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NAMIBIA



CCA

COMMON
COUNTRY
ANALYSIS

2023

Namibia



Table of contents

- 1 ABBREVIATIONS 4**
- 2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 6**
- 3 INTRODUCTION 10**
 - 3.1 Overview of the CCA process 10
 - 3.2 Overview of the national vision and linkage to regional and global development agendas 11
- 4 LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND POPULATION GROUPS: RISKS & DRIVERS OF EXCLUSION 12**
 - 4.1 Women 12
 - 4.2 Children 14
 - 4.3 Adolescents and Young people 16
 - 4.4 Indigenous peoples 17
 - 4.5 Persons with Disabilities 18
 - 4.6 Persons living with HIV 19
 - 4.7 Older persons 21
 - 4.8 Undocumented persons, refugees and asylum-seekers, and irregular migrants 21
 - 4.9 LGBTQI persons 22
 - 4.10 Residents of informal settlements 22
 - 4.10 Slum Dwellers 23
- 5 PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA AND THE SDGS 24**
- 6 PEOPLE 26**
 - 6.1 Poverty 27
 - 6.1.1 Status and Trends 27
 - 6.1.2 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Institutional commitment and resources allocation 29
 - 6.2 Gender Inequality 29
 - 6.2.1 Status and Trends 29
 - 6.2.2 Barrier 1: Persistent gender-based violence and violence against women and girls 26
 - 6.3 Food insecurity and nutrition 32
 - 6.3.1 Status and trends 32
 - 6.3.2 Barrier 2: Lack of access to affordable, safe and nutritious food 32
 - 6.3.3 Opportunity for SDGs acceleration: Food systems strengthening and climate-smart agriculture 38
 - 6.4 Quality of Education 40
 - 6.4.1 Status and Trends 40
 - 6.4.2 Barrier 3: Unequal access to inclusive quality education and lifelong learning 41
 - 6.4.3 Opportunity for SDGs Acceleration: Optimising available financing and multi-stakeholder opportunities 46
 - 6.5 Health 47
 - 6.5.1 Status and Trends 47
 - 6.5.2 Barrier 4: Limited access to quality and affordable healthcare (UHC) 49
 - 6.5.3 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Health financing, health outcomes, ICT 55
 - 6.6 Clean water and sanitation 56
 - 6.6.1 Status and trends 56
 - 6.7 Social protection 58



7 PROSPERITY	60
7.1 Status and trends.....	61
7.1.1 Barrier 5: Low and un-inclusive economic growth.....	61
7.1.2 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: New Sources of inclusive and sustainable blue and green economic growth...	68
7.2 Inequality.....	68
7.2.1 Status and Trends.....	69
7.2.2 Opportunity for SDGs acceleration: Social protection and knowledge generation.....	70
7.3 Barrier 6: High unemployment and informal employment.....	71
7.3.1 Status and Trends.....	71
7.3.2 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Championing innovation in the informal sector.....	76
7.4 Energy.....	77
7.4.1 Status and Trends.....	77
7.4.2 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: the Green Hydrogen Strategy.....	79
8 PLANET	80
8.1 Ecosystems and Natural Resources Management.....	81
8.1.1 Status and trends.....	81
8.1.2 Barrier 7: Unustainable and inequitable natural resources management.....	83
8.1.3 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Conservation and implementation of agreed Conventions.....	85
8.2 Barrier 8: Climate Change and External Shocks.....	86
8.2.1 Status and trends.....	86
8.2.2 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Sustain momentum towards climate adaptation and mitigation.....	88
8.3 Barrier 9: High vulnerability and poor resilience to disaster and emergency shocks, compounded by limited preparedness & response capacity.....	89
8.3.1 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Utilisation of real-time data and information for climate action.....	90
9 PEACE	91
9.1 Governance.....	92
9.2 Barrier 10: Lack of timely, available, adequate, and sufficiently disaggregated statistics to inform decision making and ensure accountability and transparency.....	95
9.2.1 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Institutional coordination and resources towards quality data.....	99
9.3 Barrier 11: Inadequate citizen engagement and participation in decision making for inclusive democratic processes....	99
9.3.1 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Innovations for in inclusive democracies processes including ATI.....	101
10 PARTNERSHIPS: THE SDGS FINANCING LANDSCAPE	103
10.1.1 Status and trends.....	104
10.1.2 Domestic Public Flows.....	105
10.1.3 Domestic Private flows.....	110
10.1.4 International public flows.....	111
10.1.5 International private flows.....	112
10.1.6 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Emerging cross-cutting Means of Implementation.....	113
11 CONCLUSIONS	114
12 ANNEX I: ALIGNMENT OF NATIONAL VISION, DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND THE SDGS	118
13 ANNEX II: MULTIDIMENSIONAL SDG RISK ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK FOR THE SDGS	120

1. Abbreviations

4IR	Fourth Industrial Revolution	FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
AAAA	Addis Ababa Action Agenda	FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
AfCFTA	Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement	GBV	Gender-Based Violence
AFD	Agence Francaise de Development	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	GFCF	Gross Fixed Capital Formation
ANC	Antenatal Care	GFI	Global Financial Integrity
ATI	Access to Information Bill	GGI	Global Gender Gap Index
BBB	Build Back Better	GPI	Global Peace Index
BEPS	Base Erosion and Profit Shifting	GCF	Green Climate Fund
BES	Biodiversity Economy Strategy	GEF	Global Environmental Facility
BoN	Bank of Namibia	GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
CAT	Committee Against Torture	GRN	Government of the Republic of Namibia
CCA	Common Country Analysis	HCI	Human Capital Index
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women	HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	HPP	Harambee Prosperity Plan
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	HRC	Human Rights Committee
CHW	Community Health Workers	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
CLEWS	Climate, Land, Energy and Water Systems	IFFs	Illicit Financial Flows
CLR	Communal Land Reform	IHRC	International Health Regulation Capacity
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation	IIAG	Ibrahim Index of African Governance
CMS	Modernisation of Central Medical Store	IMNCI	Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illness
Cop26	26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties	INFF	Integrated Financing Framework
CPD	Continuous Professional Development	IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
CPI	Corruption Perception Index	ISR	Infrastructure Sharing Regulations
CRAN	Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia	JVAC	Joint Value Addition Committee
DFA	Development Finance Assessment	KMC	Kangaroo Mother Care
DRF	Disaster Risk Framework	LGBTQI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex
DBSA	Development Bank of Southern Africa	LSM	Learning Support Materials
ECD	Early Childhood Development	MGEPEWSW	Ministry of Gender Equality Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare
EE	Environmental Education	MIT	Ministry of Industrialisation & Trade
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	MM	Millimeter
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	MME	Ministry of Mines and Energy
EIF	Environmental Investment Fund	MoEAC	Ministry of Education, Arts & Culture
EIS	Employment Impact Assessment	MoF	Ministry of Finance
EMIS	Educational Management Information System	MoHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
EOC	Essential Obstetric Care	MPA	Marine Protected Area
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development	MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index



MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MTCT	Mother to Child Transmission
MUAC	Mid-upper Arm Circumference
MW	Megawatt
NAMFISA	Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority
NCB	National Central Bureau
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NDC	Non-Communicable Diseases
NDI	Namibia's Human Development Index
NDP	National Development Plan I
NDP2	National Development Plan II
NDP3	National Development Plan III
NDP4	National Development Plan IV
NDP5	National Development Plan V
NDPs	National Development Plans
NHIES	National Household and Income and Expenditure Survey
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NIACS	National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan
NLFS	Namibia Labour Force Survey
NMRF	National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up
NMSP	National Malaria Strategic Plan
NSA	Namibia Statistics Agency
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSFAF	Namibia Student Financial Assistance Fund
OCSEA	Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
OD	Open Defecation
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OMAs	Offices, Ministries, and Agencies
PEs	Public Enterprises
PFMS	Public Finance Management System
PBB	Programme Based Budgeting
PPS	Public Procurement System
PSCE	Private Sector Credit Extension
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.
PSMA	Port State Measure Agreement
SACU	Southern African Customs Union

SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SCOPE	System for Cash Operations
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
TB	Tuberculosis
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNDAF	United Nations Development Partnership Framework
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VAA	Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis
VAC	Violence Against Children
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VTCs	Vocational Training Centres
WEF	World Economic Forum
WFP	World Food Programme
WPFI	World Press Freedom Index
WTO	World Trade Organisation

2. Executive summary

Namibia, an Upper Middle-Income Country, has made progress towards the advancement of the national Vision 2030 and the aligned 2030 Agenda through cautious economic management and political stability. However, Namibia is a highly unequal country, exacerbated by factors including the economic downturn since 2016, climate-related disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the recent Russia/Ukraine war, reversing progress in some Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Yet prospects for innovative policy and programme implementation and development financing position the country towards a notable path for SDG acceleration.

PEOPLE AND LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND (LNOB)

Namibia's commitment to the allocation of resources to the social sector remains commendable. As has been the trend, social sectors accounts for the largest share of the budget at 50.7%. However, aligning the inputs with the outcomes remains a concern. School enrolment figures look impressive but increasing dropout and failure rates remain a concern. Grade 1 at 17.9 percent (Female 15.0/ Male 20.6); Grade 4 at 18.1 percent (Female 13.9/Male 21.9) and Grade 8, 22.8 percent (Female 21.0 /Male 24.7) an indication that learners are progressing to higher grades without having mastered the required basic competencies for the higher grades, resulting in high dropout rates in the higher grades.

Namibia has made progress in health outcomes, as reflected in the increase of life expectancy, and by the overall health status of the population. Government spending on health at an estimated 13.9% of total budget and 5.0% of GDP, is below the Abuja declaration that stipulates an investment of at least 15% of the total budget to the health sector. The country performs poorly on health outcomes compared to the UMIC average, where Namibia has 0.6 physicians and 2 nurses per 1000 people compared

to the UMIC average of 2.3 and 3.3, respectively. The sparse population hinders access especially in rural areas. Food and nutrition insecurity remains high and compares to UMICS especially for stunting exacerbated by the rural/urban divide and multidimensional poverty which affects more women and children. The multidimensional poverty incidence (H) is reported at 43.3 percent, meaning that 43.3 percent of the population of Namibia is multidimensional poor. The incidence of multidimensional poverty amongst female-headed households at 46% than for male-headed households at 41%. Children in Namibia are most affected by multidimensional poverty, which stands at 56% for children aged 1-4 years, 50% for children aged 5-9 years and 48% for children aged 10-14 years¹. Furthermore, approximately 16% of children in Namibia aged 0-17 years are both multidimensionally and monetarily poor², with major impact on future productive capacity and benefits of the demographic dividend.

Despite the progress in the institutional framework to promote gender equality, poverty remains gendered, with continued unequal access to, control over, and benefit from an uneven distribution of productive resources including capital and land, gender-based violence remains a rampant violation of human rights. Violence against children and adolescents persist regardless of protective comprehensive legislation and national frameworks. Indigenous peoples face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and disadvantage and are at risk of being left furthest behind. Thus, a number of groups remain at risk of being left behind with there being dire need to maintain the momentum for social protection, extending opportunities and integrated service delivery to all Namibians, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized communities. Social justice, linking the economy to social outcomes is an imperative.



NAMIBIA

Regions: Kunene, Erongo, Omusati, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, Hardap, Kharas, Kavango-West, Kavango-East, Omaheke

Capital: Windhoek

Neighboring countries: ANGOLA, ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA, SOUTH AFRICA

Water bodies: Zambezi, Kunene

PROSPERITY Economic transformation remains a significant challenge for Namibia, exacerbated by successive global crises, including volatility in commodity prices, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Russia/Ukraine war. Operating within a post-apartheid economic structure, Namibia grapples with three major interconnected structural challenges: inequality, unemployment, and poverty. These challenges perpetuate the divide between the small formal economy and the large, expanding informal economy. Namibia's economy relies heavily on commodity exports, with limited value addition, exacerbating its vulnerability to global market fluctuations. The country's low economic diversification and limited labour-absorptive capacity constrain productivity growth, hindering high-value output. Consequently, Namibia faces challenges in generating the fiscal resources needed for social spending and providing services to vulnerable and marginalized populations. To address these challenges, the nation necessitates the implementation of economic diversification and inclusive growth strategies, prioritising labour-intensive sectors. There are appeals to advocate for a Human Rights Economy.

PLANET Through Community-Based Natural Resources Management, Namibia has intensified efforts toward environmental protection, climate adaptation, and mitigation, bolstered by its participation in various conventions. Nevertheless, the country still confronts escalating environmental vulnerabilities and risks associated with climate change, including land degradation, prolonged droughts, degradation of ocean ecosystems, deforestation, management of human-wildlife conflicts, inadequate community engagement, insufficient funding, and capacity for data collection, as well as the implementation of plans, policies, and strategies. Despite not being a net carbon emitter, Namibia's mitigation endeavours are hindered by limited green investments. The country has been recognised as one of the top three locations for green hydrogen investments and production, owing to its considerable potential for hybrid solar photovoltaic and onshore wind energy production as renewable sources for green hydrogen production. There is an anticipation that these investments will yield employment opportunities and socio-economic advantages for local communities. However, there exists a risk that such benefits may not materialize without clear support in different areas.



PEACE AND GOVERNANCE While Namibia has maintained political stability with regular elections, there is concern regarding low civic engagement in public affairs and the limited space for enhancing participation, transparency, and accountability. Since the 2019 elections, Namibia's bicameral parliament comprises 48% women as its members. However, there is still a need to enhance policy dialogue, coordination, and implementation across various sectors, including health, education, environment, food systems, employment, and economic productivity and trade. Namibia possesses a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) and engages with human rights mechanisms through its National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up, although certain reports are overdue. In June 2022, the National Assembly adopted the Access to Information Bill. Corruption remains a challenge for Namibia. Treaty bodies have expressed concern over reports of torture and ill-treatment in police cells and detention facilities, as well as harassment and discrimination against LGBTQI+ individuals, sex workers, refugees, and asylum-seekers. The May 2023 ruling by the Supreme Court requesting the government to recognise same-sex marriages conducted outside Namibia generated a wave of backlash against LGBTQI+ people.

The challenge of limited registered births, particularly in rural areas, underscores the urgent need to enhance data systems to ensure the availability of timely and adequately disaggregated data.

PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING To diversify domestic revenue streams, Namibia is exploring alternative financing sources through various partnerships. The government remains the primary driver in mobilising funds for national development, with tax and Southern African Customs Union (SACU) receipts dominating the national revenue stream. However, the increasing debt-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio poses a risk to the country's credit rating and future borrowing capacity. Over the years, the budget deficit has widened, resulting in shrinking fiscal space. Furthermore, external aid and grants have decreased significantly since Namibia was classified as an upper-middle-income country. Namibia is among the pilot countries implementing an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) for national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additionally, the country has applied to become a Pathfinder Country under the UN Secretary-General's Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection, aiming to attract investments towards Leave No One Behind (LNOB) initiatives. In 2022, the country set up its Sovereign Wealth Fund. In 2021, the IMF issued the first Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) in the country's independent history, for COVID-19 recovery. Namibia also issued Namibian Green & Sustainability Bonds, being a front runner on the continent, and prospects for climate financing, green and blue investments look positive, following the country's engagement in key processes including COP 27. Development finance institutions and IFIs including the African Development Bank, IMF, and KfW are increasing their engagement, directing resources towards recovery. Emerging cross-cutting opportunities towards the Means of Implementation for the SDGs in Namibia include data, the private sector, and south-south cooperation.

3. Introduction

3.1 Overview of the CCA process

Namibia's Common Country Analysis (CCA) review is being undertaken in 2023, at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, offering an opportunity to identify Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) accelerators in the context of multiple and sequential crises. The year 2023 also marks the first ten years of the African Union's Agenda 2063, a fifty-year implementation plan. This new generation of the CCA responds to the urgency of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by delivering integrated, forward-looking, and evidence-based joint analysis of the context for sustainable development in the country. The CCA provides tailored analysis at the country level, becoming the foundation for the design of the United Nations programmatic response through the Cooperation Framework.

The CCA, as an independent, impartial, and collective undertaking of the UN system, is based on two stages: first, assessment (i.e., a description of the country situation), and second, analysis (i.e., a description of causes and their implications) of the sustainable development situation in a country. It examines progress, gaps, opportunities, and bottlenecks vis-à-vis a country's commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda, UN norms and standards, and the principles of the UN Charter, as reflected in the Cooperation Framework Guiding Principles. The CCA draws from and adds to existing data, statistics, analyses, reviews, research, capacities, and resources from within and outside the UN system. These include national and sector-specific development visions and strategies, national budget allocations, and development financing from domestic and international, private, and public sources.

Namibia's CCA has been developed based on the draft Roadmap for the CCA/CF 2024-2028, agreed

upon between the UN Country Team and the National Planning Commission (NPC). The CCA was developed during the period from July to November 2022. The NPC has continued to be the coordinating body on behalf of the Government during the formulation of the CCA. The current Cooperation Framework Joint Steering Committee (JSC), co-chaired by NPC and the UN, has provided strategic direction for the roll-out and validation of the CCA, ensuring alignment with national development priorities. The assessment stage has consisted of a desk review of national strategies and plans, including the review of "Vision 2030," the Harambee Prosperity Plan 2 (HPP2), NDP5 and its reports, and the SDG Voluntary National Reports for 2018 and 2021. Additionally, the UN Country Team has also integrated into the CCA analytical work, the preliminary framework of the NDP6, which is in its inception phase. Other strategic planning documents prepared or supported by UN Namibia were also used during the analytical work, including the Socio-economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 (SEIAC), the Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP), Development Finance Assessment Report (2019), the 2021 National Human Development Report, and the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report (2021), and other relevant sectoral documents.

In undertaking the analysis, the CCA utilizes a multi-pronged approach. First, a consultative and participatory process through UNPAF thematic groups and qualitative analysis utilising secondary data has been employed to identify the 11 development challenges and barriers in Namibia, and to present opportunities for SDG acceleration by the five inter-agency teams, as per the different dimensions (Table 1). Second, this has been complemented by quantitative analytical tools, including the macroeconomic forecasting model for Namibia, and the Climate, Land, Energy, Water Systems (CLEWs) model for integrated and forward-looking analysis, both developed by UNDS Inter-Agency Technical Teams under the leadership of the RCO for Namibia.



3.2 Overview of the national vision and linkage to regional and global development agendas

Namibia applies development instruments that link national with regional and global development visions and are fully aligned (Annex I). Namibia's Vision 2030 presents a vision of the country that is prosperous and industrialized, developed by her human resources, enjoying peace, harmony, and political stability. Namibia, through the National Development Plan 5 (NDP5) from 2017/2018 to 2021/2022, set out to achieve the following four broad objectives: i) achieve inclusive, sustainable, and equitable economic growth; ii) build capable and healthy human resources; iii) ensure a sustainable environment and enhance resilience; and iv) promote good governance through effective institutions. Complementarily, HPP2 2021-2025 aims to ensure that Namibia is able to respond to socioeconomic challenges and global opportunities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic through five pillars: i) Effective Governance, ii) Economic Advancement, iii) Social Progression, iv) Infrastructure Development, and v) International Relations and Cooperation.

Namibia is initiating the process for the formulation of NDP 6, which currently comprises four main areas of strategic results: i) Economic Recovery, Transformation, and Resilience; ii) Human Development and Community Resilience; iii) Sustainable Development and Green Growth Opportunities; and iv) Effective Governance and Public Service Delivery.

Alignment¹ of Namibia's NDP5 indicators and the SDGs, is as follows:

- **Out of the 247 SDGs indicators, 35.5% are covered by the NDP5 indicators when proxy and weak aligned indicators are considered.**
- **Out of the 136 NDP5 Indicators, 63.3% are covered by the SDGs indicators when proxy and weak aligned indicators are considered.**

An estimated 60% of Namibia's NDP 5 indicators are aligned with the AU Agenda 2063 of the Africa We Want.

Table 1: UNCT Thematic Groupings for CCA Analysis

Dimension	UNPAF Pillar group/Thematic group/Focal points
Economic transformation	Economic progression
Social exclusion	Social transformation
Environment and climate change	Environmental sustainability
Governance and institutional gaps	Good governance
Prevention and humanitarian-development-peace linkages	Emergency and Humanitarian

Namibia's Common Country Analysis (CCA) has optimized the use of the internal UN capacity and human resources of resident and non-resident agencies. This has strengthened the mainstreaming of human rights, gender equality, the Leaving No One Behind principle, environment and climate change, and transboundary issues, including with UNECA, UNDESA, UNCTAD, UNHCHR, and OHCHR. In terms of the engagement with stakeholders, UN Namibia held a consultation on the preliminary findings of the CCA on 20 October 2022, where more than 80 partners from government, civil society, academia, private sector, and development partners participated, providing feedback on the UN analytical work. Relevant Leaving No One Behind groups, including representatives of persons with disabilities, women, youth, business, labour unions, children, and LGBTIQI participated in the consultation, accompanied by an SDGs Risk Matrix in Annex II.

¹ "Sustainable Development Goals and Fifth National Development Plan Indicator Framework", by NPC and NSA

4. Leaving no one behind population groups: risks & drivers of exclusion

Namibia continues to exhibit characteristics of upper-middle-income countries (UMICs), including pervasive poverty and extremely high inequality, and reforms toward inclusion need to bear fruit. It is within this context of prioritising people that a holistic assessment of who is the furthest behind in Namibia has been conducted. Five intersecting factors that constitute the central driving forces of exclusionary processes are considered: discrimination, governance, geography, socioeconomic status, and vulnerability to shocks. A total of 10 groups are identified, and the information provided below is a synthesis based on recommendations contained in the “Concluding Observations” issued by international human rights treaty bodies, recommendations made during Namibia’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR), communications by Special Procedures, and an economic analysis based on available data.

4.1 Women

Women constitute an estimated 51% of the total population. Although progress has been made with respect to gender equality and women’s empowerment (see Section 6.2 on gender equality), more needs to be done. Following entry into the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) Top 10 for the first time in 2021 (ranking 6th globally), Namibia faced a reversal in its position by dropping to the 8th spot in 2022.² Compared to its 2021 performance, Namibia reported lower levels of parity in 2022 under “Economic Participation and Opportunity,” particularly in respect of the indicators of women’s labour-force participation (-0.014), wage equality (-0.017), and estimated earned income (-0.005).³

² World Economic Forum, *Global Gender Gap Report 2021* (2021) <https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2021.pdf>; World Economic Forum, *Global Gender Gap Report 2022* (2022) <https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2022.pdf>.

³ World Economic Forum, *Global Gender Gap Report 2022* (2022) <https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2022.pdf> pp. 26-27.

Moreover, women remain on the periphery of economic advancement. In 2022, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) noted with concern the high incidence of poverty, especially among women-headed households, women’s limited access to bank loans and credit (particularly for rural women), the lack of entrepreneurship grants and training for women, and the absence of information on the impact of the State party’s efforts to expand the green economy on the economic

empowerment of women.⁴ CEDAW also noted with concern the high unemployment rate among women, the vertical and horizontal segregation of the labour market, the high proportion of women employed in the informal economy without access to social protection, and the widening gender pay gap.⁵

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) persists in Namibia and increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in protests in 2020. In 2018, 15.9% of women aged 15-49 reported that they had been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months.⁶ In 2020, 4,607 cases of GBV were reported to the police.⁷ Despite the adoption of measures such as the National Plan of Action on Gender-Based Violence 2019-2023, the establishment of Gender-Based Violence Protection Units and specialized courts, and the existence of a GBV helpline, CEDAW in 2022 noted with concern: (i) Delays in adopting certain

⁴ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 43.

⁵ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 39, with recommendations set out in para 40.

⁶ UN Women, Namibia <<https://data.unwomen.org/country/namibia>>.

⁷ UN Women, Namibia <<https://data.unwomen.org/country/namibia>>.



gender-responsive legislation. (ii) The high prevalence of intimate partner violence and GBV against women, sometimes resulting in death, perpetuated by legal, social, and cultural barriers including harmful practices and behaviors, including in the world of work. (iii) Women's limited access to health services, protection orders, reparations, shelters, and psychosocial treatment and counseling, particularly for rural and indigenous women and girls. Previously in 2016, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) noted the gender dimensions of racial discrimination concerning the rape of San women. The CERD noted that San women might face barriers in accessing justice.⁸ The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) noted with concern in 2016 that "domestic violence and abuse are condoned or tolerated by the majority of the population,"⁹ underscoring the importance of awareness-raising campaigns that frame GBV as a serious violation of human rights. In December 2020, the Government of the Republic of

Namibia ratified the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention concerning the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work to commit the country to recognising the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment. Namibia hopes to use the framework of the Convention to address deep-seated social problems that uniquely impact the world of work.

According to the Ministry of Health and Social Services Namibia and UNFPA Namibia's Investment Cases Towards Ending Gender-Based Violence (2021), without additional intervention (scenario 1), the number of women reporting intimate partner violence (IPV) in a year would increase from 113,539 in 2020 to 127,697 in 2030 in Namibia. This scenario results in the aversion of 52,111 GBV cases between 2020 to 2023. Maintaining current levels of GBV interventions (scenario 2) also means it would cost

⁸ Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Concluding observations on the combined thirteenth to fifteenth periodic reports of Namibia CERD/C/NAM/CO/13-15 (10 June 2016) paras 17-18.

⁹ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *Concluding observations on the initial report of Namibia E/C.12/NAM/CO/1* (23 March 2016) paras 45-46.

US\$98 million during the period 2020-2030 (an annual average of US\$8.9 million) averting 85,543 IPV cases. Scenario 3 focuses on significantly scaling up GBV interventions, costing US\$114.5 million between 2020 and 2023 and averting 119,430 cases of IPV for the same period.

Namibia has reported progress in decreasing mother-to-child transmission of HIV and improved availability of HIV testing services (SDG 3). The adolescent birth rate was 56.13 per 1,000 women aged 15-19 as of 2021, down from 82 per 1,000 in 2012.¹⁰ However, CEDAW has noted several challenges concerning the right to health, including the criminalisation of abortion, with exceptions made only in cases of threat to the life of the pregnant woman or child, and when the pregnancy is the result of rape. Additionally, CEDAW recently noted that reports of trafficking in women and girls from, to, and in transit through Namibia, and exploitation of sex workers, continue.

Namibian women are at a considerably high risk of being adversely affected by climate change due to household responsibilities, increased agricultural work, and displacement resulting from climate impacts. Special attention needs to be given to women in rural areas. Special attention is needed to broaden access to land through deliberate reforms of the country's land tenure policies and legislation to address the high levels of wealth inequality (closely related to land distribution) in Namibia. Interventions to accelerate incomes include technical support, financial capital, and other factors of production.

According to UN Women, only 34.4% of indicators needed to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective were available as of December 2020, with data gaps identified in key areas including unpaid care and domestic work, and key labour market indicators such as the gender pay gap and information and communications technology skills. Closing gender data gaps will be key to achieving the SDGs in Namibia.¹¹

¹⁰ Un Women, Namibia <https://data.unwomen.org/country/namibia>

¹¹ Un Women, Namibia <<https://data.unwomen.org/country/namibia>>.

One of the root causes of gender inequality is deep-seated discriminatory societal attitudes, stereotypes and the acceptance of harmful practices. In 2022, CEDAW thus recommended that Namibia “[i]nitiating an in-depth participatory research study on these communities and the contexts, in which of harmful practices including polygamy, violent sexual initiation/grooming, cleansing, persist, continue engaging traditional leaders and communities in addressing gender stereotypes and harmful practices through awareness-raising programmes, particularly targeting men and boys, and develop a national strategy on the prevention of harmful practices”.¹² In its 2022 state report to the Human Rights Committee (which monitors implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), the government of Namibia acknowledges “isolated instances” of harmful practices impacting women, girls and boys, and further notes that many communities in Namibia do not view polygamy as harmful.¹³ The government of Namibia further does not regard lobola as constituting discrimination against women,¹⁴ and states that there is no “overwhelming evidence” that “widow inheritance” is widespread in the country.¹⁵

CEDAW in 2022, accordingly recommended that the Government of Namibia:

- A. Takes concrete measures to address poverty and ensure gender mainstreaming in its development plans;**
- B. Ensures women’s equal access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, such as low interest loans without collateral and discounted loans through the Agricultural Bank of Namibia and the Development Bank of Namibia;**
- C. Increases women’s access to entrepreneurship grants, training and support provided, for instance, by the Ministry of Trade,**

Industrialisation and SME Development and by the Community Conservancies, as well as under the Awome programme for decent work and economic security (2017-2020);

- D. Ensures that rural women participate in and benefit from the State party’s green economy, such as the Community Based-Natural Resources Management Programme.”¹⁶**

4.2 Children

Defining children poses challenges to targeting this specific vulnerable population, risking them being left behind due to divergence in targeting them for services. According to international human rights law, a child is someone under the age of 18 years. Section 1 of the Child Care and Protection Act, Act 3 of 2015, defines a child as under the age of 18 years. However, Article 15 of the Constitution refers to the child as being under 16 years old. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has noted that this constitutional definition of the child is at odds with Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.¹⁷

While the Child Care and Protection Act, Act 3 of 2015, was developed to promote the protection of the rights of all children in Namibia, the legislation does not cover corporal punishment of children in family settings. Findings from the Violence Against Children Study (2019) show that childhood physical

violence first occurred when the child was between 6 and 11 years old. It further shows that 13.5% of girls and 12.7% of boys experienced physical violence, and 12.6% of girls and 9.0% of boys experienced emotional violence from parents, adult caregivers, or other adult relatives. Although a parenting manual aims to provide skills to parents on how to deal with specific needs of children, more social programs are needed to strengthen prevention and early intervention services that are in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 18 & 19).

¹² Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) paras 25-26.

¹³ Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Namibia under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020* CCPR/C/NAM/3 (23 May 2022) para 33.

¹⁴ Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Namibia under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020* CCPR/C/NAM/3 (23 May 2022) para 38.

¹⁵ Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Namibia under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020* CCPR/C/NAM/3 (23 May 2022) para 43.

¹⁶ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 44.

¹⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child, *Concluding observations on the consolidated second and third periodic reports of Namibia, adopted by the Committee at its sixty-first session (17 September–5 October 2012)* CRC/C/NAM/CO/2-3 (16 October 2012) para 28.



According to reports¹⁸, children in Namibia engage in child labour, including its worst forms such as commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes due to human trafficking. Information from the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, and Employment Creation (MLIREC) further indicates that children might also be employed under exploitative conditions in other economic sectors, such as domestic work and street vending. These exploitative conditions might, at times, result from forced labour and human trafficking processes.

Information and Communication Technologies are exposing children to predatory risks. The Disrupting Harm Study shows that 74% of children use the internet weekly at home, with 60% using it for school purposes. An estimated 20,000 children (9% of internet users aged 12–17 years old) were subjected to online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA) in a single year. Emphasis should be placed on more awareness-raising on OCSEA to inform children and parents about the risk of harm online and provide them with the necessary skills on how to protect themselves. Namibia also needs to develop legislation

to protect children specifically from online child sexual exploitation and abuse. One of the recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2012) not yet implemented is the enactment of the Child Justice Bill, which must be based on a Restorative Justice Approach and increase the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility, as children as young as 7 years old are encountering the justice system.

The Committee also recommended the training of all professionals working with or for children to receive adequate and systematic training on children's rights. Therefore, Namibia will continue with the multi-sectoral approach and the integration of the child witness training manual and the guides of the Child Care and Protection Act (CCPA) into pre-service and in-service training for law enforcement, justice professionals, and social workers.

All children are entitled to a name and nationality at birth, as reflected in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Namibian Constitution, and SDG 16.9.1 on birth registration and legal identity. Although Namibia's under-five birth registration is relatively high at 77.6%, inequities exist in access to and demand for birth registration services among remote and poor communities. Regional birth registration rates for children under 5 years vary, with Kavango West at 44.9%, Ohangwena at 71.5%, Zambezi at 65.5%, and Oshikoto at 71.6% having birth certificates.

¹⁸ United States Department of Labour, 2016 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, accessible at: <https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/images/ilab/child-labour/Namibia2016.pdf>; United States Department of States, 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report, accessible at: <https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2017/index.htm>; SADC Baseline Report on Trafficking in Persons, accessible at: http://www.sadc.int/files/3514/7505/0085/SADC_Baseline_Report_Low_Resolution.pdf.

Children in Namibia are the most affected by multi-dimensional poverty. This stands at 56% for children aged 1-4 years, 50% for children aged 5-9 years, and 48% for children aged 10-14 years.¹⁹ Furthermore, approximately 16% of children in Namibia aged 0-17 years are both multidimensionally and monetarily poor.²⁰ The same MDPI Report also revealed that the indicators that contribute the most to multi-dimensional poverty in Namibia are food security (17.4%), child nutrition (15.0%), transport, and sanitation. In addition to having a direct bearing on the achievement of SDG1, child poverty also affects various other development outcomes including SDGs 2, 3, and 4. For example, according to the World Food Programme, the national stunting rate for children under 5 years is 24%, with peaks over 30% in certain rural areas and among vulnerable groups.²¹

Various UN treaty bodies have expressed concern about the impact of harmful traditional practices on children, especially girls. The Committee against Torture has expressed particular concern about the lack of investigation into cases and the lack of prosecutions and criminal punishment of perpetrators,²² in rituals including Olufuko, which involves child marriage and sexual initiation rites. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) had previously raised similar concerns and had noted that since 80% of marriages in Namibia are governed by customary law, children are vulnerable to early marriage.²³ More recently, in 2022, CEDAW noted that

despite Namibia's efforts in this regard (for example, by conducting a study on child marriages), the prevalence of child marriages remains high.²⁴

In 2022, CEDAW noted with concern various factors that impede children and adolescent girls' access to education. These include insufficient education on sexual and reproductive health rights, which

contributes to teenage pregnancies; high drop-out rates among pregnant girls and young mothers; reported cases of GBV and bullying especially

targeting indigenous girls; the under-representation of girls in STEM fields of study; and the lack of hygiene products and sanitary facilities available to girls at schools.²⁵ In 2016, the CESCR additionally noted that the capacity of schools, including for early childhood education, has not kept pace with the increased enrolment and that the government should continue to develop the school feeding and the satellite and mobile schools programmes and monitor their impact on the enjoyment of the right to education of the most marginalized groups.²⁶

4.3 Adolescents and Young people

Youth unemployment is a particularly significant problem in Namibia. At a 43.4% unemployment rate, the youth between the ages of 15 and 34 have a much higher unemployment rate than the national average of 34%. Females and younger youth cohorts are also more likely to be unemployed. Many of the youth are neither in employment, nor in education and training (NEETs) and remain dependents well into their thirties, harming their future prospects in the labour market or engaging in productive livelihood activities. The few who are lucky to find work and employment dominate in the informal and rural economies, wherein they suffer huge decent work deficits, lack social protection, have low incomes, and experience working poverty. This has serious implications for Namibia reaping the demographic dividend (Labour Force Survey, 2016).

The early age of sexual debut, which is particularly high in some regions (25.2% in Kavango East, 22.5% in Kavango West, 18.6% in Omaheke, 16.8% in Kunene) may require additional educational programmes such as Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) to increase knowledge and awareness of the risk factors associated with early sexual debut in these areas (NAMPHIA, 2017). Teenage fertility is viewed as a problem when it has adverse consequences on education, child health, maternal physical and emotional health, marriage prospects, and labour market opportunities. A total of 24,691

¹⁹ Namibia Statistics Agency, National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for Namibia for 2021 (2021) p. 8.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ World Food Programme, Namibia < <https://www.wfp.org/countries/namibia> >.

²² Committee against Torture, *Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Namibia* CAT/C/NAM/CO/2 (1 February 2017) para 32 with recommendations set out in para 33.

²³ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *Concluding observations on the initial report of Namibia* E/C.12/NAM/CO/1 (23 March 2016) para 43.

²⁴ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 25.

²⁵ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 37.

²⁶ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *Concluding observations on the initial report of Namibia* E/C.12/NAM/CO/1 (23 March 2016) paras 71-72.



learners were counted as having dropped out of school in 2020, of whom 12,532 (50.8%) are female and 12,159 (49.2%) are male. The major reasons overall were either unknown, parental demand, and pregnancy, which together accounted for 82.7% of total dropouts. Pregnancy alone accounted for 9.5% of the total dropout (EMIS, 2020).

The Namibia Demographic dividend report 2018, NPC/UNFPA outlines key policy actions to be taken for Namibia to realize a demographic dividend.

This includes:

- A. Prioritize economic reforms and investments to accelerate the creation of jobs and other well-paying livelihoods for the country's youth.**
- B. Optimize value for money to create a globally competitive skilled workforce.**
- C. Strengthen enabling factors for optimising the demographic dividend.**
- D. Facilitate further demographic transition through enhancing voluntary family planning (FP) services and access to effective modern contraception to reduce the relatively high unmet need (12%), curb early marriages, and unwanted teenage pregnancies.**
- E. Reinforce investments in health to ensure a healthy labour force.**

4.4 Indigenous peoples²⁷

Racial discrimination and discrimination against indigenous peoples persist in Namibia, and certain laws inherited from the apartheid regime still discriminate on the basis of race.²⁸ Poverty is highest among the local language-speaking population, including indigenous groups: Khoisan (93%), Rukavango (68%), and Zambezi (54%).²⁹ Indigenous women, girls, boys, youth, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable

²⁷ The use of "indigenous peoples" reflects the usage by the UN Human Rights Mechanisms system, which has been also adopted by Namibia supporting the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and UPR recommendations in 2021. In this context, the reference "indigenous people" corresponds to the San, Himba (Ovahimba), Ovazemba, Ovatjimba and Ovatue People.

²⁸ Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Namibia under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020* CCPR/C/NAM/3 (23 May 2022) para 9.

²⁹ Namibia Statistics Agency, National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for Namibia for 2021 (2021).



populations thus face dynamic intersectional discrimination that places them at risk of being left furthest behind in sustainable development processes. In 2022, CEDAW noted that despite receiving drought relief food, financial support for small-scale projects, seeds, and ploughing services,³⁰ San women and girls—especially in rural areas—continue to face barriers in accessing education, employment, and health services.³¹ Furthermore, in the context of the right to education, the same Committee noted reported cases of GBV, discrimination, and bullying in school, particularly against indigenous girls.³² High multidimensional poverty leads to disproportionate deprivations in all human rights access and outcomes.

Previously, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) observed that San communities generally remain disadvantaged in their enjoyment of rights, and that Namibia should reassess and monitor the impact of its policies, and revise strategies in consultation with San people.³³ The Human Rights Committee noted in its 2016 Concluding Observations that all traditional land remains under the ownership of the State, and that indigenous people are insufficiently consulted regarding the

extraction of natural resources from their lands.³⁴ In its 2022 state report to the Committee, the government of Namibia notes that the White Paper on Indigenous People has been drafted and is currently pending submission to Cabinet.³⁵

The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) made similar observations and recommendations. It noted that indigenous people remain disproportionately affected by poverty and enjoy unequal access to various ESR including housing, health care, and education (indigenous native attire is only allowed until level six and instruction in mother tongues is provided only until level three). Further echoing the Human Rights Com-

mittee's concerns regarding land reform and resettlement, the CERD added that despite the recognition of 50 traditional authorities under the Traditional Authorities Act No. 25 of 2000, the Committee remains concerned that there are other indigenous people who were not included in the process and will thus remain excluded from decision-making and political participation.³⁶

Children in marginalized communities are significantly more nutritionally deprived: severe acute malnutrition prevalence was at least three times higher among Khoisan-language speakers than any other language group, and stunting was more than double that of any other group³⁷.

4.5 Persons with Disabilities

Various treaty bodies have made recommendations regarding the enjoyment of rights by persons with disabilities. The 2011 National Population and Housing Census notes that there were 98,413 persons with disabilities living in Namibia (4.7% of the population), with an equal proportion of men and women with disabilities (4.6% female and 4.8% male).³⁸ In 2020, the government of Namibia submitted its first report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2007. Following the submission of the State Report, the National Federation of People with Disabilities of Namibia submitted the Shadow Report in 2022.

Women and girls with disabilities continue to face barriers when seeking to access a range of services, including inclusive education. The unemployment rate is high among women with disabilities, who are concentrated in low-paying jobs. Moreover, legislation such as section 5(1)(e) of the Labor Act (2007) and section 18(2)(b) of the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act (Act No. 29 of 1998) use the medical approach to disability. Women with disabilities struggle to access food, housing, and health care services,

³⁰ The Committee notes that seeds and ploughing services are provided by the Ministry of Land Reform.

³¹ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CE-DAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 49.

³² Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CE-DAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 37(c).

³³ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *Concluding observations on the initial report of Namibia* E/C.12/NAM/CO/1 (23 March 2016) para 17.

³⁴ Human Rights Committee, *Concluding observations on the second report of Namibia* CCPR/C/NAM/CO/2 (22 April 2016) para 43.

³⁵ Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Namibia under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020* CCPR/C/NAM/3 (23 May 2022) para 103.

³⁶ Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, *Concluding observations on the combined thirteenth to fifteenth periodic reports of Namibia* CERD/C/NAM/CO/13-15 (10 June 2016) paras 15-24.

³⁷ Fujimura, M., Conkle, J. Van Wyk, M. and Jimba, M., *Nutritional status of children under 5 years old in Namibia: adjusting for poor quality child anthropometry*, 2022

³⁸ Republic of Namibia, *Initial and combined country report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities* CRPD/C/NAM/1 (2020) paras 10, 12.



including sexual and reproductive health services.³⁹ Importantly, in 2022, CEDAW recommended that Namibia should “strengthen its efforts to enhance the systematic collection, dissemination, and analysis of data related to women’s rights, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, religion, geographical location, disability, and socioeconomic context, in all spheres”.⁴⁰ A Human Rights-Based Approach to data disaggregation and analysis will help ensure that people with disabilities – including those subjected to intersecting forms of discrimination and disadvantage, such as women or children with disabilities – can be included in Namibia’s development agenda.

The Child Care and Protection Act, 2015 (Act No. 3 of 2015), places emphasis on the rights of children with disabilities to be protected and have access to early childhood development programmes, health services, inclusive education, and benefit from child disability grants (section 241). In terms of access to quality inclusive education, the Basic Education Act 2020 (Act No. 3 of 2020) promotes access to pro-poor inclusive education to benefit, in particular, children with disabilities and those from poor and marginalized communities. The new Act also calls for the introduction of sign language to be formalized and taught in Namibian schools. The new Act will come into effect as soon as the Basic Education Regulations have been finalized for implementation.

Greater policy implementation is required to ensure access to inclusive education for children with disabilities, especially outside urban areas. Special measures should be implemented in terms of the Affirmative Action Act to promote the employment of persons with disabilities, and sufficient resources must be allocated to facilitate the accessibility and availability of public goods and services and for the provision of reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities. Finally, the fact that people with disabilities are not accessing grants available to them, due to a lack of awareness and information pertaining to these grants, should be addressed.⁴¹

³⁹ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 47.

⁴⁰ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 56 (emphasis added).

⁴¹ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *Concluding observations on the initial report of Namibia* E/C.12/NAM/CO/1 (23 March 2016) paras 19-20.

4.6 Persons living with HIV

According to UNAIDS, there are approximately 220,000 people living with HIV in Namibia, of whom 7,600 are children aged 0-14. An estimated 500 new HIV infections in children aged 0-14 were recorded in 2021. It is concerning that the final vertical transmission rate of Mother-to-Child Transmission (MTCT), including breastfeeding, increased from 3.8% in 2020 to 4.6% in 2021. In addition, the number of adolescent girls and young women (aged 10-19) living with HIV is approximately 7,000. Moreover, young women (15-24 years old) continue to acquire new HIV infections, contributing to 30% of the total infections, with the highest HIV incidence of 0.9% compared to 0.29% in the general population in 2021. Women aged 15 and above who are newly infected with HIV are estimated at 4,100, compared to 2,100 newly infected men aged 15 years and above. The sex worker population is estimated to be 4,000, with a high rate of HIV infection at 29.9%.⁴²

In its 2022 recommendations to Namibia, CEDAW noted with concern that:

A. Reports indicate that the annual incidence of HIV among adults aged 15 to 64 years and the rate of new infections are disproportionately high among women.

B. There is a lack of information on the prevalence of forced sterilisations of HIV-positive women in the State party, and section 4 of the Abortion and Sterilisation Act (Act No.2 of 1975) allows for sterilisation of women without their consent under certain conditions.⁴³

Previously in 2016, CESCR had noted that gaps in access to antiretroviral treatment persisted, and that “procedures in place requiring written consent prior to sterilisation have not prevented sterilisation being performed on non-consenting women”.⁴⁴ In 2019, the Committee against Torture (CAT) requested information on whether the Government of Namibia had put a stop to forced sterilisations of HIV-positive

⁴² UNAIDS, *Country factsheet: Namibia* (2021) <<https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/namibia>>.

⁴³ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 41(f) and (g).

⁴⁴ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *Concluding observations on the initial report of Namibia* E/C.12/NAM/CO/1 (23 March 2016) para 67.





women following the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *Government of Namibia v. LM and others*, which declared it unconstitutional. CAT also requested information on prosecutions and sanctions imposed for forced sterilisations and whether this practice has been explicitly criminalised.⁴⁵ This follows CAT's recommendations in 2017 to prevent and criminalize forced sterilisations of HIV-positive people.⁴⁶

4.7 Older persons

The unavailability of more recent statistics points to the risk of older persons' enjoyment of fundamental rights not being monitored, which will result in development challenges not being addressed. The population of persons aged 60 and older stood at about 159,891 in Namibia (Census, 2011). According to World Bank data, approximately 14% of persons aged 65 and older were living under the international poverty line in 2015/2016.⁴⁷ These include the right to a clean, safe, and healthy environment as declared by the United Nations General Assembly in July 2022. This includes protection against the threats emanating from climate change and environmental degradation, which currently stand as some of the

most pressing threats to older people in Namibian society owing to their unique physiological and food security needs.

Additionally, one of the recommendations by the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, following an official visit to Namibia at the invitation of the Government from 2 to 13 March 2017, was for the availability of adequately disaggregated data, without which sound policies cannot be developed. The Independent Expert also recommended that the Constitution be amended to include disability and age as distinct prohibited grounds for discrimination.

⁴⁵ Committee against Torture, *List of issues prior to submission of the third periodic report of Namibia* (2019) para 16. The government of Namibia responded that it is not State policy to sterilize without consent, and has issued circulars in this regard to emphasise its position of informed consent.

⁴⁶ Committee against Torture, *Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Namibia* CAT/C/NAM/CO/2 (1 February 2017) paras 34-35.

⁴⁷ The World Bank, *Poverty & Equity Brief: Namibia* (2021) < https://databankfiles.worldbank.org/data/download/poverty/987B9C90-CB9F-4D93-AE8C-750588BF00QA/AM2020/Global_POVEQ_NAM.pdf>.

Moreover, the Independent Expert noted with concern that violence and maltreatment of older persons continue, particularly against older women. One form of abuse is where older persons' grants are used to meet younger persons' needs, leaving older persons isolated and destitute.⁴⁸ COVID-19 and ensuing lockdown measures have had a disproportionate impact on older persons, placing them at risk of being left further behind.⁴⁹ Policy, legislative, and institutional reforms are thus needed to safeguard older persons from human rights violations and ultimately from being left behind.

Namibia, however, is a front runner in Africa on the social protection of older persons. Namibia's old age social pension, renamed in 1998 as Basic Social Grant (BSG), guarantees all Namibia's residents over 60 years of age a monthly unconditional allowance of 1,100 Namibian dollars (N\$) per month, corresponding to approximately US\$70 per month, aimed at lifting the grant beneficiary above the poverty line. The challenge arises when the older person shares the grant with the extended family, especially by supporting the schooling and wellbeing of possible grandchildren.

4.8 Undocumented persons, refugees and asylum-seekers, and irregular migrants

Namibia has a history of extending protection to refugees. By September 2021, Namibia was hosting about 4,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as an international migrant stock of about 105,100. Data on the emigration of Namibians are insufficient, as far as both national and international sources are concerned. The main international data source on trends in international migrant stock, as far as emigration is concerned, is that of UN DESA. Several conclusions can be drawn from the data provided by UN DESA, such as the following:

- **The feminisation of Namibian migration.**
- **Significant increase in overall numbers of emigrants.**
- **African and Southern African countries are the priority destination.**
- **Incomplete data.**

⁴⁸ Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons on her mission to Namibia A/HRC/36/48/Add.2 (5 July 2017) para 82 ff.

⁴⁹ United Nations, *Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on older persons* (2020) < <https://namibia.un.org/en/44251-policy-brief-impact-covid-19-older-persons>>

Undocumented persons in Namibia – both citizens and non-nationals – face significant barriers in accessing education, employment, and other rights such as health care, housing, and social assistance. In addition to recommending that Namibia ratifies the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, CEDAW accordingly recommended that Namibia “[c]ontinue facilitating birth registration, including where mothers have no identity documents or when they are refugees or asylum-seekers, through the use of electronic birth registration systems, and strengthen efforts to deploy mobile civil registry units to issue birth certificates in rural and remote areas and in indigenous communities”.⁵⁰ The Namibian legal framework on civil registration is currently in a state of flux, as the process moves forward to reform nationality and civil documentation law.

The Civil Registration and Identification Bill, which is set to replace the Births, Marriages, and Deaths Registration Act 81 of 1963, will cover civil registration comprehensively. The rules on birth registration and birth certificates as evidence of citizenship are both central to the prevention of statelessness. This law will also provide protection for persons born in Namibia who would be stateless if not accorded Namibian citizenship. The Bill is expected to be tabled in Parliament in the first half of 2023. These developments support Namibia’s national action plan, which envisions compliance with relevant legal, policy, and institutional frameworks for eradicating statelessness and strengthening statelessness-related data collection.

The Human Rights Committee has expressed concern that refugees and asylum-seekers are required to reside in the Osire refugee settlement and may only leave with a permit.⁵¹ Besides limiting the right to freedom of movement,⁵² this arrangement also impacts refugees’ and asylum seekers’ ability to access and exercise their rights to education and work, as guaranteed in the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. Moreover, the Committee noted with concern that unaccompanied or separated children are treated as adult

⁵⁰ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) paras 35-36.

⁵¹ Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Namibia under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020* CCPR/C/NAM/3 (23 May 2022) paras 35-36.

⁵² Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, *Concluding observations on the combined thirteenth to fifteenth periodic reports of Namibia* CERD/C/NAM/CO/13-15 (10 June 2016) paras 27-28.

asylum-seekers.⁵³ A solution is required on the settlement situation, including the need for sustainability and self-reliance efforts.

4.9 LGBTQI persons

Namibia’s National Human Rights Action Plan 2015-2019, which was approved by Parliament in late 2014, identifies LGBTQI individuals as a “vulnerable group” and emphasizes the need to protect members of vulnerable groups against discrimination. It identifies the continued criminalisation of “sodomy” as one of several key concerns in this regard. Among the key interventions identified by this plan is “research and review of laws and policies to identify and rectify provisions that discriminate against vulnerable groups.” The ultimate vision of this part of the National Human Rights Plan is that “Namibia becomes a society based on equality and a country that acknowledges, recognizes, respects, and values individual differences, common humanity, dignity, and equality”.

Following its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2021, the government of Namibia “noted” recommendations pertaining to legislative reform to prohibit discrimination on the basis of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC), and to include same-sex partners in the Combating of Domestic Violence Act.⁵⁴ However, it “supported” recommendations to adopt effective measures to root out de facto discrimination against vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and LGBTQI persons, in respect of enjoyment of economic, social, and cultural rights, employment, and equality before the law.⁵⁵

Various treaty bodies have noted that discrimination, harassment, and violence against individuals who identify as LGBTQI persist. For example, discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation is not explicitly prohibited, including in labour legislation under section 5(2) of the Labour Act. In parallel, the Combating of Domestic Violence Act (Act No. 4 of 2003) excludes same-sex couples from its ambit despite the incidence of gender-based violence (GBV) in the country. In addition, the CAT raised concerns

⁵³ Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Namibia under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020* CCPR/C/NAM/3 (23 May 2022) paras 35-36.

⁵⁴ See, for example, UPR of Namibia (3rd Cycle - 38th Session), *Thematic list of recommendations* (2021) para 138.80 and 138.94.

⁵⁵ See, for example, UPR of Namibia (3rd Cycle - 38th Session), *Thematic list of recommendations* (2021) para 138.99 and 138.100.

about reports of the failure to investigate, prosecute, and punish violence, harassment, ill-treatment, rape, and murder of LGBTIQ persons (including ill-treatment while in custody and detention by law enforcement).⁵⁶ Both CAT and the Human Rights Committee have expressed concern that non-nationals seeking asylum on the basis of their sexual orientation may not receive sufficient protection against refoulement in Namibia.⁵⁷ In 2023, Namibia's Supreme Court ruled that the government must recognize the unions of same-sex couples who married in countries where it was legal for them to do so, even though same-sex marriage remains illegal in Namibia itself.⁵⁸

Migrants further face structural challenges in accessing healthcare, including in legislation and policy. Health policies and legislation in Namibia generally acknowledge the importance of considering migrants and mobile populations as key or vulnerable groups and recognize the need for interventions and services tailored to their mobility. However, the policies and legislation reviewed lack specific details on the design and implementation of such health services to migrants⁵⁹.

4.10 Residents of informal settlements

The National Housing Policy has been in place since 1991, yet its implementation has been slow and ineffective. The housing deficit is at an all-time high, and provision has failed to reach the poorest segments of society, as the housing provided through Government initiatives is usually too expensive for most Namibians. This has resulted in the expansion of informal settlements in urban areas. Most of the urban poor in Namibia are now living in 235 informal settlements. Due to a lack of a unified database, the numbers of households and members vary according to the source. In 2017, Namibia's urban

areas were assessed to contain 140,000 informal houses, a number expected to double by 2025 if not addressed urgently.⁶⁰ According to the combined profiles of the Shack Dwellers Foundation, there were 214,478 households, home to 965,621 people as of 2019. However, it's important to note that these figures are considered a minimum estimate, as not all areas were profiled, and the data is three years old or more. The residents of informal settlements are forced to live in overcrowded shacks built with corrugated iron or plastic, without adequate protection against the weather, lacking tenure security, insufficient access to electricity and water, and almost no access to sanitation facilities, public transportation, and other public services such as education and health. This leads to negative health consequences, economic and social exclusion, and inequality in accessing livelihood opportunities.

4.11 Rural Dwellers

The rural areas remain highly deprived of access to services and economic opportunities, as revealed by the rapid urbanisation and high unemployment rate of 33.5 percent, which means that more and more poor people in rural areas lack access to adequate food or social services. The Namibian Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which is the product of incidence and intensity, indicates that rural areas are poorer than urban areas, reported at 59.3% and 25.3%, respectively. Consequently, the rural population is disproportionately affected in many outcomes, particularly malnutrition, food insecurity, and access to health and education compared to their urban counterparts.

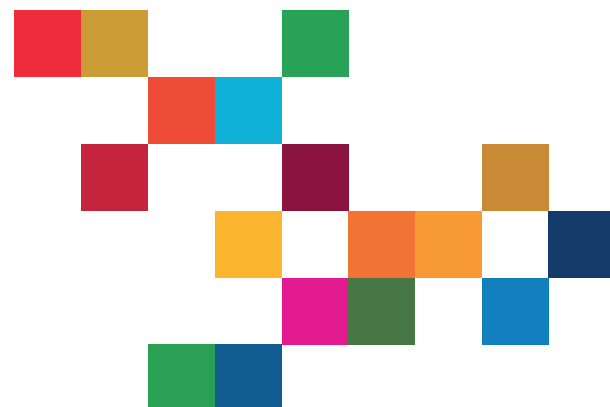
⁶⁰ Weber, B and Mendelsohn, J. (2017). Informal settlements in Namibia: their nature and growth.

⁵⁶ Committee against Torture, *Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Namibia* CAT/C/NAM/CO/2 (1 February 2017) paras 30-31.

⁵⁷ Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Namibia under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020* CCPR/C/NAM/3 (23 May 2022) para 35; Committee against Torture, *Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Namibia* CAT/C/NAM/CO/2 (1 February 2017) para 27(d).

⁵⁸ [https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/namibias-top-court-recognises-same-sex-marriages-formed-elsewhere-2023-05-16/#:~:text=WINDHOEK%2C%20May%2016%20\(Reuters\),remains%20illegal%20in%20Namibia%20itself;](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/namibias-top-court-recognises-same-sex-marriages-formed-elsewhere-2023-05-16/#:~:text=WINDHOEK%2C%20May%2016%20(Reuters),remains%20illegal%20in%20Namibia%20itself;)

⁵⁹ Vearey, J. Migrants' Rights to Health. A Legislative and Policy Review for Southern Africa. African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS). Wits University. 2022 https://ropretoria.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl691/files/documents/Migrants%20Rights%20to%20Health%20in%20Southern%20Africa_2022.pdf

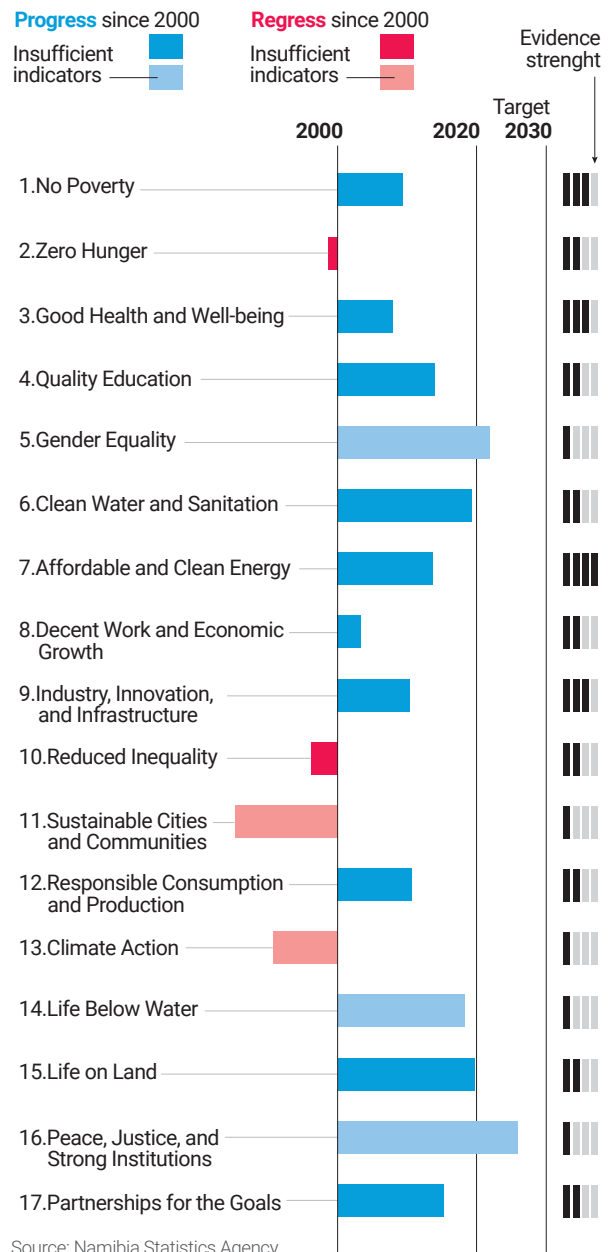


5. Progress towards the 2030 agenda and the SDGs

Progress across SDGs is mixed (Figure 1). The Sustainable Development Report 2022 ranked Namibia in position 114 out of 163 countries. Some SDGs are on track despite challenges, including SDG 4 Quality Education, SDG 5 Gender Equality, and SDG 13 Climate Action. The SDGs that are showing moderate progress include: SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being; SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production; SDG 14 Life Below Water; SDG 15 Life on Land; and SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals. Unfortunately, some SDGs are showing stagnation, negative trends, or have no data, including SDG 1 No Poverty; SDG 2 Zero Hunger; SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy; SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities; SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities; and SDG 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Namibia's SDG Index Score, which can be interpreted as a percentage of SDG achievement, shows a downward trend since 2018, when it reached a maximum value of 63.38% in comparison to 62.65% in 2021⁶¹. However, there was a slight improvement between 2020 and 2021.

61 Sustainable Development Report 2022 (www.sdgindex.org)

Figure 1 : Namibia's progress on the SDGs



Source: Namibia Statistics Agency



Currently, the institutional coordination mechanism in Namibia for monitoring and evaluating the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is led by the National Planning Commission (NPC), with the National Statistics Agency (NSA) and key line ministries. The NPC has so far led the coordination of the two Voluntary National Review reports in 2018 and 2021. The first “Sustainable Development Goals and Fifth National Development Plan Indicator Framework,” referred to as SDGs-NDP5-IF 2019, was published by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) in 2019 and supplemented the SDG Baseline Report also produced in 2019.



6. People

- SDG 1** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- SDG 2** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- SDG 3** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- SDG 4** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- SDG 5** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- SDG 6** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



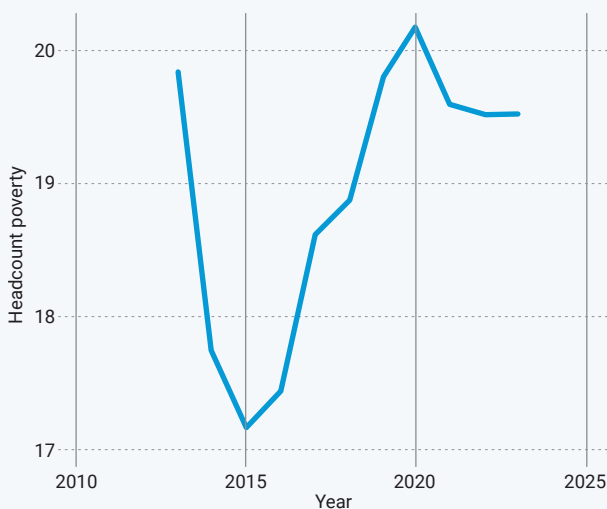
6.1 Poverty

The national Vision 2030 envisages a society where “Poverty is reduced to the minimum”; however, the existing pattern of income distribution remains a challenge, and the disparity between the rich and the poor remains high. The current National Development Plan V (NDP5) covers 2017/18 through 2021/22 and articulates the targets of reducing the incidence of extreme monetary poverty to 5 percent of Namibians by 2021/22, measured at the national poverty line of N\$277.54 in 2009/10.

6.1.1 Status and Trends

Namibia is still far from the poverty headcount ratio at \$2.15 a day (2017 PPP) for upper middle-income countries, which was measured at 1.5% versus 15.6% for Namibia in 2019⁶². The Sub-Saharan Africa rate was at 35.1%. The decline in economic growth starting in 2016 resulted in an increase in the absolute number of people living in poverty. This increase in the absolute poverty rate was exacerbated by COVID-19, with the extreme poverty rate rising slightly from 17.4 percent to 20.1 percent between 2016 and 2020, measured at the US\$ 2.15 per day poverty threshold (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Headcount poverty trend



Source: ECA calculation based on the World Bank data base

There is a lack of recent and updated national official data, given that the most recent Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES) was carried out in 2016. In 2004, the proportion of households that were monetarily poor stood at 27.6 percent and dropped to 17.4 percent in 2016. The proportion of

severely poor households dropped from 13.8 percent to 10.7 percent, respectively. The establishment and expansion of social grants targeting the most vulnerable groups of society, and the strengthening of social protection programmes, contributed to this progress.

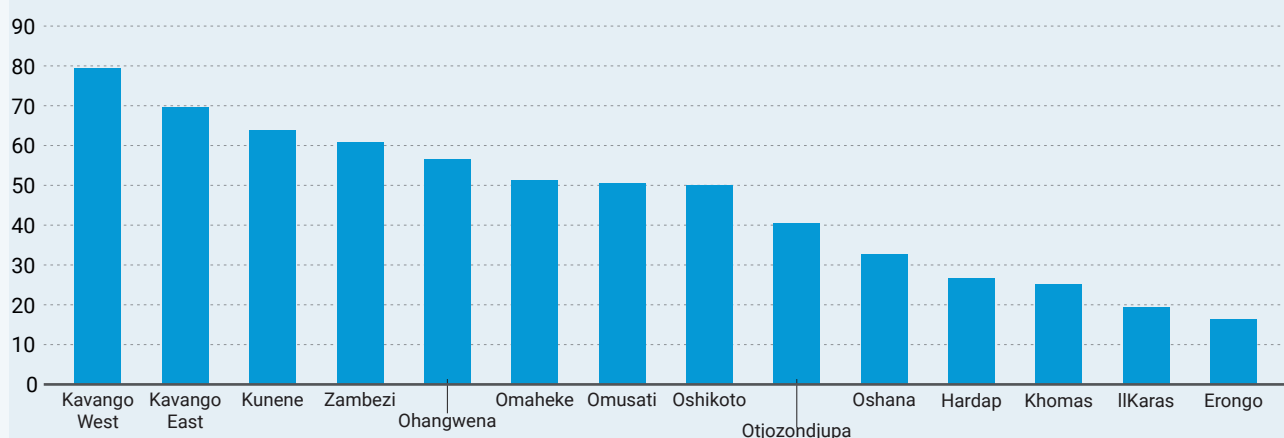
The Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES) shows that poverty remains concentrated in rural areas: 25.1% of rural households were poor compared to 8.6% for urban households. The incidence of severely poor households was also higher in rural areas (15.9%) compared to urban areas (4.8%). The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) has noted with concern that the right to food is jeopardized, especially in rural areas, given high poverty and unemployment rates. Rural populations face barriers to accessing basic rights, including water, health, education, and decent employment.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index report (2021) provides a complementary measure of poverty, incorporating various components of inequality existing in Namibia. The report indicates that the multidimensional poverty incidence (H) is reported at 43.3%, meaning that 43.3% of the population of Namibia is multidimensionally poor. Additionally, the population living in rural areas is disproportionately affected, with 59.3% of rural residents living in multidimensional poverty compared to 25.3% of urban residents. Some regions, such as Kavango West, Kavango East, and Kunene, experience higher multidimensional poverty rates (Figure 3). The fall of the GDP per capita by 1.1% in 2019 led to a rise in the extreme poverty rate from 15.8% to 17.2%, equivalent to approximately 447,000 people living below the \$1.90 per day poverty line. According to the Namibia Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 (SEIAC, 2020), it is estimated that approximately 105,600 more people, including 45,400 children, could have fallen into poverty and be in urgent need of social protection due to the COVID-19 crisis. UNECA macroeconomic modeling shows that at least 520,000 Namibians are estimated to live below the international poverty line of US\$2.15/day in 2023 (Table 2).

Poverty is gendered, with the incidence of multidimensional poverty among female-headed households at 46% compared to 41% for male-headed households. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) analysis also shows that poverty is higher among women (32%) than men (26%). The female face of

⁶² <https://data.worldbank.org/?locations=XT-ZG-NA>, visited on 4th October 2022.

Figure 3: Incidence of multidimensional poverty by region %, (2021)



Source: ECA calculation based on the World Bank data base

poverty in Namibia is also confirmed by the Voluntary National Review Report (2021), which uses the latest data from 2016, showing that poverty line levels in female-headed households (19.2%) are higher than in male-headed households (15.8%). Female-headed households also have a larger incidence of severe poverty (11.2%) compared with male-headed households (9.9%). Children in Namibia are most affected by multidimensional poverty, which stands at 56% for children aged 1-4 years, 50% for children aged 5-9 years, and 48% for children aged 10-14 years.⁶³ Furthermore, approximately 16% of children in Namibia aged 0-17 years are both multidimensionally and monetarily poor.⁶⁴ In addition to having a direct bearing on the achievement of SDG1, child poverty also affects various other development outcomes, including SDGs 2, 3, and 4.

As stated, indigenous peoples face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and disadvantage in Namibia. Poverty is highest among the local language-speaking population, including indigenous groups. Women, girls, boys, youth, persons with disabilities, and others face dynamic intersectional discrimination that places them at risk of being left furthest behind in sustainable development processes. Poverty was observed to differ by the main language spoken, with higher incidences among the population whose main spoken language at home is Khoisan (61.5%), Otjherero (54.3%), Other African languages (47.5%), and Rukavango (47.2%).

There are a considerable number of older people living under the international poverty line

Table 2: Absolute number of poor people from 2015 to 2023

Year	Number of poor	Additional poor	Poverty status
2015	397237.0116	Base year	increased
2016	411007.0692	13770.058	increased
2017	447128.1403	36121.071	increased
2018	461994.21	14866.07	increased
2019	493915.752	31921.542	increased
2020	512726.3578	18810.606	increased
2021	506847.7529	-5878.6049	Decreased
2022	514292.5214	7444.7685	increased
2023	523241.7237	8949.2023	increased

Source: ECA calculation based on the World Bank data base

(World Bank, 2021).⁶⁵ However, the unavailability of more recent statistics points to the risk of older persons' enjoyment of fundamental rights not being monitored, which will result in development challenges not being addressed.

⁶³ Namibia Statistics Agency, National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for Namibia for 2021 (2021) p. 8.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ The World Bank, *Poverty & Equity Brief: Namibia* (2021) < https://databankfiles.worldbank.org/data/download/poverty/987B9C90-CB9F-4D93-AE8C-750588BF00QA/AM2020/Global_POVEQ_NAM.pdf>.



6.1.2 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Institutional commitment and resources allocation

Namibia established the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication, and Social Welfare with the mandate of coordinating all programs aimed at reducing poverty in the country in line with the country's Vision 2030. The country has a well-developed program of cash transfers to vulnerable segments of the population. Social assistance programs targeting the poor and vulnerable increased to N\$6.2 billion in 2020/2021, offering a cushion against the impact of COVID-19.

6.2 Gender Inequality

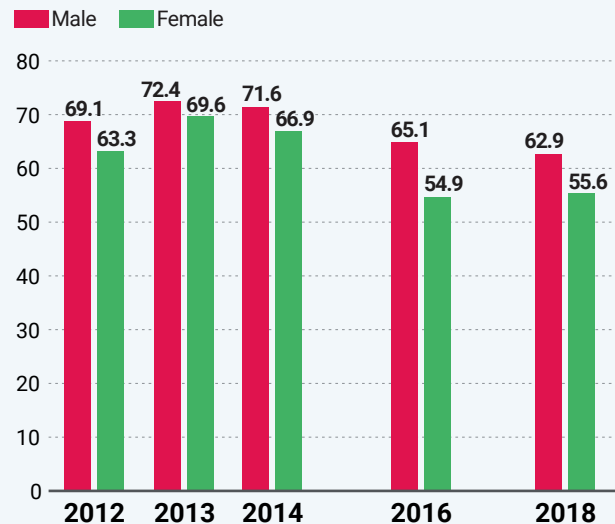
Article 10 of the Namibian Constitution provides for equality of all persons and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic origin, religion, creed, or social or economic status. Namibia is a role model on the continent regarding the adoption and development of international, continental, and national legal and policy frameworks that are pro-gender equality. At international and continental levels, Namibia has committed to the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA), the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development and its Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women and Children, the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003). Namibia developed the National Gender Policy 2010-2020, which is currently under review to develop a new policy for 2021-2031.

6.2.1 Status and Trends

Namibia has made significant progress in gender equality and women's empowerment by ensuring that there is a strong and growing participation of women in key political and decision-making positions, in education, and in the labour market. Women's unpaid work in the family often keeps them out of the workforce, especially where unpaid family agriculture is essential to household survival, leaving them vulnerable to poverty. In 2018, 41.6% of rural households depended on subsistence farming as their main source of livelihood, 27.8% on a salary or wage, and 14.8% on government grants – pension, childcare, disability, and drought relief (NSA 2019).

Namibia has adopted various policies and legal frameworks to reduce gender inequality, prevent discrimination on the basis of sex, combat GBV, and curb harmful cultural practices such as child marriage. Among different measures to address GBV, the Government has established Gender-Based Violence Protection Units; frontline duty-bearers (social workers, police, health extension workers, and church leaders) were trained to deliver GBV-related health and social protection services as well as on GBV-related laws and sensitized on dealing with GBV victims; community members such as teachers were trained on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), and GBV prevention; and awareness campaigns on GBV were launched. Additionally, the National Gender Policy 2010-2020, which is currently under review to develop a new policy for 2021-2031, serves as an opportunity to ensure that the policy is focused on critical interventions that will accelerate the achievement of all the international, continental, and national legal and policy frameworks. Namibia was the first African country to ratify ILO Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work in 2020.

Figure 4: Labour force participation rate %, (2012-2018)



Source: Namibia Statistics Agency

Poverty levels in women-headed households (19.2%) are higher than in male-headed households (15.8%). Female-headed households also have a larger incidence of severe poverty (11.2%) compared with male-headed households (9.9%). Some underlying challenges include women's limited access to bank loans and credit (especially for rural women), the lack of entrepreneurship grants and training for women,

and the lack of information on the impact of the State party's efforts to expand the green economy on the economic empowerment of women.⁶⁶ Other areas of concern include the high unemployment rate among women; the vertical and horizontal segregation of the labour market (Figure 4); the high proportion of women employed in the informal economy without access to social protection; and the widening gender pay gap.⁶⁷ One of the root causes of gender inequality is deep-seated discriminatory societal attitudes, stereotypes, and the acceptance of harmful practices. CEDAW noted in 2022 that despite State efforts to raise awareness, especially among traditional leaders and men and boys, these phenomena persist in Namibia and include child marriage, widow inheritance, sexual initiations, and polygamy.

Women and girls have limited access to health care, while the health care system is in a unique position to create a safe and confidential environment through early identification of violence, facilitating disclosure, and offering appropriate support and referrals to community and other resources. Ending gender-based violence (GBV) contributes to ending poverty, unemployment, and attaining good health and well-being, peace and security, decent work, emergency humanitarian preparedness, and resilience. Ensuring gender equality is crucial for the achievement of the SDGs. High rates of GBV place a heavy burden on the health, protection, policing, and justice systems, and survivors may be unable to work or contribute to peace and development, both in the short and long term. The Government is conducting a study to determine the economic cost of GBV in Namibia.

Limited livelihood opportunities reduce women and girls' self-efficacy and self-esteem, further creating gendered power inequalities and increasing the vulnerability and risks of violence. Furthermore, economic independence is key for survivors of GBV to break this vicious cycle. Without financial resources, survivors of GBV cannot break free from abusive relationships. To address the vicious circle of violence and child marriage, it is imperative to support interventions on life skills development, mentorship, psychosocial support, and health education to strengthen

the skills and capabilities of women and girls to exercise their agency and rights, bodily autonomy, decision-making, leadership, and self-determination.

UN Women has highlighted that only 34.4% of indicators needed to monitor the SDGs from a gender perspective were available as of December 2020, with data gaps identified in key areas, including unpaid care and domestic work, and key labour market indicators such as the gender pay gap and information and communications technology skills.

6.2.1. Barrier 1: Persistent gender-based violence and violence against women and girls

Women and girls continue to experience GBV, with a prevalence of one in three (32%) women reporting having experienced violence in their lifetime by age 15 (NDHS 2013), despite a range of multistakeholder interventions. Thirty-two percent (32%) of adolescent girls aged 15-19 and 35% of young women aged 20-24 reported experiencing physical violence from a partner. In addition, according to the Namibia Police (2020), 4,607 cases of GBV were reported in the previous 12 months, resulting in protests. It is known, however, that GBV is often underreported due to several social norms. In 2018, 15.9% of women aged 15-49 years reported that they had been subject to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months. Women and girl survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual violence still have limited access to integrated and comprehensive prevention and response services. The availability, sharing, and utilisation of multi-sectoral administrative data on GBV cases for strengthened case management and better service provision across sectors remain a challenge, alongside lingering harmful social and gender norms and practices.

The root cause of GBV is unequal power relations between women, men, boys, and girls, deeply embedded in discriminatory socio-cultural and gender norms. During the socialisation process, women are raised to be powerless and dependent on male counterparts as the provider or head of the house. On the other hand, men and boys are socialized to take risks, exercise control, make decisions, and be strong and aggressive. These norms can foster a culture of abuse which in turn is internalized and normalized, making it challenging to address GBV. According to the NDHS (2013), twenty-eight percent (28%) of women and 22 percent (22%) of men aged 15-49 justified beating as an acceptable way for a husband

⁶⁶ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 43.

⁶⁷ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 39, with recommendations set out in para 40.



Figure 5: Problem tree for GBV and VAC



to discipline his wife. In some cases, violence is concealed, with 15% of women and girls never seeking assistance or telling anyone about the violence due to fear of stigma. In 2020, 4,607 cases of GBV were reported to the police⁶⁸.

Unequal gender power dynamics affect the ability of women and girls to exercise bodily autonomy. Women and girls are often coerced to resort to alternative ways to earn a living, making them susceptible to sexual abuse and exploitation, gender-based violence, child marriage, HIV, and unintended pregnancies. According to the MGEPEW National Formative Child Marriage Study in Namibia (2019), the prevalence of child marriage in Namibia is 18.4% for women and 4.1% for men. There is a causal-effect relationship between GBV and other socio-economic factors: poverty, lack of education, unemployment, impacts of climate change, and other external shocks are drivers of GBV.

GBV has devastating short and long-term consequences on health, education, and socio-economic dimensions. The health effects include physical injuries, depression, anxiety disorders, substance use dependence, disability, and even death. It is linked to negative outcomes in sexual and reproductive health, including unintended pregnancies, increased risks of miscarriage, unsafe abortions, baby dumping, stillbirth, and increased vulnerability to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. It places significant demands on the health, social, justice, and economic sectors. The cost of inaction on violence against women and girls (VAWG) has a negative impact on families, communities, and society at large. Gender-responsive and transformative interventions across various SDGs will eliminate GBV.

Namibia has progressive legislation on GBV, including the Combating of Domestic Violence Act, 2003 (Act 4 of 2003), currently under amendment, and the Combating of Rape Act, 2008 (Act No. 8 of 2008). However, the incidence of GBV remains alarmingly high, with an upsurge during the COVID-19 pandemic. Women and girl survivors of intimate partner violence

⁶⁸ Office of the President, National Planning Commission. Namibia SDGs VNR Report 2021. Windhoek, Namibia

and sexual violence still have limited access to integrated and comprehensive prevention and response services. The availability, sharing, and utilisation of multi-sectoral administrative data on GBV cases for strengthened case management and better service provision across sectors remain a challenge. Harmful social and gender norms and practices, such as early and forced marriage, negatively impact the health and bodily autonomy of women and girls, especially those in remote and hard-to-reach areas. The vulnerability of women and girls to GBV and harmful practices is exacerbated by poverty, unemployment, and food insecurity, which have worsened due to the economic recession, climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and other external shocks.

Efforts to implement gender equity measures to achieve gender equality across various sectors have been limited. The focus has largely been on providing equal access to resources, rewards, and opportunities for all women and men. However, this strategy needs to be complemented by various forms of transformative gender equity measures to ensure fairness and compensation for women's historically limited access to economic and social resources. The Affirmative Action Act of 1998 is one such equity tool, aiming to close the gap in women's participation in decision-making positions. Equity recognizes that women and men do not start from the same point and must acknowledge and address disparities. Gender equality serves as an accelerator for achieving a GBV-free society.

6.3 Food insecurity and nutrition

6.3.1 Status and trends

Although it is difficult to measure food insecurity due to various forms of malnutrition, an estimated 330,925 people are food insecure, 447,577 are moderately food insecure, and 859,898 are food secure in Namibia (FAO, 2020). Data from the Namibia Vulnerability Assessments and Analysis indicates that food insecurity is increasing, with undernourishment affecting 18% of the population (FAO, 2020). Food insecurity prevalence ranged between 15% to 30% in the past five years (NVAC, 2022), with over 30% of the population particularly in rural areas and among indigenous populations. Food insecurity varies by region but is more prevalent in north-western regions. In Namibia, all forms of malnutrition are exhibited and vary by location. Obesity is dominant in towns and cities, while stunting and wasting are prominent in rural areas. Undernutrition results in stunting

among children below five years, while overnutrition causes obesity mostly in adult women and men, and anemia is prevalent in women. Namibia faces a "double burden" of persistent malnutrition and rising rates of diet-related non-communicable diseases.

6.3.2 Barrier 2: Lack of access to affordable, safe and nutritious food

Namibia is facing a triple burden of malnutrition (undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight/obesity), with rapidly increasing overweight and obesity among children. Between 2000 and 2016, overweight prevalence among girls aged 5-19 years tripled from 7% to 21%, and obesity prevalence grew seven-fold from 1% to 7%⁶⁹. Overweight and obesity increased more rapidly among boys, though still lower than among girls, with overweight increasing five-fold from 2% to 10% and obesity ten-fold from 0.3% to 3% in the same period. It is estimated that 32% of Namibians cannot afford a nutrient-adequate diet, making micronutrient supplementation and fortification important to combat micronutrient deficiencies⁷⁰.

The primary drivers of malnutrition are numerous due to fragile food systems. They include increasing food insecurity as a result of climate change, unemployment (which was worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic), and rising food prices (most recently tied to the war in Ukraine), low local food production and value addition, poor dietary diversity and micronutrient intake, low birth weight pointing to maternal nutritional deficiencies before and during pregnancy, and food environments and feeding practices that promote poor quality food consumed by children.

Preventive service delivery through the health system, food systems (including value addition and market availability of affordable nutritious foods to communities most in need), and the social protection systems remain inadequate to meet the needs of communities both in coverage and quality. The food environment, including aggressive advertising of unhealthy food to children, inadequate provision of information on risks of high sugar and other poor-quality food (front-of-pack labeling), and obesogenic food environments in and around schools contribute to the rapid increase of overweight and obesity among school-aged children. Through the Food Security and Nutrition Policy⁷¹, the Government

⁶⁹ NCD Risk Factor Collaboration, 2017

⁷⁰ Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) – Large Scale Food Fortification Mapping Exercise (year tbc)

⁷¹ 2021 National Food and Nutrition Security Policy



has set a goal for an annual increment for nutrition funding by 10%, however, there is no systematic way to track progress towards this goal.

Namibia's consumption patterns are moderate or poor, leading to inadequate dietary diversity and food intake in most households⁷². This is alongside low food production and limited value addition, including through food fortification. Food diets are predominantly high-energy dense, with low dietary diversification and a high cost of nutritious diets. While salt iodisation is mandatory, the Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA)⁷³ of 2021 found that 68% of the salt samples collected from households contained iodine, down from 77% in 2013 and 83% in 2000⁷⁴. This is indicative of limitations in the monitoring and enforcement of salt iodisation.

Poor access to sanitation exacerbates health and nutrition risks for children. Only half (49%) of households in urban areas and less than one in five (17%) in rural areas have access to improved water and sanitation, with large disparities between urban areas (85%) and rural areas (21%). Almost half (46%) of the population practices open defecation, with persisting urban-rural disparities (26% and 70% respectively). The regions with the highest rates of open defecation also report the highest rates of stunting⁷⁵.

During the last five years, the private sector has taken steps toward preventing micronutrient deficiencies by fortifying maize, wheat, and Pearl millet

(*mahangu* flour) with vitamins and minerals. However, the Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) shows that large proportions of households consume inadequately fortified food. While the food industry voluntarily fortifies key cereals (flour and maize) and edible oil, the products tend to be inadequately fortified to improve nutrition outcomes. The 2021 VAA determined that 54% of households consume adequately iron-fortified flour and/or maize meal and 33% of households consume adequately Vitamin A fortified edible oil. Mandatory fortification, monitoring, and enforcement is a viable option to improve micronutrient intake and related nutrition outcomes in Namibia. Of note, the same analysis found that most people in Namibia rely on cash purchases of cereals, hence value addition to cereals distributed through retail is a viable platform.

Heavy reliance on imports increases food security vulnerability in the face of threats, including lockdowns and the impact of the Russia/Ukraine war on the prices of basic staples (Figures 6, 7, 8, 9, 10). The VAA report estimated that 26% to 30% of the Namibian population would be in phase 3 food insecurity in 2022⁷⁶. The most food-insecure regions are the drought-prone areas, including Kunene, Erongo, Omusati, Omaheke, and Kharas.⁷⁷ These regions also experience a lack of diversification in terms of food production, limited access for smallholder farmers to markets, and a lack of increased public and private sector investment.

⁷² UNICEF, Namibia Nutrition Budget Brief 2019/2020 UNICEF, 31/12/2021

⁷³ Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NAMVAC), Namibia 2021 Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Findings, January 2022

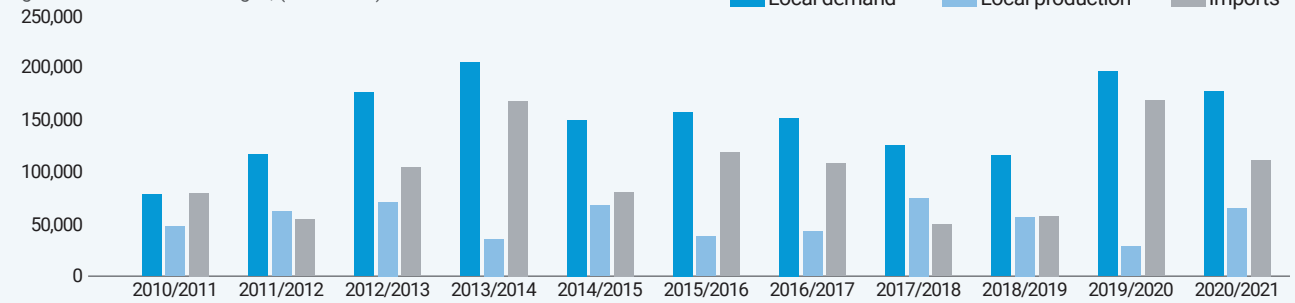
⁷⁴ Namibia Demographic Health Survey 2013

⁷⁵ DHS 2013, 2021 Food and Nutrition Security Policy

⁷⁶ UNICEF, Namibia 2021 Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Main Report, 01/01/2022

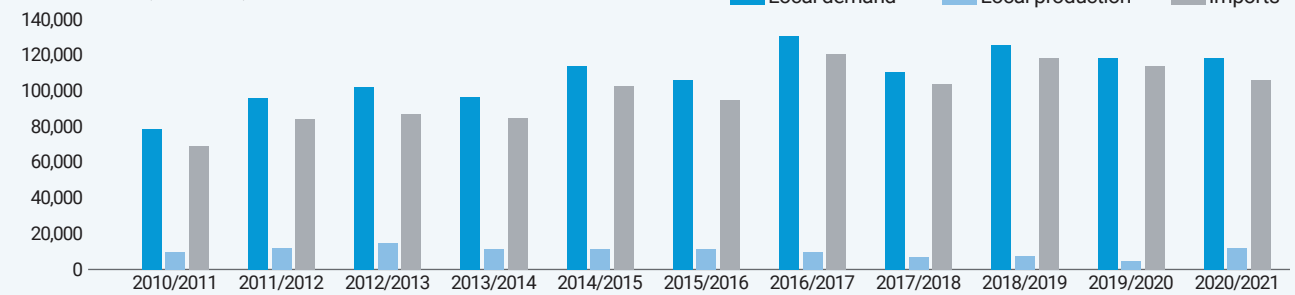
⁷⁷ Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee, Namibia 2021 Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis Findings

Figure 6: White Maize tonnages, (2010-2020)



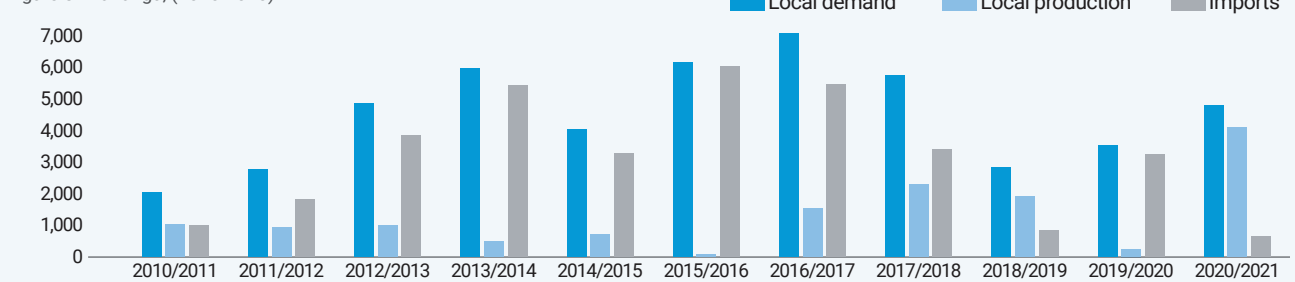
Source: Namibia Agronomic Board

Figure 7: Wheat, (2010-2020)



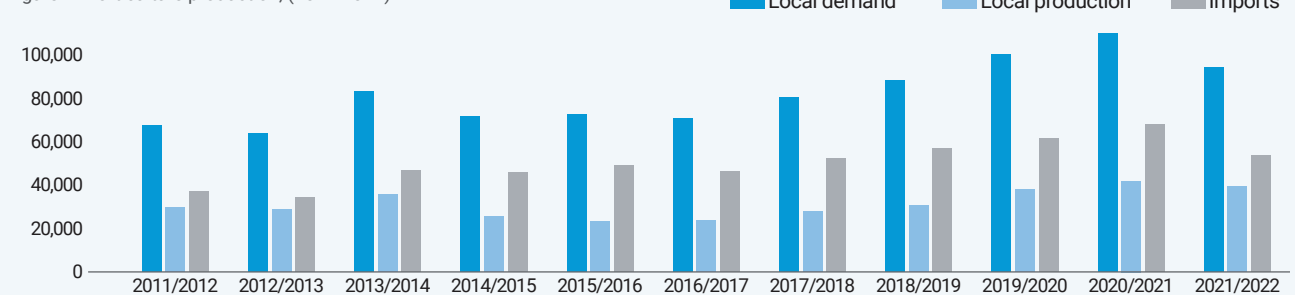
Source: Namibia Agronomic Board

Figure 8: Mahangu, (2010-2020)



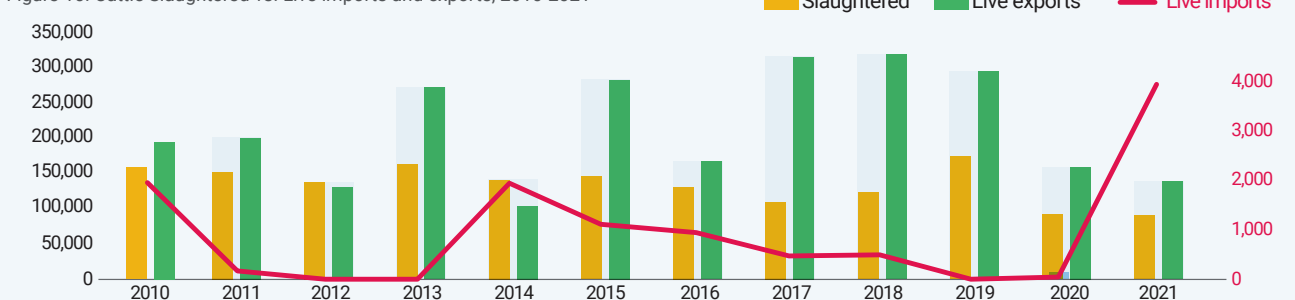
Source: Namibia Agronomic Board

Figure 9: Horticulture production, (2011-2021)



Source: Namibia Agronomic Board

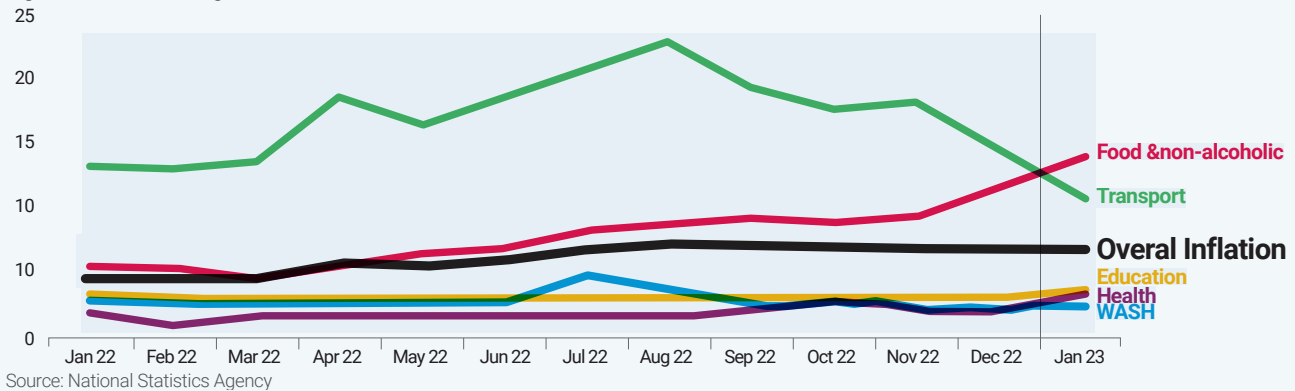
Figure 10: Cattle Slaughtered vs. Live imports and exports, 2010-2021



Source: Meat board of Namibia



Figure 11: Inflation during Russia/Ukraine war, %



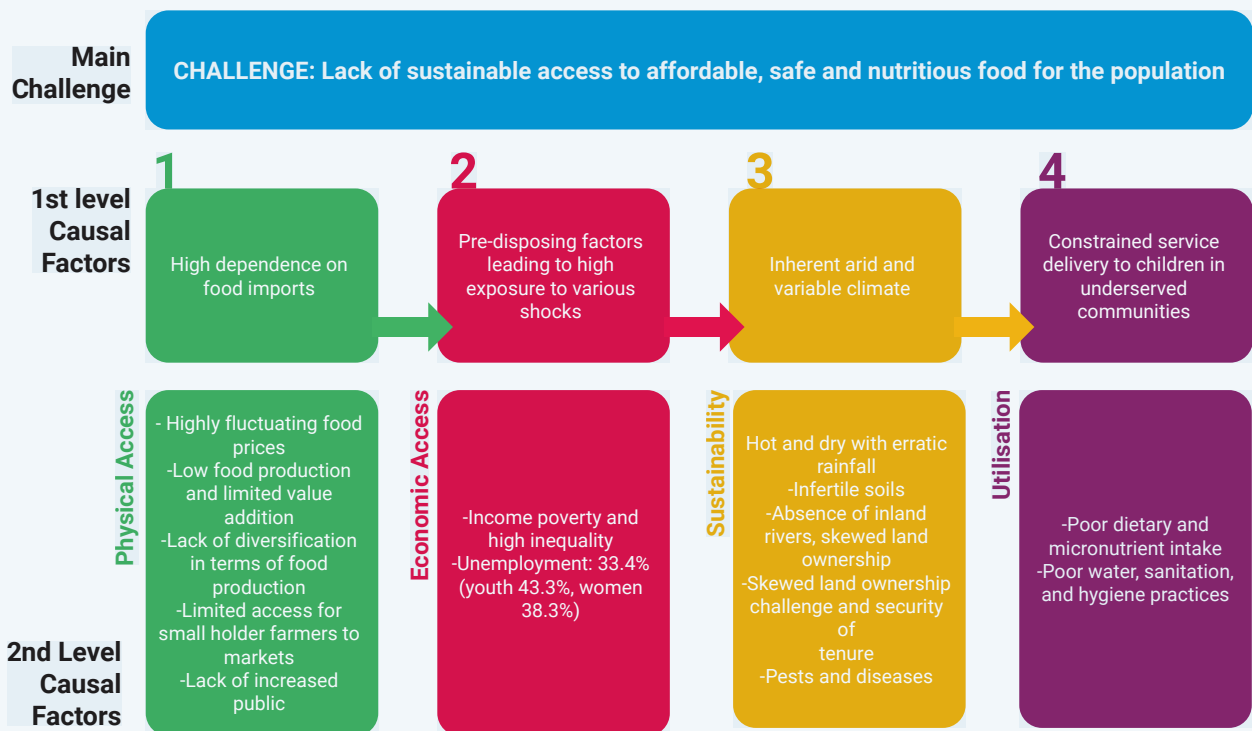
The ongoing instability in global food trade, and the soaring energy and fuel prices are adding another dimension, which not only increases the population of the food insecure but also exacerbates the food crisis. The Russia/Ukraine war has cut off supplies from both countries to Namibia, which is estimated to import between 42% and 64% of its wheat from the Russian Federation, thereby constraining the global supply of particularly fertilizer, wheat, and fuel. As of July 2022, average prices for bread and cereals went up by 8.9%, influenced by price shocks which affected bread/cake flour (rose by 20.2%), macaroni and pastas (up by 10.3%), mealie rice/malt (up by 9.3%), and sugar (up by 9.5%). Transportation and fuel were noted to be key contributors to price increases, with transportation/logistics going up by 20.9%, whereas fuel prices increased by 63.1% compared to the preceding year (July 2021). Fertilizer and crude oil prices continue an upward trajectory and are projected to reach all-time highs by early 2023. According to UN Comtrade data for 2020, South Africa imported 11% of its fertilizers

from Russia and Namibia only 4%. Although Namibia depends less on fertilizer imports from Russia, it imports 96% of its fertilizers from South Africa. The high dependency on South Africa for fertilizer makes the country vulnerable to economic shocks caused by the conflict, which will further disrupt agricultural processes and productivity in Namibia. With fertilizer and fuel being key production inputs, any instability in their supply inevitably affects food production, food security, and the livelihoods of the most vulnerable groups, who face increasing prices of staples, especially food (Figure 11).

Namibia is highly exposed to various shocks, including climate change and volatile supply chains. This includes inherent arid and variable climate and bio-physical factors (poor rains, infertile soils, etc.); hot and dry conditions with erratic rainfall; infertile soils; the absence of inland rivers; racially skewed land ownership challenges and security of tenure; pest and disease infestations, among others.



Figure 12: Problem tree for access to affordable, safe, and nutritious food



Climate change and cross-border issues

Marginalized communities are vulnerable and less resilient to the impacts of climate change due to diminishing opportunities to gather bush food, gain employment, and increased obstacles to accessing land. Analysis of nutrition data from the Namibia Demographic and Health Surveys (NDHS) (1992–2013) and Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES), 2015/16, identified the Khoisan ethnic group and northern geographical regions as having the highest stunting (chronic malnutrition) and wasting (acute malnutrition) prevalence. Severe acute malnutrition prevalence was at least three times higher among Khoisan-language speakers than any other language group, and stunting was more than double that of any other group⁷⁸. The Human Rights Committee noted in its 2016 Concluding Observations that all traditional land remains under the ownership of the State and that indigenous peoples are insufficiently consulted regarding the extraction of natural resources from their lands.⁷⁹

⁷⁸ Fujimura, M., Conkle, J. Van Wyk, M. and Jimba, M., Nutritional status of children under 5 years old in Namibia: adjusting for poor quality child anthropometry, 2022

⁷⁹ Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Namibia under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020* CCPR/C/NAM/3 (23 May 2022) para 103.

Prolonged and severe droughts in southern Angola and parts of northern Namibia continue to compromise food security and drive cross-border and internal migration. The combined effects of unemployment and climate-driven food insecurity in rural areas contribute to rapid growth in rural-urban migration. Estimates recorded a rise from 28% in 1991 to about 50% in 2018, a situation which has put more pressure on the country's urban health facilities. Furthermore, the mushrooming of urban informal settlements is continuing to drive overcrowding at a pace that exceeds the present supply of essential infrastructural facilities and services. This has, for example, continued to put pressure on water resources and water supply systems while also leading to a rapid increase in open defecation due to limited access to sanitation. The poor sanitation conditions cause further threats to environmental and human health, including increasing the risk of water pollution and antimicrobial resistance. Antimicrobial resistance is identified as a major cause of death around the globe, with the highest burdens in poor countries. It also threatens the health of animals and plants grown for food, with effects on food security, food safety, and the environment. These conditions create fertile ground for disease outbreaks, malnutrition, violence, and related injuries.



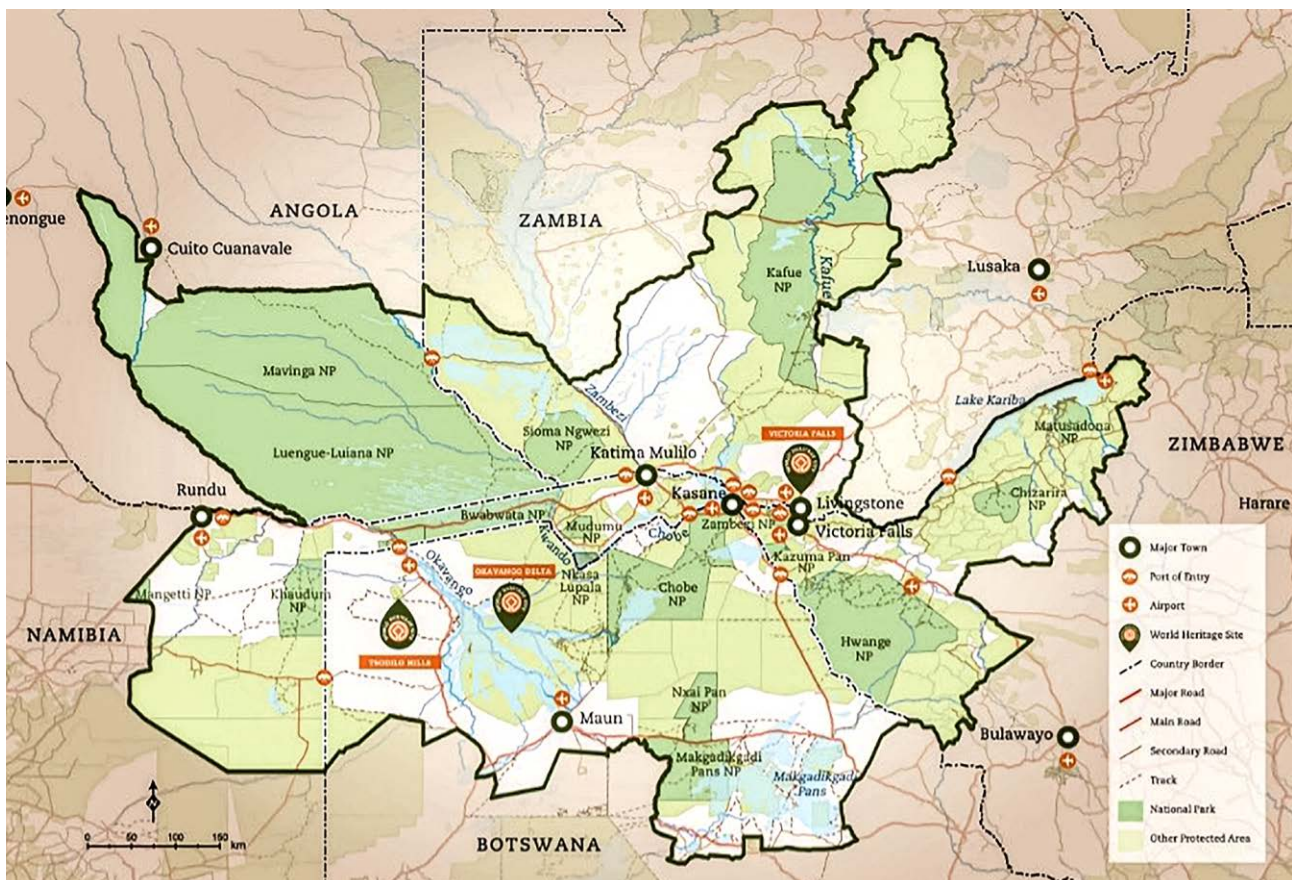
In 2021, an unprecedented influx of migrants escaping a severe drought in Angola into Kunene and Omusati regions resulted in the arrival of over 3,800 migrants in Omusati (50% being children) and an estimated 3,000 in Kunene. The most pressing needs were for food, access to health services, sexual reproductive health services, water and sanitation, shelter, education, and psychosocial support. The unrelenting drought, destruction of facilities due to floods, and the influx of migrants from Angola means affected communities are increasingly getting drinking water from unsafe sources. The lack of institutional preparedness resulted in significant delays in the provision of critical protection and life-saving services to the migrant community, indicating the need to strengthen early warning and front-line response systems in anticipation of continued climate-driven migration, and emergency preparedness in terms of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). While migrants resided at the Etunda camp, the neighboring hospital in Outapi exceeded admission capacity for malnutrition treat-

ment, health facilities along the border were found to have capacity gaps to cope with the increasing demand for malnutrition treatment, and there were several malnutrition-related deaths at the Etunda camp.⁸⁰

In terms of transboundary environmental issues, Namibia is a party to the Kavango Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), which brings together five southern African countries, including Angola, Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe (Figure 13). Key areas of opportunity include actions to bolster evidence-based (data-driven) policy options to accelerate progress on three fronts, namely: (a) human-wildlife coexistence and nature-based economies; (b) collaborative and integrated approaches to land use planning for conservation, connectivity, and socio-economic development; and (c) locally developed, systemic, adaptive approaches for the long term, with local communities as stewards.

⁸⁰ UNICEF Programme Visits reports

Figure 13: Kavango Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA)



Kavango Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) (Source: Linking Tourism & Conservation (LT&C) 2019, <https://www.ltandc.org/kavango-zambezi-transfrontier->

6.3.3 Opportunity for SDGs acceleration: Sustainable climate and environment sensitive Food Systems strengthening

Food insecurity and suboptimal diets underpin all forms of malnutrition, making agriculture and food systems crucial to improving nutrition and ensuring better diets. Between 25% to 40% of the Namibian population depends on subsistence agriculture activities⁸¹ for their livelihood. However, chronic episodes of drought, floods, fires, pest infestations, and diseases affect crops and livestock, increasing food insecurity in the country. Climate-resilient agriculture and food systems are important to improve nutrition and ensuring better diets, given that food insecurity and poor diets underlie all forms of malnutrition. At present in Namibia, food diets are predominantly high-energy dense, with low dietary diversification and a high cost of nutritious diets (NPC and WFP, 2021). Therefore, fostering a comprehensive working food system articulates the role of climate-smart agriculture in Namibia's economy and the need to develop a comprehensive food system for the nation and build sustainable diets.

Integrated food systems transformation provides a platform for resilience building, climate responsiveness, and holistic disaster risk management. The Food and Nutrition Policy, the Social Protection Policy, and the National Disaster Risk Management Policy emphasize the mainstreaming of climate change (shock responsiveness) and the centrality of integrated programming where food systems have a greater role in improving livelihoods, strengthening the food security base, and revitalising the local economy.

To improve nutrition outcomes, through the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy of 2021, the Government has committed to halving the prevalence of undernourishment, maintaining overweight and obesity among children below 5%, doubling domestic food production, halving stunting, and increasing investment in food and nutrition security by at least 10% of the national budget annually, by 2030. The Namibia SDG Baseline Report of 2019 indicated that the prevalence of undernourishment for children under five years was 28.8% in 2015, a decline from 29.7% recorded in 2014. Through HPP2, the Government has further committed to intensifying the deployment of community health workers in regions with high malnutrition rates, reducing institutional



Malnutrition Case Fatality to less than 10%, and promulgating regulations for micronutrient fortification of cereals and regulations to control the marketing of breast milk substitutes by 2025. Social protection programmes addressing food insecurity need to be more child-sensitive to increase resilience to climate-driven food insecurity at the community level.

To address urban food poverty, food banks were rolled out in six regions (Hardap, Kharas, Ohangwena, Kunene, Kavango East, and Kavango West), according to the 2021 Voluntary National Review (VNR). The Food Bank beneficiaries were selected against eligibility criteria based on vulnerability and the impact of hunger and poverty. Moreover, in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), a system for cash operations (SCOPE) based on a biometric system used for the registration of beneficiaries was introduced. This system was also used as a screening tool during food distribution.

An increased number of community health workers and scaled-up treatment of acute malnutrition in health facilities over the last 10 years have increased the number of children being screened and treated

⁸¹ UN Namibia, Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Namibia, 01/10/2020



for malnutrition. UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) and the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication, and Social Welfare (MGEPEWS), is providing support to women and children in vulnerable communities to mitigate and recover from the impact of COVID-19 on food security and protect the nutritional status of children. The support is ongoing nationally for coordination and supplies and regionally for specific interventions in Khomas, Ohangwena, Omusati, Omaheke, Kunene, and Hardap regions.

During the last few years, the Government and Development Partners have collaborated on RightStart, a social and behavioral communication campaign on early childhood development. The campaign includes a component on child feeding. RightStart is expected to continue, and although it has not yet been evaluated, there is potential for increasing the pace of malnutrition reduction through improved child feeding practices, integrated nutrition screening and referral of children identified with acute malnutrition, vitamin A supplementation, and deworming in Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers promoted by the campaign.

The arid and semi-arid conditions in Namibia present challenging conditions for agriculture. However, an assessment with the Climate, Land, Energy, and Water Systems (CLEWS) analysis tool indicates that agricultural output is well below the potential productivity given the agro-ecological conditions of the country. There is scope to significantly improve output through modernisation. Investment in technology upgrades, expanded use of agricultural inputs, and other measures can substantially improve yields, particularly for staple grains such as millet, sorghum, and maize. A new agricultural survey to better assess the current use of technology, advanced seeds, management practices, and inputs would be helpful to identify appropriate and targeted interventions as well as best practices. The high degree of subsistence and informality provides challenges to increasing investment and modernisation of the agricultural sector. Vulnerability and resilience to climate change is another area that warrants close attention and further study to promote agricultural sector sustainability and food security.

6.4 Quality of Education

Namibia recognizes that inclusive quality education and training, combined with good health, are part of human capital development, a critical enabler for achieving sustainable development. The Government envisions the provision of equitable quality basic education to all as a key developmental objective. Basic education and Early Childhood Development (ECD) are essential parts of social and economic development, which is reflected in the Namibian Constitution under Article 20 and in the national development objectives.

6.4.1 Status and Trends

Positive trends are observed in the education sector: high government budget allocations to education; the provision of free primary and secondary education; high literacy rates; rollout of ECD programs; the implementation of programs to upgrade teachers' skills; and the drastic increase in primary and secondary enrollment rates. Enrollment rates have also increased in tertiary education through funding of undergraduate and postgraduate students, among other measures.

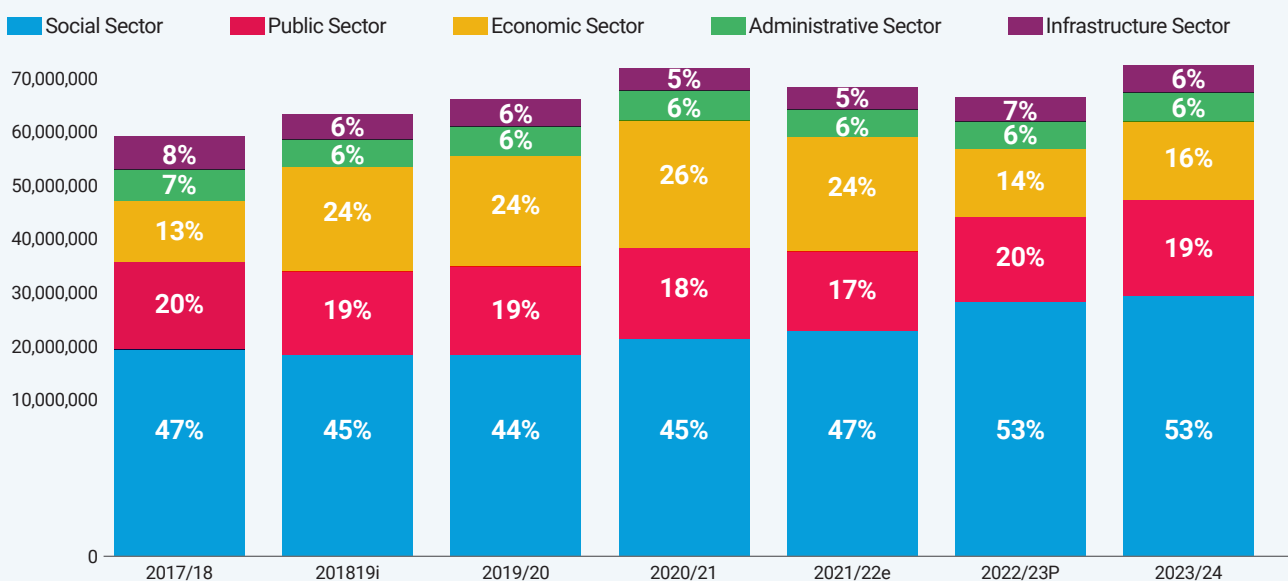
Namibia has made efforts to ensure that all children have access to education, including refugees and asylum seekers, indigenous children, children with disabilities, and other children from vulnerable and marginalized groups, ensuring that no child is discriminated against. This has resulted in 95% of the

student-age population having access to education. Measures include the use of mobile schools, incentives to attract qualified teachers to remote areas, the use of indigenous languages in schools, exemption from school fees for San children, free uniforms, allowances, among others. The funding support for undergraduates, graduates, and postgraduates has been fairly consistent over the years (Figure 19).

Financing education is the engine that drives quality and education transformation. COVID-19 has impacted national resources, which has equally affected budget allocations to the education sector. However, the basic education sector continues to receive the largest share of the national budget at 19.9% for the 2022-23 budget year, with primary education receiving the highest share of the budget, while pre-primary education receives a small share of the education budget at 2.9% (Figures 14 and 15). It should be noted that while the basic education sector receives the highest budget allocation, a large portion goes to salaries and staffing costs, which does not necessarily translate into positive outcomes, especially high retention rates in secondary grades and enrollment rates in tertiary institutions. In comparative terms, Namibia, according to World Bank statistics, scores above the average of upper-middle-income countries (UMICs) in terms of government expenditure on education: 24.8% versus 15% (2020)⁸².

⁸² <https://data.worldbank.org/?locations=XT-ZG-NA>

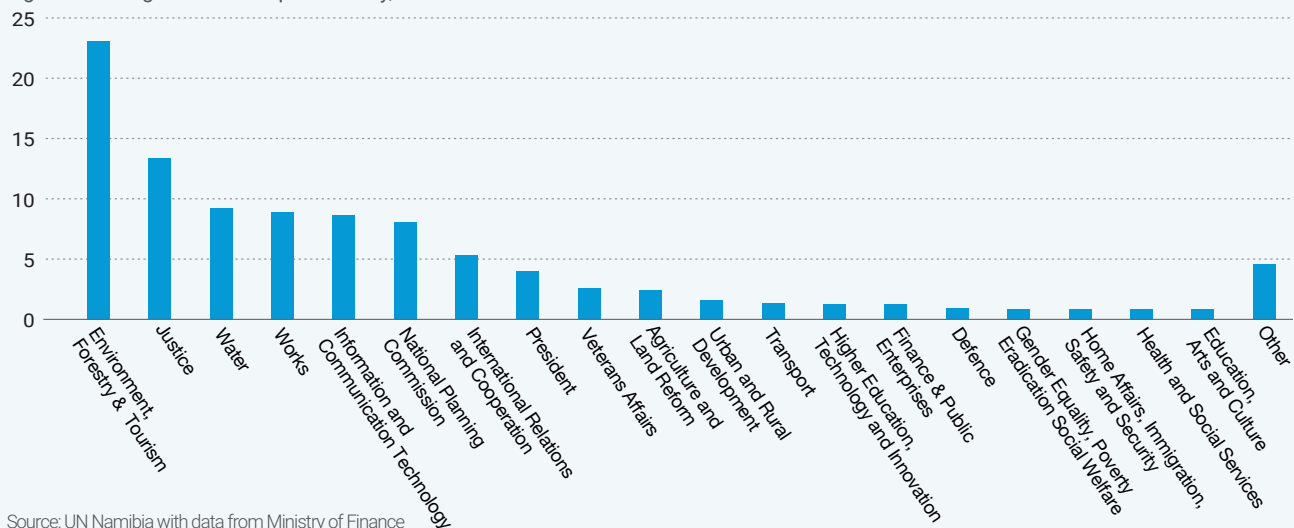
Figure 14: Budget Allocation per Sector



Source: UN Namibia with data from Ministry of Finance



Figure 15: Budget Allocation per Ministry, %



Source: UN Namibia with data from Ministry of Finance

6.4.2 Barrier 3: Unequal access to inclusive quality education and lifelong learning

Early Childhood Development

The overall gross enrollment rate for Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Namibia is 29%, with pre-primary children aged 5-8 years making up 59% of enrollment in ECD centers. ECD is largely delivered by community-owned centers, resulting in a prioritisation skewed towards higher investment in primary and secondary levels with less investment in ECD. Fee-free education has provided access to many learners. As a result, Namibia has nearly achieved universal primary education, with 85% of children starting grade one continuing to lower secondary (Grade 8), and has eliminated gender disparity in access to education at all levels. With the introduction of Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE) in 2013 and 2016 respectively, the education sector has seen rapid growth in enrollments, including in pre-primary education which was introduced in 2009. With the curriculum reform, the Ministry of Education, Arts & Culture (MoEAC) has equally strengthened the implementation of pre-vocational subjects in schools starting from Grade 4 to prepare learners for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), which is technology-driven.

While Early Childhood Development is identified as an important poverty alleviation intervention, the net enrollment rate in ECD centers is only 13%, and only 20% of ECD service providers have received a minimum 1-year qualification, compromising the quality of teaching and learning at this age.⁸³

There has been exponential growth in enrollment in pre-primary education over the years (Figure 16). While the number of learners in pre-primary increased over time, there is still a significant number of children that do not attend pre-primary school when comparing grade 1 enrollments vs. the year before enrollment in pre-primary (Figure 17). The enrollment in pre-primary education during 2020 stood at 47,692 in total, with female (23,966) enrollment exceeding that of males (23,726) (Figure 18). Some progress has been achieved in terms of access to pre-primary education, Continuous Professional Development (CPD), and procurement of Learning Support Materials (LSM).

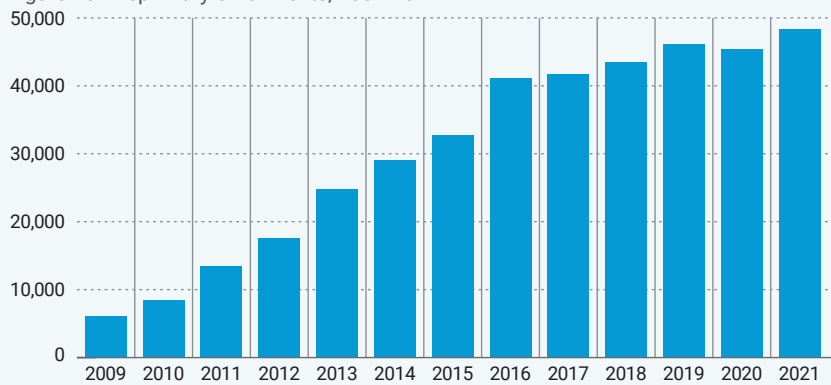
While enrollments have slightly increased at the pre-primary level, this does not translate into quality as many learners are still repeating Grade 1, with 12.5% of learners repeating that grade, 7.8% repeating Grade 2, and 7.5% repeating Grade 4, in 2021 respectively (EMIS 2021). Repetition is estimated to cost the Government over NAD 1.5 billion per year (over US\$ 90M)⁸⁴ as allocations have stayed consistent (Figure 18).

After repetition, learners are promoted to the next grade without having mastered the required basic competencies for the higher grades, resulting in high dropout rates in the higher grades. Access to digital technologies remains a challenge in the basic education sector, especially in remote rural schools. Of the 1,922 schools in 2021, 1,586 (82.5%) have electricity while 336 schools do not have electricity (EMIS 2021).

⁸³ Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, ECD-MIS Survey 2018

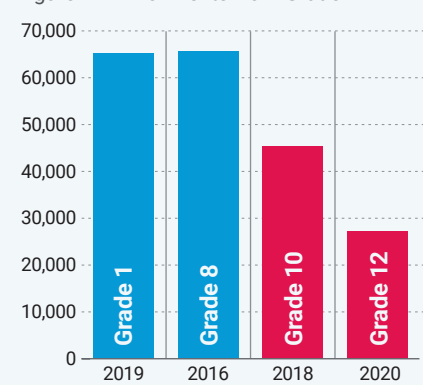
⁸⁴ DNA Economics, The costs of Inaction: ECD in Namibia, 2019

Figure 16: Preprimary enrollments, 2009-2021



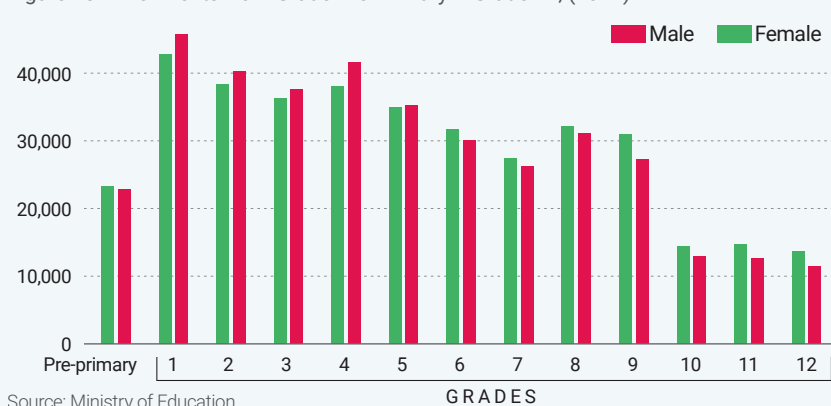
Source: Ministry of Education

Figure 17: Enrollments from Grade 1-12



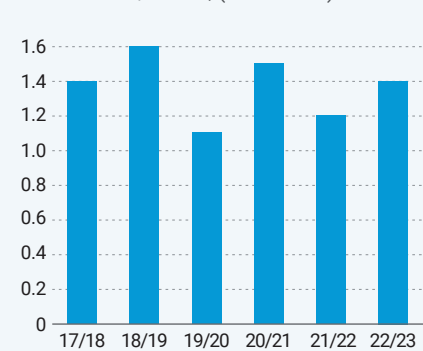
Source: Ministry of Education

Figure 18: Enrollments from Grade Pre-Primary – Grade 12, (2019)



Source: Ministry of Education

Figure 19: NSFAF budget allocations N\$ Billion, (2017-2022)



Source: Ministry of Finance

The capacity of schools, including for early childhood education, has not kept pace with the increased enrolment, and the Government should continue to develop the school feeding and the satellite and mobile schools programmes and monitor their impact on the enjoyment of the right to education for the most marginalized groups.⁸⁵

It is important to consider the impact of poverty and inclusiveness in the education sector from a “Leaving No One Behind” (LNOB) perspective. Namibia is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol and has been implementing the Education Sector Policy on Inclusive Education to ensure more access to basic education for children with disabilities. As a result, access to education for children with disabilities has grown from 30,244 (Female 14,256 and Male 15,988) learners in 2019 to 57,503, representing 24,869 female and 32,634 male learners in 2020 (EMIS, 2020). However, many of these children do not

⁸⁵ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *Concluding observations on the initial report of Namibia E/C.12/NAM/CO/1* (23 March 2016) paras 71-72.

complete basic education. The Child Care and Protection Act, 2015 (Act No 3 of 2015), and the Basic Education Act, 2020 (Act No 3 of 2020), both make provisions for services for children with disabilities, including access to ECD and education, as well as access to health and nutrition.

Factors that impede children and adolescent girls’ access to education include insufficient education on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), contributing to high early and unintended pregnancies; high drop-out rates among pregnant girls and young mothers; reported cases of GBV and bullying, especially targeting indigenous girls; and the lack of hygiene products and sanitary facilities available to girls at schools,⁸⁶ resulting in the under-representation of girls in STEM fields of study.

Additionally, challenges include unacceptably high levels of learner pregnancies, with 2,658 learners falling pregnant in 2021 (EMIS, 2021), up from 2,348 in 2020, and gender-based violence, including the use of corporal punishment in many schools. A study

⁸⁶ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,



on violence in Namibia revealed that 45.4 percent of girls and 47.9 percent of boys aged 13-15 reported being bullied at least once within the 30 days prior to the survey, with sexual harassment of learners reported in more than 30 percent of Namibia's schools. An estimated 20.5 percent of learners aged 13-15 years had considered attempting suicide, with 29.9 percent attempting one or more times (Responding to Sexual Violence in Schools, 2019). To address all school health and safety-related aspects, the need to strengthen the implementation of the Integrated School Health and Safety Programme, supported by the UN, cannot be overemphasized.

While great strides have been made to provide universal quality inclusive primary and secondary education, the MoEAC continues to experience challenges, including poor teaching and learning outcomes resulting in high failure and dropout rates, limited access to the use of information communication technologies in education, and low access to the early learning stages.

Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia
CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 37.

The EMIS Report of 2020 reported high failure rates in Grade 1 at 17.9 percent (Female 15.0 / Male 20.6), Grade 4 at 18.1 percent (Female 13.9 / Male 21.9), and Grade 8 at 22.8 percent (Female 21.0 / Male 24.7), indicating that learners are progressing to higher grades without mastering the necessary competencies at their grade level, as the promotion policy does not allow learners to repeat a grade twice. The situation has been exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19 on education. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, Namibia experienced challenges of high failure rates, high learner pregnancy and school drop-out rates, violence, lack of inclusive education for children with disabilities, and poor parental and community engagement. The fact that learners drop out of school after surviving primary education is a matter of concern for the country. As learner pregnancy is a critical challenge, the implementation of the Policy on the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy needs to be reviewed to assess its impact.

Even though nearly all children are accessing education, many are still not able to read or perform simple mathematical calculations by the end of the junior primary phase. Furthermore, school-based learning assessments have not adequately prioritized the needs of learners with special needs and those with disabilities, impacting tracking progress towards achieving SDG 4.

The foundations of the education system are weak as there is limited access to ECD, especially for children with disabilities and those from vulnerable and marginalized communities, such as San and Himba children. Additionally, the limited number of qualified educators, poor ECD centers infrastructure, and lack of play-based materials and informed curriculum mean that the few children aged 0-8 years accessing ECD often are exposed to inappropriate or poor-quality learning, resulting in high repetition rates in Grade 1.

Higher Education

According to Vision 2030, higher education in Namibia aims to address two challenges by the year 2030: 1) transforming Namibia into a knowledge-based economy, and 2) reaching a quality of life equal to the standard of living in developed countries (GRN, 2004). The country continues to widen access to university education through equity and inclusion by making funding available for both undergraduate and postgraduate programs. Namibia's gross enrolment ratio (GER) in tertiary education is high by Southern African standards. By 2013, Namibia reached a GER of 19.0 percent, much higher than the average ratio for sub-Saharan Africa and ratios in many other Southern African countries. Namibia's higher education system has expanded rapidly since Independence, especially in the last decade. However, the country still has only two public universities, the University of Namibia (UNAM) and the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), and one private university, the International University of Management (IUM), besides other private higher education institutions. However, challenges around access, quality, and relevance need to be addressed.

To widen access to university education through equity and inclusion, Namibia exceeded the target of funding 8,800 undergraduate students and funded 10,888 students in 2018. However, this figure declined significantly by 47% from the number of students funded in the 2017/18 Financial Year (VNR: 2021).

To strengthen research capacity at higher learning institutions, the target to fund 550 postgraduate students enrolled in Masters and Doctoral Degrees programs at public universities was exceeded as 1,181 postgraduate students, both at public and private institutions, were funded, allowing graduates to add value to economic needs and create necessary jobs.

According to the World Bank, higher education is the main driver of the economy. It fuels competitiveness and growth through research and innovation, and failure to sustain effective tertiary systems can lead to perilous social upheavals, as youth fall outside the education system, are unable to engage in active learning, and become uncertain about the future of their education and prospects. With the onset of COVID-19, the drive to harness the dividend in investing in education in general and in higher education for socioeconomic development in Africa received yet another setback with the closure of schools and higher institutions. The closure affected learning, teaching, research, innovation, education outcomes, and financial stability. The demand for higher education in Sub-Saharan Africa continues to grow in educating the current and future generation of leaders, driving the research agenda for the public and private sectors, and playing a critical role in shaping national economies (HESI, 2020). However, tertiary intakes remain low in Sub-Saharan Africa due to lack of opportunities, inadequate infrastructure, and affordability and accessibility of educational facilities (United Nations, 2018). While education remains a catalyst for access to the world of work and better livelihoods, education and training systems seem inadequate to prepare students for the world of work and remain negatively affected socially and economically.

TVET

Namibia has a comprehensive policy and institutional framework for Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI). According to the VNR report (2021), there are currently eight public Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) across all regions of Namibia and 85 privately registered VTCs. To make TVET more accessible, Namibia targeted enrolling 36,000 trainees by 2022 according to the NDP5. The Government is upgrading and expanding existing VTCs and modernising the national TVET curriculum.

The national system of innovation has grown in size and complexity but lacks scientific and technological dynamism. Dominated by public institutions, investment in research and development (R&D) suffers

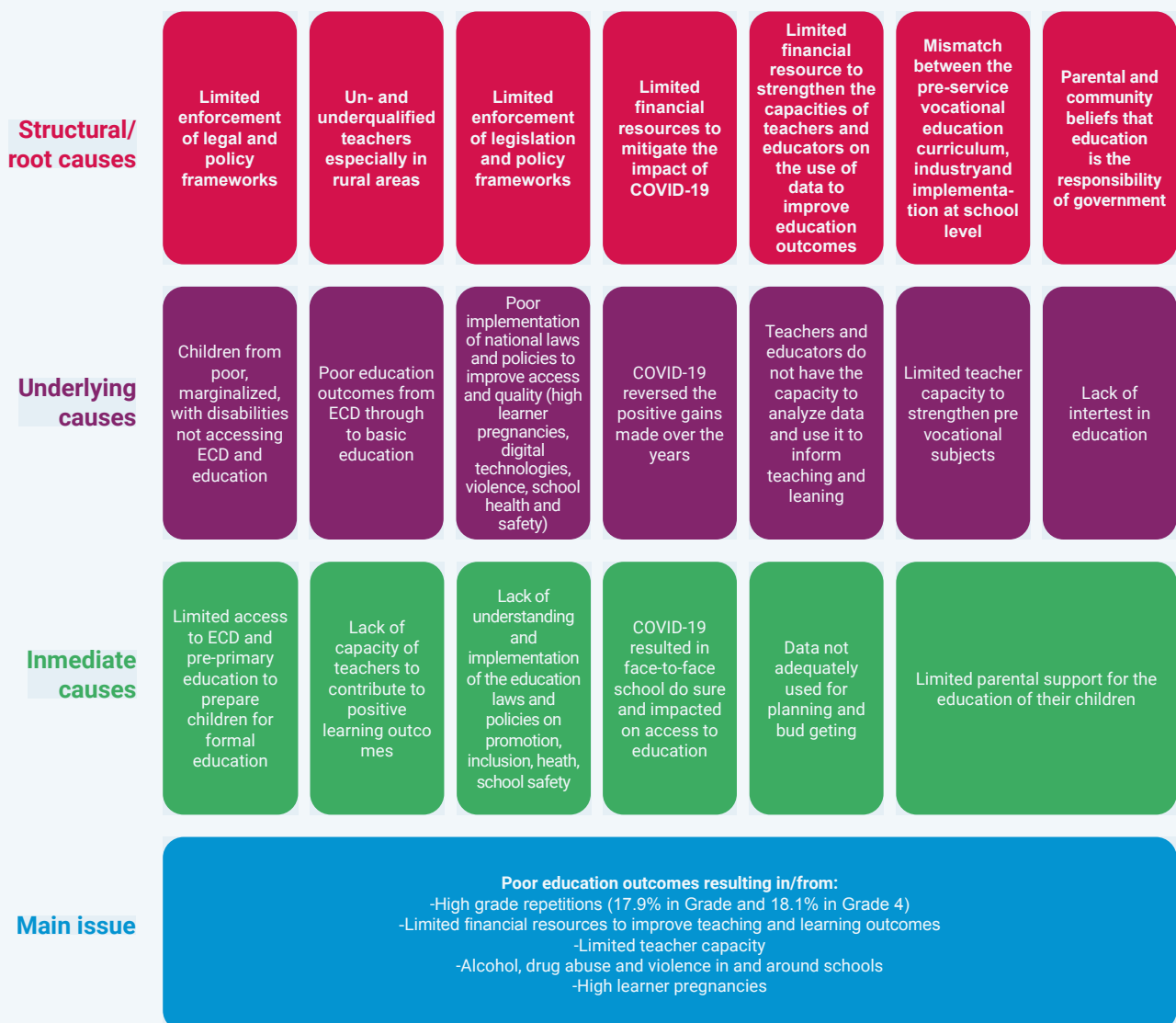


from low levels of funding (gross expenditure on R&D represented 0.14 percent of GDP in 2010) and staffing (Namibia had 433 R&D personnel in 2010) and files limited numbers of patents, industrial design registrations, and trademarks. A weak entrepreneurial and innovation culture is a barrier to job creation and economic diversification in Namibia, requiring strong partnerships. The incoherence of policies, their long gestation, and poor implementation undermine the system. Meanwhile, private sector participation in R&D and innovation is limited and often not linked to universities and R&D institutes (UNESCO 2016).

Namibia's TVET system has insufficient capacity to meet the demand for training of individuals and does not supply the skills necessary for the expansion and

diversification of the economy into new growth sectors such as ICTs, renewable energy, and green hydrogen. Existing TVET institutions do not constitute a comprehensive and consistent network, and the system lacks leadership and strategic directions aligned with Namibia's development goals. Under existing governance and financing arrangements involving the Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation (MHETI) and several central government agencies, the mandates of agencies overlap and do not ensure the separation of key functions (policy setting, oversight, and delivery), while VET institutions lack autonomy. Meanwhile, the involvement of the private sector appears insufficient, in terms of governance, contribution to curriculum development, and contribution to delivery.

Figure 20: Problem Tree for Quality Education



Climate change and resilience and cross border issues

Even though data is not available, anecdotal information point to high numbers of migrant children crossing the Angolan border to attend school in Namibia, though specific data is not available. However, children with official refugee status are enrolled in public schools and their data is captured and integrated into the Education Management Information System (EMIS) reports.

COVID-19 has demonstrated the chasm between the rich and the poor in terms of access and quality of service provision, including respect for the fundamental right to education as an empowerment right. The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to regression in education gains made over the previous decade as many children dropped out of school. The increased dropout rate was driven by the majority of learners lacking access to ICTs in education and limited support for learners with hearing and visual impairments during the school closure, as well as increased levels of learner pregnancy. Additionally, no education system is effective unless it promotes the health and well-being of its students, staff, and community. These links between education and health became more visible and compelling during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic resulted in learning losses when many children could not access online learning portals, particularly in rural and remote areas. As a result of the pandemic, vulnerability to social ills, such as sexual assault and gender-based violence, have also been exacerbated⁸⁷. The prolonged closure of schools prevented many primary school learners from having school meals and significantly increased the rates of stress, anxiety, and other mental health issues. In addition to the impact of COVID-19 on teaching and learning, climate change continues to affect access to education, especially in flood-prone regions such as Zambezi and those affected by drought such as Kunene.

Furthermore, young children from farming, marginalized, and pastoral communities experienced many of the climate change shocks, with more children being removed from ECD centers as families try to cope with environmental changes by moving their residences.

⁸⁷ Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture reported that 3 600 schoolgirls fell pregnant during the Covid-19-imposed lockdown from March to July 2020.

6.4.3 Opportunity for SDGs Acceleration: Optimising available financing and stakeholder opportunities

The Namibian government provides significant domestic resources to the education sector; however, much of it is absorbed by the high wage bill in the sector. Areas such as ECD and pre-primary remain grossly underfunded, with limited textbooks and learning support materials, and inadequate school and ECD infrastructure compared to personnel costs. These conditions infringe on the right to education, and the government should continue domestic resource mobilisation efforts to close funding gaps in this important sector. To bridge the education financing gap, there is a call for meaningful private sector support to education through developing a national framework on corporate social responsibility. Financial prioritisation, accountability, and management should be reinforced at all levels of the education sector to ensure efficient allocation and utilisation of these resources. Having achieved high levels of access, a framework for parental and community resource mobilisation needs to be developed to ensure equitable quality education.

Investing in arts and culture represents an investment in the limitless creativity of individuals and enriches societies and economies, creating opportunities for community building, lifelong learning, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship, and employment. While arts and culture is a massive economic sector globally, the ways in which investments in the arts can pay off are hard to predict. Therefore, there is a need for the education sector to emphasize the value of the cultural and creative industry towards the Namibian economy.

Gender inequality and discrimination against girls, indigenous children, and children with disabilities should be eradicated from all levels of education. GBV and bullying in schools should be addressed, while active measures should be taken to ensure greater participation of girls in STEM fields of study. Adequate sanitation facilities must be provided for girls and young women at schools and education facilities. Moreover, children and young people with disabilities must be enabled to participate in an inclusive education system at all levels.

A start has been made on dealing with the disparity between the supply and demand of teachers, which is contributing to poor teaching and learning outcomes, but more needs to be done to align the subject and phase-specific supply of newly qualified teachers with the demand in schools.



6.5 Health

Namibia recognizes that health is a fundamental human right and is committed to achieving health for all Namibians. Namibia has made improvements in the health sector, which can be demonstrated by the increase in life expectancy, with projections showing a high of 64 years in 2019, which is higher than the average life expectancy at birth of 62 years in the Sub-Saharan Africa region.

6.5.1 Status and Trends

Namibians face several main health and well-being issues. These include high maternal, newborn, and child mortality, malaria, HIV, and TB-related diseases, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental health conditions with high suicide rates, cardiovascular and metabolic disorders, and high deaths from road traffic accidents. HIV remains the leading cause of death in Namibia, with adolescent girls dis-

proportionately acquiring new infections every year (incidence three times higher than the national average of 0.36%). The maternal mortality ratio for 2020 is estimated at 215 deaths per 100,000 live births⁸⁸. Deaths among under-1-year-olds have reduced marginally over the years but not enough to reach considerable levels, with neonatal mortality accounting for almost half of all under-five deaths. While communicable diseases remain the leading causes of death, there has been an increasing trend in NCDs, trauma, and injuries as causes of death. COVID-19 emerged in the past two years - from 2020 and 2021 as a major cause of illness and deaths in Namibia, at its peak.

⁸⁸ Internationally comparable MMR estimates by the Maternal Mortality Inter-Agency Group (MMEIG): WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and the United Nations Population Division (2023)



Namibia's health system is pluralistic, with a combination of public and private sectors. The public sector is the main provider of health services, serving up to 80% of the population, while less than 20% of Namibians are covered by medical aid schemes and have access to private health care services. Household expenditure on health has remained consistently below the country's threshold at 20% of household consumption expenditure. The public sector has a three-tiered structure consisting of facility and outreach levels (primary), district health (secondary), and referral hospital level (tertiary) health services. The formal health system structure is linked with community systems through outreach points and health extension workers or community health workers/volunteers who work mostly at the community level. In this context, another challenge to be considered is the country's sparse population, which makes it difficult to provide appropriate and commensurate health services, especially in rural areas.

There has been progressive improvement in health service accessibility and utilisation over time, and access to health care has improved over the years as 76% of the population in the country lives within the WHO-recommended 10 km radius of a health facility.

The Government has dedicated an increasing share of its expenditure towards health, including investing in essential equipment for health facilities, and renovating and building new infrastructure around the country such as clinics, health centres, and hospitals. Namibia scored well in terms of government budget allocation to the health sector, which stood at 15% in 2017/2018 according to the Health Sector Performance Review (MoHSS, 2022), above the average for upper-middle-income countries.⁸⁹ However, investment in promotive and preventive health care remains low, below 10%. Community health workers have also been recruited, trained, and placed in communities in all regions of the country, and the overall health worker-population ratio has consistently remained above the WHO benchmark with 3 health workers per 1,000 population.

Efforts have also been made to address issues of health equity, including making public healthcare affordable for vulnerable groups by adopting a waiver fee policy. Marginalised groups such as asylum seekers and refugees are not discriminated against when

it comes to accessing healthcare services, although undocumented persons (including undocumented non-nationals) face significant barriers in trying to access health care. Namibia is also addressing the medical and social needs of persons with disabilities through the provision of rehabilitative services, although women with disabilities continue to struggle to access health care services, including sexual and reproductive health services⁹⁰. San women and girls – especially in rural areas – continue to face barriers in accessing health services.⁹¹

In recognising the central role of Primary Health Care (PHC) in improving health outcomes, the Health Sector Performance Review further recommends improvements in PHC financing through⁹²:

- **Defining the country's own primary health care package that can be costed and then tracked annually to assess the trends in budget allocation as well as expenditure.**
- **Recognising the efforts of the Community Health Workers, and not only expand their scope, but also remunerate them well and fully adopt them within the structures of the Ministry.**
- **Strengthening the referral system can only be done successfully if the PHC service packages are fully funded. This will stem the unnecessary movement of patients from clinics to the hospitals, which often burdens the higher levels of care resulting in unnecessary inefficiencies.**
- **With the constrained fiscal space, the country should look at strengthening its allocative and technical efficiencies through:**
 - Developing a regional resource allocation formula that will enable the channeling of more targeted resources to the PHC level.
 - Integration of vertical programmes to enable economies of scale and reduce unnecessary transaction costs.
 - Strengthening the pharmaceuticals supply chain to allow cost efficient supply and equitable distribution.

⁸⁹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.XPD.GHED.GD.ZS?end=2019&locations=XT-NA&start=2000&view=chart>

⁹⁰ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 47.

⁹¹ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 49.

⁹² Ministry of Health and Social Services, *Health Sector Performance Review: Brief on Primary Health Care Expenditure, 2022*



A recent review of the community-based health care system to inform the ongoing revision of the community-based health care (CHBC) policy highlights that since the 2008 CBHC Policy⁹³, Namibia has made significant investments in community health, especially through the introduction of the Health Extension Programme in 2013. However, inadequate resource allocation has hindered full and effective implementation of the programme. Funding for CBHC needs to be increased to address gaps in policy implementation, particularly concerning deployment, training and supportive supervision of health extension workers, coordination, mechanisms for community participation, and community-based supply and information systems.

6.5.2 Barrier 4: Limited access to quality and affordable healthcare

Access to health care facilities and services

Namibia is a vast country with diverse geographic features and has one of the lowest population densities in the world, with 2.8 people per square kilometre⁹⁴. According to the World Bank (2022), 48.9% live in rural communities. Namibia's geographical characteristics, coupled with low population density, pose a significant challenge to access to healthcare, particularly in rural areas. The recent health system review report (2022) by the Ministry of Health and Social Services highlighted the lack of actualisation of the decentralisation law and policy, resulting in limited access to basic health services, particularly in rural areas. Although access to health care appears to have improved over the years, approximately 24% of the country's population lives beyond a 10 km radius of a health facility and has geographic barriers, especially in rural areas (58%)⁹⁵, and almost half of the population must travel more than five kilometers to reach a health facility.

Although the country has adopted the primary health care approach to try to address access, there is a lack of a clear definition of this approach, and the organisation of health services favors the higher levels of care. Health services, human and financial resources are skewed towards curative services, and less on promotive and preventive services at the lower levels of care. This affects access for the population to promotive and preventive services such as immunisation, infectious disease prevention, and sexual and

reproductive health interventions, particularly for adolescents and young people. Furthermore, the community health platform, developed to bring services closer to underserved communities, is constrained by the inadequacy of the workforce, low retention, and the quality of support supervision.

While community health workers have expanded health care access to underserved communities, the community health worker per population ratio is currently not measured. However, in 2018, WHO/GHO estimated that Namibia had five community health workers per 5,000 population. Of concern is that only an estimated 5% of the poorest households have used the services of community health workers⁹⁶, pointing to challenges with targeting of the community health platform's service delivery. The Ministry of Health and Social Services is currently revising the 2008 National Policy on Community-Based Health Care. The revised policy forms the basis for the implementation of the CBHC programme and considers national progress and challenges raised by an evaluation of the community health worker (CHW) programme in Namibia and by a wide range of stakeholders consulted during policy review in 2022. It recognizes CBHC and primary health care as universal rights essential for a healthy nation. The overall goal of the CBHC Policy is to improve preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative health service delivery to all people in Namibia, through integrated, participatory, and sustainable community-based health care, towards the attainment of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Although the National Referral Policy (2013) describes the ideal referral procedures in line with the PHC approach, client/patient movement across the levels of care remains a challenge. Some clients bypass the formal referral systems due to a lack of proper gate-keeping mechanisms in the systems, clients' lack of confidence with lower levels, and the proximity of service delivery units, convenience, and incapacity. This overburdens higher-level facilities (regional/intermediate and national hospitals) with needs that could be addressed more efficiently at the lower levels. There is also some form of "expert movement" outreach – where some specialized staff would move to offer specialized services at lower-level facilities, however, this is not working

⁹³ On-going: revision of the Community Based Health Care Policy

⁹⁴ NSA, Namibia Inter-censal Demographic Survey 2016 Report.

⁹⁵ Ministry of Health and Social Services (2022) Health Sector Performance Review

⁹⁶ Ministry of Health and Social Services, Health Sector Performance Review: synthesis report, 2022 (draft)

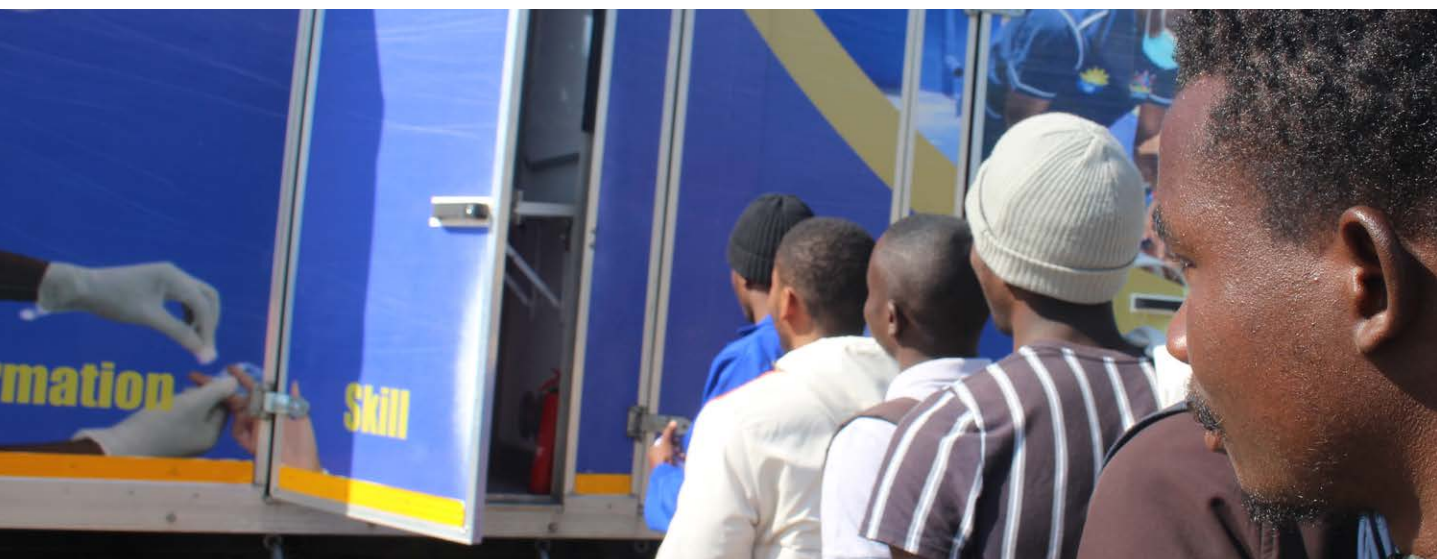
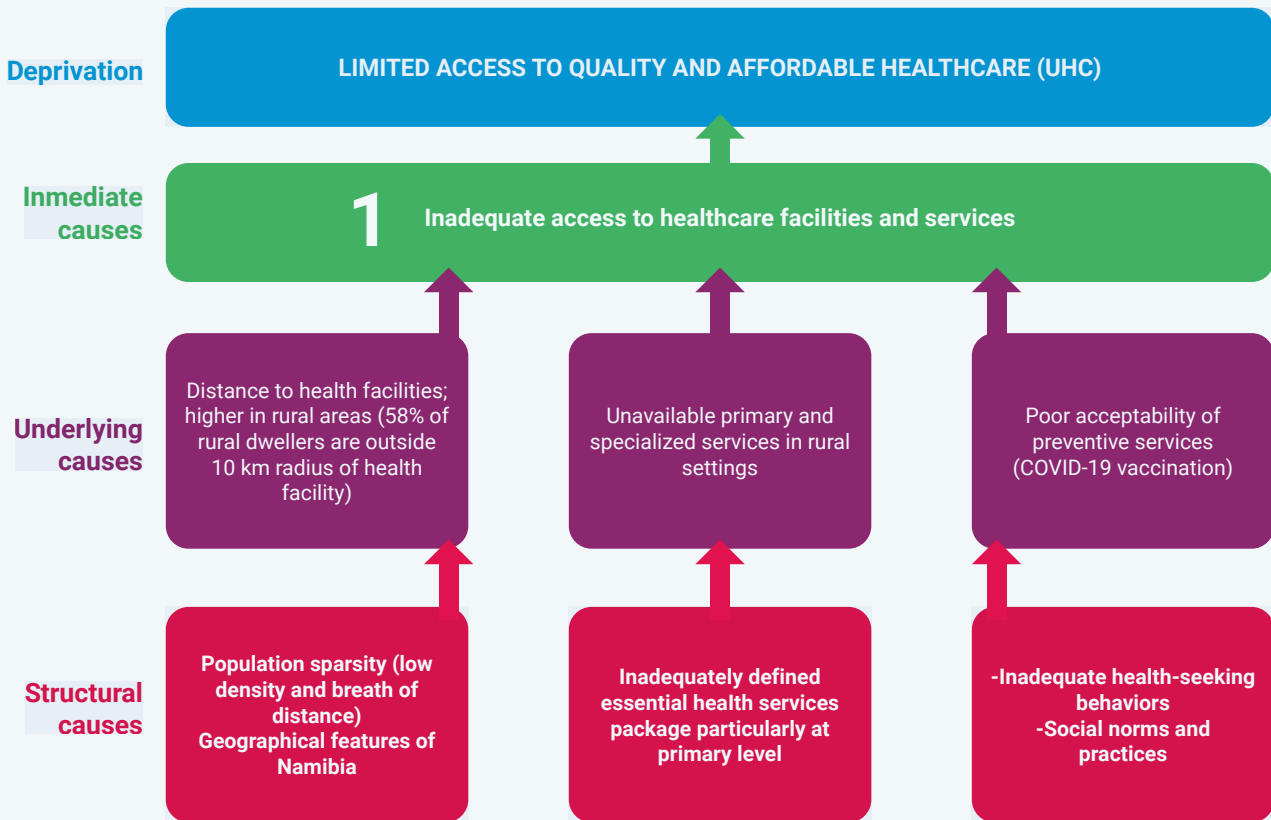


effectively. This results in inequitable access to health care, particularly for rural and underserved communities.

There are several weaknesses in the system and other challenges that affect the delivery of services including vaccination, especially at the periphery. While immunisation coverage for children under five years

has shown improvements with better performance on Pentavalent (DPT3) dose 3 coverage at 87%, it remains generally low with low performance on Measles Containing Vaccine dose 2 as low as 56%. In addition to the health system challenges, acceptability of the COVID-19 vaccine has also been a challenge with only 27% of the population being vaccinated to date.

Figure 21: Problem Tree for Access to Health Care





Various challenges regarding the right to health remain. These include the criminalisation of abortion, with exceptions made only in cases of threat to the life of the pregnant woman or the child, and when the pregnancy is the result of rape, leading to limited access to safe abortion services or post-abortion care. Furthermore, there is a decrease in the number of women who have access to antenatal care services and an increasing number of reported cases of abusive behaviour by health care workers during labour and delivery. Additionally, despite contraceptives being freely available in public health facilities, contraceptive use remains low. Women who face intersecting and multiple forms of disadvantage – such as women with disabilities, indigenous women, and lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex women – encounter more challenges in accessing sexual and reproductive health care. Inequality in access to health care also manifests in disproportionately high rates of new HIV infections among women and girls. There is also a “lack of information on the prevalence of forced sterilisations of HIV-positive women in the State party and that section 4 of the Abortion and Sterilisation Act (Act No.2 of 1975) allows for sterilisation of women without their consent under certain conditions”.⁹⁷

Namibia has made significant progress with the 95-95-95 UNAIDS targets: 99-94 and achieved a TB treatment success rate of 88%. By 2022, 92% of all people living with HIV knew their HIV status, 99% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection receive sustained antiretroviral therapy, and 94% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy had viral suppression. Although Namibia is on track for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, adolescent girls disproportionately acquire new infections every year, with the incidence being three times higher than the national average. New HIV infections persist during breastfeeding, and almost a quarter of infected infants are diagnosed late. Women are more affected by HIV infections than men, with HIV prevalence among women aged 15-49 at 15.1% compared to 8.4% among men in the same age group. Additionally, new HIV infections are still high, with more than 6,600 new infections in 2021 and more than 2,900 AIDS-related deaths in the same year. The sex worker population is estimated to be 4,000, with a high rate of HIV infection

at 29.9%⁹⁸. HIV treatment coverage remains lower for children (81%) compared to adults (91%), making children more susceptible to HIV-related mortality.

The expansion of the HIV treatment differentiated models has enabled recipients of care to access services that meet their needs and preferences within communities through community adherence groups (CAGs) and other outreach models while decongesting facilities to manage more complicated cases. The country adapted and expanded the community antiretroviral therapy (ART) outreach model towards comprehensive community-based health services, which enabled access to a wide range of services beyond the HIV service package. These efforts have been led by civil society organisations. However, due to limited funding, local CBOs are no longer able to play a meaningful role in HIV care, and only a few international NGOs play this role, leading to challenges in following up those lost to care. (*Report: End-term Review of the National Strategic Framework for HIV and AIDS Response in Namibia 2017/18 to 2021/22, Ministry of Health and Social Services*).

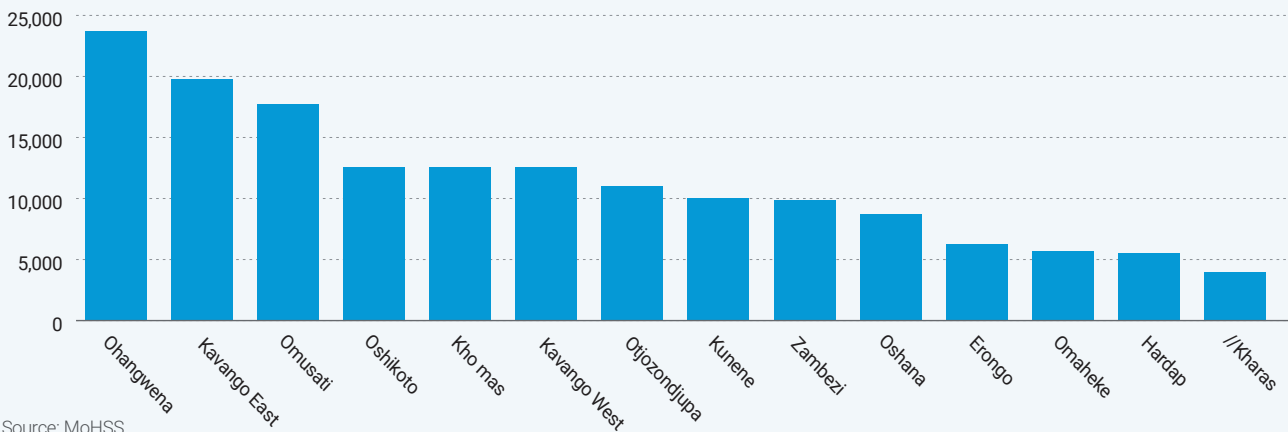
Although Namibia has experienced a significant increase in the delivery and uptake of contraceptives, particularly modern contraceptives, the high level of teenage pregnancy remains a major concern. The national teenage pregnancy rate stands at 19%, suggesting that one in five adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 years have begun childbearing. This has resulted in a high number of unsafe abortions, with recent data suggesting that unsafe abortions may have reached 7,000 in 2017 and accounted for about 12% to 16% of maternal deaths.

The Namibia Investment Case on Family Planning suggested a high-impact scenario for family planning: \$16 per unintended pregnancy averted, \$77 per unsafe abortion averted, and \$7,900 per maternal death averted. Unmet need for family planning will decline from 15.2% to 5.1% if the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) is increased to 80% by 2030. Labour costs (\$8.72 million) constitute two-thirds of the total \$13.1 million cost, while drugs and supply costs account for 13.6% at \$1.78 million.

⁹⁷ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 41, with recommendations set out in para 42.

⁹⁸ UNAIDS, *Country factsheet: Namibia* (2021) <<https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/namibia>>.

Figure 22: Teenage pregnancies in Namibia between 2010 and 2022



Source: MoHSS

Inadequate quality of health care

Inadequate quality of care is reflected in inadequate outcomes even where access is high. For instance, in relation to a key SDG indicator such as neonatal mortality, 88% of births occur in health care facilities, yet neonatal mortality has stagnated around 20 per 1,000 live births⁹⁹ and accounts for almost half of all under-five deaths. The primary causes of neonatal deaths are asphyxia, prematurity, and sepsis, pointing to quality-of-care challenges at and around the time of birth, as well as inadequate antenatal and postnatal care services. The maternal mortality ratio

and under-five mortality rates have shown a positive decline over the past years, though insufficient to attain the SDG targets¹⁰⁰.

Socio-economic elements still play a significant role in health. In 2013, the NDHS found that out of the average of 88% of live births attended by a skilled provider in a health facility during the five years preceding the survey, only 73 percent of births to women in the lowest wealth quintile were delivered by a skilled provider, in contrast to 98 percent of births to women in the highest quintile¹⁰¹.

99 United Nations Interagency Group on Child mortality Estimation, 2021

100 <https://dashboards.sdindex.org/profiles/namibia>
101 DHS 2013, MOHSS

Figure 23: Problem Tree for Access to Quality Health Care

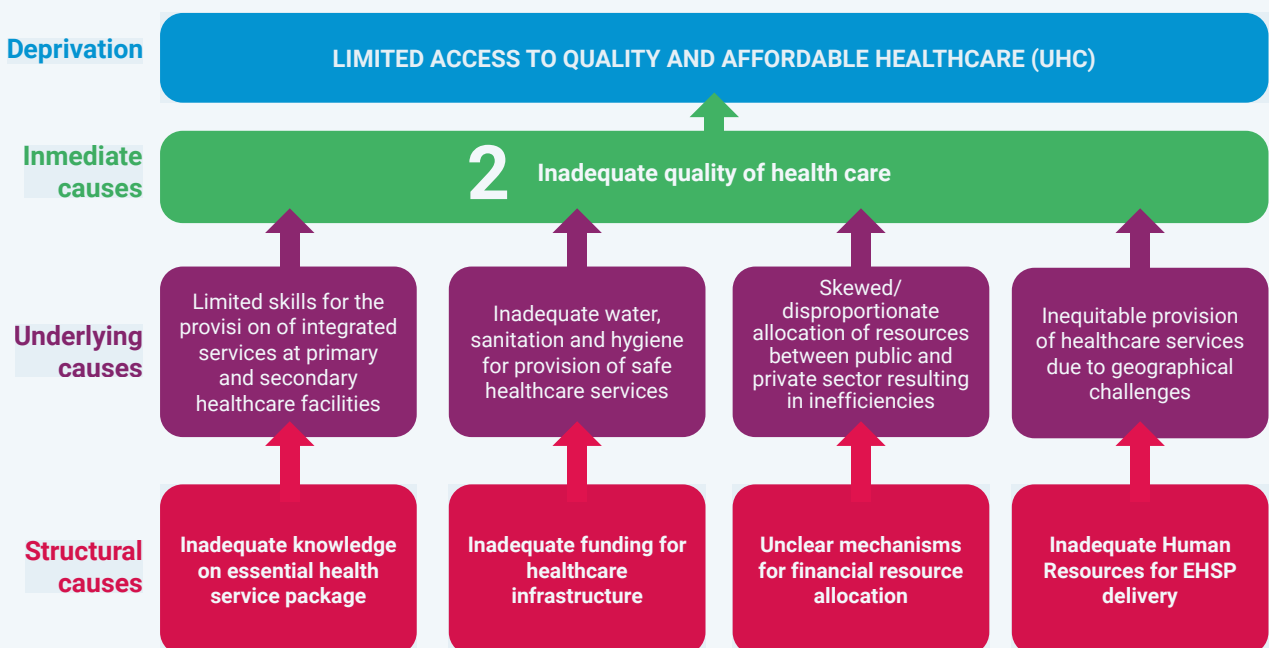
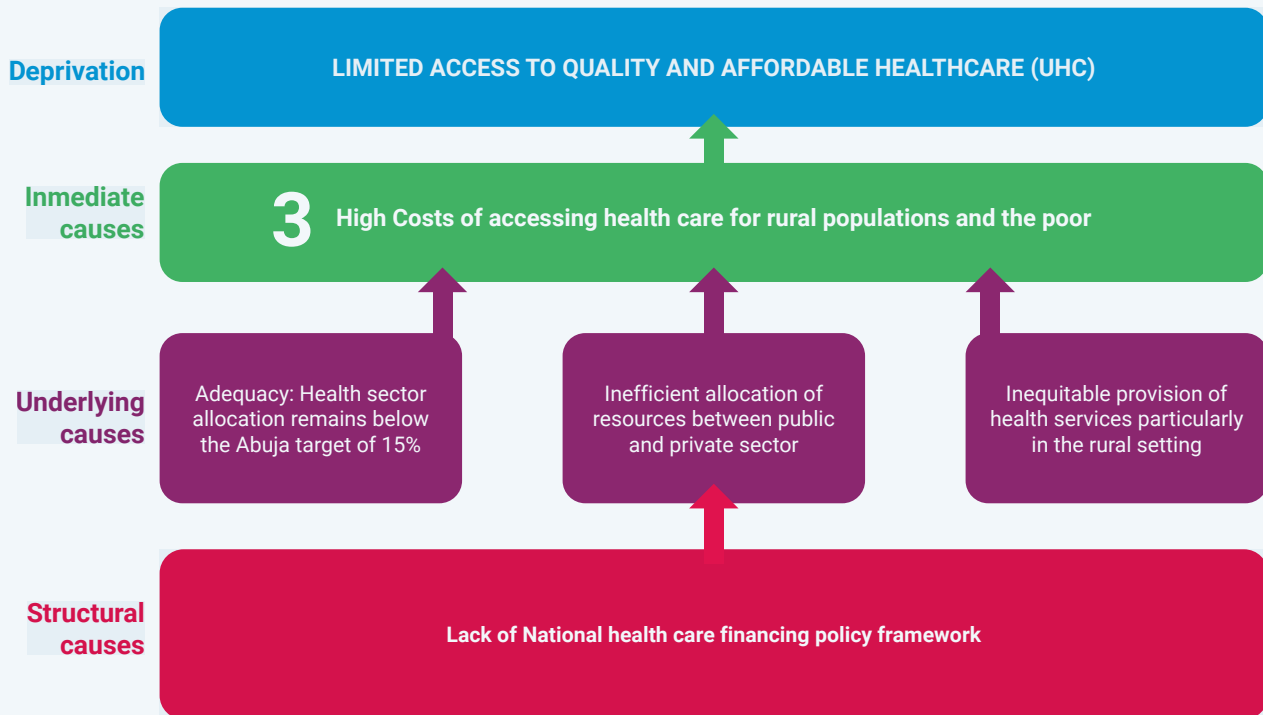




Figure 24: Problem tree for High Costs of Health Care



High Costs of accessing health care for rural populations and the poor

The poorest are more likely not to access health services due to the travel distances that make it difficult to reach the facilities, and they remain under-served by the community health system. Access to health services is further compounded by high levels of socio-economic inequalities, making out-of-pocket and transactional costs for accessing health services unaffordable, particularly related to travel costs to reach distant services. For instance, pregnant women often have to use waiting homes far from their families to deliver in district or referral hospitals, as health centres do not routinely provide basic obstetric services. This inadequacy in maternal services at PHC facilities overburdens hospitals, compromising quality of care and creating complexities for post-natal follow-up at the community level when women return to their homes.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has also derailed gains achieved over the years by several health programs due to challenges faced by both health care service providers and the beneficiaries of those services. The pandemic revealed gaps in health sector preparedness for public health emergencies and exposed the vulnerability of communities due to

reduced access to essential health services during emergencies. Over the past two years (2020 – 2021), acute malnutrition cases have increased, outreach services to the most underserved have been significantly curtailed, leaving many communities vulnerable. Routine vaccine availability has been interrupted, resulting in drastic reductions in oral polio vaccination coverage between 2019 and 2021 and observed challenges in the supply chain, which increased stockouts of family planning commodities and led to high unintended pregnancies. The interruption of essential services has contributed to outbreaks of measles, scabies (which interrupted schools), and typhoid fever.

Reports from MOHSS routine data show that interruptions to essential services due to the COVID-19 pandemic have led to an increase in unintended pregnancies among adolescent girls, admissions of women seeking abortion care increased by 58%, and use of services for gender-based violence declined by 53%. This highlights low condom use and high age-disparate sexual relationships. Namibia is among the highest alcohol consumption countries in Africa, and unpublished reports from other countries suggest that alcohol consumption likely increased during the COVID-19 lockdowns even with restricted formal access to alcohol.

Data

The health sector faces major challenges with the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, and reliability of the data, thus affecting the monitoring of the population's access to quality and affordable health services. These challenges are further exacerbated by the limited use of the multisectoral reporting platform, leading to limited qualitative and complete reporting, especially data from civil society organisations and the private sector. Periodic reviews and assessments are not being regularly undertaken, including the Demographic Health Survey, National AIDS Spending Assessment, and other critical reviews and assessments to inform decision-making.

Climate Change and Resilience

National data indicates that the uptake of essential health services and health outcomes have been deteriorating due to multiple emergency situations related to climate change, which have worsened since April 2021. The increasing hardship is associated with higher rates of malnutrition in children, and increasing reports of mental health conditions, suicide attempts, and risky sexual behaviour, particularly among young people. As presented in the area of affordable and safe food, the rapid urbanisation

process has put more pressure on urban health facilities while creating a fertile ground for disease outbreaks in urban informal settlements, especially related to limited access to sanitation.

Cross-border issues

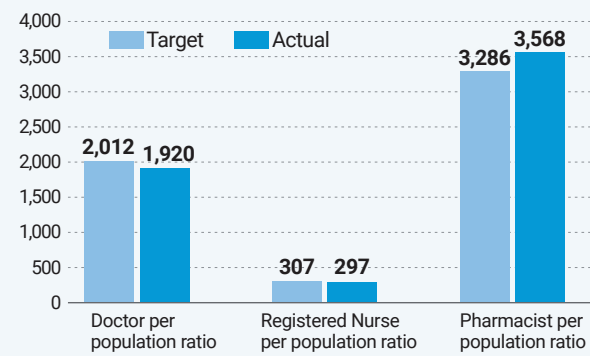
Namibia shares borders with five countries, and issues faced by cross-border populations remain one of the main challenges, especially along the Angolan-Namibia border. This is specifically related to the provision of health services and the recent influx of "economic displaced populations" from Angola. MOUs between Namibia and her neighbours are outdated and need updating.

Namibia is yet to meet the required capacity for cross-border measures to prevent and respond to the risk of cross-border transmission of infectious hazards. Key challenges are the lack of adequate infrastructure, human resources, and equipment to screen, provide needed information, isolate, and provide adequate medical support to travellers who are ill and weak. Out of the 35 border crossing points, only about 13 are designated crossing points, which also lack capacity and do not meet International Health Regulations (IHR) core capacity for border crossing points.



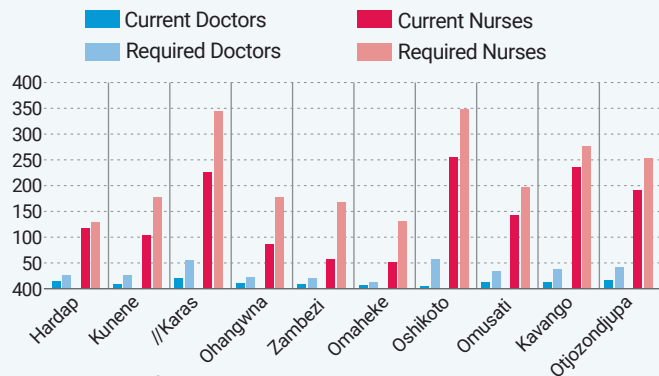


Figure 25: Health workers density and distribution 2019/2020



Source: Ministry of Health and Social Services

Figure 26: Distribution of health workers by region 2019



Source: Ministry of Health and Social Services

6.5.3 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Health financing, health outcomes, ICT, education

Health Financing

Within the constrained fiscal space, government funding remains the main source of health funding in Namibia. However, most of the funding is spent on wages and pharmaceuticals, whose supply chain systems need to be enhanced, with the wage bill accounting for the most funding. Government funding has also remained inequitable, and without a resource allocation formula to address inequities, resource distribution between the 14 regions of the country will remain skewed and unstructured. Furthermore, Programme Based Budgeting (PBB) has not provided the government with the necessary tool to reconfigure the health expenditure landscape to fully support the Public Finance Management System (PFMS). The still undeveloped PBB framework has made it difficult to align Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) expenditures with core health programmes, such as curative care, public health, policy and planning, and primary health care. Expenditure has therefore remained defined by historical levels of care instead of programmes, making it difficult to estimate expenditure for primary health care interventions. Regarding accountability, the Government is yet to fully roll out and strengthen its PFMS at the lower levels in order to give FDC holders a full view of the fund flows and accountability to and from the revenue sources.¹⁰²

According to the Investment Case on ending unmet need for family planning and ending GBV by UNFPA, the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) increased from 23% in 1992 to about 61% in 2020. The modern contraceptive prevalence rate increased from 21% to 58% within the same period. The proportion of

married women with unmet need for family planning declined from 24% in 1992 to 15% in 2019. Despite these increases in the CPR, there are still women unable to access these services.

Healthcare Outcomes

Namibia has achieved universal Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission (PMTCT) coverage: 99 percent of pregnant women attend at least one antenatal care visit, and over 98 percent of HIV-infected pregnant women are being started on anti-retroviral treatment (ART). Yet, the vertical transmission rate of Mother to Child Transmission (MTCT) including breastfeeding increased from 3.8% in 2020 to 4.6% in 2021. These infections contribute to around 500 annual new HIV infections among children 0-14 years. HIV infections among infants primarily occur during breastfeeding due to new maternal infections and missed treatment opportunities during this stage.

Although the health worker/population ratio has consistently remained above the WHO benchmark of 2.5 health workers per 1,000 population (6.0), distribution is inequitable, with the majority of health workers and the most skilled concentrated in urban areas and the private sector. This affects the quality of care for people accessing public facilities, particularly in rural areas, as the human resources numbers and skills mix are not adequate to meet the health needs. Averages across the different positions sometimes hide the unequal distribution: Namibia's set target of the doctor-to-population ratio of 1:2012 was exceeded by the 2019/2020 financial year as the 1:1920 doctor-to-population ratio was realized. In the same vein, and within the same financial year, the registered nurse per population ratio was 1:297 against the target of 1:307. However, the target for pharmacist per patient ratio of 1:3286 was not met, as 1:3568 was recorded in the same financial year.

¹⁰² Ministry of Health and Social Services, Health Sector Performance Review Findings (stream 2), 2022

The budget allocated to pharmaceuticals supply in the country has increased significantly over the years and now stands at 10% of total health expenditure (N\$15B). However, there are major challenges with the efficiency of the procurement system, thus affecting cost and access to medicines and the quality of care provided. This has resulted in frequent stock-outs of contraceptives and medicines, including the challenges being experienced in the supply chain and ensuring access to commodities and medicines to the last mile.

Government health expenditure funding reached the 2015 Abuja Declaration target only in 2017/18, and the investment in the sector is highly inequitable¹⁰³. While the country has a comparatively higher per capita expenditure compared to its peers in Sub-Saharan Africa, 38% of this investment went towards private health expenditures, disproportionately supporting a sector that only covers 20% of the total population. Resource allocation to regions remains largely inequitable. At 7%, preventive services have the lowest share of health care expenditure¹⁰⁴.

Innovation, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

The country has a disease surveillance and response system, with a well-established Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), which is implementing comprehensive International Health Regulations (IHR). Nevertheless, weaknesses in the community- and event-based surveillance and their linkages to the facility-based surveillance pose a threat to early warning systems for disease detection in the country. Multi-sectoral early warning climate systems and information sharing to project and prepare for floods, droughts, and other climate incidents need to be strengthened to inform climate-resilient health interventions at the facility and community level.

Reliable electricity is critical to enable basic primary healthcare, store and deliver vaccines and other medication, ensure clean water and sanitation facilities, create a comfortable learning environment, and offer essential services to meet the needs of children and their families during the day and at night. There is a need to position the health sector to leverage the green hydrogen economy for renewable energy to facilitate reliable electricity in rural health facilities.

¹⁰³ Ministry of Health and Social Services. April 2020. Namibia Resource Tracking for Health and HIV: 2017/18. Windhoek, Namibia.

¹⁰⁴ Health Sector Performance Review 2010/-2019/20; Brief on Primary Health Care Expenditure

Solar solutions can also span multiple sectors (i.e., promoting solar solutions for water and sanitation, public spaces, schools, and health facilities) to enhance climate change resilience.

Education and awareness raising

There is an urgent need for greater education and awareness-raising on the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health rights. Meaningful education on the right to health can also root out discrimination and barriers to access faced by San peoples, people in rural areas, women and girls, people with disabilities, LGBTQI persons, and undocumented persons. Furthermore, education on SRHR can help reduce teenage pregnancies and thereby lead to better health and education outcomes. Teachers and school communities can be educated and empowered to ensure that suitable sanitation facilities and sanitary products are made available to girls in schools, while education can also help increase modern contraception uptake.

6.6 Clean water and sanitation

Access to safe potable water remains a critical commitment by the Government. NDP5 established to achieve by the end of the 2021/22 Financial Year, the following national targets of 100% and 95%, respectively, in urban and rural areas.

6.6.1 Status and trends

According to the Multidimensional Poverty Index Report 2021, 40.4% of Namibia's population still lacks appropriate sanitation, and 11.4% of the population remains deprived of access to clean drinking water. (Figure 27).

An estimated 87% of households have access to improved water supply, yet not all members of society have access to safe drinking water, especially in rural areas. Twenty-four percent of Namibian households must cover between 1-2 km, and almost 1% must travel more than 5 km to fetch drinking water. It is common to turn to unsafe drinking water resources to avoid this distance. Besides, the responsibility for collecting water falls mostly on women (37.4%) and girls (6.7%) in rural areas, impacting their overall productivity and children's ability to attend school.

The 2019 SDG Baseline Report highlights Namibia's sanitation challenge: 51% of the population has access to improved sanitation, while 46% (26% urban



and 70% rural) practice open defecation (OD). In urban areas, sanitation coverage has decreased, while OD has increased from 21% to 26% between 2013 and 2016. The Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) data of 2021 shows a reduction of 0.4% in OD between 2000 and 2020, indicating that the country is off track to eliminate OD by 2030. The 2021 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Report established that sanitation is the second largest indicator, contributing to multidimensional poverty at 68.9% for the total population and 72.7% among children. High OD and poor hygiene practices pose a great public health risk, as demonstrated by a protracted outbreak of Hepatitis E between October 2017 and March 2022. A total of 7,983 cases and 66 deaths, of which 27 were maternal deaths, with a case fatality rate of 0.8% were reported. Most of the cases emanated from informal settlements characterized by poor WASH services. In addition, the high stunting rate (24%) in children under 5 years is linked to poor WASH conditions.

The provision of sanitation facilities should be seen considering the NIDS, which in 2016 established that Namibia had a total of 589,787 households, of which 271,302 did not have access to toilet facilities. This implies that 36,556 households per year need to be provided with toilets to eliminate OD by 2030.

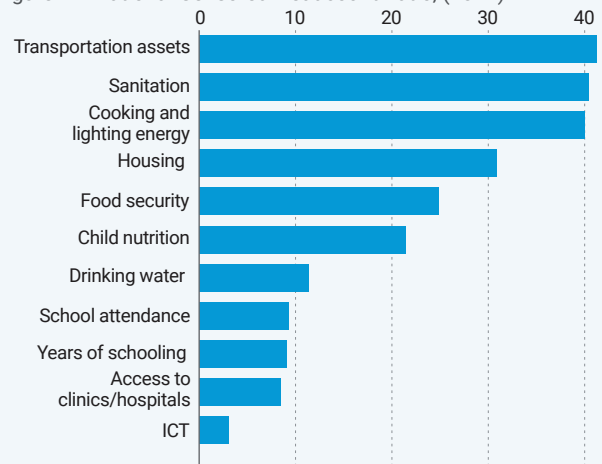
The 2021 VNR report noted that against a target of 12,500 toilets per year, a total of 4,244 sanitation facilities were constructed in urban areas through housing development and the ongoing bucket toilet elimination initiatives. This figure, however, does not include the large number of sanitation facilities provided through the upgrading of informal settlement areas.

Moreover, 4,493 toilets were constructed in rural areas. The underperformance is largely attributed to budgetary constraints. The target of training 5,347 households on sanitation self-build approaches and effective hygiene practices was exceeded, as 5,683 households were trained. In addition, two sanitation programmes were implemented in 2020 under the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) COVID-19 Emergency Response Programme. This programme completed a one-year pilot phase in July 2020 and scaled up from August to December 2020. As a result of the CLTS programme, more than 14,000 people live in open defecation free communities in both rural and informal settlements. Drawing from the

success of the CLTS intervention, the Government has prioritized CLTS as a key approach to accelerating the elimination of OD in the HPP2.

The total of 8,737 toilet facilities provided falls short of the annual minimum target of 36,556 required to meet the SDG targets to eliminate OD. There is a need to scale-up climate-resilient community-led initiatives to increase household access to sanitation.

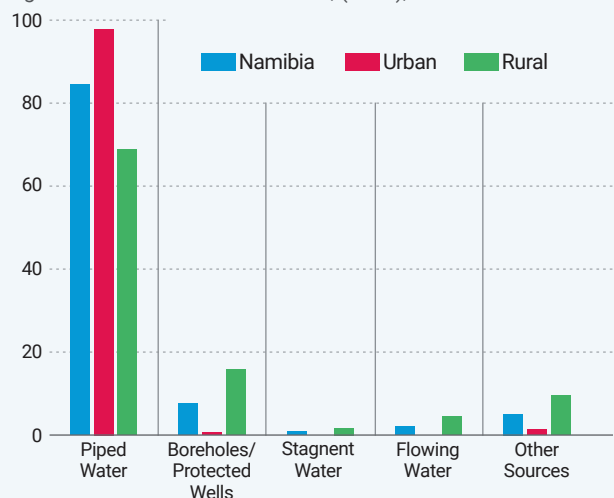
Figure 27: National Censored Headcount Ratio, (2021)



Source: Namibia Statistics Agency

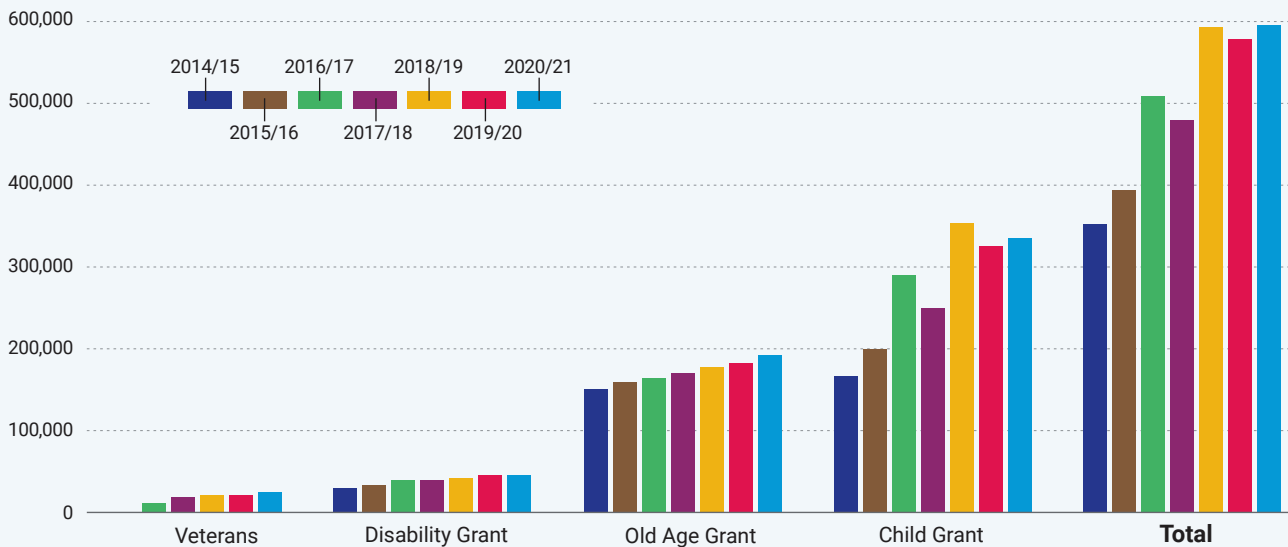
The underperformance of the Government in building water and sanitation facilities is largely attributed to lack of human capacity, budgetary constraints, as well as the dispersed nature of the population limiting the implementation of conventional solutions such as networked supply and water quality monitoring (Figure 28).

Figure 28: Namibia's Water Source, (2016), %



Source: Namibia Statistics Agency

Figure 29: Number of social protection beneficiaries by Programme



Source: UNICEF 2022/23 Social Protection Budget Brief for Namibia

6.7 Social protection

Namibia developed the Social Protection Policy (2021 – 2030) in 2021, which now needs strengthened implementation. The Leave No One Behind (LNOB) assessment shows that there are groups in need of special attention to basic services such as education, health, nutritional and food support, income grants, etc. Namibia's social protection system is one of the most developed and entirely government-funded in Africa. The government views social protection as an indispensable part of a coordinated policy response to poverty and in addressing high-income inequalities. Sustained investments in social protection, reaching 7.7 percent of the total budget and 2.9 percent of GDP in 2020/21¹⁰⁵ have, to some extent, contributed to a decrease in monetary poverty from 37.5% in 2003/04 to 17.4% in 2015/16 and in inequalities from a Gini Coefficient of 0.63 in 2003/04 to 0.56 in 2015/16. However, according to the World Bank (2023), Namibia ranks as one of the world's most unequal countries, with a Gini coefficient of 59.1 in 2015. Geographical disparities in both economic opportunities and access to services are large and widening, leading to glaringly different poverty rates across different groups, including by age and gender.

The merging of the two ministries of Poverty and Gender into the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPEWSW)

in 2020, helped to improve the coordination of social protection by consolidating the main social protection programmes under one Ministry. Furthermore, a National Core Team for Social Protection (NCTSP), consisting of the government, the UN, and other partners, was established in 2022 to strengthen social protection coordination.

The Government's commitment to social protection was reaffirmed by the recent launch of the national Social Protection Policy (SPP) in March 2022. The main goal of the SPP, is to provide a solid framework for the delivery of social protection in a way that is coherent, consistent, effective, and efficient in support of Namibia's development goals of eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, upholding the dignity of all people and ensuring prosperity. With increased risks and vulnerabilities that affect a large number of people simultaneously, such as droughts and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Policy seeks to ensure that the system is shock-responsive, whilst addressing current challenges in the delivery of social protection. Some of the challenges include: (i) fragmentation and inadequate coordination, which hamper the effective implementation of social protection; (ii) unintegrated management information systems; (iii) low value and coverage of social transfers, particularly the child grant; and (iv) lack of effective monitoring arrangements. Further, the Policy seeks to strengthen Child Grants and increase the value of the Child Disability Grant from N\$250.00 to N\$1,300.00, with effect from the 2023 financial year.

¹⁰⁵ Social Protection Policy 2021 – 2030, page 5



The number of social protection beneficiaries has significantly increased in line with increasing expenditure (Figure 29). Total beneficiaries of non-contributory social protection increased by 68.7% from 353,339 in 2014 to 596,247 in 2021¹⁰⁶, (Figure 20). The Child and the Old Age Grants account for the largest share of beneficiaries, with a combined total of 526,312 (88.3%). The Child Grants, which consist of four grants namely the Vulnerable Child Grant (VCG), the Foster Care Grant, the Maintenance Grant, and the Special Maintenance (SM) Grant, have total beneficiaries of 335,159, almost double from 152,144 in 2014. Beneficiaries of the Old Age Grant (OAG) also increased by 25.6%, to 191,153 people, achieving near-universal coverage, at 98.0% coverage of the Namibian population above 60 years of age. For the Disability Grant, only 74% of people with disabilities are covered due to their lack of awareness of its existence.

Despite doubling the number of beneficiaries for the Child Grants, the total coverage remains relatively lower than the number of children in multidimensional poverty. At 335,159 beneficiaries, only 31.6% of the children are receiving a grant

compared to the 51.3%¹⁰⁷ (543,445) of children living in multidimensional poverty. Furthermore, the value of the Grant has not been adjusted from N\$250.00 (which is N\$43.00 or 14.7% below the poverty line) and is estimated to have lost its real value, due to inflation, by 36.5% to N\$159.00. The combination of low value and low coverage inevitably impacts the Grant's overall effect on poverty and human capital development.

Going forward, full implementation of the policy commitments will help strengthen the impacts of social protection on poverty and inequality. This includes the need to: (i) implement digital and integrated management information systems to improve efficiencies, (ii) create greater linkages of social protection to complementary social services contributing to poverty such as nutrition, Early Childhood Development (ECD), sanitation, education, health, food security, and housing, (iii) re-direct investments towards boosting coverage and adequacy of child grants, given that such investments have shown to yield better returns on investment¹⁰⁸ and (iv) indexing all grants to inflation to preserve value and impact.

¹⁰⁶ Grants have different monthly amounts per beneficiary: OAG – N\$1300, Child Grants (all) – N\$250, Child Disability Grant – N\$250, Disability Grant for Adults – N\$1250, Veterans – 2,200, Food bank – N\$350 – 400.

¹⁰⁷ Namibia Multidimensional Poverty Index (NaMPI) Report (2021)
¹⁰⁸ World Bank (2021), Social Protection in Namibia: Spending and Performance Analysis, unpublished, show that child grants have a 41 percent return on investment rate compared to 34% for the Old Age Grant (OAG) and 23% for the Veterans Grants).



Prosperity

- SDG 7** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
- SDG 8** Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
- SDG 9** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation
- SDG 10** Reduce inequality within and among countries



7.1 Status and trends

Namibia has experienced limited structural transformation since independence and has struggled to translate relatively high income into broad-based gains for the wider population through the series of National Development Plans (NDPs). Despite high expectations to address historical bottlenecks and undergo economic transformation, the economy remains trapped in a pre-independence enclave structure. This structure sees the co-existence of a small formal sector and a growing informal economy, where many are engaged in informal activities, face insecure incomes, and a wide range of decent work deficits. The sectoral contributions are dominated by the extractive sectors and services (mainly wholesale and retail) with a limited role of the manufacturing sector. The country depends heavily on primary commodity exports (including copper, cut diamonds, gemstones, granite, lead products, marble, uranium, and zinc), although efforts are being made to diversify the economy through local value addition towards manufacturing and service sectors.

Moreover, the macroeconomic framework based on the prioritisation of stability, control of fiscal deficits, and inflation may have limited the wider positive impact of growth. In addition, the means (macroeconomic stability) may not have led to sustainable and transformative ends (inequality, decent work, and poverty reduction) as planned, mainly due to insufficient coordination of national and sectoral policies and partial implementation of key actions and measures.

Namibia risks falling from its upper middle-income country classification, a signal that the country's development gains have plummeted. The slowdown in economic growth has inevitably resulted in a fall in per capita GNI from a high of US\$5,950 in 2013 to US\$4,550 in 2021. If not reversed, this trend means Namibia is heading towards lower middle-income classification as opposed to the Government's policy objective to be a higher-income country by 2030. The road to sustained inclusive growth and broad prosperity entails expanding the formal private labour market by diversifying the Namibian economy while simultaneously removing the barriers preventing Namibians from accessing these opportunities. There is a need for more investment in building an enabling business environment to spur sustainable enterprises to create new and better jobs, and develop people's capabilities to take advantage of emerging opportunities, allowing inclusive growth and consumption. Greater integration of climate in devel-

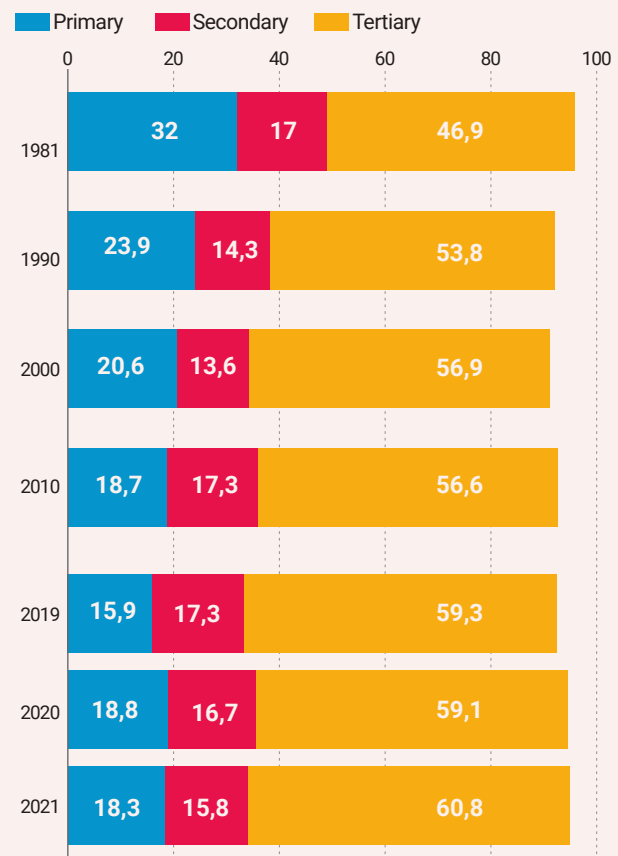
opment and exploration of new development pathways by increasing energy access and transitioning to lower-carbon energy is also crucial.

7.1.1 Barrier 5: Low and un-inclusive economic growth

Structure of the Economy and limited economic diversification

The economy remains highly concentrated in a few sectors. The total contribution by primary industries, comprising agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, and quarrying, declined only moderately to 21.3% by 2021, from 23.9% in 1990. During the same period, the contribution of secondary industries – including manufacturing, electricity and water, and construction – marginally increased from 14.3% to 15.8% (Figure 30). However, the tertiary sector contribution to GDP increased from 53.8% in 1990 to 60.8% in 2021. Growth in the tertiary sectors has been anchored on expansion in subsectors including public administration and defence, education, and real estate. More specifically, tourism and fisheries are fast-growing subsectors and key contributors to employment and national output.

Figure 30: Industries' % contribution to GDP, (1980-2021)



Source: Authors with data from Namibia Statistics Agency



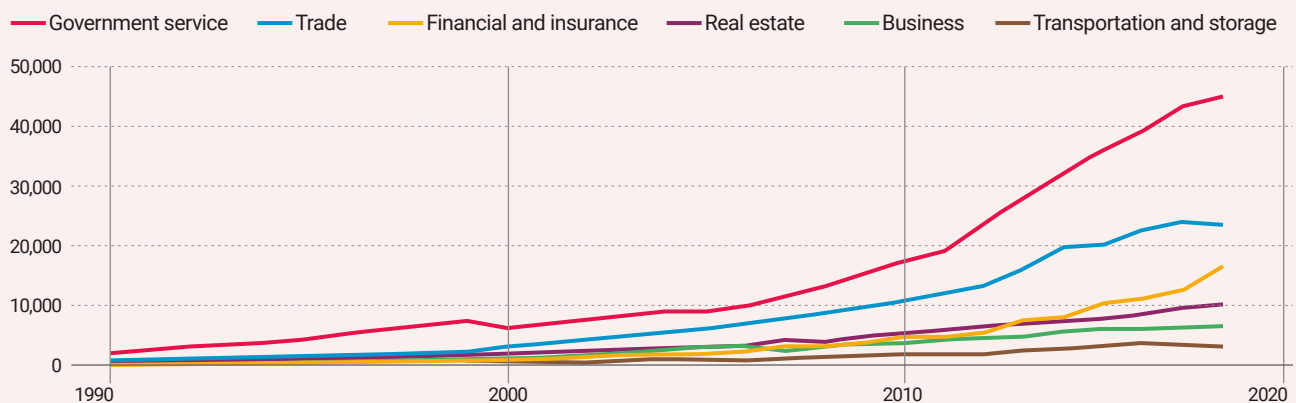
The primary sector industries, including agriculture, forestry, and fishing, remained the highest employment sectors in Namibia, consistently accounting for an estimated 23% of the labour force (167,242 people), according to the 2018 Labour Force Survey (LFS). The mining and quarrying industry contributes an estimated 12% of the GDP, with existing potential for mining to make an even greater contribution to the economy through beneficiation and value chain development geared towards employment generation. Currently, only an estimated 1.7% of the population is employed in the mining sector. Agriculture has the potential to expand the economy and address food poverty, income inequality, and wage employment.

The secondary sector grew by 2.4% between 2010 and 2018 and has been the second most important contributor to GDP, representing 14% of the GDP in 2017. The industry is championed by the manufacturing sector, which contributed 13% of the GDP in 2021. During COVID-19, the ICT sector grew significantly.

From the service sector, government investment in public services, education, defence, and health makes up the largest contribution to the GDP, followed by the trade sector (Figure 31). The government has invested

in sectors such as education, banking, telecommunications, mining, housing, aviation, and maritime industries. Next to government business, trade is also the second most important activity in the service sector. According to UNCTAD (2019), Namibia was positioned as the second-leading African country with intra-African exporters (53.9%). This makes trade an important sector for the country. Although the mining sector remains the driver of economic growth, its contribution to job creation remains very low, accounting for only 2% of total employment. In comparison, the agriculture and forestry sector, which contributes only 5% to GDP, accounts for 26.2% of total employment. The wholesale and retail trade, repairs, and services sector is one of the fastest-growing sectors, matching the mining sector in terms of its contribution to GDP and accounting for 13.6% of total employment. The private household sector, which accounts for 9.4% of total employment, contributes only 1% to GDP but suffers from a plethora of decent work deficits and economic activities that could benefit from skills, technological, financing, and entrepreneurship development interventions to drive up productivity. Together, the agricultural and forestry sectors, wholesale and retail trade, repair services sector, and private household sector account for just over half (51%) of total employment.

Figure 31: Services Sector



Source: Authors with data from Namibia Statistics Agency



Government services and trade not only have a larger share than the service sector but also a larger share than the agriculture sector. Except for the transportation sector, all three sectors (government services, trade, and agriculture) showed an increment in contribution, with a very high contribution being made by the government after 2015, followed by the industry sector.

Namibia's sectoral concentration makes the economy highly vulnerable to exogenous shocks. Having achieved high economic growth averaging 5.6% between 2011 and 2015 due to the commodity super cycle and favorable terms of trade, this high growth ended abruptly in 2016. This vulnerability was demonstrated during the 2008/09 global economic crisis, which led to a sharp contraction of Namibia's mineral sector and, hence, an overall contraction of the economy in 2009. It is also the cause of the recent slowdown in the economy, arising from the decline in commodity prices. During the period of 2016 to 2019, economic growth averaged -0.2%, alongside an exhausted fiscal space before a deep contraction of 8.5% in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vulnerability to external shocks

Namibia is a small open economy susceptible to external shocks. Whilst the economy was recovering from the COVID-19 induced economic contraction of -8.5% in 2020, the Russia/Ukraine war poses significant risks to growth, including increased interest rates and high inflation. The Russia/Ukraine war has caused global supply disruptions (food, agri-inputs like fertilizers, and energy), resulting in a surge in inflation, thus hurting growth and households, especially the most vulnerable groups: female-headed households, women, children, older persons, people with disabilities, indigenous people, and workers in the informal sector. Furthermore, the war has dampened global growth and thus demand for commodities (minerals), potentially hurting export earnings for the country. The net effect of the above would-be increased pressure on fiscal and external balances and lower-than-expected economic growth. The major underlying causes identified are:

- **Low diversification of the economy**
- **High import dependence for inputs (fuel fertilizers, electricity) and intermediary goods.**

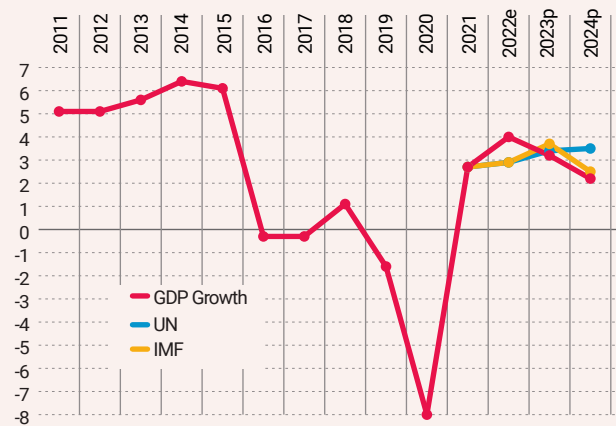


The COVID-19 pandemic, alongside pre-COVID economic structural issues, sharply deteriorated Namibia's short-term macroeconomic outlook. The series of macroprudential policy measures implemented by the government in 2020/2021 helped to alleviate financial pressure on people, businesses, and the banking system in general. For example, a stimulus package was developed, comprising N\$562 million for an emergency income award of N\$750 per person and N\$1.1 billion to the Ministry of Health and Social Services to undertake steps to combat the pandemic, further showcasing Namibia as a leader in social protection interventions in Africa.

In 2021, the economy had been forecasted to recover on the back of growth in primary and secondary sectors. However, worsening global conditions, including the Russia/Ukraine war and other geopolitical tensions, have hindered the expected recovery. This has arisen from surging commodity prices, excess volatility in financial markets, deterioration in the trade balance, disruptions in supply chains, and higher logistic costs of imports, including food and fuel, that increased the cost of inputs such as fuel, seeds, and fertilizers.

The predictions for GDP growth in the Namibian economy for 2022 and 2023 hover around 3% (Figure 32), which is not strong enough to bring per-capita income in constant prices back to the level of 2015. This projected near-term growth is not only below pre-2016 levels and NDP 5 targets but also not enough to make up for lost ground from the pandemic and meeting the SDGs, including reducing poverty and the persistent inequalities resulting from an economy characterized by capital intensity through natural resources extraction versus employment generation and labour absorption required for economic transformation.

Figure 32: Namibia's GDP Growth (%)

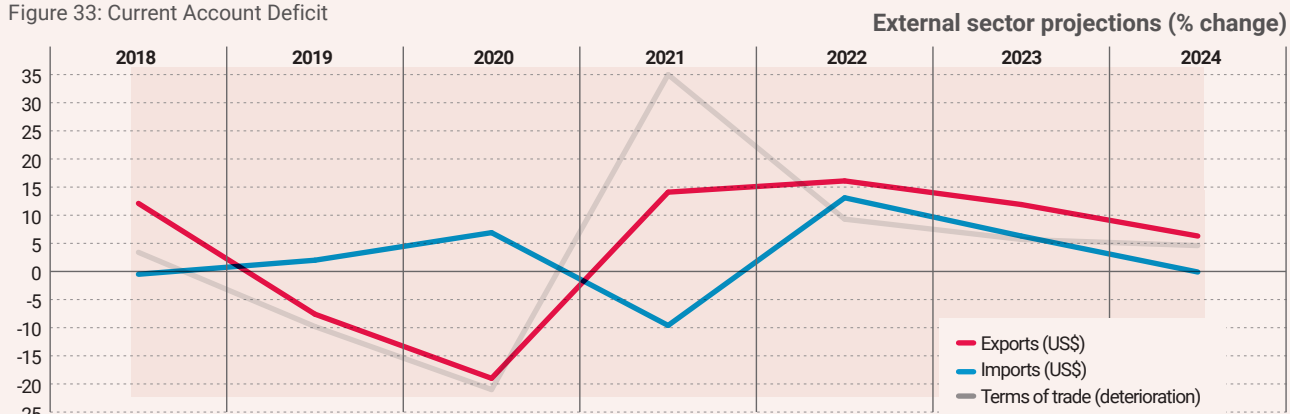


Source: Authors with data from Namibia Statistics Agency

Trade deficit

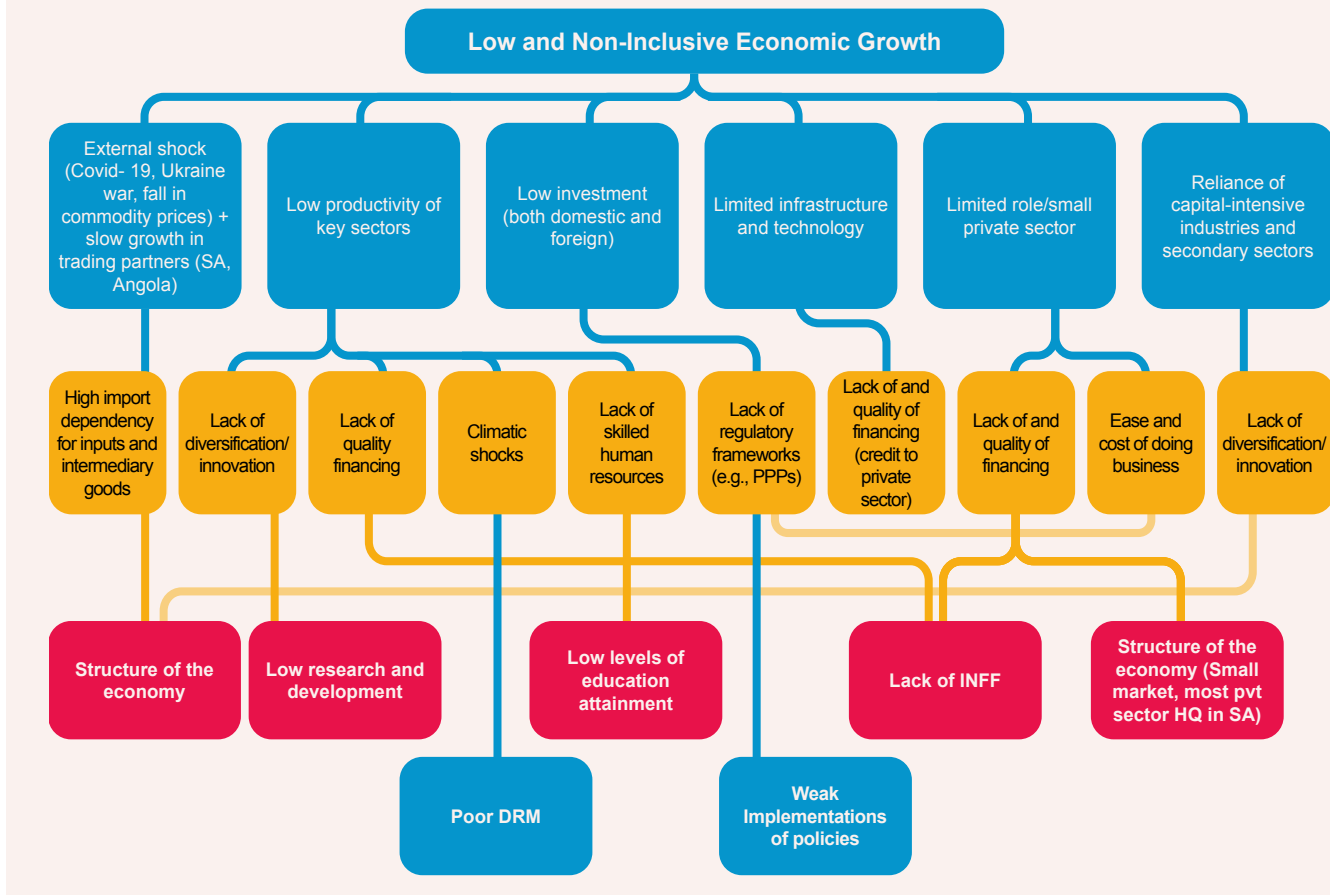
As mentioned above, trade is an important sector for the country. Namibia has recorded a trade deficit since 2009, further exposing the economy to the vagaries of globalisation (Figure 33). The economy is heavily reliant on imports, with South Africa being the main import partner. The country's trade deficit has widened significantly, especially during the years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2021. The trade deficit acts as a negative catalyst in the economic growth and GDP of Namibia. According to the Bank of Namibia, the annual inflation rate was 7.3% in August 2022, up from 6.8% in July, reaching the highest rate since February 2017. The overall rise in the cost of living hurts growth and households, especially the most vulnerable groups, such as female-headed households, women, boys and girls, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous people, and workers in the informal sector. A growing number of children on the street and the influx of these young people create challenges, especially if early intervention strategies are not employed to mitigate the problem.

Figure 33: Current Account Deficit



Source: Authors with data from Namibia Statistics Agency

Figure 34: Problem tree low and non-inclusive growth



Reliance on capital intensive sectors

While the country recorded high economic growth averaging 5.6% until 2015, growth was not inclusive and did not create much employment. The mining sector, with relatively higher contributions to GDP and better wages, accounts for a marginal 1.7% of total employment. Hence, economic growth led by these sectors has had minimal impact on poverty and inequality. The key underlying causes identified are:

- **Limited structural transformation of the economy.**
- **Lack of economic diversification and innovation.**

Low productivity of the key sectors of the economy

Productivity in job-creating sectors of the economy such as agriculture and manufacturing has been low, contributing to low economic growth. On average, the key sectors registered below 3% growth over the period 2015-2019, i.e., Agriculture -1.1%, Mining 1.4%, Manufacturing 1.9%, and Tourism 2.6%. All sectors, except agriculture (6.3%), recorded negative growth in 2020, mainly reflecting the

impacts of COVID-19, i.e., Mining -15%, Manufacturing -17.1%, and Tourism -25.4%. Agriculture is one of the priority sectors in Namibia with the potential to expand the economy and address food poverty, income inequality, and employment creation. The sector remains the highest employer, accounting for 23% of the labour force (167,242 people). However, the commercial sector, which covers about 44% of the total land, only accommodates 10% of the population, while the communal sector, which covers 41% of the total land area, accommodates about 60% of the population. The sector's productivity is limited largely due to low and variable rainfall and inherently poor soils, which are major obstacles to optimum agricultural production. Agricultural production – and subsequently income, including wages (44% lower than the mean for the overall economy) – are low for several reasons, including limited access to markets or lack of access to high-quality seed inputs that work well under drought conditions. The growth outlook remains somewhat subdued, contributing to lower growth, limited employment opportunities, and minimal impact on per capita income growth, and hence on poverty reduction.

The underlying causes identified are:

- **Weak diversified productive capabilities .**
- **Lack of diversification and innovation.**
- **Limited quality and sustainable financing (both public and private/foreign and domestic) due to the lack of an Integrated National Financing Framework for enhanced quality and scale of financing sustainable investments in all productive sectors, SDGs, and other development priorities of the country.**
- **Weak land tenure framework affecting long-term investment decisions**
- **Low quality of jobs (decent work), impacting on labour productivity**
- **A large unbanked population.**
- **Climatic shocks, particularly impacting agriculture productivity and upstream industries.**
- **Lack of skilled human resources due to low levels of educational attainment.**
- **Low research and development, including for value addition of key primary exports.**

Low investment – both domestic and foreign direct investment

Since the completion of major construction projects, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows have experienced a downward trend from a peak of 7.8% of GDP in 2015 to -1.5% in 2020 before recovering to 0.2% in 2021. Similarly, domestic investments have remained relatively low due to the economic recession. The net effect has been reduced capital for investments to boost productivity and economic growth. The underlying causes identified are:

- **Structure of the economy (small market, unattractive for investments from large MNCs).**
- **Lack of comprehensive regulatory frameworks (e.g., PPPs).**
- **Weak implementation of policies.**
- **High cost and ease of doing business (utilities such as water and electricity).**

Limited infrastructure and technological capacity

The GRN continues to invest in infrastructure related to maritime, tourism, and other economic activities. It has also created institutions and policies that support sustainable development and promote innovation but are challenged by the lack of infrastructure, including digital and transportation, and underutilisation of training capacities such as the Blue Economy Policy, which requires

Table 3: Inequality estimates: Namibia

Year	Income inequality		Wealth inequality (Top 10)	Gender inequality: Female share
	Top 10%	Bottom 50		
2010	0.486	0.157	0.607	0.146
2011	0.489	0.151	0.621	0.152
2012	0.492	0.145	0.617	0.159
2013	0.498	0.144	0.621	0.156
2014	0.504	0.142	0.63	0.149
2015	0.51	0.143	0.637	0.179
2016	0.504	0.146	0.625	0.171
2017	0.499	0.146	0.628	0.144
2018	0.499	0.146	0.627	0.15
2019	0.499	0.146	0.623	
2020	0.4994	0.146	0.623	
2021	0.499	0.146	0.625	
2022	0.499	0.146	0.625	

Source: World Inequality database

significant investment and better governance to harness its cross-sector opportunities. The underlying causes identified are:

- **Limited quality and sustainable financing (both public and private/foreign and domestic) due to a lack of an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) for enhanced quality and scale of financing sustainable investments in all productive sectors, SDGs, and other development priorities of the country.**
- **Ease and cost of doing business (utilities such as water and electricity).**

Limited role and small size of the private sector

The private sector in Namibia has traditionally played a limited role in supporting economic growth given its relatively small size. This also includes the limited contribution of MSMEs to both economic growth and employment generation. Namibia's largely monopolistic market structure and dominant public sector create an uneven environment for the private sector and MSMEs' participation in the economy. The significant and growing need for financing and private



investment is crucial for the private sector and MSMEs to strive and underpin national and sustainable development aspirations. The tapering off of large-scale investment in the mining sector reduced private investment as well as the negative swing in the commodity cycle, resulting in a reduction in investment into the local economy, particularly in fixed capital. This turn of events was further exacerbated by policy uncertainty relating to investment. The COVID-19 pandemic also resulted in company closures, further constraining the role of the private sector. The underlying causes for the limited role of the private sector are:

- **Lack of quality and sustainable financing – limited credit to the private sector due to the crowding-out effect on account of the Government’s reliance on the domestic debt market.**
- **Lack of regulatory frameworks (e.g., PPPs, MSME policy).**
- **High cost and ease of doing business (utilities such as water and electricity).**
- **Structure of the economy (small market, unattractive for investments from large MNCs).**

Over 40,000 SMEs are currently registered in Namibia and contribute approximately 12% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), employing over 20% of the workforce. Even though SMEs play an increasingly important role in providing new products and employment opportunities, SMEs in Namibia still encounter many difficulties that affect their sustainability. This largely emanates from an unfriendly business environment in which they face lack of finance; high taxes and levies; lack of technical skills; labour retention and technical advice; and lack of working spaces.

Climate change and resilience

Climate change and other environmental threats and disasters in Namibia, including droughts, directly affect local economic activities, leading to significant economic losses and pushing many households into poverty. Maintaining ecosystems and mitigating climate change can therefore have a significant positive impact on its economic and employment sectors.

Namibia is one of the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Energy production through the burning of fossil fuels, the industrial sector, agriculture, forestry, and other land uses are

among the drivers of climate change and environmental degradation in Namibia. The country is prone to floods, droughts, veld fires, and extreme climate-related disease and pest outbreaks, which have been relatively extreme in the last decade. These events have had adverse effects on agricultural and other sector productivity, and hence economic growth and water supply.

The green economy and renewable energy sector represent substantial opportunities for national economic growth and development, as well as for contributing to addressing climate change and global decarbonisation goals. There is an expectation that these investments will result in employment and socio-economic benefits for Namibians, but there is a risk that these will not materialize without clear support in several areas, including policy and institutional coherence and skills development. Ensuring sustained and inclusive economic growth in Namibia is a prerequisite for its sustainable development, as this impacts people’s livelihoods and the country’s readiness to build local climate resilience and capacity to adapt. Inclusive economic growth in the country can lead to new and better employment opportunities and provide greater economic security for all Namibians. At the same time, rapid growth, especially across key growth sectors, would be pivotal in the country’s attempts to reduce the wage gap relative to current trends and statuses, thereby diminishing glaring inequalities between the rich and poor.

Cross-border issues and trade

Namibia, as an open economy, looks to international and regional markets for economic integration and trade facilitation. In January 2018, Namibia ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) and launched its AfCFTA National Implementation Strategy and Action Plan in December. The AfCFTA is expected to be the largest free trade area since the formation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Namibia now has access to a market of 1.3 billion people with a combined GDP of \$3.4 trillion, a significant increase in market size from that of SADC and SACU, the country’s key regional trading blocs.

Given the small size of the country’s population, the AfCFTA presents a great opportunity for Namibia to access a large market for its products while lowering the cost of importing intermediary goods, thereby boosting productivity and economic growth. Furthermore, leveraging the full potential of the AfCFTA will require the country to diversify its exports and en-

hance export competitiveness, including through improving the ease and cost of doing business. Increasing export competitiveness will boost cross-border trade that helps generate foreign exchange earnings for reinvestment in socio-economic projects for higher inclusive growth.

Through the development of industrial value chains by encouraging the development of manufacturing and mining, including artisanal crafts that leverage natural resources and other creative industry initiatives, the country can turn around its trade deficit. The Joint Value Addition Committee (JVAC), led by the Ministry of Industrialisation & Trade and chaired by the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), was established in 2013. Through this committee, an in-depth analysis of the beneficiation possibilities for Namibia's key mineral commodities and opportunities for value addition was conducted (MME, 2013). Value addition has been done on gold (gold bars), diamonds (diamond polishing and processing), copper (copper smelting – copper cathodes), zinc (zinc processing leading to 99.995% pure zinc), dimension stones (processing of marbles and granites into table toppers and tiles), coarse salt (refined salt), and cement.

In line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), the country should strengthen its financing ecosystem, including through the mobilisation and leveraging of greater development financing from external sources (FDI) and curbing illicit financial flows (IFFs), while maintaining and improving domestic resource mobilisation to create additional fiscal space for social spending and investment. In this context, two elements, which may represent challenges to domestic public finances, must be considered: the uncertainties and ongoing discussions on the SACU Revenue Formula and the conclusion and implementation of free trade agreements at the regional and continental levels, including the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA).

Namibia presents a unique situation with regards to inequalities of opportunity. The disaggregation of the 35 percent drop in the Human Development Index (HDI) due to inequality shows that while education and health contribute 25 and 22 percent, respectively, to overall human development inequality, income inequality's relative contribution is 53.6 percent. Improved access to education and health has not fully translated into income generation, exacerbating income inequality.

7.1.2 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: New Sources of inclusive and sustainable blue and green economic growth

Namibia needs to ignite sustained inclusive growth, broad prosperity, and fiscal sustainability. This entails expanding the formal private labour market by diversifying the Namibian economy, while at the same time removing barriers and binding constraints that prevent Namibians from accessing these opportunities, including developing relevant skills and providing financing. To achieve diversified sources of inclusive growth, post-COVID-19 recovery will need to stem from existing capacities such as the recovery of the tourism and fisheries industries or from the trading of mineral resources and agriculture. Further opportunities for growth in the medium term could arise from the recent offshore oil and onshore green hydrogen discoveries that can provide significant revenues to the country. In addition, with its remarkable solar and energy resources, Namibia has embarked on a large-scale green hydrogen project to produce renewable energy at competitive production costs. This opportunity would provide significant inflows in tax revenues and investment.

7.2 Inequality

Income and wealth in the country are unequally distributed, despite the country's endowment with abundant natural resources, good infrastructure, a vibrant democracy that gives autonomy to its people for self-governance, and peace and stability. Namibia's inequalities are entrenched in the country's apartheid history and are complex, multifaceted, and take many forms. They exist between and within the economic sectors, among individuals (or households), and regions of the country. There are also horizontal inequalities that manifest themselves in employment outcomes, labour rights, and opportunities between groups depending on their gender, age, nationality, ethnicity, health status, disability, or other characteristics.

High levels of inequality entail risks. Inequality harms the potential of growth to reduce poverty and deliver shared prosperity. It also contributes to the intergenerational transmission of poverty and social exclusion. The socio-economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing crises, such as the disruption of supply chains, high inflation, geopolitical tensions, armed conflicts, and natural disasters due to climate change, are making inequalities worse. These



crises not only risk overturning earlier gains in reducing poverty and other disparities but also aggravate socio-economic vulnerabilities and exacerbate inequalities.

Reducing inequality, which has many different manifestations, and promoting the principle of equality of opportunity and treatment are key to promoting shared prosperity. A multi-sectoral approach is required to maximize efforts and impacts to reduce inequalities.

7.2.1 Status and Trends

Namibia is among the most unequal nations in the world. According to the 2021 World Bank's Wealth Inequality Index, the highest wealth inequality has been registered in Namibia, with an index of 91.4, making the country the second most unequal African country next to South Africa. The Gini coefficient currently stands at 0.56 (2022) and has averaged around 0.57 between 2008 and 2021. Considering the income differential with formal workers and the many obstacles faced by informal economy workers and economic units in accessing better opportunities, informality is a strong driver of inequality, alongside skewed land distribution. This challenge is a key priority area in the National Vision 2030, the National Development Plans (NDPs), and the SDGs. The country continuously endeavors to address all forms of inequality.

Namibia has become an upper middle-income country (UMIC) due to its political stability and sound economic management, leading to considerable poverty reduction. However, the structure of the economy, with a small, high-income mining sector and a large, low-income agricultural sector, exacerbates income inequality. This inequality manifests in the labour market through disparities in employment opportunities, wages, hours worked, and job security, particularly between females and males, and different racial groups. Gender inequalities represent one of the greatest forms of inequality in Namibia. These are rooted in discrimination and entrenched stereotypes related to women's roles in society, the value of their work, remuneration, and their position in the labour market.

Stakeholders recommend transforming the economy through economic diversification into a knowledge-based economy to produce complex and refined goods and services. This can be addressed through the provision of public services and social transfers that enhance people's capabilities, as well as macroeconomic policies. The labour market has a distinct role to play in sustainably preventing and reducing inequality. Therefore, what happens in labour markets is crucial for overall inequality. In-market distribution occurs through labour participation rates, earnings or labour incomes, and profits. These outcomes are shaped by labour market institutions, regulations, and policies but also depend on policies outside the labour market.

One of the factors contributing to inequality is the unequal access to land and productive assets. Jobless growth has not permitted the development of most of Namibia's society, with the largest part working in agriculture, fishery, and domestic work, which are the least paid jobs in the country. In this context, access to land and housing remains challenging despite various programs by the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN). This situation has structural roots in the dual economy inherited from the pre-Independence apartheid state, which disenfranchised the majority of the African population and created spatial barriers in terms of the location of settlements to commute to workplaces, access to quality education, and other basic services¹⁰⁹.

Namibia's land tenure consists of 23% state land, 35% communal land, and 42% freehold agricultural (commercial) land. The unequal distribution of land

¹⁰⁹ Namibia Systematic Country Diagnostic, World Bank Group, 2021.



remains a major contributor to poverty and inequality. A total of 12,382 commercial farms in Namibia account for 39.7 million hectares, of which 97.7% is owned by Namibians. Of the 39.7 million hectares of land, 34 million hectares (86%) are privately owned, while the government owns the remaining 5.4 million hectares (14%). Previously advantaged White Namibians own 27.8 million hectares (70%) of the freehold agricultural land, while previously disadvantaged Black Namibians own only 6.4 million hectares (16%)¹¹⁰. Farmers on communal land do not hold land titles, creating a barrier to accessing financing from commercial banks¹¹¹.

The Human Rights Committee noted in its 2016 Concluding Observations that all traditional land remains under the ownership of the State and that indigenous peoples are insufficiently consulted regarding the extraction of natural resources from their lands.

The pressure on urban land and housing is becoming ever more acute, as demonstrated by rapidly increasing urbanisation rates.¹¹² The demand for affordable housing and land in cities, towns, and settlements by citizens has exhausted supply. While initiatives such as the National Housing Policy exist, they have proven ineffective in advancing large-scale approaches to provide affordable and serviced land and housing. Namibia has not yet explored tackling inequality from the perspective of land and housing in a parallel approach to “green” employment generation by exploring and exploiting innovative technologies within the construction industry. These technologies include alternative construction materials and methods that could potentially lower household utility and construction costs and provide flexible housing options. Namibia has not paid sufficient attention to green construction and urban design concepts that aim to create sustainable developments that benefit the socio-economic aspects of society as a whole and can allow for pathways to narrow the inequality gap.

The Government has enacted the Urban and Regional Planning Act, 2018, which resulted in the repeal of the outdated Town Planning Ordinance of 1954 and the Townships and Division of Land Ordinance of 1963. The new Act provides for a single and uniform spatial planning framework, integrated spatial (urban and regional) planning, and development

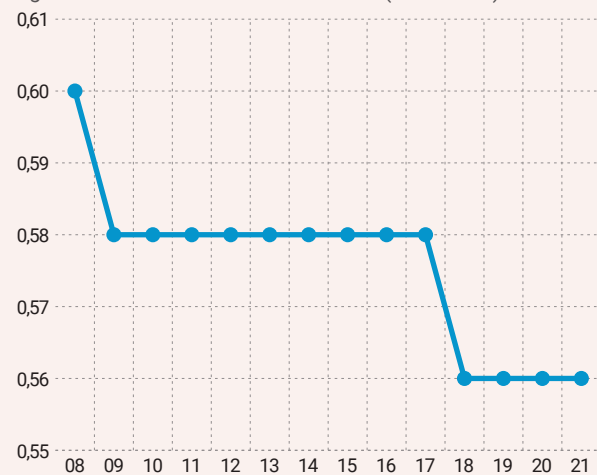
¹¹⁰ NSA, Namibia Land Statistics Booklet September 2018

¹¹¹ Namibia Systematic Country Diagnostic, World Bank Group, 2021.

¹¹² https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340512251_Housing_in_Namibia_Rights_Challenges_and_Opportunities

in the country. It has introduced more efficiency in land use planning and the approval process through the following reform measures: combining the functions performed by two advisory bodies, the Namibia Planning Advisory Board and Townships Board, into a single body; and the decentralisation or transfer of some of the approval procedures to the regional and local government levels, thereby fast-tracking land and housing delivery. The Regulations for the Act were gazetted on 3 September 2020, and the new Board, as indicated above, was established in November 2020 (VNR, 2021).

Figure 35: Namibia's Gini-coefficient % (2008-2021)



Source : Bank of Namibia

7.2.2 Opportunity for SDGs acceleration: Social protection and knowledge generation; land distribution; gender equality; inclusion

Stakeholders recommend that Namibia enhance its efforts to reduce poverty and inequality by expanding and strengthening its social protection system, which reduces poverty and contributes to asset redistribution for enhanced individual capabilities. Equitable land distribution is required to address wealth inequality. Additional recommendations include: collecting data to deepen the understanding of inequality in Namibia; expanding investment in rural infrastructure and informal settlements; promoting decent work and meaningful minimum wages; implementing an unemployment insurance scheme and a basic income grant for those living in extreme poverty; amongst other measures. Substantive equality will not be achieved without ensuring the proactive inclusion of vulnerable groups, especially people with disabilities and women. In fact, without ensuring gender equality, Namibia will not be able to achieve the vision of Agenda 2030.



7.3 Barrier 6: High unemployment and informal employment

7.3.1 Status and Trends

Unemployment continues to remain one of the persistent challenges stated in the national development plans, calling for focused pro-employment interventions that focus on new sources of growth. This reflects the inability of the economy to generate adequate and quality employment. The main factors that could be attributed to high unemployment in the country is the current structure of the economy already mentioned above: a) investment focuses on capital-intensive industries versus labour-intensive industries; and b) its structure has not deeply change since independence carrying forward a dual economy since apartheid.

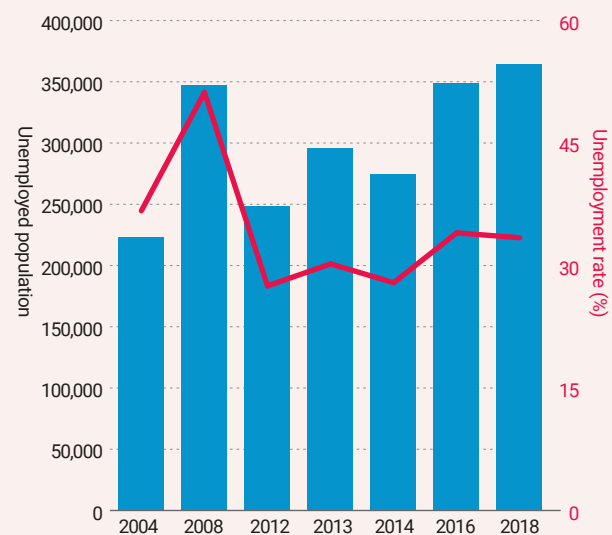
Socio-economic inequalities inherited from the apartheid system remain extremely high, and continuing structural constraints have hampered development. The duality of the economy—comprising a highly developed formal sector (26%) co-existing with an informal (74%) and rural subsistence-oriented one, combined with slow job creation and low primary-sector productivity—results in very high unemployment, especially among the youth. The duality of the economy also extends to the labour market, with small numbers of workers employed in high-skilled jobs in the formal economy, while most workers are employed, often informally, in low-skilled jobs in subsistence farming, construction, trade, or private households.

The government has designed measures and policies to address unemployment through NDP5 and HPPII to realize the SDGs. The Government, through the Harambee Prosperity Plan II, championed various activities to support productive employment creation, as a key objective to combat unemployment. Government policies, strategic plans, programs, and ministerial budgets were tasked to include an Employment Impact Assessment (EIS) as a measurement tool. The Public Procurement System gives preference to locally produced goods that are labour-intensive. A 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) country assessment was commissioned to ascertain Namibia's digital labour profile to consider requirements and the impact of Artificial Intelligence on labour force dynamics and the future of work.

Character of Labour force participation

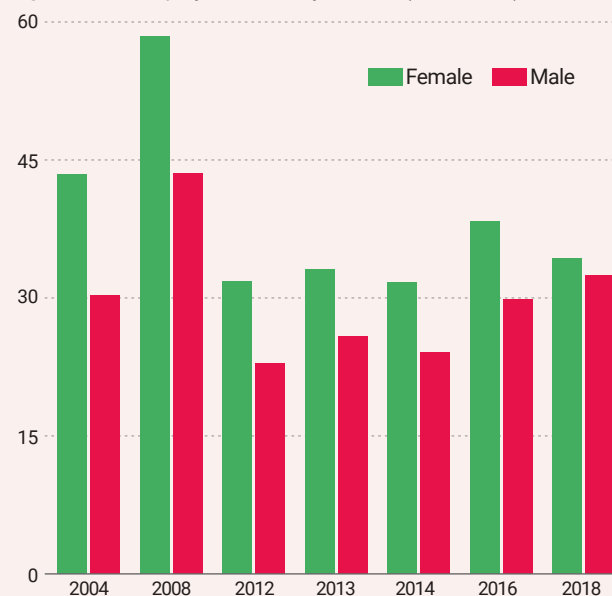
In Namibia, four distinct labour market categories can be identified: the broadly unemployed, the employed, those engaged in subsistence agriculture, and those that are not economically active. According to this categorisation, in 2018, about 39.4% of the population was employed, 11% were engaged in agriculture, 20.8% were unemployed, and 28.4% were non-economically active. This indicates that about 50% of the population is excluded from or not participating in productive economic activities (Figure 36), with women faring worse (Figure 37). This has a major impact on poverty level.

Figure 36: Unemployed population vs. Unemployment rates (2004-2018)



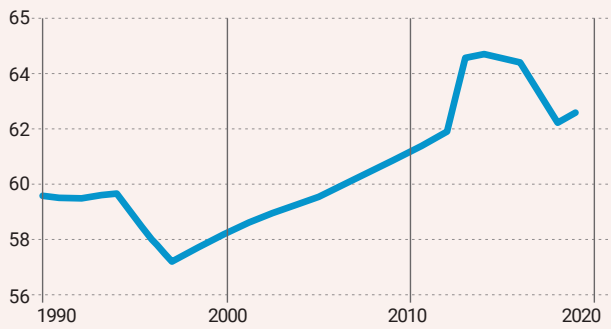
Source: Namibia Statistics Agency

Figure 37: Unemployment rate by Gender, (2004-2018)



Source: Namibia Statistics Agency

Figure 38: Labour force participation



Source: The World Bank, 2022

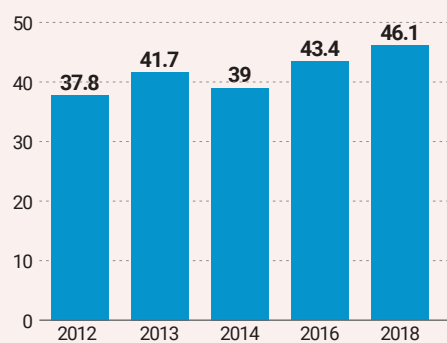
Labour force participation has shown a significant increase since 2000 (Figure 38). However, following the 2016 drought and COVID-19, the labour employment-to-population ratio decreased but started increasing after the outbreak of COVID-19. The highest labour participation rate was recorded in 2014/15, at around 62.8%, and the lowest in 1997, following a prolonged series of droughts that began in 1993.

The majority of people employed in Namibia have secondary education as their highest qualification. However, in 2018, youth unemployment was higher in rural areas (49.1%) than in urban areas (44.0%).

Additionally, unemployment was generally higher for female youth than male youth in most regions, except in Erongo, Oshana, and Oshikoto regions. Youth unemployment rates were higher than the national youth unemployment rate in most regions, except in Karas (44.7%), Erongo (36.8%), Omusati (39.7%), Hardap (41.9%), and Khomas (43.0%) regions. The youth unemployment rates were particularly high in Kavango East (62.5%) and Kunene (53.0%) regions.

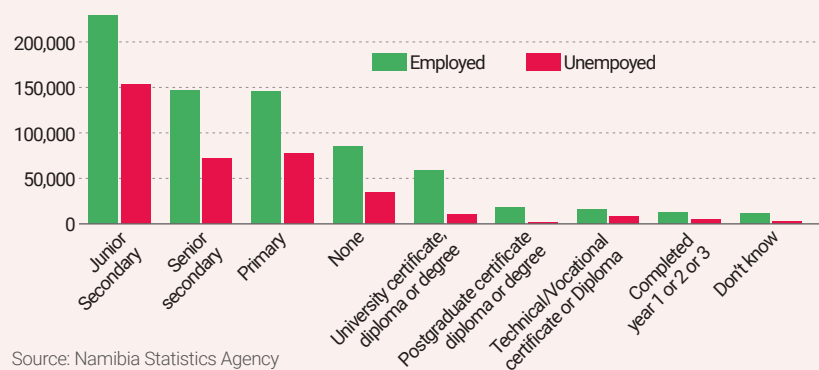
In this context of job scarcity, young people face delayed and difficult transitions into the labour market. Most people and enterprises engaged in informal activities face insecure incomes and a wide range of decent work deficits. The informal economy is the main and often only source of livelihood for many groups of workers who accumulate multiple layers of disadvantages based on low skills, low productivity, lack of access to capital, etc. Informal firms do not contribute to the tax base and tend to remain small, with low productivity and limited access to finance and other technical support. As observed in the National Household Survey (NHS), informal workers, especially women in informal work, are more likely to be working in poverty and unpaid care work because they lack job security, representation, income security, and have limited or no access to social protection.

Figure 39: Youth unemployment rates (12-18)



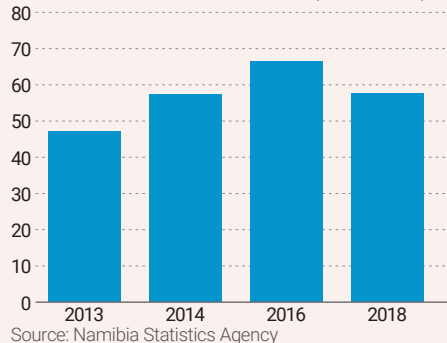
Source: Namibia Statistics Agency

Figure 40: Unemployment and Employed population by level of education 2018



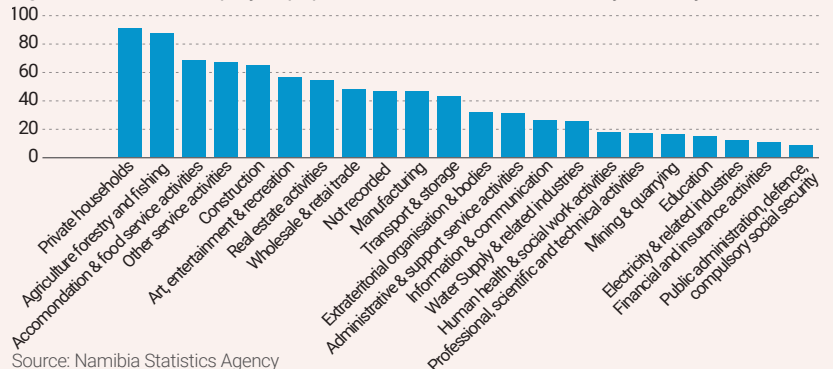
Source: Namibia Statistics Agency

Figure 41: % of Employed population in the informal sector (2013-2018)



Source: Namibia Statistics Agency

Figure 42: % of the employed population in the informal sector by industry, 2018

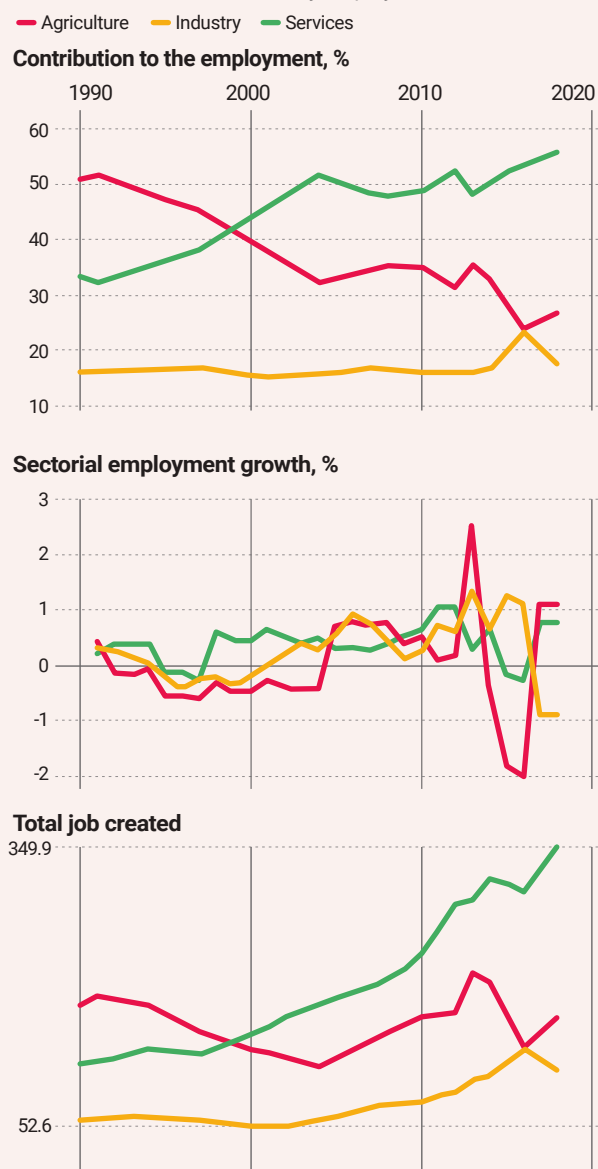


Source: Namibia Statistics Agency



According to the International Labour Organisation (2022), the employment-to-population ratio in 2018 was 47.2 percent, with the service sector employing the largest number of individuals, followed by agriculture and industry. As shown in Figure 43, recent statistics on the distribution of the economic sectors indicate that the service sector employs the most people in Namibia, with 55.8 percent of employees, followed by the agricultural sector with 26.6 percent, and the industrial sector with 17.4 percent. However, due to the significant effects of the 2016 drought, the government has recently invested more in the agriculture sector at the expense of the industrial sector. Between 2016 and 2018, the growth of the industrial and service sectors decreased significantly.

Figure 43: The share of agriculture, industry and service sectors by employment



Source: Author's Computation based on Groningen University Structural Change Data

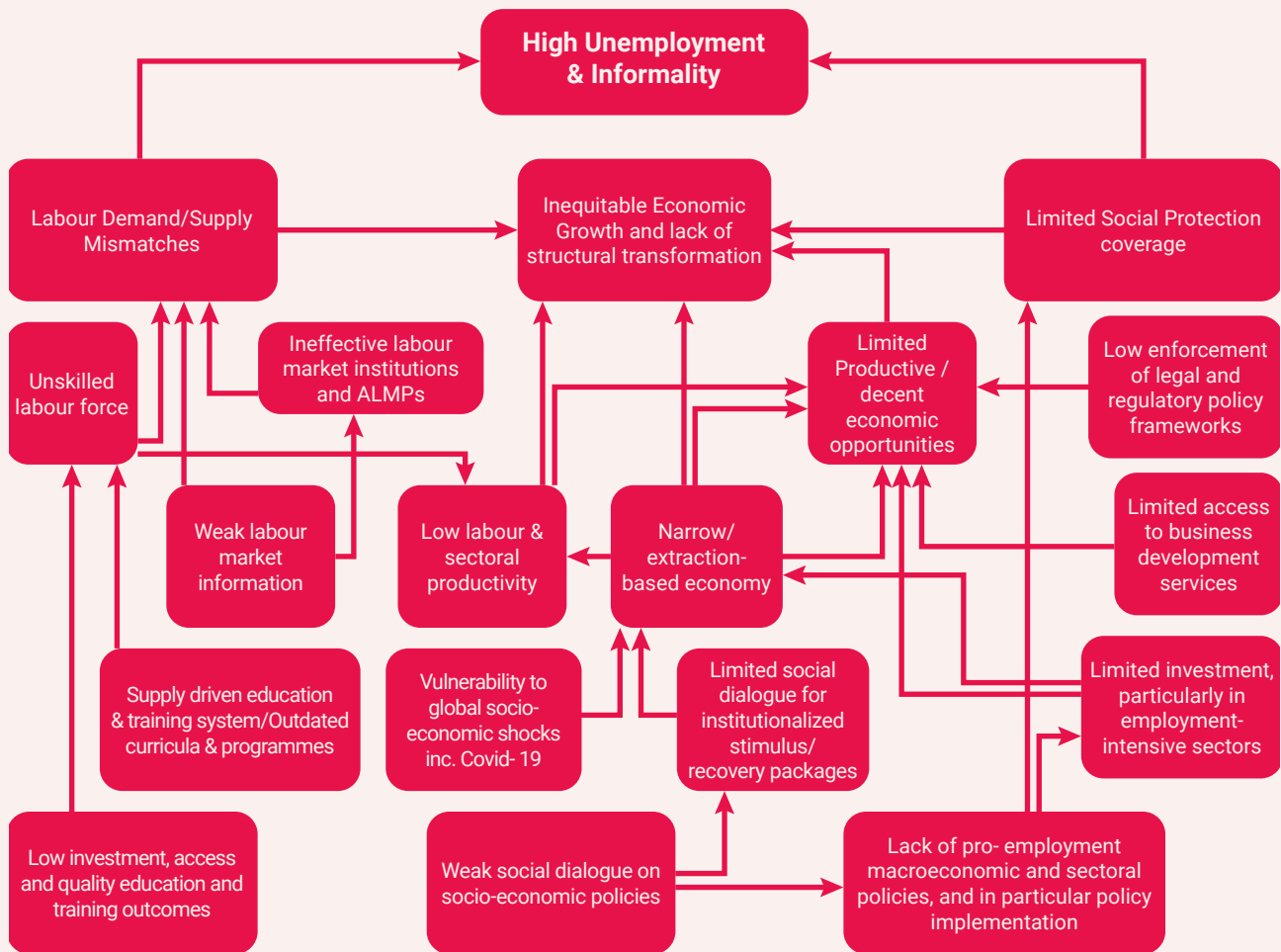
Despite Namibia's wealth being concentrated in the mining industry, only 1.7% of the labour force is employed in this sector. Most employment is situated in agriculture, which has relatively low productivity levels. Key economic pillars such as construction, wholesale, and retail trade have struggled as government spending stimulus faded. Construction's annual growth in real terms plummeted from 22.7% in 2015 to -41.1% in 2016. Retrenchments and diminishing consumer spending power led to wholesale and retail trade growing by only 3% in 2016 compared to 7% in 2015, and this sector has been in recession since 2017. The potentially vast opportunities arising from well-managed, policy and legislative-driven green and blue sectors to boost socio-economic well-being while protecting the environment remain mostly untapped, apart from a thriving, yet at times controversially managed, marine fishing industry. Other new opportunities are also being explored in the energy sector.

The informal employment rate stood at 57.7%, accounting for nearly 60% of total employment (Figures 38 and 39). The informal sector employs 61.2% of women (Figure 35). Women are the majority that fall behind in employment opportunities. The majority of those employed in the informal sector work for private households. The unexpectedly high rate of unemployment in rural areas is due to a lack of alternative industries that can absorb labour besides agriculture and a general perception among rural respondents that they are unemployed because they are stuck in subsistence agriculture or low-paying informal economy jobs.

The labour market situation is expected to have worsened over the pandemic period in 2020/2021. In the absence of reliable and recent unemployment statistics, and years of negative or poor economic growth, exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the energy and food crisis stemming from the Russia/Ukraine war, current unemployment levels could well be higher than the 2018 levels.

Looking beyond unemployment, the 2018 Labor Force Survey (LFS) sheds further light on the fact that even those in employment suffer from a range of challenges regarding their access to productive and decent employment. An estimated 4.9% of employed individuals were in time-related underemployment, meaning they worked less than they were available for. Beyond this, 57.7% of Namibian workers were in informal employment (61.2% for women).

Figure 44: Problem tree for unemployment and informality



Furthermore, another 31.6% were in vulnerable employment¹¹³ in 2018. At the national level, the average wage was N\$7,935 per month, an increase of N\$1,176 since 2016 when the average monthly wage was reported to be N\$6,759. The average monthly wage was slightly higher for males (N\$8,052) than females (N\$7,789).¹¹⁴ Across industries, the lowest average wage was N\$1,387 per month earned by persons employed in private households (a significant part of the informal economy), pointing to working poverty. Furthermore, average monthly wages of employees by age groups revealed that monthly wage levels increased with employees' age, peaking at the age group of 55-59 years, but thereafter declined for people aged 60 and above who remained in employment.

¹¹³ Vulnerable employment is comprised of own account workers, subsistence/communal farmers, and contributing family workers.

¹¹⁴ In 2022, CEDAW raised with concern the widening gender pay gap in Namibia. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6* (4 July 2022) para 39, with recommendations set out in para 40.

This also shows the vulnerability of older persons in the absence of a comprehensive national pension fund.

Data

Accurate, standardized, reliable, and updated employment statistics are not easily available in Namibia. The last official Labour Force Survey was conducted in 2018. According to the National Statistical Agency (NSA), the unemployment rate was 33.4 percent in 2018¹¹⁵. For youth aged 15–34 years (Figure 24), this rate even reached 46.1 percent, which represented an increase from 2016 (43.4 percent). Both figures are even higher for women, at 34.3 percent and 48.5 percent, respectively. As a more comprehensive measure, the share of 15–34-year-olds not in employment, education, or training (NEET) was 34.9 percent, with considerable gender disparities

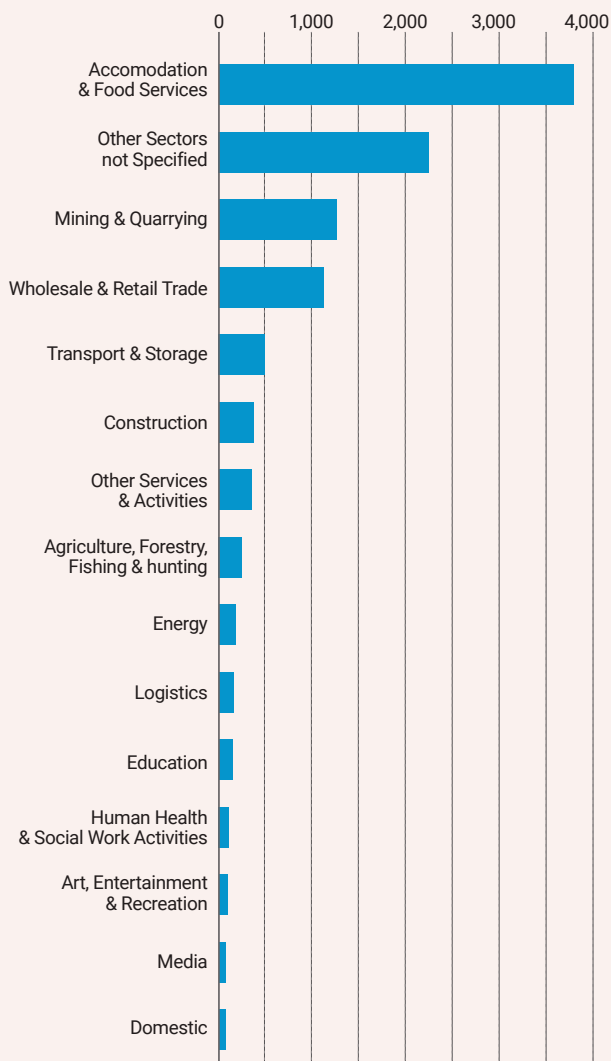
¹¹⁵ Note that Namibia tends to measure unemployment using the broad definition. For global comparisons, the strict definition of unemployment is more widely used, which stood at 19.8% in 2018.



(female NEET rate: 37.1 percent; male NEET rate: 32.7 percent). These statistics are likely to have worsened significantly since the COVID-19 crisis of 2020–21, in a situation where the economy was already highly vulnerable. There is thus an urgent need for timely, sufficiently disaggregated data to monitor the participation of the most vulnerable groups, including women, people with disabilities, youth, and those engaged in informal and unpaid work.¹¹⁶

¹¹⁶ In its concluding observations for Namibia (2016), the CESCR noted 'with concern the persistently high unemployment, especially among the youth and women, and the large informal economy in [Namibia]', and accordingly recommended a number of measures, including '[improving], as soon as possible, its data collection system on unemployment as a tool for combating that phenomenon effectively, by conducting the [LFS] as frequently as possible and generating data disaggregated by factors related to the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups'. CESCR; *Concluding observations on the initial report of Namibia, E/C.12/NAM/CO/1* (2016) para 30.

Figure 45: Sectoral COVID-19 retrenchments (Jan-Sep 2020)



Source: Ministry of Labor and Industrial Relations

COVID-19

According to the Ministry of Industrial Relations, Labour and Employment Creation, the COVID-19 pandemic caused 11,210 job losses from 983 employers in 2020/21, as reported in its Annual Report of 2020 (Figure 45). The Bank of Namibia estimated that about 30% of employment in the formal tourism sector was lost, meaning 7,830 people lost their jobs in this sector. The bank also acknowledged that the loss of jobs in the sector is likely to be much worse should data on the loss of informal jobs be available. The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 (2020) presents scenarios about the potential impact of the negative GDP growth on employment: "UNECA estimates that in the best-case scenario, unemployment would increase by 0.75 percentage points, pushing the current high unemployment figures of 33.4% to 34.2%, which translates to an increase of the unemployed population by 18,000 people. In the worst-case scenario, a 6.5 percentage points decline in GDP would lead to a 1.4 percentage point increase in unemployment" (p. 28).

Training and Upskilling

Education and training outcomes remain well below expected standards considering the level of investment. Only 16% of the total employed people have a TVET qualification or better. Namibia has a shortage of skills needed to boost employability, productivity, value addition, and diversification. Youth illiteracy is high, resulting in a scarcity of qualified workers needed in the labour market (UNESCO, 2016). Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is fragmented between different providers and has weak linkages with basic and higher education, and within its own components. Key issues arise regarding quantity, quality, and relevance, which explain why the VET system produces very small numbers of adequately skilled workers, reinforcing the dual nature of Namibia's labour market. This, coupled with the lack of capacity for the economy to create adequate jobs for the growing and youthful population, results in very high levels of skills mismatches that feed into unemployment and informality.

Social Security Coverage

Despite the existence of a variety of well-established programs and schemes, including contributory social security schemes and several social assistance schemes, most of Namibia's working-age population is excluded from social security coverage. This includes grants for older persons, people with disabilities, child grants, and other forms of indirect support

such as school fees exceptions (MPESW 2016). Several labour policy and legislative reforms since independence have improved access to social security, with over 35,000 beneficiaries on the old-age pension, 205,000 orphans and vulnerable children, and those living with disabilities on unconditional cash transfers, and 300,000 on contributory occupational schemes providing pension and medical benefits for government employees and a significant portion of private sector employees.

Social insurance consists of two schemes run by the Social Security Commission (SSC) - covering maternity, sick leave, and death, and motor vehicle accidents. Occupational and private retirement funds, health insurance funds, and medical aid schemes cater to the upper end of the labour market and are regulated by the Namibian Financial Services Authority (NAMFISA). However, this social insurance coverage is not enjoyed by most workers in informal employment. There are also gaps in the social assistance system with no general support for poor households, children, and the unemployed. On the latter, this is the case for both formal workers (there is no contributory unemployment scheme) and informal workers (who typically are not included in contributory systems). The contributory retirement system is essentially voluntary, with no mandatory state system in place. A Social Protection Floor Assessment for Namibia was conducted with ILO support in 2014..

Climate change and resilience

Climate-related and disease outbreaks, including floods, droughts, and veld fires, have an adverse effect largely on agricultural productivity and production, contributing highly to employment and feeding into other sectors including manufacturing. Livelihoods for those in the rural economy also suffer as opportunities to earn incomes are eroded. Other key sectors affected by climatic shocks include the fisheries and tourism sectors, as witnessed during the pandemic period of 2020/2021. Many people lost their jobs and were pushed into the informal economy to sustain livelihoods in the absence of comprehensive social protection mechanisms.

There is a need to build capacities for policy responses to manage a just transition toward greener and bluer economies and a sustainable future. Green jobs offer a way of generating decent work and environmentally sustainable development. In Namibia, these are typically in agriculture, mining,

transport, renewable energy, and the hospitality industry amongst others, involving all levels of skills, from engineers and technologists to blue-collar workers.

Digitalisation also has the potential to enhance the employability of young people, improve productivity, and access to finances and markets for SMEs. Support for smallholder farmers to promote decent work in agriculture by reducing OSH hazards, reducing post-harvest losses, and promoting green production and value addition of high-value crops, including horticulture, are opportunities to promote productivity. Climate-proofing infrastructure (small dams, irrigation, roads, bridges, and other livelihood assets) through employment-intensive approaches can help create jobs and inject incomes into local communities.

Cross-border issues

The GRN has committed under the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour, and Employment (STC-SDLE) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Employment and Labour Sector (ELS) to address issues related to the decent work agenda including addressing the youth employment challenge and informality. Other issues include collaboration on migration, forced and child labour, trafficking in persons, occupational safety and health, and international labour standards. Unemployment is a major push factor for irregular migration that is driving informality in the region including in Namibia. Other opportunities exist to support cross-border and transboundary issues through supporting bilateral joint commissions and memorandum of understanding (MoUs) between GRN and other member states in the region in addition to the broader multilateral platforms and mechanisms.

7.3.2 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Championing innovation in the informal sector

The informal sector is where the majority of the unemployed can be found. This sector, however, is a growing business opportunity and a hub for entrepreneurs, especially youth who are at the forefront of developing new industries. Those operating in the informal sector have critical capacity development needs, including business support and financial inclusion. Targeting these individuals through social protection and enhancing innovations within the sector provide opportunities to reach those who might be left behind. Gender must be mainstreamed in any



intervention strategy, and people with disabilities, especially women, must be proactively included. Leveraging innovation and technology to expand markets is crucial. Without sufficiently disaggregated and timely data, it will be impossible to monitor progress or identify those at risk of being left furthest behind to actively include them in an economy that enhances their fundamental rights. Therefore, strengthening the data collection system should go hand in hand with any interventions.

Additionally, the *Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions*, a programme launched in September 2021 by the UN Secretary-General, promotes a job-rich recovery and just ecological, technological, and societal transitions to more sustainable and inclusive economies and societies. It supports Pathfinder countries in accelerating their reforms towards the creation of decent jobs and universal social protection for just transitions, in line with national priorities and development plans.

7.4 Energy

7.4.1 Status and Trends

Namibia is abundant with renewable energy sources yet remains over-reliant on energy imports. The country has high potential for solar, wind, and biomass generation. Invader bush is abundant in the country's north, allowing for a large-scale bioenergy-based production capacity.

Renewable energies, especially wind energy along the southern coast, have great potential. Solar radiation maps indicate that the country has proven solar resources, making it particularly suited for solar energy projects such as concentrated solar power. There are also opportunities for passive solar water desalination plants for the mining and agriculture sectors. The use of solar energy offers investors an opportunity to decentralize the electricity distribution network.



Affordable and clean energy continues to be a priority for Namibia, with plans to expand this sector, primarily through solar and green hydrogen. Despite the great potential for developing renewable energy sources – particularly solar – they remain largely untapped. Consequently, there is a heavy reliance on imported electricity, rendering the country vulnerable. The development and deployment of renewable energy remains a major challenge due to the need for significant upfront investment, while funding for the sector is limited. While most funding comes from the government and donors, private funding in this sector is limited. There is a need to craft innovative financing mechanisms and engage the private sector to crowd in funding.

Access to Electricity

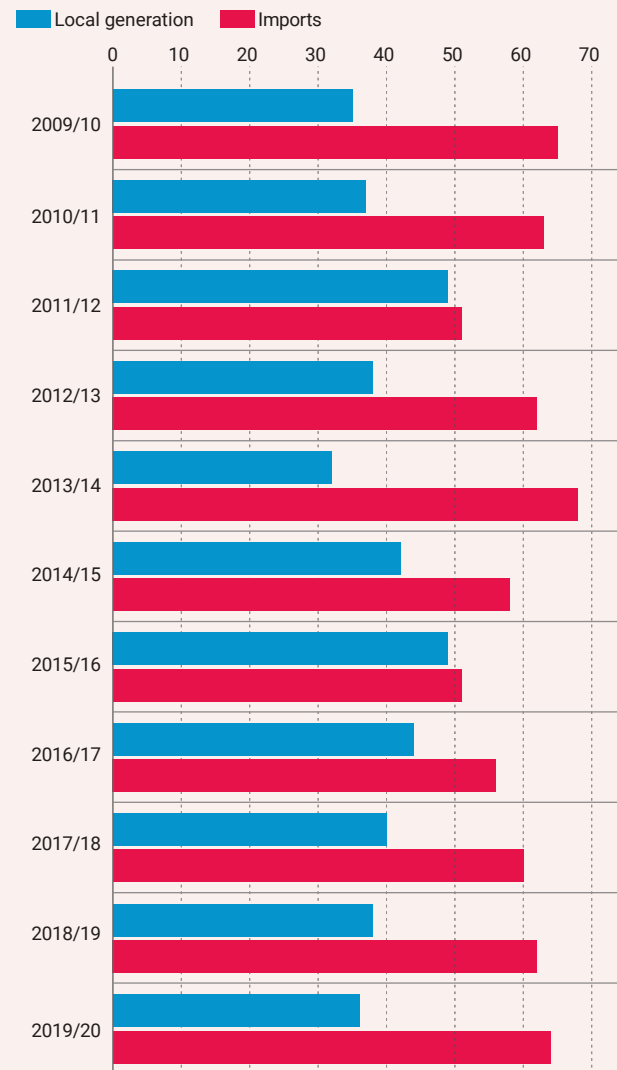
The Government has committed to improving electrification, particularly solar energy, where the national grid cannot reach both rural and urban areas (VNR 2021). So far, solar-diesel hybrid stand-alone grids have proven to be a success story, and bush-to-energy programmes are facilitating many private farms in the country to produce world-class quality biomass charcoal and briquettes. Household use of solar energy and generators, both in rural and urban areas, has improved. As of 2020, households using or having access to electricity for lighting were reported at 48% nationally, with urban areas standing at 72% and rural areas standing at 21%. This is due to urbanisation and people moving to cities. However, data reported by the Namibia Household and Income and Expenditure Survey reports¹¹⁷ show that Namibia lags behind other upper middle-income peers regarding access to basic services. For example, only 52.5% of the population has access to electricity, with the number dropping to 29.3% for rural communities.

Electricity Sources

There is heavy reliance on imported electricity, and there is a need for the country to become self-sufficient (Figure 46). The security of electricity supply is an important consideration for attracting foreign and domestic investment for industrialisation. According to NDP5, local electricity peak demand stood at 656 MW, exceeding local generation capacity at 484 MW at peak. The sector therefore relies on energy imports from neighboring power corporations. Total peak demand was expected to reach 755 MW by 2022.

¹¹⁷ Namibia Statistics Agency, *Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES) 2015/2016: Key Poverty Indicators (Preliminary Figures)* <NHIES_2016_Key_Poverty_Indicators_Preliminary_Figures.pdf (nsa.org.na)>.

Figure 46: Electricity Sources, (2009-2019), %



Source: Ministry of Labor and Industrial Relations

The Namibian Rural Electrification Master Plan and the Off-Grid Energisation Master Plan recognize the dual importance of environmental and social considerations relating to energy supply and propose a decentralized approach to renewable energy production to increase access to energy in rural areas. Solar Revolving Fund loans are also accessible. Some solar energy technologies can be produced locally and can create new green jobs throughout the value chain. The production of simplified solar water heaters has enormous green job creation potential, while large-scale photovoltaic installations can provide long-term jobs and serve to upgrade the skills of existing workers¹¹⁸.

¹¹⁸ International Labour Organisation, *Green Jobs and Renewable Energy: Low Carbon, High Employment*, 04/08/2014.



7.4.2 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: the Green Hydrogen Strategy

CLEWS analysis confirms that Namibia has excellent renewable energy resources and substantial potential to expand the production of clean energy to improve self-sufficiency, extend energy use, and support economic growth and diversification along with strengthening productive capacities. Areas such as hydrogen production provide further promising avenues for future growth. A broad assessment of energy development considering the impact on water resources, land, and climate mitigation, which includes potential production options, demand-side interventions, the role of energy in economic expansion and diversification, and applications for hydrogen, could help steer a strategy for the energy sector to be a key driver of growth in the coming years.

Namibia launched the Green Hydrogen Strategy in November 2022. According to the strategy, Namibia is well placed to produce renewable energies and will be able to produce hydrogen and its derivatives at highly competitive costs. Namibia aims to create a green fuels industry with a production target of 10-12 Mtpa hydrogen equivalent by 2050. To this end,

it seeks to develop three hydrogen valleys: in the southern region of Karas, the central region including Walvis Bay port and the capital Windhoek, and the northern region of Kunene. By 2030, the hydrogen industry could contribute up to US\$6 billion to GDP, 30 percent more than 2030 GDP estimates with no hydrogen industry development. This would boost labour demand by generating up to 80,000 additional jobs by 2030 and up to 600,000 by 2040. Namibia plans to forge relationships with international partners dedicated to building its hydrogen economy. It has already signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Japanese companies, and another is in the pipeline with the European Union. The strategy also states that Namibia would be able to meet its own power needs at affordable prices with low emissions and be 80 percent self-sufficient in primary energy (solar, wind, hydro, gas) for power generation by 2029. Increasing the capacity and size of renewable power installations for hydrogen production by 10 percent to provide low-cost clean power for domestic use could allow the production of about 75 TWh/year of additional electricity, which is more than 20 times the total electricity demand in Namibia today.



Planet

- SDG 6 Universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development
- SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



8.1 Ecosystems and Natural Resources Management

Namibia is endowed with abundant natural resources, but with high risk of fragility. The country hosts remarkable species diversity and exhibits high levels of endemism. It has the world's largest population of cheetah, is home to 34% of the largest-remaining free-ranging black rhino population in the world, has unique desert-dwelling populations of rhino, lion, and elephants, and also hosts other high-value, threatened species such as painted dogs (formerly called African wild dogs) and pangolin. The country incorporates two globally-designated 'biodiversity hotspots' – the Sperrgebiet (in the Succulent Karoo Biome) and the Namib escarpment zone – and four Ramsar Wetland Sites of International Importance. Namibia also has solar and wind regimes that are suitable for generating renewable energy.

The Namibia Vision 2030 document envisioned the country to have achieved the following: to have a healthy, productive land with effective water and mineral cycling, leading to infrequent, low-level drought and flooding, to have farms and natural ecosystems that are productive, diverse, stable, and sustainable – socially, economically, and ecologically and forests, savannas, deserts, wetlands, and coastal and marine ecosystems that are open, diverse, stable, and productive.

8.1.1 Status and trends

Namibia has ensured biodiversity and ecosystem protection through the establishment of protected areas, key biodiversity areas, and ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, covering both terrestrial and marine areas. Namibia has an impressive network of 20 state-owned protected areas, covering some 17% of the country's land surface (approx. 140,394 km²) and the entire 1,500 km of its coastline. These state-protected areas are supplemented by a strong community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) programme, which is delivered through 86 registered communal conservancies (that allow for mixed conservation and production land uses) and 32 registered community forests, covering around 20% of the country's land surface

(approx. 166,267 km²), along with a smaller number of freehold conservancies, private game reserves, tourism concessions, and community fish reserves. Approximately 8.9% or about 7,290,000 ha of Namibia is forested. Important freshwater biodiversity covered by protected areas remains constant, at 85.4% in 2018 to date. The Kavango and Zambezi regions' important sites for terrestrial biodiversity that are covered by protected areas ecosystems stand constant at 86.1% in 2018 to date.

Namibia's marine biome, lying on the western side, is extensive, spanning 1,572 km of coastline. The Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) spans some 30 degrees of latitude, extending from Angola's Cabinda Province in the north to just east of Port Elizabeth in South Africa, and covers approximately 5,000 km of coastline. It is one of the world's richest marine ecosystems and supports an abundance of life, sustaining both artisanal and large-scale fishery activities which contribute to local food security and employment for hundreds of thousands of people in areas of limited alternatives; these fisheries activities serve as important drivers of economic development. In addition to fisheries, non-living marine resources exploitation is socially and economically important with total marine goods extraction recently estimated to be worth some US\$269 billion per annum. Commercial fisheries and the extraction of non-living natural resources such as oil, gas, diamonds, and other minerals are the focus of industrial activities in this large marine ecosystem. Although the BCLME is considered one of the highly productive ecosystems of the world, Namibia (alongside South Africa and Angola) faces several challenges in the sustainable management and utilisation of its marine ecosystem. Although the Benguela Current Commission has a good track record in controlling illegal, unlicensed, and unreported fishing, there have been increasing concerns about a decline in investment towards this effort. There is a need for the three countries to commit more resources towards a coordinated approach to combating illegal, unlicensed, and unreported fishing in the region and to strengthen collaboration and governance of this important ecosystem.

Table 4: Brief Description of Namibia's Biomes

Biome Type	Description/ challenges
1. Desert Biome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low rainfall (less than 100mm annually) and lack of surface water • Sparse vegetation dominated by annual grasses and dwarf shrubs • Large habitat diversity including mountains, gravel plains, sandy seas, succulent steppe, and winter rainfall regions • Coastal fog plays a vital role in supporting many plants and animals • Ephemeral rivers cut across the biome providing linear oases where large trees and water sources support many of the larger mammals and animals
2. Karoo Biome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual rainfall is 100-200mm • Vegetation is dominated by dwarf shrubs or "Karoo bushes" and annual grass species • Harsh climate with large seasonal and daily temperature variations • The fauna in this biome is species-poor but supported vast herds of springbok in the past, which were subsequently reduced by hunting and fencing • Sensitive to over-grazing and degradation which can lead to desertification • Systems within this biome are extremely sensitive, fragile, and prone to long-term degradation with long recovery periods
3. Acacia Savanna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual rainfall of 250-400mm • Dominated and characterized by a wide variety of grass species and acacia species such as camelthorn and blackthorn • Supports a high concentration of various species which are endemic to the region, and supports large plains game including herd animals and predators • Contains the headwaters and catchments of most ephemeral rivers in Namibia • Vulnerable to inappropriate management and over-use resulting in desertification and bush encroachment
4. Broad-leafed Savanna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual rainfall of 450-700mm • High species diversity, especially at the interface with the wetland biome • Deciduous tree species are characteristic including Zambezi teak, mopane, and wild seringa • High numbers of large mammals are present including 70% of Namibia's elephant population and the majority of the buffalo and hippopotamus populations • Important to transboundary cooperation as ecosystems are shared and species move across national boundaries • Forest fires are a common occurrence in this biome
5. Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple habitats including perennial rivers, ephemeral rivers, floodplains, pans, sinkholes, estuaries, swamps, marshes, springs, and dams • Typically highly productive systems which provide important sources of freshwater and vegetation • Important to the hydrology of areas through services such as the recharging of aquifers • Provide important sites for the breeding and refuge of wildlife • Vulnerable to over-abstraction of water, alien species, and pollution
6. Coastal/ Marine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characterized by the cold Benguela current which produces a nutrient-rich upwelling system • A highly productive system that supports some of the highest concentrations of marine life in the world • Multiple habitats including the littoral, shelf, and abyssal zones, islands, lagoons, and estuaries

Source: Environmental Compendium Report 2020, Namibia Statistics Agency



8.1.2 Barrier 7: Unustainable and inequitable natural resources management

There is a growing concern that Namibia's fragile natural resource base may be degraded and over-exploited as the country continues to industrialize due to high demand, expansion of mining, and increased volumes of waste and pollution in ecologically sensitive areas. Illegal wildlife trade and human-wildlife conflict are also growing challenges.

Current agricultural practices, focusing on increasing food production without regard for environmental impacts, contribute to land and water degradation. Specifically in Namibia, soil disturbances due to tillage operations, overgrazing, irrigation systems, prioritisation of major crops (maize, wheat, potatoes, etc.) cultivation, and the preference for exotic breeds and species over indigenous livestock breeds and crop species, along with the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, negatively impact the ecosystem. Additionally, the concerted efforts of various actors in the food system generate environmental impacts, and the global food system contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, compromising air and water quality.

One of the emerging issues are deforestation and land degradation. In 2019, 67.94% of land was reported as degraded, while the proportion of total land area covered by forest decreased from 8.40% in 2014 to 8.06% in 2020, according to the 2021 VNR. In Kavango, several challenges have been reported in forested areas, including a lack of detailed annual fire plans to combat and prevent fire outbreaks, ineffective law enforcement, illegal logging, and uncontrolled forest/veld fires. As a result, regenerating saplings are burnt, reducing tree cover as forest land is converted to grazing and farmlands. The biodiversity status of Hamweyi State Forest Reserve has never been assessed, leaving unknown the presence of rare, endemic, or restricted species in the area.

Human pressure and grazing threaten biodiversity, leading to the rare occurrence of species in state forest reserves. Additionally, this area is isolated from other protected areas by human settlements, leading to low diversity and research gaps in knowledge on fauna and flora (e.g., species spatial patterns, ecological processes, growth rates, and forest disturbances). It is necessary to promote multidisciplinary scientific research focusing on tree species' spatial patterns, including conservation status assessments. There are potential environmental concerns

in the State Forest reserve and the managerial implications of all these positive and negative impacts on the environment are that people need to be considered and mitigation measures suggested.

The management of waste and pollution has become a serious concern. Other challenges include climate variability over the medium and long term, which is likely to further reduce the productivity of agricultural land, fisheries, and forestry and threaten the growth of the tourism sector. The demand for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) increased during the NDP4 period, with approximately 322 EIAs processed in 2015/16 compared to 120 in 2012/13. However, there is limited capacity to enforce and inspect adherence to Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) with 57% compliance. There is inadequate capacity for geo-information systems and tools and understanding of geostatistical analysis for spatio-temporal data analyses. Strengthening institutional capacity, especially in focal landscapes, is required to ensure the use of GIS as a monitoring tool in observing habitat and pasture changes to make management decisions for the carrying capacity of rangelands. This inadequacy is due to insufficient funding, time, and human resources for equipping regional offices to fulfill the function of spatial monitoring using geo-information tools.

Characterized by land degradation, this landscape is inaccessible for crop production and requires land restoration activities to address erosion and soil instability, building on pilot restoration efforts by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR). The Okongo Focal Landscape in the Ohangwena Region falls mainly in the Okongo Conservancy and Community Forest and is one of the three more north-easterly forested landscapes. This landscape is subject to illegal timber harvesting and conflicting land allocation for agriculture. It requires coordination between institutions to strengthen landscape governance and law enforcement. The Nkulivere Focal Landscape located in the Kavango West Region is characterized by multiple deprivations, underdevelopment, and recent rural migration to regional growth points, this region is uniquely endowed with a near-pristine dune forest that requires the proclamation of forest conservation units (either a Forest Reserve or Community Forests) to formalize forest utilisation and combat illegal timber activities. Illegal harvesting of Zambezi Teak is prevalent and requires interventions to strengthen the regulatory and enforcement potential of community forests.

The CLEWs analysis further highlighted the pressures on national water resources stemming from variable water supply and growing demand in agriculture, buildings, and industry. Growing pressures on water resources are likely leading to unsustainable water use. However, non-existent or outdated statistics and information on water usage and resources make the extent of unsustainable water use difficult to assess. Options such as efficiency, recycling, reuse, and trade in embedded water can be used to alleviate water shortages and improve water security, but better data is needed to make an assessment of the most appropriate responses and applications of technology. Lack of water is also a major constraint for expanded crop production.

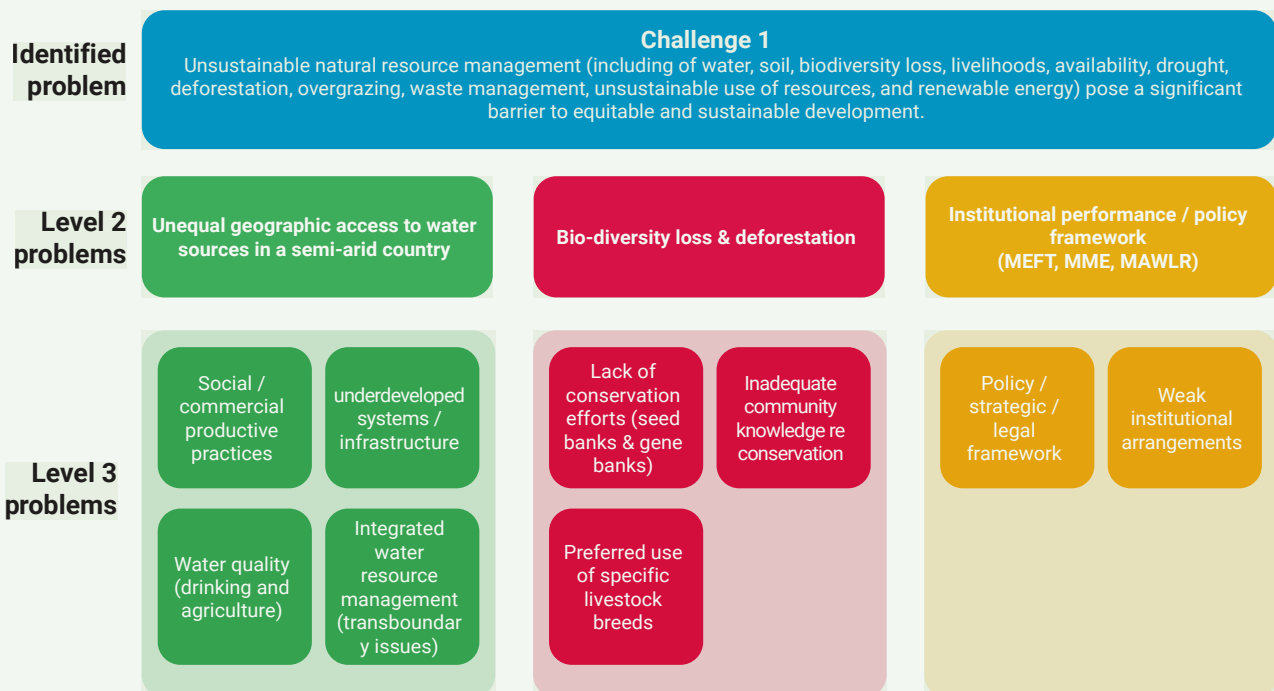
Unsustainable and inequitable management and use of the environment have severe implications for Namibia—a country that relies heavily on the extractive industry and the exploitation of natural resources. The current model of consumptive use of certain resources is unsustainable and is compounded by the inherent fragility of Namibia’s natural ecosystems. This is evidenced by problematically high rates of deforestation, overfishing, biodiversity loss, soil erosion, etc. Furthermore, although Namibia is endowed with significant natural resources and has a flagship CBNRM Programme in the region, access to these resources—as well as the benefits derived from them—remains inequitable. Overlapping spatial, so-

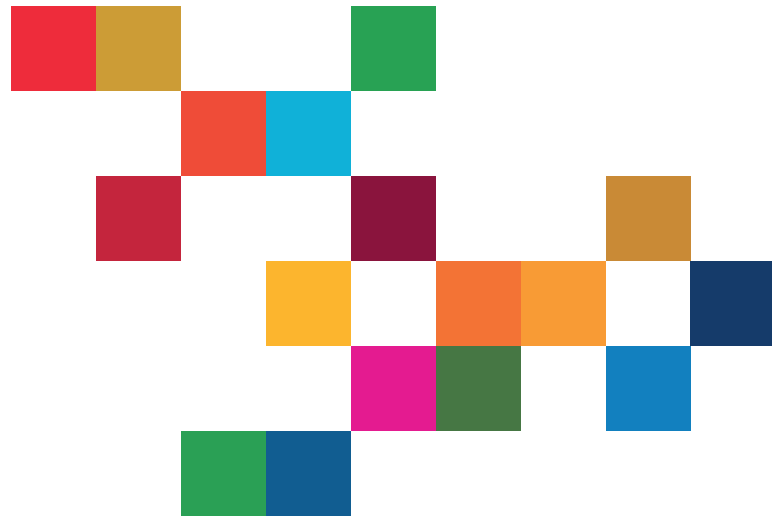
cio-economic, and other determinants mean certain segments of the population are disproportionately excluded.

Climate change is expected to alter the distribution, timing, and intensity of weather-related events, impacting the availability and quality of water resources and the infrastructure needed to deliver Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services. The threat posed by climate change makes water safety planning increasingly important to safeguard drinking-water quality. Rapid population growth, poor sanitation practices, and industrialisation in Namibia pose serious threats to water quality.

Namibia has increased its efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change, as well as to reduce risk and vulnerabilities through the development of various plans and partnerships. Since 2011, Namibia has joined the Paris Agreement and has been seeking funds from international agencies to implement projects that mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change. The country has also made significant achievements in tackling environmental issues by integrating community members into several resource management interventions. The National Policy on Climate Change, formulated in 2011, was followed by the development of its implementation plan, the 2013 National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan..

Figure 47: Problem tree for unsustainable natural resources management





Human rights and LNOB

Women in Namibia face significant exclusion from decision-making processes concerning natural resource management. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has recommended that human rights impact assessments be conducted specifically for oil and gas exploration activities, emphasising the need to involve women and girls in critical decisions and to ensure their informed consent, particularly in the Kavango regions.

Indigenous peoples in Namibia also experience exclusion from decision-making and political participation. This exclusion is more pronounced for indigenous women, girls, boys, youth, and persons with disabilities, who face dynamic intersectional discrimination, placing them at greater risk of being left behind in sustainable development processes. The Human Rights Committee noted in 2016 that traditional land ownership remains with the State and that indigenous peoples are insufficiently consulted regarding the extraction of natural resources from their lands.

Such inequalities are poised to widen in the context of climate change, making addressing access to natural resources and participation in decision making around access to natural resources critical if these populations are not to be left behind.

Cross-border Issues

The management of natural resources in Namibia is often transboundary in nature, with the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA) being one of the flagship initiatives. Common river basins shared marine resources, shared groundwater sources and transboundary aquifers, sustainable wildlife management, as well as timber and non-timber for-

est products require effective coordination by neighboring states, especially with Angola, Botswana, and South Africa.

8.1.3 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Conservation and implementation of agreed Conventions

Namibia has made significant achievements in tackling environmental issues by integrating community members in several resource management interventions. These include women, youth, indigenous peoples, and people with disabilities, who will be disproportionately impacted by climate-induced disasters. Community-based approaches ensure the participation of communities and other stakeholders in equitable benefit-sharing and distribution of natural resources in a sustainable manner. Since 2013, Namibia has implemented the National Policy on Community-Based Natural Resource Management. The country has also ensured biodiversity and ecosystem protection through the establishment of Protected Areas (PAs), Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs), covering both terrestrial and marine areas, and significant transboundary NRM initiatives such as the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA).

To ensure the conservation and sustainable utilisation of wildlife and other natural resources, approximately 44% of the country's land mass is under some form of conservation management. However, Namibia is semi-arid, and its ecosystems are fragile. This fragility makes Namibian ecosystems inherently vulnerable to environmental change – whether natural or man-made, external or internal. The fragility of Namibia's ecosystem has resulted in low land capability, meaning that the country's soils are easily degraded. The increase

in extreme weather events and average temperatures has been observed and is expected to continue.

The country is party to several multilateral environmental agreements and other international agreements. These promote sustainable consumption and production, and various programmes focus on preventing and reversing land degradation, biodiversity loss, climate change, and climate variability through sustainable land, forest, rangeland, and dry land management (e.g., NILALEG). Between 2019 and 2027, Namibia is expected to deliver close to US\$ 30M under the Global Environment Facility to finance various programmes aimed at sustainably managing its biodiversity and fragile landscapes. However, beyond this, there is a need to diversify funding sources, increase public funding, and explore how biodiversity conservation can be more sustainably funded through innovative partnerships.

8.2 Barrier 8: Climate Change and External Shocks

8.2.1 Status and trends

Namibia's climate is characterized by unpredictable and variable rainfall patterns, high temperature variability, and water scarcity, contributing to the country's vulnerability to climate change. The semi-arid climate over most of the country, coupled with high evaporation rates, results in a net water deficit (mean annual rainfall minus potential evaporation), ranging from -4000 mm in the southeast to -1600 mm in the northeast. Like many countries in the region, Namibia is prone to floods, droughts, wildfires, and deforestation. Flooding is the most regularly occurring hazard. According to Kapuka and Hlásny (2020), in 2011 floods impacted nearly 500,000 people, with over 60,000 displaced and 65 deaths. Between 2013 and 2016, 450,000 people were affected by drought, which in 2015 and 2016 was exacerbated by the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). In 2018 and 2019, the country experienced the most severe drought event in the last 90 years. The combination of low rainfall and low soil moisture exposes one third of Namibia's population to food insecurity and leads to the death of nearly 90,000 livestock. Namibia is also prone to wildfires, both natural and man-induced. It is estimated that more than 1 million hectares of forest and open land are burned every year, resulting in environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, and economic disruption for local communities. Future

climate projections indicate that temperatures are expected to increase progressively by 2.0°C to as much as 5.4°C by the end of the century. Conversely, precipitation rates are likely to decrease by as much as 19 percent by the 2080s. Overall, the estimated effects of climate change and vulnerability could result in an annual decrease of 6.5 percent of the country's GDP.

The country's climate vulnerability is closely related to its aridity and high water scarcity. Population growth, extreme inequalities, and development trends will further exacerbate and worsen current challenges and existing vulnerabilities, with changing rainfall patterns and rising temperatures.

Namibia is a very low emitter of greenhouse gases (GHGs), yet it is among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Currently, the main drivers of climate change and environmental degradation in Namibia are energy production through the burning of fossil fuels, industrial processes, the product use sector, and the agriculture, forestry, and other land use sectors.

The NDP5 acknowledges the importance of strengthened systems for mitigation, adaptation, and climate-resilient low-carbon development. Namibia's National Policy on Climate Change presents the country's framework for climate risk management, aligning with the Government's constitutional obligation to promote the welfare of its people and the protection of its environment for both present and future generations. Namibia also emphasizes urban and rural climate justice and equity.

Despite positive steps, Namibia still struggles in terms of reducing risks and vulnerability to extreme and prolonged weather conditions. There is a lack of capacity in terms of data generation (quality and frequency), effective policy implementation, expertise, and research. The lack of climate-relevant data collection is particularly acute in vulnerable areas, such as informal settlements, which are among the most exposed to climate risk. Dealing with the aftermath of extreme weather events also means that limited resources intended for development must be diverted to disaster response, delaying planned developmental initiatives.

Unfortunately, extreme weather conditions in the country are becoming more frequent, hampering efforts to build more effective, integrated, and sustainable food systems for the wider population. This



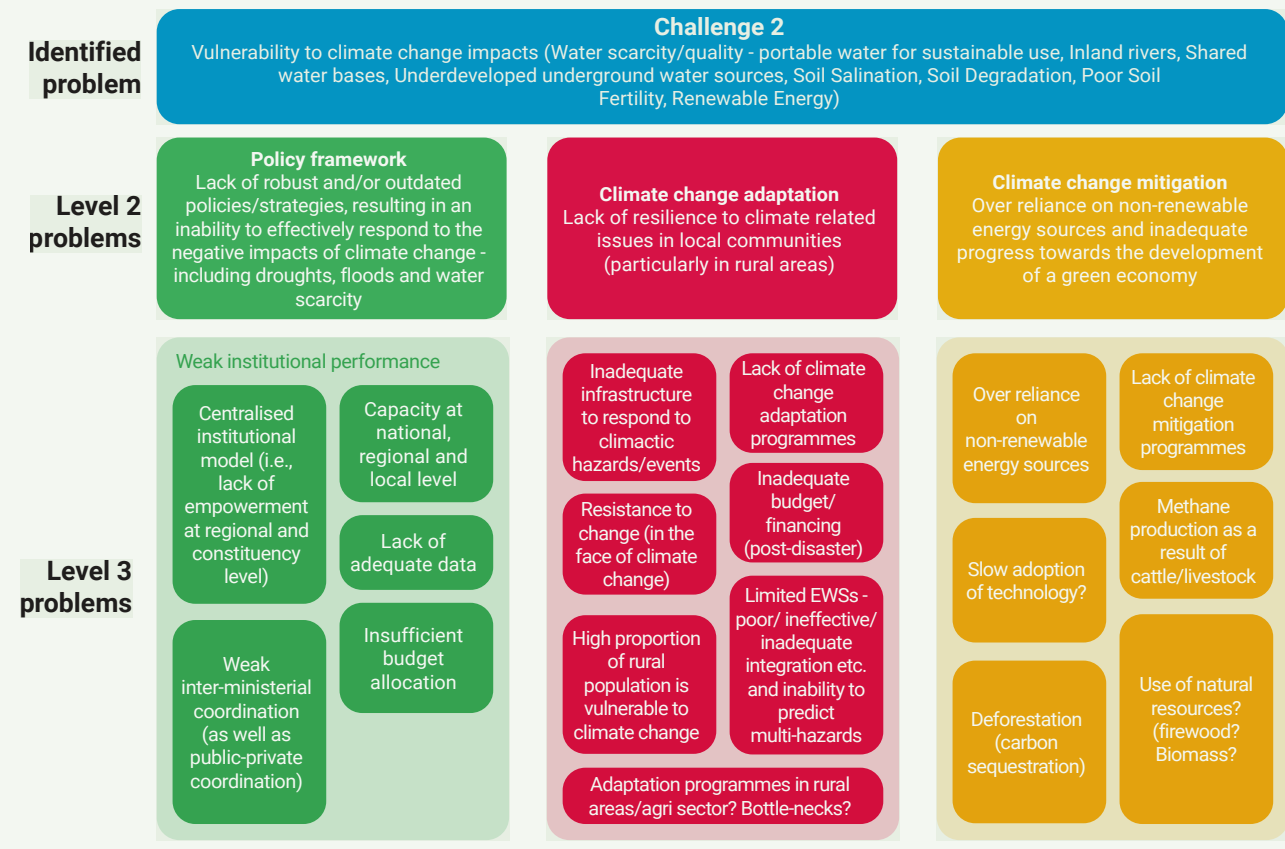
variability in weather is likely to further reduce the productivity of agricultural land, fisheries, and forestry, and threatens the growth of the tourism sector and the livelihoods of marginalised communities (e.g., slum dwellers).

Climate risks pose serious threats to key sectors such as mining, agriculture (including fisheries and livestock), wildlife tourism, water supply, and hydropower energy. Recurrent droughts and floods exacerbate acute food insecurity and malnutrition, affecting livelihoods and triggering rural-urban migrations. This migration has contributed to the high percentage of people residing in informal settlements in Namibia, who face acute climate vulnerabilities. In Namibia, 63% (673,127) of children live in areas experiencing high/extremely high water vulnerability. From December 2021 to March 2022, an estimated 30% of the population faced acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3: Crisis). Food insecurity is further compounded by COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Floods compromise safe water supplies and damage sanitation facilities, increasing the risk of diarrhea and other disease outbreaks to which children are highly vulnerable, such as cholera and meningococcal meningitis. Food insecurity and lack of safe

drinking water can also cause malnutrition and waterborne diseases among pregnant and lactating women, affecting pregnancy, nursing, and the health of newborn babies. Climate change, therefore, continues to be a real threat to Namibia’s development progress.

Finance, technology transfer, technical assistance, digital technologies for data collection, management and processing, and capacity-building of local communities and government officials are critical for implementing the mitigation and adaptation actions set out in Namibia’s updated NDC. International public financing is dwindling, given the country’s UMIC status. Improving access to local public and private financing sources is, therefore, a high priority for Namibia to effectively address climate change challenges and commitments to green pathways. Although Namibia has established state agencies such as the Environmental Investment Fund, which has made major strides in establishing long-term funding vehicles for environmental management, and a few financial institutions are restructuring to offer loans for green businesses, there is a need to support communities across Namibia to access such facilities, as some are associated with high interest rates.

Figure 48: Problem tree for vulnerability to climate change



Human rights and LNOB

Rural populations, particularly small-holder farmers who rely on rain-fed agriculture, suffer from high poverty rates and persistent food insecurity despite measures such as the application of low-interest rates by Agribank. Their reliance on natural systems makes them particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, yet they often lack access to credit, subsidies, and other tools that could boost adaptive capacities.

Given that poverty, unemployment, and inequality are feminized in Namibia, rural women face increased exposure. Women have comparatively lower levels of access to bank loans, mortgages, and other forms of financial credit (e.g., low-interest loans without collateral and discounted loans through the Agricultural Bank of Namibia and the Development Bank of Namibia). These mechanisms are crucial tools for enhancing the resilience and adaptive capacities of rural communities.

Climate change impacts continue to disproportionately harm children, young people, and their communities. Climate impacts are causing forced displacement, disruption of schooling, increased child labour, and contributing to increased violence as availability of, and access to, natural resources become scarce.

The economic consequences of climate-related shocks for households can indirectly limit the affordability of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services where financial risk protection mechanisms are not in place for vulnerable and at-risk population groups. Disruption of SRH services can have widespread effects on health, including increases in sexually transmitted infections (STIs), unwanted pregnancies, maternal complications, and death during childbirth.

The participation of women in climate-related policy and planning is comparatively low. Concrete measures need to be taken to ensure that climate change and energy policies take into account the differentiated and disproportionate impact of climate change and environmental degradation on women, especially rural and indigenous women. There needs to be a concrete effort toward mainstreaming gender in climate-related policy and development plans.

Indigenous peoples face dynamic intersectional discrimination that places them at risk of being left furthest behind in sustainable development processes. Indigenous peoples are relatively more likely to

be excluded from decision-making and political participation. The Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR) recommended that Namibia should reassess and monitor the impact of its policies, and revise strategies in consultation with San peoples – including climate-related policy and development plans.

As Namibia implements its enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and pursues new investment initiatives to achieve its mitigation targets, it is essential to ground these ambitions in principles of just transition and pro-poor strategies.

Cross-border Issues

Most natural disasters in Namibia are transboundary in nature. These include COVID-19 and other human health-related outbreaks, recurrent droughts (particularly in southern Angola and parts of northern Namibia), crop and animal pests (e.g., locusts, fall armyworm), and diseases (e.g., CBPP, FMD, Avian flu). Climate change exacerbates both environmental and human shocks and disasters. Since climate change impacts are inherently transboundary, causing displacement both internally and externally, it requires effective cooperation and coordination to be managed effectively.

8.2.2 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Sustain momentum towards climate adaptation and mitigation

Namibia needs to reduce vulnerability to climate change-induced impacts and low preparedness/adaptive and mitigation capacity. The country has increased efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as to reduce risk and vulnerabilities, since the development of the National Policy on Climate (2011), followed by the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2013). Resource mobilisation toward climate change mitigation and adaptation measures has improved drastically since 2015, although non-traditional and innovative funding sources remain largely untapped. Namibia will need a robust renewable energy investment de-risking framework and methodology to systematically identify the barriers and associated risks that can hinder private sector investment in renewable energy, for example.

The country, through its NDCs, has shown commitment to a 95% emission reduction, primarily driven by the forestry sector. Other sectors, such as energy and agriculture, are also earmarked to contribute. This commitment to emission reduction requires a whole-of-society approach, accompanied by a robust NDC investment strategy that targets various forms



of partnerships and financing. Engaging the private sector in energy investments, such as solar and green hydrogen (which the country has already embarked on), and pursuing initiatives like the Carbon Markets, will direct financial flows to this strategy.

8.3 Barrier 9: High vulnerability and poor resilience to disaster and emergency shocks, compounded by limited preparedness & response capacity

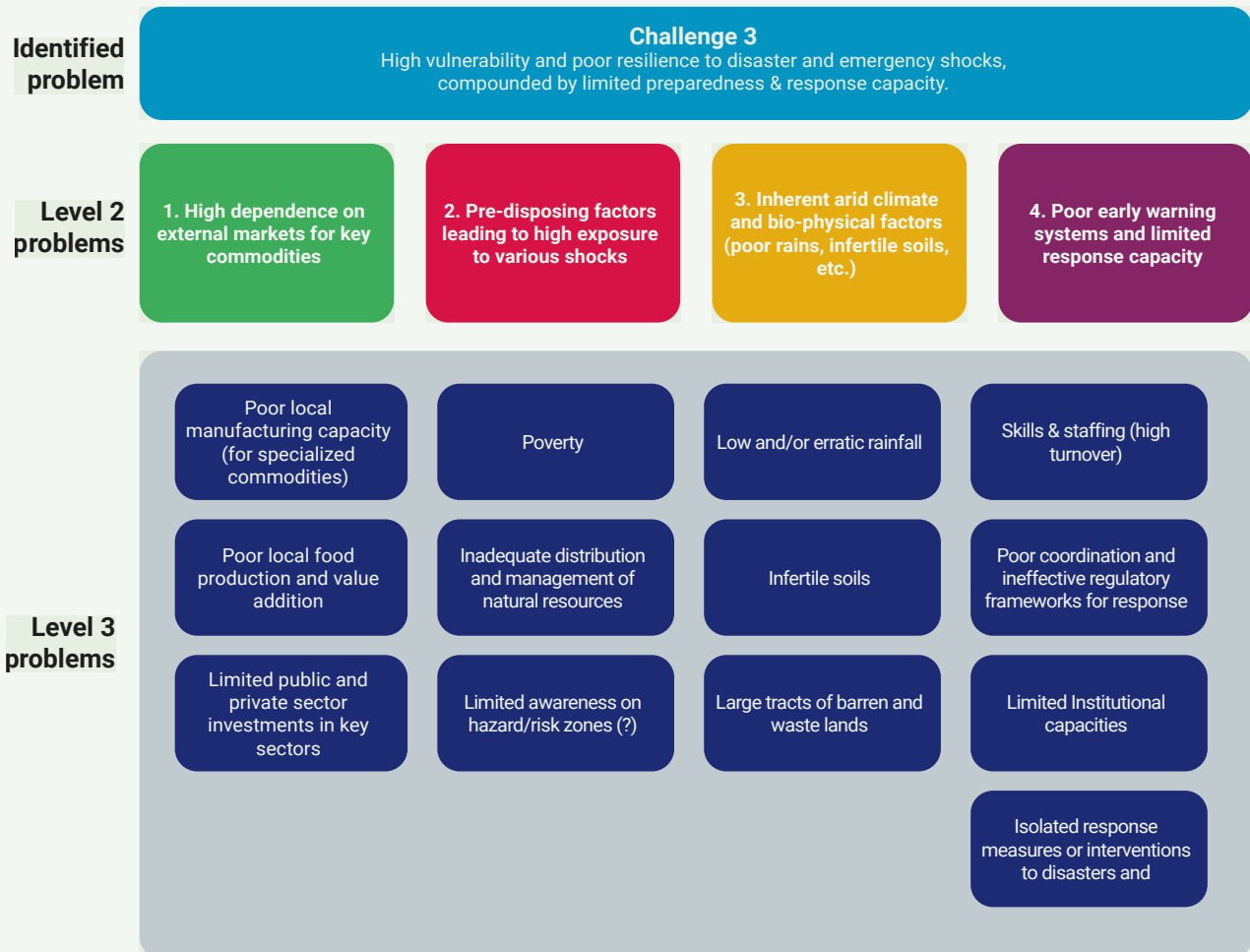
Namibia’s inherent arid climate and biophysical factors, coupled with its high dependency on external markets for core commodities, increase its exposure to various hazards and make it vulnerable to multiple shocks, including natural disasters and man-made causes.

Public health outbreaks, such as Hepatitis E (2017–2021) in informal settlements and COVID-19, have uncovered significant gaps in na-

tional emergency preparedness and response. Additionally, the general underperformance of key sectors of the economy, coupled with limited local food production and manufacturing capacities—due to limited skills, availability of raw materials, and investments in these key sectors—heightens Namibia’s dependence on external markets for key commodities, exposing it to external shocks.

As a result of these multiple shocks, the livelihoods and coping mechanisms of vulnerable households have been and continue to be eroded. These shocks include locust outbreaks, poor rainfall/recurrent drought, severe water shortages, occasional flash floods in some areas, price shocks impacting key agro-commodities, equitable access to food, and agribusinesses, and COVID-19-induced underperformance of the economy. The proportion of food-insecure individuals (IPC Phase 3+) rose from just over 400,000 to 750,000 between March 2020 and March 2022.

Figure 49: Problem tree for high vulnerability and low poor resilience to disaster



Human rights and LNOB

The impact of disasters is gendered, with significant concern over gender accessibility and participation in addressing these challenges. The participation of women in disaster risk reduction (DRR) policy and planning is comparatively low. Concrete measures need to be taken to ensure women's participation in processes that affect them. Efforts must be directed towards mainstreaming gender in DRR and emergency response policy and planning.

Disasters also negatively impact access to education and other services for children and adults with disabilities, particularly those from poor and rural communities. The National Disability Forum, comprising representatives from government, the UN, civil society, organisations of persons with disabilities, and institutions of higher education, advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities, addressing challenges that affect them. The Integrated School Health Task Force trains regional school health teams on various health and safety issues, including climate-resilient WASH in schools. These trainings advocate for inclusive services to ensure access to information for children with disabilities.

Cross-border issues

Prolonged and severe droughts in southern Angola and parts of northern Namibia continue to compromise food security, driving cross-border and internal migration and adding additional pressures on national resources.

Namibia and Angola are signatories to the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 and have been conducting collaborative cross-border meetings aligned with Article 21 of the regulations. The MoU on Cross-Border Public Health Issues, signed in 2011 between the Ministers of Health of Angola and Namibia, provides a foundation for these meetings. WHO plays a critical role in coordination and provides both technical and financial assistance for convening the cross-border meetings. These annual meetings aim to strengthen cross-border collaboration and discuss strategies for effective cooperation in controlling public health issues, including the Expanded Program on Immunisation (EPI), disease outbreaks, and other infectious disease interventions along the common border between Namibia and Angola.

Female migrants from Namibia's border countries have limited access to basic needs, including the rights to water, food, and shelter. Women with low

levels of formal education are often excluded from the labour market and turn to work in unregulated sectors, such as the sex industry. Female sex workers are exposed to risks of sexual violence and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. However, they have little access to sexual reproductive health or legal services due to their illegal immigrant status.

8.3.1 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Utilisation of real-time data and information for climate action

Data and information on the recurrent droughts in some parts of the country, which lasted for more than six consecutive seasons (2013/14 to 2018/19), followed by the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 to 2021), show the impact on all sectors of the economy. Moreover, locust outbreaks ravaged over 700,000 hectares (2020/21 growing season) and more than 1.8 million hectares (2021/22 growing season), including at least 3,000 hectares of cropland. In addition, livestock disease outbreaks, such as Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia (CBPP) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in northern and north-eastern regions, have had a negative impact on the livelihoods of those dependent on livestock-based economies. Furthermore, early in 2022, Namibia recorded cases of bird/avian flu (HPAI H5N1 strain) at the coastal towns of Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. Between 2017 and 2021, a Hepatitis E outbreak due to poor sanitation and hygiene practices became widespread in informal settlements around Namibia. Between 2020 and 2022, 4,079 human lives were lost due to COVID-19; over 1,000 wild birds succumbed to the bird flu virus; 188 cattle succumbed to CBPP; and locust-related car accidents were reported to have claimed at least three lives in southern Namibia.

The validation of CADRI findings and recommendations in 2017 has triggered the establishment of additional local DRM committees provided for by law, but which are yet to be fully operational at all four levels (regional, local authority, constituency, and settlement). This momentum has strengthened the central-regional coordination mechanism for disaster preparedness. However, better coordination at local, sub-national, and national levels is required to ensure that the policy and regulatory framework, as well as the multi-level digital and data governance framework, meet the nation's expectations, especially in the context of preparedness for multiple shocks, general disaster risk management, and resilience building. Fragmented response interventions to disasters and emergency shocks limit the benefits and impacts of these efforts towards the affected communities.



Peace

SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels



9.1 Governance

Namibia has held peaceful and regular presidential, legislative, and regional and local elections since independence. Traditionally, the SWAPO party has received the support of the majority of the population, though there is a downward trend experienced in recent elections (Table 4 and Table 5).

Table 5: Results of Presidential Elections in 2019

Candidate	Party	Votes	%
Hage Geingob	SWAPO	464,703	56.25
Panduleni Itula	Independent	242,657	29.37
McHenry Venaani	Popular Democratic Movement	43,959	5.32
Bernadus Swartbooi	Landless People's Movement	22,542	2.73
Apius Auchab	United Democratic Front	22,115	2.68
Esther Muinjangu	National Unity Democratic Organisation	12,039	1.46
Tangeni Iiyambo	SWANU	5,959	0.72
Henk Mudge	Republican Party	4,379	0.53
Mike Kavekatora	Rally for Democracy and Progress	3,515	0.43
Ignatius Shixwameni	All People's Party	3,304	0.40
Epafras Mukwiilongo	Namibian Economic Freedom Fighters	1,026	0.12
		826,198	

Source: Electoral Commission of Namibia, 2019

Table 5: Results of Legislative Elections in 2019

Party	Votes	%	Seats
SWAPO	536,861	65.45	63
Popular Democratic Movement	136,576	16.65	16
Landless People's Movement	38,956	4.75	4
National Unity Democratic Organisation	16,066	1.96	2
All People's Party	14,664	1.79	2
United Democratic Front	14,644	1.79	2
Republican Party	14,546	1.77	2
Namibian Economic Freedom Fighters	13,580	1.66	2
Rally for Democracy and Progress	8,953	1.09	1
Christian Democratic Voice	5,841	0.71	1
SWANU	5,330	0.65	1
Congress of Democrats	4,654	0.57	0
National Democratic Party	4,559	0.56	0
Workers Revolutionary Party	3,212	0.39	0
National Patriotic Front	1,785	0.22	0
Appointed members			8
Total	820,227	100.00	104

Source: Electoral Commission of Namibia, 2019

Namibia has ratified or acceded to 7 of the 9 core United Nations human rights treaties¹¹⁹ and similarly, ratified or acceded to many primary regional human rights treaties.¹²⁰ Namibia is not a State party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED). The country continues to engage with human rights mechanisms despite certain reports being overdue. Namibia has undergone three cycles of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and received recommendations for implementation. Additionally, the country has received several visits from special rapporteurs including the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation (2011), the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples (2012), the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (2012), and the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons (2017). The Constitution of Namibia guarantees civil and political rights, children's rights, workers' rights, property rights, and the right to education. Other economic and social rights are non-justiciable principles of state policy.

Namibia has an Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights with its secretariat within the Ministry of Justice. Cabinet formally approved the mandate of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) in April 2019 although it had been in existence since 2002. The NMRF serves as a national structure responsible for coordinating the process of State party reporting and implementation of recommendations. The NMRF aims to ensure that human rights obligations are kept under review for proper implementation, reporting, and follow-up.

Namibia has a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) with "A" status under the Paris Principles, namely the Ombudsman. Since economic and social rights are largely non-justiciable under the Constitution, the Ombudsman does not have a mandate in

¹¹⁹ Namely, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

¹²⁰ Namely the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; the Protocol to the African Charter on Human And Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; and the Protocol to the



respect of these rights.¹²¹

Namibia ranks second in Africa on the World Press Freedom Index¹²², owing to public access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements. Namibia ranks 7th on the 2020 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance for “Overall Governance”, behind Botswana and South Africa. However, under the sub-category of “Rights”, Namibia joins Mauritius and South Africa as 3 of the top 5 countries that are on a “path of increasing deterioration”¹²³. Freedom House continues to rate Namibia as “free” with an unchanged score of 77 out of 100 in 2021¹²⁴ and 2022, although poverty and marginalisation of the San people, gender-based violence (GBV), discrimination against women, and police brutality are noted as human rights concerns.

In June 2022, the National Assembly adopted the Access to Information Bill which is being reviewed by the National Council. The law is aimed at providing for citizens’ right of access to information held by public and private entities, and facilitating transparency, accountability, and good governance.

Further efforts were made regarding women’s representation being adopted by the ruling party, through the attributed “zebra style” gender representation in parliament. This has seen the Namibian bicameral parliament having 48% of its members as women since the 2019 Elections.

Rural women face challenges in accessing justice. CEDAW has recommended that the government of Namibia ensure that “women, in particular rural and indigenous women and women filing for divorce or reporting gender-based violence cases, have effective access to justice in all parts of [Namibia]”¹²⁵.

The judiciary in Namibia remains an independent branch under the Constitution, with the High Court and Supreme Court rulings guided by the interpretation

of existing laws. However, the Supreme Court’s rec- African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

¹²¹ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, *Concluding observations on the initial report of Namibia E/C.12/NAM/CO/1* (23 March 2016) para 4.

¹²² <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1221101/press-freedom-index-in-africa-by-country/>

¹²³ Mo Ibrahim Foundation, *2020 Ibrahim Index of African Governance* (2021) p. 41.

¹²⁴ <https://freedomhouse.org/country/namibia/freedom-world/2022>

¹²⁵ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6* (4 July 2022) paras 17-18.

ognition of the disputed presidential election results of November 2019 was met with public scrutiny and criticism. Judicial benches are generally appointed based on qualifications, although the appointment of the Attorney General and Prosecutor-General remains largely a political decision, with judges being appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC).

Treaty bodies have expressed concerns regarding reports of torture and ill-treatment in police cells and detention facilities, as well as harassment and discrimination against LGBTQI+ persons by law enforcement officials. The Human Rights Committee noted with concern reports of police regularly detaining and raping sex workers.¹²⁶ Additionally, both the Human Rights Committee and the Committee Against Torture (CAT) have highlighted issues with pretrial detention being excessively long¹²⁷, and that conditions of detention are extremely poor and include overcrowding.¹²⁸ Further echoing concerns of juvenile offenders being detained with adults, CAT also noted with deep concern the “high rate of HIV among prisoners, the reluctance to take measures to prevent HIV transmission, and the lack of official data on the total number of infected prisoners and their access to antiretroviral medicine”.¹²⁹ Moreover, the Committee noted reports of understaffing, inadequate food supplies, and lack of medical services in correctional facilities, thus underscoring the vulnerability of persons deprived of their liberty. It is further necessary to consider an assessment of women who come into contact with the law, and the impact thereof on children and communities. Furthermore, gender-responsive prisons need to be assessed (Bangkok Rules, Tokyo Rules).

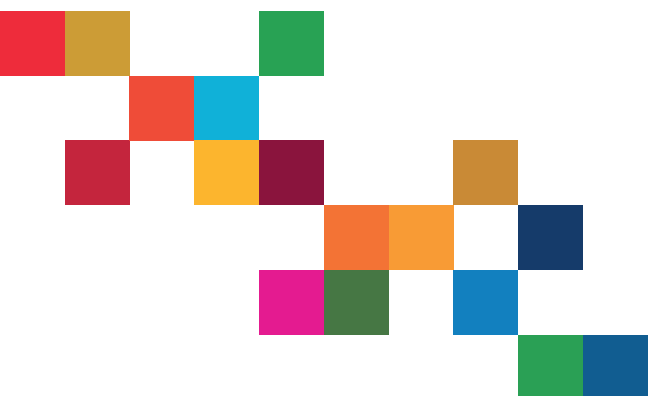
In 2022, CEDAW noted that the number of unregistered births remains high, especially in rural areas. The committee recommended that Namibia ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. CEDAW also recommended that Namibia continue facilitating birth registration,

¹²⁶ Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Namibia under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020 CCPR/C/NAM/3* (23 May 2022) para 21.

¹²⁷ Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Namibia under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020 CCPR/C/NAM/3* (23 May 2022) para 27.

¹²⁸ Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Namibia under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020 CCPR/C/NAM/3* (23 May 2022) para 33.

¹²⁹ Committee against Torture, *Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Namibia CAT/C/NAM/CO/2* (1 February 2017) para 16.



including for mothers without identity documents or when they are refugees or asylum-seekers, through the use of electronic birth registration systems and strengthen efforts to deploy mobile civil registry units to issue birth certificates in rural and remote areas and indigenous communities¹³⁰.

In respect of the trafficking of persons and exploitation of prostitution, CEDAW recently noted that the adoption of the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act (No. 1 of 2018), reports of trafficking in women and girls from, to, and through Namibia are on the rise. CEDAW noted low prosecution and reporting rates for trafficking cases and expressed concern about the lack of shelters and support systems for victims of trafficking. CEDAW also noted the lack of information about prostitution, including women who wish to leave prostitution.¹³¹

Refugees and asylum-seekers in Namibia are required to reside in the Osire refugee settlement and may only leave with a permit.¹³² Besides limiting their right to freedom of movement,¹³³ this arrangement also impacts their ability to access and exercise their rights to education and work, as guaranteed in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which Namibia has ratified.

¹³⁰ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) paras 35-36.

¹³¹ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 41, with recommendations set out in para 29.

¹³² Human Rights Committee, *Third periodic report submitted by Namibia under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020* CCPR/C/NAM/3 (23 May 2022) paras 35-36.

¹³³ Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, *Concluding observations on the combined thirteenth to fifteenth periodic reports of Namibia* CERD/C/NAM/CO/13-15 (10 June 2016) paras 27-28.

In terms of effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions, there are challenges in Namibian public administration regarding the need to improve policy coordination and implementation across sectors such as health, education, environment, food systems, employment, and economic productivity and trade. Strengthening capacities for results-based management in key areas for human development, such as health and education, is crucial as current results and outcomes do not correspond with resource allocation compared to similar countries. Capacity development at the local and regional levels in public administration is also a concern due to Namibia's geography and population density, which poses challenges for delivering essential and basic services and implementing key policies and programs in the environment and climate change sectors.

Social dialogue and tripartism in Namibia remain fraught with institutional inadequacies and a lack of capacity, as social partners continue to be relatively weak due to membership loss and coordination challenges in a difficult economy. The Labour Advisory Council is the main body for social dialogue at the national level as established under the country's labour law. However, its effectiveness is limited by its promotional and advisory mandate, restricting it to issues of conflict between government, employers, and labour, while not influencing macroeconomic issues that affect the world of work.

Corruption remains a challenge in Namibia, particularly in sectors such as natural resources, public procurement, customs, and public services. The Government is continually improving measures to prevent and counter corruption. The adoption of the second National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan (NACSAP) 2021–2025 is expected to further enhance the Government's efforts to tackle corruption in all sectors of society and build upon gains achieved under the first NACSAP. Recently, Namibia dealt with a large-scale corruption case, the "Fishrot case," which involved siphoning off millions of dollars from Namibia's fishing industry. This case created an impetus for increased inter-agency collaboration in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases in the country.¹³⁴ Namibia is a party to the UN Convention against Corruption. It underwent the first cycle of the review of the implementation of the Convention in 2015 and is currently undergoing the second cycle.

¹³⁴ Corruption in Namibia's fishing industry unveiled | Corruption News | Al Jazeera



Table 6: Snapshot of Good Governance Indicators

Focus Area	Baseline	Target 2020/21	Progress 2020/21
Peace, Security, and Rule of Law			
Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Global Peace Index o Crime Rate (%) 	1.873(2015) 4.4% (2015)	1.713 -6%	1.861 8%
Accountability and Transparency			
Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Transparency International Index (score) 	53 (2015)	60	51
Public Service Performance and Service Delivery			
Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Number of decentralized Functions o A score of Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) 	11 (2015) 83.9% (2015)	7 58%	4 54%
Statistical Development	The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) launched the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) in 2017. The strategy aims to strengthen statistics while monitoring and evaluating user needs. The state of Namibian statistics, as measured by the World Bank Statistics Capacity Indicator is lower than the average score for Sub-Saharan Africa.		

Source:

9.2 Barrier 10: Lack of timely, available, adequate, and sufficiently disaggregated statistics to inform decision making and ensure accountability and transparency

Namibia has not recently conducted major surveys to support evidence-based planning and decision-making. The 2021 National Census was postponed due to limited financial resources following the COVID-19 pandemic, among other reasons. Namibia's Statistics Agency (NSA) has reported that several vital statistics are outdated, including labour force survey,¹³⁵ national population and housing census statistics, household income and expenditure statistics, financial inclusion data, migration data, land statistics, data on mortality and causes of death, social inclusion statistics, GDP rebasing (revision), CPI rebasing, and data on demography and health variables. The launch of the National Population and Housing Census on 13 September 2023 is a major milestone towards addressing the range of data deficits.

¹³⁵ The LFS was last conducted in 2018. Prior to that in 2016, the CESC recommended that Namibia improve "as soon as possible, its data collection system on unemployment as a tool for combating that phenomenon effectively, by conducting the [LFS] as frequently as possible and generating data disaggregated by factors related to the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups." CESC; *Concluding observations on the initial report of Namibia*, E/C.12/NAM/CO/1 (2016) para 30.

Table 7: Data sources and year conducted

Surveys and Census	Year data collected
1. Labour force statistics	2018
2. National Population and Housing census Statistics	2011
3. Namibia Household Income and Expenditure survey	2016
4. Multidimensional Poverty Index (2021) based on the 2016 NHIES	2016
5. Namibia Financial Inclusion data	2017
6. Migration Data	2015
7. Land statistics	2018
8. Mortality and Causes of Deaths in Namibia	2016
9. Social statistics	2016
10. Namibia Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS)	2013
11. GDP Rebasing (revision)	2019
12. CPI Rebasing	2009-10
13. Coordination of Statistical System	Ongoing
14. Quality Administrative Data	Ongoing

Source:



Timely, available, adequate, and sufficiently disaggregated data is vital for identifying emerging development challenges and for monitoring progress towards development in compliance with the principle of Leaving No One Behind. Identifying and integrating more detailed insights into development programme planning processes can lead to better-targeted responses and more efficient resource allocation. Development data plays a critical role in helping countries set new targets, benchmark, and develop systems that enable factual reporting on development, and set evidence-based global, regional, and national development agendas. Additionally, strengthening the capacity building of local communities and government officials to use digital technologies, tools, effective data collection, disaggregation, analysis, and monitoring assists policymakers and development partners in course-correcting programmes and policies. This contributes to greater cost-efficiency and greater investments, empowers targeted community interventions, and ultimately helps achieve the SDGs.

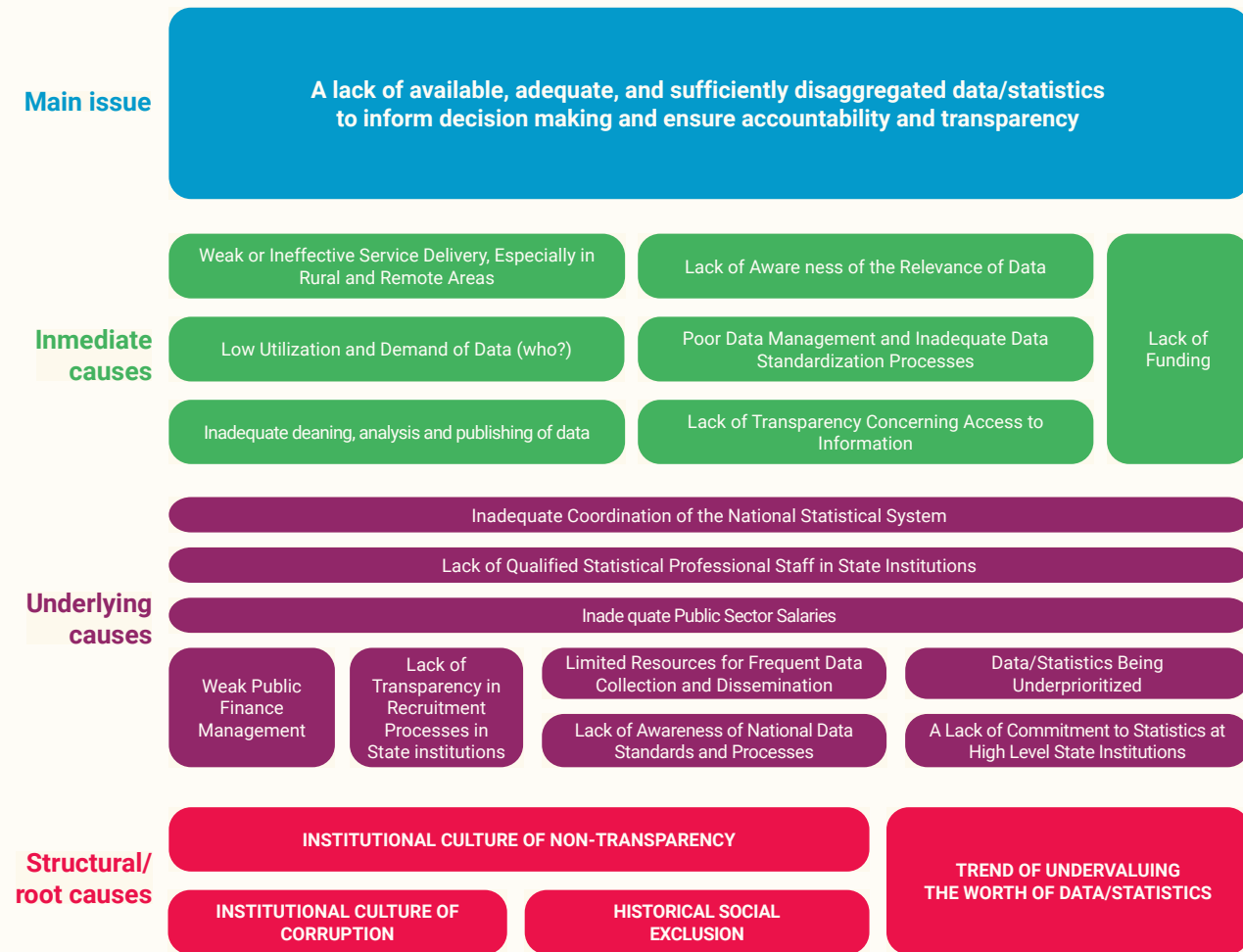
A strong National Statistical System (NSS) is a prerequisite for designing, monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the implementation of policy and managing results on all dimensions of sustainable development. Having timely, available, adequate, and sufficiently disaggregated data enables accountable, transparent, effective, responsive, and efficient service delivery across the public sector. It ensures that all stakeholders remain responsible for development results and ensures effective public management and monitoring progress on the implementation of Namibia's international, regional, and domestic human rights obligations. Sufficient disaggregation of data in line with the characteristics identified in international human rights law is crucial to enable

comparisons between different segments of the population and to understand the inequalities often hidden behind national aggregates. To this end, the development of open and transparent digital governance approaches and high-quality data systems, strategies, and tools for mapping, spatial analysis, and data visualisation are key to addressing climate challenges, including the vulnerability of people living in informal settlements. Without adequately disaggregated data, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to ensure that no one is left behind in Namibia's development trajectory. This hinders the identification and understanding of the needs of marginalized people in situations of vulnerability.

Thus, there is a need to develop existing and build new institutional, technical, and digital capacities for coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of development programs and effective public management systems. Evidence suggests that existing data systems and infrastructure are disconnected, with various institutions having their individual data management systems. The current NSS requires an innovative approach to address the variances of needs across sectors clearly and to ensure that both the current policy and programmatic interventions, as well as the reporting to international mechanisms, are evidence-based. Through enhancing efforts towards effective governance, the UN in Namibia can contribute to addressing the triple threats of development: unemployment (or employment creation), poverty reduction (or wealth creation), and inequalities. To effectively respond to these threats, it is imperative to have timely available, sufficiently disaggregated data on (un)employment, multi-dimensional poverty, and who is being left behind and where.



Figure 50: Problem tree for lack of available, adequate, and sufficiently disaggregated data



Poor Data Management and Inadequate Data Standardisation Processes

The NSA is mandated to develop and coordinate the National Statistical System (NSS) according to the Statistics Act. The aim is to ensure the effective and efficient production of official and other statistics that are demand-driven and fit for planning, policy making, and decision making. During the design phase of the second strategic plan (2017/18-2021/22), it was realized that the NSA alone was not sufficiently meeting the huge and exponentially increasing demand for statistics, let alone official statistics, in the country. Therefore, the design of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) as a coordination mechanism for data producers in the entire NSS became imperative and was one of the central features of the second strategic plan. Currently, the NSDS is still under construction and faces challenges concerning coordination and implementation, with inconsistencies in the perceived delegated responsibilities of the respective public sectors. Consequently, the inadequate coordination of the NSS continues to see public sectors with disconnected systems for managing their data/statistics, having separate data platforms (both open and closed) that are not interoperable and do not strengthen one another. This leaves gaps in the existing available data and the quality thereof. There is a clear need for improved data governance, coherence, and collaboration between national and local governments, communities, and international donors.

The development of a culture of transparency is a prerequisite to exposing corruption and other irregular spending and Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs), thereby soliciting accountability. It requires enhanced capacity in leadership, in addition to focusing on increasing citizens' voice and agency for enhanced public accountability and promoting transparency. Additionally, improving transparency in recruitment processes for statistical professional staff in state institutions may have a positive outcome in strengthening and understanding the mandate of the National Statistical System (NSS).

Low utilisation and demand of data

Data challenges revolve around both data demand and supply, with the two linked in a mutually supporting loop. Strong data demand to support development processes leads to better resources for statistics in the form of budgets, skilled and motivated staff, and financial and technical assistance. This, in turn, may lead to increased investment in statistics, eventually leading to improved performance of the NSS. Additionally, data and digital transformation strategies should contribute to digital public participation and capacity building to enhance the skills of local communities in data collection and accessibility. Hence, digital tools and innovative approaches to citizen science and participatory data collection are needed. Currently, the country faces the challenge of a lack of available, adequate, and sufficiently disaggregated data/statistics.

The draft NSDS states that “...there is limited data use and value addition due to general poor understanding of data and statistics produced by the sectors. Addressing these gaps in a comprehensive manner is a prerequisite for a robust NSS, and given their scope, it is expected to be a gradual process.” (p. 26). The document identifies a limited understanding of the importance and value of sectoral statistics, which are often under-prioritized by sector management and users. In addition, there is inadequate dissemination of data and statistical reports to users. The draft NSDS showed that although the sectors have several stakeholders, the mapping and analysis of stakeholders are often incomplete or not done.

A potential root cause of the challenge is attributed to inherited attitudes from outdated practices prior to independence, often linked to traditional conservative practices within the government. Social exclusion hinders transparency and the right of access to information. Looking at the immediate causes, three separate ones are identified among data users: a lack of awareness concerning the right to access to information (ATI), contributing to limited awareness of the relevance of data/statistics, and ultimately the low utilisation and demand for data among data users.

Lack of funding

The main structural cause of the current lack of funding for the NSS is rooted in Namibia’s history and trend of undervaluing the worth of statistics and data. This has contributed to the poor use of data for informed planning and prioritisation. Consequently,

there has been a systematic lack of qualified statistical professional staff in state institutions, resulting in inadequate coordination of the NSS, further exacerbating the lack of funding. Similar to the demand/supply chain of statistics and data, the lack of funding is tied to what is being delivered by the NSS. Currently, the NSS is at a position where statistics and data exist but are not disseminated optimally due to a lack of funding. Since the inception of the NSA in 2012, funding was relatively adequate until about 2016, when public austerity measures disproportionately affected the NSS, risking policymaking and decision-making being based on outdated or non-existent data.

Additional consideration should be given towards establishing accessibility of data within the private sector, with particular emphasis on access to health data and statistics in the private sector. Moreover, the need to access interoperable, digital Artificial Intelligence (AI) driven solutions for data management and coordination for enhanced citizens’ engagement using digital tools on public participation, spatial analysis, mapping, data simulation, and visualisation remains imperative.

Cross-border issues

The challenge of reliable data affects several sectors involving transboundary issues. Data on cross-border trade, for example, can inform the prioritisation of adequate services such as access to fundamental rights to water, sanitation, healthcare, and other essential services to enhance transboundary services and the ease of doing business. The 2019 Informal Cross Border Trade Report from the NSA indicates that exports increased in 2019, following an increased demand for domestic commodities from Angola and Zambia. Exports were estimated at approximately N\$16 million, representing an improvement of 53.1% from their 2016 level of N\$10 million. The survey also showed a high volume of informal cross-border trade, particularly between Namibia, Angola, and Zambia.

Additionally, border management poses several challenges in the Namibian context, given the porous nature of the borders and the sheer extent of border crossings between Namibia and Angola. The Namibia Human Rights Action Plan 2015–2019 listed some challenges related to cross-border health issues not receiving adequate attention for border towns. Health-related data concerning internal and external migrants remains hard to find.



Climate change and resilience

CEDAW has recommended that the government ensure that “any decisions on oil and gas exploitation in the Kavango region are subject to the full, prior and informed consent of local communities, including women and girls”.¹³⁶ However, full, informed, and prior consent cannot be given if it is not preceded by access to credible, timely, and disaggregated information.

9.2.1 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Institutional coordination and resources towards quality data

There are several institutions involved in data collection, production, analysis, and management of statistics in Namibia, with the NSA constitutionally mandated to facilitate and coordinate all official data. Under the Statistics Act No.9 of 2011, the NSA is responsible for producing national statistics in collaboration and cooperation with other statistics producers within the National Statistics System (NSS) and coordinating the implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). However, the absence of institutional alignment and systems for consolidation and coordination at the national level remains a significant challenge, affecting the quality and reliability of available data. This deficiency hampers the ability to inform policy, facilitate development programmes, implement recommendations from human rights mechanisms, and effectively plan, prioritize, and allocate resources. Failing to address this issue will result in inadequate tracking of progress towards the 2030 Agenda and the NDPs.

Traditionally, many government and private institutions collect information daily from the public for administrative records and management purposes. Although these administrative records are not designed for statistical purposes, they are a rich source of valuable data that can be converted into pertinent statistics at a fraction of the cost of current surveys and censuses. In Namibia, these sources of data have not been well-coordinated within the NSS to provide relevant administrative statistics for planning and evidence-based policy formulation. It is prudent for the NSA to aggressively pursue alternative data sources and achieve adequate coordination of the NSS, encompassing both traditional and non-traditional data sources. Traditional data includes information from surveys, censuses, and administrative records, while non-traditional data can be sourced from earth observations (e.g., sat-

ellite images), mobile telecommunications (e.g., call records), social networks (e.g., sentiment analysis), citizen-generated data (e.g., civil society data), and big data (large volumes of unstructured data). Poor data management and inadequate standardisation processes contribute to inadequate cleaning, analysis, and publishing of data, resulting in weak or inefficient service delivery, especially in vulnerable areas such as informal urban, rural, and remote regions. This leads to a lack of available, adequate, and sufficiently disaggregated data/statistics to inform decision-making, promoting accountability and transparency.

Enhancing the use of technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, open data, and digital platforms, provides an entry point to support efforts to increase both transparency and accountability. Data on the prevalence and experience of corruption is rare, and even less common is data on the differentiated impact of corruption on women and men. This critical source of information is essential to ensure equality and equity in public service delivery, contributing to addressing the gender dimensions of corruption. Further data is also required on the impact of corruption on other marginalized groups, such as migrants, especially where people experience multiple and intersecting forms of disadvantage. Additionally, AI can be a suitable application for automating land management, mapping, urban planning, and climate change resilience solutions for vulnerable areas such as informal settlements.

9.3 Barrier 11: Inadequate citizen engagement and participation in decision making for inclusive democratic processes

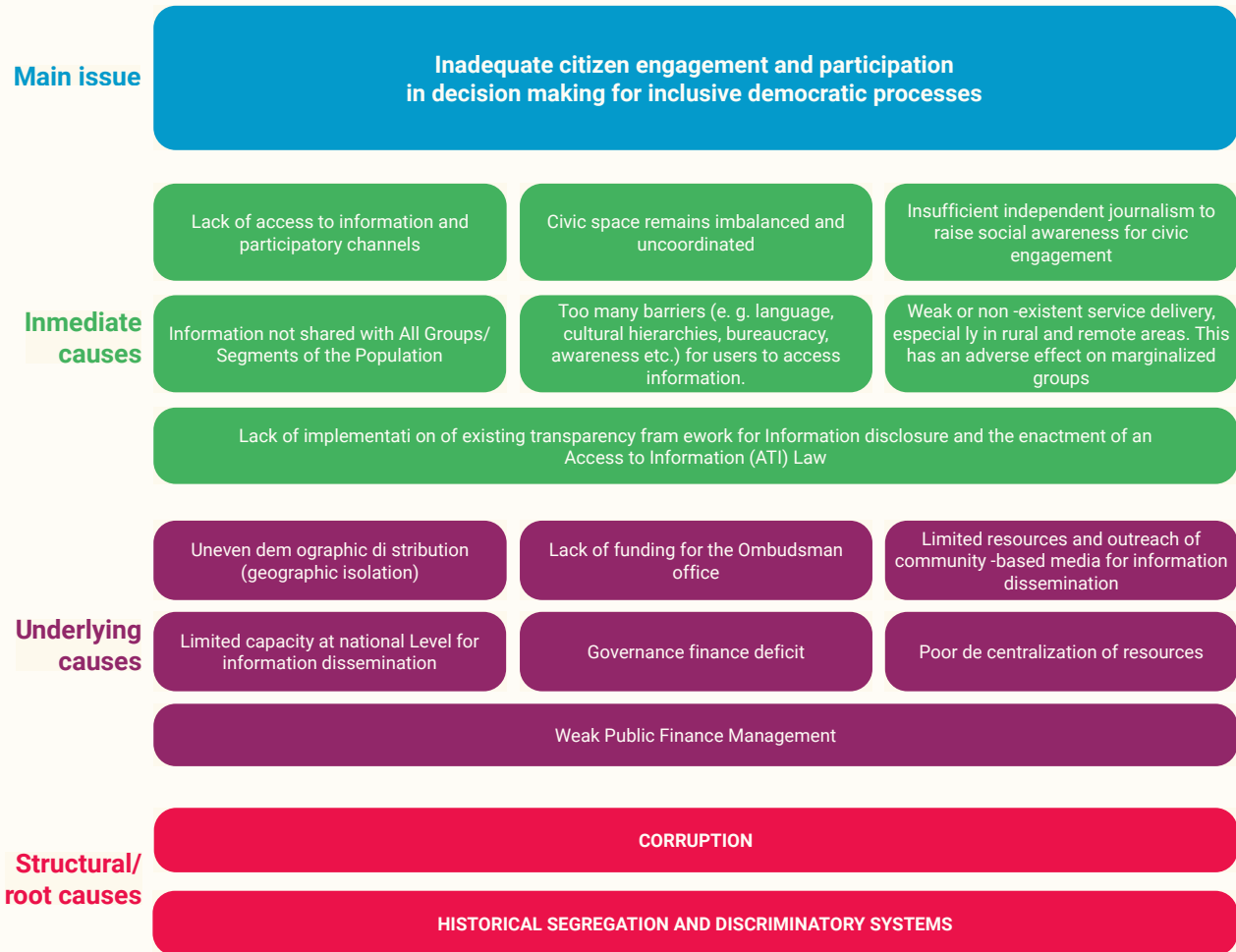
ATI is a key enabler connecting people to development initiatives. The absence of ATI implementation facilitates poor citizen engagement in decision-making processes and inclusive democratic practices, and it hinders the ability to hold governments accountable. ATI is a prerequisite for developing a culture of transparency, which supports accountability. Proactive disclosure of accessible information through digital public participation and capacity building (e.g., training and technical advice services on digital platforms and tools for national and local government officials) can further build and restore trust between government and the people.

Namibia CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) paras 51-52.

¹³⁶ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of*



Figure 51: Problem tree for inadequate citizen engagement and participation



The importance of access to information enhances structural transformation toward ensuring effective service delivery, exposing corruption, illicit financial flows, and irregular procurement processes at a decentralized governance level.

To further inform the formulation of regulations to support the ATI law it is critical to understand the baseline situation of the country at grassroot level as it relates to ATI. This can only be facilitated by reliable timely and accessible data. Therefore, an information Access Impact Survey is necessary to determine the percentage of the population that has access to information and establish the impact it could have on the citizenry as well as the current gaps that hinder access to information.

The lack of understanding of some provisions of the ATI Bill contributed to its slow handling. As a result, there is a need to amplify awareness and education efforts on ATI in general to the public and duty bearers, to ensure service delivery, and to expose corrup-

tion/irregular spending/procurement at this level. Often, local government authorities do not have the capacity to implement often-complex legislation like ATI-related laws.

There is increasing concern about language barriers related to ATI. It is necessary to develop capacity for producing accessible, multilingual information (both online and offline) to align with the principles of Leave No One Behind (LNOB).

Information must also be accessible to people with disabilities to ensure no one is left behind. As stipulated in Articles 9 and 21 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information, should be prioritized for persons with disabilities. The Namibian government is obligated to take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas on



an equal basis with others and through all forms of communication of their choice, as defined in Article 2 of the CRPD, including by:

- I. Providing information intended for the public to be inclusive of persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies appropriate to different kinds of disabilities in a timely manner and without additional cost.**
- II. Urging private entities that provide services to the public, including through the Internet, to provide information and services in accessible and usable formats for persons with disabilities.**
- III. Encouraging the mass media, including providers of information through the Internet, to make their services accessible to persons with disabilities.**

Treaty bodies have made various recommendations to Namibia regarding specific information gaps. For example, there is currently insufficient information available about Namibia's environmental policies, including those designed to address climate change. It is unclear whether gender is mainstreamed in these policies and whether they were developed with the participation of women and other marginalized groups, such as people with disabilities.¹³⁷ Similarly, there is a lack of information regarding the impact of Namibia's efforts to expand the green economy on the economic empowerment of women.¹³⁸ Despite contraceptives being freely available in public health facilities, there is insufficient awareness of this or of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) more broadly.

The Human Rights Committee, which monitors the implementation of the ICCPR, recommended that Namibia "guarantee and ensure access to information about the accessibility of contraception and sexual health, particularly in rural and remote areas."¹³⁹ Information must thus be accessible in both rural and urban areas. CEDAW and the Committee Against Torture (CAT) have expressed concern about the lack

of information on the prevalence of forced sterilisation of HIV-positive women.¹⁴⁰ Since such information would include sensitive personal data, which implicates the right to privacy of the women concerned, the data would need to be de-identified before disclosure. There is also a lack of available information about land ownership in Namibia, which prompted CEDAW in 2022 to express concern regarding the "lack of disaggregated statistical data on land ownership, including land ownership by women."¹⁴¹ Without sufficient information and statistical trends regarding land ownership, achieving gender equality in this context will be difficult, and the extremely high wealth inequality linked to skewed land ownership patterns will not be addressed. It is thus clear that those at risk of being left behind in Namibia's development agenda require access to information to meaningfully participate in and equitably benefit from development processes, as well as to claim various rights, including economic and social rights.

9.3.1 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Innovations for inclusive democratic processes including ATI

ATI is a key enabler to connect people to development initiatives, and there has been a significant increase in demand for information on all socio-economic spheres of life since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This affirms ATI's importance for informed decision-making and the participation of citizens on issues that affect them, ensuring a bottom-up approach towards governance.

The rapid technological advancement of our modern-day society requires that we recognize the positive and negative impacts of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in relation to data harvesting and ATI. The use of AI influences human thinking, interaction, and decision-making and affects all spheres of socio-economic development. Therefore, it is important that technology is applied carefully and strategically to ensure no one is left behind. AI actors are being called to respect and promote freedom of expression as well as ATI concerning automated content generation, moderation, and curation.

¹³⁷ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) paras 51-52.

¹³⁸ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 43.

¹³⁹ Human Rights Committee, *Concluding observations on the second report of Namibia* CCPR/C/NAM/CO/2 (22 April 2016) para 16(c).

¹⁴⁰ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) para 41, with recommendations set out in para 42; Committee against Torture, *List of issues prior to submission of the third periodic report of Namibia* (2019) para 16. The government of Namibia responded that it is not State policy to sterilize without consent, and has issued circulars in this regard to emphasise its position of informed consent.

¹⁴¹ Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Namibia* CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/6 (4 July 2022) paras 45(a).



Following the support of the UN towards regional consultations to raise awareness on the draft ATI Bill, the Bill was passed in the National Assembly in June 2022 and signed into law by President Hage Geingob on 29 November 2022, and gazetted a month later on 28 December 2022. The Bill follows the AU model Law on Access to Information for Africa. This is noteworthy as many ATI laws only provide access “upon request” using technical processes, whereas the standard should be “proactive disclosure”.

To prepare Namibia for the implementation of the Bill, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT), as the lead government institution, has developed a roadmap to direct actions and next steps on ATI in the country. This includes the appointment of an information commissioner and a deputy information commissioner to promote the right to access information among the public through awareness campaigns, educational, and training programs. The roadmap will additionally inform stakeholders to find areas of mutual collaboration for the benefit of Namibia’s ATI agenda.

Media continues to serve as a conduit for information dissemination and reporting. The COVID-19

pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war dominated media headlines in the past year, as both have had and continue to have adverse impacts on the country’s economy¹⁴². This era also saw the proliferation of digital platforms, which have put media viability under threat¹⁴³ and given rise to mis/disinformation in times of crisis, especially given the impact and isolation of the pandemic on older persons who struggled to socially connect or access online information. As more people seek information on social media platforms, Media and Information Literacy (MIL)¹⁴⁴ awareness has become essential to empower the population to fully benefit from fundamental human rights and freedoms as well as enable sound social discourse. It also enables people to be aware of their responsibilities in the context of the freedoms mentioned above. These include the responsibility to demand quality media and information services and to use information and technology ethically.

¹⁴² UNDP Policy Brief: Issue 1 – *Impact on the Russia-Ukraine Conflict on the Namibian Economy (May 2022)*

¹⁴³ Dietrich Remmert - *Namibia’s Media: Facing the Digital Challenge (January 2019)*

¹⁴⁴ <https://www.unesco.org/en/communication-information/media-information-literacy>



Partnerships

The SDGs financing landscape

SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Finance





10.1.1 Status and trends

Namibia's national financing landscape comprises public and private, domestic and international financing that plays a critical role in supporting national development goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The government is the primary entity responsible for mobilising funds for national development, which requires the right approach, scale, and mix of financial resources. Implementing development objectives demands extensive funding, posing a challenge for developing countries like Namibia, which have limited public budgets and weak private sector engagement. Financing SDGs necessitates a well-established financing framework and adequate engagement from involved actors, including a humanitarian-development nexus lens. There is evidence of commitment to mobilising alternative sources of finance and experimenting with innovative financing instruments, in addition to strengthening domestic resource mobilisation.

Namibia's classification as an upper-middle-income country has prevented it from accessing much-needed "soft loans" and grants to address its developmental challenges. This classification, influenced by the relatively small population, overestimates per capita income while neglecting aspects such as income distribution and structural imbalances in the economy.

According to Namibia's Development Finance Assessment (DFA), challenges with financing include limited resource mobilisation capacity; lack of an integrated and coherent financing architecture; limited institutional and technical capacity to plan and budget for SDGs; and budget transparency and alignment to SDGs. These challenges negatively impact the quality and scale of SDG financing.

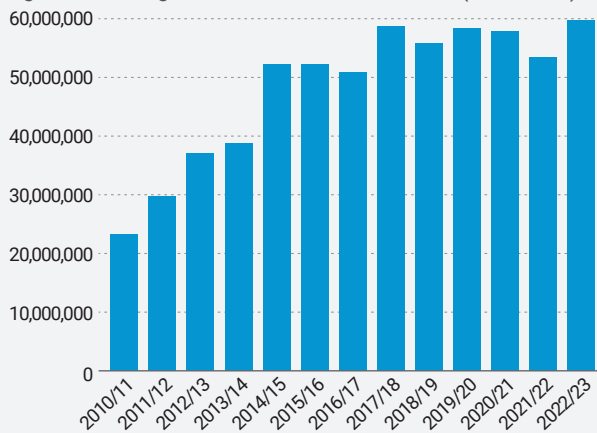
However, there are existing opportunities for resource mobilisation and management which, if leveraged correctly, will provide additional resources for financing

the SDGs. In 2022, Namibia launched its Sovereign Wealth Fund, known as The Welwitschia Fund, aimed at ensuring proper resource management and prudent fiscal management to provide intergenerational savings and stabilize fluctuating revenue. In 2021, the IMF issued the first Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) in the country's history for COVID-19 recovery and increased the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) for Namibia. Namibia also issued Namibian Green & Sustainability Bonds, positioning itself as a front-runner on the continent, and prospects for climate financing, green, and blue investments look positive following the country's engagement in key processes including COP 27. Implementation of the Green Hydrogen Strategy is reported to have mobilized US\$ 9 billion. Development finance institutions and international financial institutions, including the African Development Bank, IMF, and KfW, are increasing their footprint and engagement, directing resources towards recovery and sustainability. Emerging cross-cutting opportunities towards the Means of Implementation for the SDGs in Namibia include data, the private sector, and South-South cooperation.

Namibia has also requested to be part of the pathfinder countries on the UNSG's Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions. The country is well-placed for inclusion in the Global Accelerator due to its high commitments to pro-employment policy-making, social protection, and just transitions, while simultaneously facing a wide array of financial and institutional capacity constraints to transform its economy. The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection is expected to channel national and international, public, and private investments into extending the coverage of social protection systems and creating decent jobs, especially in the green and care economies. This will significantly address the triple challenge of poverty, inequality, and unemployment.

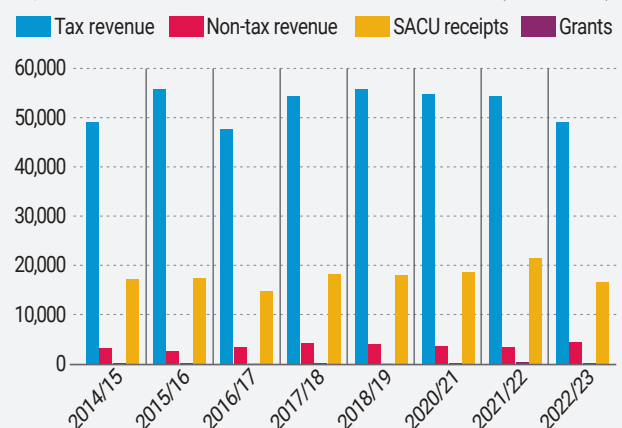


Figure 52: Total government revenue, N\$ Million (2010-2022)



Source: Ministry of Finance

Figure 53: Government revenue structure, N\$ Million (2014-2021)



Source: Ministry of Finance

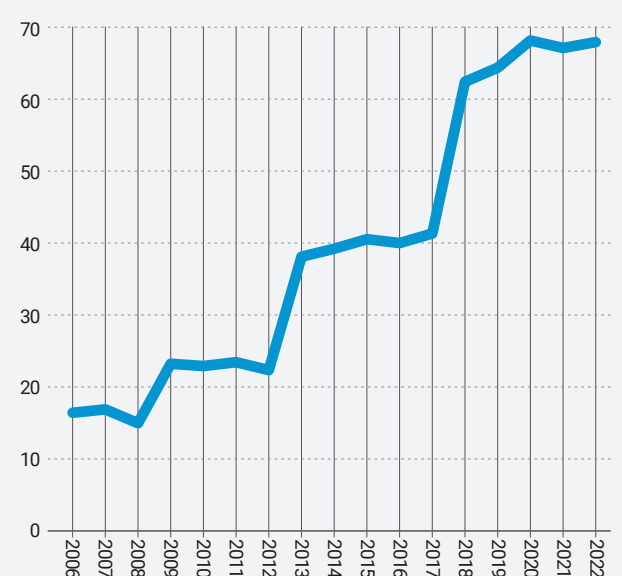
10.1.2 Domestic Public Flows

The government generates most of its revenue from tax, followed by the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) receipts (Figures 52 and 53). Over the past 12 years, the growth of government revenue has been limited. The government has been reliant on borrowing (both external and domestic) to fund its budget expenditure, particularly operational expenses. Insufficient government revenue presents a challenge to funding national development projects that are essential for achieving the country’s plans and vision (Figure 55). Over the years, total national debt has been on an upward trend to accommodate national spending. There are increasing calls from civil society for progressive taxation with redistributive objectives to promote social justice.

Limited ability to mobilize domestic and external resources to finance SDGs through borrowing

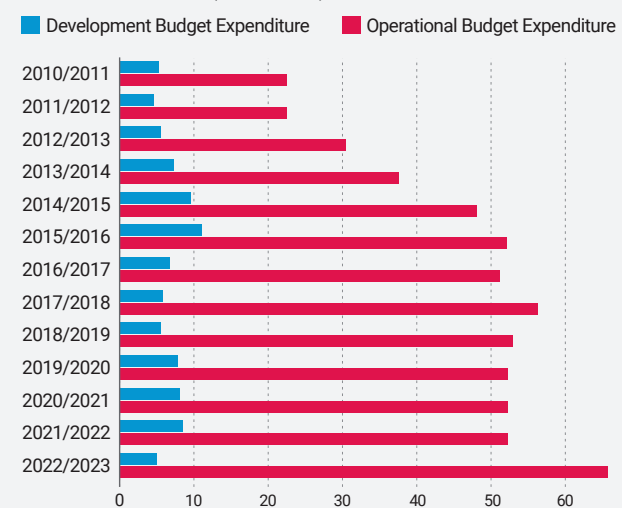
The Government is highly dependent on borrowing to fund national development, leading to extremely high levels of public debt over the years. Namibia’s debt-to-GDP ratio has been on an upward trajectory, rising to 68% in 2022 (Figure 54). High levels of debt, compounded by slow economic growth in recent years, urgently call for appropriate allocation of resources and sufficient and sustainable mechanisms to generate revenue. This will benefit future generations and yield returns to pay back the loans when they mature. Furthermore, under current practices, most of the funds in the budget are allocated to operational expenses rather than development projects, posing a risk to sustainable development in Namibia. Sustainability requires more allocation towards capital investments that will help the country attain its development aspirations in the national development plans.

Figure 54: Total Debt as a % of GDP, (2006-2022)



Source: Bank of Namibia

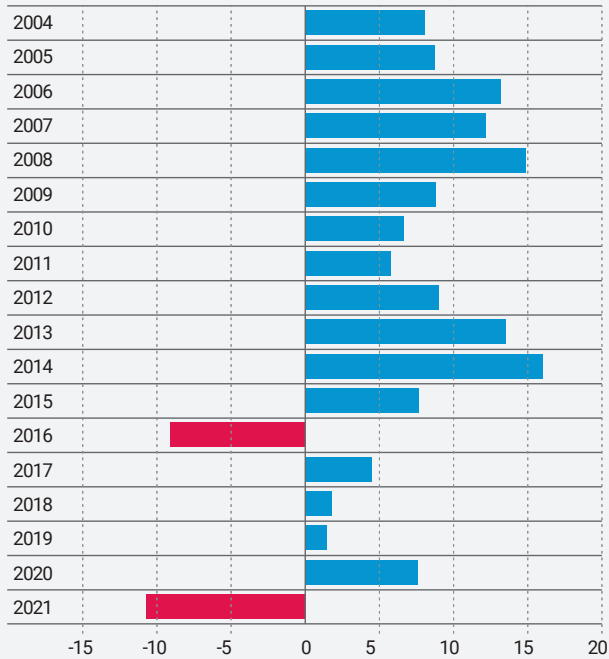
Figure 55: Total national expenditure on development vs. total expenditure on operational expenditure, N\$ Billion (2010-2022)



Source: Ministry of Finance

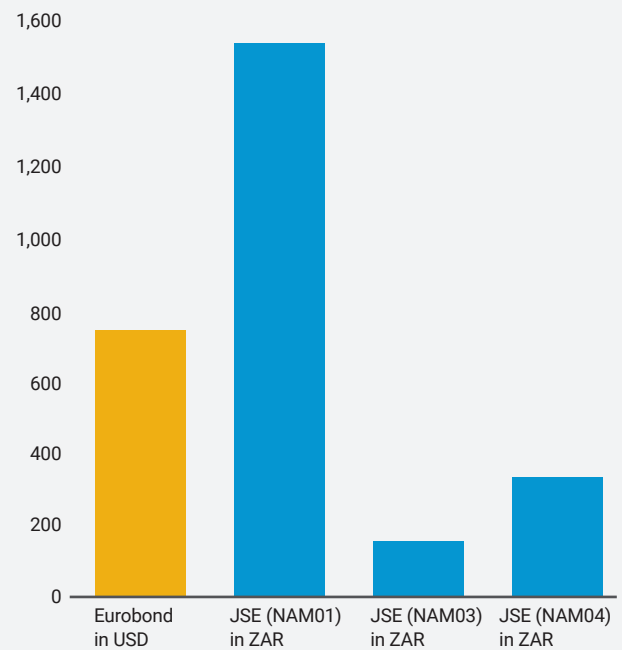


Figure 56: National savings, N\$ Million (2004-2021)



Source: Bank of Namibia

Figure 57: Foreign bonds, N\$ Billion as at December 2021



Source: Bank of Namibia

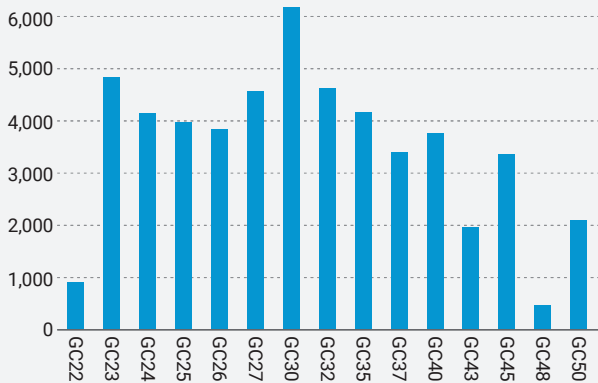
The Government’s borrowing requirements have evolved since independence. A significant portion of Government funding over recent fiscal years has been sourced from the domestic market, except for the US\$500 million Eurobond and the R850 million JSE-listed bond issued in FY2011/12 and

FY2012/13, respectively (Figure 57). Going forward, the Government will continue to tap the domestic market, recognising the shortage of instruments in the market as well as the high savings rate in the country, although the saving rate dropped significantly in 2021 (Figure 56).



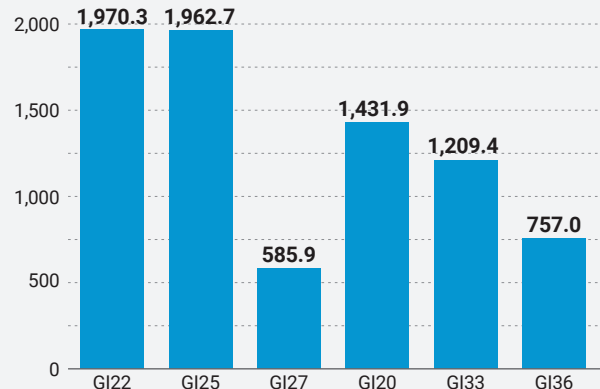


Figure 58: Government bonds outstanding amount, N\$ Billion as at December 2021



Source: Bank of Namibia

Figure 59: Government bonds inflation linked outstanding amount, N\$ Billion as at December 2021



Source: Bank of Namibia

A sum of N\$10.8 billion was allocated to fixed-rate bonds in the 2020/21 borrowing strategy. The Government aimed to raise N\$6.0 billion through domestic bond issuance and utilize the proceeds to supplement the balances on the Sinking Funds for the redemption of the Eurobond. The funding plan also included the introduction of a new fixed-rate bond, the GC48, maturing on 15 October 2048. The following bonds were also off-the-run and were to be re-opened during special auctions: GI21, GC22, GC24, GC25, and GC27. Switch auctions for the GC22 were to continue during FY2021/22 (Figures 58 and 59).

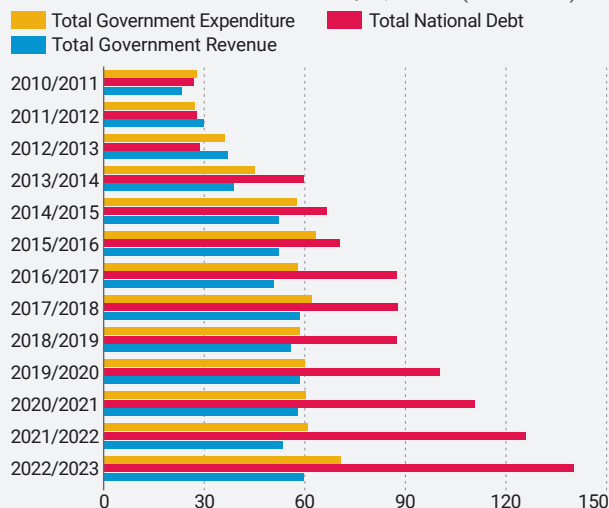
Given the prevailing inflation environment, only N\$2.1 billion of the total domestic borrowing was to be sourced from inflation-linked bonds in 2020/21. The borrowing plan proposed the introduction of an additional linker, the GI27, to provide the market with

a new short-dated ILB. The GI22 and GI25 continued to be off-the-run and were not offered at primary auctions during the period. Switch auctions for the GI22 were to commence during FY2021/22.

Debt

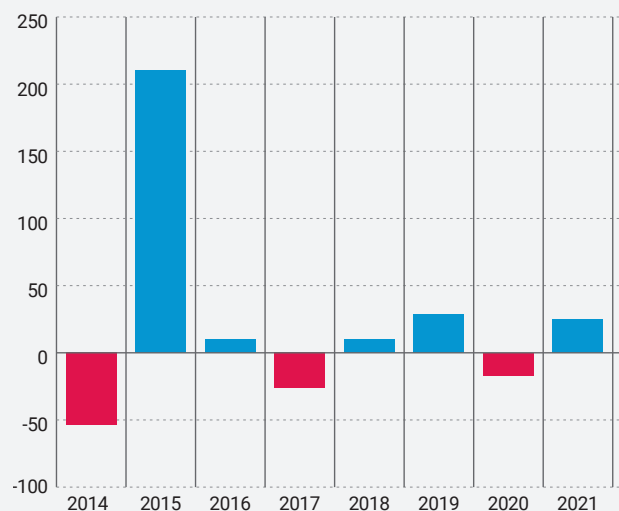
The large stock of government debt brings about implications for the country's debt servicing obligations (Figure 60). Namibia's external debt is predominantly long-term, and the longer the average term to maturity, the more time there is to repay debt obligations, thus mitigating the impact of external shocks. The country's debt servicing has been on a downward trend since 2016 (Figure 61). A major concern with the debt in Namibia is its allocation, as it is being used to pay recurrent costs such as salaries instead of funding development projects.

Figure 60: Total government expenditure vs. National debt and revenue, N\$ Billion (2010-2022)



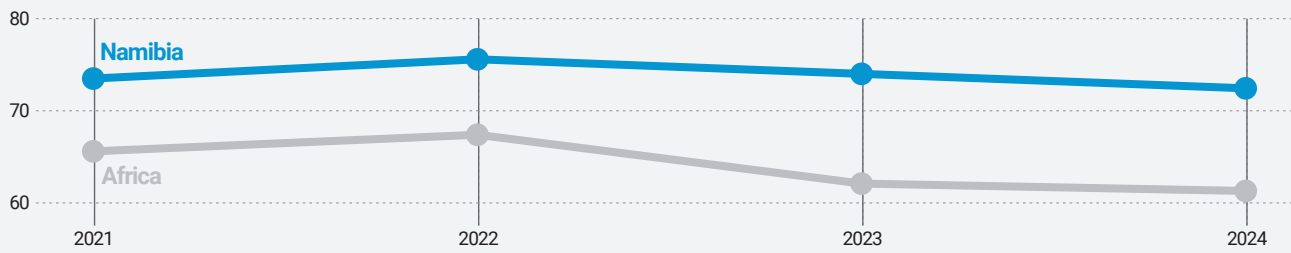
Source: Ministry of Finance and Bank of Namibia

Figure 61: Debt servicing % change, (2014-2021)



Source: Bank of Namibia

Figure 62. Debt to GDP ratio, Namibia and Africa, 2021-2024. Percent of GDP



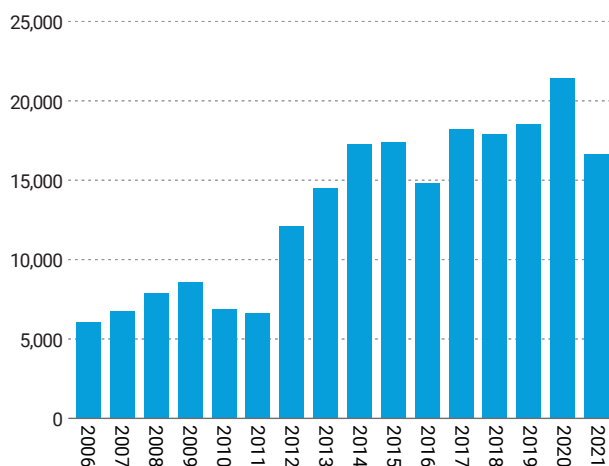
Source: Based on ECA January 2023 estimates.

However, the debt-to-GDP ratio of Namibia is projected to decline gradually in the mid- to long-term as the government embarks on fiscal consolidation by curbing expenditure growth, diversifying financing sources, and reflecting the anticipated narrowing of the fiscal deficit and the strengthening of the domestic economic recovery. Fiscal consolidation or the implementation of “austerity measures” will have serious implications for the fiscal space available for social spending and the implementation of the SDGs and related human rights, especially economic and social rights, unless resources are ring-fenced for this purpose.

Over-reliance on SACU revenues

The national SACU receipts represent the second largest source of revenue for Namibia, accounting for an estimated one-third of total revenue. The uncertainties and ongoing discussions on the SACU Revenue Formula and the conclusion of free trade agreements at the regional and continental levels present a significant challenge to domestic public finances. The graph below depicts trends in the SACU receipts for Namibia over the years (Figure 63).

Figure 63: National SACU receipts, N\$ Million, (2006-2021)



Source: Bank of Namibia

Underdeveloped PPPs regime

Namibia’s largely monopolistic market structure and dominant public sector create an uneven environment for the private sector’s participation in the economy. The significant and growing need for financing and private investment is crucial for the private sector to strive and assist in national and sustainable development aspirations. The tapering off of large-scale investment in the mining sector reduced private investment, compounded by the negative swing in the commodity cycle, resulting in a reduction in investment into the local economy, particularly in fixed capital. This situation was further exacerbated by policy uncertainty relating to investment. High-frequency indicators show weak business and consumer confidence, high household indebtedness, slow credit extension, and businesses of all sizes downsizing or ceasing operations altogether.

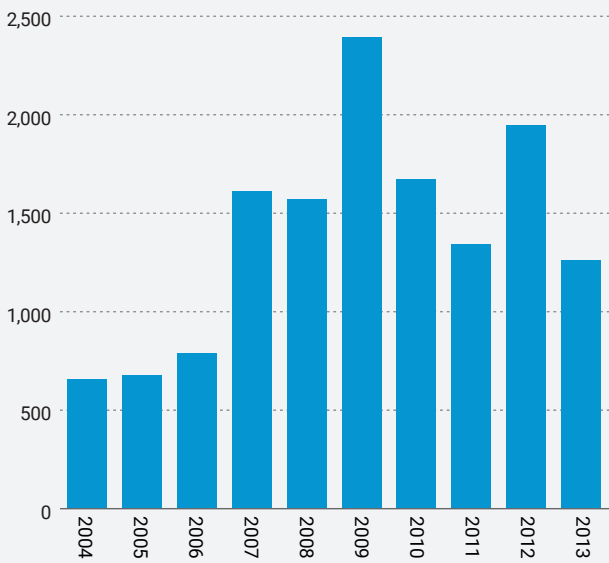
The Government of Namibia aims to promote a strong PPP Policy to deliver the required levels of infrastructure and services to its citizens. The government seeks to focus on PPP as a means to deliver improved services and better value for money through appropriate risk transfer, innovation, asset utilisation, and integrated project-life management, underpinned by private financing.

Pervasive Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs)

Analysis of illicit financial flows focusing on two tax-related illicit financial flows—trade mis-invoicing, and Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)—shows that in 2015, illicit financial outflows amounted to US\$867 million (N\$10.6 billion) in Namibia. Between 2004 and 2013, the average trade mis-invoicing outflows were US\$1,268 million (about N\$10.3 billion) (Global Financial Integrity (GFI), 2015). In particular, import trade over-invoicing and export trade under-invoicing have remained the main drivers of illicit financial outflows for Namibia. Transfer pricing, especially in the transport and mining sectors, remains one of the avenues for shifting capital.

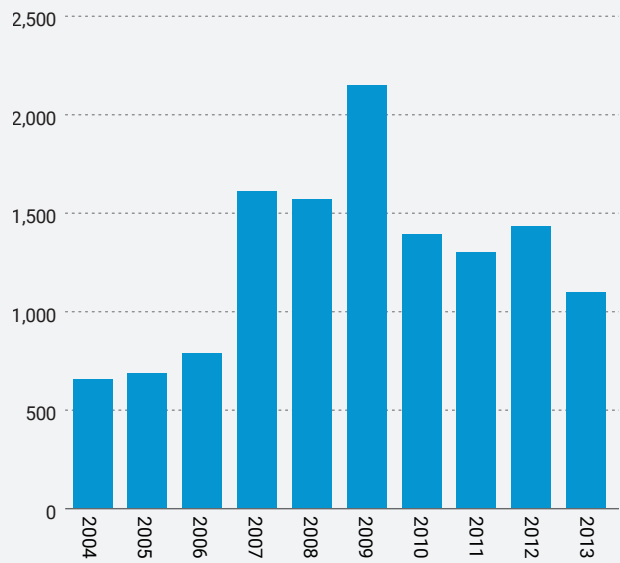


Figure 64: Illicit financial flows, US\$ Million (2004- 2013)



Source: Global Financial Integrity Report, 2015

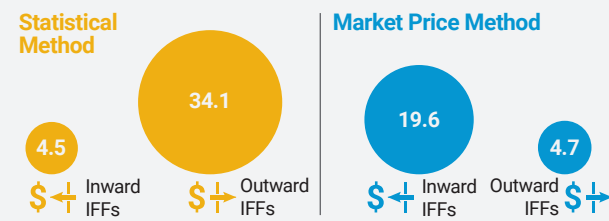
Figure 65: Trade Mis-Invoicing Outflows, US\$ Million (2004-2013)



Source: Global Financial Integrity Report, 2015

Namibia is committed to combating illicit financial flows. In 2023, Namibia is one of the eleven pilot countries implementing the UN Project on Defining, estimating and defining statistics on IFFs in Africa, with preliminary results.

Figure 66: Estimates of IFFs (US\$ billion)



Source: Global Financial Integrity Report, 2015

The institutional architecture to curb IFFs exists. Namibia is a member of the East and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Southern Africa, a regional group of practitioners involved in facilitating the recovery of proceeds of crime. Namibia has set up an asset forfeiture department under the Directorate of Public Prosecutions to dedicate resources and staff to seize, freeze, and confiscate the proceeds of crime. Additionally, the Financial Intelligence Unit of Namibia is a member of the Egmont Group of FIUs, which provides a secure platform for FIUs to exchange information. Notwithstanding these and other efforts, in its AML/CFT Mutual Evaluation conducted by ESAAMLG in 2022, a number of gaps were identified, including the low number of money

laundering investigations and prosecutions, ineffective and disproportionate sanctions imposed on the few successful money laundering prosecutions, and the limited number of confiscations of criminal proceeds, instrumentalities, and property of corresponding value. Confiscations are not pursued as a policy objective. The Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) have little understanding of the risks they face and their Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML/CFT) obligations. Supervisory authorities have not adopted a risk-based approach to AML/CFT supervision. There is no adequate legal and regulatory framework to obtain and maintain beneficial ownership information on legal arrangements, nor has there been a comprehensive money laundering/terrorist financing risk assessment on all forms of legal persons. The effectiveness of international cooperation is hindered by the lack of an effective case management system that enables effective monitoring and accounting of cases. Additionally, there is non-ratification of the protocols which are annexes to the TF Convention, and Namibia has no specific legal or regulatory framework for implementing targeted financial sanctions relating to proliferation financing.

Limited capacities of public authorities and the broader ecosystem to plan and budget for the SDGs
 There is a need to undertake costing exercises for SDGs and develop a pipeline of impact-driven investments for the SDGs in the respective sectors. Sector budgets have not sufficiently evolved to align with national development and SDG targets.

There is also a need to implement gender-responsive planning and budgeting. In 2014, Cabinet (Cabinet Decision No. 2nd/11.03.14/007) approved the Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) guidelines and directed all Offices, Ministries, and Agencies (OMAs) to adhere to their implementation. Despite this Cabinet decision, the national budget does not explicitly state how it addresses gender disparities and the aspirations of women, young people, and children in Namibia. This is due to limited technical skills and capacities, understanding, and appreciation of GRB by OMAs.¹⁴⁵

10.1.3 Domestic Private flows

According to the Development Finance Assessment (DFA), the largest single source of private domestic development funding in Namibia is the pool composed of pension and life insurance assets. However, growth in private credit has fallen below the double-digit levels experienced in previous years due to weaker economic results and risks associated with credit. This indicates that businesses and households lack the confidence to take up credit, resulting in total borrowings significantly outweighing deposits in banks.

Namibia's microfinance loan book is relatively small compared to the loan books of the commercial banks. According to the Namibia Financial

Institutions Supervisory Authority (NAMFISA), most of the loans extended are short-term loans, primarily providing cash-flow relief for lower-income individuals. The industry charges high interest rates, and the short-term nature of the loans extended means that the direct development benefits are minimal at present.

Growth in Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) stalled in 2016, recording a contraction of 28.6%, followed by a further contraction of 24.4% in 2017. The tapering off of large-scale investment in the mining sector, reduced private investment, and the negative swing in the commodity cycle resulted in a reduction in investment into the local economy, particularly in fixed capital. This situation was further exacerbated by policy uncertainty related to investment, especially around the Namibia Investment Promotion Act (NIPA) (No. 9 of 2016) and the New Equitable Economic Empowerment Bill (NEEEB). Although NIPA was passed and signed in 2016, it was not implemented. Subsequent amendments are being proposed, which, when passed, will see the Act being implemented. The business climate in Namibia remains challenging for investors in the absence of policy certainty.¹⁴⁶

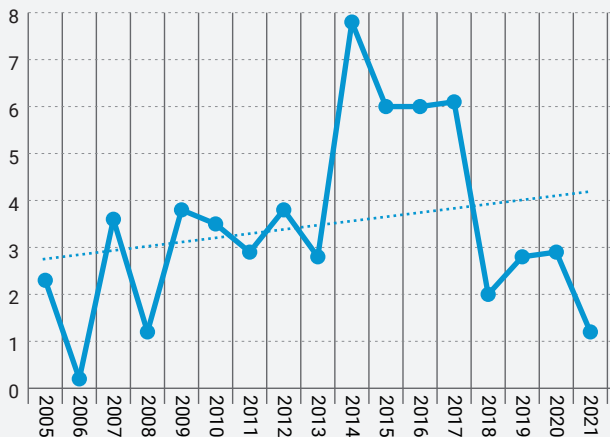
¹⁴⁵ Namibia Development Finance Assessment Report, 2019

¹⁴⁶ Namibia Development Finance Assessment Report, 2019



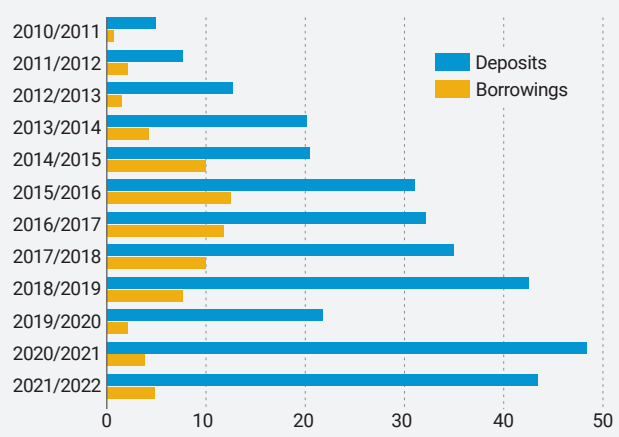


Figure 67: Private sector credit extension annual growth rates, (2005-2021)



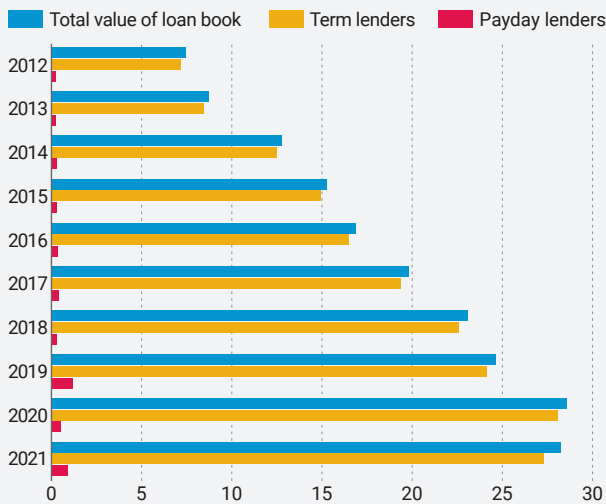
Source : Bank of Namibia

Figure 68: Banking sector funding, N\$ Billion (Borrowings and Deposits), (2010-2019)



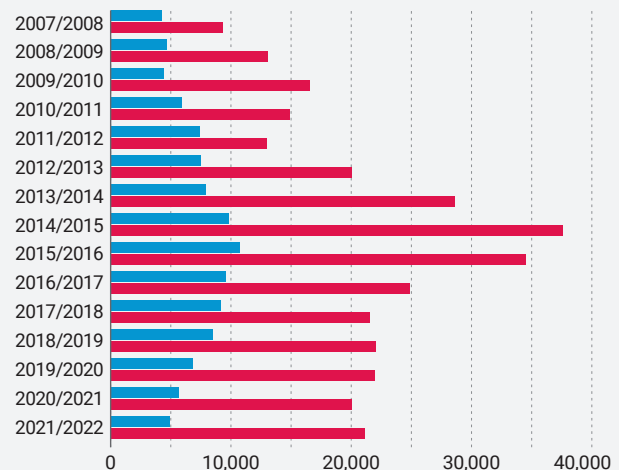
Source : Bank of Namibia

Figure 69: Micro-financing, N\$ Billion (2012-2021)



Source: Namibia Financial Institutions Supervisory Authority

Figure 70: Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) by type, N\$ Million (2007-2021)



Source: Namibia Statistics Agency

10.1.4 International public flows

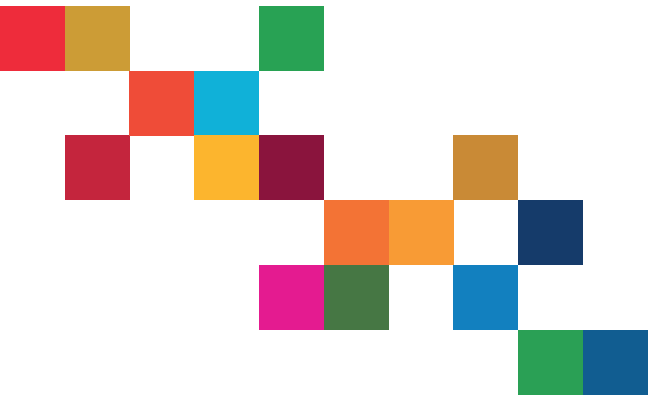
Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Official Development Assistance has historically been an important source of financing for economic and social development and infrastructure expenditure in Namibia. However, ODA assistance has been on a downward trend, consistent with the experience of other countries as they approach and attain upper-middle-income status. This implies that Namibia needs to explore other alternatives for complementing the financing of national development projects, especially as the country does not generate enough revenue to cater for expenditure in the economy. The higher volume of less concessional Other Official Flows since 2015 is explained by Namibia’s graduation to upper-middle-income country status. Namibia has increased borrowing from international sources, showing an increasing use of foreign financing for expenditure commitments.

The DFA noted in relation to climate finance that “The majority of climate finance was delivered as grants, especially from the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) administered by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) and Readiness Financing. The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) has the ability to mobilise grants from GCF through preparing climate related projects.”

The DFA also pointed out the main challenges for accessing larger projects: a) lack of accredited entities to access large-scale funding, b) development partners’ perspectives and conditionalities concerning the country’s abilities to design well-packaged projects, c) limited trust placed on national entities to manage the implementation of large-scale climate-funded projects and d) perceived and associated country absorptive capacities challenges.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁷ Namibia Development Finance Assessment Report, 2019

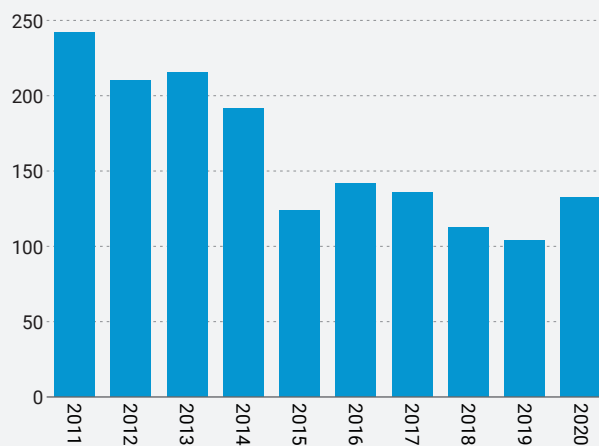


Climate Finance

Namibia receives international public climate finance from multiple sources (Table 8). International climate finance receipts increased from N\$1.1 million in 2013 to N\$146 million in 2019. The majority of climate finance was delivered as grants, especially from the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) administered by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Agence Francaise de Development (AFD), and Readiness Financing. The Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) has the ability to mobilize grants from GCF through preparing climate-related projects. Between 2017 and 2019, EIF facilitated the attainment of N\$584 million from GCF. In addition, Namibia has benefitted from a large pool of funds through regional and international accredited entities (e.g. DBSA, AfDB, and Deutsche Bank) to the GCF, which provides climate financing for mitigation actions in the energy sector.¹⁴⁸

148 Namibia Development Finance Assessment Report, 2019

Figure 71: Official Development Assistance total net, US\$ Million (2011-2020)

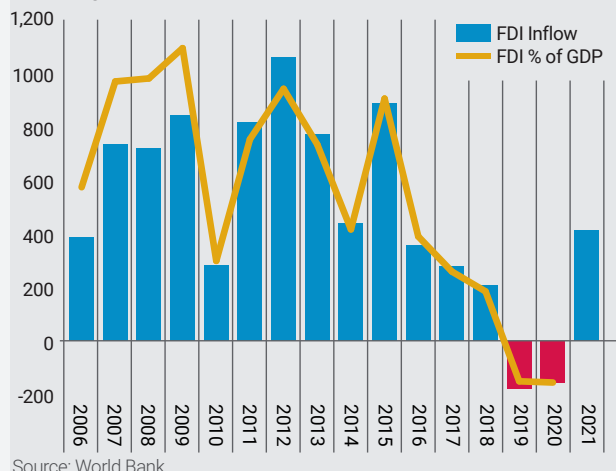


Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

10.1.5 International private flows

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows have experienced a downward trend since 2015 due to the recession, the completion of major construction projects, and the COVID-19 pandemic, though there was a recovery in 2021. The FDI in Namibia was primarily driven by the mining sector through exploration. As soon as mining exploration dried up, it had the same effect on FDI, as can be observed from 2016 (Figure 72).

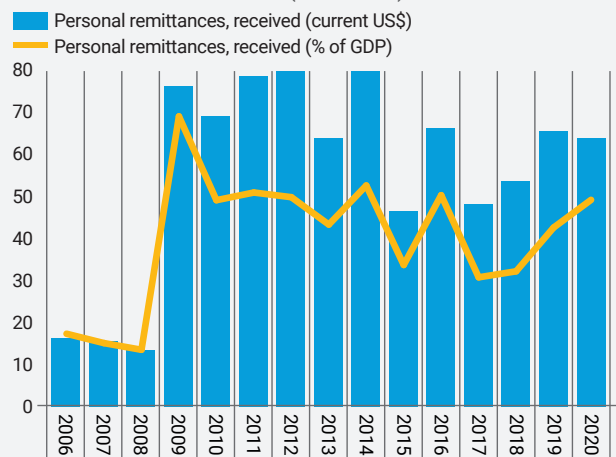
Figure 72: Foreign Direct Investment Inflows N\$ Million vs. Foreign Direct Investments as % of GDP, 2006-2021



Source: World Bank

Namibian remittances have been on an upward trend over the years. Personal remittances increased from US\$16.4 million in 2006 to US\$64 million in 2020 (Figure 73). The value of remittances the country receives is relatively small given Namibia's small population and the limited number of people in the diaspora from the country vis-à-vis the rest of the continent.

Figure 73: Trends in Volumes of Remittances N\$ Million vs. Remittances as % of GDP, (2006-2020)



Source: Bank of Namibia



10.1.6 Opportunity for SDG acceleration: Emerging cross-cutting Means of Implementation

Data

There remains a significant challenge around the availability of timely disaggregated data (with a key focus on age, disability, and gender). Namibia needs to make concerted efforts to improve data availability for all sectors in the country. Financing for data needs to be strengthened so that regular household and labour surveys are conducted while the statistical ecosystem is improved to ensure the availability and utilisation of quality statistics. The lack of timely updated and disaggregated data undermines the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of key national plans and the SDGs. The coordination of the national statistical system is of critical importance in order to improve the quality of administrative data and ensure effective digital and data governance.

The Private sector

The scale of effort required to achieve transformative goals is immense, necessitating substantial investment from multiple fronts. The Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) faces increasing funding difficulties to finance the country's various social and economic needs, as reflected by large fiscal deficits. Tax revenue accounts for a large proportion of total revenue, making up approximately 93% of total public sector revenue. Government guarantees have been utilized as an off-balance sheet funding method, particularly for Public Enterprises. Beyond public funds, the contractual savings pool remains the largest single source of domestic development finance, primarily made up of pension and life insurance assets. External finance has played a significant role

in Namibia's development. Although there are climate funds available at the global level, challenges remain in accessing these funds at a large scale. Namibia has mobilized and received significant international private resources, mainly from foreign direct investment, portfolio equity, and remittances. Achieving the SDGs and NDP5 goals calls for mobilising a combination of multiple financing sources and instruments. Leveraging additional resources through partnerships with the private sector serves as an opportunity for the government to narrow the gaps caused by resource constraints. The ongoing efforts towards a fully functioning PPP Unit within the Ministry of Finance require further technical support.

South-South Cooperation

South-South Cooperation continues to be an important element in the development of Namibia. The country continues to strengthen cooperation with countries of the South through the signing of cooperation and technical agreements and bilateral visits. According to the 2021 VNR, Namibia elevated several joint commissions with countries of the South to the level of Heads of State by signing agreements establishing Bi-national Commissions with these countries. Additionally, Namibia, through the Bank of Namibia, signed an Agreement on Bilateral Technical Cooperation with Banco Nacional de Angola (BNA) in the areas of central banking. Namibia further continues to pursue cooperation with the countries of the South, leading to increased growth in investments, technical assistance, and technological transfers from countries such as South Africa, Nigeria, United Arab Emirates, Brazil, India, and China.

Conclusions

Since independence in 1990, Namibia has enjoyed political stability and economic progress up until 2015. During this period, sound economic management and high growth rates enabled the country to gradually reduce inequality, unemployment, and poverty, improving most key social indicators. However, Namibia started to experience an economic downturn after 2015, aggravated by the impact of recurrent droughts in the agricultural sector, and more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia/Ukraine war, resulting in a negative GDP growth of 8.5% in 2020. Given the persistent high inequality rate and the dual nature of the economy, the low rates of growth expected for the coming years will not be enough to achieve significant poverty and inequality reduction. The economic model, with structural rigidities in the post-apartheid era, requires high growth rates for efficient inequality and poverty reduction as stated in Vision 2030 and the NDP5.

Namibia is committed to investing in human capital and scores well in terms of budget allocation to education, health, and social protection compared to the Africa region and the average of Upper Middle-Income Countries (UMICs). However, there is a challenge in terms of the outcomes of this investment: key social indicators for poverty, food

security/nutrition, health, and gender lag behind the average of UMICs as shown in previous sections. Constraints related to resource management and institutional coordination, compounded by high inequality and low population density, hamper the efficient delivery of public services.

When considering the Leaving No One Behind guiding principle, the human faces of the groups being left behind or at risk correspond to women, children, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities (PWDs), persons living with HIV/AIDS, LGBTQI persons, older persons, people deprived of their liberty, undocumented persons, refugees, irregular migrants and asylum seekers, young people, and informal settlement residents. These groups face entrenched forms of discrimination. Rural populations (especially women and youth), indigenous communities, and people residing in informal settlements face obstacles derived from socio-economic status, geography, governance, and vulnerability to shocks.

In this context, the analytical work developed by the UN highlights the need to prioritize areas for unlocking bottlenecks hindering SDG acceleration in the following areas of the CCA analysis.



Economic transformation

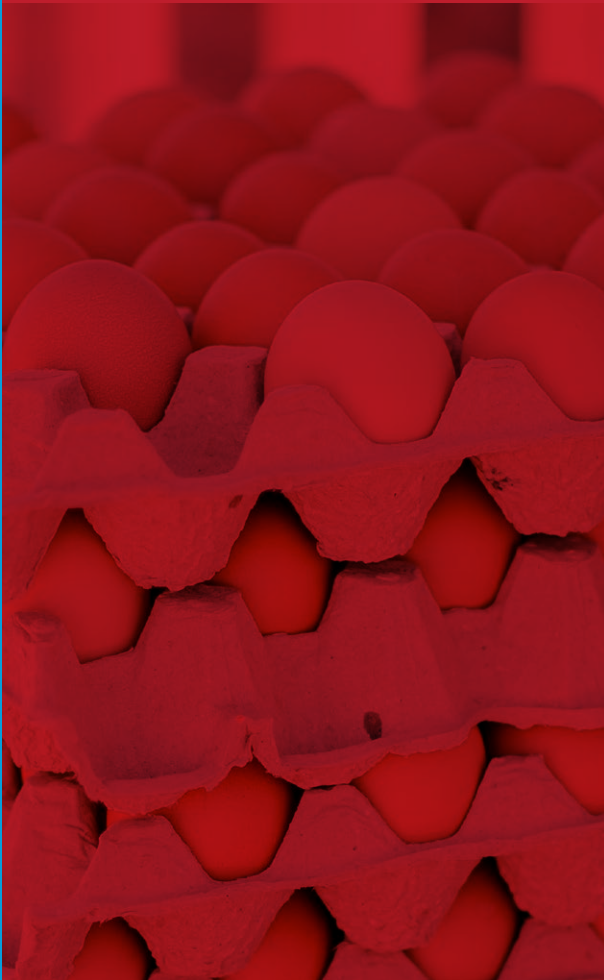
- **Low and non-inclusive economic growth**
- **High unemployment, informality, and unequal land distribution**
- **NDP5 and HPP2 already aim to diversify the economy and increase the productivity of labour-intensive sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing. These areas are identified by the CCA as having high potential for unlocking SDG acceleration in terms of employment, entrepreneurship, and increasing productivity.**

Social exclusion

- **Limited access to quality and affordable healthcare (UHC)**
- **Unequal access to inclusive quality education and lifelong learning**
- **Lack of sustainable access to affordable, safe, and nutritious food for the population**
- **Persistent GBV and VAC, and high levels of gender inequality**
- **Insufficient coverage and uptake of social protection schemes**
- **Intersectional discrimination against marginalised groups**

NDP5 and HPP2 have set ambitious targets for these areas under social progression. As mentioned above, Namibia must improve the quality and access of key public services by focusing on the management of resources and institutional coordination. In this sense, the recommendations of recent national dialogues, including the Food System National Dialogue and the Transforming Education Summit National Dialogue, have supported the identification of drivers for change and SDG acceleration. In relation to health, the recent policy review of the health sector and the commitment to UHC should lay the foundations for joint UN action. GBV and VAC continue to be serious challenges after the COVID-19 pandemic, and progress on the policy and institutional framework should help improve the implementation of regulations through adequate capacity development. A cross-cutting element to be borne in mind is the impact that low population density has on the model of delivery of public services. A further cross-cutting issue is how to root out intersectional discrimination across society.

Finally, there should be a consideration for social protection integration in the programming to ensure coverage for all LNOB groups.



Economic transformation Environment, climate change, resilience and DRM

- **Unsustainable and inequitable natural resource management**
- **Vulnerability to climate change-induced impacts and low preparedness/adaptive capacity**
- **High vulnerability and poor resilience to disaster and emergency shocks, compounded by limited preparedness and response capacity.**

NDP5 has prioritized conservation, the sustainable use of natural resources, and the fight against climate change. Complementarily, HPP2 aims to optimize the stewardship of natural resources and public assets. Namibia needs to tackle challenges including land degradation, deforestation, and ending open defecation. The involvement of communities in resource management remains a recommendation by human rights treaty bodies. Namibia is also developing its high potential for solar, wind, and biomass generation, and now green hydrogen. In relation to climate change and DRM, Namibia should strengthen efforts for budget allocation, policy implementation, and early warning systems.



Governance

- **Lack of timely, available, adequate, and sufficiently disaggregated statistics to inform decision-making and ensure accountability and transparency**
- **Inadequate citizen engagement and participation in decision-making for inclusive democratic processes**

NDP5 sets relevant goals under the Good Governance pillar and performs well in relevant regional and global indices. However, the lack of timely and updated data has become a significant challenge for efficient policymaking and monitoring of national programmes, including the implementation of human rights. In addition, civic engagement and access to information could contribute to increased transparency and accountability in public administration through open and transparent digital governance approaches and high-quality systems, strategies, and tools for mapping, spatial analysis, and data visualisation.





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ANNEX I: Alignment of National Vision, Development Plans and the SDGs

SDGs	HPPII	NDP5	Vision 2030
SDG 1: No poverty	Securing household food security Consolidation of social grants and the Food Bank Regularize the status of specified categories of undocumented & stateless persons	By 2022, the proportion of severely poor individuals has dropped from 11% in 2016 to 5%	Poverty is reduced to the minimum, the existing pattern of income-distribution is equitable, and disparity is at the minimum
SDG 2: Zero hunger	Zero deaths from hunger poverty	By 2022, the proportion of food insecure individuals has dropped from 25% in 2016 to 12% and food production has increased by 30% cumulatively over the NDP 5 period	Ensure a healthy, food-secured and breastfeeding nation, in which all preventable, infectious and parasitic diseases are under secure control, and in which people enjoy a high standard of living, with access to quality education, health and other vital services, in an atmosphere of sustainable population growth and development.
SDG 3: Good health and well-being	Improved access to healthcare	By 2022, Namibia's Health Adjusted Life Expectancy (HALE) has improved from 58 to 67.5 years	Ensure a healthy, food-secured and breastfeeding nation, in which all preventable, infectious and parasitic diseases are under secure control, and in which people enjoy a high standard of living, with access to quality education, health and other vital services, in an atmosphere of sustainable population growth and development.
SDG 4: Quality education	Improved quality of public education & sports	By 2022, all learners have access to equitable inclusive quality education that qualifies them to pursue higher education	Ensure a high standard of living, with access to quality education, health and other vital services, in an atmosphere of sustainable population growth and development.
SDG 5: Gender equality	Arresting Gender-Based Violence & Violence Against Children	By 2022 Namibia women are empowered and free from gender-based violence	Ensure that Namibia is fair, gender-responsive, caring, and committed nation, in which all citizens are able to realize their full potential, in a safe and decent living environment.
SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation	By 2022, Namibia has a sustainable production and consumption of water resources resulting in improved access to safe drinking water for human consumption and for industrial use, each rural constituency will have water access above 50%.	By 2022, Namibia households have improved sanitation increasing from 28% in 2016 to 40% in rural areas and from 77% in 2016 to 87% in urban areas	Namibia's freshwater resources are kept free of pollution and are used to ensure social well-being, support economic development, and to maintain natural habitats. 100% of water provision coverage for rural and urban population by 20230.
SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy	Namibia has a sustainable mix of the locally generated energy capacity of 755 MW to support household and industry development	By 2022, Namibia has a sustainable mix of locally generated energy capacity of 755 MW to support household and industry development.	There is a high level of self-sufficiency, and reliable and competitively priced energy (meeting demand of industry).
SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth	Enhance productivity of priority economic sectors and create employment opportunities	Achieve inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth	Achieving full and gainful employment;



SDGs	HPPII	NDP5	Vision 2030
SDG 9: Industry, innovation, and infrastructure	Economic advancement; Infrastructure development	Structural transformation through value added industrialisation; Expansion and modernisation of physical infrastructure	As an industrialised country, Namibia's income per capita base had grown to be equivalent to that of the upper income countries, resulting in a change in status from a lower middle-income country to a high-income country. Manufacturing and the service sector constitute about 80 percent of the country's gross domestic product. The country largely exports processed goods, which account for not less than 70 percent of total exports.
SDG 10: Reduced inequalities	One of the aims of the Economic Advancement and Social Progression pillars is to reduce inequality. Different activities within these pillars address unemployment and poverty with the goal of reducing inequality	Economic progression and social transformation targets should contribute to reduce inequalities	By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities	Leverage Housing as a key catalyst to engender economic activity. The Delivery of Urban Land, Housing and Sanitation will be achieved through the following 4 Activities: 1. Urban Land Delivery 2. Informal Settlement Upgrading 3. National Housing Delivery 4. Sanitation and Bulk Infrastructure	By 2022, Namibian households living in improvised houses reduced from 19% in 2016 to 12%.	By 2030, Namibia is able to meet its housing needs.
SDG 12-15: Planet and climate change	Optimize stewardship of natural resources & public assets	Ensure sustainable environment and enhance resilience	Namibia's diverse natural woodlands, savannahs and the many resources they provide, are managed in a participatory and sustainable manner to help support rural livelihoods, enhance socio-economic development, and ensure environmental stability. Ensure the development of Namibia's 'natural capital' and its sustainable utilisation, for the benefit of the country's social, economic and ecological well-being
SDG 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions	Adopt and enact key policies and laws to provide a comprehensive legal framework and certainty, including those listed under appendices (Appendix 1: Effective Governance).	By 2022, Namibia continues to be safe, secure, peaceful, and upholding the rule of law	Create and consolidate a legitimate, effective and democratic political system (under the Constitution), and an equitable, tolerant and free society, that is characterized by sustainable and equitable development and effective institutions, which guarantee peace and political stability.
SDG 17: Partnerships	Economic diplomacy for economic recovery	Financing considers partnerships with available stakeholders for implementation	Broad definition of partnership as principle for the Vision 2030. Calls for global partnerships for sustainable development through strengthened domestic capacities for revenue collection, global macro-economic stability, the importance of trade, STEAM and Digital and ICT

ANNEX II: Multidimensional SDG Risk Analysis Framework for the SDGs

SDG	Risk Area	Description	Scope	Examples of Risk factors (not exhaustive)		Potential impact
SDG 1,2, 4, 5,10,16, 17	Social cohesion, gender equality and non-discrimination	Risks to social unity and equality resulting from direct and indirect discrimination, horizontal inequalities and demographic trends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discriminatory practices Power imbalances within society Gender based violence Demographic pressures. 	Existence in xenophobic and nationalist sentiment against foreigners and migrants, involving hate speech and violent incidents	High	High
				Continuous societal prejudice on basis of sex, with harassment of LGBTQI community, as well as same-sex marriages not being legally recognised, and common crime law on sodomy. GBV.	Medium/High	High
				Limitations on opportunities, and access to services and assets for minority indigenous populations (IPs) such as the San and Nama with no national legislation dealing directly with IPs. San women continue to be marginalised and left behind facing triple discrimination of gender, ethnicity, and economic status.	Medium	Medium
				Negotiations between Germany and Namibia regarding reparations for the Nama-Herero genocide affects social cohesion among affected groups.	Low	Low
				Lack of progress on the implementation of land reform programme.	Medium	High
				High percentage of citizens continue living in informal settlements with limited access to services and land ownership.	Medium	Medium
				GBV, particularly domestic violence trend is not adressed, with 1 out 3 women experiencing some form of physical and sexual violence.	High	High
				Lack of reliable statistics on GBV impairs plan to address the situation.	High	High
				Abortion remains illegal, except in very restrictive circumstances, while unintended pregnancies remain high, in particular among teenage girls (1 out of 5).	High	Medium
				HIV/AIDS prevalence rates remain high among women in comparative terms.	High	Medium



SDG	Risk Area	Description	Scope	Examples of Risk factors (not exhaustive)		Potential impact
SDG 8 & 17	Economic stability	Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deteriorating economic situation within the country with slow growth expected. Unable to address existing inequality. 	Increase in general Government debt in 2022 and 2023, as impacts of Ukraine-Russia conflict continue, as well as contraction in the global economy.	High	High
				Impact of fluctuating oil prices and how this impacts taxes and inflationary pressures.	High	High
				Despite social protection policies, economic policies do not succeed to redistribute wealth and reduce inequality.	High	High
				Almost 43% of population remains multi-dimensionally poor, with higher levels of poverty in rural areas compared to urban areas and female-headed household more affected than male-headed households.	High	High
				Between 10% and 20% of population continues living in extreme poverty (NSA data for 2015/16; and WB outlook in 2022).	High	High
				Informal sector, which employs 66% of population, continues to lack social protection, and to be dominated by unskilled labour and women.	High	High
				Increase in rural-urban migration compounded by vulnerability to natural disasters which also increases poverty.	Medium	Medium
SDG 2 & 17	Food security, agriculture and land	Risk to people, agriculture, and/or production in the territory resulting from crop, food production, livestock and related issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient arable land, crops or inadequate food supply. The use of and rights over land. 	Approximately 48% of Namibia's rural households continue to depend on subsistence agriculture, and thus are not resilient to climate shocks.	High	High
				About 750,000 persons remain food insecure (IPC3), affecting 11 out of 14 regions.	High	Medium
				Pests, such as the African Migratory Locust, decrease levels of crop production.	Low/Medium	High
				Communities remain vulnerable to climatic shocks because of the lack of social protection systems.	High	High

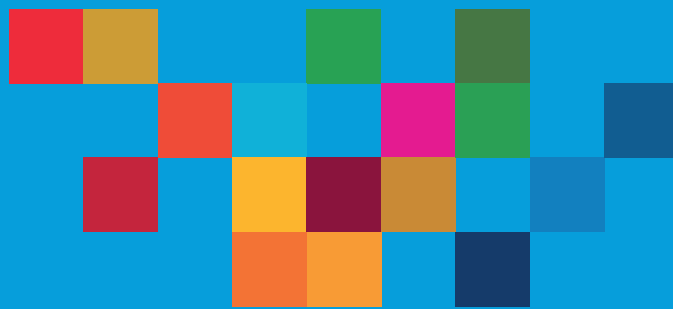
SDG	Risk Area	Description	Scope	Examples of Risk factors (not exhaustive)		Potential impact
SDG 12, 13,14,15+17	Environment and climate	Risks to the ecology of the territory, its ecosystem and its people resulting from issues associated with the environment, climate and natural resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural hazards or extreme weather events. Ecological damage and climate impacts. Exploitation of natural resources. Climate change and conflict related insecurity 	Lack of rain impacts rain-fed agriculture and livestock and the livelihoods of already vulnerable households.	High	High
				Exploration of gas and oil in ecological sensitive Okavango Delta areas results in contamination/pollution incidents in natural areas in Namibia (contamination).	Low/ Medium	Medium
				Offshore marine phosphate mining has negative environmental impacts.	Medium	Medium
SDG	Infrastructure and access to social services	Risks to society and the population resulting from a lack of availability or limitation on access to physical infrastructure, and/or basic social services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inequitable access to basic services or infrastructure due to continued rural-urban migration. 	Basic services cannot keep up with the influx of people into cities, which leads to households living in informal settlements, and makes competing for employment difficult.	Low	Medium
SDG 3+17	Public Health	Risk to the population, the economy and stability of the territory resulting from actual and emerging health emergencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in preventable or treatable health issues. Epidemics, pandemics and infectious disease. 	HIV/ AIDS rates remain high, with 210 000 Namibians living with the disease.	High	Medium
				Doctor-patient ratio remains low and insufficient.	High	High
				Further COVID-19 outbreaks occur amidst lower vaccination rates at 18%.	Medium	Medium
SDG 16 & 17	Political Stability	Risks to the stability of established political and government structures in the territory resulting from politically driven factors, with elections upcoming in 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges to political system/government in 2023 with an eye on the 2024 elections. Politically compromised government/ institutions. Government/ institutions inability to tackle corruption and achieve transparency and accountability targets. 	Disaffection with traditional political parties, increases independent candidates and outsiders, resulting in higher political uncertainty and polarisation.	Low	Medium
				Electoral authorities are not able to keep independence in front of ruling party, leading to reduction of legitimacy of democratic institutions.	Low	Medium/ High
				Perceived impunity of Government officials and other actors involved in corruption cases affects Government credibility and legitimacy.	Low/ Medium	Medium
				Low participation or representation of indigenous communities in the political and electoral processes.	High	Low/ Medium



SDG	Risk Area	Description	Scope	Examples of Risk factors (not exhaustive)		Potential impact
SDG 16 & 17	Democratic Space	Risks to democratic and human rights institutions, and to civil and political rights resulting from shrinking civic space, exclusion, repression, and intimidation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undue restrictions on democratic rights or freedoms. Constraints on civil society, rights actors or rights institutions. 	Repressive evolution of the State in the middle term by curtailing of equal political participation rights, freedom of expression, and peaceful assembly, including increased surveillance of political and civil society leaders through the use of security and defence legislation.	Low	Medium/High
SDG 16 + 17	Justice and Rule of Law	Risk to the fair, effective and comprehensive implementation, and application of the principles of justice, the rule of law and accountability from issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak balance of powers between Judiciary and Legislatives branches versus Executive branch in the context of the republican nature of the Constitution and preminence of the presidential position. 	Current and next President reinforces the Executive powers.	Low	Medium
				Parliament and Judiciary not able to strengthen independence and oversight.	Medium	Medium
				In order to fight criminality, NDF is deployed in joint policing operatives with the NAMPOL, resulting in human rights violations.	Low/Medium	Medium
SDG 16+17	Regional and global influences	Risks to the integrity, stability, safety and prosperity of the territory and its people as a result of the actions of external actors or the influence of external events.	Highly open economy affected by the Ukraine-Russia war and the contraction of global economy.	National production not able to offset negative impact on food imports and food insecurity.	Medium/High	High
				Commodity exports, green energy, and fossil fuels do not offset for negative impact of the crisis in the short/mid-term.	Low	High
SDG 16 & 17	Displacement and Migration	Risks to the population and to the stability of the territory resulting from pressures associated with displacement and/or migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Movement of people within, into or from the territory. Level of rights and protection afforded to migrants. Social economic, cultural, environmental impact of migration. 	Internal migration increases the risk of overcrowding in cities, number of informal settlements, and lack of provision of basic services.	Low/Medium	Medium
				Recurrent drought in the North and in Southern Angola causes population movements, increases pressure in Namibia cities in the Northern border and xenophobic resentment.	Low/Medium	Medium

Namibia

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