

Feeding dreams, one meal at a time

In the southern region of Namibia, the school feeding programme is helping vulnerable children to achieve their dreams, one meal at a time.

Mariental: Nine year-old Frankilda Mwanbu dreams of saving lives when she grows up and hopes to become a doctor.

“I want to study hard and become a doctor because by treating people I can make them happy,” says Frankilda from a town called Mariental in the Hardap Region, the southern part of Namibia.



Learners smiling and eating school meals provided by the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) as part of Namibia's school feeding programme. WFP

Frankilda lives in the informal settlement of Oshivanapenduka with her parents and two siblings. Her mother is a small-scale trader and her father is a shop assistant at ShopRite, a local grocery store.

Coming from a poor background, Frankilda is one of the 330,000 learners benefitting from the Namibian school feeding programme implemented by the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN).

The GRN considers increased access to quality education a priority, and from 2005 – 2015 education received the highest share of the Government budget. The school meal Frankilda receives in the morning at school helps her to stay in school and to concentrate in class.

For other children like Frankilda, the school meal is not just a meal but an investment in their future. Without the food they receive, hunger and micronutrient deficiencies can cause damage to their growing bodies.

The World Food Programme (WFP) works closely with the GRN to support education, reduce malnutrition, and promote the development of children by guiding the implementation of the school feeding programme. The partnership between the Government and WFP has seen various planning, monitoring, and evaluation systems being developed which contribute to the efficiency and sustainability of the Namibian school feeding programme. **SDGs 2 'Zero Hunger', 4 'Quality Education' and 17 'Partnerships for the Goals'**