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Emergency response and resilience building to improve livelihoods, food security and nutrition in locust affected regions of Namibia.

Project symbol: OSRO/NAM/200/JPN **Donor:** The Government of Japan

Funds: USD 226,000 (NAD 3,600,000) **Duration:** 01/03/2022 – 28/02/2023

Technical Partner: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Implementing Partner: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR)

Collaborating Partner: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Background

Agriculture and its associated sectors supports the livelihoods of nearly 70% of the population in Namibia. However, most agro-pastoral households/smallholder farmers rely on precarious rain-fed agriculture and rangeland-based (extensive) livestock production systems, which over the years have shown to be very susceptible to frequent shocks, including recurrent droughts, transboundary pest and diseases, and increasing climate variability. As a result, the majority of smallholder farmers with agriculture-based livelihoods are increasingly vulnerable to food insecurity and undernutrition whilst their livelihood resource base continues to erode to levels never seen before.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Analysis of December 2021 indicated that an estimated 659,000 people (26% of the population) faced high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) and 896,000 people in stress (Phase 2) during the period October to November 2021. The same report estimated that 750,000 people (30% of the population) would face high acute food insecurity (Phase 3+) during the period December 2021 to March 2022. The key drivers of food insecurity include the recent locust outbreaks across 10 of Namibia's 14 regions that have ravaged crops (over 2,600 hectares) and grazing (at least 734,000 hectares) since February 2020.

In response to these outbreaks, the Government of Namibia, with support from FAO and other development partners have so far only managed to control locusts across 200,013 Hectares, corresponding to only 27% of the affected area. As such, the locust outbreak remains a threat that can cause severe food and nutrition insecurity, further worsening an already fragile food and nutrition security situation. Control and surveillance actions are therefore still required for the rest of the affected areas. In view of the expressed funding gap estimated at USD 2.1 million, the extent of the problem as influenced by spread of the outbreak, and the transboundary nature; as well as the voracious feeding habits of the pest, further support is required to ensure that the situation does not get worse than it already is.

Project intervention and implementation

This project aims to build resilience at household and national levels, as well as address post-disaster needs of vulnerable households in 10 of the 14 regions most heavily impacted by locusts. The project is being implemented in a synergistic partnership with Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA), the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with MAWLR being the lead executing partner.

The project aims to support interventions meant to strengthen local and national capacities in order to enhance livelihood and dietary diversification while ensuring sustainable and resilient food production systems. The project is targeting approximately 2,640 beneficiaries in Zambezi, Kavango West, Ohangwena and //Karas regions.

Expected project impact, outcome and activities

Impact

Strengthened national and local level capacity for resilient and diversified livelihood systems, and nutritious diets for beneficiary households in project focal regions.

Outcome and activities

The project aims to create resilient and diversified livelihoods and improved nutritious diets for beneficiary households through the following outputs and activities:



Absalom Nembenge, a communal farmer from Ekamba village in north central Namibia, says he spends his afternoons warding off locusts in his crop field pictured behind him

Output 1: Capacity of agricultural extension staff, selected key informants (youth and traditional leaders) and locust affected communities strengthened with respect to approaches for resilient livelihoods e.g. eLocust3m App, Caisse de Resilience (CdR) – Agro-pastoral/Farmer Field School (AP/FFS), Livestock Emergency Guidelines (LEGS), JICA’s Northern Namibia Small-Scale Farmers’ Livelihood Enhancement Project (N-SHEP). This intervention shall target 440 agricultural extension staff, selected key informants (youth and traditional leaders), and 2 200 farming households.

Output 2: Livelihood and dietary diversification supported to address the needs of 550 vulnerable locust affected households through distribution of strategic agro-inputs, skills enhancement following Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) techniques and principles while linking farmers to markets.

Output 3: Innovative small-scale irrigation/water saving technologies promoted, targeting 550 households. This would include community sensitization, training extension staff and community agents on water saving technologies as well as setting up demonstrations on community water saving technologies and up-/out-scaling small-scale hydroponic fodder production.

This project contributes to and is in support of FAO’s “Four Betters” which form part of its new Strategic Framework 2022-2031 that articulates FAO’s vision of a sustainable and food secure world for all, in the context of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. These are namely: Better production, better nutrition, better environment and a better life for all. At the national level, the project is aligned to the fourth priority of the FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF): Strengthened capacity for disaster risk reduction, resilience building and climate change adaptation and mitigation.



Funded By:



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