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Food security for refugees in Namibia: Joint Assessment Mission & Minimum Expenditure Basket Report - Osire Refugee Settlement

Full Report

Windhoek, Namibia, November 2023







Foreword

In Namibia's remote Osire settlement, refugees are facing a bleak socio-economic outlook. Continued inflationary pressures are driving up food prices, while climatic shocks, leading to minimal or no rainfall and affecting harvests, coupled with restrictive policies limiting self-sufficiency, exacerbate the situation for refugees.

Nearly 7,000 refugees and asylum-seekers have sought refuge in Osire settlement located in Otjozondjupa region. Whilst basic shelter, education and health services are provided by the Government of Namibia and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, opportunities for livelihoods are slim.

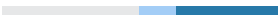
Escalating violence in the DRC in recent years has forced more refugees to flee their homes and seek protection in countries throughout Southern Africa. In Osire, the number of new arrivals has put additional pressure to the already stretched humanitarian services available. Due to severe funding cuts across the region, UNHCR has been forced to reduce food rations distributed to refugees in Namibia by half in 2023.

It is against this backdrop that UNHCR and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) commissioned two assessments to fully understand the experiences of refugees in terms of food security, nutrition, and livelihood opportunities. The findings of the report are quite alarming. The report highlights that nine in ten households are unable to meet their livelihood needs, and half of the refugees surveyed are unable to meet their basic food needs. Without urgent support, refugees in Osire risk exposure to even more critical levels of poverty and hunger.

The data gathered from the two assessments therefore provides a crucial blueprint for action. Steps proposed and some taken so far to improve the lives of refugees in Osire include a switch from direct food assistance to cash transfers, greater access to land and farming equipment, support for livelihoods, improved documentation and greater opportunities for local integration and resettlement.

With improved targeted support, the population of Osire can become less vulnerable to the effects of food insecurity and climate change. Access to self-sufficient and sustainable food production, as well as meaningful livelihoods, will enable refugees and the communities that host them to look forward to a brighter future.

**Monique Ekoko
Representative,
South Africa
Multi-Country
Office**





It is with great pleasure and a sense of duty that we present to you this research study (JAM & MEB) on the Osire Refugee population. This study, conducted jointly by UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP), aims to shed light on the challenges faced by refugees in accessing sustainable livelihoods that addresses food and nutrition security needs.

At WFP, we are committed to evidence generation for decision making, especially when it comes to finding sustainable solutions for food and nutrition security. We understand the importance of data-driven approaches in shaping policies and interventions that have a lasting impact on the lives of populations exposed to vulnerable situations.

The Osire Refugee population, like many other refugee communities, faces unique challenges in their quest for food and nutrition security. It is our firm belief that by conducting research studies such as this, we can gain a deeper understanding of these challenges and identify innovative solutions that can be implemented in both the short and long term.

This research study aligns closely with the priorities set by the government, as we recognize that food and nutrition security is a crucial aspect of national development. By addressing these challenges, we contribute to the overall well-being and resilience of the refugee population, while also supporting the government's efforts in achieving its development goals.

Fedha George
Country Director –
World Food
Programme,
Namibia

Through this study, we hope to not only generate valuable evidence but also raise awareness about the importance of sustainable food systems and the need for innovative solutions. We believe that by sharing the findings and recommendations of this research, we can inspire policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders to take action and make a positive difference in the lives of refugees.



I would like to express my gratitude to the dedicated team of researchers, partners, and stakeholders who have contributed to this study. Their commitment and expertise have been instrumental in ensuring the quality and relevance of the findings. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Osire Refugee population for their participation and willingness to share their experiences, as their voices are at the heart of this research.

Together, we can work towards a future where food and nutrition security is guaranteed for all!

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Background

WFP/UNHCR conducted a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) between November to December 2022 whose purpose was to assess the livelihoods of refugees in Osire Refugee Settlement, through reviewing the overall food security and nutrition situation and access to services contributing to food and nutrition security for refugees in Namibia. In addition, the assessment looked at opportunities for livelihood activities and synergies with other government and development partners.

Alongside the JAM assessment, a minimum expenditure basket survey (MEB) was undertaken between February to March 2023 which collected data on what the cost of what households require to meet their essential needs on a regular and seasonal basis. The data collected through the MEB will inform planning for cash-based interventions by establishing transfer values for cash grants, analysis of the vulnerability of the population in Osire and access to markets and goods by the population.

Currently, the basic needs of the refugees are addressed through in-kind assistance (food and non-food items). From 2024, Cash-based interventions will replace in-kind assistance. A shift to this kind of assistance will enable recipients to choose what they want to buy for their families from the market, which will, in turn, stimulate the local economy, strengthen links between refugees and host communities, and eliminate the transaction costs related to providing in-kind assistance.

This report documents the main findings of the Joint Mission Assessment and the Minimum Expenditure Basket exercise in Osire Refugee settlement. Recommendations will inform planning and programming by UNHCR and WFP to improve food security for refugees.

Operational Context

As of August 31st, 2023, Namibia hosts some 7,169 refugees, nearly half (45.6%) of whom are female. The majority of the refugees (84%) live in Osire refugee settlement, while 0.3% (22) live in Windhoek and 15,7 % (1,093) live in other locations. Most refugees are from the Democratic Republic of Congo, with a few from Burundi and Angola.

Established in 1992, Osire refugee settlement is situated 200 km north of Windhoek in a remote area of in Otjozondjupa Region, surrounded by private commercial cattle farms. The nearest town of Otjiwarongo is some 120 km away.

Almost four in ten refugees in Osire have been living in the settlement between five and ten years.

At Osire settlement, UNHCR works with Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security to provide protection and basic essential services to residents, in partnership with two non-governmental organisations: Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) and the Society for Family Health (SFH), secondary education, health facilities, livelihoods and access to markets.

However, 91 per cent of refugees who reside in Osire are faced with extreme resource constraints as result of the encampment policy which restricts movement and opportunities for employment.

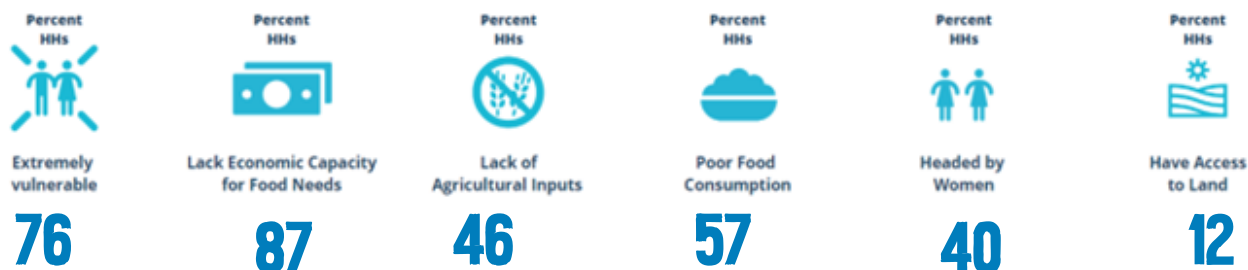
Objectives of the JAM

Against the background of decreasing funding, coupled with the need to support longer-term, more sustainable solutions for refugees, the overall goal of the JAM was to better understand the needs, risks, livelihood opportunities and vulnerabilities of the refugees with the following specific objectives:

- Collect information on the ability of refugees to meet their basic needs, livelihood opportunities and challenges, and related protection concerns.



Box 1: Refugee Households in Osire Settlement



Box 2: Assistance provided to date.

- Understand the current food security and nutrition situation of refugee and host community households.
- Assess quality of access to other services such as health, water, sanitation, education.
- Develop a joint action from recommendations of the specific objectives for a sustainable food and nutrition security solutions for the next five years.

Objectives of the MEB

- To collect data to inform the calculation of transfer value for cash-based interventions for household living in Osire settlement.
- To better understand the vulnerability of the population at Osire, as well as the cost of living.
- To inform choices of goods accessed through the markets within and around Osire settlement.

Methodology

The JAM and MEB data collection was conducted using a mixed methods approach – combining of available secondary data and collection of qualitative and quantitative primary data responding to the assessment objectives.

The JAM field data collection was conducted between November and December 2022. A total of 512 (53%) refugee households (306 male and 206 female) were interviewed using a structured household questionnaire. Additionally, 10 focus group discussions and 5 key informant interviews were conducted.

The MEB field data collection was conducted between February and March 2023. A total of 460 refugee households (48%) (276 male and 184 female) were interviewed using a structured household questionnaire. Additionally, 8 focus group discussions with refugees were conducted.

The focus group discussions (FGDs) were used to identify the quantities and expenditures on food and non-food items and basic services for the households in four strata. After the items and quantities and expenditures were determined through the discussions, the market prices of the reported items were collected in nine retail outlets in Osire.

Sampling Methods

Simple random sampling was employed to identify respondents to participate in the survey interviews for the JAM and MEB. The survey data was collected by staff from UNHCR and WFP, government, UNHCR partners, refugee-led organisations and enumerators from the settlement. For the JAM, the data collectors were grouped according to different sectors and each group went across the eight blocks of the settlement interviewing every fifth household. For the MEB, enumerators selected from the settlement were clustered in a group of two to five people and each group was assigned a block to conduct interviews from every fifth household.

Individuals were mobilised to take part in the discussions with the help of community leaders. Separate discussions were held with both men and women.



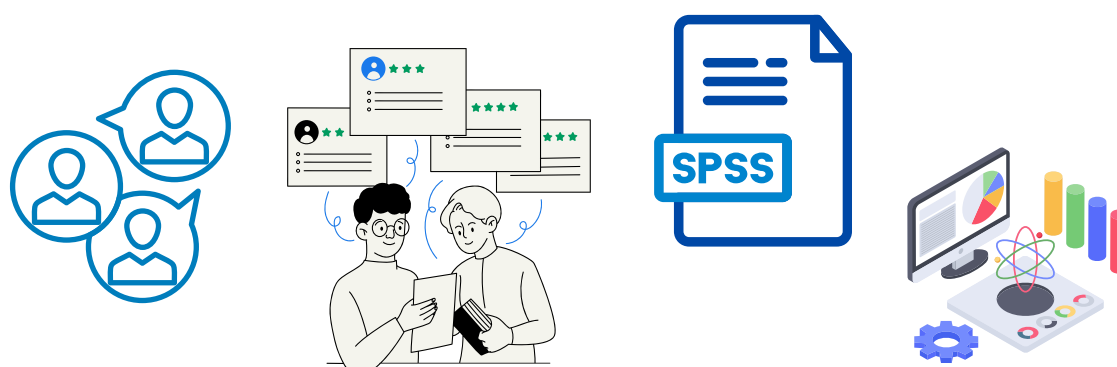
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A refugee community leader at Osire resettlement.

Data Analysis

The JAM and MEB findings are statistically representative at the level of male and female headed households in Osire settlement. Data analysis for quantitative data was carried out through SPSS and qualitative FGDs and Key Informant (KI) information was summarised for triangulation and nuancing the findings per sector. The findings were validated through three plenary sessions.

The items and quantities were identified during the FGDs by the participants in each strata using a tab-based tool displayed in MoDA platform (corporate data collection platform of WFP). The FGDs and price monitoring were conducted by trained facilitators/enumerators with one UNHCR/WFP staff, government counterpart (INAR focal point) and the MEB consultant. After the data collection, the data was cleaned using a protocol agreed between the MEB consultant, WFP and UNHCR-CO representatives.



The MEB was calculated by multiplication of the selected items and quantities by the median prices. The median prices were used to reduce the outlier effect of the prices. The food quantities for all the four strata were adjusted in NutVal 4.1 software to reach the minimum of 2100 Kcal per person per day (according to the humanitarian SPHERE standards).

Limitations of the Study

- i) Absentee adult household members to participate in the interviews was recorded during the survey for both the JAM and MEB
- ii) Assessment fatigue especially during the MEB survey, as respondents wanted to know the outcome of the JAM survey.
- iii) The JAM / MEB survey focused only on refugees in the settlement, the assessment was not extended to the host communities.

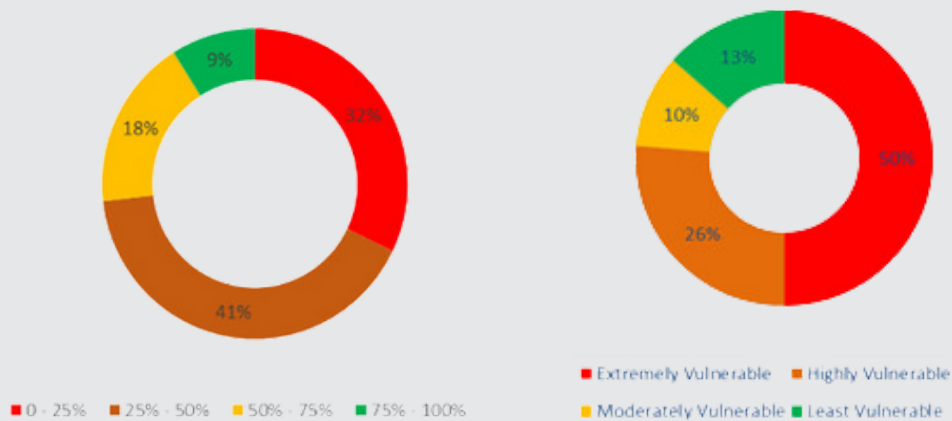
Findings of the Vulnerability Analysis

Overall Vulnerability

Up to 76% of households in the settlement are considered to be either extremely or highly vulnerable. Nine in ten households are unable to meet their livelihood needs, with five in ten severely struggling to meet their basic food needs. As a consequence, they are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, with potentially detrimental repercussions on lives, dignity and livelihoods.

The refugee population is extremely vulnerable. There is convergence of both MEB (quantitative) and JAM (qualitative) measures indicating that 87% and 91% respectively (9 in ten households) are unable to meet their needs. The proportion of those who can be considered least vulnerable is strikingly small in both instances: 13% according to MEB and 9% according to the JAM (around one in ten households).

Figure 1: Overall Vulnerability



Source: JAM 2022 and MEB 2023

Income sources and livelihood self-reliance

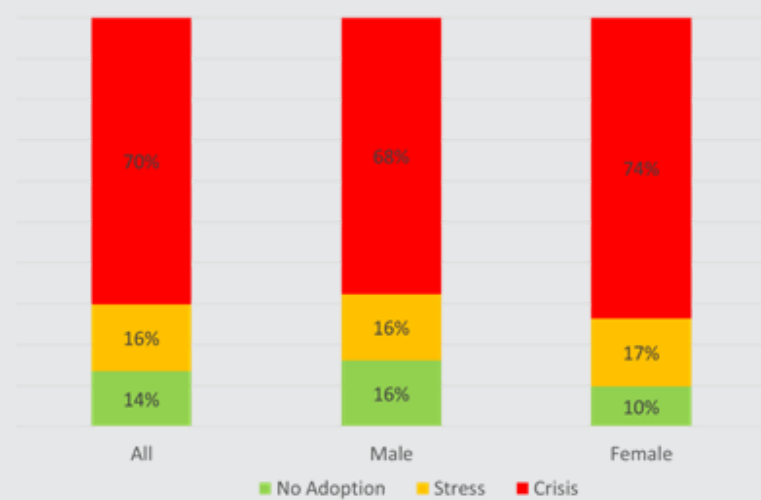
Most refugees have no other income beyond the assistance basket (see Table 1, pg. 8) provided by the government and UNHCR, with 88% of households having no source of income at all. Funding shortfalls have resulted in reduced and inconsistent rations, putting refugees at further risk of food insecurity. A small proportion of households (around 12%) have access to some livelihood activities. 44% of these livelihoods are agricultural, 20% are in business and another 20% are in casual labour engagements. The remaining 16% of livelihoods are unknown, presumably self-employed.

The agricultural sector presents a significant source of income and food for refugees. However, the lack of access to land and water for irrigation were identified as the key barriers facing refugees seeking livelihoods in this sector.

Other challenges highlighted for agricultural livelihoods include limited integration with local value chains, paucity of infrastructure, lack of agriculture support, (training, advice), limited markets and finances. In fact, the primary livelihood constraint identified by 52% of refugee households is the lack of agricultural support (30%) and land (22%). Additional challenges undermining prospects for self-reliance among refugees and the host community are the scarcity of employment opportunities (35%), and limited business capital to invest in business opportunities livelihoods (10%).

Household self-reliance is currently encumbered by the limited access to productive means for agro based livelihoods, access to employment due to low issuance of necessary paperwork, and business capital and skills.

Figure 2: Coping strategies adopted



The economic capacities to meet essential needs reflect a similar pattern of constraints and hence poorer outcomes. In sum, JAM and MEB findings point to the generally disproportionate vulnerability of female headed refugee households.

Source: JAM 2022

Thus, about seven in ten households indicated difficulties in pursuing livelihoods. As a result, refugees are adopting negative coping strategies such as eating less nutritious food or reducing the portion/number of meals eaten in a day, to make ends meet. Households headed by women face slightly more constraints than those run by men (eight in ten compared to seven in ten). The prevalence of households resorting to negative coping mechanisms highlights the inadequacy of the existing humanitarian support to meet the needs of households.



Economic Capacities

Most refugees in Osire are not able to meet their essential needs using their own resources. Around 87% of households in the settlement do not have sufficient resources to cover minimum food needs, and only 13 % are able to meet their needs.

The economic opportunities and humanitarian assistance available within the settlement are also limited, leaving refugees unable to meet their food and other basic needs. More than 75% of the Osire residents are below the national food poverty line, with the household economic capacity per capita in Osire at N\$246, compared to the monthly ECMEN per capita of N\$520. For a household of six people, the total monthly minimum expenditure basket is N\$3,120 while their affordability is around N\$1,476, with an estimated gap of N\$1,644 (N\$274 per capita per month) on average.

The higher share of resources spent on food means that other essential non-food needs (clothes, shoes, sanitary products for women and girls, and baby items) go unmet, which in turn increases refugees' vulnerability. Refugee households are spending 66 per cent of their resources on basic food, even after receiving food assistance from UNHCR.



WFP supported smallholder farmer. © WFP/Luise Shikongo

Food Consumption



Poor and borderline food consumption is high in both male and female headed households in the settlement. Strategies used to cope with food deficits are the same between the two groups.

Table 1: Assistance basket currently provided to the refugee population

Items in the assistance basket	Unit of measurement	Ration per person per month
Fuel/Kerosine	LT	2,00
Laundry Soap	EA	2,00
Maize flour	KG	12,50
Oil, Vegetable	L	0,75
Salt	KG	0,50
Sanitary pads	EA	2,00
Beans	KG	1,80
Soya, (CSB)	KG	0,80
Sugar	KG	1,00

Although UNHCR provides food assistance (see Table 1) in the settlement to 97% of refugees, 77% of households have either borderline food consumption 20% and/or poor food consumption 57% primarily due to pipeline shortfalls for the planned basket.

Female headed households have relatively poor consumption, with 82 % facing borderline 23% and/or poor food consumption 59% compared to male counterparts where 74% are facing borderline 18% and or poor food consumption. Contributing factors include inadequate economic opportunities, and depleted food rations. Refugees reported that monthly rations last them between fourteen and twenty-one days, and they sometimes experience irregular or delayed distributions due to pipeline challenges.

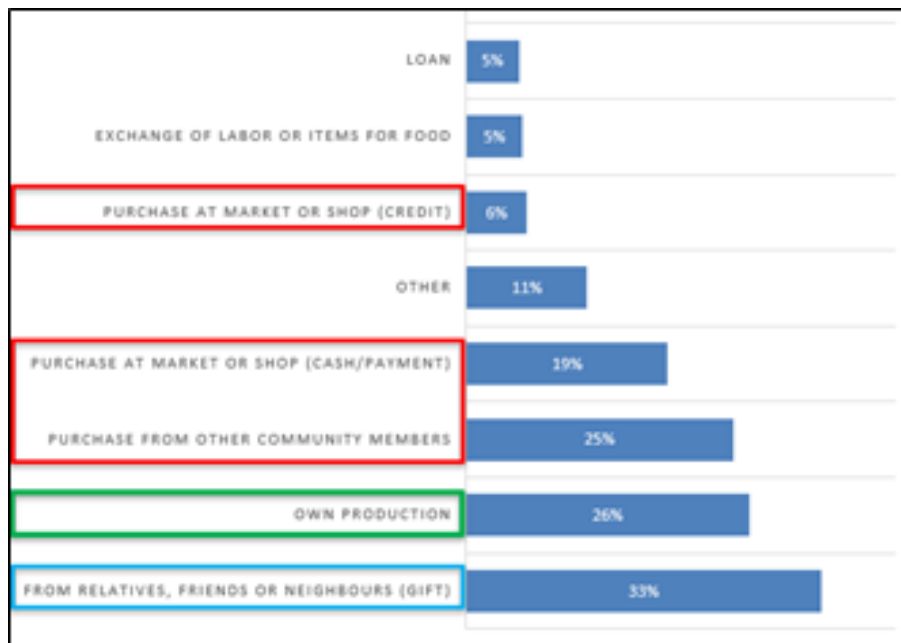


Figure 3: Strategies to Source more food

Other than humanitarian assistance, most households access their main staples through market purchase and exchange, assistance from relatives and through their own production (see Figure 3).

Refugee households are more likely to experience food shortages than Namibian citizens. They are also more likely to alter their consumption patterns to cope by limiting the frequency of meals and reducing portion sizes. Focus group discussions amongst women indicated that they generate income from selling or exchanging the in-kind monthly rations, selling vegetables from kitchen gardens, casual/informal work at neighbouring farms and towns, packaging crops, borrowing money or taking loans from traders.

Simba Theoneste began growing onions in 2021 to support his family. He grows onions on a rented plot of land outside the settlement and employs about 45 mainly female workers. His biggest challenge has been water for irrigation. He sells his produce to supermarkets and other vendors in the nearest town of Otjiwarongo.



A refugee onion farmer at Osire settlement, Mr. Simba Theoneste, age 45 years from Rwanda. © WFP/Salufu Nyambe



The vegetable garden where refugees cultivate. © WFP/Salufu Nyambe

The vegetable garden is where most refugees grow crops in Osire, but it requires constant water for irrigation which is supplied by a submersible pump. The cost of electricity for the pump is currently provided by UNHCR through its partner SFH. Investing in solar energy could reduce running costs and sustainability of the facility. The pump would benefit from regular maintenance as frequent breakdowns were reported.



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There is need for a WASH mission to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the facility, provide training for the operators and identify mechanisms for maintenance (e.g., monthly contributions from the users) in order to make it sustainable.

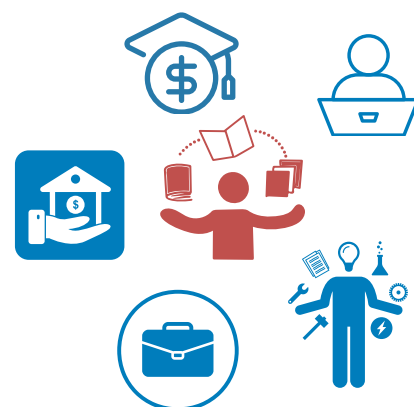
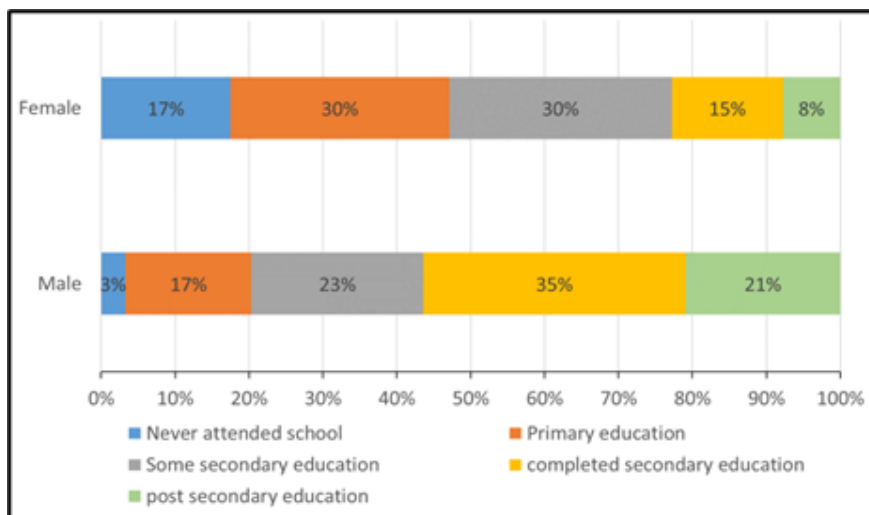


WFP 1000 Days Campaign. © WFP/Luise Shikongo

Access to Basic Social Services

Access to Education

Figure 4: Household Highest Education by Sex



The data from the sample survey indicates that most household heads have some secondary education, and a few have post-secondary education. There are opportunities for vocational education in masonry, small business, bricklaying, and ICT training. There is a centre at the settlement that was previously used as a computer training centre, that if revamped, could be utilised to offer ICT skills training for young people or for remote employment. Identification of scholarships for young people to pursue further academic education should also be explored.

At the settlement, there is a primary school and secondary education provided up to grade 11. Grade 12 and post-secondary is accessed outside the settlement, either in Windhoek or towns far from the camp, which require the students to stay in boarding houses. The cost of tertiary education and accommodation is therefore out of reach for most refugee families.

Scholarship opportunities are limited. In 2022 fewer than ten students from Osire benefited from the DAFI scholarship (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative). Most young people are left with few prospects for further education beyond grade 11, or employment. As a result, those who complete grade 11 are likely to end up marrying early.

Many of the children in primary school are taught in overcrowded classrooms. Critical infrastructure needs include classrooms, teacher accommodation, a library and laboratory.

One community leader indicated during discussions that the reduced monthly food assistance is affecting the children's school attendance. A government pupil feeding programme has been significantly reduced, with only porridge now provided.

Access to Health

The settlement is served by one government health facility that also serves the host community. The facility provides primary healthcare, with tertiary healthcare services provided through referral to hospitals outside the settlement at Otjiwarongo and Okahandja. Focus group discussions highlighted a mixed perception of 'bad' to 'neutral-good' treatment by health staff, which may have an impact on the likelihood of refugees to seek treatment. The health facility record indicated very low malnutrition rates (2%) for children under five. This suggests that children are prioritised for food ahead of adults when resources are limited. The health centre has the following number of staff: five nurses, two health assistants, one tuberculosis (TB) promoter and one pharmacy assistant. The health centre currently lacks a doctor, medical supplies, and equipment, as well as housing for staff.

The findings from the JAM assessment indicate that teen pregnancy is common amongst young girls and the support provided is inadequate. The facility also lacks staff for specialized services such as gender-based violence and counselling.

Environment, Energy, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Water is piped to Osire, but of the 70 tap stands, only 40 are functional and 30 require repair. Water shortages were common during the dry season from August to November, with water rationing and trucking resulting in long waiting times and potential issues of sanitation and hygiene. There are however good WASH practices (handwashing, soap used) in the settlement are observed.

Sanitation provision is slightly adequate, with some concerns identified regarding privacy and lack of facilities in some blocks, and others requiring repairs. The settlement has in total 300 latrines, 105 latrines of which need repair. Additional facilities are therefore needed given the increasing population.

In terms of waste management, there five pits in demarcated locations across the settlement for refuse collection.

The primary source of energy for cooking and lighting is the paraffin distributed by UNHCR, which is complemented by firewood collected in and around the settlement. However, during discussions, the women raised concerns that the paraffin and kerosene used for cooking is causing health problems such as eye and chest infections, especially for children.

Of the 77 respondents of the household questionnaire, 69 (90%) are dependent on firewood and charcoal for cooking. The source of firewood raises protection concerns for women who need to leave the settlement to gather the firewood, in addition to it being environmentally unfriendly. There is scope for energy efficiency and solar power solutions.

Access to NFIs and Shelter

Access to non-food items (NFIs) and shelter remains a challenge. Women indicated that the non-food items given on a seasonal basis such as blankets and cooking pots easily wear out and of poor quality. The number of cooking pots provided for the families are also not sufficient.

The type of shelters provided in block 8 ("Canada") are not weather friendly and expose the occupants to harsh conditions. They are extremely hot during the dry season and extremely cold in winter, and as this type of dwelling is not compatible with electricity, it's not possible to use plug-in heaters.

Access to Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

Livelihood interventions at Osire are limited due to funding constraints. UNHCR's partnership with SFH provides trainings in agriculture, entrepreneurship and seed capital for business startups. Some of the challenges highlighted by farmers and traders include low rainfall, decreasing sales and increasing cost of goods, resulting in very small profit margins, few markets to sell the produce, particularly for perishable crops which then often go to waste.

Produce from the settlement is sent to the markets by public transport, which goes from Osire to Windhoek three times a week and daily from Osire to Ojtiwarongo. Most of the business owners do not have bank accounts due to lack of ID. At the time of the assessment, UNHCR was in the process of deploying an ID printing machine to Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security.

Despite the challenges mentioned, there are opportunities that could be leveraged such as farmers forming a collective, and strengthened links to market. An existing farmers' group, Osire Agriculture Project (OSAPRO) is currently cultivating a plot of land where the submersible pump is installed. Sales of crops are facilitated for this group through UNHCR Partner SFH to the Agro-Marketing Trade Agency (AMTA), an agency under the Ministry of Agriculture that supports distribution of fresh produce. SFH supports this by paying costs for transporting the produce from Osire. However, under this arrangement not all produce is purchased by AMTA, and the farmers have to look for other markets themselves to sell the surplus. Efforts to improve the quality of produce of the farmers will be critical to guarantee better markets for their products. The farmers could also take advantage of the presence of Nampost, a financial service provider within settlement to open bank accounts.

With regards to employment opportunities, some refugees have sought informal work in Windhoek and Otjiwarongo as they lack ID and work permits. Employers do not recognise the refugee ID and the refugees with qualifications and skills from their countries of origin lack certificates as evidence.

Access to markets and availability of goods

Osire settlement currently has a small market where some refugees sell goods, with other retailers spread across blocks 4, 5 and 6 within the settlement. There are no wholesalers in Osire. The retailers source their goods from nearest town of Otjiwarongo and the capital Windhoek using public transport. Challenges highlighted by the traders include the increasing cost of goods, low profit margins, and high transport costs. Of the five traders interviewed during the MEB, only two had bank accounts, the others were unable to open bank accounts because they lacked ID



A Refugee shop owner within Osire settlement. © UNHCR/Gloria Ekuyoa

Traders stated that they were ready to supply the goods required in the settlement when the transition to cash-based intervention happens. However, they expressed concerns that they might be questioned by the government authorities when purchasing goods in bulk and would need to be supported by UNHCR and WFP for this to happen smoothly.

Most of the items in the food basket (maize meal, sugar, cooking oil, soap) are stocked by many of the traders, with the exception of beans, which are not locally available. According to traders, beans are imported from Zambia, although suppliers should be checked in Otjiwarongo and Windhoek. Some traders stocked fresh fish, which comes from the fishpond in Osire, and beef which comes from the private farms next to the settlement.



The traders do not have an association and have no relationships with wholesalers in the neighbouring towns. The option of the traders coming together to form an association should be explored.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Safety concerns mostly relate to gender-based violence (GBV), petty theft and conflict. GBV is a concern for 10 per cent of all refugees. Focus group discussion members confirmed the worrying prevalence of gender-based violence in the settlement, particularly the rising numbers of teen pregnancies.

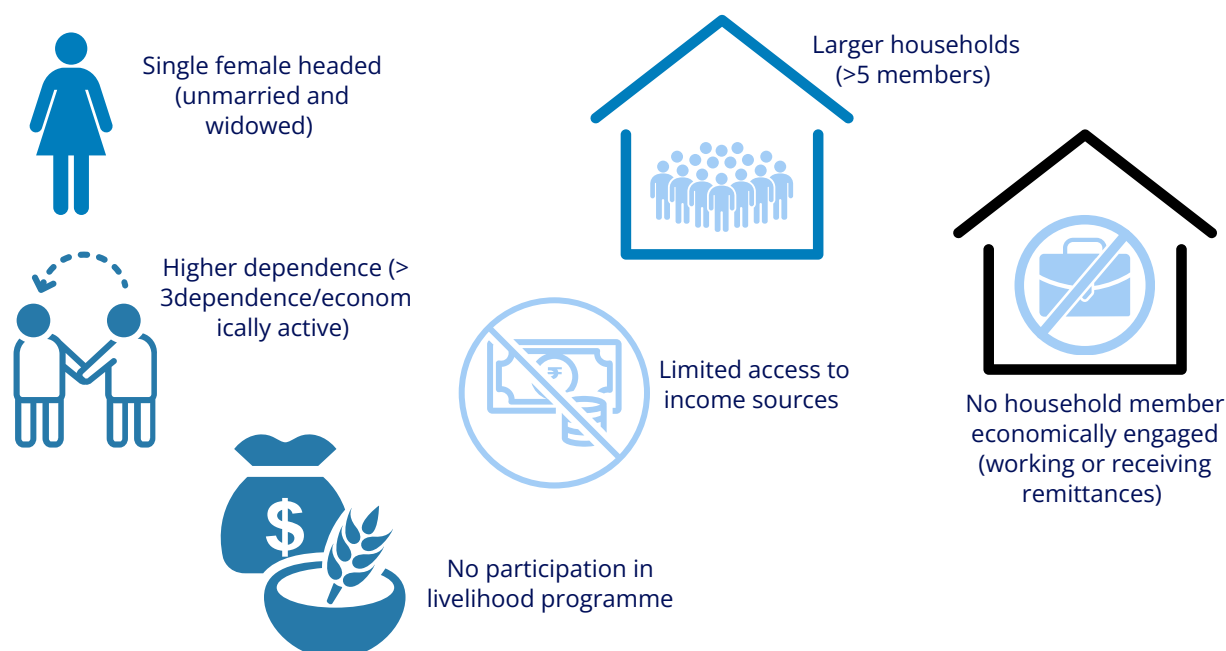
During discussions, refugees expressed that lengthy waiting times for asylum decisions are impacting the wellbeing of families. Additionally, refugees noted lack of staffing for specialized services such as social workers for GBV and other psychosocial counselling services. The absence of clear and active referral pathways for survivors of GBV remains a challenge for the refugees.

All refugees indicated having adequate access to information on UNHCR and government assistance. More than half of the refugees have made use of the agencies' community feedback mechanism through the committees but felt that concerns were not always responded to. The community feedback mechanism could be improved by introducing call centres with toll free numbers, organising regular meetings with refugee representatives and strengthening digital tracking of responses. It is important to ensure that refugees are aware of channels for feedback and given opportunities to support the design and implementation of a community feedback system which is safe and accessible. Regular engagement with the refugee community would also help to better understand their needs and concerns and inform future programming.

Socio-economic profile of vulnerable households

The following socio-economic characteristics are shared by extremely and highly vulnerable households in the settlement and may guide the development of potential criteria used for targeted interventions in the future.

Socio-economic characteristics of vulnerability





WFP 1000 Days Campaign. © WFP/Luise Shikongo

Key Recommendations



Key Recommendations

Targeted Food assistance support

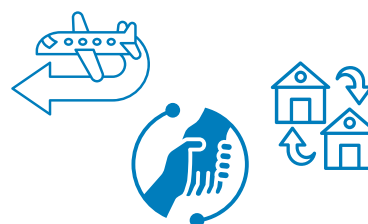
- Continued provision of food assistance using the gap of the MEB as transfer value, especially for extremely and highly vulnerable households.

Livelihoods and economic inclusion

- Expansion of market-based livelihoods interventions to promote self-reliance, focusing on access to capital, support for agricultural value chain development and access to financial services. Employment opportunities will be explored where feasible, particularly in the nearest town of Otjiwarongo.
- Livelihood interventions are to be linked up with the local economy to promote:
 1. Access to land and water for irrigation for the 16 hectares of land given by the government for agriculture-based livelihoods.
 2. Access to markets for agriculture products; link-ups with the school feeding programme near the settlement.
 3. Income-generating activities and employment opportunities, trading opportunities of local shops run by refugees for essential needs could be linked to cash-based interventions and provide permits for jobs.
 4. Artisanal and other vocational skills training, support for referrals to national student scholarship programmes.
 5. Review existing arrangements for documentation and freedom of movement to open opportunities beyond the settlement, e.g. work permits for one to two years.

Repatriation and Re-integration or Resettlement

- Explore opportunities for voluntary repatriation to countries of origin and resettlement to third countries.
- Promote sustainable local integration through access to national social services.



Protection and Accountability to affected populations

- Ensure community feedback mechanisms are functional, accessible and responsive. Increase awareness of the current community feedback mechanism to improve two-way communications and identify protection risks including GBV, PSEA etc.
- Ensure that GBV and other protection risk mitigation measures are put in place including clear referral pathways for support. This may include support on improving access to energy-saving stoves, awareness-raising of GBV and teen pregnancy risks.

Strategic Considerations

- Consider transitioning to market-based digital cash-based interventions for multipurpose needs covering food and non-food needs.
- Engagement in high-level programmatic discussions with the government to address high vulnerability levels and possibilities for the integration of refugees in national development plans.
- A joint government/UN advocacy and resource mobilisation strategy to ensure humanitarian assistance including food, and livelihoods provided to the refugees based on the gaps.

Annex 1: JAM/MEB LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S/N	Name	Agency/Office	Title	JAM Sector
1.	Daison NGIRAZI daison.ngirazi@wfp.org Sem Uutoni Sem.uutoni@wfp.org	WFP Namibia	Head of Programme / Co-coordinator of JAM – WFP Partnerships Officer	Coordinator Alternate Coordinator
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3.	Abebe Zewdu Abebe.zewdu@wfp.org	WFP RBJ	Programme Policy Officer	Advisory and Technical Lead
4.	Claudia Manuel manuel@unhcr.org	UNHCR SAMCO Pretoria	Protection Associate	Protection Mainstreaming
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7.	Penda lilonga pendailonga@gmail.com	CoR Office/MHAIS Osire	Head of Refugee Settlement Management	Coordination, Planning and Partnerships Host Community security and Asylum Space
8	Gloria Ekuyoa ekuyoa@unhcr.org	UNHCR SAMCO Pretoria	Programme CBI officer	Food security, Livelihoods and Self reliance
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12.	Hilma Shikwambi shikwambih@who.int	WHO, Namibia	Health	Health and Nutrition
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16	Aune Victor avictor@unicef.org	UNICEF, Namibia	Education Specialist	Education and School Feeding
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23	Christophine Iyambo Cristophine.iyambo@un.org	UNRCO, Namibia	Gender and LNOB Officer	Protection Mainstreaming
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24	Loide David Loide.david@wfp.org	WFP, Namibia	Supply Chain	Supply Chain Management
25	Calvin Kondiuo kondiuo@unhcr.org	UNHCR Namibia	Driver	Health and Nutrition
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Refugees in the Osire settlement are feeling the impacts of funding cuts and climate change.



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For any information regarding this report please contact



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