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THE

BRIEF

News Worth Knowing



Namibian investors back N\$2.2bn hydroponics project to cut food imports

FRIDAY 15 MAY 2026

MAIN STORY



Namibian investors back N\$2.2bn hydroponics project to cut food imports

Namibian investors are backing a N\$2.2 billion hydroponics farming project aimed at reducing the country's dependence on food imports and strengthening national food security.

The project, led by Nicole Maske through Manta Ventures in partnership with Got Produce Namibia, is centred in Otavi, where construction of a one-hectare hydroponics greenhouse is underway.

Production at the facility is expected to

Crucial Dates

- **Bank of Namibia Monetary Policy announcement dates:**
 - * 17 June 2026
 - * 12 August 2026
 - * 29 October 2026
 - * 10 December 2026
- **Namibia Oil and Gas Conference 18–21 August 2026 in Windhoek**

begin around March 2026.

Maske said the broader project requires an estimated capital investment of US\$120 million (about N\$2.2 billion), with fundraising being led by Manta Ventures.

She said most of the initial funding for land acquisition and the first production facility had already been secured, with local investors contributing the majority of the capital.

“About 80% of the initial funding has come from Namibians who want to see the country become food secure in a sustainable way,” she said.

Maske said local participation had been critical in reducing reliance on external capital and ensuring that value created by the project remains within the domestic economy. The facility will produce crops including lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, chillies and strawberries.

Maske said the broader initiative aims to significantly increase Namibia’s agricultural output through controlled-environment farming.

“Our objective is to ultimately double Namibia’s food production and halve imports through a scalable and water-efficient production model,” she said.

She said the hydroponics model forms a key part of the project’s strategy, particularly given Namibia’s water constraints.

“Our technology allows us to produce using 98% less water and 95% less fertiliser compared to traditional farming methods. This is

critical in a dry country like Namibia,” Maske said.

The project will be rolled out in phases, with long-term plans to expand to at least 56 hectares under greenhouse production and target annual output of around 30,000 tonnes of fresh produce.

“We will scale phase by phase, depending on funding availability and market demand, with the goal of building a large, commercially viable and responsive food production system,” she said.

Maske said the project traces its roots to Got Produce’s global operations in the early 2000s, with Namibia becoming a key innovation base after the establishment of a development facility in Swakopmund in 2019 before expansion to Otavi.

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Thyssenkrupp Uhde targets Namibia green industrial and marine projects in 2026

Thyssenkrupp Uhde says Namibia remains a key investment focus as the company positions itself to participate in the country's emerging green industrialisation and logistics sectors.

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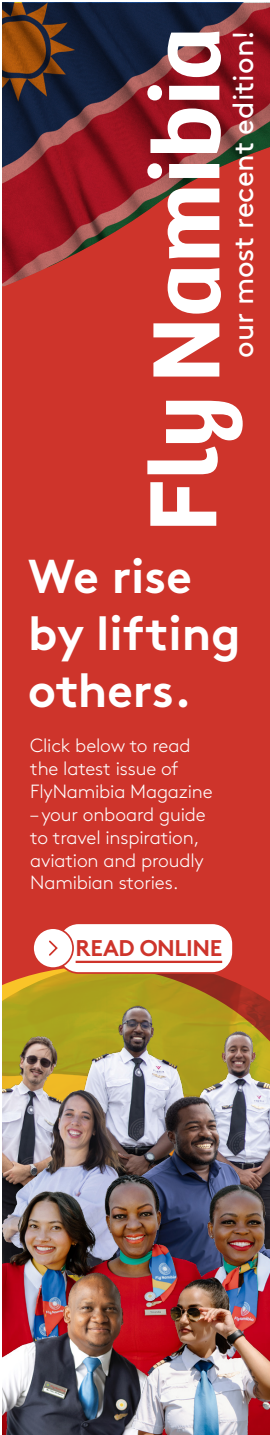
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Thyssenkrupp Uhde Senior Vice President for Sub-Saharan Africa, James Mnyupe, said the company is engaging both government and private sector stakeholders on potential investments and partnerships linked to Namibia's industrial development agenda.

He said the company's global chief executive recently visited Namibia, where meetings were held with Kaire Mbuende and Vice President Lucia Witbooi to discuss potential investment opportunities.

"And we, of course, expressed our interest and excitement at being able to potentially invest in Namibia," Mnyupe said.

He said the company is exploring partnerships with project developers and investors involved in Namibia's green hydrogen and industrial infrastructure sectors, with ambitions to support implementation from 2026.

"Some of the projects and players we are looking to partner with, we want to assist in making the government's green industrialisation vision a reality," he said.

Mnyupe said the company is also assessing opportunities linked to marine infrastructure and shipping services through Thyssenkrupp Marine

Systems.

"We are very interested in seeing the development of the terminal being developed here," he said.

He added that Thyssenkrupp Uhde could support Namibian projects through engineering services and electrolyser technologies linked to green hydrogen production.

The company views Namibia as one of the first African countries moving from green hydrogen planning phases towards commercial implementation and final investment decisions.

"I think Namibia is set to become a very good example across the continent of that first practical step towards commerciality," Mnyupe said.

Thyssenkrupp Uhde is a global industrial plant engineering company that designs and builds facilities for chemicals, fertilisers, ammonia, methanol, petrochemicals and green hydrogen-related projects.

In Namibia, its role is mainly linked to green hydrogen and green ammonia developments, including technology support for the Hyphen Green Ammonia Project in Walvis Bay. Its Africa business is focused on electrolysis, green energy, green ammonia and green methanol.

Once you carry your own water, you will know the value of every drop

By Junias Erasmus

Life has a way of teaching lessons that no classroom, book, or motivational speech can fully explain. One of the most powerful lessons is learning the value of things only after working hard to earn them.



A person who has never paid rent may not understand the pressure of monthly bills.

This is what the saying means: “Once you carry your own water, you will know the value of every drop.” It reminds us that true appreciation often comes through effort, sacrifice, and personal responsibility.

Many people grow up receiving support from parents, family, or guardians. Food appears on the table, electricity is available, transport is arranged, and school fees are somehow paid.

In many cases, young people enjoy these benefits without fully understanding the sacrifices behind them. It is easy to waste resources when you have never struggled to obtain them.

A person who has never paid rent may not understand the pressure of monthly bills. Someone who has never bought groceries

may not understand why food should never be wasted.

However, life changes when a person starts carrying their own water. This may not mean carrying actual water from a river or well, but rather taking responsibility for one’s own needs and survival.

It means working for your own income, managing your expenses, paying your own bills, and making difficult decisions about priorities. Suddenly, money is no longer just paper. Time is no longer something to waste carelessly. Opportunities are no longer guaranteed.

A young graduate searching for employment quickly learns the value of education when faced with rejection after

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rejection. An entrepreneur who invests personal savings into a business begins to understand risk, discipline, and patience. A parent raising children learns the true meaning of sacrifice, responsibility, and unconditional commitment. These experiences shape character in ways comfort never can.

There is a growing challenge in society today where some people desire success without effort. Social media often creates unrealistic expectations by showcasing lifestyles without showing the hard work, failures, sleepless nights, and discipline behind achievements.

As a result, many people admire the rewards but avoid the process. Yet life does not work that way. Sustainable success is usually built on responsibility, consistency, and resilience.

Carrying your own water also builds humility. When you begin working for what you have, you become less judgmental of others. You start respecting workers in all professions because you understand that every honest income requires effort. You appreciate your parents more.

You become careful with resources. You spend wisely.

You save intentionally. You think twice before wasting food, money, energy, or opportunities.

Most importantly, carrying your own water teaches independence. It develops confidence because you begin trusting your own ability to survive, solve problems, and create opportunities.

Instead of waiting for rescue, you become proactive. You stop blaming others and

start taking ownership of your future.

This lesson is especially important for young people. Dependency can be comfortable, but growth often begins when comfort ends.

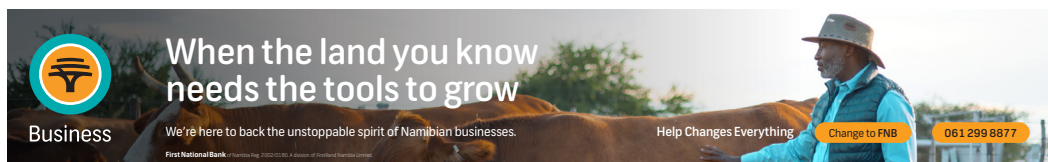
Sometimes life forces people into responsibility through hardship, disappointment, or necessity. While these moments may feel painful, they often become turning points for maturity and transformation.

The truth is simple: people rarely value what comes too easily. But when you have struggled, sacrificed, and worked for something, you protect it, respect it, and appreciate it more deeply. Whether it is money, education, relationships, health, or opportunities, effort changes perspective.

Therefore, do not fear the season where life requires you to carry your own water. It may feel heavy, exhausting, and unfair at times, but it is building something valuable within you.

It is teaching discipline, gratitude, wisdom, and resilience. Once you carry your own water, you will truly understand the value of every drop.

*** Junias Erasmus is an Interdisciplinary Scholar, Philosopher, and Legal Researcher, with recognised expertise in Artificial Intelligence grounded in a Multidisciplinary foundation in Management Science. He is also a Motivational Speaker. This article is authored in his personal capacity. For enquiries, he may be contacted at Junias99@gmail.com.**



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Namibia's live small stock exports jump 52.2% in March

Namibia's live small stock exports rose by 52.2% in March 2026, driven mainly by increased sheep exports, while overall livestock marketing also continued to expand during the period, according to the Namibia Statistics Agency.

The agency said the Index for Live Small Stock Exports increased by 52.2% in March 2026, compared to a 21.0% increase recorded in February 2026. On an annual basis, the index rose by 44.9%.

According to the NSA, a total of 84,583 small stock animals were exported live during the month under review, compared to 55,558 recorded in February 2026 and

58,393 exported in March 2025.

Of the total live small stock exported, 89.0% were sheep, while 11.0% were goats.

The agency also reported continued growth in exports to approved abattoirs and butchers.

"The Small Stock Export to Approved Abattoirs and Butchers Index recorded an increase of 23.3% in March 2026, following a 19.4% rise in February 2026. On a year-on-year basis, the index rose by 39.5%," the NSA said.

In absolute terms, 17,509 small stock animals were marketed to export-approved abattoirs and butchers during March 2026,

with all animals sourced from south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence.

The NSA said no small stock marketed to export-approved abattoirs and butchers originated from north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence during the review period.

Meanwhile, the Pigs Slaughtered Index recovered during March 2026, recording a 10.6% increase after declining by 6.5% in February.

On an annual basis, the pigs slaughtered index rose by 8.9%.

According to the agency, 4,520 pigs were slaughtered locally in March 2026, compared to 4,088 pigs recorded in February 2026 and 4,150 pigs slaughtered in March 2025.

The NSA further reported that the Livestock Marketed Composite Index increased by 15.3% in March 2026, following growth of 36.7% in the preceding

month. Compared to March 2025, the index expanded by 40.4%.

A total of 127,189 animals were marketed during March 2026, compared to 91,720 animals in February 2026 and 88,596 animals marketed during the same month last year.

The Cattle Export to Approved Abattoirs and Butchers Index also continued to grow during the review period.

“During the review period, the Cattle Export to Approved Abattoirs and Butchers Index rose by 3.3%, following a strong 39.6% increase recorded in the preceding month. Year-on-year, the index registered growth of 32.3%,” the NSA said.

In absolute terms, 12,216 cattle were marketed to export-approved abattoirs and butchers in March 2026, up from 11,825 cattle recorded in February 2026 and 9,236 cattle recorded in March 2025.

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How to choose a fund that fits your financial goals

By Erastus Kalenga
Hamunjela

Choosing the right fund is one of the most important decisions you can make on your investment journey.

With many unit trusts, ETFs, and other investment products available in the Namibian and South African markets, the options can feel overwhelming.

However, making a smart choice does not require you to be a financial expert. It requires you to understand your goals, your timeframe, your risk appetite, and the fund you are investing in.

Many retail investors choose funds for the wrong reasons. Some invest because a fund performed well last year. Others follow a friend's recommendation or respond to strong advertising. These reasons are not enough.

A fund that suits one person may be completely unsuitable for another. The right fund is not simply the one with the highest recent return. It is the one that fits your personal financial situation.

Before comparing funds, start with your goal. Ask yourself what the investment is for and when you will need the money. Are you saving for a home deposit in three years? Are you building wealth for retirement over the next 30 years? Are you looking for regular income to support your monthly expenses? Each of these goals requires a different investment approach.

For example, a 30-year-old investing for retirement can usually afford to take on more risk because they have time to recover from short-term market declines. An



A fund that suits one person may be completely unsuitable for another.

equity ETF or a balanced high-growth fund may be suitable because the investment has decades to grow.

In contrast, someone saving for a home deposit over the next three years should be more careful. They may need a lower-risk fund, such as a money market fund, income fund, or short-duration bond fund, because they cannot afford a major drop in value just before they need the money.

This is why your investment timeframe is very important. Short-term goals, usually less than three years, require more stable funds that protect capital while still earning a reasonable return. Long-term goals, especially those beyond ten years, can generally tolerate more volatility in exchange for higher potential growth.

One of the biggest mistakes investors make is placing short-term money in high-risk funds, or keeping long-term money in overly conservative funds.

Risk is another important factor. Every unit trust or ETF usually has a risk rating, often ranging from conservative to aggressive or from 1 to 7. This rating gives you an idea of how much the value of the fund may move up and down.

Conservative funds, such as money market and bond funds, usually offer more

stability but lower returns. Aggressive funds, such as equity, property, or commodity funds, may offer stronger long-term growth but can lose value sharply in difficult market periods.

It is important to match the fund's risk profile with your own tolerance for risk. There is little benefit in choosing an aggressive fund if you are likely to panic and sell when the market falls. At the same time, investing too conservatively for a long-term goal may limit your growth. Be honest about how you would react if your investment dropped by 10%, 20%, or more. The best fund for you is one you can stay invested in through both good and bad markets.

Past performance can provide useful information, but it should never be the only reason for choosing a fund. A strong return in one year does not guarantee future success.

Instead of focusing only on the most recent performance, review the fund's returns over different periods, such as one year, three years, five years, ten years, and since inception where available.

Look for consistency. A fund that has performed well over a longer period, especially compared to its benchmark, may indicate sound management or a strong investment strategy. Also look at the fund's best and worst annual returns. This will help you understand the level of volatility you may experience.

Fees also deserve careful attention. Even a small difference in annual fees can have a major impact over 20 or 30 years. Fees reduce the portion of the return that remains in your pocket, and over time this can make a meaningful difference to your final investment value.

When reviewing a fund, look at the Total Expense Ratio, commonly known as the

TER, as well as the annual management fee and any performance fees. Actively managed unit trusts often charge higher fees, while passively managed ETFs usually cost less. Lower fees are generally better, but the cheapest fund is not always the best option.

What is important is whether the fund offers value for money. A slightly higher fee may be justified if the fund has a strong and consistent record of outperforming its benchmark.

You should also understand what the fund actually invests in. Every fund factsheet shows the asset allocation and top holdings. Read this carefully. Is the fund heavily invested in one sector, one country, or one company? A fund with a high concentration in one area carries more risk than a well-diversified fund.

This is particularly important with sector-specific funds, such as resources, property, technology, or commodity funds. These funds can perform very well when their sector is strong, but they can also fall sharply when conditions change.

Diversification helps reduce this risk by spreading your money across different asset classes, sectors, countries, and investment themes.

Understanding the holdings also helps you avoid unnecessary overlap. For example, if you already own an ETF that tracks the largest JSE-listed companies, buying another fund with very similar holdings may not give you true diversification. You may simply be investing in the same companies through different products.

Minimum investment requirements are also worth checking. Some unit trusts allow investors to start with as little as N\$100, while others require much higher opening balances. Make sure the

minimum investment amount and ongoing contribution requirements fit your current financial position.

You should not stretch yourself financially just to access a particular fund when there may be other suitable options available.

It is also important to check where the fund is available. Some funds can only be accessed through specific brokers, investment platforms, or asset managers. In Namibia and South Africa, investors may come across platforms such as Sanlam Personal Portfolios, Momentum Wealth, Old Mutual, EasyEquities, Allan Gray, Sygnia, among others. Each platform may have its own charges, so these costs should be considered alongside the fund fees.

If your goal is to earn income from your investment, pay attention to the fund's distribution policy. Some funds pay distributions monthly, while others pay quarterly, twice a year, or annually. Bond funds and property funds often pay distributions more regularly, while equity funds and ETFs may distribute less frequently.

Do the homework before investing. Read the factsheet. Compare the fees. Understand the risk level. Look at the holdings. Check the minimum investment

requirements and platform costs. If you are unsure, speak to a qualified financial advisor.

Investing does not have to be complicated, but it does require clarity and discipline. Once you choose a suitable fund, contribute consistently, stay patient, and allow time and compound growth to work in your favour.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this article is for educational and informational purposes only. It does not constitute financial, investment, legal, or professional advice. Readers should not rely on this content as the sole basis for making investment decisions and are encouraged to seek independent professional advice before acting on any information contained herein.

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The graphic is a promotional banner for 'THE BRIEF'. It features a central QR code with the text 'SCAN HERE' to its left. Above the QR code is a blue circle with a white bar chart icon and the word 'Finance'. Below the QR code is another blue circle with a white bar chart icon and the word 'Business'. To the right of the QR code is a blue circle with a white speech bubble icon and the text 'for Daily Namibian News'. The top right corner contains the logo 'THE BRIEF' with the tagline 'News Worth Knowing'. The bottom right corner contains the text 'TO FOLLOW OUR WHATSAPP CHANNEL'. The bottom left corner contains social media handles for Facebook (@thebrieflive), LinkedIn (@thebrieflive.nam), and Twitter (@TheBriefLive). A small red icon with a white document and the text 'Daily PDF version sent via email' is also present.

Lead with context or design your own failure

By Onesmus Joseph & Maria Joseph

Today and tomorrow are no longer separated by time; they are separated by our ability to understand change and make sense of it.

If you have lived and observed closely, as we have over the years, you will recognise that change is indeed constant.

There is a fair acknowledgement of a continuous shift in business environment, yet very little attention is given to testing assumptions or developing foresight about what lies ahead. How often do we ask ourselves or the teams we lead; what is happening, what it means, and what it is telling us about the future?

This gap between awareness and understanding has real consequences for humanity. History offers clear and relatable examples of what happens when context is ignored. The global pandemic exposed how unprepared systems can be when early signals are not taken into accounts.

Economic crises have repeatedly demonstrated the cost of weak anticipation and poor alignment. The ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, continue to influence oil supply chains and fuel prices, with ripple effects across economies and households.

Closer to home, youth unemployment and instances of governance failure reflect the same pattern; loudly that decisions made without sufficient consideration of the broader economic, social, and environmental context continue to affect lives and



livelihoods.

We put it to you that organisational strategies have largely been shaped by past events, historical performance, and familiar frameworks. While

this approach was once effective, the environment in which we now operate has fundamentally changed.

The pace of disruption driven by technology, shifting consumer preferences, economic volatility, and demographic transitions demands a different level dynamic capability. Take it from us: the illiterate of the 21st century is no longer the one who cannot read and write, but the one who cannot understand the business environment and learn from it.

This is an issue affecting individuals, businesses, leaders, and the country. Many professionals continue to rely on past thinking, even as technology and the nature of work evolve, placing their relevance at risk.

Entrepreneurs face a similar challenge; business fail not only due to poor execution, but because they are built without a deep understanding of the market and the customer evolving behaviours. In leadership, decisions may appear sound on paper yet fail in practice because they are disconnected from environmental reality.

At a national level, the signals are clear: a youthful population, high unemployment, and rapid urbanisation all demand more deliberate and informed thinking.

Let us be honest; the problem we face

is not the absence of plans. We meant majority of organisation, particularly state-owned enterprises, has a five-year strategic, business, and financial plan in place. Yet the uncomfortable reality is that many of these plans are not contextually grounded. We have complied with the process but continue to face the same challenges, we tell you people don't eat compliance.

This should compel us to ask a more difficult question: what exactly are we getting wrong? For us the answer is not simply execution; it is the quality of thinking that informs what we choose to execute. Too often, strategy has degenerated into a mechanical, tick-box exercise, where producing the document takes precedence over interrogating whether it will work in a changing environment.

It is easy to blame delays in implementation, but far more difficult to confront the possibility that we may be efficiently implementing the wrong solutions. When

strategy is not designed with context in mind, failure is not accidental; it is by design.

Think of this: we have recently welcomed the move towards free education, and rightly so; it is a progressive and necessary step. However, the bigger issue we must confront is the creation of job opportunities to complement this policy and rate of graduates. Expanding access to education without opening channels for employment and enterprise creates a gap that cannot be ignored.

This is what should keep policymakers awake at night; not the policy itself, but how it connects to a broader value chain that ensures graduates are absorbed into a productive economy. Resources must therefore be deliberately channelled towards sectors and initiatives that enable sustainable job creation. This is not simply a policy matter; it is a matter of context and future literacy.

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Context is for us all despite the level of operation. As you read, you may recognise that the signals of change are already present. We have seen how companies like Netflix disrupted traditional broadcasting models such as DStv. Today, platforms like TikTok are redefining how content is created, consumed, and monetised. In our own context, we must ask: what if innovations such as MTC Maris evolve into systems similar to M-Pesa? What would that mean for the future of banking in Namibia?

Moreover, will schools, as we know them today, still function in the same way in ten years? What will the future of transport look like in a rapidly urbanising society? These are the types of questions that context requires us to engage with as we make policies. They

challenge us to move beyond routine thinking and develop a forward-looking perspective as a prerequisite for strategy. Any strategy that is not informed by the future is, by definition, incomplete. This is the essence of Lead with Context. It is from context that stronger organisations are built. It is premised on a simple but powerful idea: effective strategy begins with understanding before design. It is not about providing answers in isolation, but about provoking thought, challenging assumptions, and encouraging leaders to become more aware of the forces shaping their environment. Leading with context is a discipline. It requires observation, interpretation, and the ability to connect signals and make sense of change. So, leading without context is no longer a neutral act. It is failure by design.

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WFP assists 138,000 Namibians amid food insecurity pressures

The World Food Programme says it assisted 138,013 people in Namibia during April 2026 as climate-related shocks, flooding and food insecurity continued to place pressure on vulnerable households across the country.

According to the WFP Namibia Country Brief for April 2026, 53% of the beneficiaries were female, while 11,800 schoolchildren benefited from the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme and 126,213 children under the age of five received support through Early Childhood Development centres.

The agency said food security conditions remain under strain despite improvements recorded following government drought relief interventions and favourable rainfall

conditions.

“The impact of multiple shocks continues to strain vulnerable households, with food security needs remaining high even after the national drought response programme ended,” WFP said.

WFP noted that Namibia’s humanitarian situation had improved compared to the previous year, with the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analysis estimating 456,000 people in need between July 2025 and June 2026, down from 1.15 million during the same period a year earlier.

The agency attributed the improvement to combined drought response measures by government, development partners and WFP interventions linked to the El Niño

The impact of multiple shocks continues to strain vulnerable households, with food security needs remaining high even after the national drought response programme ended.

response programme, as well as improved rainfall.

The report also highlighted worsening flood conditions in the Zambezi Region following assessments conducted between 30 March and 2 April 2026 under the National Disaster Risk Management Committee coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister.

According to WFP, seven constituencies in the region were affected, with damage reported to homesteads, croplands, cattle posts, roads and public infrastructure.

“Households displaced, malaria-related deaths increasing, and education services disrupted,” the agency said in its operational update.

The organisation said efforts were underway to coordinate a broader United Nations response to support affected communities.

WFP further reported progress in strengthening Namibia’s Home-Grown School Feeding Programme through a national inception workshop conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture.

The workshop reviewed implementation experiences from 29 pilot schools across seven regions and consolidated operational lessons to support the development of a national scale-up strategy.

The agency also participated in a high-level policy dialogue alongside UNICEF, the Ministry of Finance and the European Union focused on extending school feeding support to Early Childhood Development centres.

WFP said the discussions reaffirmed government commitment to integrating school feeding into ECD programmes while strengthening coordination with development partners.

The agency warned that additional funding remains necessary to sustain food security interventions, systems strengthening and resilience programmes nationwide.

According to the report, WFP Namibia’s 2026 country portfolio has a funding requirement of US\$1.7 million between April and September 2026, with US\$1.1 million currently funded, leaving a shortfall of about US\$590,000.

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