



This report is produced by Office of the Resident Coordinator in Namibia in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 17 to 24 May 2013. The next report will be issued on or around 31 May.

## Highlights

- On 17 May 2013 the President on Namibia declared a national drought emergency and called for assistance from the international community.
- An estimated 330,925 people have now been classified as food insecure – 14 per cent of Namibia's total population of 2.324 million.
- The Government of Namibia is already responding to the situation, and has announced an emergency allocation N\$200 million (US\$20.7 million).
- The UN and partners are in discussions with the Government of Namibia on how it can best support the response.

**330,925**

People in need of immediate food assistance

**13**

Regions affected



Source: Relief Web  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

## Situation Overview

Across Namibia, the final months of the rainfall season was characterized significantly below-average precipitation. From 08 - 21 April 2013, an Inter-Agency Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), led by the Directorate of Disaster Risk Management (DDRM), was conducted. The results indicate that extremely below average agricultural production can be expected as drought conditions intensify. Poor agricultural production is also partly attributed to floods that impacted northern Namibia earlier this year. An estimated 330,925 people in rural communities have now been classified as food insecure – 14 per cent of Namibia's total population of 2.324 million, with an additional 447,577 people classified as moderately food insecure. Put another way, 28% of rural households are food insecure and 38% are moderately food insecure. Without intervention those moderately food insecure could rapidly become food insecure.

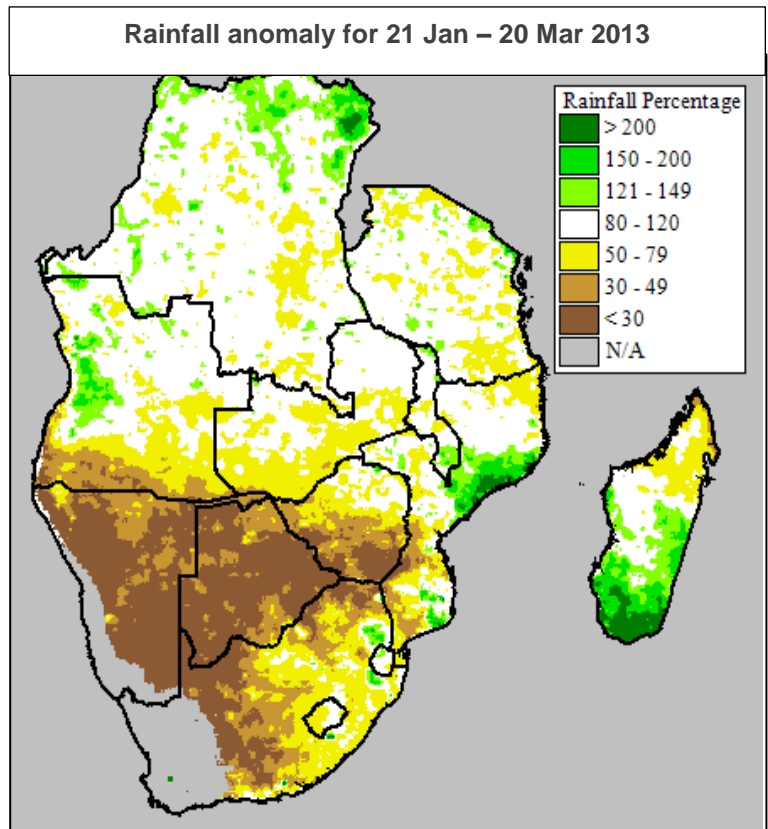
Six regions, namely Omaheke, Erongo, Kunene, Otjizondjupa, Karas and Hardap, where a substantial proportion of households rely on livestock production, were adversely affected by drought in terms of reduced pastures and water for drinking. Six other regions, namely Caprivi, Kavango, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Omusati and Oshana, where a substantial proportion of households rely on crop production, were adversely affected by drought in terms of reduced residual moisture and crop failure. Access to livestock markets has been severely affected since the means of exchange has been eroded by the drought situation. Fortunately, on-going safety net programmes such as pensions and grants are making a positive impact on livelihoods of drought affected communities.

However, it is very likely that since the time of the assessment the situation may have worsened and will continue to worsen over the coming months. Examples of the coping strategies employed by households in affected regions include going an entire day without eating, limiting portion sizes of meals and harvesting immature crops

The assessment recommends, among other activities, the immediate provision of food assistance to the most vulnerable populations up to March 2014 using different transfer modalities - approximately 39,600 tons of food (35,740 tons of cereals and 3,860 tons of pulses) will be required for the 330,925 people classified as food insecure. A number of subsidy programmes are also being proposed. The Government of Namibia has initiated response activities including the provision of food rations through regional councils and the drilling of 40 boreholes and is developing a comprehensive response plan. The UN and other partners will work in support of Government's efforts.

## Funding

The Government has announced an allocation N\$200 (US\$20.7 million) million towards the response. The Namibian Red Cross Society (NRCS) is also considering launching an appeal. United Nations Agencies are in discussions with the Government of Namibia to determine if an appeal for international funding is required.



Source: SADC FANR

## Humanitarian Response

The National Disaster Risk Management Committee (NDRMC), United Nations Agencies and NRCS are scheduled to meet on 28 May 2013 to discuss the response the crisis.

### Education

**Needs:**

- The EFSA report recommends the continuation and expansion of current school feeding programmes.
- Only 78% of schools have some type of sanitation facilities.
- 41% of schools without access to a water supply

**41%**  
Number of schools without access to a water supply

**Response:**

- UNICEF will continue monitoring school attendance.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Some schools in affected areas don't have school feeding programmes or adequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities.

### Food Security

**Needs:**

- The recently conducted EFSA assessment recommends, among other activities, the immediate provision of food assistance to the most vulnerable populations up to March 2014 using different transfer modalities - approximately 39,600 tons of food (35,740 tons of cereals and 3,860 tons of pulses) will be required for the 330,925 people classified as food insecure. A number of subsidy programmes are also being proposed.

**330,925**  
In need of immediate food assistance

**Response:**

- The Government of Namibia has already started distributing food to those affected.
- WFP is to provide technical support as per existing agreements.
- The Government of Namibia, UN Agencies and NRCS are in discussions to identify response gaps and ways to address these gaps.

**Health &****Nutrition****Needs:**

- All 13 regions of Namibia are affected by drought.
- 28% of rural households are food insecure and 38% are moderately food insecure. Without intervention those moderately food insecure could rapidly become food insecure.
- Approximately 109,000 children under age 5 living in rural households classified severely and moderately food insecure are at risk of malnutrition due to reduced availability, access and utilization of food, compounded by limited access to safe water and improved sanitation.
- Approximately 20,000 pregnant women living in rural households classified as food insecure are at risk of malnutrition, thus compromising the health of newborns.
- An increase in acutely malnourished children may result in increased demands placed on health facilities for therapeutic and supplementary feeding interventions; current staffing levels at health facilities may not be adequate to meet the increase in demand for nutritional assessment and support. Therefore, allocating additional staff in the areas most affected may be needed.
- There are high incidences of stunting (29%) among those affected, as well as high rates of HIV/AIDS prevalence (18.8%) among pregnant women.

**109,000**

Children under 5 at risk of malnutrition

**Response:**

- Monitoring of acute malnutrition amongst children under age 5 and pregnant woman is on-going and needs to be strengthened.
- The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health will continue to monitor health indicators to track any negative health consequences of the drought.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Human resources for nutrition activities at the technical level are lacking within both Government and UN Agencies.
- The lack of adequate funding is a major constraint on cluster activities.
- 110 health facilities out of 340 are not equipped and do not have the technical capacity to treat and manage cases of acute malnutrition.
- Coordination at national and regional level is a constraint on cluster activities.

**Protection****Needs:**

- During field visits UNFPA have noted some instances of transactional sex, particularly in the areas of major trucking routes. Increased condom distribution in these areas is advisable.
- Consideration should be given to Protection issues when planning food distributions.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene****Needs:**

- About 32% of households and communities use boreholes as their main sources of water, followed by piped water (20%) and public taps in neighbouring houses (19%).
- As a result of the severe drought, water tables in boreholes are currently low with reduced yields.
- The cost of water has risen and most households are now using their limited funds to buy food instead of water.

**11**

Regions without water tanks for additional storage

- Only 33% of households have improved sanitation facilities.
- 50% of the population practice open defecation.

#### Response:

- UNICEF is currently supporting the Ministry Agriculture, Water and Forestry to increase access to water through the provision of water storage tanks and water treatment chemicals.
- Currently 20 water tanks are pre-positioned in 2 regions in the north.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- There are gaps in the provision of water storage tanks: 11 of the country's 13 regions are without water tanks for additional water storage.
- Human resources for WASH at the technical level are lacking within government and UN agencies

## General Coordination

The National Disaster Risk Management Committee (NDRMC), chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet, is tasked with coordinating and overseeing the national emergency response. The Government of Namibia is working through the NDRMC, which draws participation from various key line Ministries and institutions such as State House; the Office of the Prime Minister; DDRM; Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry; Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Environment and Tourism; Ministry of Finance; and the UN.

The NDRMC reports to Cabinet, which considers for approval the recommendations tabled by NDRMC. Equally, once a disaster is a recognized emergency, and following a presidential declaration, state assets are released to respond to the disaster through Cabinet.

DDRM implements Government's emergency preparedness and response operations. At sub-national level, regional and local authorities lead the coordination forums for disaster preparedness and response.

The UN has a body of Emergency Focal Points coordinated by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office, which reports to the UN Country Team. This structure also collaborates closely and frequently with DDRM on routine technical issues in relation to emergency preparedness and response.




#### For further information, please contact:

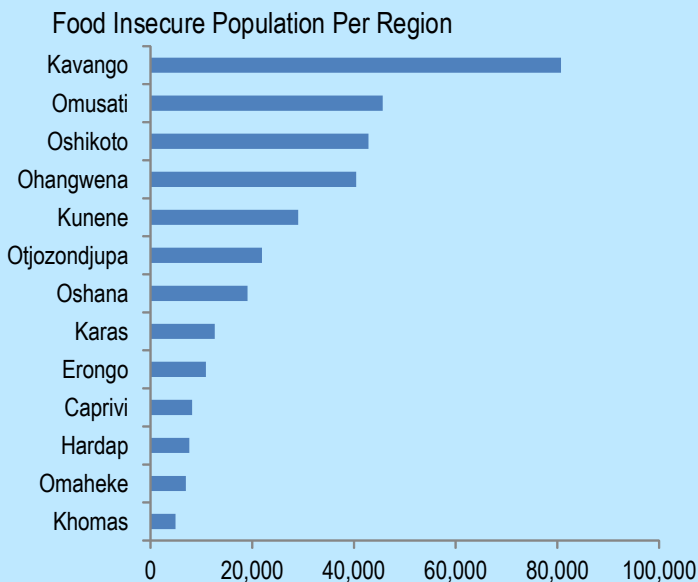
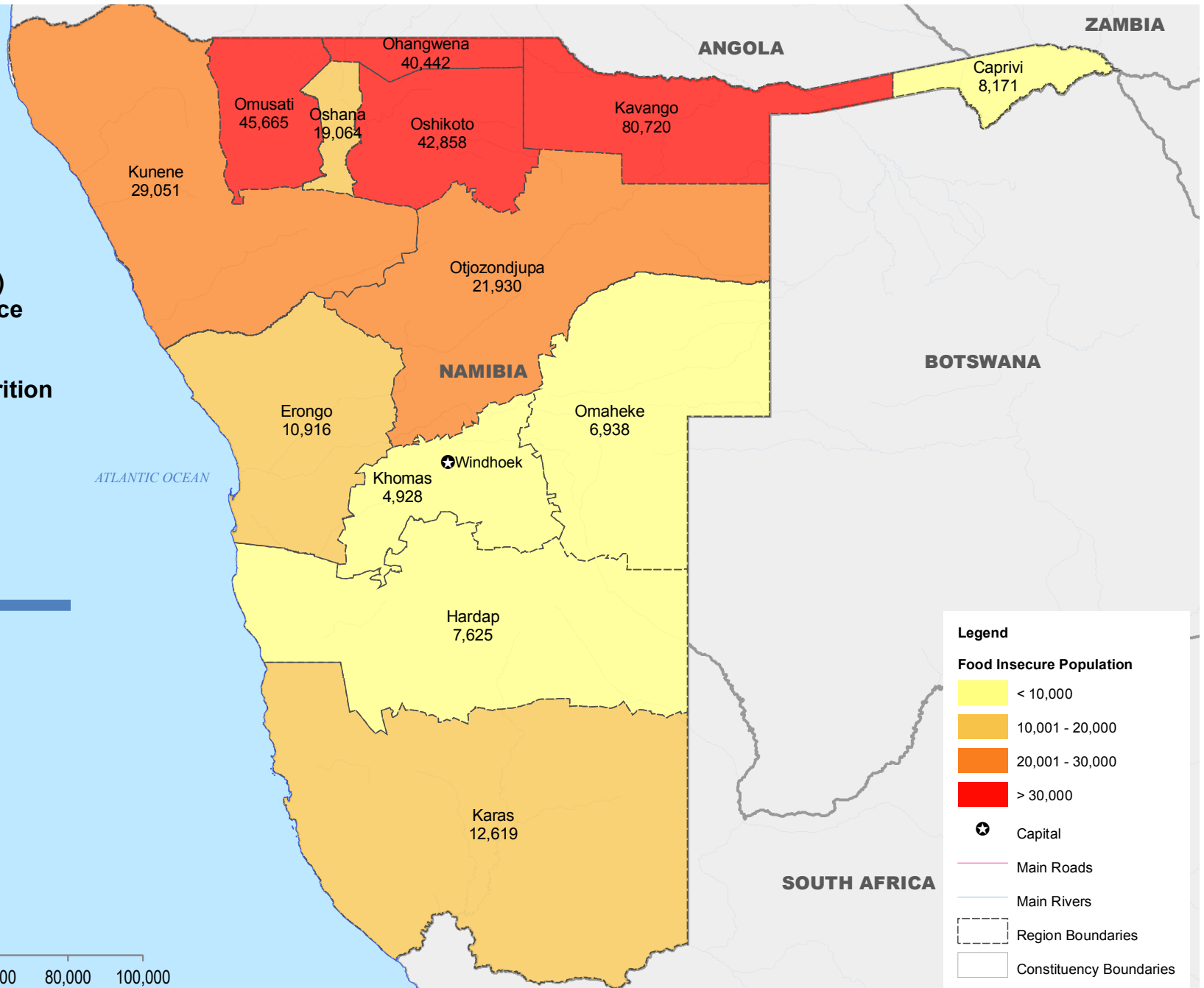
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-  **330,925 People**  
(13 % of Total Population)  
In need of Food Assistance
-  **109,000 Children**  
Under 5 at risk of malnutrition
-  **11 Regions**  
Without water tanks  
For additional storage



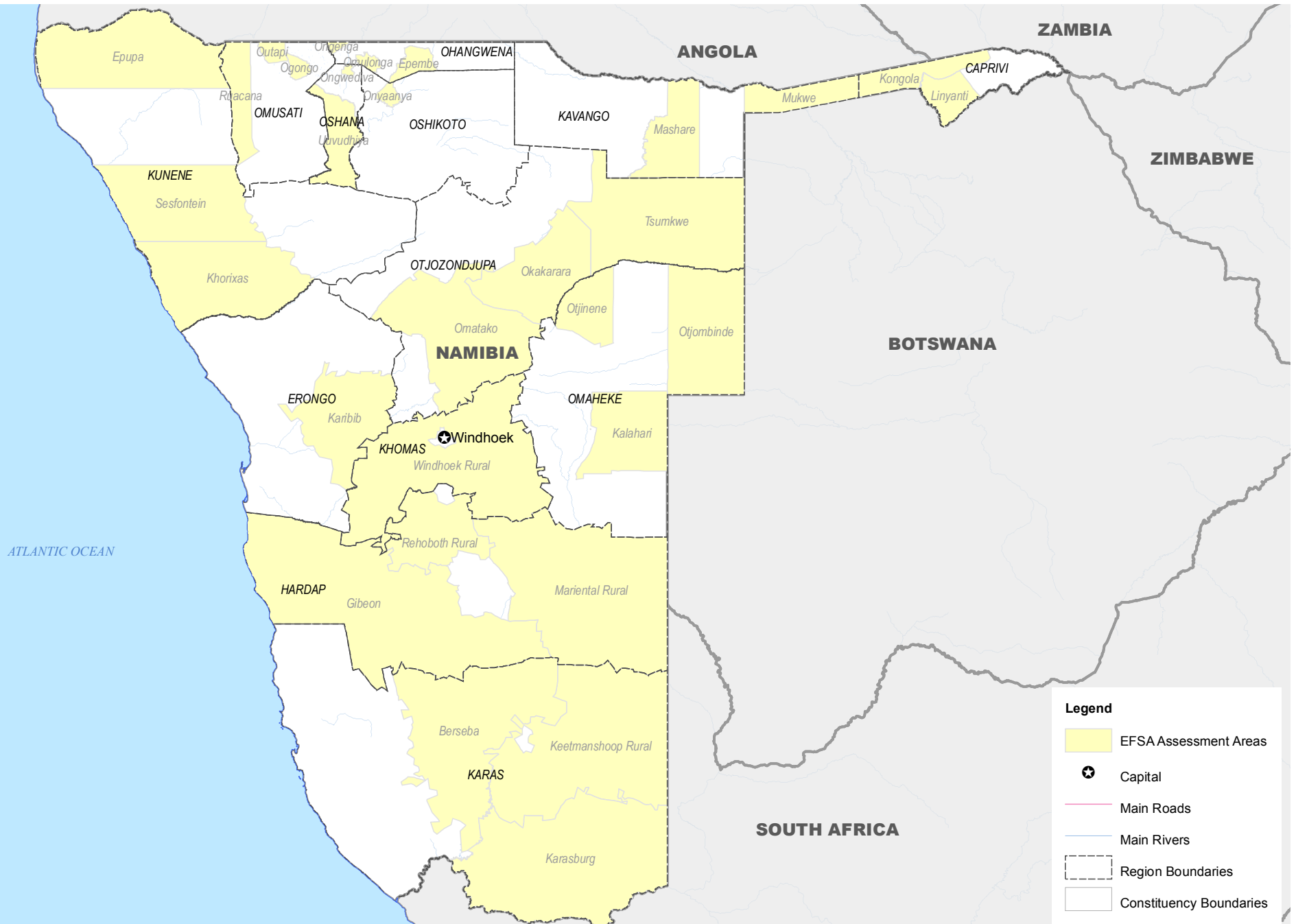
**Legend**

**Food Insecure Population**

- < 10,000
- 10,001 - 20,000
- 20,001 - 30,000
- > 30,000

-  Capital
-  Main Roads
-  Main Rivers
-  Region Boundaries
-  Constituency Boundaries

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