



# Namibia

UN COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT 2023



UNITED NATIONS  
NAMIBIA





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# Foreword

by the resident  
coordinator

As the United Nations in Namibia presents its 2023 Country Results Report, we reflect on a year filled with significant achievements and crucial transitions. This report highlights our collective efforts and unwavering commitment to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Namibia amidst global challenges and local opportunities.

The year 2023 marked the end of the current United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) for 2019-2023. Its alignment with Namibia's national priorities and timelines warranted an extension to ensure continuity and strategic focus. As we transition, the United Nations is keenly developing the new Cooperation Framework for 2025-2029, expected to align with Namibia's National Development Plan 6, currently under development. This alignment reinforces our commitment to supporting Namibia's developmental agenda and ensuring no one is left behind.

Economic progression has been at the forefront of our efforts, addressing Namibia's needs for economic diversification amid global crises, emphasizing the transition towards a Human Rights Economy. Our focus on inclusive growth within sectors that create jobs aims to address the structural challenges of inequality, unemployment, and poverty, underlining the necessity for innovative approaches to sustainable economic development.

Social transformation remains a core pillar of our work. While Namibia's commitment to enhancing health and education is commendable, aligning these efforts with tangible outcomes remains challenging. Achievements in gender equality and social justice stress the importance of providing opportunities and integrated services to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, ensuring equitable access to services and rights for all.

In terms of environmental sustainability, Namibia's initiatives in environmental protection, climate adaptation and mitigation, and exploring green hydrogen investments are significant. Tackling environmental vulnerabilities and climate change-related risks demands enhanced financing, capacity building, and community engagement in our shared responsibility or the environment.

Good governance stands as a cornerstone of Namibia's progress, demonstrated by its political stability and representation of women in parliament. Promoting civic engagement, participation, transparency, and accountability is essential for enhancing policy dialogue, coordination, and strengthening data systems for people-centric governance.

Partnerships and financing have played a pivotal role in our journey. Innovative financing models and strategic partnerships have been crucial in advancing the SDGs. The establishment of the Sovereign Wealth Fund and Namibia's bid to become a Pathfinder Country under the UN Secretary-General's Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection are testaments to our commitment to leveraging investments for sustainable development and ensuring that no one is left behind.

We extend our gratitude to the Government of Namibia, development partners, and the private sector for their steadfast support and collaboration. Through our combined efforts, we aim to advance human rights, mitigate unemployment, poverty, and inequality, and expedite the achievement of the SDGs in Namibia.

Looking forward, the United Nations in Namibia remains committed to supporting the Government and people of Namibia in realizing their developmental goals. Our continued partnership and unified vision for a sustainable and prosperous Namibia are the foundation of our collective success.

Together, we advance with optimism and resolve, ready to confront the challenges and seize the opportunities that our journey towards sustainable development for all.



**Hopolang Phororo**  
UN Resident Coordinator

# UN Country Team



Following the transformative reform of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) initiated by the UN Secretary-General in 2019, the United Nations in Namibia has renewed its dedication to the “Delivering as One” principle. This methodology, embraced by Namibia in 2009, strives to unify the efforts of UN entities within the nation to enhance efficiency and amplify impact. At the heart of the UNDS reform is the revitalization of the Resident Coordination system alongside the introduction of a novel generation of UN Country Teams (UNCTs), aimed at offering streamlined, unified, and coordinated support to countries. This initiative is designed to aid in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals with greater efficacy.

By 2018, nearly 17 UN agencies, funds, and programmes had pledged their support to the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) for 2019-2023, establishing a crucial strategic alliance with the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN). This partnership signifies a collective resolve to tackle the developmental challenges and priorities of the nation.

The implementation of the UNDS reform since 2020 has marked a notable progression for the United Nations in Namibia. It has enabled a more focused response to national priorities through the utilization of specialized

technical assistance available within the extensive UN network. Key contributions from entities such as the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, International Labour Organization have been pivotal. Orchestrated by the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO), these initiatives represent a synergized and strategic support framework. This collaborative model ensures that the aid provided is not only cohesive but also strategically aligned with the developmental objectives of Namibia, thereby enhancing the efficacy of the UN’s support in the country.

A significant portion of these UN entities are based in Namibia, offering immediate support on the ground, while others contribute through specialised expertise housed within the Resident Coordinator’s office or through strategic assistance from their global headquarters or regional offices. This multifaceted approach highlights the UN’s commitment to addressing the unique needs of Namibia, leveraging the comprehensive capabilities of the UN system to fulfil the UNPAF commitments and bolster collective strength.

# Key development partners

## of the UN development system in the country

The United Nations System in Namibia, in partnership with the National Planning Commission, is central to orchestrating dialogues among the nation’s development partners. Namibia is home to a dynamic consortium of over 100 development partners, witnessing increasing engagement from the private sector, academic institutions, and civil society organisations.

The Development Partners Forum, jointly organised by the UN and the National Planning Commission, successfully convened an average of over 150 participants for its sessions. Notable among these gatherings was a dedicated session in April aimed at addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside focused discussions on health and socio-economic strategies to navigate the pandemic’s impact and facilitate recovery, in addition to the regular annual meeting of Development Partners.

**Key international contributors to the implementation of the United Nations Partnership and Acceleration Framework (UNPAF) 2019-2023 comprise:**

- The European Union Delegation
- The US Government, through initiatives like USAID and PEPFAR
- The German Embassy
- The Japanese Embassy
- The UK High Commission
- The French Embassy

**On the national front, the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO) and the National Planning Commission (NPC) have played a vital role in orchestrating the effective execution of UN programmes. Key government ministries actively involved in this process encompass:**

- The Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare
- The Ministry of Health and Social Services
- The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
- The Ministry of Industrialization, Trade, and SME Development
- The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

**These cooperative efforts underline the collective effort and commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Namibia.**



# Chapter 1

## 1.1 Key developments in the country and regional context

**Namibia, an Upper Middle-Income Country, has demonstrated progress in advancing its national Vision 2030 and aligning with the 2030 Agenda, through prudent economic management and sustained political stability. Despite these advances, Namibia contends with significant inequality, exacerbated by an economic downturn beginning in 2016, climate-related disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the recent conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which have impeded progress on certain Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Nevertheless, the prospects for implementing innovative policies, programmes, and development financing strategies present a pathway for SDGs acceleration.**

### PEOPLE AND LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND (LNOB)

Namibia's dedication to the social sector, demonstrated by significant resource allocation, is commendable, yet aligning these efforts with actual results remain challenging. Despite impressive school enrolment, increasing dropout and failure rates are troubling. Health outcomes have improved, shown by a rise in life expectancy and overall population health, and government health spending has spiked, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, compared to the UMIC average, the nation lags in health metrics, partly due to limited rural access. Food and nutrition insecurity, particularly stunting, is severe, mirroring UMIC levels, worsened by the rural-urban split, multidimensional poverty, and inadequate production capacity.

Although there has been progress in frameworks supporting gender equality, poverty remains gendered, characterized by unequal access to, control over, and benefits from resources like capital and land. Gender-based violence continues to breach human rights extensively. Despite comprehensive laws and policies, violence against children and adolescents persists. Indigenous peoples suffer compounded discrimination and disadvantages, placing them at significant risk of being left behind. Consequently, various groups are vulnerable, underlining the urgent need for sustained social protection efforts, broadening access, and providing integrated services to all Namibians, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised communities. Establishing a connection between the economy and social outcomes through social justice is crucial.

### PROSPERITY

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

### PLANET

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



## PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

While Namibia has maintained political stability with regular elections, there is concern regarding low civic engagement in public affairs and the limited space for enhancing participation, transparency, and accountability. Since the 2019 elections, Namibia's bicameral parliament comprises 48% women as its members. However, there is still a need to enhance policy dialogue, coordination, and implementation across various sectors, including health, education, environment, food systems, employment, and economic productivity and trade. Namibia possesses a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) and engages with human rights mechanisms through its National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up, although certain reports are overdue. In June 2022, the National Assembly adopted the Access to Information Bill. Corruption remains a challenge for Namibia. Treaty bodies have expressed concern over reports of torture and ill-treatment in police cells and detention facilities, as well as harassment and discrimination against LGBTQI+ individuals, sex workers, refugees, and asylum-seekers. In 2022, CEDAW noted a high number of unregistered births, especially in rural areas, highlighting the urgent need to improve data systems to ensure timely and adequately disaggregated data.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING

To diversify domestic revenue streams, Namibia is exploring alternative financing sources through various partnerships. The government remains the primary driver in mobilizing funds for national development, with tax and Southern African Customs Union (SACU) receipts dominating the national revenue stream. However, the increasing debt-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio poses a risk to the country's credit rating and future borrowing capacity. Over the years, the budget deficit has widened, resulting in a shrinking fiscal space. Furthermore, external aid and grants have decreased significantly since Namibia was classified as an upper-middle-income country. Namibia is among the pilot countries implementing Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFF) for national development plans and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additionally, the country has applied to become a Pathfinder Country under the UN Secretary-General's Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection, aiming to attract investments towards Leave No One Behind (LNOB) initiatives.

In 2022, Namibia established its Sovereign Wealth Fund. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) issued the first Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) in the country's independent history in 2021, aimed at COVID-19 recovery. Namibia also issued Namibian Green & Sustainability Bonds, positioning itself as a leader on the continent in this regard. Prospects for climate financing and investments in green and blue initiatives appear promising, following Namibia's active engagement in key processes such as COP27. Development finance institutions and International Financial Institutions (IFIs), including the African Development Bank, IMF, and KfW, are increasing their involvement and directing resources towards recovery efforts. Emerging cross-cutting opportunities for the Means of Implementation for the SDGs in Namibia include data management, private sector engagement, and South-South cooperation.





# Chapter 2

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

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### 2.1 Overview of Cooperation Framework Results

The strategic partnership between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the United Nations Development System, embodied in the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) for the years 2019 to 2023, marks a pivotal advancement in realizing key national strategies such as the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP 5), the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), and the Blueprint for Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication. These strategies are integral to achieving the aspirations outlined in Namibia's Vision 2030. Committed to the "Delivering as One" principle, the United Nations is dedicated to improving the coherence and efficacy of its contributions towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the African Union Agenda 2063, and upholding Namibia's commitments to human rights under global conventions and treaties.

The development of UNPAF 2019-2023 is deeply influenced by Namibia's national ambitions, particularly those detailed in NDP 5, HPP, and the Blueprint for Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication, aligning with the worldwide 2030 Agenda. This strategic framework aims to combat poverty and foster equality by committing to development initiatives, adhering to human rights norms, and adopting a holistic strategy towards sustainable development and governance. UNPAF delineates four principal areas of focus that mirror the essential elements of NDP 5: Economic Progression, Social Transformation, Environmental Sustainability, and Good Governance, with a particular emphasis on certain SDGs, most notably reducing inequalities (SDG 10) and enhancing partnerships and data management systems (SDG 17).

Focusing on the pillars of NDP 5, the first area, Economic Progression, involves the United Nations utilizing its expertise in capacity building to fill implementation voids and

bolster initiatives aimed at economic growth, development of sectors with high employment potential, and fortification against external pressures. This strategy is directed at cultivating an economic environment conducive to the burgeoning young and urban demographic, through enhanced value addition and promotion of local content.

The second pillar, seeks to nurture a robust and healthy human resource base, intersecting with the United Nations' prowess in health, education, violence prevention, and social security. With NDP 5 identifying thirteen key areas within this realm, the United Nations' efforts are encapsulated in four primary outcomes, evidencing its dedication to amplifying human resource capacity within Namibia.

Environmental sustainability, the third pillar, emphasizes the stewardship and safeguarding of natural resources and the environment, particularly supporting communities at risk from climate change and environmental disturbances.

This focus area reflects the United Nations' commitment to pursuing sustainable development through the judicious management of natural resources, ensuring no one is left behind.

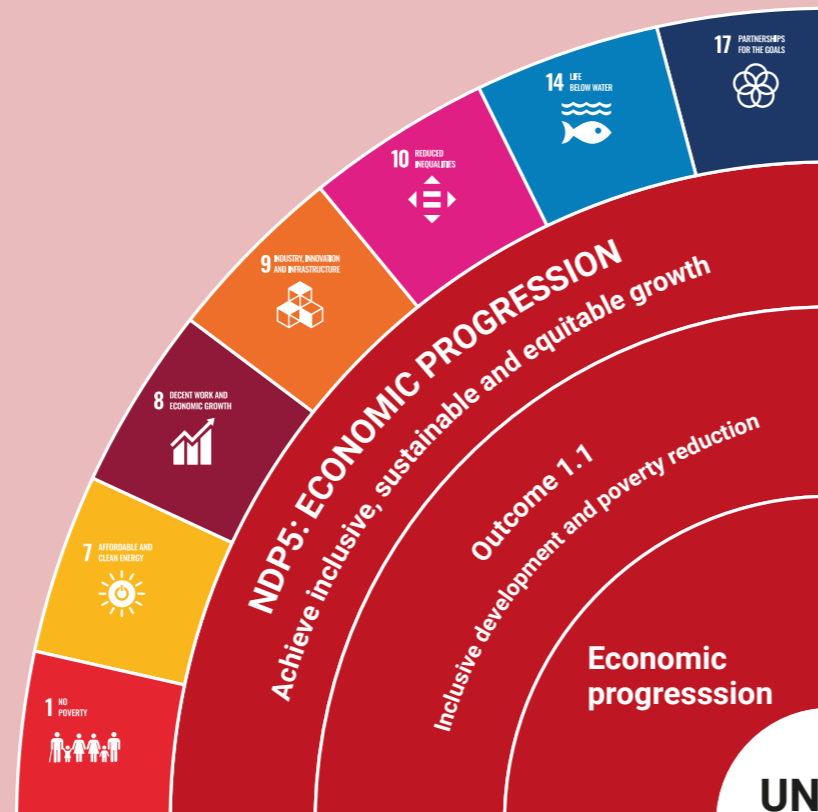
Lastly, the Good Governance pillar is aimed at fostering transparency, accountability, and civic participation by bolstering national and regional governance structures. The United Nations is intent on establishing a supportive backdrop for effective governance, in line with Namibia's international commitments under international conventions and treaties.

This holistic strategy under UNPAF showcases a thorough plan to assist Namibia in meeting its development objectives, enhancing the synergy between the Government of Namibia and the United Nations in their pursuit of sustainable development, effective governance, and the realization of human rights.



## Economic Progression

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



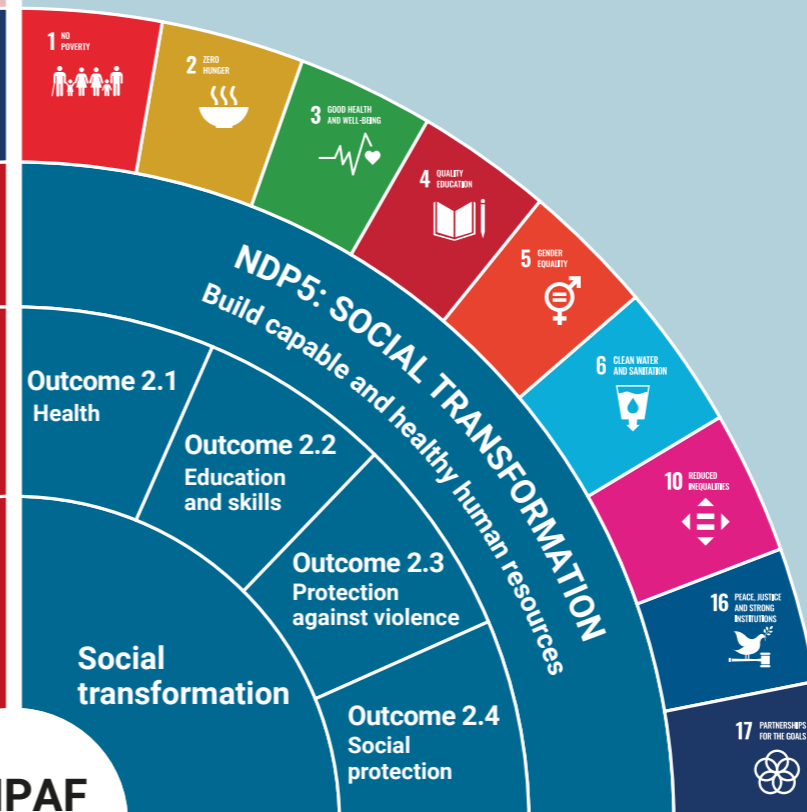
## Social Transformation

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)

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

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

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



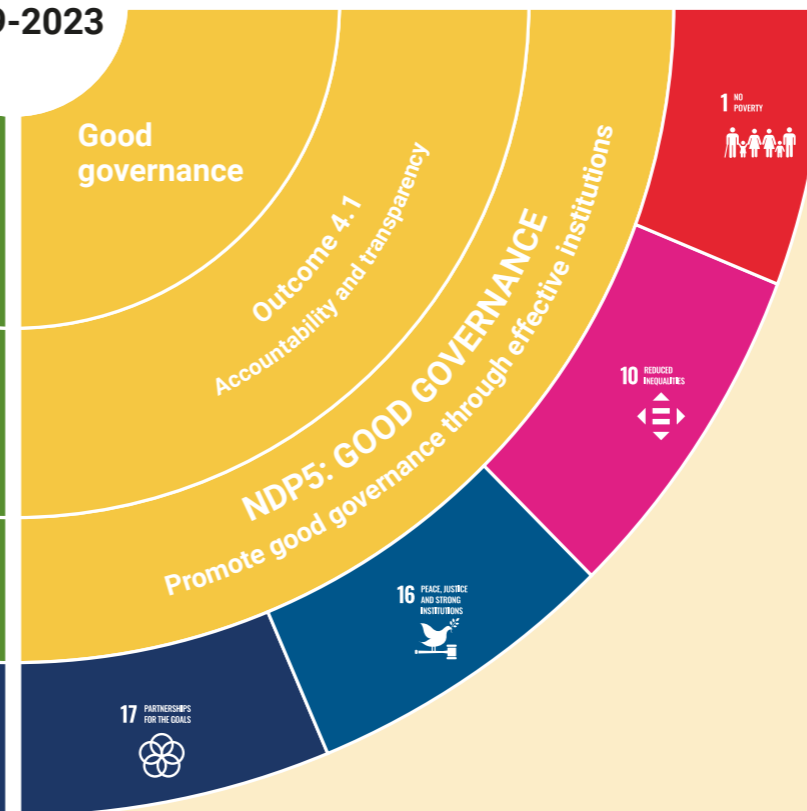
## Environmental Sustainability

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



## Good Governance

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







## 2.2 Cooperation Framework priorities, outcomes and outputs

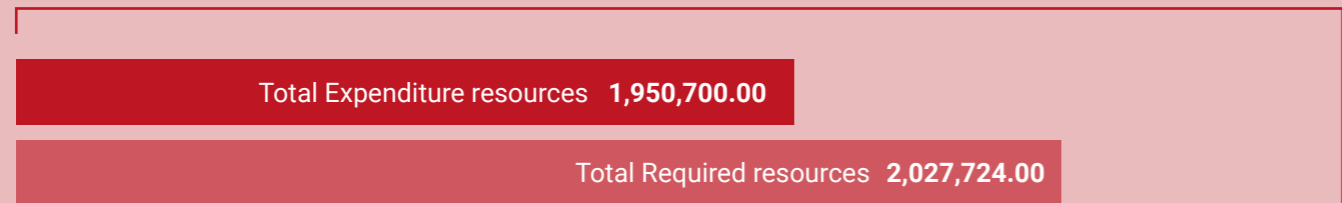
# Economic Progression Pillar



### Outcome 1.1 Inclusive development and poverty reduction

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

Total available resources 3,154,500.00



Agencies: FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women, WFP

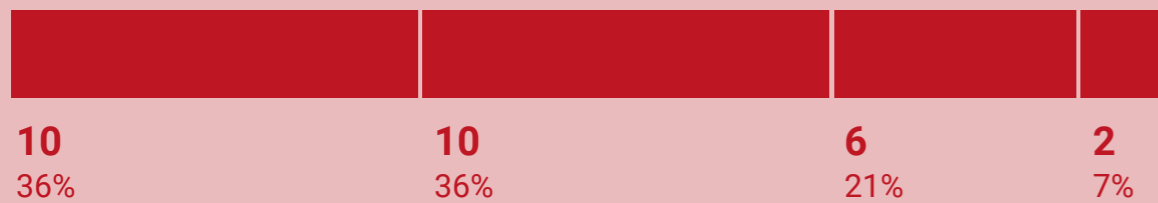
### Activities

0 - Not expected to contribute to gender equality/women's empowerment

1 - Contributes to gender equality/women's empowerment in a limited way

2 - Gender equality/women's empowerment is a significant objective

3 - Gender equality/women's empowerment is the principal objective



#### Output 1.1.1 - Vulnerable groups are empowered with knowledge and skills and participate in economic activities

The Government of Namibia has significantly advanced its capacity to conduct both sectoral and national Employment Impact Assessments (EmplAs), laying the groundwork for the development of an innovative National Employment Policy (NEP) that embraces a comprehensive cross-governmental approach and the inclusion of social partners. The NEP3 framework has been meticulously crafted, delineating essential policy elements, including action programmes and priorities designed to catalyse job creation. Furthermore, the Employment Public Expenditure Review has been finalized, informing the design of Pro-Employment and Gender Budgeting Toolkits, currently under discussion for adoption to promote employment and gender-friendly budgeting across OMAS. Capacity-building support for creating jobs for youth has been extended through a Youth Employment Academy, aimed at gaining knowledge from the experiences of other countries to address the youth employment challenge.

In the fishing sector, a Strategic Compliance Plan (SCP) was piloted to implement the ILO Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No.188), focusing on aspects such as overtime, meal intervals, and rest periods. The Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR), and the Ministry of Works and Transport (MWT) successfully conducted the first-ever joint labour inspection of vessels

and docks. This inspection covered 306 fishermen on board fishing vessels, 294 workers employed by fishing companies, and 12 vessel managers. The SCP led to the development of model contracts for both fixed-term and indefinite-term contracts for fishermen and the gazetting of variations of Chapter 3 of the Labour Act. These provisions aimed to enhance decent working conditions for fishers in accordance with Convention No. 188. Furthermore, a social media campaign was launched to promote a toolkit on the fisheries supply chain, which included a Field Guide on Labour Inspection on Board Fishing Vessels and two leaflets: one on "Basic Employment Conditions for Decent Work" and another on "How to Stay Safe While Working On a Fishing Vessel At Sea." These resources were designed to assist labour inspectors, shop stewards, fisheries inspectors, and fisheries observers in their work.

Following consultations with social partners, the Government of the Republic of Namibia adopted a report prepared by a tripartite Wages Commission, which proposed the establishment of a statutory national minimum wage. This decision was informed by an economic analysis conducted to supplement the report of the Wages Commission, which assessed the potential benefits and impacts on workers' incomes and enterprise sustainability of setting a minimum wage at the proposed level of N\$18.00. Two rounds of consultations were conducted separately with workers' and employers' organisations. The Minister has yet to make the final decision regarding the establishment of the minimum wage.



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The UN has played a pivotal role in enhancing the economic participation of small-scale fishers through initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries. These efforts have focused on building the capacities of marginalized communities and leading Small Scale Fisheries Organization (SSFO) towards gender equality and climate resilience. Such initiatives have significantly contributed to the effective management of SSFOs and the adoption of sustainable fishery practises.

In support of the Namibian Government's aim to diversify development finance sources beyond domestic public funding, the UN has facilitated the development of several key documents. These include a Digital Finance Ecosystem Assessment (FEA), an Integrated National Financing Strategy (INFS), and an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), all aimed at fostering financial inclusion and promoting sustainable economic growth through digital finance. Moreover, the UN has assisted in the creation of the SDG Push, Integrated SDG Insights Report, and SDG Investor Map, which collectively aim to advance Namibia's achievement of its economic development targets and SDGs.

#### Capacity Building and Diversification of Rural Livelihoods

With the support of the United Nations and international partners, there have been notable advancements in fortifying the capabilities of communities considered vulnerable. This has been achieved through customised training sessions, the provision of assets that build resilience, and the introduction of cutting-edge agricultural technologies,

all of which have empowered these communities, diversified their economic activities, and bolstered their self-sufficiency.

To enhance agricultural production and diversify rural livelihoods, the UN has provided substantial support to the government in strengthening the capacities of 653 smallholder farmers (46% of whom are women), three smallholder farmer aggregation systems, and 259 vulnerable households, impacting approximately 1,295 individuals, particularly women and youth. This assistance encompassed a range of agricultural inputs, improvements in infrastructure, training in sustainable agricultural practises, and facilitated access to markets for their products. As a result, there was a significant increase in the production of horticultural and poultry products—exceeding 100 metric tons (MTs)—generating income over USD 28,000 and leading to the creation of 368 short-term and long-term jobs.

The UN collaborated with the Africa Economic Leadership Council to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the informal sector and promoting Intra-Africa Trade through the Discover Namibia Expo and Business Summit. This event facilitated knowledge exchange, encouraged cross-border trade, and provided a platform for 70 MSMEs and township enterprises.

Furthermore, the UN has empowered youth and women within the informal sector, sparking economic growth and job creation by supporting 44 entrepreneurs through the EMPRETEC, OMSEED, and FABRICA projects. These projects offered access to marketing networks, legal counsel, and financial management resources. In addition, the UN strengthened the capabilities of the Namibia Informal

Sector Organization (NISO) by organizing consultations nationwide to develop a strategic document aimed at ensuring NISO's financial and operational sustainability. These efforts are intended to bolster NISO's support system within the ecosystem, benefiting entrepreneurs by equipping them with the necessary resources and support to thrive economically.

A total of 29 agricultural extension officers acquired skills through Training of Trainers on the Farmer Field School Approach. This initiative aims to enable them to deliver effective extension services to more farmers in their respective regions, ultimately enhancing agricultural productivity.

In collaboration with Tololi, a Namibian youth-led company, the UN launched an e-commerce platform, successfully enabling 117 smallholder farmers from the Ohangwena region to supply fresh produce to schools as part of the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme.

The UN has also supported a specialized Incubation Program for informal vendors, concentrating on enhancing their business literacy and digital trade skills, especially for users of the Namibian e-commerce platform Tambula. This programme trained entrepreneurs in e-commerce tactics and introduced them to the digital marketplace, enabling them to succeed in online markets. Upon completion, vendors joined the platform to autonomously manage their storefronts, handling transactions, orders, deliveries, and inventory.

In response to the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) outbreak in northern communal areas, the UN provided emergency response equipment, vaccines, and

farmer training on disease surveillance, prevention, and control, thereby enhancing the government's capability for livestock movement control and traceability.

Lastly, the UN collaborated with the Financial Literacy Initiative (FLI) and Kongalend Financial Services to inaugurate a mentoring and financial literacy programme aimed at empowering rural women and youth, including vulnerable and marginalized communities across Namibia. This initiative has imparted financial literacy to 130 individuals, directly affecting over 400 people with vital sexual and reproductive health services and information, including GBV.

#### Output 1.1.2 - Government capacity strengthened in areas of programme design and implementation of programmes in agriculture, research, innovation and industrialisation

The United Nations played a crucial role in the assessment of the Wages Commission report, leading to its presentation to the Minister, marking a significant move in shaping the discourse on the proposed minimum wage. This initiative highlights a commitment to enhancing labour standards and establishing equitable wages for workers, thus reinforcing the internal economic framework. This measure aims to ensure workers are compensated fairly, contributing to an overarching strategy to improve work conditions comprehensively.

Furthermore, the UN facilitated Basic Safety and Familiarization training for labour and industry inspectors, representing a significant step forward in enforcing



employment regulations. By equipping inspectors with vital skills and certifications, the government's capability to oversee and ensure worker safety and welfare in maritime and other industries has been substantially improved. This action not only bolsters the government's regulatory framework but also benefits workers by creating safer work environments, thereby safeguarding their well-being.

In the fisheries sector, the UN has enhanced the government's and stakeholders' capacity in import risk analysis and diagnosis of aquatic species. Through Level 3 diagnosis Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) training, 30 government staff members and small-scale farmers, including 12 women and 18 men, were trained, strengthening the safeguarding of aquatic animal health and promoting sustainable livelihoods derived from aquatic resources.

The UN also assisted the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform in evaluating the Comprehensive Conservation Agriculture Programme (CCAP) for 2015/16 to 2019/20. This evaluation and wide consultation informed the development of the New CCAP for 2022/23 to 2026/27, which, after being endorsed by the government, is now set for implementation. The new CCAP is anticipated to enhance agricultural production and productivity through the adoption of conservation agriculture and best practises.

Moreover, the UN supported the government through the Food system convener in drafting and presenting a food system stocktaking report, as well as facilitating government participation in the food system stocktaking event in Rome in July 2023. These efforts aim to position Namibia for a sustainable transformation of its food systems.

The UN has advocated for initiatives under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and various programmes designed to empower women and youth in trade. This support has enhanced capacities and fostered innovation in the energy sector. Additionally, it has also contributed to achieving several Sustainable Development Goals.

Additionally, the UN facilitated the participation of young leaders from the Indigenous Minority Youth Organization at the YouthConnekt Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, providing an international platform for these marginalized youth to share their perspectives and learn from lessons and knowledge shared.

The UN also provided financial and technical assistance to the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade for the establishment of a Blended and Revolving funding mechanism,

targeting a broad spectrum of SDGs with the aim of catalyzing private investment in MSMEs, with a focus on sustainability and gender inclusivity to ensure the fund's long-term success.

Lastly, the UN supported the auditing of the National Budget in relation to SDGs, aiming to align and develop the capacity of national officers in integrating SDGs into development planning and finance.

### **Output 1.1.3 - Reliable data and evidence produced informing targeting and programming**

The United Nations has notably bolstered institutional frameworks to foster a supportive environment for youth and women entrepreneurs in the MSME sector. This includes backing the Namibia Statistics Agency in conducting a survey to gauge the volume of informal cross-border trade, particularly with Angola and Zambia.

The UN has aided the government in creating a foundation aimed at enhancing informed decision-making in agricultural development and rural statistics. This initiative is poised to significantly boost the sustainability and productivity of the agriculture sector. In preparation for the 2025 Census of Agriculture, technical support was extended, encompassing stakeholder consultations and the formulation of a project document. Such endeavors are expected to improve the collection and management of agricultural data.

To bolster the efforts of the retail sector's charter council for both domestic and international markets, the UN partnered with the Namibia Trade Forum to carry out a market intelligence study. This study revealed an existing demand for locally produced commodities, both within and outside Namibia.

The establishment of the SMSD, with guidance from the UN, marks a crucial development in data management for sustainable growth. This integrated data production and analysis framework aids in the detailed examination of various development indicators, facilitating the creation of aligned policies for sustainable growth objectives.

The implementation of Namibia's Tourism Satellite Account, sponsored by the UN in partnership with UNECA, MEFT, and NTB, has been instrumental in the development of a sustainable tourism industry. This initiative allows for an in-depth evaluation of tourism's economic performance and its contribution to GDP, guiding strategic sector development.

In collaboration with the University of Maryland and NASA Harvest, the UN enhanced the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform's capabilities in Namibia for crop yield estimation and food security assessment. Through this capacity-building initiative, 77 agricultural extension officers received training in remote sensing yield forecast models and the use of mobile-based applications. This effort improved the accuracy, accessibility, and readiness of crop production and food security data. The ministry gained from this collaboration by adopting advanced technologies in remote sensing and artificial intelligence, facilitating the collection of accurate and timely data.

The UN-enabled analysis and subsequent report on estimating Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) in Namibia have highlighted significant financial challenges that the country faces. Currently awaiting Cabinet approval, this report stands ready to inform policy decisions focused on curbing financial leakages and bolstering economic integrity.

The submission of the Namibia Global Accelerator Roadmap to the SDGs Summit & High-Level Impact Event, supported by the UN, showcases a strategic commitment to harmonizing national development initiatives with global Sustainable Development Goals. This initiative, underpinned by the establishment of Namibia's Steering Committee and National Global Accelerator Team, represents a dedicated effort towards sustainable development through unified action and collaboration.

The UN aided the government in developing a comprehensive financing strategy to mobilize both domestic and international public and private resources, highlighting a strategic method for financing sustainable development. This initiative is vital for attracting financial support for development projects and programmes throughout the country.

The comprehensive socio-economic impact analysis, coupled with the establishment of a National Tripartite Advisory Committee, convened by the UN, exemplifies a collaborative and inclusive approach to addressing economic and social challenges. These initiatives have fostered meaningful engagement with diverse stakeholders, ensuring that development strategies are responsive to the needs and priorities of various sectors.

To improve Namibia's business environment, foster inter-sectoral cooperation, and strengthen private sector initiatives, the UN and the government launched public-private sector dialogues. These aim to enhance partnerships and integration across business sectors,

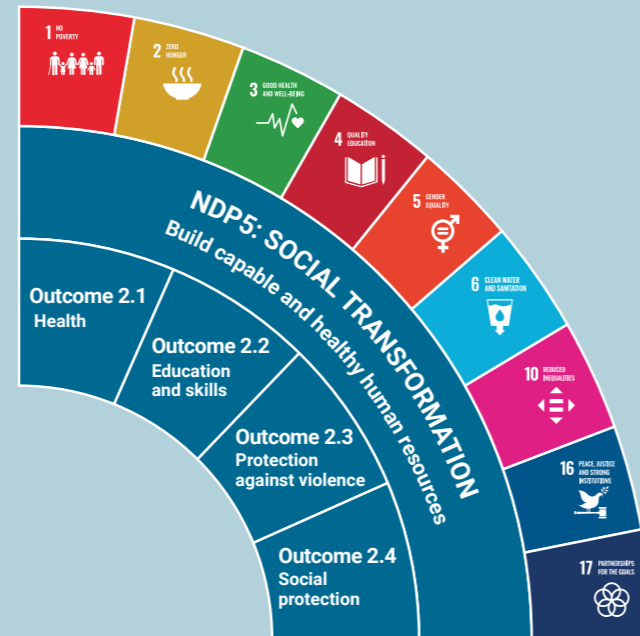


including the informal economy, thereby supporting the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and supporting the local private sector and informal economy.

The UN also provided technical support for the creation of a Pro-Employment and Gender Responsive Budgeting (PEGRB) toolkit. This aids in adopting innovative methods to weave employment and gender strategies into national planning and make budgeting processes more inclusive.



# Social Transformation Pillar



## Outcome 2.1 Health

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)

Total available resources 2,473,500.00



Agencies: ILO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, WFP, WHO

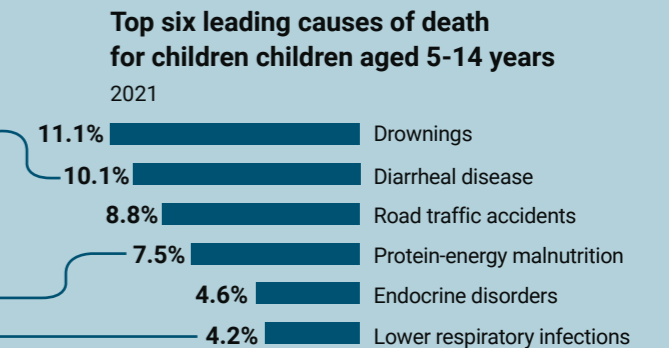
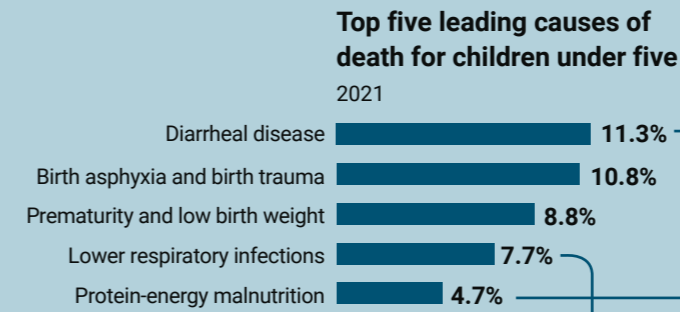
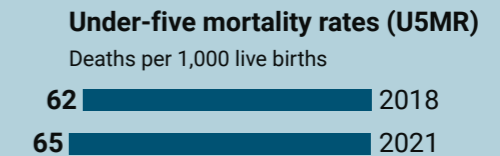
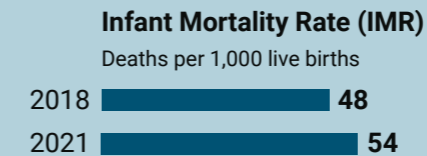
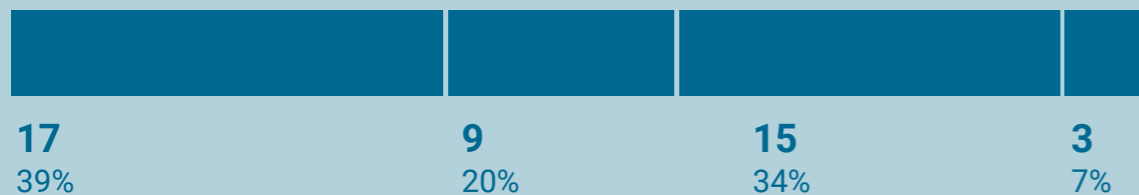
### Activities

0 - Not expected to contribute to gender equality/women's empowerment

1 - Contributes to gender equality/women's empowerment in a limited way

2 - Gender equality/women's empowerment is a significant objective

3 - Gender equality/women's empowerment is the principal objective



Source: Causes of Death report. Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA)

The Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) demonstrates a strong commitment to safeguarding the rights of its citizens, with a particular focus on children and marginalized population. Despite these efforts, the country still faces significant challenges.

A recent Causes of Death report published by the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) indicates that the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has risen from 49 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018 to 54 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2021, with the highest rates recorded in the Oshana and Omaheke regions. The report also notes that over half of these infant deaths were male. The Under-five Mortality Rate (U5MR) has similarly increased from 62 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018 to 65 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2021. The top five leading causes of death for children under five in 2021 were identified as diarrheal diseases (11.3%), birth asphyxia and birth trauma (10.8%), prematurity and low birth weight (8.8%), lower respiratory infections (7.0%), and protein-energy malnutrition (4.7%). For children aged 5-14, the leading causes of death were drownings (11.1%), diarrheal disease (10.1%), road traffic accidents (8.8%), protein-energy malnutrition (7.5%), endocrine disorders (4.6%), and lower respiratory infections (4.2%). The UN Inter-Agency Group for Mortality Estimation's annual rates indicate that the reduction in mortality rates is progressing slower than the pace required to meet the SDG targets. Among several challenges, access to quality early childhood education and care remains limited, despite evidence suggesting that investment in early childhood is not only the right but also a smart decision for a nation's socio-economic development, offering a higher return on investment.

### Output 2.1.1 - Improved implementation of nutrition programmes for the targeted vulnerable groups/population

Namibia has adopted a holistic public health strategy that prioritizes robust health system capabilities for delivering essential health and nutrition services, along with the efficient detection and management of outbreaks. In line with this approach, the United Nations has forged a partnership with the Omaheke regional council, specifically in Stampriet and Schlip, to provide support to vulnerable and at-risk groups. This collaboration has led to the creation of soup kitchens and the launch of poultry and horticulture projects, benefiting 108 individuals receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) from two support groups. Additionally, the initiative aims to supply therapeutic food to 3,000 children under five years of age who are suffering from severe acute malnutrition, addressing urgent nutritional needs within the community.

The United Nations has provided both technical and financial assistance to enhance the capabilities of 532 community health workers (CHWs) in Namibia. This support has enabled CHWs to more effectively manage nutrition-related responsibilities. Moreover, the UN has aided the Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) in augmenting the nutritional expertise of its personnel, especially in handling public health emergencies and food fortification efforts. This enhancement of skills was facilitated through participation in key global and regional forums, such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) nutrition meeting in South Africa, the meeting on the Code of Marketing Breastmilk Substitutes (BMS) in Geneva, and a meeting focused on public emergency nutrition in Kenya.

Furthermore, with the UN's backing, the 2023 Nutrition Vulnerability Assessment (NVA) study was carried out, incorporating a micronutrient fortification module. This critical study has enabled Namibia to evaluate and monitor the consumption of micronutrient fortification among at-risk populations, paving the way for early intervention measures.

#### Output 2.1.1 - Capacity of the health system strengthened to provide good quality health services and improved emergency response (prevention, detection and response)

Namibia is on the verge of achieving the 95-95-95 treatment targets ahead of the 2025 deadline, with the current statistics at 95-97-94. Since 2010, there has been a significant reduction in new HIV infections by 48% and a 22% decrease in AIDS-related deaths. The mother-to-child transmission rate, including during breastfeeding, has dropped from 12% in 2010 to 4% in 2023. HIV-related stigma and discrimination at the facility level are estimated to affect 8% of people living with HIV (PLHIV) and 17% of key populations accessing services. Noteworthy achievements also encompass reaching over 28,000 young people with Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services and the effective detection and control of outbreaks, such as the Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever.

#### Health System Strengthening through the development of policies, guidelines, and action plan to improve the quality of the service delivery

The United Nations has facilitated a thorough overhaul and update of various health policies, encompassing the National Health Policy Framework for 2023-2033, the Universal Health Policy Framework Roadmap, the National Medicines Policy, and initiatives towards formulating the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Policy, among others. This foundational work promises to enhance the effectiveness and fairness of the health system. Highlighting the commitment to inclusive governance and the principle of leaving no one behind, individuals with disabilities were actively involved in the drafting and revision processes of these policies. Such policy improvements are pivotal in making the health system more adaptable, inclusive, and attuned to the diverse needs of the population. Additionally, the UN has supported the development and Cabinet approval of the social contracting for health services policy, which is currently being implemented. This innovative policy involves the government contracting civil society organisations (CSOs) to deliver health services, ensuring broader access and coverage.

To enhance the quality-of-service delivery in Namibia, numerous guidelines and plans were developed. These guidelines encompass the National Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines, Post-Abortion Care Guideline, Operating Theatre Manual, the adaptation of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) SOPs and internal procedure manual for Namibia, Influenza Surveillance Protocol, the drafting of the National Strategy on Suicide Prevention, a community toolkit for suicide prevention, and the revision of the Central Sterile Service Department guidelines to align with WHO recommendations. The initiatives also included the creation of strategic plans such as the National Strategic Framework (NSF) for HIV for 2023/24 - 2027/28, National Health Research Strategic Plan, National Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Strategic Plan, National Surgical Obstetric and Anaesthetic Plan, National TB & Leprosy Medium-Term Strategic Plan, National Malaria Elimination Strategic Plan, National Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) Strategic Plan, National

Action Plan for Mortality Surveillance, and the drafting of the Multi-hazard Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. Moreover, the UN supported both the global and national launch of the Decade of Action on Road Safety.

Additionally, the training of 60 healthcare professionals in perinatal death surveillance and response reflects a dedicated effort to enhance care quality for mothers and newborns, targeting the reduction of perinatal mortality.

Similarly, the education of 149 public health workers in family planning, focusing on guidelines and Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC), has significantly improved the delivery of 1,387 long-term contraceptive solutions, such as implants and Intrauterine Contraceptive Devices (IUCDs). This effort has notably increased the accessibility and adoption of family planning services, marking substantial progress in reproductive healthcare.

Moreover, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the University of Namibia School of Medicine, 74 service providers, including doctors and nurses from the Oshana, Erongo, and Karas regions, have been extensively trained in Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC). This training, which included the use of manual vacuum aspirators, aims to mitigate unsafe abortion practices and is crucial in reducing maternal mortality rates.

The training of 180 community health workers (CHWs) in Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission (PMTCT) across Omaheke, Kavango East, Kavango West, and Zambezi regions, along with 70 healthcare workers in the new model of Antenatal care in Khomas, Zambezi, Omaheke, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, and Omusati regions, demonstrates a decentralized healthcare approach. This ensures regions are well-prepared to monitor, follow-up, and link patients to necessary care. Additionally, 75 healthcare workers received training in comprehensive clinical post-abortion care in Khomas, Kavango East, and West



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regions, a vital step towards improving abortion care's complexity at the clinical level. These initiatives highlight a commitment to boosting healthcare professionals' skills, leading to better post-abortion care and a reduction in maternal morbidity and mortality in these regions.

The enhancement of health systems and the knowledge and skills of healthcare providers in delivering Early Essential Newborn Care, Maternal Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response, and Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care exemplifies a holistic approach to maternal and newborn health. This strategy aims to improve care quality throughout the perinatal period. Consequently, the UN procured essential equipment and supplies to 3 Maternity wards in Ohangwena, Zambezi and Kunene regions targeting districts hospitals.

Training for regional teams on ICD-11 was supported, demonstrating a commitment to enhancing healthcare professionals' proficiency in accurate and standardized disease classification. This effort ensures that regional health teams are equipped with the latest international standards, leading to better health data management and more comprehensive healthcare services.

The United Nations, in partnership with the National Assembly, supported the Parliamentary Committee on Gender and Family Affairs in organizing public hearings on the Abortion and Sterilization Act (Act 2 of 1975). These hearings were pivotal in collecting community insights to

inform the revision of the current act. The feedback from these sessions will play a key role in guiding parliamentary discussions, especially concerning the proposed motion. This joint initiative aims to ensure that community voices and opinions are central to the legislative process.

Comprehensive assessments and research into the outcomes of interventions in Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent health services have shown significant positive impacts. Training programmes for 400 healthcare workers resulted in skill enhancements and higher quality of care, leading to improved health outcomes. The creation and distribution of context-specific guidelines ensured standardized practises among healthcare professionals and a collective dedication to service improvement. Additionally, efforts to strengthen the healthcare system were visible in organisational enhancements, process optimizations, and enhanced coordination among stakeholders. Together, these efforts have had transformative effects on the healthcare system, providing informed guidance for policy decisions and practises aimed at achieving sustained positive changes in the targeted areas.

The implementation of the Reaching Every Child, Community & District (RED) immunization approach was substantially reinforced through a multifaceted strategy. This involved the extensive training of over 700 healthcare workers, ensuring they possessed the requisite skills and knowledge. The revision and distribution of guidelines tailored to local contexts offered a structured framework for

practitioners, fostering standardized and evidence-based immunization practises. Furthermore, acquiring cold chain equipment addressed logistical hurdles, guaranteeing the integrity of vaccines from storage to administration. Strengthened data management and surveillance activities bolstered monitoring and evaluation, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the immunization programme. A conducted survey, encompassing routine vaccinations and the specific Measles-Rubella campaign, offered insightful data on vaccine coverage and the success of immunization efforts.

The establishment of the Namibia National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) represents a significant advancement in strengthening the country's immunization strategies. The completion of the First Evidence to Recommendation for HPV Vaccine Introduction marks a crucial milestone, providing a robust foundation for informed decision-making regarding the introduction of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. Additionally, the Inter Country capacity building initiatives emphasize a dedication to enhancing regional collaboration and knowledge exchange. The training of NITAG members signifies a tangible investment in developing expertise, ensuring that key stakeholders can evaluate evidence, formulate recommendations, and effectively guide the implementation of HPV vaccination programmes. This comprehensive approach reflects a proactive and evidence-based initiative, poised to drive positive changes in immunization policies and practises, particularly concerning HPV vaccine introduction in Namibia.

A focused Capacity Building session on the Vaccine Stock Management Tool was effectively carried out to enhance the proficiency of healthcare workers and stakeholders in utilizing the tool. This initiative is anticipated to yield positive outcomes by enhancing vaccine forecasting accuracy, reducing wastage, and ensuring an efficient and dependable vaccine supply chain.

Moreover, the consultative meeting on integrating COVID-19 vaccines into routine and non-Primary Healthcare (PHC) services reflects a strategic move towards simplifying vaccine distribution and administration, ensuring a seamless incorporation of COVID-19 vaccines into existing healthcare structures, emphasizing collaboration and coordination among stakeholders.

The completion of the effective Vaccine Management Assessment has provided valuable evaluations of vaccine management practises, offering insights to improve vaccine distribution and administration efficiency and effectiveness.

Support for the training and review of 37 Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Support Officers has underlined a commitment to enhancing essential personnel skills, aiming to improve immunization programme management and implementation, thereby boosting the Expanded Program on Immunization's overall effectiveness. Furthermore, a thorough analysis of COVID-19 vaccine uptake was undertaken to recommend and develop



enhanced strategies, with the goal of overcoming challenges and boosting the effectiveness of vaccination efforts. The insights derived from this study are anticipated to guide targeted interventions, aiming to improve vaccine acceptance and increase uptake within the community.

Efforts to strengthen Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) Committees were successfully carried out through operational training and mentoring, involving comprehensive training for 155 staff members nationwide. Additionally, support was provided for six National AEFI Causality Assessment and Classification meetings, conducted on six occasions. This reflects a dedicated commitment to ensuring a systematic and robust approach to evaluating and classifying adverse events associated with immunization. These initiatives collectively contribute to an enhanced capacity for monitoring and addressing vaccine-related adverse events, thereby fostering a safer and more resilient immunization programme.

Significant progress has been made by updating and aligning SAM/NACS training materials with the new WHO SAM inpatient modules, ensuring that training remains current and aligned with global standards. Furthermore, support has been provided for hospital standards assessments and training on quality improvement, highlighting the commitment to enhancing healthcare standards and services. Additionally, efforts have been focused on supporting the design and implementation of a maternal and newborn quality of care improvement package of interventions, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to advancing the quality of healthcare services for mothers and newborns.

Dedicated support has been provided for the implementation of the System of Health Accounts and National AIDS Spending Assessment (NHA/NASA) for the period 2020/21-2022/23, exemplifying a resolute commitment to bolstering transparency and accountability in health expenditure and HIV/AIDS-related spending. This initiative is anticipated to significantly enhance our understanding of resource allocation, thereby facilitating evidence-based decision-making and promoting the efficient utilization of funds within the healthcare and HIV/AIDS sectors.

Additionally, a sourcing strategy workshop and medicines quantification have been conducted to optimize health procurement processes and inventory control, ensuring the availability of critical healthcare supplies. Additionally, nationwide training of health workers in the Stock Management Tool (SMT) for vaccine and cold chain stock management aligns with efforts to improve inventory

management and the availability of essential healthcare supplies. Support has also been extended to civil society organisations in Kavango East, Kavango West, and Zambezi regions to implement community-led Monitoring for enhanced access to HIV services.

The United Nations has backed Namibia's acquisition of USD 34,052,913 from the Global Fund to fortify the prevention, care, and treatment of HIV, TB, and malaria, alongside securing an additional USD 28,882,205 for COVID-19 response efforts for the years 2024-2026. This assistance extended to integrating the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Country Operational Plan for 2023-2024 (COP23-24), highlighting a joint commitment to securing critical funding for vital health programmes, aimed at effectively managing and curbing HIV, TB, and malaria within the national health framework.

Through the Fast Track Cities initiative, with a particular emphasis on the City of Windhoek, decentralized HIV responses have been enhanced. This includes reinforcing gender-transformative HIV mainstreaming programmes internally and externally, comprehensive training for Health and Wellness Peer Educators, launching a Male Engagement initiative, and starting a youth socio-economic empowerment programme. These actions represent a comprehensive strategy to tackle HIV at the local level, focusing on gender inclusivity, community engagement, and youth empowerment. Additionally, support was given to the Path to Elimination for the triple elimination of HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B virus (HBV).

The UN also actively endorsed the development of a Gender Assessment for the national Tuberculosis (TB) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) response. This initiative is aimed at recognizing and addressing gender-specific aspects, ensuring that TB and HIV strategies are inclusive and adequately meet the varied needs of all individuals within the national context.

Further support was provided for compiling the 2023 national and subnational HIV estimates and projections, underlining the significance of pinpointing disparities within the HIV domain. This effort illustrates the UN's commitment to data-driven decision-making, aiming to direct interventions more accurately and equitably to address specific disparities and enhance HIV response strategies.

To improve access to crucial life-saving SRH and GBV prevention, response, and maternal health services, especially for vulnerable communities, the UN procured a mobile van. This vehicle is designated as a mobile clinic for SRHR and GBV services in remote areas, aligning with LNOB principles.



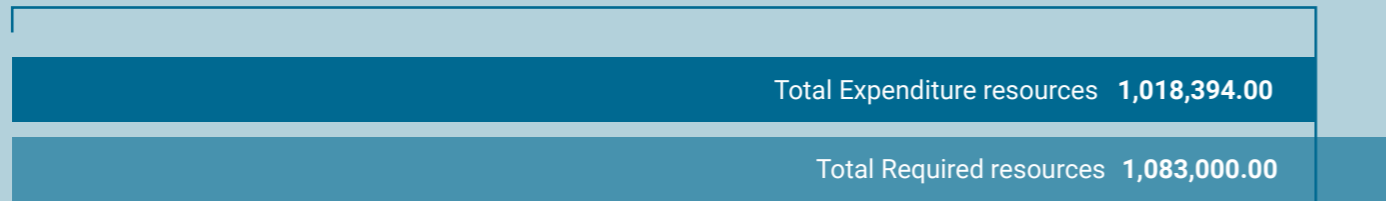
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## Outcome 2.2 Education and skills

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

Total available resources 1,018,394.00



Agencies: FAO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP

### Activities

0 - Not expected to contribute to gender equality/women's empowerment

1 - Contributes to gender equality/women's empowerment in a limited way

2 - Gender equality/women's empowerment is a significant objective

3 - Gender equality/women's empowerment is the principal objective



The 2023 UNPAF joint workplan has enhanced the education system's ability to improve access to education, monitor and produce data for programme design and implementation, and eliminate obstacles to the wider participation of children and youths both within and outside of educational settings.

### Output 2.2.1 - Capacity of the education system strengthened and access to education at all levels (ECD to tertiary)

Following the Transforming Education Summit (TES) and National Education Conference (NEC) in 2022, a Costed Implementation Plan (CIP) was presented and received cabinet endorsement in 2023. This CIP outlines strategic directions and actions necessary for transforming the education sector, ensuring it meets both current and future needs effectively.

Furthermore, 350 Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Learning Support Materials (LSM) have been catalogued and databased, ready for use in schools. This ESD-oriented programme is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills to tackle environmental challenges, cultivating a future generation aware of sustainability. The National Youth policy has been operationalized, and a disability audit tool has been trialed at the COSDEF (TVET) centre in Otjiwarongo, pending validation before national adoption. Additionally, the ICTs-in-Education Policy and Implementation Plan have undergone review, validation, and submission to the Cabinet for approval, marking another step in UN policy interventions to boost the education system's accessibility at all levels. With support from its development partners, the UN has upgraded UNAM's IT infrastructure by designing and implementing Smart Classrooms to facilitate uninterrupted teaching and learning, even in adverse conditions like disease outbreaks. These UN-endorsed policies and tools signify substantial progress towards an inclusive, efficient, and resilient education system.



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### Output 2.2.2 - Monitoring and data generation including evidence improved to aid policy and programme design and implementation

The design and implementation of policy and programme are enhanced by monitoring and data generation. This improvement is evidenced by the publication of the EMIS 2022 report, the 2023 15-Day School Statistics Report, the SACMEQ training, data collection, and capturing activities, as well as the finalization and operationalization of the SDG4 National Implementation Plan.

The current Namibian Life Skills-Based Health Education curriculum underwent evaluation against the International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education to identify areas for improvement and potential opportunities

for future UN programmes. Such evidence-based decision-making and programme planning are facilitated by detailed insights into the performance of Namibia's education system, garnered from the timely EMIS report and the 2023's 15-Day Schools Statistics. Moreover, the skill set of Educational Quality Assessors has been broadened through participation in SACMEQ's data collection and training programmes. Furthermore, Namibia's journey towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal related to quality education (SDG4) has been marked by the finalization and implementation of the SDG4 National Implementation Plan. This plan delineates the nation's strategies and actions to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, reflecting a commitment by the UN to foster educational excellence and inclusivity.





### Output 2.2.3 - Impediments to broader participation of children and young people's participation in and out of school removed

Barriers related to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) have been diminished through the training of 1,179 in-service and pre-service teachers, along with Health Care Workers (HCWs), on delivering Life Skilled Based Education, also known as Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), across the Zambezi, Kunene, Khomas, Kharas, and Oshana regions. As a result, teachers have adopted a more improved and inclusive method in imparting CSE lessons.

In an effort to tackle Early and Unintended Pregnancy, a UN sponsored radio drama titled "Let's Talk Early and Unintended Pregnancy" was broadcasted, underscoring the criticality of sexuality education, the accessibility of SRH services for adolescents and young people, and spotlighting the essential role community members (such as teachers, nurses, parents, and church leaders) play in addressing SRHR challenges. Additionally, 1,507 community members, including key community gatekeepers, were engaged on EUP, SRH, GBV, and other social issues impacting the youth in Ohangwena and Kavango West regions. This initiative leveraged the Namibia Broadcasting Corporation's (NBC) broad listenership, reaching over 1.6 million across all its platforms.

These efforts have significantly contributed to reducing barriers to the broad participation of children and young people, both within and outside educational settings, leading to notable progress in fostering inclusive and supportive environments conducive to learning and development.

Moreover, community-level interventions targeting a wide range of stakeholders have effectively cultivated a supportive ecosystem, enabling Adolescents and Young People (AYP) to access Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services. Endorsed by the UN, this initiative has been instrumental in equipping young individuals with the knowledge and tools necessary for making informed decisions regarding their health and well-being.



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## Outcome 2.3 Protection Against Violence

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

Total available resources 629,444.00

Total Expenditure resources 629,444.00

Total Required resources 574,444.00

Agencies: ILO, IOM, UN Women, UNICEF

### Activities

0 - Not expected to contribute to gender equality/women's empowerment

1 - Contributes to gender equality/women's empowerment in a limited way

2 - Gender equality/women's empowerment is a significant objective

3 - Gender equality/women's empowerment is the principal objective

0

0

2  
15%

11  
85%



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### Output 2.3.1 - Evidence generated and data collected to inform policies, programme design, and implementation of interventions that are aimed at addressing GBV

To guarantee the provision of reliable data and insights on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) for steering policy decisions, advocacy efforts, and the development of programmes, technical support was provided to the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare. This assistance enabled the conduct of a Problematic Mindset study related to GBV. The outcomes of this study were consolidated into a report, which was published and disseminated among key stakeholders in 2023, allowing for evidence-based actions to be implemented.

The efforts to generate evidence and gather data for shaping policies, designing programmes, and executing interventions to combat GBV encompass:

The backing of studies such as the GBV investment case, Gender, HIV, and TB Assessment, and Problematic Mindset on GBV, under the sponsorship of the UN, has yielded critical insights into the gender dynamics and the state of GBV in Namibia. This information plays a vital role in directing policy formulation, advocacy, and programmatic initiatives to address GBV effectively, underpinning a UN-enabled framework for in-depth understanding and action.

Enhancements in the coordination mechanisms for GBV, VAC, and TIP, facilitated by the UN, have fostered improved collaboration and operational efficiency in tackling these significant issues. Such bolstered coordination ensures that interventions are precisely organised, focused, and efficacious in reducing the ramifications of GBV, VAC, and TIP on individuals and communities, illustrating a UN-coordinated strategy to confront these widespread issues.

### Output 2.3.2 - The capacity of service providers to GBV victims and perpetrators improved to respond to the needs of both parties

Through a series of initiatives, the capabilities of service providers to cater to the needs of both victims and perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) have seen substantial improvement:

With the aid of the UN, the expertise and knowledge of 1,221 service providers in areas such as GBV prevention and response, Violence Against Children (VAC), Trafficking in Persons (TIP), and refugee assistance have been significantly enhanced. This holistic approach guarantees that service providers are well-prepared to meet the complex needs of those affected, within a comprehensive intervention framework supported by the UN.

In addition, 25 capacity-building interventions, backed by the UN, have further amplified the competency of service providers. This effort reflects the UN's dedication to

reinforcing the support network available for both victims and perpetrators of GBV, ensuring the delivery of effective and empathetic assistance.

The UN's contribution to broadening access to a diverse array of multi-sectoral prevention, support, and care services for more than 12,525 individuals, including women, children, men, and boys, signifies a noteworthy progression. These services, which include healthcare, law enforcement, shelter, justice, life skills, education, livelihood, and resettlement assistance, embody a unified and thorough approach by the UN to assist GBV victims and address the root causes of violence.

To enhance the strengthen to GBV and promote the empowerment and well-being of survivors, the UN has supported a variety of initiatives aimed at strengthening the capacities of both systems and individuals. Over 1,221 service providers received training to enhance their knowledge and skills in areas such as GBV prevention and response, Violence Against Children (VAC), Trafficking in



Persons (TIP), and refugee support. This comprehensive training has enabled service providers to offer multisectoral support across a range of areas including health, law enforcement, shelter, justice, life skills education, and livelihood support.

Service providers delivered multisectoral support to over 12,525 individuals—including women, girls, men, boys, and those with disabilities—ensuring their access to various forms of assistance such as:

- **Prevention, support, and care services related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**
- **Efforts to combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP)**
- **Measures against Violence Against Children (VAC)**
- **Support across health, law enforcement, shelter, justice, life skills education, and livelihood assistance.**

In the Zambezi region, the capacity of community members was bolstered in GBV, SRHR, and HIV through Parent-Adolescent girls' seminars. These seminars aimed to protect women and girls from sexual exploitation and abuse, including rape, intimate partner violence, and school-related GBV.

Recognizing poverty as a significant contributor to violence against women and girls, the UN backed a project that provided 375 unemployed women and youth, including those with disabilities, GBV survivors or those at risk of GBV, facing discrimination, or living with HIV, with livelihood skills and opportunities. This initiative enabled participants to acquire entrepreneurial skills and present their innovative businesses, leading to the support of five youth empowerment and asset-building projects in fields such as culinary arts, hospitality, crochet, mat making, and hydroponics.

Additionally, two community radio stations in the Khomas and Kunene regions were trained to implement GBV-focused programmes. This effort is directed at developing life skills, enhancing self-esteem, and broadening the scope of response services for communities regarding GBV.



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## Outcome 2.4 Social Protection

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

Total available resources 1,214,429.00

Total Expenditure resources 1,214,429.00

Total Required resources 1,214,429.00

Agencies: ILO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, WFP

### Activities

0 - Not expected to contribute to gender equality/women's empowerment

1 - Contributes to gender equality/women's empowerment in a limited way

2 - Gender equality/women's empowerment is a significant objective

3 - Gender equality/women's empowerment is the principal objective

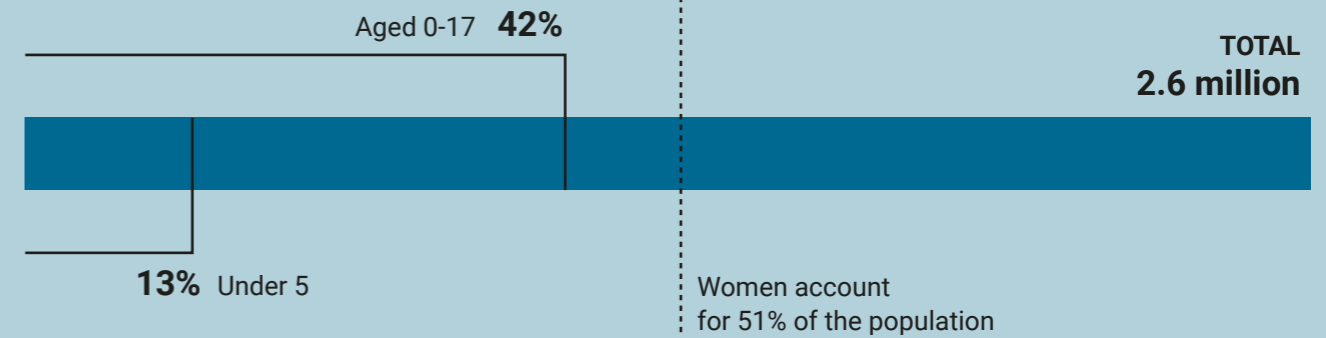
7  
64%

4  
36%

0

0

### Population in Namibia



With an estimated population of 2.6 million, Namibia boasts a youthful demographic, with 42% of its population being children aged 0-17 years and 13% under five years of age. Notably, females constitute 51% of the overall population. With the right investment in children and youth, this youthful population will enable Namibia to harness the demographic dividend. Around 53% of households are located in urban areas, featuring rapidly expanding informal settlements, yet the nation also encompasses sparsely populated rural areas. Both urban and rural communities encounter challenges in accessing basic services.

In 2023, Namibia maintained its peace, security, and political stability, underpinned by a multi-party democracy, and is anticipated to hold general elections in 2024. The economy is projected to experience a 3.5% growth in 2023 and a 2.9% increase in 2024, surpassing initial forecasts from February 2023. This upward revision is attributed to the improved performance of secondary

(manufacturing, diamond processing) and tertiary (tourism, wholesale and retail trade) sectors, spurred by a high demand for services. The enhanced economic outlook has yielded improved revenue forecasts, with the 2023 projection indicating a 22.1% rise over the 2022/23 figures, thus expanding the fiscal capacity for investments, including those in child-related social sectors. As a result, the government's sustained commitment to allocating over 50% of the 2023/24 national budget to social sectors that benefit children and marginalized communities is commendable.

Furthermore, in 2023, the UN intensified its efforts to alleviate poverty in all its forms among the most vulnerable communities and their families. The national social protection system has been significantly strengthened through focused capacity-building initiatives, aimed at enhancing access and service delivery. These efforts, supported by the UN, aim to reinforce social security systems, improving the welfare of vulnerable groups.

The UN continues to fortify strategic partnerships and provide technical assistance to support national endeavors in ensuring the rights and well-being of all citizens, even within the constraints of Namibia's classification as UMIC.

#### Output 2.4.1 - Capacity building support in all forms provided to strengthen the national social protection system to ensure improved access and service delivery

Throughout 2023, the UN provided technical support to the Ministries of Finance (MoF) and MoHSS, aimed at boosting efficiencies in health procurement, supply chain management, and public financial management concerning health. This effort aligns with the government's goals for universal health coverage and the social transformation pillar of the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF).

Building on the procurement reforms achieved in 2022, especially the amendment of the Public Procurement Act, notable accomplishments in the health sector include the following: (i) the creation of regulations for pooled procurement and framework agreements; (ii) the completion of a 3-year forecast and quantification for vaccines, a first for Namibia; (iii) the development of sourcing strategies for all 1,120 product lines; and (iv) the shift from piecemeal purchases to long-term contracts for all procurements. While it is too early to quantitatively evaluate the financial and non-financial impacts, the reform process is showing promising progress and has resolved many procurement challenges. This effort has additionally secured an extra N\$350 million from the budget for health procurement.

With the assistance of development partners and the UN's technical support, 136,528 households (comprising 819,168 beneficiaries) received food assistance to alleviate the effects of drought and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The assistance from the UN bolstered the Omaheke Region's ability to tackle high malnutrition rates, particularly through the establishment of soup kitchens for vulnerable children under five years old, and the creation of 35 food system sites for youth, women, and smallholder farmers. This initiative aimed to enhance the resilience of communities impacted by crises.

Moreover, the formation of the National Social Protection Core Team has notably improved the institutional and coordination framework of Namibia's social protection system, with UN facilitation. This initiative has led to more coherent and efficient management and delivery of social protection services, in line with UN-endorsed strategies for system-wide improvement.

In 2023, the UN bolstered the Management Information System (IMIS) for Social Protection and upgraded the Social Assistance System (SAS) database used for social grant payments, such as old age pensions, child grants, and disability benefits. This enhancement has reduced paperwork for applicants and streamlined the management of beneficiary payments. The Integrated Beneficiary Registry (IBR) for social protection, which consolidates financial data from various line ministries and facilitates the exchange of social grant information among institutions, was developed in 2022. Subsequently, in 2023, the pilot phase of SCOPE was initiated, enhancing information exchange among social protection institutions. This advancement led to a reduction in administrative burdens for service providers and the early detection of potential unintended duplications of benefits.

#### Output 2.4.2 - Broader social protection policy developed and approved to provide basis for the implementation of social protection programmes nationally

The launch of the Namibia Social Protection Policy in 2022 significantly bolstered the nation's social grants system throughout 2023. This enabled the government to maintain its substantial investments in social sectors, positively impacting children, pensioners, and marginalized communities by expanding social protection coverage for the marginalised. In 2023, with the United Nations' technical assistance and advocacy, the capabilities of key national stakeholders, including sector ministries and the Parliament, were enhanced in budget analysis and advocacy. This led to improved budget allocations for young people and marginalized communities to tackle the multidimensional challenges they face. Notably, investments in crucial



social sectors for the 2023/24 national budget included 16.6% for health, 23% for basic education, and 11.5% for social protection, cumulatively accounting for over half of the total budget. These investments facilitated the construction of (i) an additional 259 classrooms to alleviate overcrowding and enrich the learning environment. Furthermore, (ii) partly due to the UN's persistent advocacy, 30,000 additional children were incorporated into the child grants system, with the benefit amount rising from N\$250 to N\$350, and for children with disabilities, to N\$1,400, markedly enhancing the social protection's impact on reducing child poverty.

The UN also assisted the Government in validating the Livelihood Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA), employing VAA data to formulate the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) for Namibia and its projections. As a consequence of the El Niño-induced drought, the IPC classified Namibia as Phase 3, indicating that 579,000 people (22% of the population, including 250,000 children) are facing severe acute food insecurity, with projections worsening to 695,000 people (26% of the population) from October 2023 to March 2024. The UN's support in generating data and evidence on the impact and cost of interventions has persuaded the government to allocate N\$643 million in the budget for drought relief efforts targeting children and households impacted by the drought.

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# Environmental Sustainability Pillar



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## Outcome 3.1 Resilience to natural disasters and climate change

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

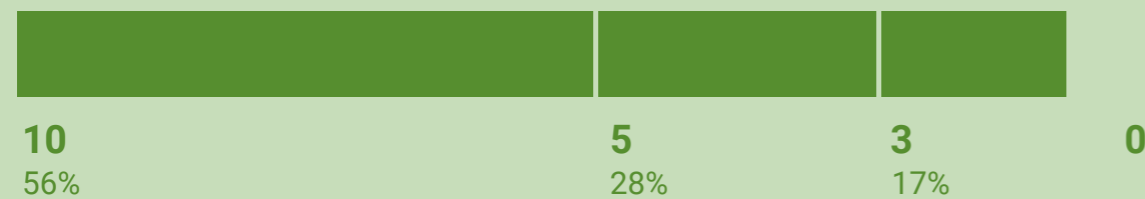
Total available resources 7,382,932.00

Total available resources	7,382,932.00
Total Expenditure resources	7,362,332.00
Total Required resources	7,158,320.00

Agencies: FAO, ILO, IOM, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, WFP

### Activities

- 0 - Not expected to contribute to gender equality/women's empowerment
- 1 - Contributes to gender equality/women's empowerment in a limited way
- 2 - Gender equality/women's empowerment is a significant objective
- 3 - Gender equality/women's empowerment is the principal objective



### Output 3.1.1 - Relevant policies, regulatory frameworks and institutions enabled to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation

In its commitment to bolstering the management of natural forests, the UN supported the preservation of 28,000 hectares of forest resources and 71,048 hectares of state forests, encompassing both terrestrial and marine protected areas. This action underscores the significant impacts of UN-backed legal frameworks on environmental conservation, biodiversity preservation, and the adoption of sustainable land management practises. Notably, the efforts have led to a reduction in land devastated by fire from 1.5 million hectares in 2022 to 335,082 hectares in 2023, alongside the avoidance of over 1.3 million tons of CO2-equivalent emissions through forest protection and agroforestry practises.

The UN's support for enhanced landscape practises through collaborative efforts has yielded the improvement of 3,000 hectares in Community Forests, the establishment of 10,000 hectares as Regional Forest Reserves, and the implementation of sustainable management practises over 15,000 hectares. This strategic approach has been instrumental in rehabilitating 1,000 hectares of degraded agricultural lands, 2,000 hectares of forest and forest land, and 7,000 hectares of natural grass and shrubland.

Moreover, with the UN's technical assistance, the government's significant commitment to environmental conservation was highlighted by the gazetting of 33,048 hectares of state forests for protection, expanding the network of protected areas.

To bolster efforts in achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), the UN provided capacity strengthening to government and community conservancies in sustainable wildlife resource utilization and management. This training and knowledge aims to support communities in enhancing rural food and nutrition security and livelihoods.

Additionally, support was extended to enhance the knowledge and skills of 112 community members across various landscapes in wildfire management. With the gained skills, these communities have improved their safety by enhancing prevention, detection, and response measures to wildfires, thereby reducing property damage and the potential for loss of life.

With support from the UN, the government has showcased its dedication to global climate action by updating its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in line with the Paris Agreement. This alignment marks a crucial step for Namibia in localizing global cooperation and commitment to limit global warming and bolster climate resilience. Pending Cabinet approval, the NDC targets a reduction of 11.9 million metric tons of CO2-equivalent emissions by 2030.



In tackling human-wildlife conflict and wildlife crime, the UN joined forces with the government to organise a national conference, enhance water and livestock infrastructure, equip 660 participants with necessary skills, and advance wildlife tracking technology. These collective efforts have led to a reduction in incidents and improved mitigation strategies, effectively addressing key challenges in human-wildlife interactions.

In the realm of marine resources, the collaboration between the UN and the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) enabled the incorporation of policies for protected marine areas and community involvement through sustainable demonstration projects. This collaboration also led to the creation of a Resource Mobilization Strategy to ensure the BCC's long-term sustainability, setting significant benchmarks in marine conservation, and promoting regional cooperation.

The UN was instrumental in supporting Namibia's implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement, demonstrating the country's dedication to transparent climate-related reporting. Sustainable national institutional structures were put in place, encompassing working groups focused on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and of gender mainstreaming.

To enhance the reporting of sectoral greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the UN collaborated with the Namibia Statistics Agency to develop and launch the Monitoring,

Reporting, and Verification (MRV) portal. Simultaneously, the UN's contributions to digital innovation in the country's carbon credit registration and issuance, especially through extensive capacity building, were significant. Additionally, the UN supported the government in legislative progress, including proposing amendments to the Environmental Management Draft Bill of 2021 and establishing a legal framework for the carbon market. This support lays the groundwork for future regulatory developments. Collectively, these efforts highlight the UN's active role in shaping Namibia's climate policies and promoting a sustainable, transparent, and economically viable approach to climate action.

The UN assisted the government in expanding initiatives showcasing its dedication to transitioning towards renewable energy sources, particularly solar power, by converting four diesel-powered boreholes into solar-powered water systems. This shift not only mitigates environmental impact but also enhances energy security by tapping into plentiful and renewable resources. The project improved the quality of life for 2,535 community members and bolstered community agricultural activities, benefiting 14,112 livestock. This investment in sustainable infrastructure provide access to reliable water sources and empowers communities to manage their resources efficiently, fostering adaptation to climate change.

In the domain of Human-Wildlife Conflict Management, the UN contributed to strengthening institutional capacity in anti-poaching measures. This effort included constructing

four predator-proof kraals to minimize human-wildlife conflicts and deploying 29 satellite collars on predators to enable tracking of animal movements and monitoring. Within the Energy Sector and concerning Green Hydrogen Initiatives, the launch of Green Hydrogen Station was a noteworthy development.

### Output 3.1.2 - Improved capacity to prepare, prevent, respond and recover from climate change induced variability

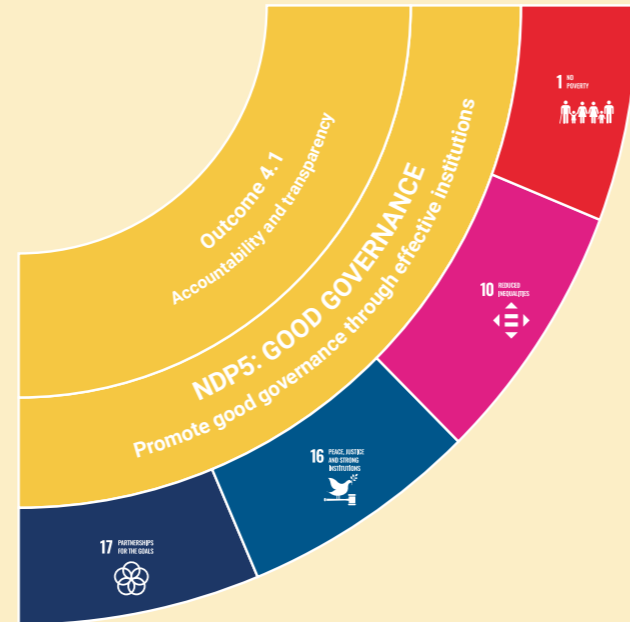
The United Nations, through the Project 2030 Fund, has equipped the government to enhance disaster risk preparedness with technical support and essential equipment for establishing a real-time Food and Nutrition Security Early Warning System (NIEWS). This system aims for rapid access and sharing of crucial food and nutrition security data, supporting policy dialogues, strategies, and programming. Moreover, in collaboration with the African Union, the United Nations played a key role in enhancing national emergency response coordination by building capacities for the effective operationalization of the Emergency Operation Center and the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC). This includes the development of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and drone capabilities for mapping, search and rescue, emergency collaboration and coordination, alongside the provision of equipment.

The UN has also extended technical assistance to strengthen the National Food Security Nutrition Monitoring System (FNSMS), notably through capacity building for the NAM-VAC members (52 Female) to perform the Vulnerability Assessment Analysis (VAA) and the Integrated Phased Classification (IPC). These reports detail the state of food insecurity in Namibia across urban and rural settings, incorporating aspects of nutrition, gender, HIV/AIDS, and climate. The support extended included the provision of digital data collection tools, revealing through its findings that 26% of the population is food insecure (IPC 3), among other critical insights. The findings and recommendations detailed in this report have empowered the government to launch a food security emergency response for the affected populations and to improve its targeting for interventions.

Lastly, the UN has facilitated Namibia's active participation in the COP-28 dialogue through technical assistance for country-level preparations, including the development of background papers that highlight Namibia's climate action commitments and priorities. Looking ahead, the UN is committed to focusing on the COP-28 recommendations to assist the government in progressing its climate action agenda. This commitment entails building multi-stakeholder capacity, addressing resource needs, seeking alternative financial resources for renewable energy, strengthening institutions for coordinated programming, promoting a circular economy, enhancing partnerships with the private sector, implementing digital transformation, and ensuring participation and inclusivity at all levels.



# Good Governance Pillar



## Outcome 4.1 Accountability and transparency

Outcome 4.1 By 2023, government institutions at national and regional level are accountable and transparent, engaging citizens in participatory decision-making processes

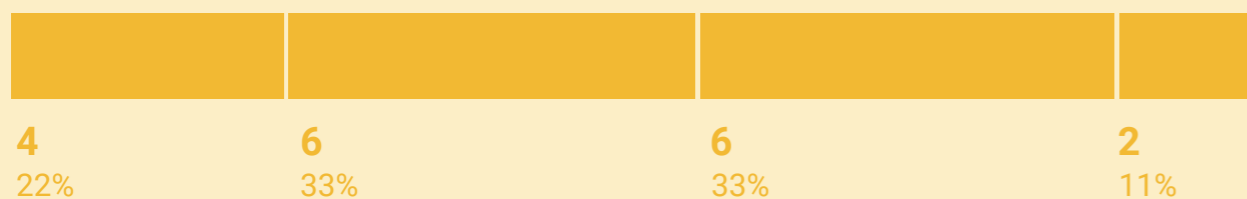
Total available resources 1,652,000.00



Agencies: - FAO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNICEF

### Activities

0 - Not expected to contribute to gender equality/women's empowerment	1 - Contributes to gender equality/women's empowerment in a limited way	2 - Gender equality/women's empowerment is a significant objective	3 - Gender equality/women's empowerment is the principal objective
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### Output 4.1.1 – National statistical system improved with data collection, storage and retrieval improved

To ensure a cohesive National Statistics System (NSS) across all data stakeholders, the UN supported the finalization and dissemination of the inaugural National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). This initiative has amplified the NSS's capability to produce, distribute, and mainstream quality statistics in Namibia.

Moreover, enhancements in management information systems capacity were achieved within crucial sectors like Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), gender, education, and early childhood development (ECD). These improvements paved the way for the prompt release of the 2022 Education Management Information System (EMIS) report, the drafting of the Vital Statistics report, and the completion of the Mortality and Causes of Death report (2018 – 2021). This data is pivotal for guiding future socio-economic and demographic trend-related

programming and policy development. The UN enabled a staff member from the Namibia Statistics Agency to attend a capacity-building workshop on multidimensional poverty, aiming to bolster the government's ability to produce multidimensional data.

To ensure the country has access to high-quality, disaggregated spatial population data, support was extended in preparing for and conducting the 2023 Population and Housing Census. This included technical assistance, the procurement of meal packs for distribution to the homeless during the enumeration night, training for staff and enumerators of the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), and the loan and transport of 12,700 census tablets. These efforts facilitated the timely completion of both the census and the Post-Enumeration Survey, contributing to the generation of census reports in 2024.

Technical support was also extended for the drafting and review of the tools for the 4th Namibia Demographic and Health Survey. This comprehensive assistance bolstered





the government's ability to gather precise, geo-referenced, and detailed population data, essential for national planning and ensuring that no one is left behind.

Additionally, the UN aided the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism in enhancing their capacity to track and report Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions through the establishment and launch of the Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) portal. This step forward improved environmental monitoring, reporting capabilities, and accountability to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Moreover, the UN facilitated the development and validation of the National Land Cover Classification Standards, engaging experts from various Namibian institutions in the validation process. This initiative notably strengthened the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, directly enhancing the national land cover management system.

#### Output 4.1.2 - Governance capacity strengthened ensuring accountability, reporting and service delivery improvements

The UN, working alongside the National Planning Commission (NPC), drafted a Monitoring and Evaluation Policy aimed at enhancing the assessment of national programmes and projects to boost service delivery. This policy has been submitted to the cabinet for endorsement.

To promote ethical decision-making within the public service and adhere to the values outlined in the Public Service Code of Conduct, the UN aided the Office of the Prime Minister in engaging 350 Integrity Champions (190 women and 160 men) from various public sectors. This initiative aimed to spread awareness about behavioural nudges, choice architecture, and ethical considerations.

For International Women's Day, the Groot Aub Primary School was supported through a Coding Camp exhibition aimed at enhancing digital coding and robotics skills. This event empowered 40 young women to create digital solutions addressing community challenges.

The UN, in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister, introduced the Digital Pocket Guide 2.0 to improve public officials' understanding of their roles and responsibilities, offering essential information in a readily accessible digital format. Additionally, a Digital for Government training programme was supported, educating 30 individuals



(14 women, 16 men) on adhering to digital standards, thereby promoting seamless interoperability, stringent security, and universal access to digital solutions. This training is designed to guide government institutions toward informed decision-making and efficacy.

To promote greater inclusivity and ensure that no one is left behind, the UN played a collaborative role in organizing a stakeholder engagement and learning forum. This event was dedicated to drafting the National Action Plan for Persons with Albinism. It served as a platform for discussions and deliberations focused on tackling the unique challenges faced by individuals with albinism, ensuring a comprehensive approach to the action plan's development. The outcomes reflect progress in addressing the specific needs of PWDs, creating a more equitable and accessible environment, and advancing the broader objective of achieving sustainable development for all.



## 2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2023, UN Namibia strengthened its dedication to sustainable development via strategic partnerships and innovative financing, with the goal of backing the 2030 Agenda. These joint endeavors included the use of innovative financing strategies, diversifying ways to engage donors, working closely with local governments, nurturing internal partnerships, and broadening collaboration with both public and private sectors. Leveraging the successes from the prior year, the Partnership Unit maintained its progress, achieving notable outcomes across our varied programmatic portfolio.

### Government and International Contributions

The UN received ongoing support from long-standing government partners including Japan, Canada, and Germany, which was pivotal in sustaining our flagship programmes focused on food systems, home-grown school feeding, and emergency response. Our cooperation with the Federative Republic of Brazil, now in its third year, addressed the root causes of food insecurity in Namibia. This collaboration led to the launch of five projects aimed at enhancing long-term resilience and fostering transformation within rural communities.

### Strengthening Collaborations

Our partnership with UN agencies and the Government of the Republic of Namibia was further strengthened by strategic joint programmes with key government departments. To amplify our impact, the UN formed a partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Services, expanding the 1,000 Days Campaign into the Omaheke and Kunene regions. This extension reached over 500 individuals, providing them with essential nutritional information. Support from the European Union enabled a joint effort between WFP and UNICEF to bolster sustainable service delivery systems for Integrated Early Childhood Development and Pre-Primary Education.

Working with UNAIDS and Deloitte Namibia, the UN launched nutrition awareness and education programmes, along with value addition training for pregnant and lactating mothers, smallholder farmers, and individuals living with HIV/AIDS in two regions. The aim of this initiative was to increase nutritional awareness and skills, diversify livelihoods, and create economic opportunities.

To address these critical needs, the UN collaborated with the Government of Japan on a project titled “Increasing access to quality health care for vulnerable populations through enhanced outreach health services” in the Kunene and Omaheke regions. In line with SDG 3, this project aims to improve access to quality healthcare for vulnerable groups, thereby reducing preventable deaths and addressing healthcare inequities.

### Innovative Partnerships

Given Namibia’s status as an upper-middle-income country, characterized by a high GDP per capita but notable disparity and a relatively small private sector, innovative partnership and resource mobilization strategies are essential. This approach emphasizes non-financial collaborations and regional tactics for optimum outcomes and synergy utilization.

The partnership with the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) is noteworthy, stretching beyond Namibia to include UN Country Teams in Zambia, Cabo Verde, South Africa, Chad, and Mauritania. It focuses on policy advocacy, joint program implementation, capacity building, and knowledge sharing to promote renewable energy across Africa.

Moreover, the collaboration with the Namibia Football Association (NFA) leverages football’s universal appeal as a force for change, focusing on raising awareness and addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Southern Africa. A joint regional GBV programme is scheduled to launch in June 2024.

Expanding the UN’s work with the Namibia Employers Federation (NEF), the combined strengths of the UN system and NEF’s vast network contribute towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This partnership focuses on key areas such as food systems, energy access, digital connectivity, education, employment, and social protection, promoting sustainable development across different sectors.

Additionally, the cooperation between UN Namibia and the Namibia Investment and Promotion Board (NIPDB) focuses on the Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification (STED) initiative. This initiative targets skill gaps and mismatches in key economic sectors, aiming to align with the country’s development objectives and contribute to economic resilience.

Furthermore, in 2023, WFP Namibia showcased a holistic approach to the 2030 Agenda through diverse partnerships and initiatives, focusing on innovative finance, strategic collaborations, and sustainable development.

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

In 2023, Namibia became a Pathfinder Country in the Global Accelerator on Jobs, Social Protection, and Just Transitions, spearheaded by the UN Resident Coordinator. This collective endeavor saw major UN agencies such as the ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, and WFP unite to bolster the Namibian government’s initiatives in creating job opportunities, with a particular emphasis on youth and women. The strategic roll-out of the Global Accelerator markedly enhanced the cohesive efforts of the UN under the Economic Progression and Social Transformation pillars of the UNPAF, concentrating on job creation and social protection.

The formulation of next United Nations Cooperation Framework for Namibia commenced in October 2022, integrating insights from local and Non-Resident Agencies including the ILO, OHCHR, UN WOMEN, UNODC, UNEP, DPPA, and UNECA. This cooperative method was crucial in amplifying UN capabilities for conducting the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and formulating a results matrix tailored to address critical developmental challenges, particularly in reducing inequality and engaging youth.

In alignment with strategic objectives and to enhance operational efficiency, UN agencies in Namibia have agreed to adopt alignment options B and C for their specific country development programming instruments, as outlined in the Cooperation Framework Roadmap.

The UN has initiated joint programmes addressing key areas such as improving living conditions for refugees at the Osire Camp and enhancing the national statistics system to overcome data-related challenges. These efforts demonstrate the power of collaboration in uniting diverse expertise and resources for meaningful impact.



Additionally, the joint AIDS team has contributed significantly, focusing on the sustainability of HIV efforts and navigating the challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes aiding the formulation of the new National HIV Strategic Framework for 2023/24-2027/28, in line with the Global AIDS Strategy, and the National TB Strategic Plan.

Actions to boost operational efficiency have seen notable success, particularly through the Business Operations Strategy (BOS). The annual review of the achieved benefits showed that savings were achieved across common security services, common cleaning services, and common ICT services. Cumulatively over a period of four years, a total of \$43,538 in savings was realized for security, \$30,154 for cleaning, and \$32,676 for ICT, resulting in a combined total of \$106,368 in total savings. Specifically in 2023, savings amounted to \$9,031 for security, \$8,086 for cleaning, and \$8,070 for ICT services.

Furthermore, the Namibia BOS has also promoted disability inclusion, with significant milestones achieved. Significant strides were made in promoting disability inclusion efforts, engaging 65 individuals with disabilities in our recruitment processes, and providing training sessions for 89 UN staff on disability inclusion. In collaboration with 7 agencies, an ICT Accessibility Assessment on Disability Inclusion study was conducted, resulting in a comprehensive ICT and digital accessibility strategic plan, addressing identified gaps. Building upon a previous accessibility audit, notable enhancements were made across UN House premises, including improvements to parking facilities, evacuation routes, entrances, pedestrian pathways, and the introduction of braille printing stations in toilets, promoting greater accessibility for all.

These endeavors highlight the UN’s dedication to enhancing efficiency, strategic vision, and inclusivity in its operations, aiming to foster sustainable development outcomes in Namibia.

## 2.5 Evaluations and Lessons Learned

In lieu of conducting a traditional evaluation of the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) 2019-2023, the United Nations in Namibia embarked on an annual review of its implementation over the past five years. This thorough review was conducted through three strategic workshops.

The initial workshop engaged the UNPAF results groups. A subsequent session involved the UN Country Team (UNCT), where management issues were discussed, particularly concerning the UN's effectiveness in delivering as one framework. The concluding workshop, led by the National Planning Commission, gathered a wide range of stakeholders, including government line ministries responsible for implementing the UNPAF, academia, civil society organisations, and the private sector.

**This collaborative review aimed to assess the UNPAF's impact in several key areas:**

### Coherence

Evaluating the extent to which the UNPAF has fostered complementarity, harmonization, and coordination with other key development partners to enhance outcomes.

### Effectiveness

Determining the extent to which the initiative has achieved or is progressing towards its objectives, including any disparate impacts among different demographic groups.

### Efficiency

Assessing the capability of the intervention to deliver results in a cost-effective and timely manner, with a particular emphasis on reducing transaction costs through enhanced UN coherence.

### Coordination

Reviewing the effectiveness of agency collaboration under the 'One UN' approach.

**The review led to several critical conclusions and actionable recommendations, underscoring lessons learned**

## Relevance

### Develop a comprehensive theory of change

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

### Evidence-based identification of priorities

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

## Coherence

### Strengthen coherence across UN agencies

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

### Integrated approach to policy and community-level work

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

## Coordination

### Enhance UN participation in national development planning

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

### Strengthen partnerships with CSOs and the private sector

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

## Effectiveness

### Strengthen data and research support

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

### Implement robust monitoring and evaluation systems

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

## Efficiencies

### Joint resource mobilization

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

### Reposition UN Support for Technical Assistance

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

## Sustainability

### Ensure programs are integrated into existing structures

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

### Strengthen institutional capacities

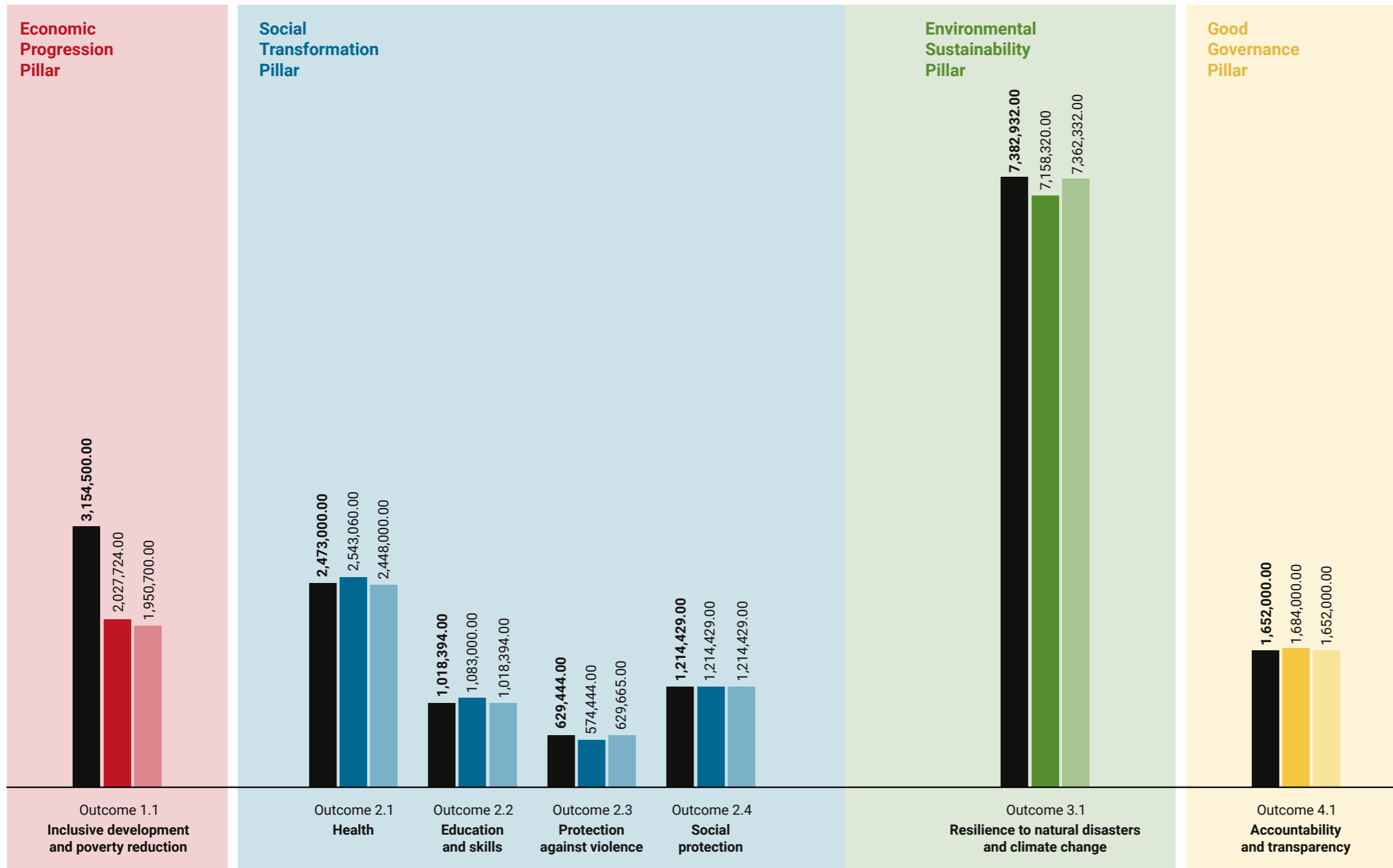
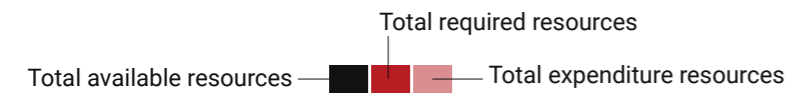
Enhance the capabilities of national and local institutions, along with civil society and the private sector, for ongoing development progress.



## 2.6 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

### 2.6.1. Financial Overview

#### United Nations Partnership Framework Financial Delivery-2023 Joint Work Plan



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# Chapter 3

## UNCT key focus for next year

Recognizing that the year 2024 signifies the culmination of the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) 2019-2023, an extension synchronized with Namibia's national development planning process, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) has identified four paramount priorities. These priorities are designed to steer the collaboration between the United Nations and the Namibian Government, ensuring impactful and strategic interventions aligned with the shared goals and objectives of both entities.

1 Firstly, the UNCT is committed to finalizing the New United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the period 2025-2029. This seminal document is poised to delineate the forthcoming five-year partnership strategy between the United Nations and the Namibian Government, highlighting the mutual areas of focus and collaboration towards sustainable development.

2 Secondly, unanimous consensus underscores the imperative to implement the United Nations Joint Programme on Data and Statistics. This initiative is aimed at significantly bolstering the Namibian Government's capacity to generate high-quality, dependable, and timely data. The overarching objective is to inform more effective programming and policymaking, ensuring that decisions are underpinned by data-driven insights in alignment with national and international development agendas.

3 Thirdly, in recognition of the pressing issue of youth unemployment, which stands at nearly three times the global average in Namibia, the UNCT intends to formulate a comprehensive youth empowerment programme. This initiative will specifically target the reduction of unemployment among young Namibians, equipping them with the requisite skills and opportunities to thrive in an increasingly competitive global economy.

4 Lastly, The UNCT is committed to assisting the Government of Namibia in becoming a leader in Africa for green hydrogen production. This effort will adhere to the principle of 'leave no one behind,' ensuring it is fully incorporated into the green hydrogen strategy. Additionally, focused efforts will aim at developing a joint programme for the Osire Refugee Camp, aimed at improving equal access to services including protection, education, livelihoods, and social protection. This strategy promotes a comprehensive approach to sustainable development.

**Together, these identified priorities underscore the UNCT's strategic orientation for the year 2024, emphasizing a collaborative and results-driven approach aimed at advancing Namibia's Sustainable Development Goals.**

# Namibia

ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT 2023



UNITED NATIONS  
NAMIBIA

