



UNITED NATIONS
NAMIBIA



2020 COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT NAMIBIA





The 2020 results report of UN Namibia provides an overview of the development system at country level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlights some examples of system-wide action and results in the course of 2020.

The year 2020 has been defined by unprecedented disruptions. The extraordinary socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have added further hurdles on the road towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The UN System in Namibia rapidly mobilized resources to assist the Republic of Namibia and stakeholders in their efforts to save lives and forging consensus in joint actions on leaving no one behind.

The report further focuses on results achieved and identifies the challenges and key lessons for consideration in future programmes to set a strong foundation for building back better from the pandemic, in line with the 2030 Agenda.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

RESIDENT COORDINATOR'S FOREWORD	6
UN STAFF: STORIES FROM THE FIELD	10
UN COUNTRY TEAM	11
KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY	12

CHAPTER 1

1.1 KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT	13
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CHAPTER 2

2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS	15
2.2 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS	16
2020 RESULTS	18
PILLAR 1: ECONOMIC PROGRESSION	18
PILLAR 2: SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION	21
Sub-Pillar- Health: Ensuring Universal Health Coverage (UHC)	21
Sub-Pillar- Education: Equitable Access to Inclusive Quality Education and Lifelong Learning	27
Sub-Pillar- Protection Against Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation	28
Sub-Pillar- Ensuring the utilization of Integrated Social Protection Services	30
PILLAR 3: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	32
PILLAR 4: GOOD GOVERNANCE	34
2.3. SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA	36
2.4. RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY	38
2.5. EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED	39
2.6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION	42

CHAPTER 3

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR	44
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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIMS	Asset Impact Monitoring System
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CLTS	Community Led Total Sanitation
DPF	Development Partners Forum
ECHO	European Commission's Humanitarian Office
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
EMPRETEC	Enhancing Entrepreneurship Development Programme
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPP2	Harambee Prosperity Plan 2
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
MLIREC	Ministry of Labour Industrial Relations and Employment Creation
MSME	Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
MoEAC	Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture
MoHSS	Ministry of Health and Social Services
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
NAM-IBBS	Namibia Integrated Biological and Behavioral Survey
NDP	National Development Plan
NPF	Namibia Pension Fund
NSA	Namibia Statistics Agency
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEIAC	Assessment of COVID-19
SERP	Socio-Economic Recovery Plan
SSC	Social Security Commission
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNCG	United Nations Communications Group
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDS	United Nations Development System
UNPAF	United Nations Partnership Framework
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



“ To overcome this crisis, in Namibia and all over the world, we must demonstrate unity and solidarity within societies and among countries. The UN has advocated, through our Secretary General, for a three-point response:
a) Delivery of a large-scale, coordinated, and comprehensive health response guided by World Health Organization;
b) Adoption of policies that safeguard lives and livelihoods; and
c) A recovery process that leaves no-one behind, leading to a safer, fairer, more resilient, and sustainable post-COVID world. ”

SEN PANG, UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR, NAMIBIA

▲ Cultural Performance, Women's Day 2019 ©UNESCO

FOREWORD

The COVID-19 pandemic has stopped the world in its tracks. This is the most challenging international crisis since the Second World War. It is multidimensional, encompassing health, economic, humanitarian, security and human rights emergencies. The pandemic has laid bare severe and systemic inequalities in our societies, emphasising the United Nation's long held concern over the protection of vulnerable populations.

The global crisis has forced critical attention to be given to existing socio-economic disparities and the health of millions across the world. The UN asserts that leveraging technological and economic growth, human development and sustainability expertise, are of paramount importance to support those who have been most negatively affected at this time.

Before the pandemic sent Namibia into lockdown, the country had created momentum in several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This progress ranges from poverty eradication to achieving universal access to primary and secondary education, and increased access to safe drinking water. Significant progress has been made in addressing and combating HIV/AIDS which has resulted in the reduction of the number of new infections from 11,000 in 2010 to 5,500 in 2020. AIDS related deaths have reduced by 17% since 2010. Improvements in treatment and access have resulted in an increase in life expectancy. However, significant challenges still exist to minimise the number of AIDS death and new HIV infections, particularly among young people and key populations.

Now, as a result of the pandemic, Namibians face increasing challenges and vulnerabilities, such as the loss of livelihoods, food insecurity, poverty, and disruptions to education and social protection programmes. Vulnerability to social ills, such as sexual assault and gender-based violence, have also been exacerbated. We will have to work tirelessly to curb the spreading inequalities posed by COVID-19.

UN NAMIBIA COUNTRY TEAM'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

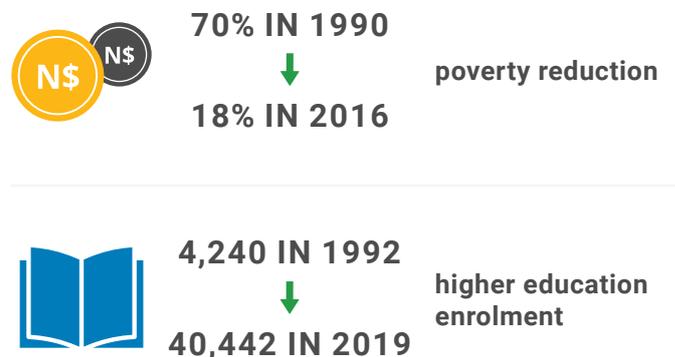
As COVID-19 began to unfold in Namibia in March 2020, the UN formulated the Country Preparedness and Response Plan to support the national health response. The UN Namibia also drafted the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 for analytical and policy advice. I would like to commend World Health Organization and United Nations Development Programme for spearheading these initiatives within UN Namibia.

UN Namibia's collaborative inter-agency support is tailored to national priorities and circumstances. While engaging public authorities, the general public and private sectors, as well as other key stakeholders, we strive to build capacity towards the achievement of the SDGs. It is imperative to break community-level spread of the disease. The UN and our partners are, therefore, placing an emphasis on



community-level engagement to ensure Namibians are taking the right actions to keep themselves safe throughout these challenging times.

We have come through a year that was filled with challenges, but tremendous strides were made in the field of poverty alleviation and education. Namibia has managed to reduce poverty from 70% in 1990 to 18% in 2016. Namibia has also increased the number of Higher Education Institutions countrywide. The latest figures show that the total enrolment at these public institutions increased by more than 9 times since independence. In 1992, a low base of 4,240 was recorded as opposed to a respectable figure of 40,442 in 2019.



MANY THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

Our work during 2020, especially the fight against COVID-19 and the drought, has required unprecedented cooperation across public and private sectors. This is, therefore, an ideal time to strengthen partnerships with other organisations – to brainstorm new services, ideas and approaches to meeting all the development challenges we are currently experiencing. We would like to highlight and commend the following partners for their alliances, cooperation and guidance on developing effective and equitable partnerships:

National Planning Commission (NPC) as the national coordinator of UNPAF, has provided invaluable guidance and support to key UN initiatives during this difficult year. I would like to commend Hon. Obeth M. Kandjoze, Director General of NPC for their coordination support role towards the UN as a system and to the individual specialised UN Agencies to ensure ownership and alignment with national development priorities, including the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Other key ministries:

- Ministry of Health and Social Services,
- Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture,
- Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform,
- Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare,
- Office of the Prime Minister,
- Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation,
- Ministry of Environment and Tourism,
- Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME development,
- Ministry of Industrial Relations, Labour and Employment Creation,
- National Assembly, and
- Namibia Statistics Agency.

Development Partners Forum (DPF) – In 2020, the coordination and support from the DPF has been key to coordinating our actions for the COVID-19 response and recovery in support of the Government of Namibia's response programme. On behalf of the UN, I would like to express our appreciation for those Partners who contributed to our programmes and projects such as

- the European Union Delegation,
- the German Government,
- the French Government,
- the Japanese Government,
- the US Government,
- the UK Government, and
- the Finnish Government.

This year saw the development of a new and innovative partnership with the private sector which resulted in the **Buy Local, Grow Namibia** campaign. This campaign was a large project with retailers, manufacturers and local influencers working together to bolster the economy and encourage Namibians to support local products and services.

THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM REFORM

The UN Development System Reform, promoted by the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, has made it easier for me, as Resident Coordinator, to reach out to specialised technical assistance from the broad UN family during the COVID-19 crisis. I am grateful for the contributions of:

- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA),
- the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA),
- the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO),
- the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and
- the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

It is relevant here to underscore the contribution made by UN funds, such as the UN Global Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the Joint-SDGs Fund and the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to key initiatives in Namibia during 2020. Lastly, I must also commend the coordination role played by the UNPAF Pillar Chairs, namely, the Food and Agricultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, and the United Nations Development Programme.

“ The true test of the UN reform agenda 2030 will be measured in tangible results in the lives of the people we serve – and the trust of those who support the UN's work at country level. ”

SEN PANG, UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR, NAMIBIA

COMMITTED TO NAMIBIA

The COVID-19 pandemic reiterates our need for mutual support and to remain committed to Namibia and its people as we look to weather this storm and intend to emerge victorious in establishing a future where all Namibians can thrive. Each day of inaction will have a profound impact on the ability to make progress against this deadly disease, including delivering on our promise of “leaving no one behind” and being part of the global effort to achieve the SDGs.

As we close this extraordinary year, I want to take the opportunity to thank all our Government and Development Partners, including civil society organisations and all UN staff for their efforts throughout the year. It is reassuring to know that we can count on all of you, regardless of any challenge we face, in the eradication of poverty and inequality in Namibia.

As we look toward the future, there are reasons to be optimistic. The delivery of vaccines is underway across the country and the global community. I am encouraged to see more and more people vaccinated each week.

I thank you all for your resilience, partnership, ongoing dedication, and good work during these unprecedented and difficult circumstances. The true test of the UN reform agenda 2030 will be measured in tangible results in the lives of the people we serve – and the trust of those who support the UN’s work at country level.

Thank you again for your continued dedication and partnership.

Sen Pang
UN Resident Coordinator,
Namibia

Children playing in a school yard. ©WFP



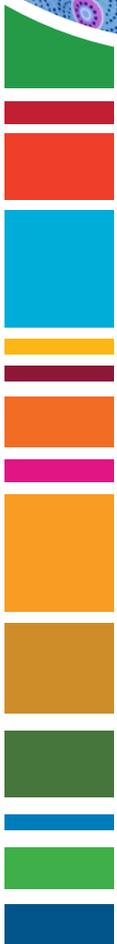
▼ Zero Hunger - Programme Manager for Operation Werengendje shows the delegation the crops at Uvhungu Vhungu Green Scheme. ©WFP



◀ A father with his daughter during the session with "superdads", to equip fathers with information on the important role of father's in the development of their children. ©UNICEF



▲ UN Day ©ICAO



UN STAFF: STORIES FROM THE FIELD



PROUDLY DRIVING FOR ZERO HUNGER

Truck driving may not be the ideal profession for those who struggle to work in solitude. For Sadrak Kalumbu, a truck driver for 31 years, this is not the case. Kalumbu (51) is a truck driver who delivers food entitlements for UN Namibia to extremely drought affected communities at their respective food distribution points. "I have travelled all around Africa, but I have never felt so fulfilled in my job. The joy and relief I see on people's faces when I deliver the food makes me happy and proud," Kalumbu said.

UN Namibia mobilised resources to compliment the Government's efforts to mitigate the impact of drought on food security in Namibia. This response was made possible with additional funding from UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), China, Brazil, Korea and Japan. Salt, Beans, Oil (fortified) and White maize (fortified) were procured for a period of six months, aimed at reaching 379 000 beneficiaries across the Kavango East, Kavango West, Oshana, Oshokoto, Zambezi, Omusati, Omaheke and Kunene Regions.

◀ *'I LOVE TO TRUCK' Sadrak Kalumbu with UN Staff at the Uvhungu-vhungu green scheme project where food commodities are stored.* ©WFP

NAMIBIA CAN CONQUER CORONAVIRUS

Catherine Muwonge, a Ugandan medical doctor and epidemiologist with over 15 years of experience in public health, was part of the national case management team to determine hospital capacities in Namibia. Their mandate included determining patient triage and isolation, waste management facilities, PPE skills and training to strengthen the capacity of local response teams and meeting gaps.

Dr. Muwonge notes that "while the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to pose a major public health threat to Namibian citizens, UN Staff, along with the government of Namibia have taken up a leadership role and are weathering the pandemic remarkably well".

One of the most far-reaching contributions made by UN Namibia in 2020 has been to convene major stakeholders in a whole-of-government, all-of-society approach through the Health Development Partners Forum and the UN Coordination Committee on COVID-19. UN Namibia ensured the strong partnership between public and private sectors at the start of the outbreak.

While the public sectors had a higher capacity in terms of ICU beds and available specialists, cooperation between sectors allowed a synergy of skills to be developed when treating severe and critical cases. This was further strengthened by the fact that guidance documents were harmonised across the sectors, so that affected patients received optimal treatment irrespective of whether they were in a public or private hospital.

Dr. Catherine Muwonge with the case management team showing UN the then newly constructed Isolation Ward for COVID-19 patients. ▶ ©WHO



UN COUNTRY TEAM

Since 2009, UN Namibia has been committed to Delivering as One (DaO). Our commitment to this principle is strengthened in the context of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) reform initiated by the UN Secretary-General in 2019. The UNDS reform must result in a reinvigorated Resident Coordination system and a new generation of UN Country Teams (UNCTs) which are able to support their countries in delivering sustainable development through improved coordination and coherence.

In 2018, a total of 17 UN Agencies, funds and programmes signed the UN Partnership Framework 2019-2023 (UNPAF) as their main strategic partnership with the Government of the Republic of Namibia. In 2020, the roll-out of the reform has facilitated UN Namibia's response to national priorities, maximising the specialised technical assistance existing within the UN family.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UN World Tourism Organization (WTO), and UN-Habitat have contributed in a coherent and coordinated way through the UN Resident Coordinator's Office to the UN's achievements during the COVID-19 pandemic and the drought response. In the context of UNPAF and bilateral dialogues, OCHA, UNECA, UNDESA, UN Women, UNIDO, WTO, UN-Habitat and OHCHR, engaged with the Resident Coordinator's Office, UNPAF results groups, and inter-agency task forces, facilitating integrated technical support and advice to partners as an integrated United Nations Namibia.



SEN PANG
UN Resident Coordinator



ALTI ZWANDOR
UNAIDS Country Director



RACHEL ODEDE
UNICEF Representative



FLORENCE SITUMBEKO
IOM Officer in Charge



ALKA BHATIA
UNDP Resident Representative



DJAFFAR MOUSSA-ELKADHUM
UNESCO Representative



BERNADETTE MUTESHI
UNHCR Representative



DR CHARLES SAGOE MOSES
WHO Representative



SHEILA ROSEAU
UNFPA Namibia Country Representative



GEORGE FEDHA
WFP Country Director



HOPOLANG PHORORO
ILO Country Director



FARAYI ZIMUDZI
FAO Representative



**UNITED NATIONS
NAMIBIA**



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



**International
Labour
Organization**



**IOM
UN MIGRATION**



OCHA United Nations Office
for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs



UNAIDS



**UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER**



**UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**



**United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa**



unesco



unicef
for every child



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women



UNWTO
World Tourism Organization



**World Food
Programme**



**World Health
Organization**

CHAPTER 1

1.1 KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

DEVELOPMENT TRENDS AND EMERGING ISSUES FOR SDGS IN NAMIBIA

During the initial stages of the pandemic, the UNCT had to rapidly adapt internal protocols to respect Government regulations and the UN COVID-19 guidelines. Protecting UN staff was imperative while continuing operations, supporting Government and development partners in caring for the most vulnerable, and mitigating the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on SDGs achievements.

The Resident Coordinator (RC) reached out for specialised capacity from UN Agencies and departments to strengthen the UN support to both the national COVID-19 response and recovery and the drought emergency response. UN Namibia adapted its joint portfolio to the drought emergency declared by the Government at the end of 2019. The fast adaptation of programmes resulted in the continuation of essential services in health and social protection. Food relief and nutritional programmes were also sustained under the drought response funded by the CERF.



The triple challenges for Namibia; inequality, unemployment and poverty, have been exacerbated by national and international lockdowns.

INEQUALITY



Namibia remains the second most unequal country in the world with a Gini Index of 56¹. Namibia's Human Development Index was revised downward from 0.645 to 0.417 with individual indices on education, health, and income contributing 25%, 22% and 53.6% to the loss, respectively.

UNEMPLOYMENT



UNECA estimates an increase between 0.75 (best-case) and 1.4 (worst-case) percentage points in unemployment, bringing it up from 33.4% to 34.2% and 34.5%, respectively as a direct result of COVID-19.² According to UNICEF, a 1% decrease in per capita GDP in Namibia will increase poverty by approximately 1.7% and infant mortality rate by 0.4%. It will take five years or more with an average growth of 4% to reach the growth and per capita level experienced by the country in 2015.³

POVERTY



Multi-dimensional poverty is estimated at 43.3% for overall population whilst 51.3% of children are living in poverty. Poverty is also high in rural areas at 59.3% compared to 25.3% for urban areas (NaMPI 2021) Namibia is one of the few countries in Africa that has instituted an Economic Stimulus and Relief Package (an estimated 4% of GDP) to mitigate the hardships posed by COVID-19.⁴ However, the prudent efforts to cushion sectors, including health, nutrition, housing, water and sanitation, and education, have led to trade-offs. The fiscal deficit has widened to 9.9% of GDP in 2020/21 from 4.5% 2019/20. Namibia's past steady economic growth has not been enough to deal with the country's triple challenge of high poverty, inequality, and unemployment. The weakening of growth in the last few years combined with the COVID-19 shock further put social development progress at risk.

◀ Mother with two children during community immunisation outreach campaign. ©UNICEF

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND RISKS

The economy contracted in 2019 and 2017 and registered anaemic growth in 2018 because of poor performance in construction and mining, persistent drought, and weakening demand for Namibian exports. Reduced economic activity, has further diminished labour force participation, increasing vulnerability of at high-risk groups including women and youth. The full impact of COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions has not yet been established; however, it is clear Namibia's economy was hit hard. Bank of Namibia expects Namibia's domestic economy has contracted by 7.8% in 2020⁵ owing to declines in tourism, retail, trade and investments, health, and education.

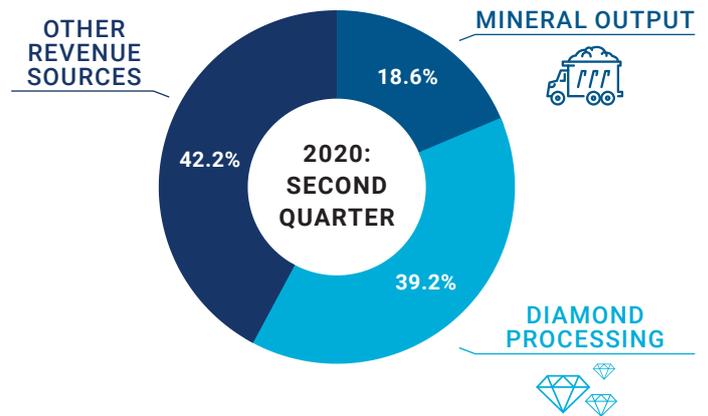
Public debt is estimated to reach 68.8% of GDP by the end of 2020/2021 and 73.2% by the end of 2021/2022. This is up from an estimated 56.1% of GDP in 2019/2020. Negative economic growth, dwindling revenue collection and rising Government debt pose challenges to managing fiscal policy. Fiscal consolidation measures typically reduce social protection spending and hurt the poor disproportionately.

Ongoing interventions to boost economy and recovery, such as the Harambee Prosperity Plan 2 (HPP2) and National Development Plan 5 (NDP), offered an opportunity to rethink the country's development trajectory. The overall objective of the country's national agenda is to create a more resilient and transformed economy that can put Namibia on the path to inclusive, sustainable economic growth and development.

With an estimated 2.6% projected growth in 2021, the risks remain tilted to the downside. A lot is dependant on the COVID-19 situation, including pace of vaccine procurement and deployment. However, post-COVID-19 recovery and rebuilding requires a committed focus on economic transformation, competitiveness, and diversification. The Government recognises the vital role small and medium enterprises play in terms of self-employment, job creation, economic growth and poverty alleviation.

Mineral output and diamond processing constitute a large share of exports and a major source of revenue for the Government. Revenue from these sources contracted by 18.6% and 39.2% respectively in 2020's second quarter.

REVENUE SOURCES



¹ <https://www.bon.com.na/CMSTemplates/Bon/Files/bon.com.na/77/773fe107-9f72-443b-832e-d08077d66384.pdf>

² UN Namibia. 2020. Socio-economic Impact of COVID-19 in Namibia.

³ <https://www.unicef.org/esa/media/7676/file/UNICEF-Namibia-2020-National-Budget-Brief.pdf>

⁴ <https://namibia.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/Policy%20Brief%20UN%20Namibia%20COVID%2019%20%26%20SDGs.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.bon.com.na/CMSTemplates/Bon/Files/bon.com.na/08/08373957-783f-4c69-ab33-8184eddeb91c.pdf>

CHAPTER 2

2.1 OVERVIEW THE UN PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK (UNPAF) 2019-2023

In 2018, a framework for working in partnership was prepared by the Government of Namibia and the UN Country Team, including Non-Resident Agencies. This collaboration is known as the UN Partnership Framework or UNPAF.

Developing this Framework required an extensive consultation process with various stakeholders including civil society organisations, the private sector, academia and research institutions/ think tanks. The Framework intends to unite efforts towards realising the Government's Vision 2030, the UN Development Programme's SDGs, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and the country's human rights obligations and other commitments under internationally agreed conventions and treaties. The Fifth National Development Plan (NDP 5), the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) and the Blueprint for Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication, all contributed direction and outcomes with the pillars being extrapolated from the NDP 5 specifically.

The Framework is composed of four pillars (Economic Progression, Social Transformation, Environmental Sustainability and Good Governance) and seven outcomes. These pillars and outcomes reflect the imperative principle of "Leave No-One Behind" which is at the core of the UN's contribution to Namibia's 2030 vision. By May 2020, the joint workplans (JWPs) of the four pillars were reprogrammed to adapt to the crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Female farmers contribute to sustainable farming in Namibia. ©FAO



The outcomes of the UN Partnership Framework (UNPAF) are aligned to the national agenda and SDGs. Simply put, it is a partnership for the eradication of poverty and inequality in Namibia.



UNPAF FINANCIAL DELIVERY - 2020 JOINT WORK PLAN

ECONOMIC PROGRESSION

OUTCOME 1.1

By 2023, institutions implement policies for inclusive development and poverty reduction for vulnerable groups



Core Funds Agencies, Delegation of the European Union to Namibia



2,244,952.29



1,268,583.23

HEALTH

OUTCOME 2.1

By 2023, 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)



Core Funds Agencies, The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), USAID, Global Fund and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and European Commission's Humanitarian Office (ECHO) supported Nutrition interventions in Namibia. The CERF project ended in 2020 and the ECHO project started in mid-2020.



4,818,630



4,903,966.78

EDUCATION

OUTCOME 2.2

By 2023, vulnerable children and young people in Namibia have equitable access to inclusive quality education and life-long learning



Core Funds Agencies and Delegation of the European Union (EU)



1,697,551



805,679.44

PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE

OUTCOME 2.3

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



Core Funds Agencies



588,513



381,409.71

SOCIAL PROTECTION

OUTCOME 2.4

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



Core Funds Agencies



574,524



491,774.51

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

OUTCOME 3.1

By 2023, vulnerable populations in disaster prone areas and biodiversity sensitive areas are resilient to shocks and climate change effects and benefit from natural resources management



Core Funds Agencies, Central Emergency Response Fund



4,071,819.63



5,252,164.70

GOOD GOVERNANCE

OUTCOME 4.1

By 2023, government institutions at national and regional level are accountable and transparent, engaging citizens in participatory decision-making processes



Core Funds Agencies, Delegation of the European Union to Namibia



1,693,051.60



559,141.74

KEY



Source of funds



Available Resources (2020)



Expenditure (2020)



15,689,041.52



13,662,720.11

UNPAF'S RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

The Government's quick response in locking the country down helped shield Namibia from the COVID-19 in the early months. Unavoidably, a shift in planned activities was required to support the national response to the pandemic.

UN Namibia, in partnership with the Inter-University Task Force (UNAM, NUST and IUM), set out to assess the socio-economic changes in the country due to COVID-19. Conducting this assessment contributed to increased multi-sectoral coordination of the UN Namibia. The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 (SEIAC) was launched and presented to the Government and Development Partners in October 2020.

As a result of the joint analytical work, the Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP) was formulated by the end of December 2020, consisting of the five standard pillars and an estimated budget of approximately USD 20 million with a funding gap of USD 13,5 million.

The 5 Pillars of the SERP are

1. Health First
2. Protecting People
3. Economic Response and Recovery
4. Macro-Economic Response and Multilateral Collaboration
5. Social Cohesion and Community Resilience

UN Namibia drafted the Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) for supporting the national health response. The overall CPRP was adapted to cover the continuity of essential health services affected by the crisis and to set the basis for a transition to recovery and building back better. USD 2,8 million was mobilised, and technical assistance and human resources provided to support the Government's efforts.

The UNCT prepared its response in other areas affected by the pandemic, specifically the socio-economic sector, by adapting UNPAF's capacity and funds to the shifting context and needs. By May 2020, the UN Namibia had reprogrammed up to USD 3.7 million of its Partnership Framework to

respond to the pandemic across its four pillars in dialogue with Government and civil society partners. In this context, UN Namibia advocated, and provided technical support, for the Government to effectively implement the "Framework for reopening schools". These guidelines were produced by UNESCO, UNICEF, WFP, and World Bank.

The UNCT continued to support the Government in the continuation of services, such as nutrition programmes of children 6-59 months (148,320 children), vaccination programmes (198,582 children), early and primary education (582,612 children), newborn health quality of care (59,894), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services reaching 246,786 people, personal protective equipment and IPC capacity building for 2,000 front-line health workers, food assistance schemes (389,992 persons), cash for work schemes (79), and MSMEs and private companies' schemes (5,119 businesses).



2.2 UNPAF RESULTS 2020

PILLAR 1: ECONOMIC PROGRESSION

IMPLEMENT POLICIES FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

OUTPUT 1.1 EMPOWERING VULNERABLE GROUPS WITH KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The drought has put livestock-dependent smallholding farming households at severe risk. UN Namibia assisted 3,343 such households (equating to approximately 14,709 people) in 7 targeted Regions (Karas, Hardap, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omaheke, Erongo and Omusati) of Namibia to maintain their core breeding herds. The assistance included providing fodder and veterinary supplies. The UN made deliberate efforts to reach women-headed households that own livestock. Of the beneficiaries, 40% were women.



79
SITES

identified and earmarked for fodder production



1600
M3/VOLUME

under hydroponic fodder production



30,525
SUPPLIES

veterinary supplies procured



3,343
FARMERS

receiving supplementary feed & veterinary supplies



148,910
GOATS & SHEEP

livestock treated

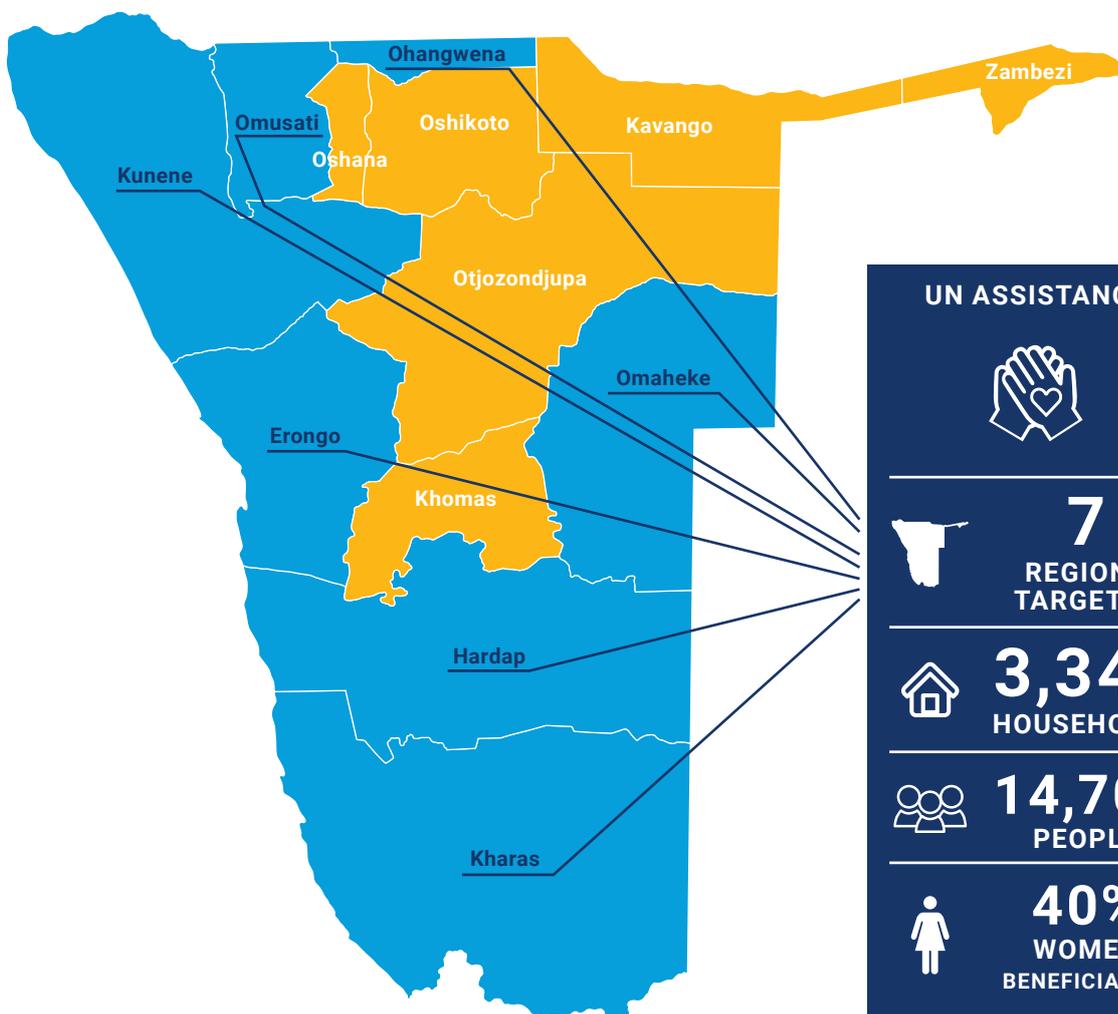


25,580
CATTLE



3,343
PEOPLE

trained



UN ASSISTANCE





7
REGIONS TARGETED



3,343
HOUSEHOLDS



14,709
PEOPLE



40%
WOMEN BENEFICIARIES

Skills training and outreach programmes were stalled by state of emergency lockdowns starting in March. UN Namibia was challenged to ensure the continuation of skills building initiatives, as well as dissemination of information on COVID-19.

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) incidences did not relent while the country locked down. The UNCT is working in alliance with civil society organisations and governments to improve and expand Sexual and Reproductive Health and SGBV Prevention Services that respond to the multiple health needs of young people. In partnership with NAPPA and SFH, the UN reached 5071 beneficiaries (3549 Female and 1522 Male, aged 13-55) in the Khomas, Omusati, Kunene, Kavango West and East and Omaheke Regions. The purpose of the outreach was to safeguard the health of young people and for skills trainings to continue, ensuring growth in the informal sector.

UN Namibia has continued its preparations for enhancing encroacher bush clearing with modern technologies. In the course of 2020, a machine learning algorithm was developed which combines satellite imagery and drone footage. The algorithm detects the invasive bush species and provides yield predictions. A pilot plant will be operationalised for producing high quality bio charcoal and animal feed. Experts working on the plant have developed a formula which will help farmers optimise their feeding for their livestock. This intervention is expected to yield three major benefits. First, environmental management through thinning of invasive species. Second, improving water levels. Third, and most importantly, creating new jobs in rural areas as the biomass harvested is used for high quality bio-charcoal and innovative recipes for new animal feed products.

OUTPUT 1.2 STRENGTHENING DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY OF PROGRAMMES

UN Namibia implemented the Enhancing Entrepreneurship Development Programme, or EMPRETEC Namibia, with the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade, which provided integrated capacity building and promoted entrepreneurial skills for SMEs. Namibia Regional Offices have been equipped with teleconferencing equipment to enable online training sessions. EMPRETEC Namibia is expected to stimulate economic growth to generate employment opportunities, create wealth and reduce poverty in the country.

The Ministry of Poverty Eradication, Gender Equality and Social Welfare received technical and financial support from the UN to align and implement their enterprise development interventions with the International Labour Organisation standards as part of the UN overall strategy to strengthen Government research, innovation, and industrialisation.

UN Namibia supported the Government to undertake sensitisation workshops on the Asset Impact Monitoring System (AIMS) in the 14 Regions of Namibia. Proper understanding of the local context, landscape and livelihoods allows assets and complementary activities, such as training programmes, to be integrated and matched to the problems that affect vulnerable communities.

This was complimented by capacity building interventions on Market Assessments, Income Generation Activities, and Horticulture Production in 5 target Regions. A total of 81 farmers were supported with crop production (maize), and 909 beneficiaries were supported with income generating activities.

UN Namibia supported the provision of both financial and technical assistance towards the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform's National Agriculture Investment Plans. Support was also provided to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture and Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism towards the development of the National Strategy on "Sustainable Heritage Tourism Development and Employment Creation at Community Level". The Strategy assesses various strategic economic and employment opportunities that could be exploited to create decent work through the development of heritage tourism at community level.

 **5**
REGIONS
TARGETED for capacity building interventions on Market Assessments, Income Generation Activities & Horticulture Production

 **81**
FARMERS supported with crop production (maize)

 **909**
BENEFICIARIES supported with income generating activities

OUTPUT 1.3 RELIABLE DATA INFORMING TARGETING AND PROGRAMMING

The UN supported the national census process. Support included the development of key questions to capture data on persons with disabilities, women and young people. Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) was supported with resource mobilisation which resulted in the securing of 85% of the funds required for census mapping, development of the COVID-19 dashboard and procurement of census mapping licence. The UN also supported the validation of the disability questions to be incorporated into the census questionnaire. NSA staff were capacitated on data collection on Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews.

The UN supported the Government to produce the Multidimensional Poverty Index, which will strengthen Namibia's coordinated efforts for better policy and programme targeting of regions and populations living in poverty and at the greatest risk of being left behind, whilst at the same time, providing a strategic tool for monitoring progress towards SDGs and NDPs impacts.

The UN produced the SEIAC and SERP, generating important data regarding the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the Namibian economy, society, vulnerable groups, employers and workers. The defined interventions are aimed at supporting the Government and people of Namibia in their efforts to build back better and emerge from the adverse economic and social impact of the pandemic on the economy and ensuring no one is left behind.

The UN, in partnership with USAID and CDC, supported the Government to analyse the Integrated bio-behavioural data among female sex workers and men who have sex with men in 4 cities (Windhoek, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay and Katima Mulilo).



▶ Agnes Tengovandu-Tjindo, a Lead Farmer from Otjozondjou, holds a piece of barley during a hydroponic fodder production training workshop in Omaruru.

©Agnes Tengovandu-Tjindo

LET IT GROW

UN Namibia, in partnership with several Namibian organisations, established 79 greenhouse hydroponic fodder production systems across seven Regions in the country. This project was funded by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund. Specialists from the UN and the Namibia National Farmers' Union trained staff from the Ministry of Agriculture. These trainees, in turn, imparted that knowledge to farmers participating in the project. As the trained farmers pass on the knowledge to their communities, the reach of the project becomes exponential.

Agnes Tengovandu-Tjindo, one of the beneficiaries of this programme, says that they have created a system that not only ensures that every household receives fodder from the greenhouse, but also makes room for every farmer to get involved in the fodder production process.



▲ Buy Local, Grow Namibia logos found in different retailers to help consumers identify where local goods are located in stores. ©UNNamibia

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

The loss of business and leisure travelers to Namibia has been felt across most sectors causing an already high unemployment rate to soar. Supporting local businesses to bolster economic growth is what led to the **Buy Local, Grow Namibia** campaign. The campaign is a joint effort between the UN Namibia, Team Namibia, the Namibia Trade Forum, The Namibian Newspaper and Weathermen & Co. The campaign supports the consumption of Namibian products and services.

During her keynote address at the launch of this campaign, Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Lucia Lipumbu, stated; "The [Buy Local, Grow Namibia] campaign will highlight the vital role of local businesses in our nation's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic."

PILLAR 2: SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

BUILDING A CAPABLE AND HEALTHY HUMAN RESOURCE SUPPORT STRUCTURE, WITH A SPECIFIC FOCUS ON VULNERABLE GROUPS

The UN continued to support the Government in its efforts to ensure a long and healthy life, access to knowledge and decent standard of living for all Namibian through targeted interventions.

To make Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) more accessible, the Government targeted the enrolment of 35,000 trainees. Only 31,506 trainees were enrolled compared to 32,123 enrolments in 2017/18. This is attributed to inadequate space. In 2018 alone a total of 25,578 applicants were turned down. However, TVET completion rate for level 3, increased from 60% to 62% in 2020.

Sanitation remains a challenge in Namibia. A total of 1,456 sanitation facilities were constructed in urban areas against the target of 12,500, therefore, there is no major improvements in the proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services. Namibia's current HDI value of 0.647 puts the country in the medium human development category, positioned at 129 out of 189 countries and territories.

PILLAR 2.1 - HEALTH: ENSURING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC)

OUTPUT 2.1.1 IMPROVED IMPLEMENTATION OF NUTRITION PROGRAMMES FOR TARGETED VULNERABLE GROUPS

The Government completed the registration of 96% of pensioners receiving old-age grants, which increased the percentage of vulnerable people receiving social assistance. There is also 70% coverage of beneficiaries receiving disability grants. The increase in coverage resulted in timely payment processing of social grants to eligible registered beneficiaries.

The Government rolled out food banks to Hardap, Karas, Ohangwena, Kunene, Kavango East and Kavango West Regions to increase the number of beneficiaries receiving food assistance. A biometric system used for the registration of beneficiaries, was introduced with a total of 6,277 households registered. UN support led to improved nutrition for children, on average the food consumption score improved to above 64. It also reduced expenditure on food from 75% of income to less than 25%. The UN promoted awareness on malnutrition in the San community, where analysis has revealed stunting prevalence of 2 in 3 children.





▲ A household toilet constructed as part of the Hepatitis E project in the Moses Garoeb Constituency. ©UNDP



▼ Young children fill watering cans for household use. ©UNDP



◀ Sister Miriam supports new mother, Matundu lumue, through the steps of Kangaroo Mother Care to support the growth of her prematurely born baby. ©UNICEF

OUTPUT 2.1.2 HEALTH SYSTEM CAPACITY STRENGTHENED

To strengthen the capacity of the health system, the UN supported the MoHSS to develop the Essential Health Services guidelines, the National Quality Policy and Strategy and the National Action Plan for Health Security.

UN Namibia provided orientation to key medical professionals on key considerations for UHC;

- *Training on elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV,*
- *HIV sensitisation,*
- *Survey on drug resistance in children,*
- *Malaria Programme mid-term review and*
- *the National Strategic Plan.*

Support was provided for the development of and validation of national guidelines and documents, including;

- *Antenatal care for a Positive Pregnancy Experience 2020 Guideline,*
- *National Family Planning Counselling Flip Chart,*
- *Standard Treatment Guideline,*
- *Essential Medicines list,*
- *Essential Health Services guidance and*
- *National Quality Policy and Strategy.*



COVID-19 RESPONSE

The national response to the pandemic, articulated by the MoHSS, contained 10 response pillars. The UN Namibia contributed through direct support to 8 of these pillars. This included critical interventions in

- Risk Communication and Community Engagement,
- Operational and Logistics Support (procurement),
- Continuity of Essential Health Services,
- Surveillance and Data Management,
- Points of Entry, and
- Case Management.

The UN supported the MoHSS to

- recruit community volunteers, training them on data systems (DHIS2 and ICD11),
- access market information on medicines using the UN Procurement Platform for medical products,
- ensure continuity of supply for other vaccines through UNICEF's Procurement Services,
- build the capacity of 1,655 health care workers (against a target of 1,000) informed by the standard operating procedures of the COVID-19 CPRP and the Infection Prevention and Control pillar, and
- develop a COVID-19 interactive dashboard to strengthen the capacity of the health system.

The most strategic partnership was initiated with the World Bank, WHO, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization and Global Fund to strengthen the country's COVID-19 response capacity, including preparations for large scale vaccination under the COVAX Facility.

In the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector, the UN commissioned 86 community health volunteers in the Erongo Region, through the cash for work programme, to support Walvis Bay in maintaining hygienic conditions. Another 6 health facilities were equipped with Solar Photovoltaic. The UN supported the MoHSS with the provision of emergency tippy taps and hand washing facilities for 26,000 households in 4 Regions. Partnering with local municipalities in two Regions 48,230 tippy taps, reaching over 217,000 people in informal settlements, were constructed. The Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) Taskforce became a vehicle to drive improved hand-washing practices in high-risk communities and informal settlements. CLTS interventions reached 29,786 people to end open defecation and build household toilets.

The UN supported the production of over 700,000 COVID-19 risk communication materials with translation into Braille and 9 local languages for television, radio, print and community engagement to enhance the understanding of the disease as well as coordination among persons with disabilities.

To prevent COVID-19 transmission in health facilities, the UN procured personal protective equipment (PPE) for an estimated 3,000 frontline health workers. 120 community volunteers were trained on COVID-19 responses. Social mobilisation and community engagement in support of the COVID-19 outbreak response was carried out in 5 Regions (Kavango East/ West, Erongo, Zambezi and Khomas).

CONTINUITY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

UN supported the MoHSS to scale-up quality of care (QoC) interventions in maternal and newborn care with 21 of the 35 public hospitals implementing at least three interventions. This is an increase from just two hospitals in 2019 and exceeds the 2020 target of 11 hospitals.

Front-line workers in maternity wards are now equipped to:

- efficiently screen,
- identify risk of death in newborns,
- correctly manage complications,
- review conditions giving rise to a preventable death and
- where such a death occurs, put in place local solutions to prevent similar future deaths.

An estimated 59,894 babies were born in the 21 hospitals implementing QoC interventions between January and October 2020. These births account for 84% of all babies born in public hospitals. UN-supported integration of interventions has ensured that all the hospitals implementing QoC are also implementing and monitoring e-birth notification to increase prompt birth registration. E-birth notification system is operational at 46 health facilities and 60,666 children under the age of 5 years received birth certificates this year. The UN Namibia provided support to the national vaccination programmes avoiding disruption of regular vaccination for 198,582 children.

Namibia's second voluntary national review (VNR) report (2018) on the implementation of the sustainable development goals shows that the under-five mortality rate is constant since an initial decline between 2006 and 2013 from 69 to 59.6 deaths per 1,000 live births. This remains above the NDP5 target of 48. There is a lack of data regarding maternal mortality making it difficult to measure progress. Since the 2018 VNR report, ongoing efforts have been made to reduce under-five mortalities, including capacity building of health workers using the revised essential Newborn Care, the provision of Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), and the implementation of integrated management of newborn and childhood illnesses (IMNCI) programmes.



▲ Ministry of Health official demonstrates how the e-Birth notification system works. ©UNICEF



59,894
BABIES BORN

in the 21 hospitals implementing QoC interventions Jan - Oct 2020



59,894
BABIES BORN
= **84%**

of births accounted for in public hospitals



46
HEALTH FACILITIES

have an operational E-birth notification system



60,666
CHILDREN

under the age of 5 years received birth certificates



198,582
CHILDREN

vaccinated with UN support

TB incidences were reduced on average from 524 in 2018 to 486 in 2019, which is attributed to the country wide recruitment of promoters encouraging patients to adhere to TB treatment plans. HIV incidence per 1000 was reduced from 3.31 in 2018 to 2.81 in 2020. This improvement is attributed to the awareness campaigns on condom usage, HIV testing and treatment adherence.

UN's technical support to adaptation of HIV services and capacity building of frontline health workers contributed to sustained access to quality prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) services: 99.5 percent of pregnant women attending antenatal clinics (ANC) tested for HIV compared to 99 percent in 2019, while ANC attendance stabilised at 92,254 (compared to 90,191 in 2019).



99.5%
PREGNANT WOMEN AT ANC'S TESTED FOR HIV IN 2020

VS

99%
PREGNANT WOMEN AT ANC'S TESTED FOR HIV IN 2019



92,254
ANC ATTENDANCE IN 2020

VS

90,191
ANC ATTENDANCE IN 2019

Through the Joint United Nations Team on AIDS (JUTA), the UN supported

- the development of the Global Fund Country Concept note,
- the Mid-Term Review of the National Strategic Plan and capacity for the National Validation Committee on the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis.



WHO Representative, Dr Charles Sagoe-Moses and Kunene Regional Health Director, Mr. Shapumba at the Opuwo State Hospital Maternity Ward observing a mother caring for her newborn baby. ©WHO

UN Namibia supported MoHSS to reach out to people with HIV through community-based Antiretroviral Therapy sites and other outreach posts along the border with Angola. Restricted movements around the country and increased financial constraints, meant that 1505 adolescents living with HIV had difficulties reaching health care facilities for treatment and follow-up. Namibia has over 100 teen clubs and the UN supports 34 of those clubs in Ohangwena Region. Despite COVID-19, teen clubs in Ohangwena continued to operate. 87% of those adolescent patients in the Region were transferred to a treatment regimen with lower drug resistance and fewer side effects. Today Ohangwena boasts a viral load suppression of 87% among these adolescents compared to the 69% national average. UN successfully advocated for adolescent-specific priorities in the Global Fund Country Proposal.

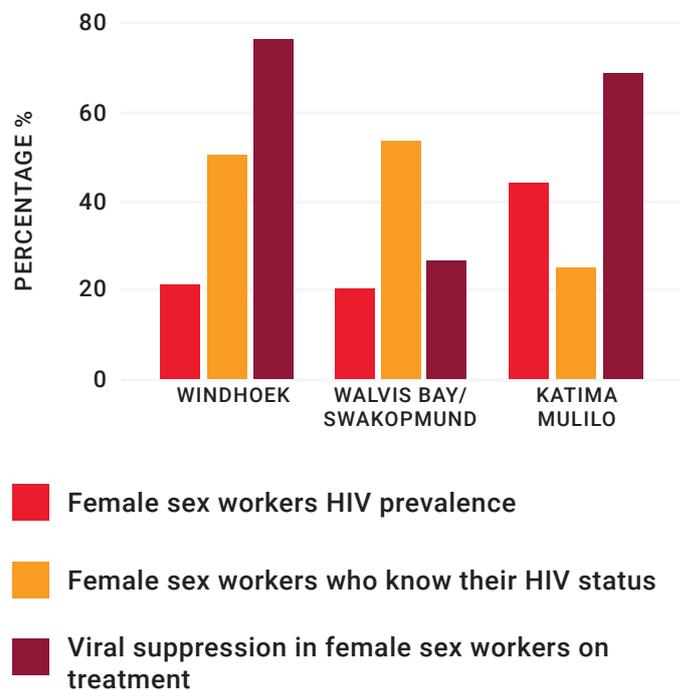
87% ADOLESCENT PATIENTS IN OHANGWENA transferred to a treatment regimen with lower drug resistance and fewer side effects

87% VIRAL LOAD SUPPRESSION AMONG OHANGWENA ADOLESCENTS VS **69%** VIRAL LOAD SUPPRESSION NATIONAL AVERAGE

In addition to UN investment, USD 39 million was mobilised from the Global Funds for 2021-2023. It must be also noted that USD 75 million was allocated by the PEPFAR to fast-track HIV response and prepare the sustainability.

MoHSS was supported to develop and roll out the Key Population Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, with the co-funding support and technical assistance of the Global Fund, UNFPA and UNAIDS. The implementation of this plan resulted in generation of epidemiological data and HIV treatment cascade data among female sex workers and men who have sex with men. Evidence collected and analysed has revealed that the progress has been made in reducing HIV incidence in general population. HIV prevalence remains high among some groups which may compromise sustainability of the gains. The Namibia Integrated Biological and Behavioral Survey (NAM-IBBS) conducted in 2019 among key populations at risk for HIV indicated that female sex workers HIV prevalence is 21.3% in Windhoek, 20.3% in Walvis Bay/Swakopmund and 44.2% in Katima-Mulilo while the home base HIV impact assessment estimated HIV prevalence at 12.6% among adults aged 15-64 years in 2017. NAM-IBBS report indicated that 50.3% of female sex workers know their HIV status in Windhoek, 53.6% in Swakopmund and Walvis Bay and 25% in Katima Mulilo. Among female sex workers on treatment the viral suppression is low; in Windhoek 76.5%, in Walvis Bay / Swakopmund 26.6% and in Katima-Mulilo 68.9%. This led to the UN Joint team catalysing community led initiatives to increase access and quality of treatment services targeting key populations.

CHART: NAM-IBBS SURVEY CONDUCTED IN 2019 AMONG KEY POPULATIONS AT RISK FOR HIV





PUTTING HER FIRST

One of the places to experience the most devastation due to the drought is the Omaheke Region where cattle farming drives the economy. This area is experiencing economic and humanitarian crises, – especially among girls and young women. To support the affected communities, dignity kits (containing sanitary pads, soap, toiletries and washing powder) were distributed by UN Namibia.

Thanks to the support of the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, UN Namibia has distributed 3,500 dignity kits worthy NAD 954,000 in six Regions. A second batch of 6,000 kits, worth more than NAD 1,428,000, is to be distributed to benefit more girls.

▲ *Julien Konjak, a teen mother, received family planning information and services at an adolescent-friendly clinic in Gobabis. ©UNFPA*

LIVING WITH HIV IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

One recipient of a food parcel and a dignity kit - was Secilia Jacob*, 18. While the whole world came to terms with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Secilia was also waging her own fight against another virus – HIV. Although she was born with the virus and has been receiving appropriate treatment over the years, it was only until her brother disclosed it to her that she finally knew her HIV status. Despite Namibia's first HIV case being reported in 1986, children born with the virus are still subjected to stigma and discrimination at the hands of their families, communities and at school. This may be why her family kept her in the dark about her status, but she says that she harbors no ill feelings towards them.

In collaboration with the Society for Family Health and the Namibia Planned Parenthood Association, UN Namibia conducted a mobile outreach in informal settlements and rural areas, serving thousands of young people in need by providing HIV counselling and testing, antiretroviral therapy, and pre-exposure prophylaxis. Young people also received sexual and reproductive health services and information, gender-based violence services and referral for further services.

*pseudonym



▲ *Gender-Based Violence/Sexual Reproductive Health Officer, Delaine Sikerete with a boy who came to collect drought relief food and dignity kits distributed by UN Staff. ©UNFPA*

PILLAR 2.2 - EDUCATION: EQUITABLE ACCESS TO INCLUSIVE QUALITY EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

OUTPUT 2.2.1 EDUCATION SYSTEM CAPACITY STRENGTHENED (ACCESS AT ALL LEVELS)

UN supported Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (MoEAC) to reduce the effect of the sudden school closures in March 2020 due to COVID-19 and prepare for schools' safe reopening in the second half of the year. Targeting 600,000 learners from pre-primary to Grade 7, MoEAC distributed over 5 million paper workbooks in several subjects and online. Another 6,763 learners with visual impairments continued learning in Braille. UN supported the education sector response to COVID-19. Guidelines and posters on the Prevention and Management of COVID-19 in schools were developed and distributed. Un Namibia also supported orientation of school personnel in COVID-19 prevention and control.

Considering lessons learnt from previous research on strengthening learning outcomes, UN Namibia supported MoEAC to develop a recovery plan and trained teachers to ensure that learners catch up from the lost time during school closure. The recovery plan places emphasis on psychosocial support for learners and teachers in addressing key skills and competencies to prevent learners from falling further behind.

UN continued to partner with InterTeam and the European Union to support the Government-led "RightStart", a national early childhood development awareness raising campaign. The campaign communicates key messages about age-appropriate play, child feeding, hygiene, early learning and early identification and access to services for children with disabilities (CWD). An estimated 1.6 million viewers (over 70 percent of Namibia's population) were reached through the campaign's programmes. Additionally, 632 parents of CWD were reached through targeted information and support services. UN partnered with Side-by-Side Early Intervention Centre and further strengthened the capacities of 707 disability service providers and parents for the early identification of disabilities, assessment, and referral to services. The trainings equipped parents with skills to handle stigma and discrimination, prevent and identify abuse and violence towards children with disabilities and COVID-19 prevention.

The UN supported the Ministry of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation to improve the capacity of Vocational Education Training and Community Skills Development Centres to train rural youth in skills relevant to industry in their Region. A pilot project for skills development and innovation in rural areas of Namibia was started with support for quality assurance functions by the UNESCO-Shenzhen intervention.



▲ Education during COVID-19. ©MoEAC

OUTPUT 2.2.2 MONITORING AND DATA GENERATION TO AID POLICY AND PROGRAMME DESIGN

Quality Assurance capacity in Higher Education Institutions have increased, including assessment for accreditation, re-accreditation, standard setting, auditing, monitoring and evaluation.

UN supported the review and submissions on the draft Competition Bill to Amend the Namibian Competition Act No. 2 of 2003, focusing on strategies to protect and promote innovation and equitable access to health technologies. Ministry staff have increased capacity to incorporate elements of ICT and Lifelong learning policy in workplans.

Using Education Management Information System data supported by UN Namibia since 2014, MoEAC allocated emergency resources to supply 93 schools with water tanks and 659 schools with ablution facilities.

OUTPUT 2.2.3 ENCOURAGE BROADER PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL)

Namibia has made significant progress in advancing pre-primary education, the current enrolment in pre-primary education in 2020 stood at 47,692 in total. As regards primary education completion rate, it has remained stable since 2018 around 88%.



47,692
CHILDREN

enrolled for pre-primary
education in 2020



88%
COMPLETION
RATE

for primary education,
has remained stable
since 2018



▲ *Children standing in line at a school feeding programme.* ©WFP

UN supported interventions on schools feeding, reaching 400,000 learners and General Food Assistance reaching 380,000 beneficiaries. The UN also conducted the Integrated Phase Classification for Acute Food Security with Food Insecurity Experience Scale assessment and analysis to inform Government's targeting interventions.

The UN supported the launch and roll out of the MoEAC's Let's talk Early and Unintended Pregnancy (EUP) campaign. Twenty media personnel from different media houses participated in training on reporting of EUPs and the Let's talk launch event was attended by 382 (256 female and 126 male) participants, including learners/ young people, educators, journalists and religious leaders. The campaign reached over 3500 learners.

UN, in partnership with LifeLine ChildLine Namibia, supported the implementation of Parent-Child Communication programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Hardap Region. The programme aims at supporting families to increase communication about healthy and respectful relationships, help seeking, life skills and decision making within the family environment, particularly between parents/guardians and their children.

The HIV and AIDS policy review contributed to capacity building within the education sector by using a central mechanism for prevention, care, and support for both learners and employees in the education sector. Mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on learners and employees means less impact on the education sector itself. Recent data analysis during the Mid-term Review of National Strategic Plan highlighted low progress in term of reduction of HIV new infections and AIDS deaths among young people, particularly adolescents and young women. JUTA supported to redesign interventions and reallocated resources in priority for young people, men and key population for the next 3 years.



◀ *A nurse doing health checks at school.* ©WFP

PILLAR 2.3 - PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE, ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION

In support of the economic and political empowerment of women, in the context of the regional initiative of the African Union and UN Women, UN Namibia facilitated the establishment of the secretariat for the Namibia Women Leadership Network (NWLN). UN Namibia also supported the establishment of the International Women Peace Centre through specialised technical assistance which designed the strategy and workplan for the centre. The Namibia International Women Peace Centre was launched on 31st October 2020, on the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its focus on advocacy on Women Peace and Security, networking and partnership and capacity building/training, as well as enhancing the capacity of national, regional and international actors in peace keeping.

The Gender Based Violence Prevalence Rate remained at 33.3%.

NPC reported that approximately 12,251 cases of violence against children were reported during the period April 2018 – March 2019. Some of the contributing factors to increased gender-based violence include low levels of educational attainment, a history of exposure to violence, witnessing family violence, abuse of alcohol, traditional and societal norms, and low levels of women's access to paid employment.

 **31 OCT 2020** **Namibia International Women Peace Centre launched**

 **33.3%** **GBV Prevalence Rate remained**

 **12,251** **CASES OF VIOLENCE** **against children were reported during April 2018 - March 2019**

OUTPUT 2.3.1 EVIDENCE- AND DATA-BASED POLICIES AND PROGRAMME DESIGN INFORMING INTERVENTIONS TO ADDRESS GBV

The UN supported the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPEWS) with strengthening the data infrastructure for timely collection, analysis and dissemination of gender-based violence (GBV) data. This include the provision of technical and financial support towards the development of the Namibia Police GBV database to accurately and timely GBV cases to inform policies and programming. Two capacity building sessions were held for service providers on the use of this database. Pre-testing is in progress.

Ending child marriage is a target under the SDGs and as a result the UN supported the launch of two study surveys on child marriage study and problematic mindsets towards gender-based violence. Both studies identify the drivers, consequences and recommendations for addressing child marriage and GBV.

OUTPUT 2.3.2 IMPROVE CAPACITY OF SERVICE PROVIDERS TO GBV VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS (RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF BOTH PARTIES)

UN Namibia supported 3 NGOs (Bel Espirit Mental Hospital; LifeLine/ ChildLine Namibia and Regain Trust) on the provision of psychosocial/ mental health services reaching 2096 people. Information, Education and Communication materials were developed on access to counselling; mental health and psycho-social services with 12,000 copies printed.

As part of the drought response, vulnerable women and girls of reproductive age (from 10 to 49) received 6,000 dignity kits, prioritising pregnant and lactating mothers, vulnerable women and adolescent girls, including those living with disability, and HIV and AIDS. In total, for the drought and COVID response, the provision of dignity/ hygiene kits reached out to 13,300 pregnant women & adolescent girls.

UN Namibia supported national partners to strengthen GBV protection programmes through the development of booklets on GBV prevention and response for frontline workers; development and operationalisation of Standard Operating Procedures for Shelters; and development of Regional GBV referral pathways.

The UN through the ILO support a rapid assessment on violence and harassment and sensitization of key stakeholders in the world of work as part of preparations for Namibia to ratify the ILO Convention on ending violence and harassment (C190). On the 9th of December 2020 Namibia eventually ratified the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) together with the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) to promote the rights of domestic workers.

Special attention was given by UN Namibia to support efforts to engender social norms:

	Radio drama on GBV prevention was developed and aired on NBC in 4 local languages i.e., Silozi, Rukwangali, Otjiherero and Oshiwambo,
	GBV and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse trainings for service providers and community volunteers were conducted reaching 537 service providers,
	13 Talk Shows were produced to address intimate partner violence and sexual violence through engaging men and boys reaching about 11,000 men and young male adolescents, and
	408,695 women and girls were reached with GBV awareness raising messages to reach marginalised women and girls to raise people's awareness on how to counter gender-based violence and support survivors.

 **3 NGOs SUPPORTED** on the provision of psychosocial/mental health services reaching 2096 people

 **6,000 DIGNITY KITS** handed out to vulnerable women and girls of reproductive age (10-49)

PILLAR 2.4 - ENSURING AN INTEGRATED SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES

OUTPUT 2.4.1 STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM TO ENSURE IMPROVED ACCESS AND SERVICE DELIVERY

UN supported the establishment and implementation of a Beneficiary Registration and Targeting System for the Government Drought Emergency Response Programme. The system has led to improved accountability, efficiency, and reporting. In addition, the UN supported the development of the Food assistance Standard Operating Procedures including full M&E tools, which will help to improve monitoring and reporting of emergency food assistance programmes activities. The food and nutrition needs of vulnerable populations were met and their food consumption scores improved to above 64, moving from IPC phase 3 to 1.

Responding to the national lockdowns, UN Namibia supported the Government to respond to potential child protection concerns. A partnership between the Namibian Police, the National Defence Force and Correctional Services trained 345 personnel that were tasked to enforce lockdown and movement restrictions in a child-sensitive manner. A rapid assessment of mental health and psychosocial support services, including a national directory and guidelines on the prevention of family separation during COVID-19 enabled social welfare services – an essential service from the outset of the pandemic – and the Child Helpline to ensure that children and families affected by COVID-19 received services with their best interests as primary consideration.

Furthermore, schools in 12 Regions prepared for an expected increase in cases of sexual violence by training 409 school principals, educators and life skills teachers in how to respond and refer their learners. Expecting increased online activity by children, UN developed a training and a video on parenting in the digital age. The training reached 331 parents in three Regions, and the video broadcasted nationally and through social media, reached an estimated 200,000 people.

OUTPUT 2.4.2 DEVELOP A BROADER SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES NATIONALLY

The UN supported four capacity building interventions to strengthen access to social assistance for vulnerable groups. The support provided to Government included designing the scope for Government support, General Food Assistance and the Development of the Standard Operating Procedures for food assistance for drought affected population and on individuals Antiretroviral Therapy.

UN supported MGEPSW and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in the design and building of a digital and integrated management information system for social protection as part of reforms to strengthen efficiency and impact of social grants. With the UN's support, the MGEPSW and the OPM finalised the payment and accounting modules of Namibia Information Management System. The system is expected to benefit 336,000 children who are receiving child grants. UN will work in 2021 on the building of the Integrated Beneficiary Registry with funding from the Delegation of the European Union. UN continued to offer technical support towards the finalisation of the Social Protection Policy. The policy was approved by Cabinet in March 2021 and seeks to create a comprehensive social protection system that is efficient and effective in addressing risks and vulnerabilities that people face at different stages of their lives. UN will continue to provide technical support towards finalisation, launch and implementation of the Policy.

Through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Ministry of Labour Industrial Relations and Employment Creation (MLIREC) through the Social Security Commission (SSC) launched a process to establish the Namibia Pension Fund (NPF) to effectively implement the provisions of the 1994 Social Security Act (Act34 of 1994) Part VII. The ILO is providing technical and advisory services on the design options, financing and actuarial assessments as well as the governance framework.

FEEDING TOMORROW'S FUTURE

Malnutrition adversely affects many children across Namibia. It undermines the unlimited potential of future generations through halting growth, as well as being one of the biggest contributing factors to child death. However, malnourished children, like one-year-old Doralee, are given a fighting chance at life through protein-rich therapeutic foods such as Plumpy'Nut. The Government of Namibia with support from UN Namibia have used Plumpy'Nut, a high-energy peanut paste formula, to treat severely malnourished children. It was only through supplementing her lack of dietary diversity, vitamins, and minerals with Plumpy'Nut that Doralee could fully recover from malnutrition.

UN Namibia received USD 1,5 million (NAD 28,24 million) from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund. This funding was used to support government efforts in reducing the impact of drought on nutrition, health, and social protection in the eight most severely affected Regions in Namibia.

Joswouda Geises is the mother of one-year-old Doralee with Lidar Community Foundation founder, Sherley Khaxas. ©Nomhle Kangootui



TOWARDS "AVERTING A LOST GENERATION"

Children, one of the most vulnerable groups affected by the pandemic, are not only suffering the direct consequences of this virus but also face other obstacles associated with COVID-19. Missed education, increased food insecurity and potentially escalating poverty all threaten the well-being and success of an entire generation of youth.

In 2020, UN Namibia launched a report, "Averting a Lost COVID Generation," which comprehensively outlines the immense and worrisome long-term effects of the pandemic on children. The report notes that globally the number of children living in multidimensional poverty is estimated to have had a 15% increase by mid-2020.

In response to this crisis, UN Namibia, with the Government of Namibia, development partners and the private sector, committed to ensuring that children continue to learn. This means that all associated technological barriers must be addressed, access to nutrition and health services for children must be guaranteed; children's mental health must be supported and protected; children's access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene must be improved, environmental degradation and climate change must be addressed, and child poverty mitigated.



UN Namibia handed over certificates of participation to children who participated in the World Children's Day Reimagine Art Challenge in Gobabis, Namibia. ©UNICEF

PILLAR 3: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

PROTECTING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN DISASTER PRONE AREAS, ENSURING THEY BENEFIT FROM NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The UN supported the preparation of the Namibia COVID-19 Conservation Conversations Publication (NaCoCo-COP) which provided timely information on the narratives of pre-COVID-19 in 4 Regions (Kunene, Oshikoto, Kavango East and Zambezi).

The National Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory Report 5 (NIR5) was submitted in September 2020 with UN support. The National GHG Inventory for the period 1991 and 2015 was updated for reporting to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Mitigation assessments were conducted for the GHG emitting economic sectors in Namibia. The aim is to establish an understanding of the mitigation actions taken, or envisaged to be taken, along with their effects and the support needed and received.

UN Namibia also reviewed the country's Nationally Determined Contributions in partnership with GIZ for all four IPCC sectors, i.e., Energy, Industrial Processes and Product Use (plus a supplementary one on Refrigeration and Air Conditioning), Waste, and Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use sectors in progress, for submission to UNFCCC.

OUTPUT 3.1 ENABLE POLICIES AND FRAMEWORKS TO ENSURE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES

According to the 2018 Environmental Performance Index, Namibia's score has improved from the baseline of 43.7 in 2014 to 58.46 in 2018 and is now ranked 79th out of 180 countries. The country fared well in comparison to other Southern African countries. Botswana scored 51.70 (ranking 113), South Africa scored 44.73 (ranking 142) and Zambia scored 50.97 (ranking 117).

Namibia continues to strengthen its legal framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. 54% of government offices, ministries and agencies (OMAs) have fully integrated Disaster Risk Reduction into their legal frameworks. Only five deaths were recorded as a result of disaster events as compared to the NDP 5 target of 40. The reduction is attributed to improved risk monitoring and preparedness.

The Sustainable Development Advisory Council was re-established to oversee the implementation and monitoring compliance of the Environmental Management

Act to prevent the degradation of the environment and to foster the sustainable management of all-natural resources.

UN supported the generation of evidence on the food and nutrition situation in the country. This was through Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis. The evidence provides a basis for programme and policy decisions on food security issues.

Three capacity building interventions were supported:

- Namibia Food & Nutrition Security Monitoring Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis,
- mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM), and
- Seasonal Monitor System Development.

CHART: 2018 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX COMPARISON BETWEEN SOUTHERN AFRICA COUNTRIES



OUTPUT 3.2 IMPROVE CAPACITY TO PREPARE, PREVENT, RESPOND AND RECOVER FROM CLIMATE CHANGE INDUCED VARIABILITIES

The UN supported the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MoEFT) to develop measures and plans to avoid, reduce, and mitigate adverse risks and impacts associated with the management of human-wildlife conflict and wildlife crime in hotspot landscapes in Namibia.

The UN supported the MoEFT to design a full project under the Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) for an integrated approach to proactive management of human-wildlife conflict and wildlife crime in hotspot landscapes in Namibia.

Disaster Risk Reduction has been fully mainstreamed in the strategies of prioritised key sectors. All Regions have contingency plans. The UN supported six capacity building interventions, which included the development of the Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, Drought Emergency National Response plan, Food Assistance Standard Operating Procedures, National Risk Profiling Guidelines, and Early warning system strengthening.

The Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to Eradicate Poverty (NILALEG) Project was launched in 2020. NILALEG will strengthen technical and institutional capacity of national and community-based entities for sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem management.

The specific measures are:

- Land Use Planning,
- Remote Sensing,
- Multilateral Environmental Agreement Reporting,
- Baseline Survey on five landscapes and
- Finance & Enterprise Development.

The UN supported the establishment of the Conservation Relief, Recovery and Resilience Facility (CRRRF), which aims to provide financial relief to the Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) institutions affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Facility mobilised NAD 6,576,500 from key participating partners.

These partners include;

- Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF),
- Namibia Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO),
- Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN),
- World Wildlife Fund Namibia,
- UNDP,
- Nedbank Namibia,
- Namibia Nature Foundation,
- B2Gold,
- Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC),
- Namibia Chamber of Environment,
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ),
- KfW Development Bank, and
- Tourism Supporting Conservation Trust (TOSCO).

SUSTAINABLE NATURE CONSERVATION

For years, Namibia has been a world leader in its wildlife management efforts. In large part this is due to the success of locally managed communal conservancies. These 86 spaces provide employment to tens of thousands of Namibians through tourism activities. The communities are, therefore, incentivised to follow sustainable natural resource regulation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a massive reduction in tourism, putting many of these workers in jeopardy. More than just income is on the line – the loss of natural areas, as well as the poaching and consumption of wildlife, will increase the chance that viruses will transmit from animals to humans in the future.

To support these workers in this critical time, UN Namibia issued a grant to help conservancies with essential funds to cover their salaries and anti-poaching efforts while also partnering with an e-commerce company to promote and sell locally made artistry to help local traders. UN Namibia also collaborated on health education initiatives, to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Giraffes walking in one of the conservancies found in Namibia. ©Tashia Kalondo

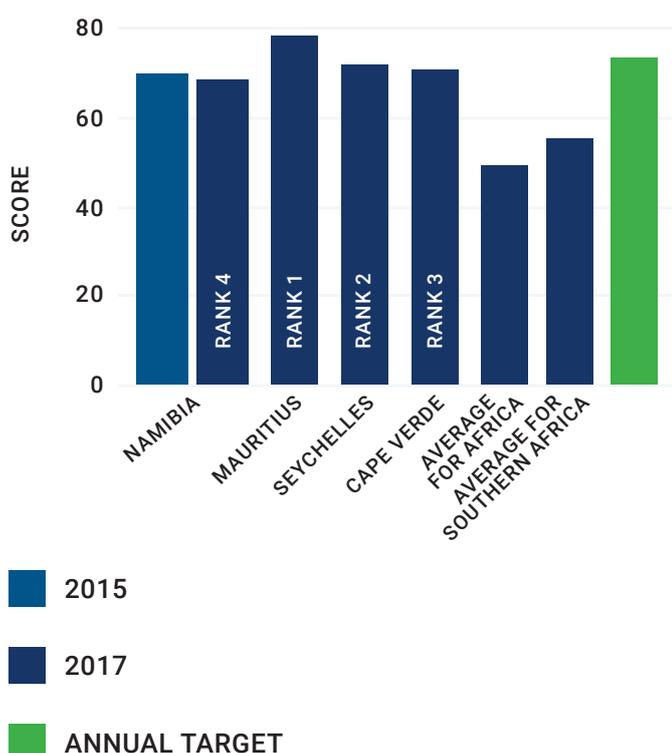


PILLAR 4: GOOD GOVERNANCE

ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, ENGAGING CITIZENS IN A PARTICIPATORY DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Namibia's score on the Ibrahim Index of African Governance slightly decreased from the baseline of 70.4 in 2015 to 68.6 in 2017, which is below the annual target of 74. However, the country moved one rank up, securing 4th rank in 2017 as compared to 5th rank in 2016 behind Mauritius (rank 1, score 79.5), Seychelles (rank 2, score 73.2), and Cape Verde (rank 3, score 71.1). The score for Namibia is higher than the average for Africa (49.9) and for Southern Africa (57.1).

CHART: IBRAHIM INDEX OF AFRICAN GOVERNANCE - COUNTRY SCORES



OUTPUT 4.1 IMPROVE THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM WITH REGARDS TO DATA COLLECTION, STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL

The office of the Vice President was supported with the preparation of the state report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The report highlighted progress made in the implementation of laws and policies on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The UN also supported the establishment and strengthening of the National Disability Forum as an oversight mechanism for disability inclusion and affairs.

UN Namibia supported Namibia's participation in the third cycle review of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the Human Rights Council (HRC) on 3- 6 May 2021, as a State under Review. Namibia, as a second-time member of the HRC, supports this distinct and effective mechanism, which was designed to promote, support, and expand the protection of human rights on the ground.

The UN initiated support to the NPC and Ministry of Finance to craft the National Public-Private Sector Dialogue Platform as part of the J-SDG Fund Joint Programme. The UN responded to the Health Literacy Research and Practice to develop digital solutions to address COVID-19.

UN provided financial and technical support to the anti-corruption commission to enable the internal evaluation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) embedding citizens engagement in the interventions of the NACS. Together with other development partners, such as GIZ, the UN supported the NPC with the development of the National SDG Communication Strategy to strengthen advocacy for the SDGs. The UN supported a focus on citizens engagement using the SDG online hub hosted by Namibia Statistics Agency.

OUTPUT 4.2 STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE CAPACITY ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY, REPORTING AND SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENTS

Namibia is on track to meet indicators and international standards in term of civil society engagement and participation in HIV response and long-term sustainability. Civil society organisations (CSOs) are actively contributing to good governance through the Namibia Extra-ordinary National AIDS Executive Committee, the Country Coordination Mechanism (CCM) and their own network.

The MoHSS CCM for HIV, TB and Malaria renewed its mandate and invited CSOs to participate in the UN Joint team support. The processes involved consultation meetings with regional teams, CSOs and other partners. The UN provided advisory and technical support to strengthen combination prevention and enhance stigma and discrimination programming to improve the AIDS response in Namibia. The focus was on combination prevention and differentiated services. Maintaining this partnership means the UN Namibia can influence policy making and assist with resource mobilisation, thereby, reaching for our own goals of leaving no-one behind and protecting basic rights.



ResiliArt Namibia

COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Namibia's Cultural and Creative Industries

WED 20 MAY 2020

TUE 26 MAY 2020

THU 28 MAY 2020

ResiliArt Namibia



UN Namibia in partnership with the Directorate of Arts, Turipamwe Designs and Joe-Vision Production, joined the rest of the world by hosting three ResiliArt debates. Different players in the creative and cultural industry shared their experiences of the pandemic's impact on the sector during these debates. ©UNESCO

UN Namibia supported the Midterm Review of the National HIV Strategic Framework and the update of the HIV and AIDS and the Cities HIV plans. These reviews led to the effective mobilisation of USD 39 million from the Global Fund and USD 75 million from the PEPFAR Country Operational Plan 2020 Sustainability Index dashboard, civil society advocacy plan, and National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA). This resulted in Namibia leading the UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board and maintaining domestic resources at 64% to sustain the National AIDS response.

The UN trained three Government officials from three Government institutions on Building Resources in Democracy Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) methodology for elections, as part of the UN's support to the Local Authority and Regional Elections held in 2020. The UN also conducted capacity building and BRIDGE training for CSOs, Electoral Commission of Namibia and the Editors Forum to support local and regional elections.

Support was provided for laying the foundation for developing a National Monitoring and Evaluations Policy during 2021. This support, mainly focusing on enhancing the use of evidence for improved decision making, will benefit the Government in its submission for the SDG voluntary national reporting in 2021, and to develop a roadmap towards country-led evaluations. This support is geared toward setting systems and processes in place for Public Policy Development, Review, Evaluation and Coordination for the Acceleration of the SDGs in Namibia. A national steering committee is now set up that will ensure and guide Namibia's 2021 SDG Voluntary National Review.

2.3. SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS FORUM

The Development Partners Forum (DPF) is a fundamental platform where the Government and Development Partners, including the private sector, academia, research institutions, as well as civil society organisations, engage at the highest level to deliberate on coordinated support to NDPs and devise joint strategies going forward. The UN System in Namibia together with the Namibian Government, through the National Planning Commission (NPC), are the conveners and co-chairs of the DPF in the country.

There are over 100 Development Partners (DPs) and the list is growing through the involvement of more Partners from the private sector, academia and civil society. On average, more than 150 DPs attended the Forum meetings, including the COVID-19 meeting in April, the sub-group meetings for COVID-19 Health and Socio-Economic Response and Recovery, as well as the annual Development Partners meeting.

From the Namibian Government, the Ministry of International Relations and Co-operation and NPC have fulfilled the essential coordinating roles for the swift implementation of UN programmes, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of collective UN support for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

In 2020, a total of Eight Development Partners Meetings were convened as explained below:

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS JOIN HANDS ON COVID-19 RESPONSE IN NAMIBIA

A virtual Development Partners Meeting was held on 30 April 2020 to discuss how the DPs can work together to support the Government's COVID-19 response plan. The meeting was held as a first step to collect information to set up coordination mechanisms, which would then improve efficiency, reduce overlapping, make better use of resources, and ensure alignment to national priorities.

During the meeting, nine partners (UN, EU, US Government, French Embassy, UK High Commission, Finnish Embassy, Consulate General of Switzerland, World Bank, Africa Development Bank and a local NGO – Regain Trust) presented on their various response and recovery plans for COVID-19 to support the Government. Moving forward, the partners, in conjunction with NPC, decided to establish two working groups focusing on the health and socio-economic responses.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS COVID-19 HEALTH RESPONSE GROUP MEETINGS

The UN and the MoHSS convened three virtual meetings with key development partners in the country for the Health Sub-Group in June, July, and September. During the COVID-19 Health Response virtual meetings, partners provided feedback on their current contributions in response to the crisis. The broad feedback from the partners indicated that support to the Government spanned across all 9 pillars of the National Response Plan.

2020 ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS FORUM (DPF)

The Annual DPF for 2020 was held virtually in October 2020 under the theme Innovative Partnerships for Sustainable Socio-economic Growth to Accelerate the SDGs to Achieve Vision 2030. The aim was to promote innovative partnerships between the Government, Development Partners, private sector, and other stakeholders to support the key national initiatives under the four sub-themes of Health, Innovative Development Finance, Digital Technology and ICT, and Tourism. The Cross-cutting areas were Gender, Vulnerable Groups, Climate Change, Employment Creation and COVID-19. The four subgroups identified key findings and recommendations for the way forward.



◀ *Development Partners' deliberating during Forum.* ©UNNamibia

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR: BUY LOCAL/GROW NAMIBIA CAMPAIGN

The Buy Local/Grow Namibia 30-day national campaign was initiated to help grow the Namibian economy through innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships by five partners, namely,

- UN Namibia,
- Namibia Trade Forum,
- Team Namibia,
- The Namibian Newspaper, and
- Weathermen and Co.

The campaign was launched on 1 October 2020 at the United Nations House in Windhoek by the Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon Lucia Ipumbu. The purpose of the campaign was to remind Namibians that despite the challenging circumstances, we can build back better and stronger, if we are united in our goals. The campaign saw a great collaboration between entrepreneurs/manufacturers and five retailers (Spar Namibia, AGRA, Food Lovers Market, Pick 'n Pay and Shoprite/Checkers) who ensured that Namibian-made products were stocked on their shelves and are visible for consumers with clear Buy Local/Grow Namibia branding.

Buying / using locally produced goods and services is exercising one's power to support local producers, workers, the environment and the entire economy. This leads to sustainable economic growth.

The campaign created a buzz of #BuyLocal/GrowNamibia, #SpendLocal, #EnjoyLocal hashtags on social media, with consumers taking pictures of themselves buying local products or promoting SME's and traders in the informal sector on social media. The retailers also reported that local products lines were selling out as consumers were now more aware of which products were produced locally. This shows real impact on the ground.

“ For the UN System in Namibia, this campaign is close to our hearts, because it directly supports a sustainable and fairer recovery of the economy keeping the path for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 12, states the relevance of buying local, fostering the local economy, and reducing carbon footprint in our lifestyle. ”

SEN PANG, UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR, NAMIBIA

2.4. RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

This year saw Namibia receive its first United Nations Resident Coordinator (RC), Mr. Sen Pang. As Resident Coordinator, Mr. Pang is endowed with greater responsibilities and functions for UN coordination and leadership in the context of the UNDS reform. Mr. Pang presented his letter of credence to His Excellency President H. G. Geingob as the highest UN official and spokesperson of the UN Secretary General in Namibia on September 22, 2020.

Early in 2020, the Resident Coordinator's new profile and the reinvigorated UNCT started facilitating swift and coordinated support for the national response to COVID-19 and the drought in close coordination with national partners. Special efforts were dedicated to facilitating a wide range of technical assistance within the United Nations System.

The RC strengthened the technical coordination with Non-Resident Agencies (NRAs) in the framework of the UNPAF for providing an integrated response to national needs and tapping into a wide range of technical expertise within the UN family. OCHA, UNECA, UNDESA, UNWOMEN, UNIDO, WTO and OHCHR, engaged with the RC's Office, UNPAF results groups, and inter-agency task forces, facilitating integrated technical support and advice as integrated UN Namibia.



FAO life-savings interventions enabled 3,343 livestock dependent smallholder farming households to save their core breeding herd, thereby maintaining their livelihoods amidst the drought emergency. Up to 148,910 small stock (goats and sheep) and 25,580 cattle received fresh green barley fodder produced through hydroponics.

One of Rudolf Aibeb's calves feeding on hay. ©FAO

2.5. EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The joint response to the drought emergency saw various UN Agencies uniting their efforts. FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP implemented the project “19-RR-NAM-40495, Namibia Rapid Response Drought 2020”, which was funded by the UN CERF with USD 3 million. The multi-sectoral approach adopted by the CERF recipient Agencies facilitated the collaborative implementation of the life-savings interventions in the targeted Regions affected by the drought.

The life-savings interventions of WFP focused on the fight against malnutrition in the Namibian community, specifically targeting children under 5 years old and pregnant and lactating women, reaching out to 379,000 children and women. This mitigated the further deterioration of the malnutrition in affected communities where COVID-19 also impacted the coping mechanism of households.

The increased efforts for developing joint programmes to support key national initiatives in the context of the SDGs, resulted in the approval of the joint project “Strengthening Namibia’s Financing Architecture for Enhanced Quality & Scale of Financing for SDGs”, with a budget of USD 1 million, funded by the UN SDG Fund in support of the Integrated National Finance Framework in partnership with NPC and MoF.

The Operations Managers Team (OMT) successfully updated the Business Operations Strategy in accordance with the new guidelines and uploaded it to the new corporate platform. The OMT ensured an efficient use of funds for joint premises and services, having implemented 90% of its 2020 workplan targets and budget. The OMT also established common Long Term Agreements for design, layout, printing and editorial services, and freight forwarding, customs clearance and distribution services. A roundup of the COVID-19 developments, safety and precautionary measures were implemented at the UN House. This list of emergency and safety measures includes equipment for temperature screening, installation of a thermal detector system and visitor-security clearance entrance and the positioning of special medical waste bins throughout the common areas of the UN House.

The United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) re-aligned its annual workplan and UNPAF 2019-2023 Communication Strategy in support of the changing COVID-19 developments. The UNCG supported the CPRP Pillar on Risk Communication and Community Engagement to increase adherence to protective behaviours necessary to mitigate the spread of the virus. The internal and external communication plans supported effective planning and implementation of internal and public COVID-19 prevention and awareness raising campaigns in collaboration with the mainstream media along with timely integrated social media communication activities.

A UNICEF and UNFPA multi-sectoral joint initiative focused on the most vulnerable in society; children under-five, nutritionally vulnerable minority groups, communities at risk of Hepatitis E infection, children with disabilities and children at risk of exploitation and abuse.

The UN working together made great achievements in the support of the COVID-19 response and other activities. The interconnectedness of UNPAF pillars and results made delivering as one possible. The COVID-19 Socio-economic impact analysis and monitoring will inform the Economic Recovery Strategy, including a comprehensive social protection response.

The COVID-19 pandemic became a catalyst that shed light on the issue of violence (both challenges and opportunities) as the pandemic reminded us of the importance of coordination and partnerships. It brought to light the importance of caring for frontline responders (police, social workers, mental health practitioners, health workers, etc.). It was noted that mobile outreach services are effective to serve the most marginalised/ remote rural populations with SGBV services.

“MY PURPOSE IN LIFE HAS BEEN CLEAR”

– ESTER SHIFOTOKA

“Ensuring rights and choices for all” is a personal battle cry for Ester Shifotoka. Shifotoka, along with her UN colleagues, supplied drought affected communities with dignity kits as well as information on Gender-based Violence services.

“I have always been passionate about community development, especially issues affecting women and young girls. Seeing the faces of the beneficiaries filled with so much hope and gratitude towards the donations has been heartwarming,” says Shifotoka.

About 9,500 dignity kits and 183 reproductive health kits were distributed in the Kavango West, Ohangwena, Omusati, Kunene, Omaheke, and Zambezi Regions as part of a project spearheaded by UN Namibia called “Ensuring Life-saving Gender-based Violence Assistance to Women and Girls in Drought-Affected Regions of Namibia”.

Ester explains that she is happy to work for an organisation that shares her values; “I wake up with a grateful heart and the zeal to work hard every day, knowing that my efforts are contributing towards changing lives and ensuring a better tomorrow.”



▲ Ester Shifotoka, her UN colleagues along with beneficiaries of the dignity kits. ©UNFPA



▲ UN Namibia employee, Gebhardt Tjiho, on a call during a visit to a project site in the Hardap Region. ©FAO

“TO SERVE IS A PRIVILEGE I DO NOT TAKE LIGHTLY”

– GEBHARDT TJIHO

Following the Namibian Government’s declaration of the State of Emergency in 2016, owing to the prolonged drought situation in the country, numerous relief projects were initiated by the United Nations in Namibia. These aim to lessen the harsh impacts of this natural disaster, especially upon vulnerable communities.

At the forefront of one of those projects was Gebhardt Tjiho, a UN Staff member, who worked tirelessly in implementing a project which provided alternative means of producing livestock feed for drought-stricken farming households through using simple hydroponic fodder production structures.

Gebhardt was tasked with the overall management of the entire project, including having to ensure the delivery of key activities, outputs, and outcomes. “As a new employee at the UN, I found the experience quite challenging and yet refreshing at the same time,” says Gebhardt. “From the onset I appreciated the opportunity to be able to contribute meaningfully to the betterment of my fellow countrymen’s livelihoods as they battled the severe drought,” he continued. “UN Namibia is doing a fantastic job in supporting the Namibian Government to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals as well as availing assistance whenever there are life and livelihood threatening emergencies,” Gebhardt concluded.



◀ *Veronika and family received food assistance.* ©WFP

Distribution of maize. ©WFP



◀ *Children holding fresh fodder derived from a structure located in Amalia, a small village south of Namibia.* ©FAO

2.6. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

In 2019, the UN System approved the Joint Partnership and Resource Mobilisation Strategy. This Strategy is now serving as the tool for Joint Resource Mobilisation efforts of the Country Team and the Joint Workplan of the UNPAF that is aligned to NDP 5. The strategy considers the challenges of reduced development funding for an Upper-Middle Income Country like Namibia.

Currently, UN Namibia is in the process of consulting and designing a joint pooled fund; “The Decade of Action Acceleration Fund”. This will be used as a vehicle to mobilise resources towards common goals in terms of SDGs and national recovery areas, with broad participation from the private sector, development partners, Government and philanthropists. This fund will be used to fund activities in the UNPAF’s joint workplan in identified priority areas as per consultations with the relevant stakeholders. The focus areas of the fund will be adapted to the current environment.

CENTRAL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (CERF)

As an essential enabler of global humanitarian action, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Rapid Response window allowed UN Namibia to kick-start relief efforts in support of the drought situation in the country. In 2019, the joint proposal submitted by FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, was approved and USD 3 million allocated in support of Namibia’s 2020 drought relief interventions.

SDG FUND

UN Namibia also submitted a joint proposal to the UN SDG Fund for component 1 to support the Integrated National Finance Framework in partnership with the NPC and the MoF. The proposal was approved for “Strengthening Namibia’s Financing Architecture for Enhanced Quality & Scale of Financing for SDGs” for USD 1 million.

UNAIDS GLOBAL FUND

UN supported the Government to mobilise NAD 39.56 million to support the HIV, TB and Malaria programmes and strengthen health and community systems for the period 2021-2023. MoHSS was supported with NAD 3.3 million from the Global Fund COVID-19 Response Mechanism to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on HIV/TB/Malaria programmes. This includes the strengthening of health and community-based services and support systems.

ECHO

WFP and UNICEF were granted EUR 2 million by ECHO for the project “Food Assistance and Emergency Nutrition Support to COVID-19 and Drought Affected Persons”. UNICEF and WFP jointly address the immediate food and nutrition needs of populations in two Regions that are facing severe food insecurity focused on people living in informal settlements in Khomas and communities severely affected by years of consecutive drought and compounded by COVID-19 in Omusati.

UNPAF FINANCIAL DELIVERY - 2020 JOINT WORK PLAN

ECONOMIC PROGRESSION

OUTCOME 1.1

By 2023, institutions implement policies for inclusive development and poverty reduction for vulnerable groups



Core Funds Agencies, Delegation of the European Union to Namibia



2,244,952.29



1,268,583.23

HEALTH

OUTCOME 2.1

By 2023, 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)



Core Funds Agencies, The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), USAID, Global Fund and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and European Commission's Humanitarian Office (ECHO) supported Nutrition interventions in Namibia. The CERF project ended in 2020 and the ECHO project started in mid-2020.



4,818,630



4,903,966.78

EDUCATION

OUTCOME 2.2

By 2023, vulnerable children and young people in Namibia have equitable access to inclusive quality education and life-long learning



Core Funds Agencies and Delegation of the European Union (EU)



1,697,551



805,679.44

PROTECTION AGAINST VIOLENCE

OUTCOME 2.3

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



Core Funds Agencies



588,513



381,409.71

SOCIAL PROTECTION

OUTCOME 2.4

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



Core Funds Agencies



574,524



491,774.51

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

OUTCOME 3.1

By 2023, vulnerable populations in disaster prone areas and biodiversity sensitive areas are resilient to shocks and climate change effects and benefit from natural resources management



Core Funds Agencies, Central Emergency Response Fund



4,071,819.63



5,252,164.70

GOOD GOVERNANCE

OUTCOME 4.1

By 2023, government institutions at national and regional level are accountable and transparent, engaging citizens in participatory decision-making processes



Core Funds Agencies, Delegation of the European Union to Namibia



1,693,051.60



559,141.74

KEY



Source of funds



Available Resources (2020)



Expenditure (2020)



15,689,041.52



13,662,720.11

CHAPTER 3

The Namibian economy is projected to grow by 2.6% in 2021 and 3.3% in 2022. However, the country still faces substantial risks and challenges in the short to medium term. For instance, if the pandemic continues, the revival of critical sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and retail and wholesale trade would be slower than anticipated. Sluggish global economic growth would also hold down exports and foreign direct investment inflows. The fiscal deficit and public debt levels are expected to remain elevated as the Government implements its ambitious economic recovery programme of NAD 8.1 billion (USD 0.5 billion), and limits the fiscal space needed for infrastructure and human capital investment.

Inflationary pressures are expected to rise in 2021 and 2022 with anticipated increases in prices of housing, utilities, and food and non-alcoholic beverages, coupled with a steady depreciation of the Namibian Dollar, which fell by 7% against the US dollar during 2020. The negative net exports will continue to weigh on aggregate demand despite the anticipated narrowing of the current account deficit in 2021. Other factors that risk eroding Namibia's economic outlook include high unemployment levels and widening income inequality, which have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

There is the opportunity to leverage regional instruments including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), to access regional markets and stimulate investment, infrastructure, R&D and industrialisation, with prospects for increasing the country's fiscal space and enhancing inclusive, private sector-led growth.

About 70% of the population depends on agriculture, directly or indirectly, for their livelihoods. This industry requires strategic investment and the management of vulnerability to shocks such as drought. The expected growth in mining will require added investment and complimentary actions on beneficiation and value addition. The services sector is set to recover as tourism recovers. Through the Port of Walvis Bay, Namibia solidifies her role as a logistics hub in the region.

Mbete Tjiposa, an elder in the Ovahimba community, walking in her village during drought season in Opuwo, Kunene region. ©UNICEF

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the key focus of the UNCT for 2021 within the UNPAF will be recovery with a multidimensional approach:

- Social protection and safety nets: paying special attention to empowering women, youth, and children, and supporting protection from violence, abuse, and exploitation.
- Support the strengthening and efficiency of the health system and delivery of emergency and essential services, with focus on the national vaccination programme.
- Economic recovery: promoting MSMEs and green job opportunities for youth and women and vulnerable groups.
- Climate change, resilience and HIV and AIDS will continue to be crosscutting topics in all initiatives.
- Strengthening partnerships for SDG acceleration and financing.





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