NAMIBIA

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

JULY 2025 – JUNE 2026

Published on 13 October 2025

Despite an improvement, some households still face high levels of acute food insecurity in the lean season

CURRENT SITUATION: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025			1st PROJECTION: OCTOBER 2025 - MARCH 2026			2nd PROJECTION: APRIL - JUNE 2026		
456,000	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe	**612,000**	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe	**408,000**	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
15% of the population analysed	Phase 4	0 People in Emergency	**20% of the population analysed**	Phase 4	0 People in Emergency	**13% of the population analysed**	Phase 4	0 People in Emergency
People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)	Phase 3	456,000 People in Crisis	People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)	Phase 3	612,000 People in Crisis	People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)	Phase 3	408,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	1,134,000 People in Stressed		Phase 2	1,253,000 People in Stressed		Phase 2	1,170,000 People in Stressed
IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 1	1,433,000 People in food security	IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 1	1,157,000 People in food security	IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 1	1,444,000 People in food security

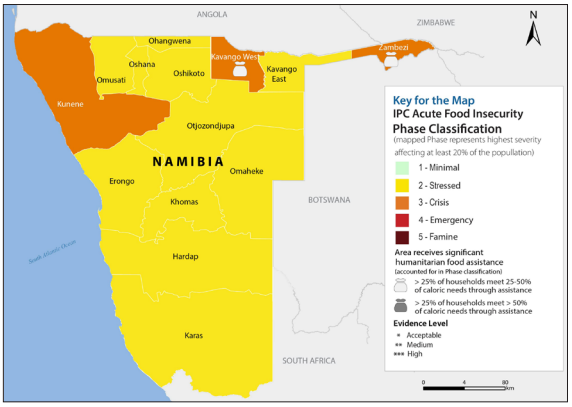
Overview

Namibia's food security situation has improved significantly in 2025 compared to the previous year. In the current period (July to September 2025), approximately 456,000 people (15 percent of the analysed population) are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)—a sharp decrease from 1.15 million in the same period last year. While three regions (Kunene, Kavango West, and Zambezi) remain in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), the rest of the country is classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), with households experiencing minimally adequate food consumption but struggling to meet essential non-food needs without resorting to negative coping mechanisms. This improvement is largely due to above-average rainfall during the 2024/25 season, increased crop production, improved rangeland conditions, and coordinated interventions by the government and development partners.

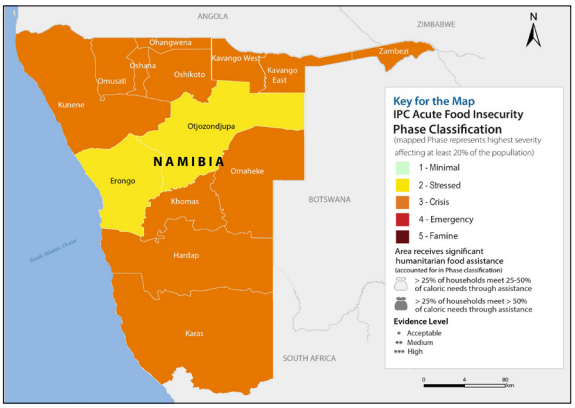
As per the July 2025 Crops (Post-Harvest), Livestock & Food Security Situation Report from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAFWLR, 2025), crop production in Namibia has improved significantly in 2025, particularly in communal areas where output rose by 75 percent. As a result, the majority of households will likely have sufficient food stock projected to last until December 2025. Pasture conditions across the country are also good due to above-average rainfall received, supporting healthy livestock and stable grazing. Water availability has improved, with most dams over 85 percent full and underground water sources recharged, ensuring sufficient supply for both people and livestock. However, the National Strategic Food Reserves (NSFRs) remain low, with only 3,505.77 metric tons available as of 30 June 2025 - just 15 percent of the NSFR's total storage capacity - highlighting limited buffer stock.

Despite this progress, the food security situation is expected to deteriorate during the lean season (October to March 2026), with projections showing an increase to 612,000 people (20 percent) in Phase 3. This worsening is attributed to the discontinuation of the countrywide drought relief from the Government in August 2025,

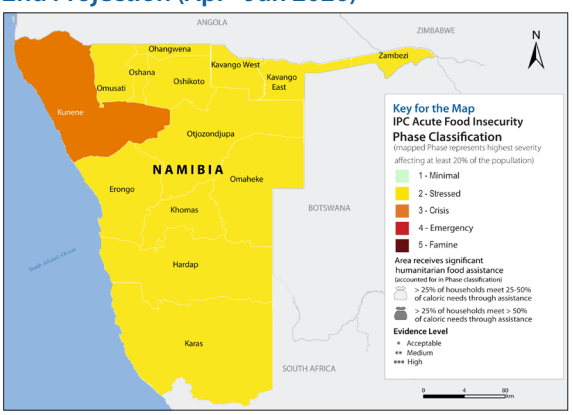
Current Situation (July - Sept 2025)



1st Projection (Oct 2025 - Mar 2026)



2nd Projection (Apr - Jun 2026)



reduced labour opportunities, high unemployment (nationally at 36.9 percent as per the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA)), and poor livestock conditions in drought-prone areas. Regions such as Kunene (30 percent), Kavango West, Zambezi and Omaheke at 25 percent respectively, are expected to face the highest food insecurity levels (IPC Phase 3 or above). The combination of rising food prices, dependence on markets, and reduced purchasing power will likely deepen household vulnerability, particularly in rural and marginalised communities.

However, the food insecurity situation in the second projection period (April to June 2026) is projected to show a slight improvement. The number of people in Phase 3 is projected to decline to 408,000 (13 percent), as many households begin to consume their own harvests. There are 13 regions expected to transition to Phase 2, benefiting from improved rainfall, better water availability, and stronger agricultural productivity. Nonetheless, Kunene remains a concern due to flood-related crop damage, veld-fires, and structural challenges such as high poverty, poor infrastructure, and a chronically food-insecure population.

Key Drivers

Unemployment

High levels of poverty and unemployment rates continue to limit household incomes and access to food. In some regions, unemployment rates exceed 50 percent, and many people, especially women, youth, and marginalised communities lack land ownership or formal job opportunities. Families often depend on pensions, small-scale farming, or informal labour, making them highly vulnerable to food price increases and seasonal shocks.

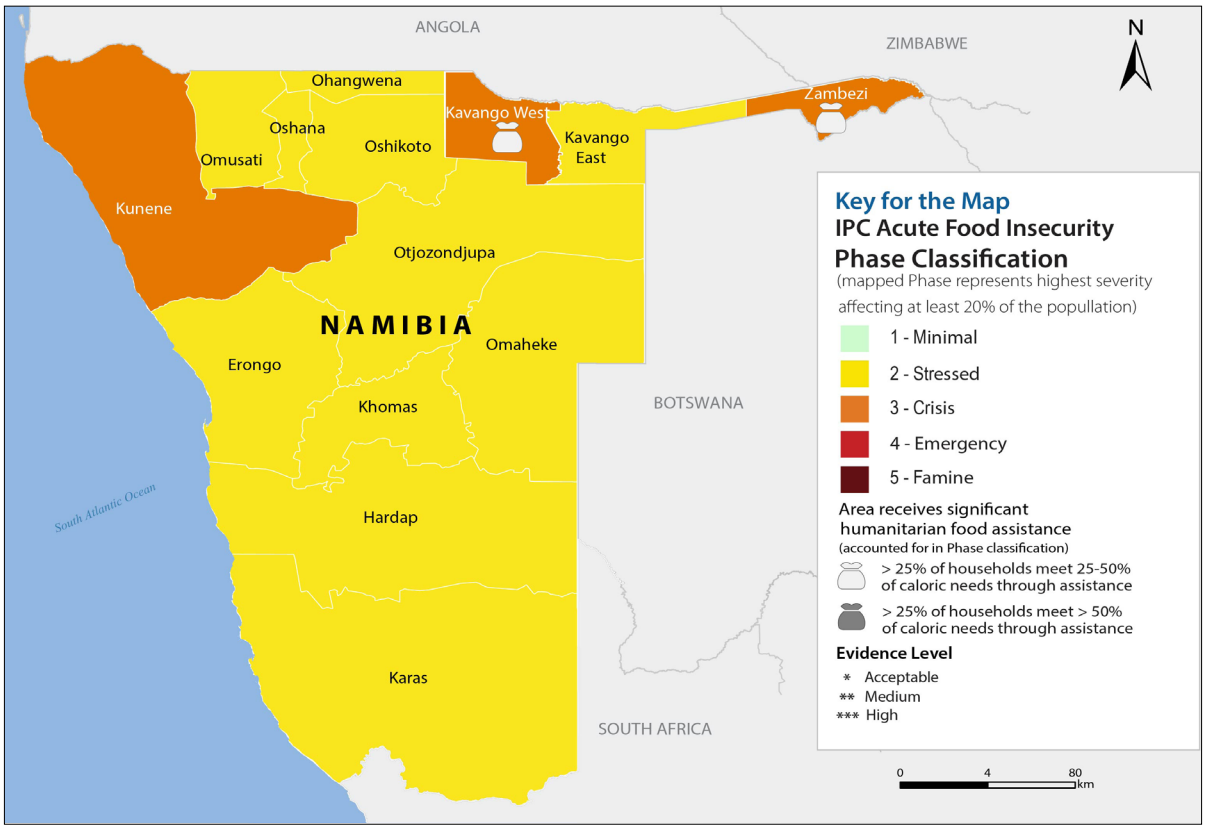
Climate shocks

Although the 2024/25 season brought favourable rainfall that improved crop and livestock production, many areas also experienced flooding (Ohangwena, Oshana, Oshikoto, Omusati, Hardap, Kunene and Khomas), water logging, heavy rain, crop pests and livestock diseases. These floods damaged homes, submerged crop fields and infrastructure in several regions, displacing households and limiting access to food, markets, and services. Recurring weather extremes disrupt agricultural activities and weaken household resilience.

High food prices

Annual food inflation climbed to 6.4 percent in June 2025, particularly affecting staple items such as fruits, meat, oils, and grains. This places considerable financial strain on lower-income families, who allocate a greater share of their budgets to food, pushing more families into food insecurity.

CURRENT ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025)



Population table for the current period: July – September 2025

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	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.

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

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.

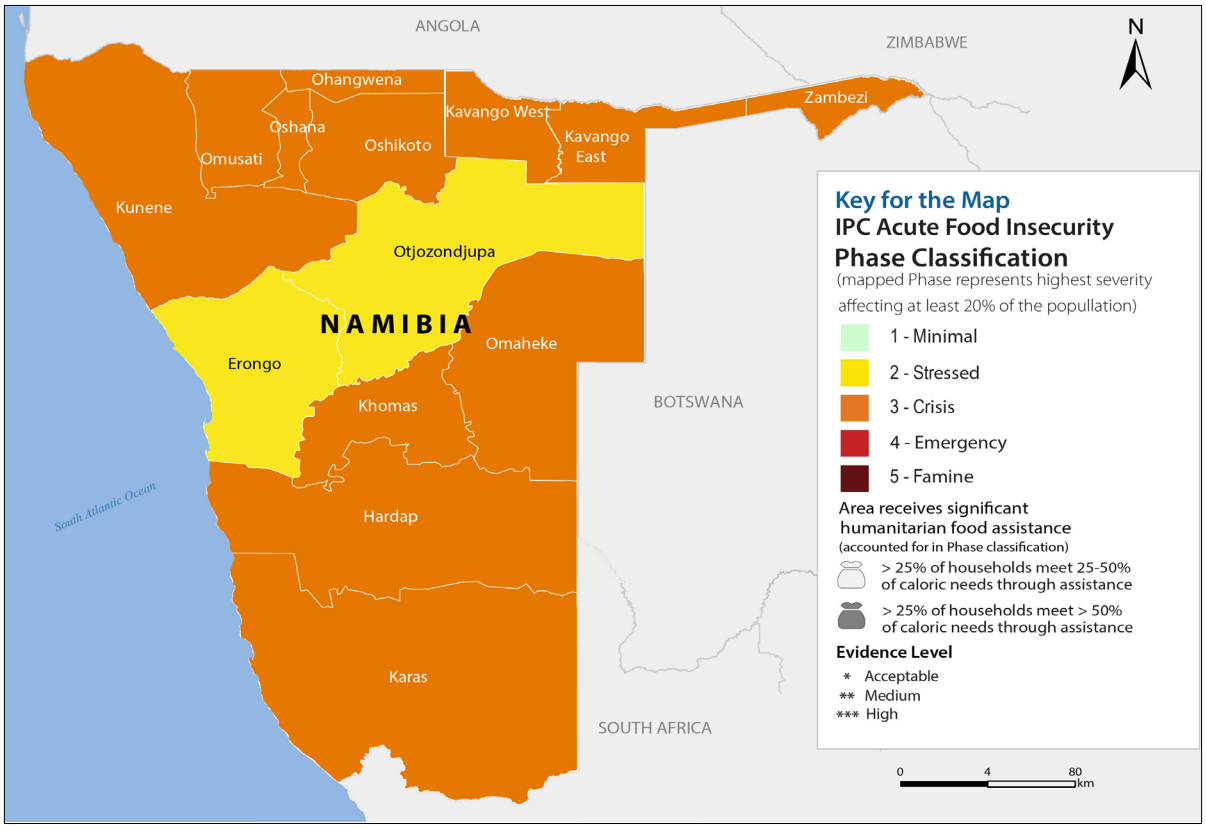
Nationally, overall staple crop production in communal areas (maize, sorghum, pearl millet) increased by 75 percent from 13,597MT in 2023/24 to 23,775MT in 2024/2025, while green scheme production yielded a total of 16,740MT, from 10,560MT recorded in the previous season, representing a 59 percent increase (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 Nerkartal 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 marginalised 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.

FIRST PROJECTION ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (OCTOBER 2025 - MARCH 2026)



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.

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

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 analysed 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.

Key Assumptions

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 realised 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, heartwater, 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 localised production failures may occur in flood-prone areas.

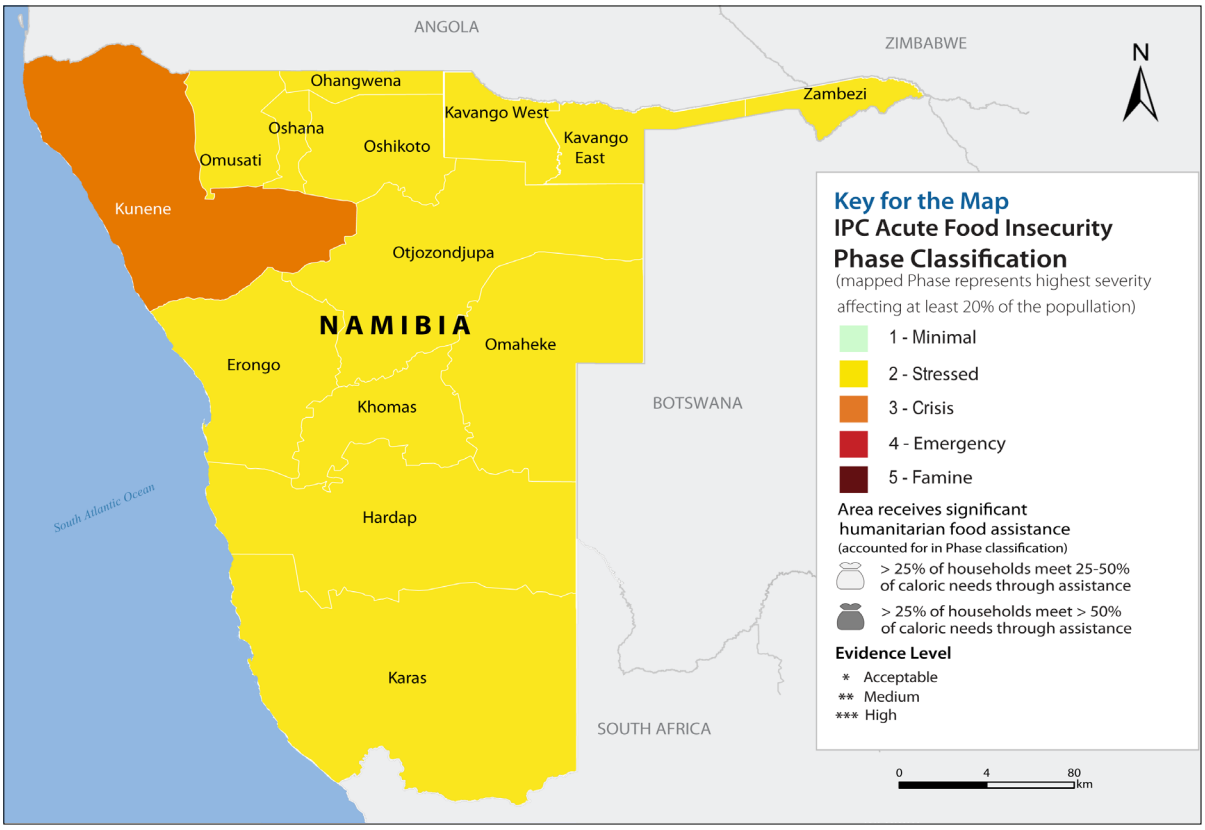
High food prices: Food prices are expected to begin increasing with diminishing household stocks by end of December 2025. Transport bottlenecks and inflation during the rainy season may also keep prices high in remote areas. Livestock prices will rise due to herd depletion, benefiting households with 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 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.

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.

SECOND PROJECTION ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (APRIL - JUNE 2026)



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.

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

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.

Key Assumptions

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

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:

- 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.
- Strengthen the provision of the rural water supply programme to address water shortages and accelerate the provision of sanitation facilities in all communities.
- Strengthen the nutrition programme for assessing acute malnutrition cases, and refer cases to existing feeding programmes.
- 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.
- Strengthen veterinary and pest control services.
- 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.
- Strengthen the first 1,000 days nutrition campaign due to high stunting rates (29.5 percent) as per the SMART survey 2024.
- 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.
- 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.
- Ensure fair land access for home/community gardens, prioritizing marginalized groups and women to boost resilience.
- Strengthen the awareness creation of the Solar Revolving fund to build resilience by providing relief to electricity users

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).

PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

The 2025 IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis in Namibia was conducted using a trend-based analytical approach, reviewing the previous classification from 2020 -2024 in line with the IPC protocols. In the absence of new outcome indicator data collected at the household level, historical trends of outcome indicators and new contributing factors that included seasonal rainfall performance, market prices, crop and livestock production data, nutrition admission trends for 2025 water access, fuel prices and inflation rates were used. Resource constraints prevented the Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NAMVAC) from carrying out the annual primary data collection exercise that typically informs the national vulnerability assessment. As a result, this analysis relied exclusively on verified secondary data sources.

Key datasets used included the 2024 SMART nutrition survey provided by the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS), and the July 2025 Crops (post-harvest), the Livestock, and Food Security Situation Report from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAWFLR). These sources were complemented by additional information such as market prices, rainfall and seasonal performance data, and previous IPC assessments, allowing for a comprehensive review of trends in food security, nutrition, and livelihoods across the country.

The analysis process was carried out during a two-week workshop held in Swakopmund from 21 July to 1 August 2025, with active participation from NAMVAC members from regional councils, government ministries, academic institutions, and United Nations agencies. Using the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Manual, Version 3.1, participants conducted a consensus-based classification and developed population estimates for three analysis periods: the current period (July–September 2025), Projection 1 (October 2025–March 2026), and Projection 2 (April–June 2026). As per the IPC protocols, the minimum level of the analysis is assessed as Medium (Evidence Level 2 **). This approach ensured that, despite the lack of new household data, a reliable and evidence-based assessment was produced to inform food security planning and response efforts.

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 on demographic, price and other information
- World Food Programme data on Seasonal Rainfall performance
- Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) and Vegetation condition
- Namibia Water Corporation Ltd weekly dam bulletins

Limitations of the analysis

While this 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.

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

Hellen Likando
Hellen.Likando@opm.gov.na

Ndapunikwa Hamunyela
Ndapunikwa.Hamunyela@opm.gov.na

IPC Global Support Unit
www.ipcinfo.org

This analysis has been conducted under the patronage of the NAMVAC (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture). It benefited from the technical support of FAO/GSU and from financial support provided by the Goverment of Namibia, together with WFP.

Classification of food insecurity was conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CILSS, EC-JRC, FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IFPRI, IGAD, IMPACT, Oxfam, SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank, WFP and WHO.

IPC Analysis Partners: