

Namibia

2024 Annual Results Report



UNITED NATIONS
NAMIBIA

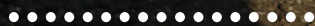


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Foreword by the resident coordinator

As we conclude the final year of implementing the **2019-2024 United Nations Partnership Framework**, we look with anticipation to the remaining six years to reach 2030. Time is not on our side and calls on the UN system, together with its partners to accelerate progress to meet the SDG targets. This is an opportune moment to reflect on the **key achievements that have shaped our development support to Namibia**. Over the past five years, the United Nations, in partnership with the **Government of Namibia, development partners, civil society, and the private sector**, has worked tirelessly to advance the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and national priorities under **Vision 2030**.

Through our four key pillars—**Economic Progression, Social Transformation, Environmental Sustainability, and Good Governance**—the UN has contributed to **economic growth, social development, environmental resilience, and institutional strengthening**. These efforts have laid a strong foundation for Namibia's sustainable development trajectory.

Under **Economic Progression**, our focus has been on **job creation, entrepreneurship, trade, industrialization, and financial inclusion**. The **EMPRETEC Namibia Programme** has empowered **MSMEs, youth, and women entrepreneurs** with business training and access to financial resources. Namibia's participation in the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** has expanded trade and investment opportunities, while the **Green Hydrogen Initiative** has positioned the country as a leader in **renewable energy and the green economy**. Support for **agriculture and food security**, including the **Hydroponics Project** and **climate-smart farming initiatives**, has enhanced rural livelihoods and resilience.

The **Social Transformation** pillar, is where the UN has greatly contributed in terms of activities and budget, playing a pivotal role in **strengthening health, education, gender equality, and social protection systems**. Our support has contributed to a **significant reduction in HIV/AIDS infections**, the **expansion of Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**, and **enhanced pandemic preparedness**. The **Transforming Education Summit** shaped **inclusive and digital learning reforms**, while the **Integrated Social Protection System** has strengthened Namibia's ability to provide **targeted support to vulnerable populations**. Efforts to address **gender-based violence (GBV)** and **promote women's leadership** have also yielded tangible results.



**Hopolang
Phororo**
UN Resident
Coordinator

On **Environmental Sustainability**, Namibia has taken bold steps to **combat climate change, protect biodiversity, and promote sustainable resource management**. The **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** were updated to accelerate climate action, while the **Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) Portal** has improved transparency in emissions tracking. UN support for **renewable energy, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable fisheries** has reinforced Namibia's commitment to environmental sustainability.

In the area of **Good Governance**, the UN has supported **institutional strengthening, civic engagement, and human rights**. Key achievements include **electoral support, capacity building for public institutions, support to the 2023 Population and Housing Census** and **improved access to justice** through the **Legal Aid and Access to Justice Programme**. The **National Tracking System for Human Rights Commitments** has enabled real-time monitoring of Namibia's progress in fulfilling international obligations. Efforts to **increase women's representation in leadership and strengthen national data systems** have further enhanced governance and accountability.

Moving forward, the **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2025-2029** will support the implementation of **Namibia's Vision 2030, the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), and the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. The thrust of this new framework will be to address the issues that remain pervasive, and the pillars of the previous framework remain relevant. The overarching goal will be to tackle inequality in an integrated manner and to put young people at the centre. The United Nations in Namibia renews its commitment to **strengthening partnerships, fostering innovative financing, and driving joint impactful development solutions** that ensure **inclusive and sustainable growth for all Namibians**.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the **Government of Namibia, our development partners, civil society, and the people of Namibia** for their collaboration, resilience, and dedication to shared progress.

UN Country Team



17

Signatories

UNCT member entities are signatories to Cooperation Framework 2019 to 2024

14
UNCT
Members

11
Physically
Present



Key development partners of the UN development system in the country

Contributing partners	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Government of Japan	1 No Poverty, 2 Zero Hunger, 3 Good Health and Well-being, 5 Gender Equality
The Global Environment Facility	1 No Poverty, 2 Zero Hunger, 13 Climate Action, 15 Life on Land
UNAIDS Funding Envelope	3 Good Health and Well-being
De Beers Group	1 No Poverty, 5 Gender Equality
The US Government Department of State Export Control and Related Border Security Program	10 Reduced Inequalities
USA for IOM	3 Good Health and Well-being
Government of Canada	1 No Poverty
NATCOM	1 No Poverty, 2 Zero Hunger
Government of Japan	1 No Poverty, 2 Zero Hunger, 3 Good Health and Well-being, 5 Gender Equality
Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol	15 Life on Land
The World Bank	12 Responsible Consumption and Production, 15 Life on Land
European Union	6 Clean Water and Sanitation, 7 Affordable and Clean Energy, 12 Responsible Consumption and Production, 13 Climate Action, 14 Life Below Water, 15 Life on Land
The Joint SDG Fund	1 No Poverty, 2 Zero Hunger; 5 Gender Equality; 7 Affordable and Clean Energy; 8 Decent Jobs and Economic Growth; 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure; 10 Reduced Inequalities; 12 Responsible Consumption and Production; 13 Climate Action; 15 Life on Land
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	4 Quality Education, 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

1 Key developments in the country and regional context

In 2024, Namibia held Presidential and National Assembly elections amid a severe drought that affected a significant portion of the population. H.E. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah was elected as Namibia's first female president, securing 57% of the vote—marking a historic milestone in the country's political landscape.

While this political milestone was significant, Namibia continued to grapple with pressing challenges. Climate change continued to pose significant challenges, impacting agriculture, water resources, and overall sustainability. These challenges hindered progress on SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), and 3 (Good Health and Well-being) while underscoring the urgent need for action under SDG 13 (Climate Action). Namibia, along with Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi, faced the effects of the El Niño phenomenon, exacerbating food insecurity. In response to the worst drought in a century, the Government of Namibia declared a State of Emergency, prompting the UN to realign resources to support resilience-building efforts. These efforts leveraged a subregional approach within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to address shared vulnerabilities.

Amid these regional dynamics, Namibia witnessed notable human rights developments. The Namibian High Court annulled the apartheid-era sodomy law, effectively decriminalizing consensual same-sex relations between men. Following the ruling, the Government announced its intention to appeal, and Parliament introduced a new marriage bill that countered aspects of the judgment related to same-sex marriage. These developments reflect ongoing legal



H.E. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah
elected as Namibia's
first female president
in 2024, securing 57% of the vote

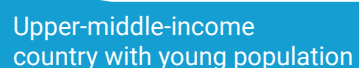


44%
of the land mass
under conservation
management



Population
3,022,401
million people

Neonatal mortality rates remain a concern, at **18.7 per 1,000 live births**



55% under the age of 25

43% under the age of 18



Gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to **3.5% in 2024**, down from 4.2% in 2023, largely due to subdued global demand and drought conditions

Inflation declined to **4.3% in 2024**, improving household purchasing power



Labour force population
867,247



Unemployment rate of **36.9%**



The fisheries sector contributes about **15%** of total exports, the third largest earner after mining and tourism



Namibia ranks as the **second most unequal country globally.**

The Gini coefficient, which measures income inequality, remains high at **0.59**

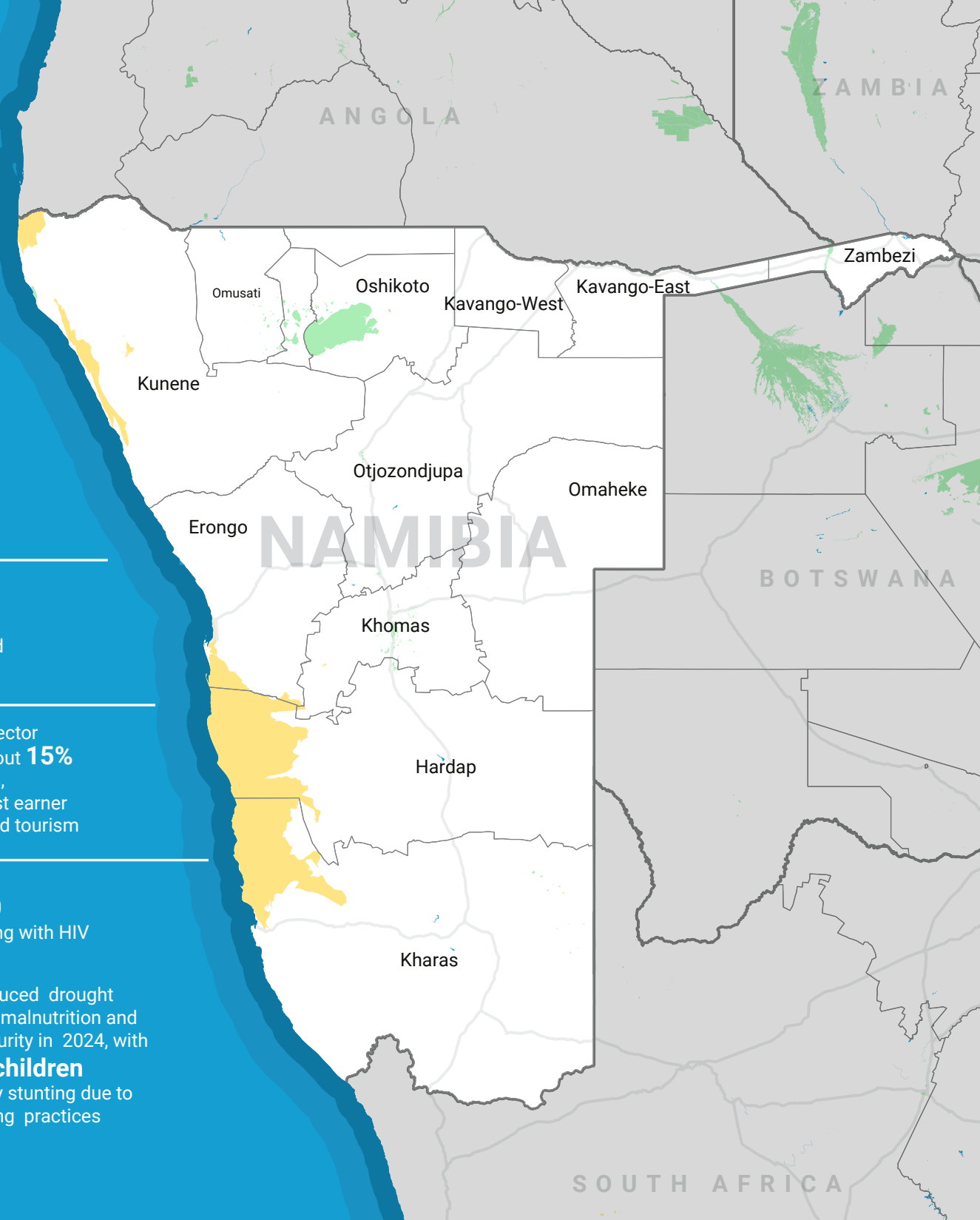


Over 51.3%
of the children aged 0-17
years experience
multidimensional poverty

Sanitation access is inadequate, with **46%** of households lacking proper toilets

230,000
people living with HIV

El Niño induced drought worsened malnutrition and food insecurity in 2024, with **30% of children** affected by stunting due to poor feeding practices



and policy discussions on human rights and the principle of Leaving No One Behind, which remains central to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In alignment with national priorities, the UN adopted a strategic approach focused on sustainable solutions to complex challenges, emphasizing climate resilience and sustainable economic development.

This approach aims to address both immediate needs and long-term development objectives. Notably, the UN finalized the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2025–2029), integrating 23 UN agencies with a focus on reducing inequality and empowering youth. New entities also joined the UN Country Team to address emerging issues, including:

- UNEP, supporting the conceptualization of the Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) assessment of the Green Hydrogen sector;
- OCHA, facilitating the response to El Niño through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF);
- OHCHR, advancing the operationalization of a Human Rights Economy.

2

UN development system support to national development priorities through the Cooperation Framework

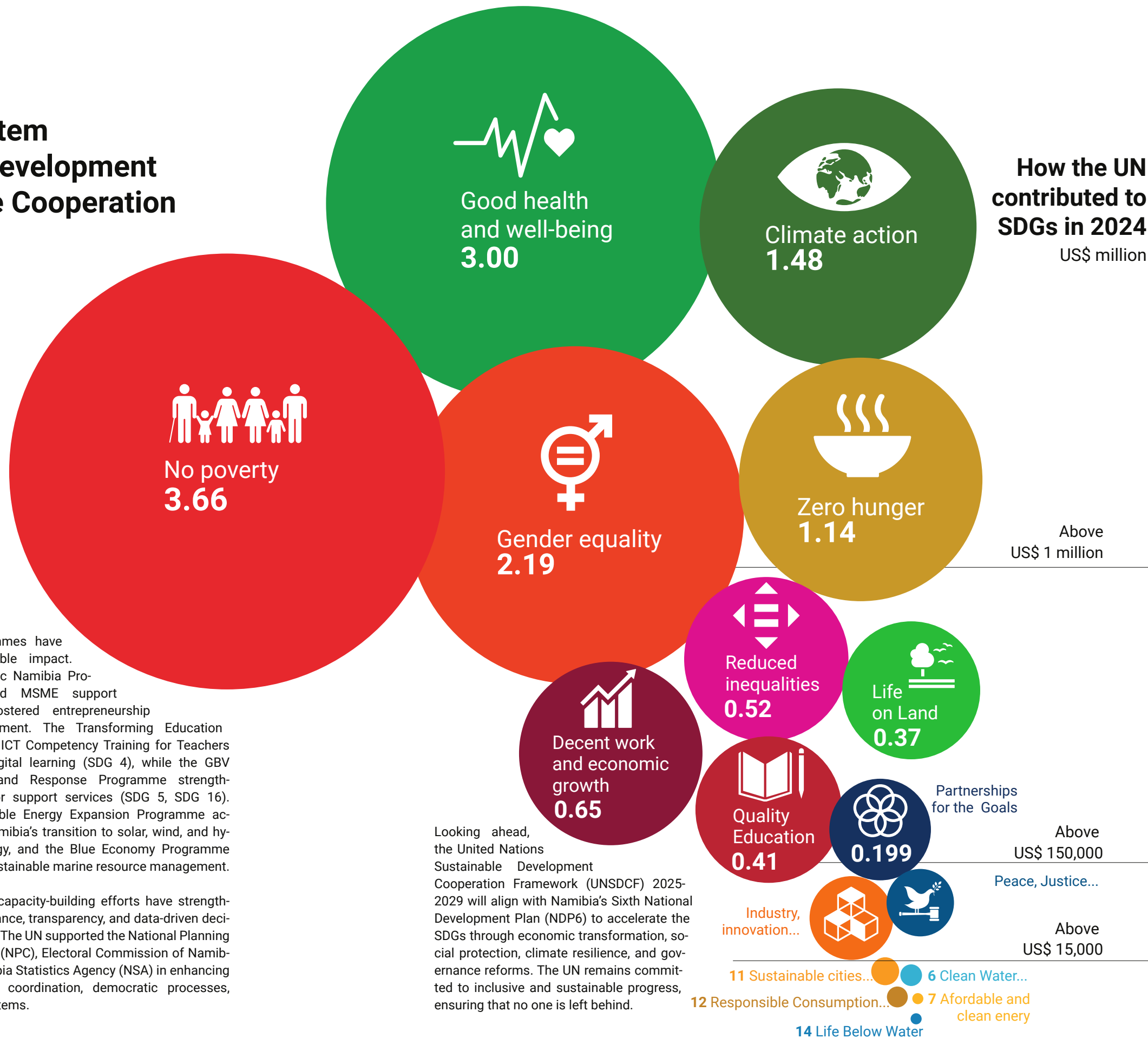
2.1. Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

As the 2019-2024 United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) concludes, the UN reflects on key achievements that have advanced Namibia's Vision 2030, the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over the past five years, the UN, in collaboration with the Government of Namibia, development partners, and civil society, has supported policy reforms, programme implementation, and institutional strengthening, ensuring inclusive and sustainable development.

Significant progress was made in policy development, including the National Employment Policy, Financial Inclusion Strategy, and AfCFTA Strategy and its implementation, which have enhanced trade, investment, and job creation. The Social Protection Policy and Integrated Beneficiary Registry (IBR) improved service delivery for vulnerable groups, while the Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP) expanded universal health coverage. Through its commitment to environmental sustainability, Namibia updated its Nationally Determined Contributions, supported the development of the Green Hydrogen Strategy, and implemented the Namibia Water Sector Support Program.

Key programmes have driven tangible impact. The Empretec Namibia Programme and MSME support initiatives fostered entrepreneurship and employment. The Transforming Education Summit and ICT Competency Training for Teachers advanced digital learning (SDG 4), while the GBV Prevention and Response Programme strengthened survivor support services (SDG 5, SDG 16). The Renewable Energy Expansion Programme accelerated Namibia's transition to solar, wind, and hydrogen energy, and the Blue Economy Programme promoted sustainable marine resource management.

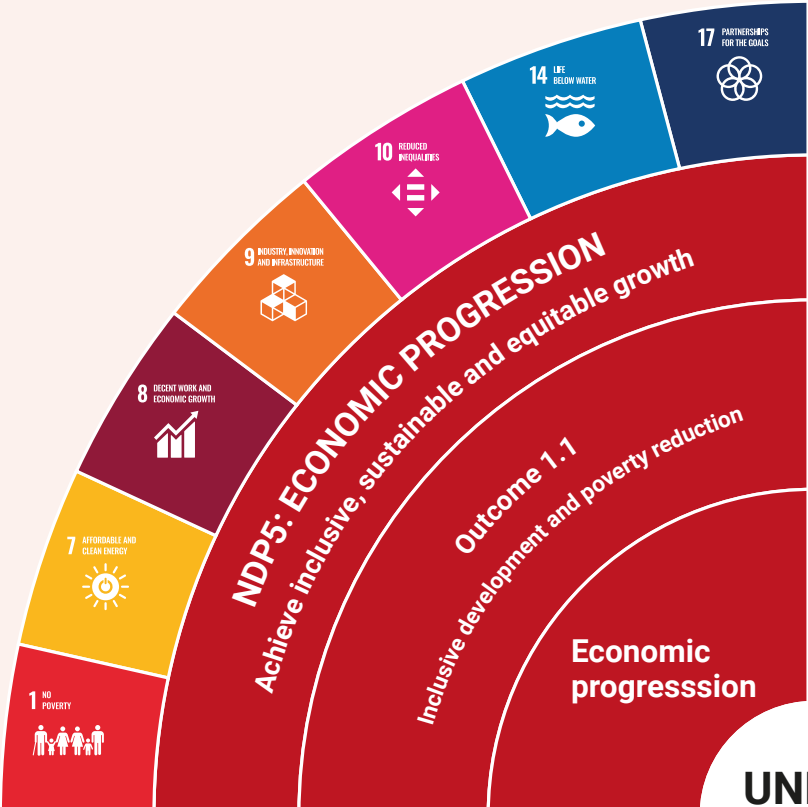
Institutional capacity-building efforts have strengthened governance, transparency, and data-driven decision-making. The UN supported the National Planning Commission (NPC), Electoral Commission of Namibia, and Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) in enhancing development coordination, democratic processes, and data systems.





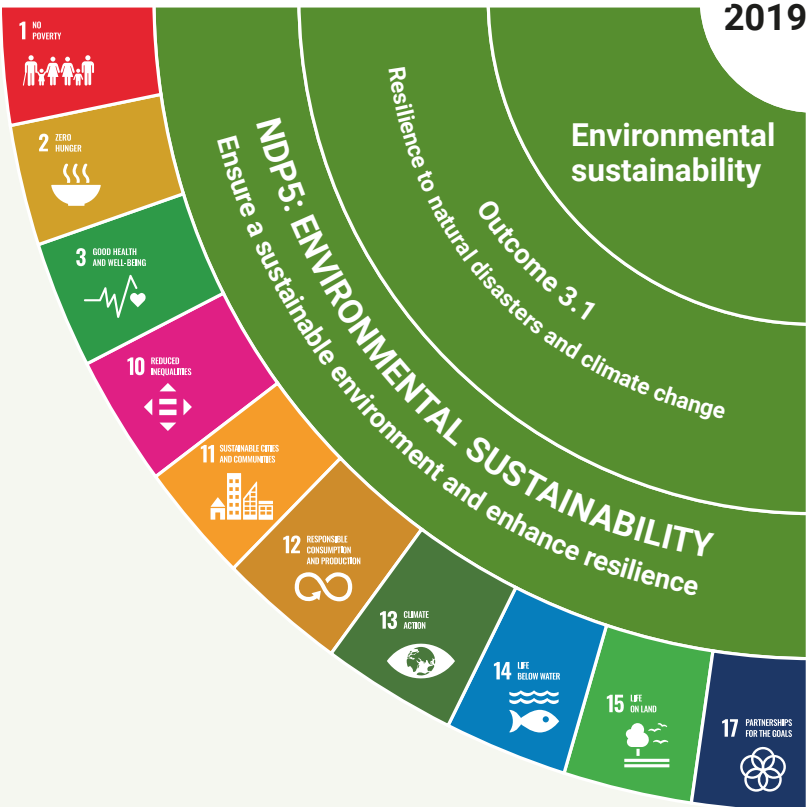
Economic Progression

By 2024, institutions implement policies for inclusive development and poverty reduction for vulnerable groups



Environmental Sustainability

By 2024, vulnerable populations in disaster prone areas and biodiversity sensitive areas are resilient to shocks and climate change effects and benefit from natural resources management



Social Transformation

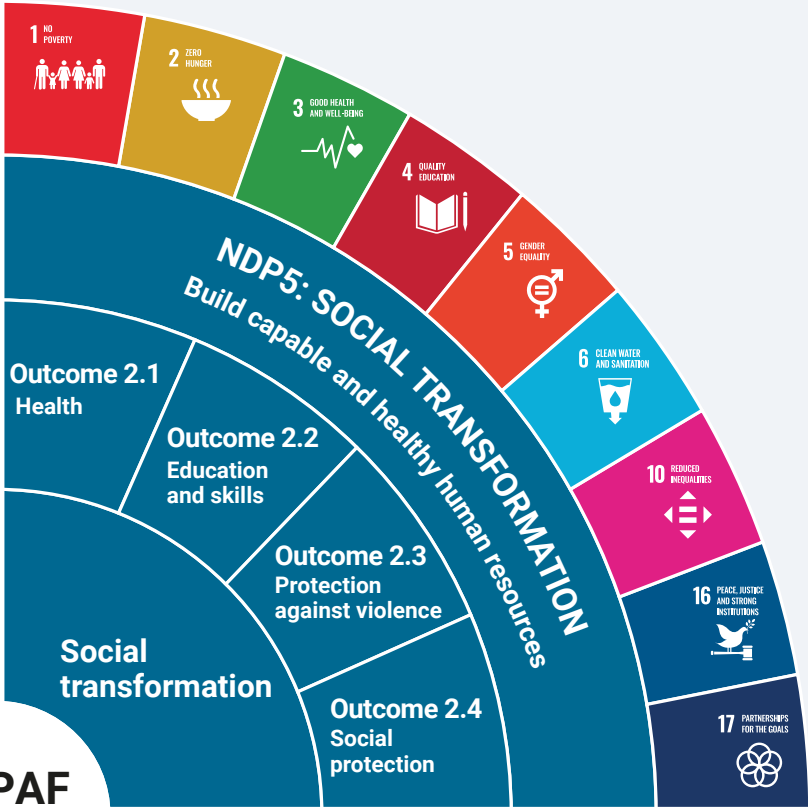


By 2024, vulnerable women, children, adolescents and young people in Namibia have access to and utilise quality integrated health care and nutrition services - Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

By 2024, vulnerable children and young people in Namibia have equitable access to inclusive quality education and life-long learning

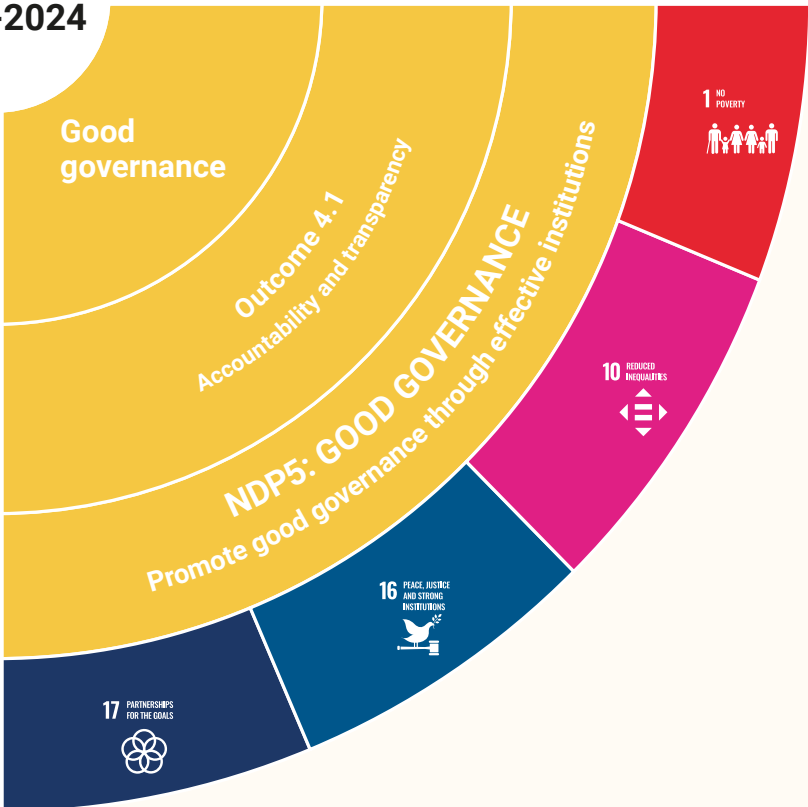
By 2023, vulnerable women and children are empowered and protected against violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation

By 2023, the most vulnerable children, persons living with disabilities, marginalised communities, and poor utilise quality, integrated social protection services



Good Governance

By 2024, vulnerable populations in disaster prone areas and biodiversity sensitive areas are resilient to shocks and climate change effects and benefit from natural resources management



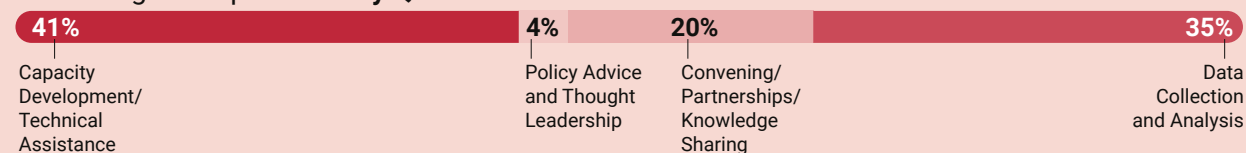
2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities

Economic Progression

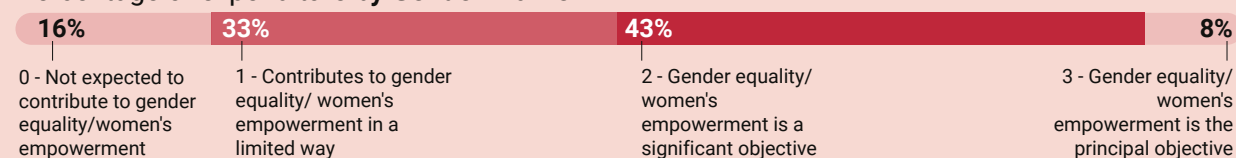
Strategic Priority 1



Percentage of expenditure by QCPR Function



Percentage of expenditure by Gender Marker



Vulnerable groups empowered with knowledge and skills and participate in economic activities

The UN supported the capacity training of 120 MSMEs from the Erongo and Oshana regions on trade readiness- export, preparation and market compliance, thus improving access to diverse African markets under AfCFTA. In addition, the UN facilitated the participation of ten MSMEs (50% female, 50% male), who were invited to showcase their products. This exposure has enabled them to unlock future financing opportunities and expand their market reach.

Three MSMEs (2 female-, and 1 male-led) received UN sponsorship to take part in the 2024 Biashara Afrika Business Forum in Kigali, Rwanda. This high-profile event, which convened over 1,500 participants, provided a strategic platform for these enterprises to engage in international trade, establish business linkages, and explore opportunities for expansion within African markets under AfCFTA.

In partnership with the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade (MIT), the UN supported the EMPRETEC Namibia program, providing entrepreneurship training to 139 individuals (71 female, 68 male), including 20 newly certified Business Development Services Advisors, which resulted in enhanced business skills towards MSME growth and sustainability.

In line with efforts to foster local economic growth, the SDG Impact Investment Fund was also established, through which MSMEs can access sustainable financing.

Two nature-based enterprises in the Ohangwena and Kavango West regions were established to enhance community livelihood, generating USD 5,667 in initial income within the first year, with projections of a three-fold increase as they become self-sustaining.

Through basic social, health, and economic asset-building programs, 1,425 marginalized adolescent girls in the Otjozondjupa and Omaheke regions gained vital skills, including life and economic skills. This directly fostered business and employment creation and deepened their understanding of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). This empowerment will enhance their ability to access sexual reproductive health (SRH) services, and ultimately drive their own economic and personal development.

The capacity of 29 (10 female, 19 male) agricultural extension staff members was enhanced through exposure visits and tailor-made trainings on integrated community-centred approaches to resilient farming, Farmer Field School (FFS) methodologies and Conservation Agriculture (CA). Additionally, drought-tolerant seeds (covering 320 hectares), feeds, and assets were donated to vulnerable communities including women, youth, and people with disabilities in the Kavango-West, Hardap, Ohangwena and //Kharas regions. This has further improved their agricultural production and livelihoods.

Technical support was provided to GRN for the finalization of the Strategy for the Transformation of the Agri-food Sector (STAS 2025-2031) including its implementation plan. This strategy is expected to improve private-public sector collaboration and participation in food systems, and to further transform the agricultural sector.

In 2024, GRN adopted and gazetted a new Statutory National Minimum Wage (NMW) in accordance with the Namibian Labour Act, No. 11 of 2007. This complemented statutory and negotiated minimum wages covering workers in four sectors: domestic services (statutory), agriculture, construction, and security. In support of its decision to adopt a NMW, the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation (MLIREC) relied on the 2022/23 tripartite Wages Commission report following the UN-supported feasibility study for a NMW in 2021 and further economic analysis (2022/ 2023) to assess the merits and impacts of the Commission's proposed minimum wage on workers' incomes and enterprise sustainability.



Government capacity strengthened in areas of programme design and implementation of programmes in agriculture, research, innovation, and industrialization

The UN's support to the Government of Namibia strengthened the country's capacity to implement AfCFTA, empowering 69 National Implementation Committee members (39 women, 30 men) and enhancing trade policy expertise among government, academia, and private sector stakeholders. With improved knowledge of AfCFTA's structure, protocols, and operational mechanisms, these actors are now better equipped to drive effective implementation and maximize the agreement's benefits.

An assessment of Agricultural Trade Policies for Inclusive Agriculture Transformation and enhancement of food security in Namibia was conducted, including a review of tariff and non-tariff barriers to agricultural trade. The proposed recommendations will enable Namibia's fair participation in AfCFTA and other trade agreements.

In support of national trade facilitation efforts, the UN contributed to the development and rollout of Namibia's National Standards Strategy, ensuring its alignment with the SDGs to address key socio-economic priorities. This support enabled the National Standards Institution to accelerate the development of four critical standards, particularly in the agricultural sector.

In partnership with the New School's Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy (IRPPE), the UN supported GRN by raising awareness and furthering GRNs capacity on the concept of the human rights economy, and how this can be fostered in Namibia through their various programs.

The UN supported the establishment of ten plant health clinics in eight regions (Omusati, Ohangwena, Kavango West, Kavango East, Khomas, Hardap, //Kharas and Zambezi) to improve agricultural production and productivity. The capacity of 29 agricultural extension officers (14 female, 15 male) was strengthened, certifying them as plant doctors in plant pest diagnostics and management, biological control and e-plant clinic, and plant health clinic data management (PlantwisePlus Online Management System (POMS)). In addition, the Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) for Namibia was conducted in collaboration with the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) which resulted in the development of the PCE Strategy 2024 -2028, which further improves the capacity of government to conduct a PCE process.

Capacity training of farmers and 110 officials from the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) resulted in the effective control of the outbreak of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP). Approximately, 1,285,820 cattle were vaccinated, and 80,000 Radio Frequency Identification ear tags provided for traceability, with zero new CBPP outbreaks subsequently reported.

The UN supported the Ministry Of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation (MLIREC), the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) and the Ministry of Works and Transport (MWT), in launching the tripartite National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) on Decent Work in the Namibian fisheries sector. The NCM will oversee and promote decent working conditions in the fishing industry, ensuring compliance with international labour standards, particularly the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188).

Reliable data and evidence produced to inform targeting and programming

UN supported the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) in the development and launching of the Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Statistics (SPARS) 2025-2029 in collaboration with other stakeholders (Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and MFMR). In addition, support was provided to undertake an informal cross-border trade study. This report was disseminated to the public which further identified strategic interventions to empower women and marginalized groups, drive economic growth, and enhance regional integration under AfCFTA.

To effectively address the 2024 drought situation in Namibia, a Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) was conducted by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), with support from the UN. This vital tool identified specific demographics, geographic locations, and livelihood groups vulnerable to drought, providing the evidence base for a data-driven drought response plan. Consequently, resources were allocated efficiently to those most in need.

Through systems strengthening (data management) initiatives in Namibia, the UN supported the NSA with the establishment of a Labour Market Information System (LMIS) which supports the collection, and storage of labour market indicators. The LMIS enabled stakeholders to update data and information on the labour market including through thematic analysis of the 2023 Census Labour Module Results.

STORIES OF CHANGE

Growing Prosperity: Julia's Story

Julia, a Marketing Management graduate, transformed her circumstances through the Ugongowamupanda Community Garden in Namibia's Oshana Region. This inspiring story shows how UNDP, with support from the Government of Japan, equipped local farmers with solar-powered pumps, shade nets, and storage facilities—empowering Julia to grow vegetables, raise livestock, and expand her enterprise. Through these community-driven solutions, she is fostering food security, fueling economic growth, and setting her sights on supplying major retailers.

Click or scan to know more



Discover other inspiring stories

Safer and Healthier Fishing Sector



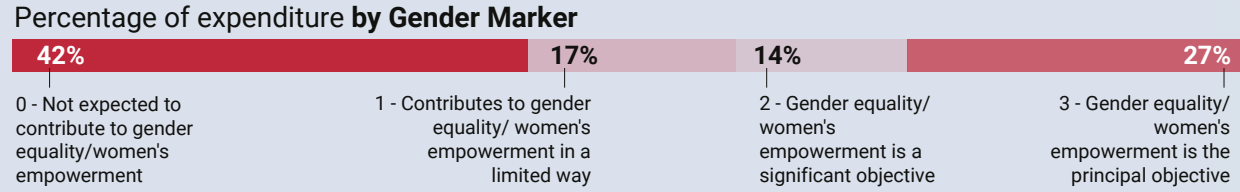
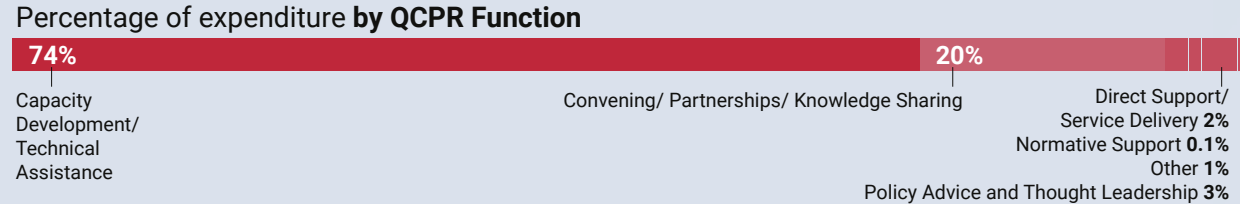
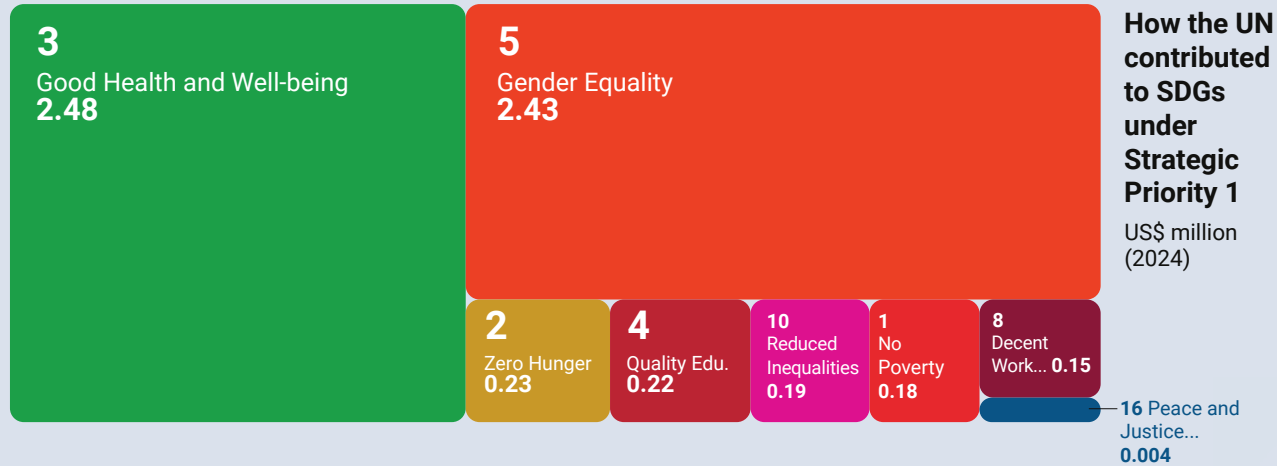
Horticultural Dream into a Thriving Business



2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities

Social Transformation

Strategic Priority 2



During the reporting period, the food security of 26,868 individuals was enhanced, safeguarding them against malnutrition during a prolonged lean season, through the provision of cash-based modalities, such as value and commodity vouchers. This support also increased access to local markets, thereby stimulating economic activities and job creation in drought-affected areas, with a total of 143 local retailers and vendors participating in the voucher programme. Improved partnerships between larger wholesalers and small retailers to access credit, ensured the availability of essential nutritious foods. The programme also strengthened national digital systems, such as the Commodity Beneficiary Management Information System (CBMIS), empowering communities and reinforcing long-term resilience in food and nutrition security.

Support was provided to the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MHSS) for the Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) media campaign and community engagement on prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) on national television and nine local radios, reaching 300,000 people. The campaign focused on male partner support, early infant diagnosis, and retesting of HIV-negative pregnant and breastfeeding women, contributing to improved feeding practices, and a reduction in malnutrition and child mortality cases.

Additionally, support was provided for the finalisation and implementation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) guidelines, which were incorporated into in-service training sessions for healthcare workers (HCWs), with a total of 60 HCWs trained in the Kunene, Khomas and Omaheke regions. This training was designed to promote breastfeeding and ensure that hospitals provide an optimal environment for supporting breastfeeding mothers. Equipping HCWs with the necessary knowledge and skills increases breastfeeding rates, enhances neonatal health, and contributes to the overall well-being of mothers and infants.

Support was provided to OPM to produce a Standardised Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey report covering all 14 regions in Namibia. The results will enhance the understanding of the extent of malnutrition in the country and identify areas that require urgent attention.

Capacity of the health system strengthened to provide good quality health services and improved emergency response (prevention, detection, and response)

In collaboration with other health development partners, the UN contributed to development of key strategic documents. This includes the sustainability roadmap for HIV, TB, Malaria and Hepatitis B, the National HIV Strategic Framework operational plan (2023/2024-2027/2028), SRH policy (2025 -2029) and the revision of the national antiretroviral therapy (ART) guidelines. Further support was provided on the generation of the 2024 HIV Estimates and Projections and facilitation of the final PMTCT Namibia Retesting, Early Infant Diagnosis, and Viral Load Monitoring (NamREV) statistics. Following a two-year collaborative project, a Quality Improvement (QI) learning session was also conducted at 40 high-volume sites across the country. These efforts collectively enhanced the effectiveness and sustainability of the health system in combating these diseases and providing quality services.

The UN supported MHSS to conduct a U-Report survey among 972 adolescents and young women aged 15-30 on their understanding of the Human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) in preparation for its deployment in 2025. The survey results showed 62% of participants had no knowledge of HPV, and 36% would not take the vaccine or were not sure if they would take the vaccine. The HPV introduction plan was updated to ensure the effective rollout of this important vaccine, the results of which will inform the development of ongoing risk communication and a community engagement strategy, towards improved HPV vaccine uptake.

Through its technical support, evidence generation, and advocacy, the UN enhanced the capacity of key national stakeholders, sector ministries, and Parliament to plan, budget, and manage social services effectively. The UN supported government reforms in health procurement, resulting in N\$135 million in savings, which were reinvested to increase access to, and improve the quality



of healthcare for Namibians, particularly for children. Once fully implemented, these reforms are expected to generate over N\$3 billion in savings over the next three years, contributing to the government's objective of achieving UHC.

The UN actively contributed to the revised strategic plan for HIV and AIDS (2023-2024 to 2027-2028). Implementation of the plan resulted in a total of 13,226 adolescents aged 15-19 being tested for HIV in 2024. Additionally, 9,911 children and adolescents aged 0-19 received ART. These efforts have enhanced HIV prevention and care, ensuring better health outcomes.

The UN-supported implementation of recommendations from the 2023 HIV and TB Gender Assessment in the Oshana and Oshikoto regions reached 1,313 people (1,009 female, 304 male). This initiative strengthened women-led organisations in addressing gender inequality and scaled up male engagement programmes to challenge harmful socio-cultural norms at the community level, contributing to more equitable health outcomes.

The capacity of 1,668 HCWs (1,251 female, 417 male) in the Ohangwena, Kavango East, Zambezi, Oshana, Kunene, and Khomas regions were strengthened to provide quality services on family planning, abortion care, and value clarification and attitude transformation. Pre- and post-assessments showed an increase in knowledge from 40.6% to 82%.

Through collaboration with three Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in health, the UN supported the provision of integrated mobile outreach services targeting marginalised and underserved communities in the Ohangwena, Kavango East, Kavango West, Omu-sati, Omaheke, Zambezi, Kunene, and Khomas regions. The mobile teams provided SRH, HIV and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) services to 125,381 clients, ranging from provision of contraceptives, HIV testing and treatment, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), GBV counselling, and referral to other services. This contributes to averting unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, increasing awareness, and linkages and referrals for GBV and other services.

Healthcare providers of the MHSS were capacitated to deliver quality integrated SRH/HIV, GBV services and to strengthen linkages and referral systems for SGBV. Of the 146 healthcare facilities in four selected regions (Ohangwena, Zambezi, Kunene and Omaheke), a total of 107 are providing integrated SRH/HIV/ SGBV

services. Delivery of integrated services has continued to promote confidentiality for all clients including those seeking HIV services.

The Joint United Nations Team on AIDS (JUNTA) supported GRN in developing the Sustainability Roadmap for HIV, TB, Malaria, and Hepatitis B, launched on World AIDS Day in 2024 and outlining strategies for sustainable healthcare solutions, ensuring long-term impact and resilience in the fight against these diseases.

Through strategic advocacy, communication, innovation, partnership, stakeholder engagement, and health systems strengthening, the United Nations successfully supported the Government of the Republic of Namibia in building a skilled midwifery workforce, contributing to improved maternal and newborn health outcomes. A total of 22 midwifery and academia lecturers from the University of Namibia (UNAM) were capacitated as Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) in Early Essential Newborn Care (EENC) skills, which were integrated into the existing midwifery training curriculum. As a result, 239 final-year students were trained in EENC skills by the newly trained UNAM lecturers in 2024. Applying these skills in their current roles contributes to improved maternal and newborn outcomes, together with the continued expansion of this pre-service training and the increase in midwives skilled in EENC.

A total of 1,068 GRN staff were capacitated in various child survival and development areas, including maternal newborn health, child health, nutrition, elimination of mother-to-child transmission (eMTCT) of HIV, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and early childhood development (ECD). This has led to improved quality data for evidence-based decision-making and programming, and increased reach to children and women in rural and urban areas through integrated community programmes addressing maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH), nutrition, ECD, and sanitation.

Namibia received global recognition for its progress towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV and Hepatitis B. The country was awarded the bronze tier status for EMTCT of HIV and the silver tier status for EMTCT of Hepatitis B.

Several integrated outreach campaigns were conducted to support community engagement, social mobilisation, and behaviour change. These campaigns significantly improved immunisation coverage, particularly in chronically low-performing districts with frequent disease outbreaks such as measles.



Eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and hepatitis B

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Namibia, with committed national leadership and UN support, is transforming maternal and child health by eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and hepatitis B. This uplifting story showcases how timely interventions, strong community engagement, and integrated health services are driving a remarkable decline in new infections, ensuring nearly all babies born to mothers living with HIV are HIV-free. By highlighting the experiences of women such as Aazehe Tjozongoro, who has seen her four children born free of the virus, this narrative underscores the profound impact of strategic policies, community-based initiatives, and global partnerships in safeguarding the well-being of women and children across the country.

Discover other inspiring stories

A Mother's Second Chance:
How a Maternity Waiting
Home Is Saving Lives in
Kunene Region, Namibia



Alexia's
Journey: A
Lifeline in
Anichab Village





Over 11,000 children from seven poorly performing regions were immunised, contributing to the improvement in overall coverage of Penta 1, MR1 and MR2 to 76%, 80.4% and 67.6%, respectively. This was achieved through community engagement dialogues, sensitising over 756 Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) stakeholders in 43 constituencies, including caregivers of children, local leaders, influencers, and health workers. Support and response for regions with measles outbreak in 2024, resulted in increased surveillance and active disease search, which helped contain reported and suspected outbreaks in a timely manner.

The capacity of the health system to provide quality services and respond to emergencies has been strengthened. Key results include improvements in the availability of essential medicines and equipment, the completion of the End Term Review of the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) National Action Plan (NAP), and the development of Terms of Reference for AMR Governance. Additionally, the Tripartite AMR Country Self-Assessment Survey (TrACSS) was completed, providing a comprehensive assessment of the country's AMR response capabilities. These initiatives have

improved oversight, coordination, and the overall effectiveness of the health system in addressing AMR challenges.

To improve reproductive health services in the Zambezi, Ohangwena, and Kunene regions, 1,405 items of medical equipment and supplies, including a mobile van clinic, were procured, and handed over to MHSS to enhance access to healthcare services in remote areas. These resources will improve the quality of reproductive health services and outcomes in these regions. Furthermore, 83 dossiers were assessed, and 21 pre-qualified essential medicines were registered, ensuring the availability of high-quality medicines for the population.

In terms of health emergencies preparedness and response, a National Multi-Hazard Health Emergencies Preparedness and Response Plan was developed. This plan outlines the strategies and actions required to effectively respond to various health emergencies. To ensure widespread dissemination and implementation, 150 copies of the plan were printed and distributed to stakeholders. Additionally, the Strategic Tool for Assessing Risk (STAR) report was

developed, providing insights and recommendations for strengthening the country's health emergency response capabilities.

Capacity of the education system strengthened and access to education at all levels (ECD to tertiary)

The UN played a key role in strengthening Namibia's Home-Grown School Feeding Program (HGSFP) through targeted research, advocacy, capacity building, and technological integration, enhancing the effectiveness of the programme. The HGSFP improved educational outcomes, academic performance, and school retention for 11,412 (5,671 female, 5,741 male) vulnerable children by addressing their nutritional needs at the school level. Additionally, the UN's advocacy efforts contributed to policy alignment, and secured support for scaling up HGSFP across more schools and ECD centres in the period 2025 to 2029.

The UN supported various capacity-building interventions, equipping 580 pre- and in-service teachers with the knowledge and skills to effectively deliver life

skills-based HIV education and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in the Khomas, Ohangwena, Zambezi and Erongo regions. This capacity building enabled life skills teachers to provide accurate, age-appropriate, inclusive sexuality education, fostering informed decision-making, healthy behaviours, and a supportive school environment for adolescents and youth.

The UN also empowered over 2,335 adolescents and youth, including those with disabilities, to actively participate in the review of the gender and SRH policies, ensuring that barriers to education such as gender inequality and harmful cultural practices are addressed, and access to SRH services are improved. Further support was provided to MHSS in rolling out the Adolescent and Young People Meaningful Engagement Toolkit across four regions, fostering meaningful youth participation in service delivery and decision-making.

Through the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Transformation in Education and Giga projects the UN strengthened the capacity of the education system and improved access to education. Key milestones included the finalisation of the Namibia ICT in Education policy, the mapping of ICT infrastructure in schools, and the development of digital content, all of which made the education system more resilient and responsive to changes that challenge traditional methods.

The UN's support also enhanced the capacity of School Health Task Forces in five regions (Ohangwena, Oshikoto, //Kharas, Hardap, and Otjozondjupa), contributing to healthier, safer, and more conducive learning environments for 299,020 learners, including 150,931 girls.

Additionally, the Upskilling Programme of the Ministry of Sports, Youth, and National Service (MSYNS) was strengthened through the capacity building of 20 young professionals, improving their ability to educate and support young girls in critical areas.

In collaboration with the Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust (NaDEET), the UN enhanced the coordination, implementation, and monitoring of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Environmental Education (EE) initiatives. This resulted in the development of a strategic plan and annual work plan for the Namibian Environmental Education Network (NEEN), providing a structured framework to advance ESD across the country.

Monitoring and data generation including evidence improved to aid policy and program design and implementation

Data tracking and decision-making for school feeding programs was enhanced through the development and implementation of the National School Feeding Information System (NaSIS). This system was established in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) and the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication, and Social Welfare (MGEPSW), ensuring better data management and programme oversight.

In collaboration with MoEAC and MHSS, the Global School-Based Student Health Survey (GSHS) was conducted. This survey assessed the health and well-being of adolescents aged 13 to 17 in educational settings, providing more information on the needs of this vulnerable population.

Furthermore, the UN strengthened the capacity of the Education Management Information System (EMIS) Division, ensuring timely and high-quality data release for national, regional, and school-level planning and budgeting. The introduction of the OpenEMIS system improved data accuracy, accessibility, and transparency, particularly in handling examination data. This enhancement has resulted in the timely release of national examination results, enabling students to apply for further education. By expanding the scope of the EMIS project, UN support enhanced the capacity of GRN to plan, engage in policy development, and assess operational needs across Namibia.

Namibia achieved a major milestone by producing recent and reliable data on child nutrition and maternal practices through the SMART Survey. Results of the survey informed targeted interventions and resource allocation for emergency nutrition responses, particularly addressing issues such as stunting and child malnutrition.

Impediments to broader participation of children and young people's participation in and out of school removed.

The UN played a key role in reducing barriers to the broader participation of children and young people in decision-making, both in and out of school. This was exemplified by the UN-supported Children's Parliament session focused on the Year of Education. During this session, 64 adolescent and children parliamentarians, including 6 children with disabilities, passed a communiqué with 33 motions for consideration. One of the key motions is to ensure that all schools in Namibia are accessible to children with disabilities, advocating for more inclusive education.

The platform provided through the Children's Parliament further enhanced the participation of children with disabilities, enabling them to advocate for their educational rights and contribute to decision-making processes.

Evidence generation and data collection to inform policies, programme design and implementation of interventions that are aimed at addressing GBV

The UN supported the establishment of the National Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), to ensure the availability of national gender-based violence (GBV) data. Additionally, officials from the GBV and Protection Units of the Namibian Police (NAMPOL) were capacitated on the operation of the system. The system was piloted in Windhoek, Gobabis, and Rehoboth, enabling NAMPOL to identify and resolve operational bottlenecks in the GB database.

The UN supported the review of sexual harassment policies at UNAM and the International University of Management (IUM) through active engagement of institutional leadership in health and well-being programs, resulting in better utilisation of reporting mechanisms, inclusive improvements, and safer campus environments.

Additionally, UN supported the establishment of specialized Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) unit that is connected to National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) supporting Namibia with supporting victims of online and offline abuse.

The HIV and AIDS policy of the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) is nearing final approval, expected in early 2025. The project's focus on involving young people in policy reviews has increased awareness and use of reporting mechanisms, contributing to safer campuses. Additionally, partnerships with organisations like Namibia Planned Parenthood Association (NAPPA) and BeFree have expanded access to SRH services, even on campuses without on-site clinics.

Three health workers from IUM and NUST, and 343 peer educators (60% female, 40% male), received training to deliver youth-friendly services, transforming campus health facilities into youth-friendly spaces and increasing SRH service usage. As a result, more students accessed SRH services, including regular check-ups and screenings, making it easier for students to seek help from their peers. In addition, a standardised counselling training manual, including a pocket guide, was developed, and distributed and will be used for training from 2025.

STORIES OF CHANGE

Sanitary Pad-Making Initiative empowers refugee women at Osire Settlement

The Sanitary Pad-Making Initiative at Osire Refugee Settlement is reshaping the lives of women who once struggled to meet their basic needs. This story shows how training and partnerships—under the “Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) – Building Back Better from COVID-19” project, led by the UN and local allies—are fostering new skills, generating income, and enhancing the dignity of refugee women. Through producing sustainable pads, participants like Noela, Esther, and Rebecca are not only improving menstrual hygiene in their community but also finding renewed hope and self-reliance.

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STORIES OF CHANGE

Cash-Based Interventions provide a ray of hope for refugees

UN cash-based interventions offer a lifeline to refugees in Namibia, enabling them to cope with severe drought, fund critical needs like school fees, and invest in sustainable livelihood opportunities. This story of change highlights how targeted assistance not only strengthens food security but also fosters self-reliance and community resilience, all while advancing the principle of leaving no one behind.

Click or scan to know more



Thirty change agents (16 female and 14 male) in the fisheries sector were trained on the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) (C190), raising awareness and promoting social dialogue among stakeholders in the fisheries industry to address GBV and discrimination. This was complemented by the training of 29 trade union leaders and employer representatives on freedom of association, and the right to collective bargaining to strengthen dialogue and advocacy for decent work. The increased capacities in the sector resulted in the conducting of the 3rd Joint Inspection by MLIREC labour inspectors, MFMR fisheries inspectors, and maritime surveyors from the Ministry of Works and Transport (MWT) onboard fishing vessels and factories.

Capacity of service providers to GBV victims and perpetrators improved to respond to the needs of both parties

The UN increased awareness among various stakeholders (state, non-state, and UN agencies) on the protection, promotion, and respect for human rights of individuals facing intersecting forms of discrimination, including victims of GBV. This ensured that human rights principles were effectively mainstreamed in the work of the Gender Theme Groups.

As part of the UN's inter-agency commitment to safeguarding program implementation through the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), targeted learning and awareness-raising initiatives were conducted. These included training sessions for implementing partners, and communities, particularly women and children, on SEA prevention and reporting mechanisms. As a result, there has been a measurable improvement in knowledge and adherence to PSEA safeguarding measures among partners, strengthening accountability within UN programming.

A total of 1,793 refugee women and girls of reproductive age were supported with sanitary kits, enabling them to manage their menstrual hygiene in a safe, hygienic, and dignified manner. The UN, in collaboration with various partners including MGEPESW, Parliamentary committee on Family Affairs and Gender, and CSOs, facilitated 75 community dialogues across different platforms to raise awareness and spark community conversations on SRH, HIV, unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortions and GBV. The dialogues were aimed at addressing critical issues and promoting informed discussions within the community, resulting in an increase in knowledge and awareness on GBV prevention, and response and access to SRH services.

The UN facilitated a technical review of the Child Justice Bill, ensuring it met with international standards. This bill was approved by Parliament in 2024. Support was also provided to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to create a ministerial justification for legislation to combat both online and offline sexual exploitation, which was submitted to Cabinet for endorsement.

The child justice system was strengthened through the training of 265 multisectoral professionals (155 female, 110 male) on child protection. Eight judges also received training on digital evidence, for online abuse case investigation. A Model National Response Plan on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) was developed with stakeholders, outlining priorities in legislation, criminal justice, victim support, societal and cultural change, industry involvement, and research and data.

With UN support, maternal and GBV services in health facilities across the Zambezi, Kunene, and Ohangwena regions have been strengthened. Medical equipment valued at N\$4,215,760.70 was procured and handed over to the MHSS (67 bed screens, eight gynaecological couches, six physician scales, 15 CTG machines, three mobile ultrasound scanners), and a mobile vehicle was delivered to One Economy Foundation. This is to enable healthcare providers to deliver better quality maternal and GBV services to remote and underserved populations.

Capacity building support in all forms provided to strengthen the national social protection system to ensure improved access and service delivery

The UN increased awareness among various stakeholders (state, non-state, and UN agencies) on the protection, promotion, and respect for human rights of individuals facing intersecting forms of discrimination, including victims of GBV. This ensured that human rights principles were effectively mainstreamed in the work of the Gender Theme Groups.

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Capacity building support in all forms provided to strengthen the national social protection system to ensure improved access and service delivery. The UN provided capacity-building support to enhance Namibia's social protection system, yielding tangible improvements in targeting coverage and system efficiency.

The UN enhanced the capacity of government entities responsible for national shock-responsive safety net programs, such as the Cash Basic Income Grant (CBIG) which provides financial assistance and promotes community participation. The UN also co-facilitated the creation of a Social Protection Booklet, improving public awareness of available services, and supported the development of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), a tool for more accurately identifying vulnerable populations and designing targeted interventions. Key government partners included OPM, MoEAC, MAWLR, MGEPSW, and MHSS.

The UN contributed to integrating multidimensional poverty data into social protection targeting, ensuring that interventions more effectively address the needs of the most vulnerable children and communities. Additionally, the UN's support strengthened the Social Protection Management Information System (MIS) for vulnerable children and communities, improving linkages with other databases and enhancing programme targeting, verification, and overall efficiency.

The advocacy and budget analysis of the UN were instrumental in securing increased allocations for social protection programs, including a 7.9% upward adjustment to the Old Age Grant and Disability Grant for children. This increase raised the monthly grant from N\$1,400 to N\$1,600 (US\$84), exceeding inflation rates and preserving the real value of the grants at N\$1,511. This adjustment ensured greater purchasing power for beneficiaries, particularly children, thereby contributing to improved financial security and well-being for vulnerable households. Further investment in expanding child grant coverage was made with an allocation of N\$2,84.5 million to reduce backlogs, improving access for vulnerable children across Namibia. This critical step aimed to address gaps in social protection coverage, ensuring that at-risk children are not left behind.

The UN supported the establishment of the National Core Team on Social Protection (NCTSP), comprising key government ministries, departments, and the UN, ensuring effective oversight of the implementation and review of the National Social Protection Policy (NSPP). While the NCTSP has been effective at the national level, the UN has identified the need to replicate similar coordination structures at regional levels for enhanced impact.

In addition, the UN contributed to the development of the Joint Programme on Jobs, Social Protection, and Just Transitions, securing US\$1.8 million to enhance

the transformation of Agri-Systems through biomass processing, for decent job creation and the extension of social protection in Namibia.

The UN supported the mass Birth Registration Campaign, resulting in 31,135 additional birth registrations nationwide, enhancing children's access to legal identity.

Broader social protection policy developed and approved to provide basis for the implementation of social protection programmes nationally

The UN has played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of comprehensive social protection policies in Namibia, laying a strong foundation for the nationwide execution of these programs. Digital transformation initiatives, such as the establishment of the Commodity and Beneficiary Management Information System (CBMIS) and the Namibia Integrated Digital Assistance Service (NIDAS) were central to this effort. These innovations provided essential infrastructure for the transparent and efficient administration of social protection programs.

The UN supported budget transparency reforms, contributing to Namibia's Open Budget Survey score improving from 42 in 2021 to 54 in 2023, reflecting greater public access to budget information. The score for citizen participation also increased from

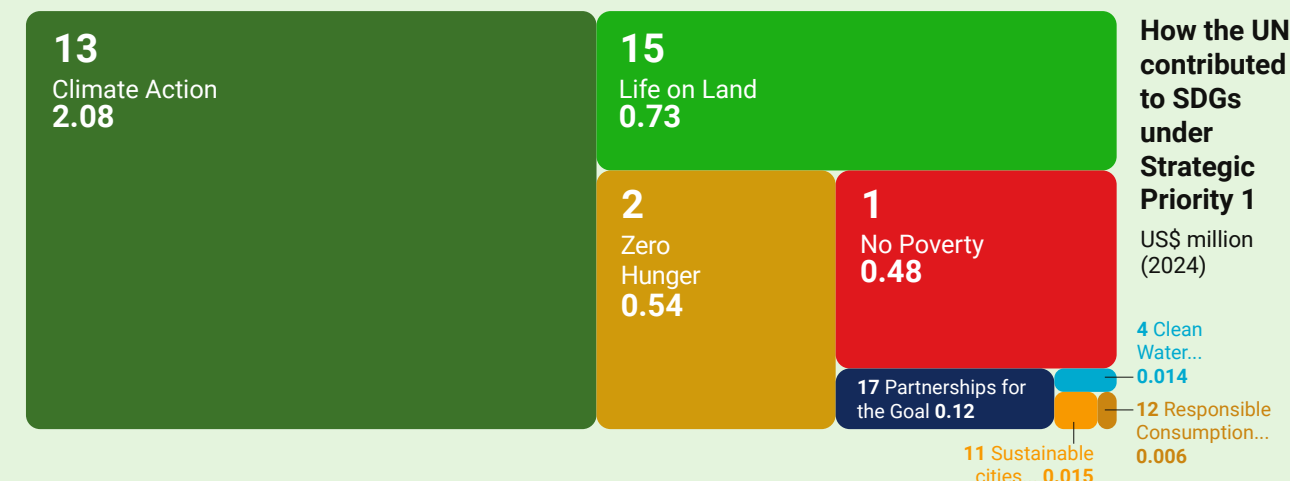
zero, to 20 out of 100, reflecting enhanced involvement of citizens, including children—in the budgeting process. As part of its continued advocacy for the prioritisation of social sector spending, the government allocated 50.7% of the total 2024/25 national budget to social sectors, including education (23%), health (14%), and social protection (12%). This allocation enabled a significant investment of N\$790 million in school infrastructure development, resulting in the construction of approximately 1,552 fully furnished classrooms, which alleviated classroom shortages and significantly enhancing the educational environment for children.

To sustain this progress, the UN worked closely with the National Assembly to strengthen Parliament's ability to oversee the budget and safeguard investments in human development. In support of equitable resource allocation, the UN contributed to the finalisation of the School Grant Policy, which was tabled and approved by Parliament in 2024. The implementation of this policy will ensure more equitable financing for education and improve outcomes for vulnerable children. Furthermore, the UN supported the generation of evidence on the costs associated with various disabilities, advocating for more inclusive budget allocations.

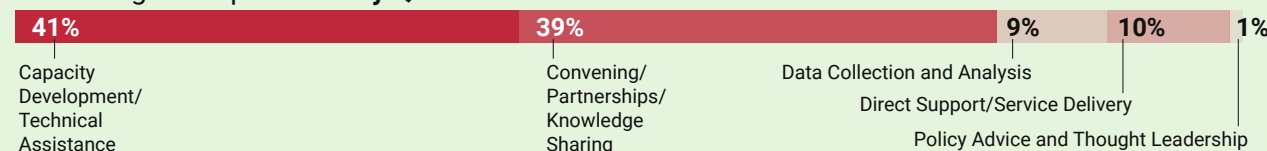
2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities

Environmental Sustainability

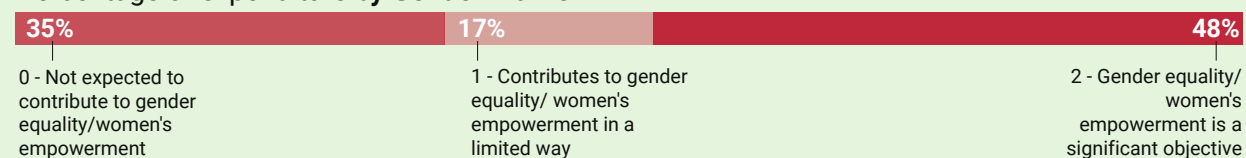
Strategic Priority 2



Percentage of expenditure by QCPR Function



Percentage of expenditure by Gender Marker



Relevant policies, regulatory frameworks and institutions enabled to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, access, and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation

To enhance environmental governance, the UN supported the establishment of a unified system for monitoring of spatial targets under key environmental agreements, including Land Degradation Neutrality, NDCs, and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. In collaboration with MEFT and UNAM, this initiative strengthened coordinated reporting on biodiversity, desertification, and climate commitments.

In collaboration with MEFT, the Namibia Carbon Registry, was operationalised to manage carbon credits. This initiative aligns with Namibia's emissions reduction commitments and expands access to international carbon finance mechanisms.

Through the Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhanced Livelihoods and Environmental Governance, the UN supported the gazettement of three state forests (Okongo, Sikandjabuka, Zilitene, and Bukalo Community Forests). As a result, 135,295 hectares are now managed under Integrated Landscape Management plans, promoting sustainable agricultural and forestry practices tailored to local needs. Support for the implementation of the Forest and Fire Management Plans across 201,905 hectares of community forests was provided, enhancing sustainable land use.

To strengthen food security and sustainable livelihoods, 74 beneficiaries (47 females and 27 males) from four landscapes (Okongo, Rucana, Omaipanga and Nkivere) received goats in support of a small stock revolving goat scheme, whilst in Zambezi region, in addition 11 beneficiaries were provided with large stock. Additionally, 51 farmers collectively generated USD 39,751 through livestock auctions. Ten community nurseries produced 2,000 seedlings, generating USD 1,133 in community income, and supporting ecosystem restoration efforts.

Furthermore, the UN increased food system projects by more than 33%. Investments in climate-smart agriculture, job creation, and resilient infrastructure at health centres, schools, and resettlement farms benefited vulnerable populations. Partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, UNAM, the private sector, and international donors strengthened policy implementation, capacity-building, and market access.

The UN improved crop and livestock management skills, leading to enhanced household food security of 6,534 households (10,444 people), including 1,438 headed by women in vulnerable areas of the Ohangwena, Kavango West, Zambezi and //Kharas regions. This was achieved by training 3,910 agricultural extension staff, youth and community leaders and farmers on climate-smart agriculture, pest surveillance and resilience technique; procurement and distribution of agricultural inputs, including fencing materials, gardening tools, poultry, shade nets, small-scale irrigation systems, solar-powered submersible water pumps, 459 kg of vegetable seeds and water tanks; distribution of 400-laying hens and 1,251 dual-purpose poultry to 604 households, to expand poultry farming and diversify income sources.

Access to energy, water, food, and essential services was enhanced through collaboration with the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD), (MAWLR), and MEFT. The UN supported the installation and handing over of 20 solar-powered boreholes to MAWLR and solar-powered containers to MURD, providing clean water to 6,790 people, impacting 805 households, and supporting 34,000 livestock. The boreholes valued at N\$14,138,391.57, replaced diesel-powered systems with solar energy, improving water security while reducing CO₂ emissions by an estimated 146,000 kg annually reinforcing Namibia's commitment to sustainable, low-emission infrastructure.





To ensure long-term impact, community members received training in solar pump maintenance and climate-smart agriculture, strengthening resilience and self-sufficiency in rural areas.

The UN also deployed 21 kW of photovoltaic (PV) capacity and installed 65,000 m² of drip irrigation, including 20,000 m² under shade netting, across eight communal gardens in six regions. This initiative improved food security, climate resilience, and income diversification for 220 households (58% female-headed) and an orphanage, while cutting CO₂ emissions by 6.2 tonnes annually. To further support peri-urban farmers, the UN provided ten solar-powered e-bikes to facilitate market access and reduce post-harvest losses.

The UN supported the piloting of the Green Cities Initiative in Namibia, training 32 community members (19 male, 13 female, of which 2 were persons with disabilities) in nursery techniques and vegetable production in Eenhana, Ohangwena Region. A fully equipped nursery, including 900 fruit tree seedlings, 490 forestry seedlings, horticultural tools, and a solar-powered pump, was handed over to the Eenhana Town Council to boost urban greening and local food production, contributing to green urban regeneration and increasing health and well-being of the community.

The UN further strengthened community resilience through capacity-building initiatives, including the Integrated Landscape Management Conference, attended by 135 participants (63 female, 72 male), which provided insights into drought-resilient farming and carbon markets. In the Zambezi Region, community-led ecosystem rehabilitation identified five additional restoration sites, strengthening local resilience, and generating fodder-based income. Training programmes equipped 84 community members with skills in sustainable forestry and business management.

The United Nations strengthened Namibia's response to wildlife crime through enhanced collaboration and environmental protection efforts. A two-day training on financial investigations related to wildlife crime was conducted for 37 investigators and prosecutors (31 males, 6 females) from across the country. Additionally, 26 MEFT officials (19 males, 7 females) were trained on the use of the Wildlife Crime Rapid Reference Guide (RRG) App. A further 37 participants (24 males, 13 females), including investigators, prosecutors, magistrates, and international observers, were capacitated on applying the ICCWC Indicator Framework to combat wildlife and forest crimes.

To address youth unemployment and to control bush encroachment, the UN supported MEFT to capacitate 130 youth (56 female, 74 male) in sustainable biomass harvesting and charcoal production, and as a result, 3,000 hectares of encroached land were sustainably managed which created economic opportunities.

With UN support, four predator-proof kraals (Oshikoto, Kunene, Kavango East and Omusati regions) and two early-warning towers (Kunene region) were constructed to reduce human-wildlife conflict, benefiting 5,063 people.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), the UN capacitated Namibia Revenue Agency (NamRA) officials on tax compliance and revenue generation from mineral exports, thereby strengthening compliance and addressing revenue gaps in the extractive sector towards sustainable resource management.

Geological Agriculture (GeoAg) was introduced by the UN, leveraging local mineral-rich rocks to reduce soil and water dependency for crop cultivation, and generating interest in its potential for household food security. New collaborations with NUST and MME were also established to explore value addition in Namibia's mineral resources, promoting sustainable economic development.

Improved capacity to prepare, prevent, respond, and recover from climate change induced variability

The UN supported the development of the National Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Strategy, engaging 88 stakeholders (30 female, 58 male). This strategy is instrumental in combating deforestation and land degradation while supporting sustainable rural livelihoods. Further support was provided for the development of National



Climate Finance Framework, Climate Public Expenditure, and Institutional Review (CPEIR), as well as the Climate Budget Tagging (CBT) roadmap. These initiatives reinforce the country's commitment to aligning national budget allocations with climate priorities, ensuring transparency and accountability in resource allocation. Additionally, support was provided to GRN for the development of a communication plan for its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), engaging 28 stakeholders (18 female, 10 male) which enhanced transparency, stakeholder participation and inclusive climate governance.

With UN support for a climate-resilient Blue Economy, the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) Strategic Action Programme mobilised USD 10,484,931 to enhance sustainable marine resource management. This initiative strengthens the long-term resilience of marine ecosystems and supports adaptive responses to climate change impacts on coastal economies.

In collaboration with the Kafue Gorge Regional Training Centre (KGRTC) in Zambia, and the Namibia Energy Institute, the UN supported a TOT programme that capacitated 161 instructors on renewable energy, resulting in the rollout of renewable energy courses at the Eenhana Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centre.

Capacity of the Namibia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (NAMVAC) was strengthened to improve food security analysis, supporting the implementation of the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) system for standardised food insecurity categorisation. In addition, a multisectoral Early Warning System (EWS) was developed for real-time monitoring and scenario modelling and supporting

the establishment of a digitally equipped Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for coordinated disaster response. These initiatives improved data analysis, standardised assessment frameworks, enhanced early warning capabilities, and strengthened coordination mechanisms.

The UN strengthened the capacity of 151 local government staff in data governance, website development, digitalising job cards and climate vulnerability assessments in the Opuwo, Helao Nafidi and Rehoboth town councils, through the "Just Transitions in Vulnerable Places: Digital Solutions for More Climate-Resilient Informal Areas in Namibia" initiative. This resulted in the identification of climate impacts on infrastructure, livelihood and settlement, and ability to evaluate vulnerability data gaps. Local authorities were equipped to leverage digital and data-driven solutions, to enhance planning and resilience in informal settlements.

Through the Fostering Water Security in Namibia in the Context of Climate Change initiative, UN supported a multistakeholder engagement to address potential pollution from uranium exploration and in-situ leaching mining in the Stampriet Transboundary Aquifer System (STAS). The subsequent report informed GRN on the impact of uranium exploration in the STAS.

A total of 190 participants from various institutions including MAWLR, MEFT, NamWater, NUST, African Development Bank (AfDB), and Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) were capacitated on the Open Hardware and Software for Sustainable Resource Management, promoting conservation of water resources.

STORIES OF CHANGE

Home-Grown School Feeding Sows Seeds of Success

The home-grown school feeding programme in Namibia offers smallholder farmers like Veronika Misisi a vital opportunity to improve their livelihoods while supporting schoolchildren with nutritious meals. By linking local food production to school feeding, the initiative strengthens food systems, enhances income security, and promotes sustainable agriculture. This story of change illustrates how targeted support can empower rural communities, improve educational outcomes, and advance the goal of leaving no one behind.

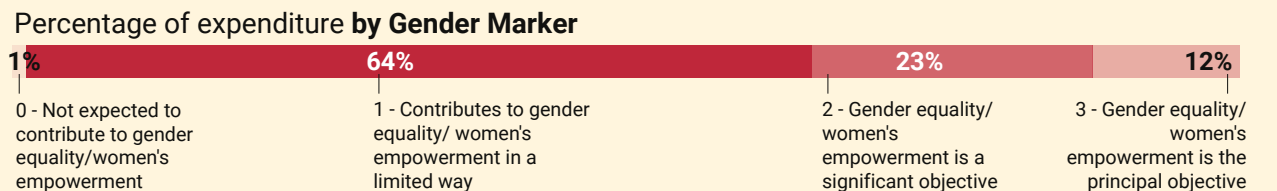
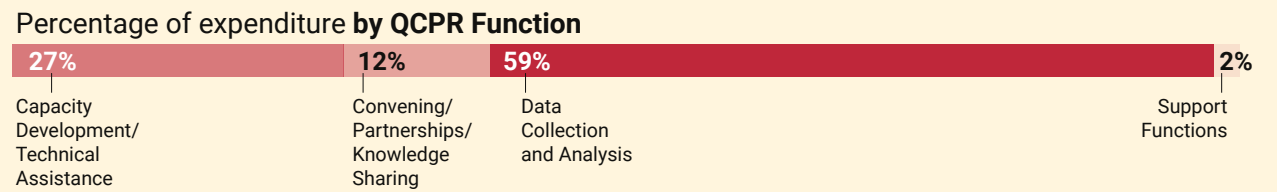
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2.2. Cooperation Framework Priorities

Good Governance

Strategic Priority 2



National statistical system improved with data collection, storage and retrieval improved

The UN supported the National Planning Commission (NPC) in the development of the 2024 National Voluntary Review Report (VNR), highlighting experiences, successes, lessons learnt and challenges during the implementation of programmes towards the achievement of the SDGs. In addition, 20 (9 female, 11 male) officials from the Erongo Regional Council were capacitated to produce a regional VNR report, and to use the data for monitoring SDG progress in the region.

Through a partnership with MoEAC, the UN supported the production of the 2024 EMIS report which strengthens the national capacity for effective planning, monitoring and evaluation.

In the interests of enhancing data governance and combating illicit financial flows (IFFs), UN strengthened institutions such as NamRA and the Bank of Namibia (BoN) in integrating advanced data systems, including upgrades to the Trade Verification System (TVS). Collaborative partnerships with the World Customs Organization (WCO), European Union (EU), Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), and NamRA, led to the launch of the Electronic Advance Ruling (eAR) and Electronic Tariff (e-Tariff) systems. These innovations improved domestic resource mobilisation and trade efficiency, reducing costs, ensuring compliance, and fostering transparency.

UN supported the undertaking of the first digital Population and Housing Census, resulting in the production of real time preliminary, main and labour force reports. These reports ensured the availability of comprehensive demographic, social, and economic statistics, which are used to inform policies and programmes.

The UN supported the development of the Mortality and Causes of Death report using the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS). This report informed key policy interventions and strategies and strengthened the CRVS systems.

Additionally, the UN supported the Namibian government to evaluate the sustainability, inclusive, and effectiveness of tax policies in relation to the SDGs 7, 10, 16 & 17, through the Sustainable Development Taxation Framework Assessment (STF). This assessment brought together multiple government entities (Ministry of Mines and Energy, Gender and Child Welfare, Finance, NPC,

BoN, IUM) to analyze existing tax policies, identify gaps, and explore opportunities for alignment with national development priorities. By engaging a broad range of stakeholders, the assessment provided a comprehensive diagnostic review, offering insights to policymakers on how to enhance tax governance and ensure that taxation contributes effectively to sustainable development.

The UN strengthened capacities of 16 Ministry of Finance representatives (9 female and 7 male) for evidence-based tax policy making. This initiative empowered officials with the skills to design and implement innovative, pro-poor tax policies aimed at poverty eradication. These policies targeted strengthening revenue systems, increasing domestic resource mobilization, and ensuring tax policies align with SDG objectives.

The UN supported the design of tools of the Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES) by integrating key SDGs indicators to ensure that poverty is comprehensively measured and reported. NSA staff were also trained on the analysis multidimensional poverty, empowering the NSA to conduct child-specific multidimensional poverty assessments, once the NHIES data becomes available.





Governance capacity strengthened ensuring accountability, reporting and service delivery improvements

Through the Inclusive Governance Initiative “We-BelongAfrica” programme, UN supported a framework proposal for the review of Namibia’s first National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) and the roadmap for a Human Rights Violation Tracking Database, thereby enhancing Namibia’s ability to comprehensively monitor and address human rights violations.

Four journalists were supported to attend media engagement training, including raising awareness on key populations (KPs), and promoting accurate, sensitive, and informed reporting. This training fostered greater understanding and acceptance of the issues facing KPs in Namibia, and included the development of an action plan to strengthen collaboration between the media and Positive Vibes Trust. These efforts align with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR).

To strengthen capacity in taxation and data-driven decision-making, over 140 officials from NamRA, MME, and the MoF were capacitated in specialised audits, transfer pricing, and taxation of the extractive industry.

Additionally, the UN strengthened the capacity of 16 MoF representatives (9 female, 7 male), empowering them to design and implement innovative, pro-poor policies focused on poverty eradication. This resulted in strengthened revenue systems, increased domestic resources, and aligning tax policies with the SDGs.

The UN strengthened the capacity of officials from Lifeline ChildLine and MGEPSW, to produce draft administrative data reports to ensure timely availability of child protection data.

To strengthen disability awareness and inclusion, numerous stakeholder engagements were conducted which resulted in substantial progress in the early identification and referral of children with disabilities. Organisations of people with disabilities were also involved in the development of NDP6 and UNSDCF 2025-2029, ensuring that their perspectives, needs, and priorities are fully integrated into national development planning.

As part of the regional UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), the UN supported Namibia in developing and adopting

guidelines on reasonable accommodation in TVET and employment to help combat stigma, discrimination, and the marginalisation of persons with disabilities.

The UN strengthened the capacity of officials from the Office of the Ombudsman on human rights investigation, monitoring, and reporting. This resulted in the drafting of new human rights protection legislation, and the review of the Office by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions Sub-Committee on Accreditation (GANHRI-SCA). This strengthened the mandate of the Ombudsman’s Office on human rights protection and international human rights mechanisms.

Under the framework of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL), UN facilitated dialogues between local and indigenous knowledge-holders, policymakers and experts to mainstream traditional sustainable management systems into national strategies and policies, which inform global climate science and policy processes. These dialogues resulted in the development and adoption of the National IDIL Action Plan for Namibia.

A stakeholder engagement for 110 delegates organised by the UN, in partnership with indigenous language community members, MGEPSW, and Palms for Life, facilitated knowledge exchange on indigenous initiatives at local, national, and regional levels. This resulted in the integration of indigenous knowledge and languages into scientific research and policy frameworks, while identifying strategies to align national priorities with the local implementation of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

To strengthen Namibia’s ability to protect marine biodiversity and ecosystems in its Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), the UN in collaboration with the Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) advanced work on the Ocean Literacy Toolkit by focusing on the indigenous knowledge component. The outcome is the introduction of ocean literacy for educators and alignment with the seven Ocean Literacy principles.



2.3

Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

Partnership for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Together with national stakeholders, including print and broadcast media, the Namibia Football Association (NFA), and NAMDEB, the UN worked to strengthen advocacy efforts during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign in Namibia. These partnerships enhanced the campaign's impact by ensuring broad public participation, amplifying advocacy efforts, and reinforcing accountability in addressing GBV.

The Namibian newspaper and Desert Radio 95.3 FM expanded the campaign's reach by widely disseminating critical messages on GBV prevention, legal frameworks, survivor support, and the voices of both survivors and perpetrators through print media, radio, and social media. The NFA provided a unique platform to engage young people, particularly men and boys, in challenging harmful gender norms.

Joint UN-MTC Partnership: Advancing Digital Inclusion and Youth Empowerment

The UN in Namibia and telecommunications company MTC have signed a five-year Joint Declaration of Intent to strengthen collaboration on digital innovation for sustainable development. This partnership aims to leverage technology to address socio-economic challenges, with a particular focus on youth empowerment.

While implementation is yet to begin, the agreement represents a significant step toward fostering digital inclusion, enhancing service delivery, and creating opportunities for young people through digital skills training, employment initiatives, and entrepreneurial support. This partnership sets the foundation for long-term, tech-driven development in Namibia.



2.4

Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency

In June 2024, the UNCT finalized the configuration exercise for the UNSDCF 2025–2029, resulting in a more relevant UNCT composition to effectively deliver on the UNSDCF. Twenty-three agencies expressed interest in serving as signatories to the UNSDCF, distributed across the four results areas.

The UNCT will maintain a hybrid participation model for its monthly meetings, with 11 agencies attending in person and six participating virtually. Additionally, five agencies have committed to ad hoc and strategic participation as needed.

Non-resident agencies (NRAs) without country offices in Namibia, such as UNEP and OHCHR, regularly participated in both the UNCT and the Programme Management Team (PMT) meetings. OCHA played a key role in facilitating the humanitarian response required to address drought conditions caused by El Niño.

Regarding changes in implementation modalities, the country offices of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are reassessing their configuration in Namibia.

Support for the Formulation of the 6th National Development Plan

The UN actively participated in thematic and sectoral consultations for the development of NDP 6. Engagement focused on key sectors aligned with the

UN Cooperation Framework. UN agencies provided technical assistance in critical areas, including Population Dynamics and Demographic Dividends. Through a coordinated effort, the UN ensured that the strategic priorities outlined in NDP 6 align with the Global Development Agenda and UNSDCF.

Support for the Global Accelerator on Jobs, Social Protection, and Just Transitions

In collaboration with GRN, the UN facilitated advocacy efforts leading to Namibia's designation as a Pathfinder country under the Global Accelerator on Jobs, Social Protection, and Just Transitions. As a result, Namibia secured USD 1.8 million in funding through the Joint SDG Fund – Global Accelerator on Jobs High Impact Track window, with a focus on agriculture and biomass.

UN Coordinated Response to the El Niño-Induced Drought

In response to the El Niño-induced drought and GRN's declaration of a state of emergency, the UN, through the Resident Coordinator, convened development partners to mobilise resources in support of the national drought response efforts. As a result, GRN secured technical and financial resources to implement its drought response plan. Additionally, the UN mobilised \$3 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to provide emergency, life-saving assistance to over 153,000 drought-affected people. The CERF funds were channelled through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and World Food Programme (WFP).

2.5

Evaluations and Lessons Learned

In lieu of conducting a traditional evaluation of the UNPAF 2019–2024, the UN in Namibia embarked on an annual review of its implementation over the past five years. This thorough review was conducted through three strategic workshops.

The initial workshop engaged the UNPAF Results Groups. A subsequent session involved UNCT, where management issues were discussed, particularly concerning the UN's effectiveness in Delivering as One. The concluding workshop, led by the NPC, gathered a wide range of stakeholders, including government line ministries responsible for implementing the UNPAF, academia, CSOs, and the private sector.

The review led to several critical conclusions and actionable recommendations.

Relevance

Develop a Comprehensive Theory of Change

Design initiatives based on clear, logical cause-and-effect relationships that address underlying structural and systemic issues.

Evidence-Based Identification of Priorities

Base UNPAF initiatives' prioritization on current, reliable data to effectively tackle critical issues like suicide, youth unemployment, and educational shortcomings.

Effectiveness

Strengthen Data and Research Support

Improve the production and use of high-quality, disaggregated data for enhanced planning, monitoring, and evaluation.

Implement Robust Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

Establishing effective systems to assess the impacts of interventions and adjust accordingly is crucial for improving effectiveness.

Sustainability

Ensure Programmes are Integrated into Existing Structures

Design interventions to align with national frameworks and structures for sustainable impact.

Strengthen Institutional Capacities

Enhance the capabilities of national and local institutions, along with civil society and the private sector, for ongoing development progress.

Coherence

Strengthen Coherence Across UN Agencies:

Enhance complementary administrative systems for better alignment with strategic objectives and to maximize the collective impact of UN initiatives.

Integrated Approach to Policy and Community-Level Work:

Maintain a balanced focus on policy support and community-level interventions for a comprehensive strategy in addressing developmental challenges.

Efficiencies

Joint Resource Mobilisation

Collaborate in resource mobilisation strategies, especially critical for Namibia as an upper-middle-income country.

Reposition UN Support for Technical Assistance

Shift UN support towards providing technical guidance over direct implementation to optimise resource use.

Coordination

Enhance UN Participation in National Development Planning:

The UN must actively contribute to the development and execution of national development plans.

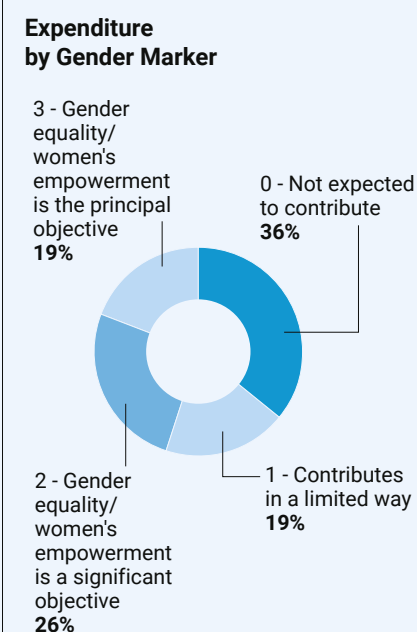
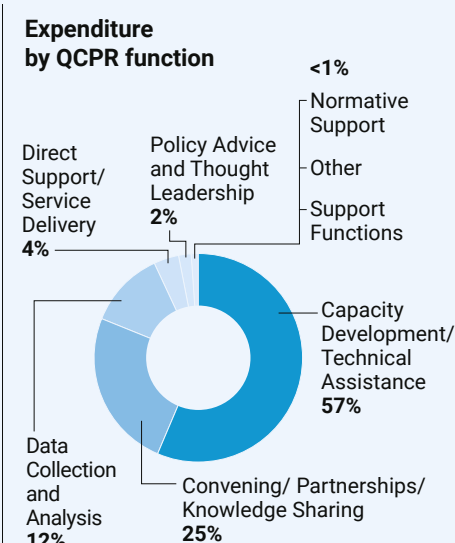
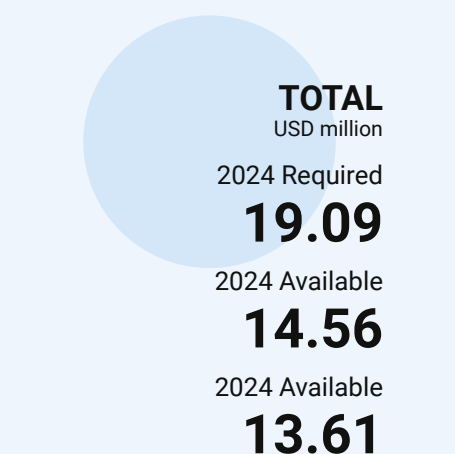
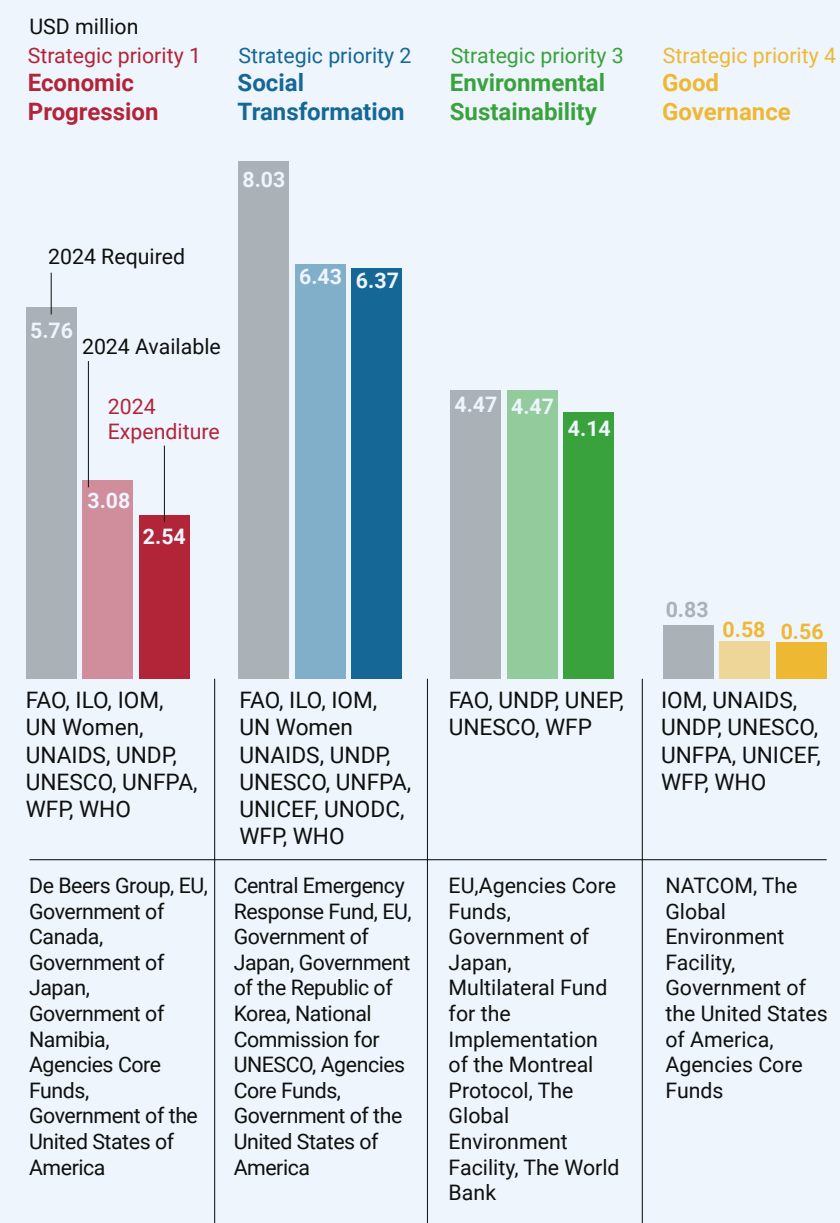
Strengthen Partnerships with CSOs and the Private Sector:

Forming robust partnerships with civil society and the private sector is key for inclusive development planning and execution.

2.6

Financial Overview and Resource Mobilisation

In 2024, collective results were achieved through the joint efforts of 14 UN entities in collaboration with government agencies, development partners, CSOs, the private sector, and academia. The chart below provides an overview of financial delivery and key contributing partners to UNPAF 2019–2024.



3 UNCT key focus for next year

As UNPAF 2019–2024 concludes, UNCT has identified four key priorities to strengthen collaboration with the Namibian Government and drive impactful development aligned with national and global goals:

1 Implementation of UNSDCF (2025–2029)

2025 marks the first year of implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2025–2029 to guide UN interventions in Namibia.

2 Strengthening Data and Statistics

The UN Joint Programme on Data and Statistics will enhance data-driven policymaking and planning.

3 Youth Empowerment, and Gender Equality

With youth unemployment nearly three times the global average, the UNCT will implement a comprehensive youth empowerment programme focused on enhancing employability, skills development, and entrepreneurship. The UN will mainstream gender equality and promote the active participation and empowerment of young women

4 Advancing the Renewable Energy Sector

The UNCT will support Namibia in strengthening its position in the global clean energy market by promoting innovation, job creation, and capacity development in biomass, STEM skills for energy, and renewable energy solutions.

These priorities reaffirm the UNCT's commitment to a collaborative, results-driven approach to accelerate Namibia's progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



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