

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK 2025-2029

Abridged version



UNITED NATIONS
NAMIBIA





UNSDCF Namibia 2025–2029

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Strategic Priority Area 1 Effective Governance and Public Service Delivery

This strategic area focuses on improving governance systems to ensure greater transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness. It aims to strengthen the institutional capacity for evidence-based planning, foster civic participation, and uphold human rights principles, especially for marginalized communities. Key efforts include strengthening Namibia's National Statistical System (NSS), supporting anti-corruption frameworks, promoting access to justice, and empowering young people and marginalized groups to participate in democratic processes.

2

Strategic Priority Area 2 Economic Recovery, Transformation and Resilience

This outcome supports Namibia's inclusive economic transformation by advancing diversification, entrepreneurship, and innovation. The goal is to create a resilient, human rights-based economy with sustainable employment opportunities. Priority actions include support for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), enhancing productivity in strategic sectors, building capacity in emerging industries, and strengthening economic policy coordination.

3

Strategic Priority Area 3 Sustainable Development and Green Growth Opportunities

This outcome is focused on improving Namibia's environmental sustainability and climate resilience. It supports the transition to a green economy by strengthening the management of natural resources and building community and institutional capacity to respond to environmental risks. Key interventions include implementing evidence-based natural resource policies, promoting climate adaptation, enhancing disaster risk reduction, and increasing access to renewable energy.

4

Strategic Priority Area 4 Human Development and Community Resilience

This area emphasizes equitable access to quality health, education, and social protection services. It seeks to strengthen systems that support inclusive and gender-transformative service delivery, particularly for marginalized communities, young people, and persons with disabilities. Major initiatives involve improving frontline service providers, promoting gender equality, combating gender-based violence, and empowering rights holders to claim their entitlements.

THEORY OF CHANGE



STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 1

Effective Governance and Public Service Delivery

FAO, ILO, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNICEF, UNODC, and WHO.



Key issues



Youth underrepresentation in civic life

Although **71.5%** of Namibia's population is under 35, youth engagement is alarmingly low



Only **8%** participate in political parties



Only **1%** engage in community-based organizations.

OUTCOME 1

By 2029, more young people, marginalized communities, and persons with disabilities in Namibia actively participate in transparent gender-transformative GOVERNANCE systems and institutions that prioritize accountability, transparency, and human rights.



Public Trust & Participation

The World Bank's 2021 Governance Indicators report widespread dissatisfaction with government service delivery and low public trust, impacting institutional legitimacy.

Gender & Inclusion



Women hold **44%** of seats in Parliament, ranking Namibia among the top in Africa for legislative gender representation.

However, gaps persist at local levels, where women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities have limited participation in decision-making bodies.

UN & System Response



Strengthening the National Statistical System (NSS) is a foundational target, aimed at producing disaggregated data to improve inclusive planning and accountability.

Key contributions to the Six Transitions



Digital Connectivity

Strengthening the National Statistical System (NS) enhances the production and use of disaggregate digital data for planning, enabling digital governance solutions and citizen engagement.



Jobs and Social Protection

Inclusive governance systems ensure that vulnerable populations can access and influence policies on employment and social protection.



Education

Transparent governance supports inclusive education policies and equitable access.



Food Systems

Governance structures oversee food security and agricultural development policies.



Climate Change and Biodiversity

Participatory governance mechanisms support environmental justice and community involvement in climate policy.



Energy Access

Governance is essential for policy development and regulation of renewable energy access initiatives.

Output 1.1

Strengthened National Statistical System (NSS) for improved production and use of disaggregated and quality statistics for inclusive evidence-based planning and evaluation, with focus on young people and marginalized communities.

► Digitalization, Data Management and Statistical Development

► Capacity Building and Skills Development

► Promote Open Data Initiatives and Feedback Mechanisms

Output 1.2

Strengthened institutional coordinating mechanisms (incl. GRN, CSOs, Ombudsman, academia, and the private sector) and young people and marginalized communities' participatory capacity in decision-making processes for improved transparency and accountability.

► Access to Justice, Rule of Law, and Anti-Corruption Initiatives

► Capacity Building in Human Rights and Protection

► Labour Standards and Social Dialogue

► Inclusive Policy Frameworks for Migration

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2

Economic Recovery, Transformation & Resilience

FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, ITU, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNECA, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, and WFP



Key issues



Labour Market & Employment



39.6% of critically high youth unemployment, with young women facing even higher rates of joblessness and underemployment.



The labour force participation rate is **69.2%** for men and only **53.5%** for women, demonstrating persistent gender inequality in the economy.



Small Business and Innovation

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):



Contribute just **12%** to GDP.



Employ approximately **33%** of the labour force, mostly informally.

Namibia ranks **117 of 132** countries in the 2022 Global Innovation Index, highlighting gaps in digital and technological capacity.



Economic Inequality

Namibia's Gini coefficient is estimated at **0.57**, making it one of the most unequal countries globally.

Key contributions to the Six Transitions



Jobs and Social Protection

Promotion of green, blue, purple, and orange economy sectors creates decent jobs and inclusive growth.



Digital Connectivity

Economic diversification includes fostering digital ecosystems for entrepreneurship and MSME development.



Food Systems

Support to agricultural productivity and smart agriculture strengthens food security.



Education

Reskilling and vocational training initiatives align with labor market demands.



Energy Access

Investment in affordable and renewable energy enhances productivity and creates jobs.



Climate Change and Biodiversity

Green economy initiatives reduce environmental impact and promote sustainable resource use.

Output 2.1

Strengthened productive capacities of institutions to implement sustainable, diversified economic value addition, with community shared ownership.

- Trade and Market Access enhancement
- Agricultural Innovation and Food and Nutrition Security
- Industrial Policy Development and Implementation
- Enabling policy and Human Rights Integration
- Employment and Skills Development

Output 2.2

Enhanced gender-inclusive national capacity to develop and implement targeted initiatives for green, blue, purple, and orange jobs, informality and just transitions, focusing on young people and marginalized communities.

- Green Jobs and Environmental Sustainability
- Blue, Orange, and Purple Jobs Initiatives
- Formalization and Support for MSMEs

Output 2.3

Strengthened implementation /delivery of diversified, innovative, and integrated financial sources and services, focusing on young people and marginalized communities.

- Adoption of integrated Financial Policies and Innovation
- Innovative Financing and Community Engagement
- Broadening Private Sector Engagement and Investment

Output 2.4

Enhanced coordination and implementation of inclusive digital ecosystems, focusing on young people and marginalized communities.

- Digital Agriculture and Rural Transformation
- Entrepreneurship and MSME Support
- Digital Education and Capacity Building

OUTCOME 2

By 2029, Namibia has a diversified, resilient, and human rights ECONOMY that champions sustainable decent jobs, livelihoods and reduces inequalities inclusive of young people and marginalized communities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3

Sustainable Development and Green Growth Opportunities

FAO, IFAD, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDRR, UNECA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, WFP, and WHO



Key issues



Natural Resource Dependency

Over **70%** of Namibians depend on natural resources (land, water, wildlife) for their livelihoods, especially in rural areas.



Natural Resource Dependency

Less than **70%** of rural populations have access to clean water and sanitation, compared to much higher urban access rates.



OUTCOME 3

By 2029, Namibia has integrated gender-inclusive systems for sustainable management of NATURAL RESOURCES; reduced climate change vulnerability and enhanced resilience of marginalized communities and young people.



Environmental Degradation

Namibia has lost over **50%** of its forest cover, driven by overgrazing, unsustainable farming, and deforestation.



Drought vulnerability:

Namibia ranks among the top 10 most drought-prone countries in sub-Saharan Africa.



Green Transition Leadership

Namibia is the first African country with a national **Green Hydrogen Strategy**, positioning itself to become a leader in clean energy development.

Key contributions to the Six Transitions



Climate Change and Biodiversity

Implementation of policies for climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and pollution control is central to this outcome.



Energy Access

Expansion of affordable, renewable energy sources, such as green hydrogen and solar, is a major intervention.



Jobs and Social Protection

Environmental sustainability creates new job opportunities in green sectors.



Food Systems

Sustainable land and water management ensures long-term food security and resilience.



Education

Community education and awareness programs support behavior change for climate action.



Digital Connectivity

Use of digital tools for environmental monitoring and policy planning.

Output 3.1

Strengthened implementation of targeted, evidence-based policies, strategic plans and programmes for sustainable natural resource management.

► **Integrated Natural Resource Management and Policy implementation**

► **Sustainable Development Financing**

► **Capacity Building and Technical Expertise**

Output 3.2

Strengthened capacities of institutions and marginalized communities for climate change resilience and disaster risk reduction.

► **Agricultural Resilience and Data-Driven Decision Making**

► **Human Rights and Inclusivity in Climate Action**

► **Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning Systems**

► **Capacity Building and Technical Expertise**

Output 3.3

Strengthened implementation of evidence-based policies, strategic plans and programmes for renewable and affordable energy solutions (incl. green hydrogen, wind and solar energy), focusing on young people and marginalized communities.

► **Renewable Energy Implementation**

► **Green Hydrogen and Policy Development**

► **Financial Mechanisms and Economic Empowerment**

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4

Human Development and Community Resilience

FAO, ILO, IOM, ITU, UNAIDS, UNDESA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNWOMEN, WFP, and WHO



Key issues



Education



While primary school enrolment is over **90%**, the dropout rate in senior secondary education



reaches **43.5%**, particularly affecting girls and children in rural areas.



Equity Gaps

Persons with disabilities, informal settlers, and refugees continue to **face systemic barriers** in accessing education, healthcare, social protection, and justice services.

OUTCOME 4

By 2029, young people, women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities, have increased access to, and use of quality, affordable, gender-transformative, and human rights-sensitive BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES.



Health

Teenage pregnancy



18% national average among girls aged 15–19.



Up to **36%** in regions like Kavango, highlighting regional inequalities in access to reproductive health services.



HIV prevalence among adults (15–49):
11.8%, with young women disproportionately affected due to social and structural vulnerabilities.



WASH ((Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)



Only **47%** of rural households have access to improved sanitation, versus



90% in urban areas, showing stark geographic inequalities.

Key contributions to the Six Transitions



Education

Strengthening education systems to deliver quality, inclusive learning at all levels.



Jobs and Social Protection

Expanding social protection coverage and supporting labor market integration.



Food Systems

Integrating food security into social protection and community nutrition programs.



Digital Connectivity

Leveraging digital technologies to enhance service delivery and data systems.



Climate Change and Biodiversity

Ensuring basic services are climate-resilient, particularly in vulnerable rural areas.



Energy Access

Promoting access to clean energy as part of community infrastructure improvements.

Output 4.1

Strengthened national and sub-national capacities to efficiently deliver quality, affordable, gender-inclusive social and protection services, relying on evidence-based disaggregated quality data, focusing on young people, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities.

► Social Protection and Poverty Reduction

- Health Services and Policy Implementation Enhancement
- Educational Access and Quality
- Gender Empowerment and Inclusion
- Community Engagement and Advocacy

Output 4.2

Strengthened mechanisms and capacities of communities and Frontline Service Providers (FLSPs) to promote positive and equitable gender social norms for gender equality and women empowerment, prioritizing prevention and response to GBV and VAC, amongst young people and marginalized communities.

- Promotion of Gender Equality and Inclusion
- Protection for Vulnerable Populations
- Combating Gender-Based Violence and Supporting Victims
- Capacity Building and Technical Support
- Enabling environment and Policy Advocacy Dialogue

Output 3.3

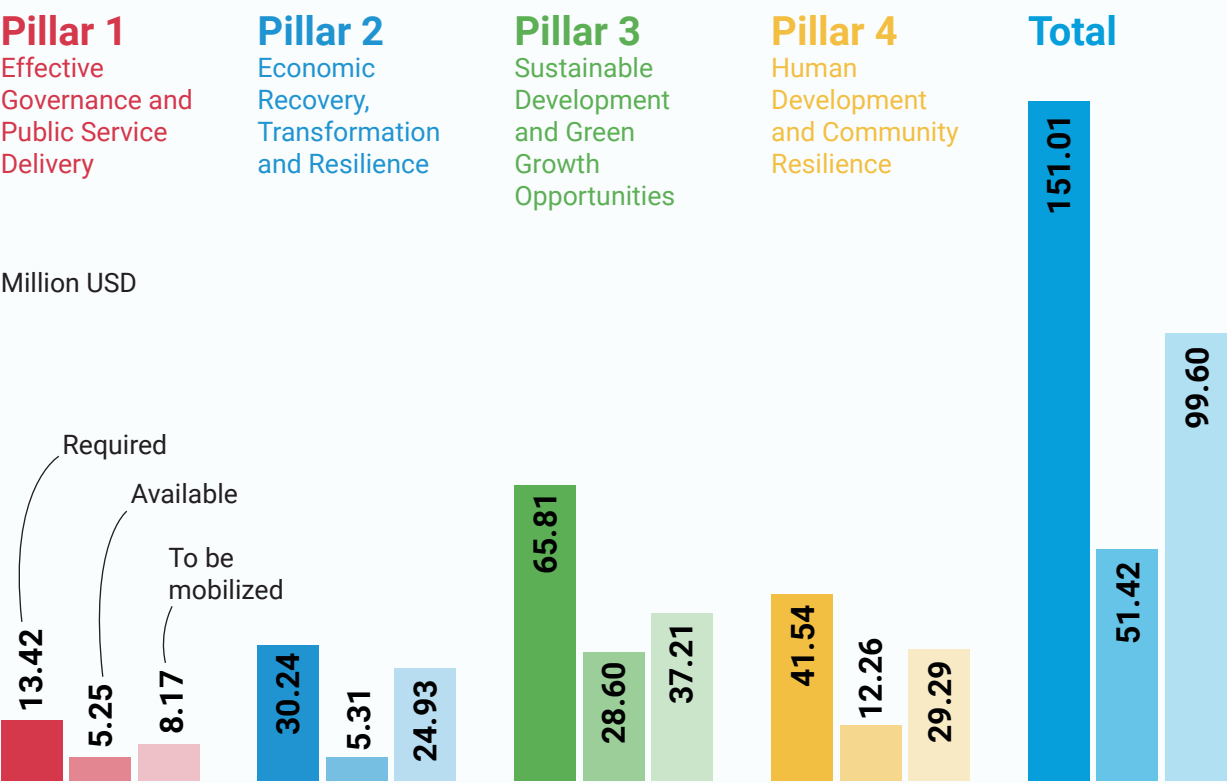
Strengthened capacity of rights holders to claim their rights and optimally utilise basic social and protection services, focusing on young people, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities.

- Rights Empowerment, Policy Support, and Community Engagement
- Health Rights and HIV Advocacy
- Education and Capacity Building
- Data, Innovation, Research and Climate Action

Alignment of Namibia's NDP6

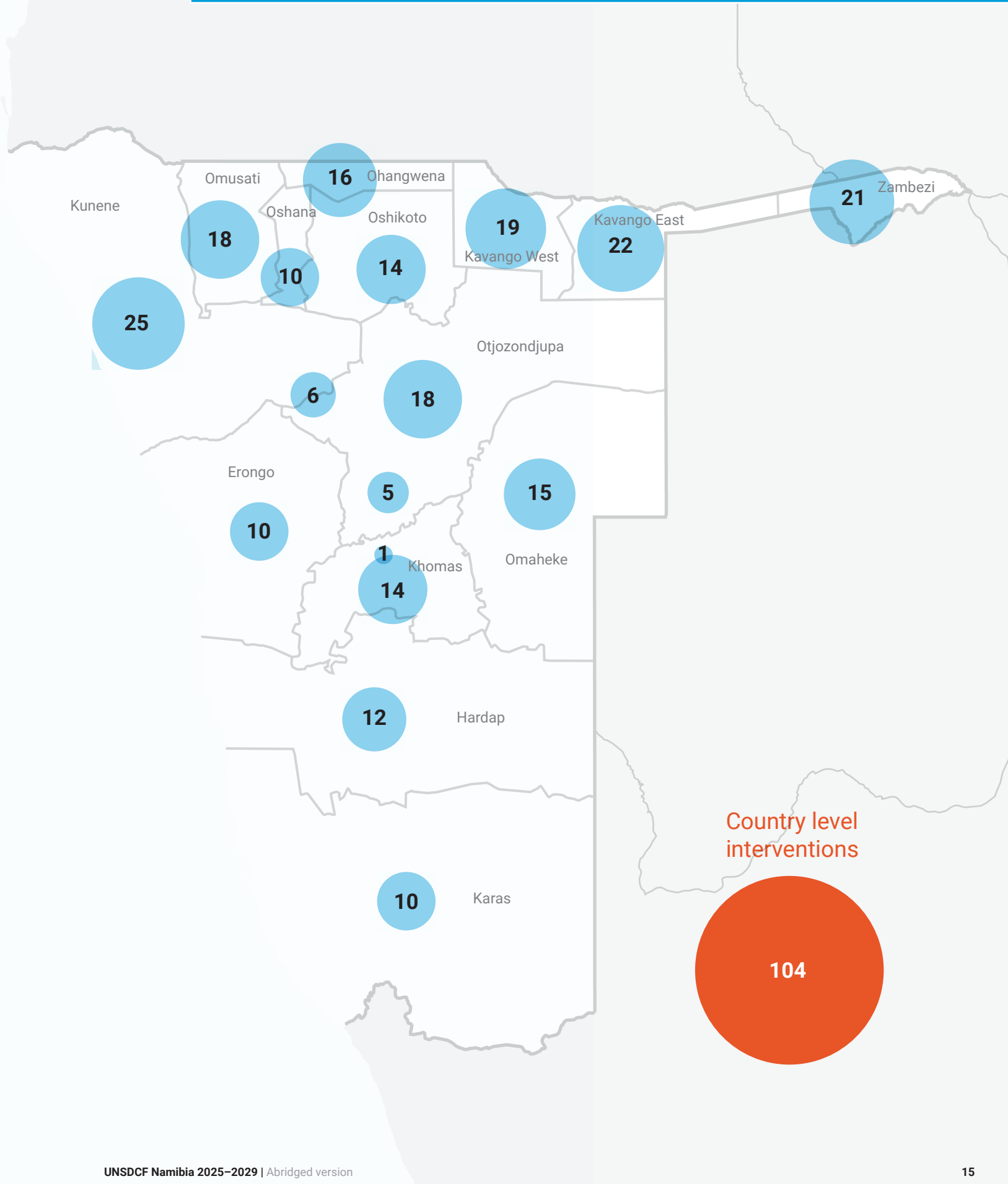
Strategic Priorities	NDP6
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY	Effective governance and public service recovery: Competent public service and effective service delivery.
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC RECOVERY, TRANSFORMATION AND RESILIENCE	Economic recovery, transformation and resilience: Sustainable and Inclusive prosperity; Capacity for knowledge and Innovation; Infrastructure development; Regional integration and value chains.
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GREEN GROWTH	Sustainable development and green growth opportunities: Growth for sustainability, and resilience and growth opportunities.
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE	Human development and community resilience: Accelerating human development and social investments.

Multi-Year Funding Framework (2025 - 2029)



UN Field Presence in Namibia

Number of interventions by area



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