



FOOD CITIES 2022

PROFILE WINDHOEK



WINDHOEK POPULATION
0.4 MILLION



In the heart of Namibia lies Windhoek, the capital city of Namibia. Windhoek is strategically located and possesses a unique charm due to its harmonious blend of African and European cultures and the friendliness of its people. It had a population of 431,000 residents in 2020 and has an annual population growth rate of 4%. Windhoek is located in the Khomas Highland plateau area, at around 1,700 meters above sea level, almost exactly at the country's geographical centre. It serves as an ideal gateway to Southern Africa. Windhoek is also the seat of Central Government, Diplomatic Missions, UN Agencies and International NGOs that enable the city to benefit from economic diplomacy and cooperation agreements.

change impact on Windhoek. There are various factors that cause discouragement to grow food in Windhoek, such as freezing weather in winter, high summer temperatures, sporadic rains, mostly rocky and scarce fertile soil and drought. Promoting urban agriculture in such an environment requires an innovative approach, through close cooperation and partnership between Council and external stakeholders to realize the urban food security system. It is believed that urban agriculture is an appropriate livelihood strategy for Windhoek and the Khomas Region as a whole, as it can be incremental in improving and promoting the consumption of healthy foods, offering opportunities to generate income, and creating positive effects on social inclusion and on safeguarding and preserving traditional knowledge.

Food System Challenges

The population in the Khomas Region is increasing drastically annually due to an influx of people from all over Namibia to the City of Windhoek, in anticipation of better living conditions. Thus, urban agriculture is key to food security and poverty alleviation. The informal settlements in Windhoek are growing at an exponential rate, and this comes with the challenges of severe food insecurity due to high level of unemployment, in addition to the climate

City Food Vision

The City of Windhoek's vision is to be a Caring and Smart City by 2022. Providing food and nutrition to vulnerable groups has been one of the City's priority plans since 2006, resulting in Council resolved establishment of City of Windhoek Food and Nutrition Security Systems per its resolution CR175/07/2015. Windhoek



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joined another 200 world cities in October 2015 in the signing of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP). The MUFPP is an international agreement where signatory cities pledged to develop food systems that are sustainable, inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse, provide healthy and affordable food to all people in a human rights-based framework, minimize waste and conserve biodiversity, while adapting to and mitigating impacts of climate change. The City secured funding from UNDP in 2021 to strengthen the City of Windhoek food system to recover from emergencies and disease-related shocks through the Build-Back Better (BBB) programme. Under this funding, the City of Windhoek is developing a Food Security and Nutrition strategy that aims to transform the food system in the city.

The strategy seeks to address issues including:

- Access to safe and nutritious food for all.
- Sustainable consumption patterns that prevent food loss and waste
- Boost production and strengthen environmentally friendly production.
- Advancement of equitable livelihoods.
- Building resilient of community aftershocks and emergencies and
- Good governance



Food Strategy

The City of Windhoek, in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister, Food and Agriculture Organization in Namibia and World Future Council, hosted a three-day workshop for all Namibian Mayors on Food and Nutrition Security from 21 – 23 July 2014. At this workshop, Mayors acknowledged the pivotal role local authorities have to play in ensuring urban food and nutrition, promoting zero hunger in Namibia.

As per Council Resolution 175/07/2015, the City has adopted the integrated food security and nutrition programme in 2015. The Resolution committed the Council to a food and nutrition system of governance to improve the livelihood of people at risk of food insecurity.

Currently, the City of Windhoek is feeding 365 Orphans and Vulnerable children at Community Centres. It has established three community gardens that provide food security to the households of the beneficiaries and the surrounding community.

The City of Windhoek is currently working on the Food and Nutrition system strategy aimed at addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity and nutrition at a local level. Further development of policy is needed.

Expertise

The City of Windhoek draws its expertise from various departments with knowledge in social science, horticulture, public health, environment, and economic development. However, technical expertise in food production and innovative approaches in urban agriculture is still lacking; thus, the need to learn from others and tap on their expertise.

Learning Needs

Urban Agriculture is a new concept that the City of Windhoek has been embracing in recent years. Fostering partnerships with experts in the field will enable the City to learn the best practices and share knowledge and skills that apply to similar environment and weather conditions. We are keen to learn how to conduct food mapping, marketing research and value addition to produce. The city is also eager to learn and participate in sharing experiences in the area in food production, food waste, processing, and food diet.



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