rising global prices of fuel products have prompted an escalation in both food and non-food costs, consequently diminishing the purchasing power of individuals.
- Unemployment**
 The COVID-19 pandemic caused economic decline and job losses, leaving many households reliant on markets for food.



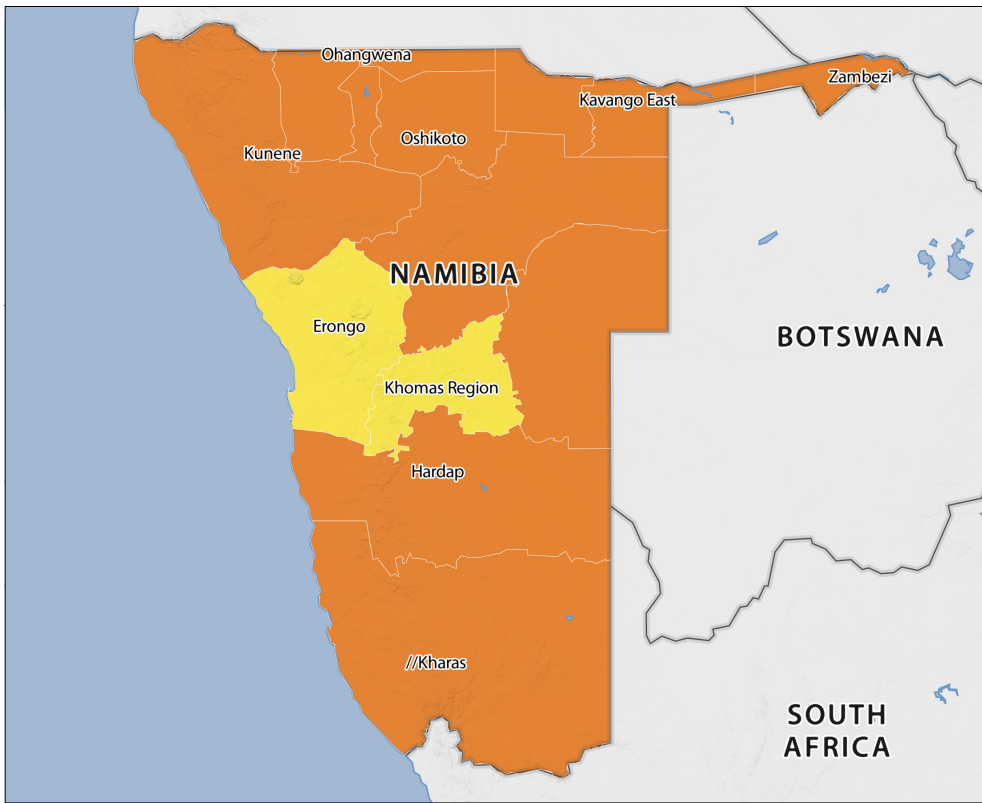
season, prices start to rise, and most households would have used up their own production's stocks and some households have not harvested during the previous harvest seasons especially the northeastern crop growing regions.

On the other hand, during the projected period 2, from April to June 2024, it is projected that the situation will relatively improve as households start consuming food from their own production, which marks the beginning of the 2023–2024 consumption period. During this period, it is estimated that 491,000 people or 19 percent of the population will experience high food insecurity, IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse). The situation is expected to recover in seven out of thirteen regions in the second projection compared to the current and/or first projection periods. Karas, Erongo, Hardap, Kavango West, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto and Zambezi region are expected to be in IPC Phase 2, Stressed and other six regions expected to remain in IPC Phase 3, Crisis. Food and non-food item prices increase which is triggered by the global price increments in fuel products, resulting in reduced people's purchasing power.

The 2022/23 agricultural season rainfall performance was generally poor for most of the regions, with below average rainfall recorded, which resulted in poor crop harvest especially for the northern crop growing regions. Moreover, poor rainfall over the northwestern and southern parts of the country has negatively impacted pasture biomass conditions, particularly in the northern regions of Kunene, Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena Oshikoto, and the southern regions of Hardap and Karas.

Preliminary findings on crop and livestock production estimates shows that poor pastures and water deficit has negatively impacted livestock production and poor grazing which led to poor livestock conditions in most regions, with Zambezi, Kavango East, Kavango West livestock's condition ranging from good to fair, resulting in low livestock prices in the affected regions.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023)



Key for the Map
IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification
 (mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

Evidence Level
 *** High

Population table for the current period: July – September 2023

Region	Population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Erongo	215,700	46,000	20	149,000	35	34,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	34,000	15
Hardap	95,049	49,000	50	29,000	35	20,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	20,000	20
Kavango East	160,670	50,000	30	58,000	35	50,000	30	8,000	5	0	0	3	58,000	35
Kavango west	92,239	33,000	35	22,000	30	33,000	35	5,000	5	0	0	3	38,000	40
Kharas	94,294	39,000	40	34,000	35	25,000	25	0	0	0	0	3	25,000	25
Khomas Region	496,546	239,000	45	212,000	40	79,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	79,000	15
Kunene	109,672	40,000	35	40,000	30	35,000	30	0	0	0	0	3	35,000	30
Ohangwena	267,835	123,000	45	82,000	30	68,000	25	0	0	0	0	3	68,000	25
Omaheke	77,212	27,000	35	27,000	25	24,000	30	0	0	0	0	3	24,000	30
Omusati	257,874	118,000	45	91,000	30	52,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	52,000	20
Oshana	202,656	104,000	50	62,000	50	42,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	42,000	20
Oshikoto	209,270	107,000	50	65,000	30	43,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	43,000	20
Otjozondjupa	163,776	75,000	45	59,000	40	33,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	33,000	20
Zambezi	107,433	44,000	40	39,000	30	28,000	25	0	0	0	0	3	28,000	25
Grand Total	2,642,000	1,094,000	41	969,000	37	556,000	21	0	1	0	0		579,000	22

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.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW (JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023)

Between the months of July to September 2023, approximately 579,000 people in Namibia (22 percent of the population) are estimated to be facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and requiring urgent humanitarian assistance. Of this population, 566,000 people experiencing IPC Phase 3, Crisis and 13,000 face IPC Phase 4, Emergency, an additional 969,000 (37 percent) are IPC Phase 2, Stressed and 1,094,000 (41 percent) are classified under IPC Phase 1, Minimal.

Most of the regions are classified under IPC Phase 3, Crisis except for Erongo and Khomas regions which are classified in IPC Phase 2, Stressed. The most affected regions are Kavango East and Kavango West region with 5 percent of the population estimated to be facing IPC Phase 4, Emergency, respectively.

At regional level, the food insecure population range from 15 percent both in Erongo and Khomas regions correspondingly to 30 percent and 40 percent in Kavango West and Kavango East regions, respectively.

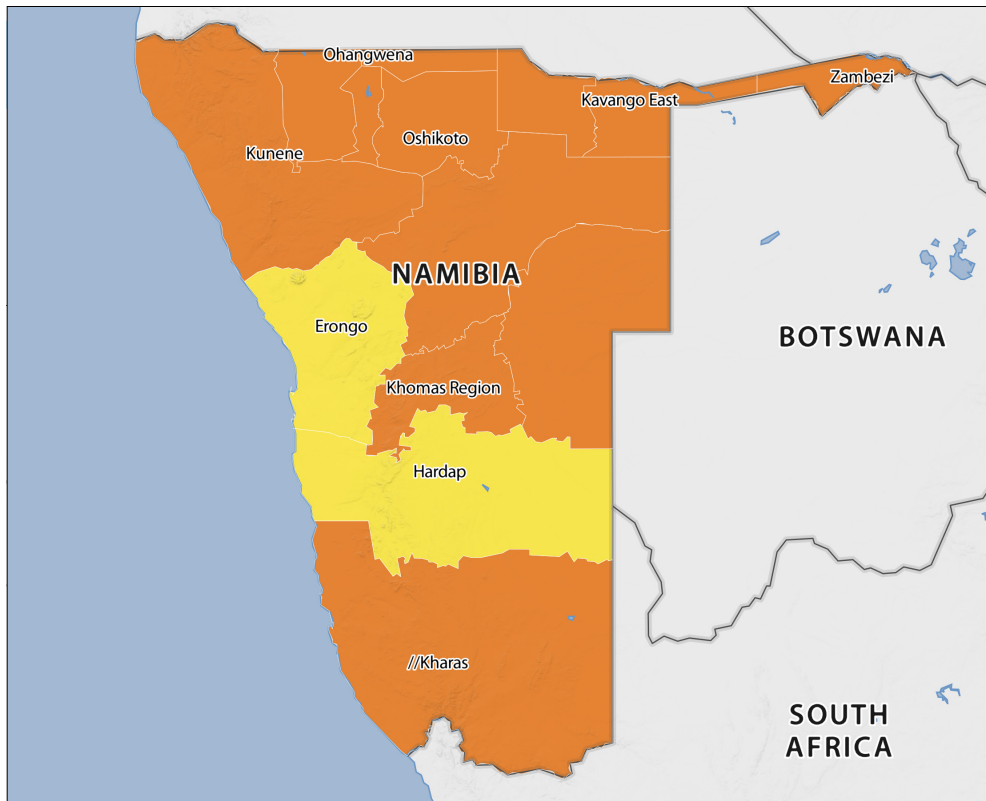
During the current period most households do not have any food stocks most having indicated stocks lasting less than one month and those who had stocks lasting between one to three months have already depleted their food stock. As a result, households have already experienced difficulties in purchasing food due to lack of income and high unemployment rates. Of those households who indicated to have some source of income, majority indicated social grants as their major source of income which may be affected negatively by the household sizes. Moreover, erratic and limited rainfall distribution since the start of the agricultural season in November has resulted in abnormal dry conditions affecting the northern part of the country and resulted in poor crop performance. Additionally, poor rainfall over the northwestern and southern parts of the country during the 2022/2023 agricultural season has negatively impacted pasture biomass conditions, particularly in the crop growing regions as most of the areas crop fields did not mature but rather withered before it reached the mature age and lowering cereal production expectations. Some households in Ohangwena, Oshana and Omusati regions experienced flood during the ploughing season which resulted in the affected households not being able to cultivate during this agricultural season. Furthermore, occurrences of livestock diseases and pests also hampered the livestock production especially in Kavango West and East.

About 85 percent of the population gets their water from private and public taps and 7 percent from boreholes. About 20 percent of the population in Kavango West, Omaheke and Kunene region, respectively get most of their water from boreholes.

Moreover, about 76.4 percent of the population walks less than 2.5 km to water points, 18.1 percent between 2.5 km to 5 km and 5.6 percent walks more than 5 km to water points. Respectively, more than 10 percent of Kavango West, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Zambezi walks more than 5km to water points.

With little rainfall received this year and flash floods experienced in Ohangwena, Oshana and Omusati, all crop growing regions (Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Kavango East, Kavango West and Zambezi) experienced a poor harvest. The Namibia Total Cereal Production trend preliminary findings for the 2022/23 was 153 000 MT compared to 168 200 MT harvested in 2021/22 season, of which 81 percent of the total production was from the commercial sector and only 19 percent produced from the crop production regions, which is 9 percent lower than the 2021/22 harvest.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY FIRST PROJECTION SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (OCTOBER 2023 - MARCH 2024)



Key for the Map
IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification
 (mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

Evidence Level
 *** High

Population table for the first projected period: October 2023 – March 2024

Region	Population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Erongo	215,700	69,000	30	137,000	60	23,000	10	0	0	0	0	2	23,000	10
Hardap	95,049	49,000	50	34,000	35	15,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	15,000	15
Kavango East	160,670	41,000	25	50,000	30	58,000	35	17,000	10	0	0	3	75,000	45
Kavango west	92,239	32,000	35	19,000	20	33,000	35	9,000	10	0	0	3	42,000	45
Kharas	94,294	49,000	50	29,000	30	20,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	20,000	20
Khomas Region	496,546	212,000	40	212,000	40	106,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	106,000	20
Kunene	109,672	35,000	30	40,000	35	40,000	35	0	0	0	0	3	40,000	35
Ohangwena	267,835	109,000	40	68,000	25	82,000	30	14,000	5	0	0	3	96,000	35
Omaheke	77,212	23,000	30	23,000	30	28,000	35	4,000	5	0	0	3	32,000	40
Omusati	257,874	91,000	35	105,000	40	65,000	25	0	0	0	0	3	65,000	25
Oshana	202,656	94,000	45	62,000	30	42,000	20	10,000	5	0	0	3	52,000	25
Oshikoto	209,270	97,000	45	64,000	30	43,000	20	11,000	5	0	0	3	54,000	25
Otjozondjupa	163,776	58,000	35	67,000	40	42,000	25	0	0	0	0	3	42,000	25
Zambezi	107,433	45,000	40	33,000	30	33,000	30	0	0	0	0	3	33,000	30
Grand Total	2,642,000	1,004,000	38	943,000	36	630,000	24	65,000	2	0	0		695,000	26

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.



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY FIRST PROJECTION OVERVIEW (OCTOBER 2023 - MARCH 2024)

During the first projection period (October 2023 – March 2024), the number of people expected to experience food insecurity is likely to increase by an estimated 4 percent from the current number of 579,000 to 695,000 people.

Out of this population 65,000 (2 percent) will face emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 4), 630,000 (24 percent) in IPC Phase 3, Crisis, 943,000 (36 percent) are anticipated to be in IPC Phase 2, Stressed and 1,004,000 (38 percent) in IPC Phase 1, Minimal.

Kavango West, Kavango East, Omaheke, Ohangwena, Hardap, Karas, Zambezi, Otjozondjupa, Oshana, Omusati, Oshikoto and Kunene regions are classified under IPC Phase 3, Crisis while Erongo and Khomas regions are classified in IPC Phase 2. The most affected regions are Kavango East and Kavango West region with 5 percent of the population estimated to be facing IPC Phase 4, Emergency, respectively.

Erongo region is anticipated to remain in IPC Phase 2, Stressed and Khomas region expected to fall in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse). All other regions that were in IPC Phase 3, Crisis except Hardap region are anticipated to remain in IPC Phase 3. The Hardap region is expected to improve from IPC Phase 3 to IPC Phase 2.

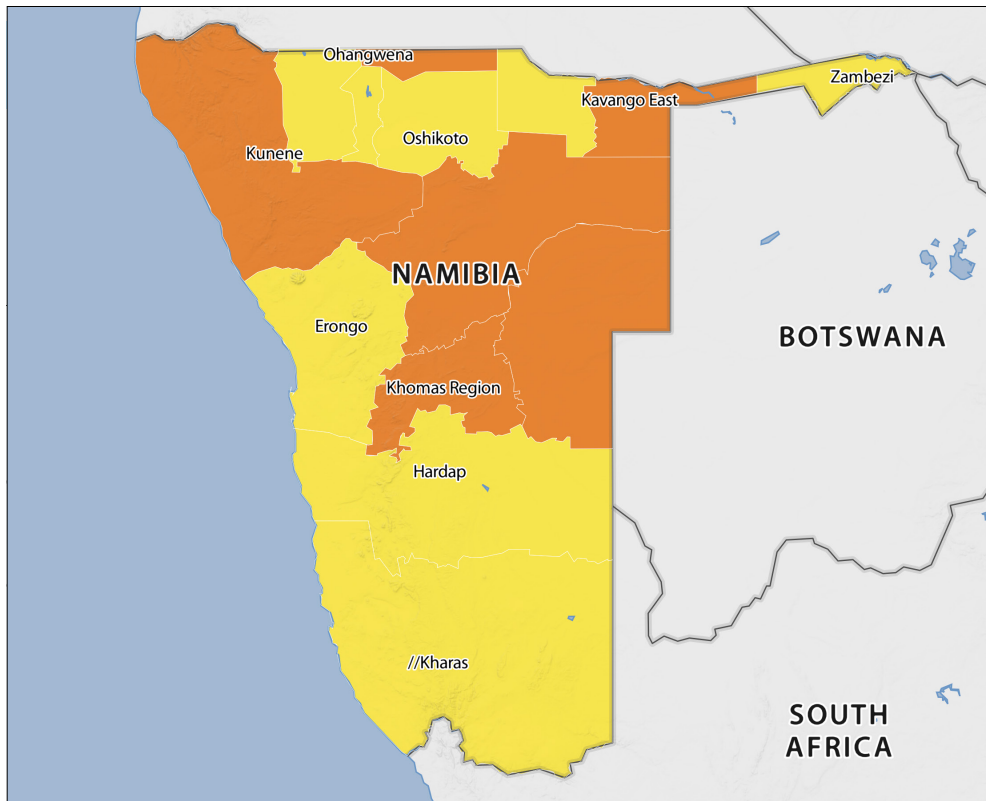
At regional level, the situation will deteriorate significantly especially in Kavango West, Kavango East, Omaheke, Ohangwena with at least 35 percent of their populations, respectively being in IPC Phase 3 or above.

The main factors that are likely to affect the food security during the first projected period will prolong dry spells and erratic rainfall which has been below normal for the past years, negatively impacting livelihoods and crop and livestock production. Due to poor harvest during the current agricultural season, households have limited food stock which will have been depleted by the start of the lean season and most households will resort to stress and emergency coping strategies, such as selling of assets to meet food consumption gaps. Furthermore, the global increase of commodity prices and higher rate of unemployment will have an impact on the food systems especially for those with no stable income.

The Seasonal Rainfall forecast has predicted an El Niño phenomenon with a high probability which will cause drier conditions. These conditions which are likely to result into below normal rainfall for the 2023/24 rainfall season will affect both crop and livestock production consequently negatively affecting the consumption period from April to June 2023.



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SECOND PROJECTION SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (APRIL - JUNE 2024)



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

Evidence Level
*** High

Population table for the second projected period: April – June 2024

Region	Population analysed	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Erongo	215,700	91,000	40	115,000	50	23,000	10	0	0	0	0	2	23,000	10
Hardap	95,049	49,000	50	34,000	35	15,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	15,000	15
Kavango East	160,670	50,000	30	66,000	40	50,000	30	0	0	0	0	3	50,000	30
Kavango west	92,239	46,000	50	33,000	35	14,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	14,000	15
Kharas	94,294	49,000	50	34,000	35	15,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	15,000	15
Khomas Region	496,546	212,000	40	212,000	40	106,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	106,000	20
Kunene	109,672	34,000	30	47,000	40	34,000	30	0	0	0	0	3	34,000	30
Ohangwena	267,835	136,000	50	82,000	30	55,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	55,000	20
Omaheke	77,212	20,000	25	31,000	40	23,000	30	4,000	5	0	0	3	27,000	35
Omusati	257,874	118,000	45	104,000	40	39,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	39,000	15
Oshana	202,656	104,000	50	73,000	35	31,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	31,000	15
Oshikoto	209,270	108,000	50	75,000	35	32,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	32,000	15
Otjozondjupa	163,776	67,000	40	67,000	40	33,000	20	0	0	0	0	3	33,000	20
Zambezi	107,433	55,000	50	39,000	35	17,000	15	0	0	0	0	2	17,000	15
Grand Total	2,642,000	1,139,000	43	1,012,000	38	487,000	19	4,000	0	0	0		491,000	19

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.



ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SECOND PROJECTION OVERVIEW (APRIL - JUNE 2024)

The number of people expected to experience food insecurity is expected to decrease by an estimated 7 percent from the projected period 1 of 695,000 to 491,000 people.

Out of this population in 4,000 (0.2 percent) are anticipated to face IPC Phase 4, Emergency; 487,000 (18 percent) in IPC Phase 3, Crisis; 1,012,000 (38 percent) in IPC Phase 2, Stressed and 1,142,000 (43 percent) in IPC Phase 1, Minimal.

The situation is expected to improve in seven out of thirteen regions in the second projection period compared to the current and/or first projection periods as households will have access to higher production. Kharas, Erongo, Hardap, Kavango West, Omusati, Erongo and Hardap region are expected to be in IPC Phase 2, Stressed and other six regions are likely to remain in IPC Phase 3, Crisis.

At regional level, the situation for the estimated population anticipated to be in IPC Phase 3 or above ranges from 35 percent to 10 percent with Omaheke having the highest population, followed by Kavango East with 30 percent and Erongo being the lowest with 10 percent of its population being in IPC Phase 3 or above.

However, it is important to note that, with the anticipated El Niño, which is likely to affect Africa, Central America, and Far East Asia during the 2023/24 agricultural season, the situation in the country will be negatively affected due to more dry and limited rainfall, which could put food security in the country at risk. Therefore, the projected population 491,000 anticipated to be in Phase 3 or above during April to June 2024 is likely to increase.

Key Assumptions for the projection period

Food availability: Food availability for commodities including staples is expected to deteriorate and localized deficits will be experienced during the first projection period which is also the lean season

Fuel prices: Commodity prices are expected to trend at levels above five-year average prices throughout the projected periods being a result of the escalating fuel prices.

Inflation: Cost of fuel will likely affect the exchange rate and impact negatively on the economy. Growth is expected to slow down. Households will therefore bear the brunt of a strained economy.

Dry spells and erratic rainfall: Seasonal forecast from the European Commission latest forecast of the period until December 2023 shows below normal rainfall forecast for Namibia until December 2023 which will affect local food production and ultimately food security in the country. This may result in Namibia experiencing drought/dry spells which will affect food production in the projected periods.

El Niño: El Niño which is likely to negatively affect Africa, Central America and Far East Asia during the 2023/24 agricultural season, will negatively impact the situation in the country as a result of limited rainfall, increasing the level of household vulnerability to food insecurity.

Humanitarian assistance: Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) from the Office of the Prime Minister will likely continue through the projection period.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

The following response priorities are proposed:

- Urgent action is required to save lives, reduce food consumption gaps and protect livelihoods especially those classified in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse).
- MAWLR to invest in development of water infrastructure equipment to be used to harvest and store water especially during the flood seasons which will be used for domestic and livestock use.
- MAWLR to avail more agricultural equipment's such as tractors to farmers for agricultural ploughing
- MAWLR to provide financial support to non-operational green scheme to enable them to be functional, which provides food and employment opportunities to communities
- MAWLR to develop the underground water aquifer in Ohangwena region to supply water to the northern Namibia
- Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare to continue with the food distribution for the Marginalized Communities.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) to promote resilience/climate-smart agricultural production in the areas which depend on crop and livestock activities, especially drought resistance cereal/crop seeds which matures early and able to give yield within a short period of time.
- It was observed during data collection that majority of the population do not have national documents, either due to transport costs or residency years requirements, hence not able to benefit from different social grants and children not able to enrolled in higher educations, therefore, Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration Safety and Security (MHAISS) to reach out to the communities through household visits to register those eligible and re-look at the minimum cut off years of acquiring citizenship through naturalization etc.
- It was detected during data collection that majority of the households who depends on social grant as their main source of income spends more than half of the grants on food purchases leaving non-food items not attended to eg. Education, due to the inadequate income to cater for all the needs, especially households with bigger household sizes. Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare to consider raising social grants income.
- In case the key assumptions in section 6 holds e.g., the occurrence of the anticipated El Niño and seasonal rainfall performance, it is recommended that NAMVAC update the acute food insecurity projection figures especially the projection period 2 of April-June 2024 to updated figures.

Risk factors to monitor

- Prices for staple commodities
- Informal cross-border food trade
- The impact of COVID-19 on food security
- Inflation and its impact on the Namibian Dollar
- Seasonal rainfall performance
- African migratory locust infestations across the country
- Flooding in the areas that are likely to receive above-normal rainfall
- The drought situation in Kunene, Omusati, Erongo and other potential regions

PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

The Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NamVAC) carried out a food security assessment to determine the situation across the 14 regions of Namibia. The review focused on the period between July to September 2023 and two projections, projecting for October 2023 to March 2024 and April to June 2024. The available data from the survey represents Evidence Level 3.

The data was based on sampling design that was guided by the Namibia Statistics Agency. The data was then cleaned and analysed for the various outputs used for the IPC analysis

Data collection and analysis was conducted by participants drawn from the NamVAC membership at National and Regional levels, Non- Governmental Organizations (Namibia Red Cross Society), University of Namibia and the United Nations (WFP, UNDP, WHO, FAO & UNICEF). The analysis workshop was facilitated by the IPC GSU.

Overall, data analysis was done using the IPC protocols based on the IPC Technical Manual Version 3.1. Analysts were split by regions to provide regional information into Information Support System according to IPC protocols. Namibia was the second country to use the new IPC developed system.

Sources

The main source of data was from the NamVAC Assessment 2023/24, which provided outcome as well as contributing factor evidence. Other sources of data included but not limited to:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform on crops, livestock, WASH, pest's management and water levels;
- Ministry of Health and Social Services on disease outbreaks, malnutrition cases;
- Ministry of Works and Transport (Namibia Meteorological Services) on climate outlook;
- Regional Councils and Local Authorities on local reports;
- Bank of Namibia on macroeconomic information, repo rates and exchange rates;
- Namibia Statistics Agency on demographic, price and other information;
- World Food Programme on Seasonal: Rainfall & Vegetation data and Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) data
- European Commission for the African Seasonal forecast

Limitations of the analysis

- Insufficient capacity of certified IPC technical staff in the country.
- Data that needed deeper analysis before use based on the IPC protocols some of which may render information not useable
- Inadequate time for the refresher training and analysis
- Inadequate primary and secondary data at the time of the analysis on some outcome indicators mainly on mortality and malnutrition.

What is the IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity?

The IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity and characteristics of acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic food insecurity based on international standards. The IPC consists of four mutually reinforcing functions, each with a set of specific protocols (tools and procedures). The core IPC parameters include consensus building, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency and comparability. The IPC analysis aims at informing emergency response as well as medium and long-term food security policy and programming.

For the IPC, Acute Food Insecurity is defined as any manifestation of food insecurity found in a specified area at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. It is highly susceptible to change and can occur and manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

Contact for further Information

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Classification of food insecurity and malnutrition was conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC, FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

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