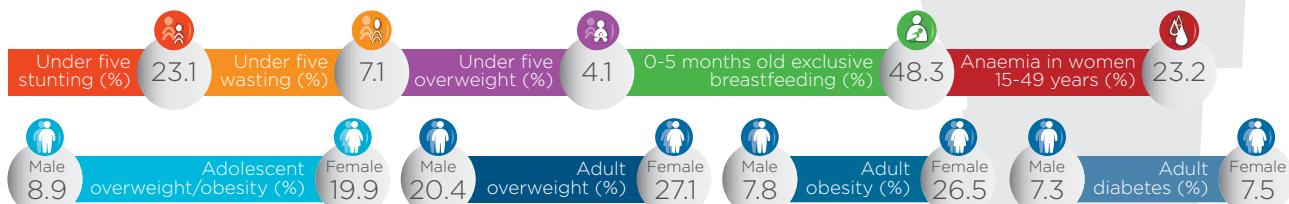




Joined: September 2011
Population: 2.53 million

Namibia



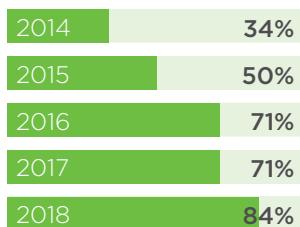
Institutional transformations in 2017-2018



Bringing people together into a shared space for action

Political leaders continue to pay particular attention to nutrition and food security. The Office of the Prime Minister is working towards full ownership of nutrition coordination, having revived the Food Security and Nutrition Council (FSNC). Chaired by the former Prime Minister and current Deputy Prime Minister, the Namibia

Alliance for Improved Nutrition (NAFIN) serves as the multi-stakeholder, multi-sector (MSP) platform. Members participate actively in their quarterly meetings and play an important advisory role to the FSNC. However, local and regional MSP structures need strengthening.



Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The revised Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP) has now been finalised. A Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn Child Health Strategy was developed and costed in 2018. The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture finalised the Namibian School Feeding Policy, and regulations for the marketing of breast-milk substitutes

are undergoing legal review: both will be presented to the Cabinet for ratification. Following the development of an advocacy booklet, NAFIN is continuing to work to improve its engagement with parliamentarians, in an effort to sustain political support for nutrition.



Aligning actions around common results

While a Common Results Framework under the SUN Country Implementation Plan exists, it will need to be updated based on the revised FNSP. The UN network supported the Office of the Prime Minister to integrate nutrition indicators into its Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring System. A

Network-supported assessment of how drought impacts the nutritional status of vulnerable populations is expected to inform policy response. Looking ahead, it is recommended that local and regional MSP structures create terms of reference to improve accountability at the sub-national level.



Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

As a middle-income country, Namibia's nutrition financing is primarily a domestic responsibility. Though recent unfavourable economic conditions have negatively impacted the health budget and nutrition financing, NAFIN maintains an annual budget. The Government's budget has no nutrition-specific budget line;

nutrition activities are funded through other budget lines. To bridge gaps in human resources and the lack of nutritionists, Namibia University of Science and Technology worked with NAFIN and the UN Network to launch a 4-year nutrition degree: 35 students enrolled in the first year.



2018-2019 PRIORITIES

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- Streamline and strengthen the accountability mechanism of the NAFIN with the government;
- Develop an annual workplan for the NAFIN;
- Develop reporting procedures for different structures of the NAFIN;
- Develop and build the capacity of the different areas of work of the NAFIN, including the CSO, academia and business network.