

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

**BRIEFING TO PARLIAMENT ON THE
OUTCOME OF THE NAMIBIA LIVELIHOOD VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT
AND ANALYSIS (VAA)**

BY

**RIGHT HONOURABLE DR. SAARA KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA
PRME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

5 September 2023

Honourable Speaker,
Hounorable Members

1. The Office of the Prime Minister conducted the Annual Livelihood Vulnerability Assessments and Analyses (VAA) from May to July 2023 in all 14 Regions, as provided for by Section 13 of Disaster Risk Management Act, 2012 (Act No. 10 of 2012). The assessments collected and analyzed livelihood and food security data for 2023/24 period, to inform policy and further aid the understanding of threats of natural and socio-economic disasters to food and nutrition security.
2. 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).
3. The key findings from the VAA are as follows:-
 - 3.1 Between October 2023 and March 2024, approximately 695,000 people (equivalent to about 172,000 households) are expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity and will require urgent humanitarian assistance. When the rainfall conditions will improve between March and June 2024, a marginal decrease of 7% to 491,000 persons is expected.

- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 The grazing conditions are generally poor in most regions across the country and this has an effect on the livestock body conditions.
- 3.4 The crop prospects for 2022/23 estimates show that the nation has harvested 153,000 MT, which is 9% less than the harvest of 168,200 MT from previous season (2021/22).
- 3.5 With regards to water provision, the assessment shows that about 85 percent of the population gets their water from private and public taps and 7 percent from boreholes. Moreover, about 76.4 percent of the population walks less than 2.5 km to water points, while 5.6 percent of the population walk more than 5 km to water points, especially in Kavango West, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Zambezi Regions.
- 3.6 Cases of malnutrition has unfortunately also been reported in some parts of the country.

4. 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.
5. To remedy the situation of drought and food insecurity, the Government through the Office of the Prime Minister will roll-out the drought relief programme, that is the food assistance and water provision, to drought affected households in all the 14 regions, effective 01 October 2023 to June 2024 for food relief.
6. The Livestock Support Programme will be implemented from 01 October 2023 to March 2024, and entails livestock marketing incentives, and subsidies for fodder purchased, lease for grazing and transportation to grazing areas.
7. The existing social safety net programmes such as the San Development Programme providing food assistance to marginalized communities, the Conditional Food Bank in urban centers will continue to cater for areas where the drought programme is not reaching.
8. With regard to the prevailing malnutrition cases in the country, the Ministry of Health and Social Services will continue with the nutrition programme aimed

at assessing acute malnourished persons and refer diagnosed cases to existing feeding programmes.

9. The programme is expected to cost government N\$ 892.4 million.
10. On the reported cases of hunger among the marginalized Ovatjimba communities in Otjikojo, a village located 25km west of Okangwati in the Kunene region, the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare has provided the food assistance required. This intervention was necessary and Government would act promptly to address such vulnerabilities.
11. The disasters such as drought requires multi-sectoral approach. I would like to take this opportunity to call upon the fellow citizens, the business fraternity and development partners to come on board and meet the government halfway in responding to this phenomenon. I wish to express Government's appreciation to those that have already provided assistance.

I thank you!

