

Project Evaluation Series

**Cluster evaluation of
“Establishing a Hunger-free Initiative for
West Africa”
and
“Mainstreaming Nutrition in CAADP and
Agriculture Policies and Programmes in
Sub-Saharan Africa”**

**Project codes: GCP/RAF/476/GER
and GCP/RAF/477/GER**

Annex 8. Country review - Namibia

1. Namibia's Revised National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (2016 – 2025) (Sept 2016) is the revised version of the previously existing National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (1994). GER 477 provided support for the revision of the national policy in 2016 with a dedicated short-term consultant, based on a request from the Ministry of Health. Key informants in Namibia were from the MOA, MoH, and FAO/UNICEF/WFP/WHO offices in Windhoek. The following findings illustrate Namibia's challenges:
2. Leadership - The governance and ownership structure remains unclear, i.e. Between Office of Prime Minister and Ministry of Health, and the final validation of the policy by the Parliament is outstanding. The situation in Namibia is additionally challenged by recurrent "acting mandates" of the permanent secretary to the Ministry of Health, i.e. Turnover of interim PS every 3 months, which makes it difficult to create continuity in the pursuit of the policy validation and implementation.
3. Implementation plan – key informants were concerned about the translation of policy content into real time practical action and implementation plans due to lack of Nutrition experts in country. They did not feel confident that government extension and decentralized staff would be able to adjust current interventions to effectively reflect nutrition integration.
4. Monitoring & evaluation – while key informants were excited about the opportunity to improve data collection and monitoring processes, especially on nutrition data, they were not really sure how this would be facilitated, and if they had the necessary capacities and resources. The need to develop a nutrition surveillance system was expressed.
5. Budget design and allocation – costing and budget allocations for the implementation remain to be clarified, i.e. If the implementation of the policy is expected within existing allocations of line ministries, or if additional resources will be made available to facilitate implementation.
6. Technical knowledge – Individual capacities of ministry staff at central and decentralized levels, knowledge and skills to implement the nutrition policies' activities remain a concern.
7. Nutrition Marker review – Namibia scored 11pts out of 13.75pts - as the policy falls short of the following criteria: Market expansion and promotion are not explicitly promoted (0.5pts), absence of an actual M&E framework (0.5pts), absence of promoted reference indicators (0.75), absence of an implementation plan (0.5pts), absence of budget (0.5pts).
8. Other Notes – The MOH is promoting a new university course focusing on nutrition to build more nutrition expertise in country. The class of 2018 is the first year of the Nutrition Diploma at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), supported by a number of stakeholders, i.e. MoH, UNICEF, WFP, University of Stellenbosch and the Global Fund.
9. Conclusion: Namibia has received in-depth support through GER 477 in 2016, and is still struggling with the validation and finalization of its policy. Its Nutrition Marker score is a reflection of the incompleteness of the policy and challenges encountered. Additional support and mobilization for the final validation steps and following implementation and necessary skills should be provided.