



World Food Programme (WFP)

Cash and Voucher Assistance Programme

Report: July 2021 - December 2021



Contents

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Background of the project intervention..... | 3 |
| 2. Project objectives: | 3 |
| 2.1 <i>The voucher Programmer's primary aims:</i> | 3 |
| 3. Inception on project main activities | 3 |
| 4. Project implementation in Kunene and Ohangwena region..... | 4 |
| 4.1 <i>Beneficiaries' registration</i> | 4 |
| 5. Overall Distribution of Vouchers Process in Kunene and Ohangwena region. | 5 |
| 6. Overall Voucher Redemption Process in Kunene and Ohangwena Region | 5 |
| 7. Exit Survey..... | 5 |
| 8. Lesson Learned and Recommendations | 8 |
| 9. Gallery | 9 |
| 10. Annexures..... | Error! Bookmark not defined. |

1. Background of the project intervention

WFP's Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) food security assessments conducted in 2021, found that an estimated number of 428,000 people are facing high food insecurity and that those individuals require humanitarian assistance to reduce food gaps. The main drivers of food insecurity in Namibia this season include the impact of Covid-19, drought and most recently locust infestations in some regions. The Namibia Red Cross (NRC) was working together with WFP to implement a voucher assistance Programme in Kunene and Ohangwena region, reaching 2,700 households (HHs) to enable targeted beneficiaries to meet their food needs. The project was specifically targeting 5 (five) constituencies in 2 regions, 3 in Kunene (Sesfontein, Epupa, and Opuwo Urban) and 2 (two) in Ohangwena (Epembe and Omundaungilo). The targeted numbers of HHs are summarized below:

| Regions | Constituencies | Targeted HHs |
|-----------|----------------|--------------|
| Kunene | Sesfontein | 488 |
| | Epupa | 530 |
| | Opuwo Urban | 682 |
| Ohangwena | Omundaungilo | 500 |
| | Epembe | 500 |
| Total | | 2,700 |

2. Project objectives:

The overall objective of the intervention was to ensure that the targeted food-insecure households affected by COVID-19, climate shocks and locusts, benefit from enhanced access to adequate food and nutrition through market-based approaches, such as vouchers that stimulate local economies.

2.1 The voucher Programmer's primary aims:

A. Was to ensure that households whose livelihoods have been severely disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic have timely access to adequate food.

B. Was to ensure that communities severely affected by drought, locust's invasions and armyworms in Namibia, have timely access to adequate food and nutrition during and in the aftermath of natural disasters and other shocks.

3. Inception on project main activities

Before the project set-up at regional levels, the NRCS Head office established the project implementation team that is composed of the operational and support services staff at HQ and regional level.

| Head Office | | |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Personnel | Position | Role |
| Mrs Glynis Harrison | Secretary-General | Support the project implementation strategically |
| Mr Justus Kauatjirue | National Disaster Management Coordinator | Oversee the project overall implementation |

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Mr Erven Haimbodi | Project Accountant | Manage the project finance/budget |
| Mr Michael Nuwuseb | National Logistics Coordinator | Support the projects procurement and logistics necessities |
| Regional Offices | | |
| Mr Timo Muhama | Ohangwena Regional Coordinator | Lead activities implantation in Ohangwena region |
| 10 x Volunteers | Volunteers | Activities support/implementation in Epembe and Omundaungilo constituencies. |
| Mr Verikouje Ndundu | Kunene Regional Coordinator | Lead activities implantation in Kunene region |
| 15 x Volunteers | Volunteers | Activities support/implementation in Sesfontein, Epupa and Opuwo Urban constituencies. |

4. Project implementation in Kunene and Ohangwena region.

CVA Programme kicked off on the 26 July in both regions respectively where the WFP, Office of the Prime Minister (Directorate of Disaster Risk Management) and NRCS (HQ) started with regional staff and volunteer's induction. 25 volunteers were inducted in their respective regions to facilitate the implementation of the Programme, where 10 volunteers are from Ohangwena and 15 volunteers are from the Kunene region respectively. The induction focused on the beneficiaries' targeting criteria and selection and registration process using SCOPE system, the beneficiaries targeting used the current government drought relief beneficiaries lists (in Kunene region only), community mobilization, confirmation of targeted villages and mapping and lastly NRCS code of conduct and Red Cross principles and fundamentals. The beneficiaries targeting was done through a community targeting process facilitated by volunteers and community leaders. All the constituency offices in the targeted constituencies were urged to support NRCS through the registration process.

4.1 Beneficiaries' registration

The beneficiary's registration started with a pilot registration, which helped the volunteers to ensure that volunteers familiarized themselves with the SCOPE system. The beneficiaries' registration was a large task considering distances to different villages and the bad roads conditions in remote areas. There were challenges during registration especially in the Epupa constituency in the Kunene region; these were due to poor radio and cell phones reception as well the poor roads conditions. Furthermore, additional days were added to the registration plan, as the total targeted number of households were not reached due to household's names duplication and migration to more remote areas for better grazing for their animals. The registration activities were completed well despite those challenges, the teams managed to reach all targeted communities within the proposed plan all both regions.

5. Overall Distribution of Vouchers Process in Kunene and Ohangwena region.

The vouchers were successfully distributed in both regions; the overall distribution ran for 5 days. There were challenges encountered during the distribution of the voucher specifically in the Epupa constituency in the Kunene region. The challenges are as follows; poor radio and cell phone receptions, as well as poor road conditions, making the distribution of vouchers to beneficiaries more extremely difficult in the Epupa constituency.

6. Overall Voucher Redemption Process in Kunene and Ohangwena Region

The voucher redemption process successfully ran for three cycles in both regions, the communities showed up in good numbers and on time and the majority of them collected their cards and redeemed them at the retailers. However, a small percentage of beneficiaries that could not collect their vouchers due to their absence unfortunately lapsed their vouchers. Despite the challenges encountered in the Kunene region during the distribution of the voucher specifically in the Epupa constituency in the Kunene region cycles were completed successfully in both regions.

Below is a summary of beneficiaries per region:

| Regions | Constituencies | Targeted HHs | Vouchers redeemed 1 st cycle | Vouchers redeemed 2 nd cycle | Vouchers redeemed 3 rd cycle |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|---|---|---|
| Kunene | Sesfontein | 488 | 438 | 471 | 480 |
| | Epupa | 530 | 490 | 512 | 516 |
| | Opuwo Urban | 682 | 649 | 662 | 669 |
| Ohangwena | Omundaungilo | 500 | 488 | 498 | 498 |
| | Epembe | 500 | 482 | 490 | 491 |
| Total | | 2700 | 2,547 | 2,633 | 2,654 |
| Percentage | | | 94.3 | 97.5 | 98.3 |

7. Exit Survey

The Namibia Red Cross collected post-distribution information to:

- I. Obtain opinions from beneficiaries on the entire distribution and redemption process
- II. Find gaps and possible corrective measures to improve future interventions.

The main findings from the PDM survey are structured around four main themes: demographics and age, assessing beneficiaries' satisfaction, perceptions and assessing the effectiveness of the response.

Demographics and age

A total number of 814 respondents were interviewed in Kunene and Ohangwena regions respectively. The 576 respondents are from Kunene region, 238 are from Ohangwena region. Majority of the respondents fall in the age range of 30 -59 years and they are mostly from Kunene region. See Figure 1 and 2.

Assessing beneficiaries' satisfaction

Beneficiaries were asked about the benefits they were getting from the programme and how they felt about the variety of food items provided. Majority of them knew that they were receiving food and they felt good about it. Over 80% of the beneficiaries surveyed in both regions were satisfied with variety of food items provided. See figure 3 and 4.

Perceptions

Beneficiaries perceived the assistance they were getting was from NRCS and secondly WFP, however, some beneficiaries did not know. See figure 5.

Assessing the effectiveness of the response

Majority of the respondents in both regions rated the voucher redemption process as good, a few of them mostly in Kunene region gave poor and fair rating.

The majority of the beneficiaries/respondents heard about the voucher redemption dates from their neighbors and secondly from the radio in Kunene region, however in Ohangwena region majority of the respondents heard about the dates from the Traditional Authorities and secondly from the neighbors. Most respondents in both regions were happy with the communication methods used and most respondents in both regions travelled 1-2km to the voucher redemption point. See figures 6, 7, 8 and 9.

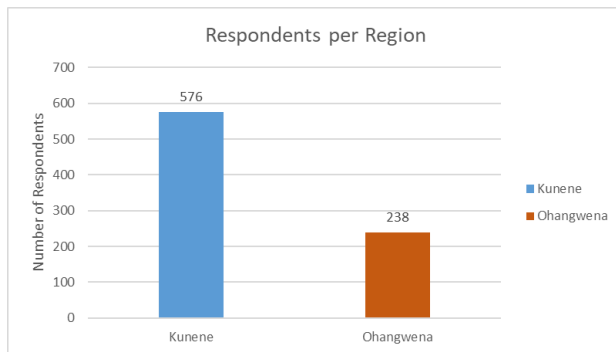


Figure 1: Respondents per Region

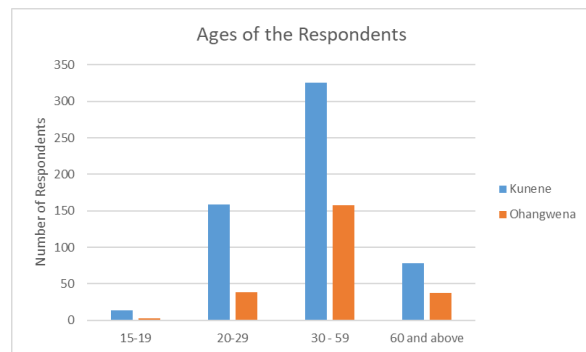


Figure 2: Ages of Respondents

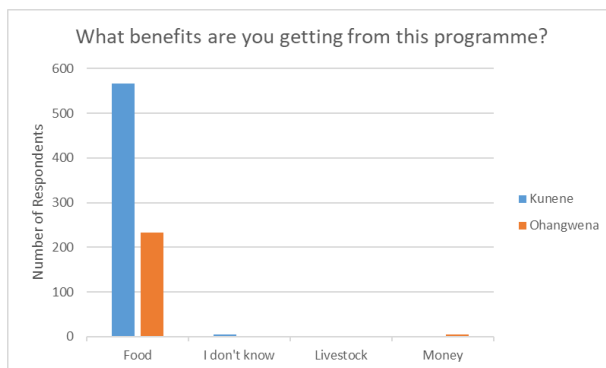


Figure 3: Benefits from the programme

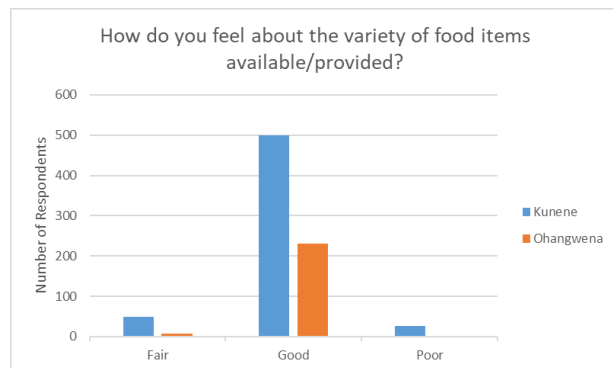


Figure 4: How they feel about the food variety

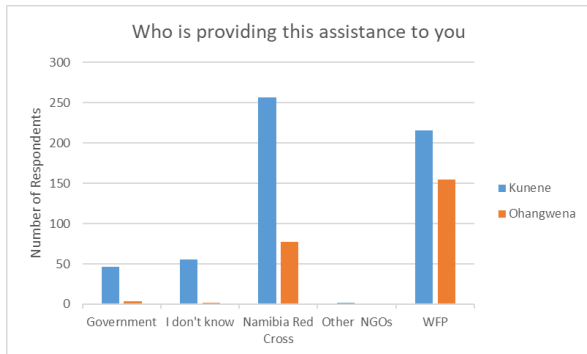


Figure 5: who is proving the assistance

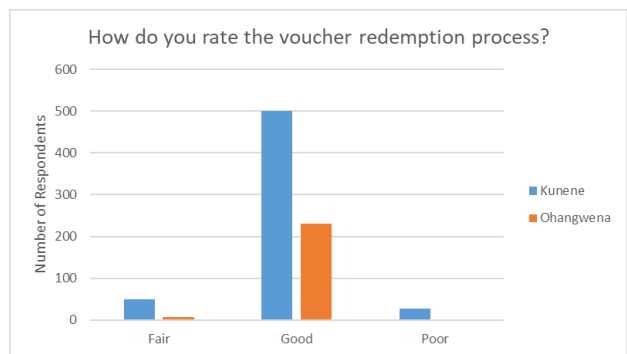


Figure 6: How they rate the voucher redemption process

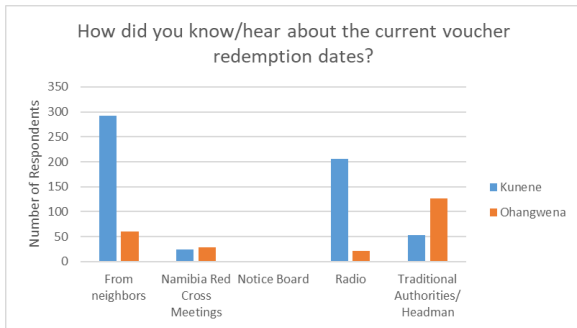


Figure 7: Voucher Redemption dates

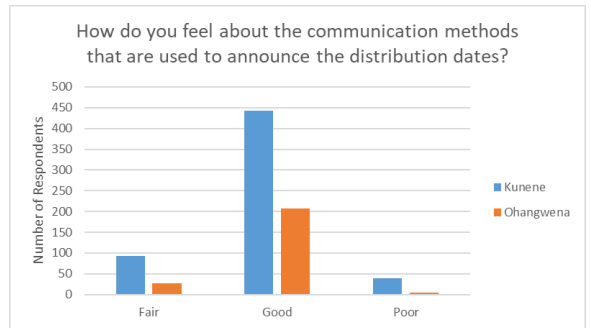


Figure 8: Communication methods

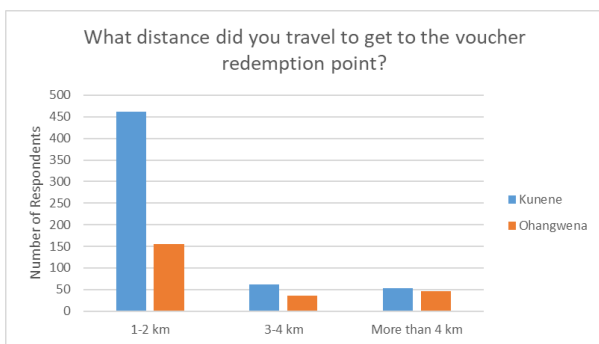


Figure 9: Distance travelled

8. Lesson Learned and Recommendations

| Lesson Learned | Recommendations |
|--|--|
| 1. Lack of punctuality from the community members when coming to the registration point | The information should be shared well in advance and using trusted community members |
| 2. Favouritism among headmen/women makes it difficult for them to select beneficiaries based on the approved criteria | Criteria well explain to community members and ensure that the list is agreed upon by all community members present |
| 3. Wrong information sent out by headmen/women made it difficult for the registration team to work in line with the constituency's beneficiary registration plan | Make sure to send out the right messaging with adequate information such as posters information for the beneficiaries |
| 4. Some people on the list provided by the constituency the office was unfamiliar to community members. | We should make sure that the constituency office assists us with a recently updated list of the beneficiaries |
| 5. In some villages, we discovered that beneficiaries who were registered in those villages had only been there because of the drought and had since moved to other villages, making it difficult for us to track them down. | The information was shared with the constituency office and took the replacements from nearby communities. |
| 6. Some beneficiaries claimed they did not have any identification documents, even though their names appeared on the list. | Beneficiaries without identification documents were registered with witnesses or confirmation from the community members. |
| 7. We also discovered that some beneficiary names were duplicated on the list | We recommend that constituency offices conduct verification in all villages to update their lists to avoid duplicates |
| 8. Volunteers who operated in Epupa Constituency on most days used to return late at night because some villages are very far away and roads are bad. | We recommend that the teams that drive long distances, should camp instead to avoid arriving late. |
| 9. Some people from the villages we visited complained that they had been left off the drought list, some of them said that when the list was made, some of them were at funerals and others were not in the village | The complaints were submitted to constituency offices to see how they can be assisted through the government food relief intervention. |

10. Gallery



Figure 2 Shows NRCS volunteers are distributing voucher cards at Alpha



Image: Shows Namibia Red Cross process in Sesfontein, Epupa and Opuwo Urban Constituencies. Volunteers & staff busy with the registration



Images: Shows the beneficiary registration in Okahauwangwena Village in Omundaugilo constituency.

Images: Shows the beneficiary registration in Omalapa Village in Omundaugilo constituency.



Image 1: Show beneficiaries redeeming their vouches in Sesfontein.

Image 2: Beneficiaries redeeming their vouchers at Okorosave.

