

City Windhoek	
Country	Namibia
Population	325,858 (2011)
Title of policy or practice	Nathaniel Maxuilili Soup Kitchen
Subtitle (optional)	Food supply and distribution for orphans and vulnerable children in the informal settlement of the Windhoek District
URL video	
Category	Food Supply and Distribution
SDGs	SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 4.
Brief description	<p>1. Introduction The City of Windhoek with the financial assistance from an external stakeholder took the initiative to start up a soup kitchen in its attempt to compliment Government support to curb hunger. The Nathaniel Maxuilili Soup Kitchen situated in the informal settlement of Babylon in Tauno Hatuiikulipi Street, Katutura is aimed at providing Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) with at least one nutritional meal per day during the week in order to encourage the children to stay in school and to grow into active productive citizens.</p> <p>2. Goals 2.1 To assist vulnerable children to complete their primary school education (as they receive a meal they will not be hungry at school, thus increase in concentration levels); 2.2 To enable children who are on antiretroviral therapy treatment to take their medication with a proper healthy meal.</p> <p>3. Jurisdiction This Programme is only available in Windhoek, Katutura, Babylon informal settlement</p> <p>4. Beneficiaries In 2019, 355 OVC have been registered at the Soup Kitchen and are receiving one meal per day (Monday to Friday).</p> <p>5. Lessons Learned A. Maintain a strong monitoring and evaluation system; B. Have sound relationships with community members; C. Continuously engage external stakeholders.</p>
Date of start and state (ongoing/completed)	01/2006 Ongoing
Actors and stakeholders involvement	<p>Internal</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Department of Economic Development and Community Services 2. Department of Infrastructure, Water & Technical Services <p>External</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. USAID 2. Private partners (Kobi Alexander Charity)
Approach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Needs assessment - community members, leaders and teachers consulted; 2. Priority identified - food provision;

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Compile project proposal; 4. Identify and contact supporting partners; 5. Venue identification: Nathaniel Maxuilili Community Centre; 6. Criteria formulation - identify the criteria to select the beneficiaries, 7. Register the beneficiaries; 8. Supply food; 9. Monitor and evaluate.
Innovation	<p>People are forced to migrate to the city due to drought in the rural areas. However, poor urban families face the same challenges as they can't grow food which is cheap due to lack of land for production and water. With high food prices and drought, many poor household, in particular those living in the informal settle, are vulnerable to food insecurity and unhealthy food.</p> <p>As the populations grow, collective efforts are needed to feed the vulnerable children and families who can't afford healthy food. City of Windhoek realized the need to implement the feeding scheme due to the number of children lacking nutritious food on a daily basis resulting in school dropout, malnutrition and stunt.</p> <p>The feeding scheme does not only address the nutrition part of the children, but encourage social interaction between children and parents. Both learn the importance of healthy food and nutrition by encouraging children to consume more vegetable than meat. Parents are aware of the benefit of consuming vegetables and fruits, thus promoting healthy habits at home.</p>
Impact	<p>Social Impact: The target population for the Soup Kitchen are orphans and vulnerable children living within the Babylon informal settlement. The parents of these children are unable to provide them with more than one healthy balanced meal per day - the children thus go to school hungry and as a result, they cannot concentrate nor perform well at school. This leads to failure and ultimately, continuing the cycle of poverty as children will not be able to find employment with at least a grade 10 qualification.</p> <p>On a daily basis, a total number of 355 boys and girls are provided with one healthy meal. Of the 355, 185 are females and 170 are males. The age ranges between 2 and 17 years. A total number of 57 children are not attending school and a total number of 289 children are attending school. Nine (9) of the applicants did not state whether they are in school or not.</p> <p>Economic Impact: Volunteers who are preparing the meals are being remunerated monthly to sustain their families, thus contributing to poverty alleviation. By volunteering at the soup kitchen, volunteers gain experience and cooking skills that can be applied in any job related context in the future.</p>
Inclusion	<p>Thematic Inclusion: Category: Food Supply and Distribution Food is supplied and as well as distributed to vulnerable children in the informal settlement of Babylon. A variety of different departments are involved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building maintenance: to ensure that the facility is maintained on a regular basis and meets all building regulations; 2. Health Division: to ensure that the kitchen and kitchen staff are well trained and fully equipped to serve food, to ensure that the kitchen meets all health and safety regulations. <p>Territorial Inclusion: This specific soup kitchen programme is only available in in the Windhoek District - Katutura Suburb - the Babylon Informal Settlement.</p> <p>Social Inclusion:</p>

Private Sector

The following are provided by one single charity organisation:

1. Food-perishable (meat, eggs, milk, etc), non-perishable;
2. Payment of volunteer incentive (kitchen staff).

Adversity coefficient

Current challenges on site:

According to the health and hygiene inspection report conducted at Soup Kitchen by the City of Windhoek Environmental Health Practitioners in September 2015, the Soup Kitchen is in imminent danger of closing due to the following reasons.

- A faint gas odour from the camper's gas stove currently being used, is detectable upon entering the kitchen, thus possible asphyxiation is a major concern to the user of the Soup Kitchen.
- The frame of the campers' gas stove is highly unstable which puts the kitchen staff at high risk of sustaining scalds and burns during food preparation at the Soup Kitchen.
- The overall condition and design of the kitchen is fundamental to the health and hygiene of food being prepared, if not it poses a health risk to the general public being served by the community centre, as the current conditions are inadequate.

In addition to the abovementioned conditions, the lack of a sanitary dining room hall means that the children are forced to eat outside during National Events such as Elections and immunizations as the organisers make use of the Community Hall during these times.

Scope of the project:

Complete renovation of the kitchen: extension of the kitchen, provision of the cool room and store room, more cupboards and the purchase of tables and chairs suitable for young children.