



## 2024/25 Rainfall Season Snapshot, Namibia

### Historical Context

Namibia has yet to experience above-normal rainfall, defined as rainfall amounts within the wettest third of recorded historical data. The Namibian government has historically declared national emergencies due to extreme drought events in 1992/1993, 1995/1996, 2012/2013, 2013/2014, 2015/2016, and 2018/2019.

By the end of 2019, which marked the worst drought in 90 years, the agriculture industry was in crisis. Production had plummeted, over 100,000 livestock perished, and the livelihoods of many were devastated. This drought set the stage for ongoing vulnerabilities in Namibia's agricultural and water systems.

### 2023 Rainfall Season

The 2023 rainfall season was characterized by poorly distributed rainfall, with most of the country reporting below-average precipitation. Regions such as Erongo, Omusati, and Kunene experienced their fifth consecutive year of drought, while Karas, Hardap, Khomas, and parts of Omaheke endured their second.

Prolonged dry spells during the rainy season led to widespread crop failures, intensifying the need for drought relief across all regions. These conditions further strained communities and natural resources, heightening concerns for the 2024 season.

### 2024 Rainfall Performance

Namibia's 2024 rainfall season was dominated by widespread drought conditions, marking the second consecutive year of below-average rainfall for most regions. Rainfall distribution was highly uneven, exacerbating agricultural and water supply challenges.

- **Southern and Central Regions:** Karas, Hardap, Erongo, and southern Kunene recorded less than 20mm of rain in January 2024.
- **Nationwide Trends:** The majority of the country reported rainfall below 90mm in subsequent months, underscoring persistent dryness.

These conditions have compounded the ongoing crisis, pushing Namibia into one of its most challenging drought periods in recent history.

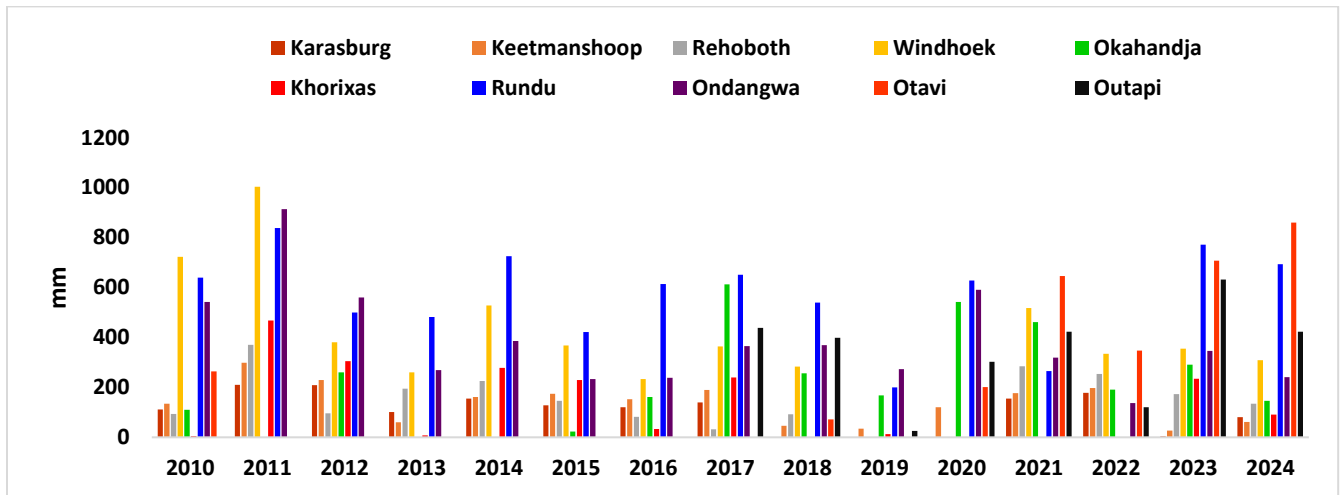


## State of Emergency and Humanitarian Impact

On 22 May 2024, the Namibian Government declared a state of emergency due to the severity of the drought. Unlike previous events, the 2024 drought affected all 14 regions, all of which were classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

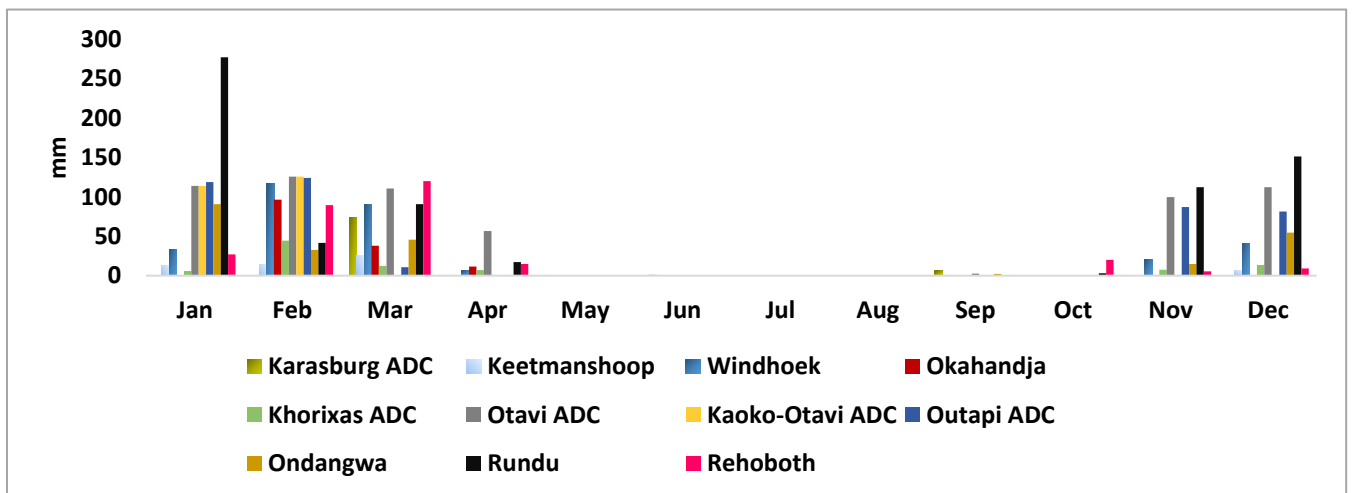
The drought has left 1.2 million people, or 40% of the population, facing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above). Urgent support is needed to reduce food gaps and protect livelihoods in these vulnerable communities.

**Figure 1: Rainfall Patterns (2010 – 2024)**



Source: Namibia Meteorological Service & HEI Research

**Figure 2: Rainfall Patterns (Jan 2024 – Dec 2024)**



Source: Namibia Meteorological Service & HEI Research