



Republic of Namibia



# IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**VOLUNTARY  
NATIONAL  
REVIEW** | **2018**

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
**GOALS**



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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AALS</b>	Affirmative Action Loan Scheme
<b>CAP</b>	Common African Position
<b>CVD</b>	Cardio-Vascular Diseases
<b>CAT</b>	The Convention Against Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
<b>CBNRM</b>	Community-Based Natural Resources Management Programme
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CFs</b>	Community Forests
<b>CRC</b>	The Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>CRPD</b>	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
<b>DD</b>	Demographic Dividend
<b>EMIS</b>	Education Sector Management Information Report
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zones
<b>EIAs</b>	Environmental Impact Assessments
<b>EMPs</b>	Environment Management Plans
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GERG</b>	Gross Expenditure on Research and Development
<b>HLC</b>	High-Level Committee
<b>HPP</b>	Harambee Prosperity Plan
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index
<b>ICCPR</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<b>ICESCR</b>	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
<b>IECD</b>	Integrated Early Childhood Development
<b>LAC</b>	Legal Assistance Centre
<b>MDGs</b>	Millenium Development Goals
<b>MSME</b>	Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>NDHS</b>	Namibia Demographic Health Survey
<b>NDHS</b>	National Demographic Health Survey
<b>NDRMS</b>	Namibia's disaster risk management systems
<b>NCDs</b>	Non-communicable Diseases
<b>NDP5</b>	Fifth National Development Plan
<b>NEEFF</b>	Namibia Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework
<b>NPC</b>	National Planning Commission
<b>NSA</b>	Namibia Statistics Agency
<b>NUST</b>	Namibia University of Science and Technology
<b>RISDP</b>	Regional Integrated Strategic Development Plan
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>TVET</b>	Vocational Education and Training
<b>UNCLOS</b>	United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review

# FOREWORD

Namibia recognizes the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as reflected in the contribution made by the country in the formulation processes, particularly the intra-Africa regional processes that culminated in a common negotiating instrument called the Common African Position (CAP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Namibia served as a member of the High-Level Committee (HLC) representing the African sub-region. In addition, Namibia, joined by 47 other UN member-states, volunteered to submit the first (1st) SDGs Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2018.

The VNR demonstrates Namibia's commitment towards the localized implementation of the SDGs. This commitment is reflected in the processes that the country has undertaken to ensure full integration of the SDGs into the developmental documents; particularly Namibia's Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5). An extensive campaign was undertaken to sensitize the Namibian community on both the SDGs and Agenda 2063 and the need to make them relevant to the country.

In terms of monitoring and evaluating the implementation process of the SDGs, existing national structures are utilised to ensure harmonised reporting and accountability in order to avoid parallel processes. A baseline report was compiled to provide data on the status of the SDGs' indicators which allowed Namibia to report on progress made. Furthermore, Namibia is committed to complete the development of the National Indicator Framework in order to provide key meta-data on all the indicators to be used in the monitoring and reporting thereof.

The 2018 VNR reflects the progress which Namibia has made by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

completion period 2015 and the initial implementation of SDGs in 2016/2017. The 2018 VNR also highlights the milestones, challenges, mitigating strategies and targets set by Namibia, as reflected in the country's current developmental priorities.

As a country, Namibia prides itself on having made good progress in a number of areas ranging from poverty reduction to achieving universal access to primary education; increased access to safe drinking water; a reduction in HIV and AIDS infection rates; improvement in access to treatment; and an increase in life expectancy etc.

However, significant challenges still exist and continue to impact on the achievement of these Goals. In acknowledgement of these challenges, several strategies are currently being implemented to ensure the attainment of all SDGs targets.

Going forward, Namibia remains committed to the realisation of the SDGs and will continue to invest resources to ensure that targets, as set for the specific goals, are achieved. Domestic resources and international support, in the spirit of the Global Partnership for the SDGs as embedded in Goal 17, will be mobilized to ensure the effective implementation of national developmental programmes that will enable the attainment of the SDGs set.

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**Hon. Obeth Mbuipaha Kandjoze**  
**Minister in the Presidency responsible for Economic Planning and Director General**  
**National Planning Commission**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Namibia prides itself on the milestones reached with respect to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is in this same spirit that the country has made a firm commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The institutionalization of the SDGs has been well executed as embedded in the current Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5). The Plan focuses on Economic Progression; Social Transformation; Environmental Sustainability; and Good Governance which accordingly takes into account the SDGs' pillars of People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnership.

Namibia continues to record commendable milestones in terms of progress made on several indicators. However, it is important to acknowledge that there are several challenges which are currently impeding progress regarding the implementation and achievement of these Goals.

The following are the key milestones and corresponding challenges to date:

## **Economic progression, inequality and end poverty in all of its forms everywhere**

The Gini-Coefficient has improved over the past five years from 0.58 to 0.56. This can be attributed to the pro-poor policies and programmes that Namibia has put in place. In addition, over the past ten years (2008–2017) Namibia has recorded significant progress regarding economic growth, averaging 3.7 percent annually. This is attributed to the country's efforts to stimulate economic activities through government expenditure and foreign investment. Namibia has also managed to decrease poverty levels over the last decade resulting in a reduction in poverty from 28.8 percent to 17.4 percent. This is attributed to concerted efforts geared towards ensuring that 'no one is left behind'.

Whilst inequality has decreased, the levels remains high resulting in Namibia being classified among the top ten most unequal countries in the world. Considerable disparities still exist in terms of who has access to sustainable income, productive assets, food, water, energy, and basic services. Whilst economic growth has consistently been recorded, the paradox is that such growth has not translated into commensurate employment opportunities, resulting in high unemployment rates on the one side and increased levels of inequality on the other.

In terms of economic growth, over the past two years (2016 and 2017) the economic growth has slowed

and is projected at 1.2 and 2.1 percent in 2018 and 2019 respectively, thereby negatively impacting on industrial and investment growth. Rural poverty has reduced significantly from 34 percent to 25.1 percent, although still remains a challenge, and therefore much needs to be done to ensure that rural communities are emancipated.

## **Achieve gender equality (including equity) and empower women and girls**

Over the course of the MDGs and the period transiting into the SDGs to date, Namibia has performed well with respect to gender equity and equality in the spheres of education, political representation, and land rights, including policy and legislation. Women's access to economic and productive resources has improved since independence. To date, according to the Global Gender Gap Report, women account for 35 percent of the wage employment in the agriculture sector and 51 percent of women are employed in the informal sector. Additionally, 27 percent of privately owned firms employ female top managers and 43 percent of parliamentarians are women; representing an improvement from 25 percent in 2010. Furthermore, in the public sector, women in managerial positions account for 43 percent in relation to 57 percent of men. In terms of governance there are currently 22 women ministers (members of the executive), which represents 40 percent.

As part of the work to be done going forward, the proportion of women partaking in science and other high paying fields remain low; there are few women in positions of leadership compared to men. The high rates of poverty among women coupled with high unemployment rates poses a challenge to the attainment of gender equality and the economic empowerment of women. School retention rates remain low for both girls and boys, and more learners continue to drop out of school as they progress from primary to secondary schools. In order to achieve the desired skills levels, Namibia seriously needs to consider and address this anomaly.

## **Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education**

Namibia continues to perform well with respect to inclusive and equitable education and has managed to attain the targets for universal access to primary education, literacy rates, and gender parity in terms of enrolment at all school levels. In this regard, enrolment has grown exponentially over a period spanning ten years. Namibia's gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education at 16.2 percent in 2016 is above sub-Saharan African standards of 8.2 percent.

In general the quality of teaching is a major issue, with the quality of instruction often being unsatisfactory, especially in schools serving poor communities. At the secondary school level there are unacceptably high rates of repetition and in the most remote, rural areas, drop-out rates are of particularly great concern.

Furthermore, the transition from secondary to higher education is very low, currently estimated at 19 percent of the grade 12 learners. At tertiary education level, the quality and relevance of university education has been a serious concern for both private and public sector employers. Post-graduate education continues to be underdeveloped and its contribution to research and innovation remains negligible. Considerable inequalities of access to university education remain in terms of social class, geographical location, marginalized groups as well as those with special needs and disabilities.

#### **Ensure healthy lives to promote well-being for all**

For the period under the MDGs, including the transition to the SDGs, significant progress has been recorded in areas of HIV and AIDS (prevalence 13.3 percent, new infections reduced by 50 percent and treatment coverage of 95 percent); the incidence of TB has declined; there is an improvement in life expectancy to 65 years; and access to health has improved.

Regarding communicable diseases, particularly Malaria incidences, significant progress has been recorded. Such progress has however since been reversed due to the recent floods and cross border movements between Angola and Namibia in particular.

Additionally, as of the latest official data (DHS, 2013), Namibia remains seized with challenges around stunting which stands at 24 percent; anaemia at 48 percent; and neonatal mortality which stands at 20/1000 live births. This calls for concerted efforts by Namibia to achieve its aspired goals in the health sector.

Some of the other key challenges in the health sector are a consequence of pandemic outbreaks that Namibia has been experiencing over the past three years, which necessitate drastic change in focus and innovative financing modules for both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

#### **Promote and build effective, accountable and inclusive public institutions for efficient governance and public service delivery**

Namibia continues to uphold good governance

and augurs well on the international stage. This is further substantiated by the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance which scored Namibia at 81 in 2012 and subsequently improved to 83.9 in 2016. Continentally, this earns Namibia the fifth highest score in good governance out of 54 African nations. Furthermore, Transparency International recognises Namibia as the third most transparent country in Africa, while on the global level it ranks 53 out of 176 countries on Transparency International's 2016 Corruption Perception Index. However, domestically, public service delivery remains a challenge as the public perception index reflects a low rate when it comes to the satisfaction of Namibians with public service delivery. Sixty-five percent of Namibians have expressed their dissatisfaction with Government efforts to fight corruption in the country.

With respect to access to serviced land, the supply thereof remains very low which artificially inflates pricing and inhibits access by ordinary Namibians. This leads to limited access to decent housing and the mushrooming of informal settlements in urban settings.

#### **Promote sustainable agriculture, Combat climate change, and ensure sustainable management of water and sanitation**

Namibia has performed very well regarding access to safe potable water in both rural and urban areas, where access is at 98 percent on average. Namibia continues to invest resources in building resilience in terms of agriculture and food production. This has led to an increase in areas of land under productive agriculture such as the Green Scheme. It is widely held globally, continentally and nationally that Namibia is a wildlife conservation success story, particularly through the effective implementation of the Community-Based Natural Resources Management Programme (CBNRM) which empowers communities to meaningfully and legally manage, use, and benefit from natural resources.

Namibia's vulnerability to climate change has however seen the gains made in the agricultural sector reversed as the persistent occurrence of drought and floods have led to a reduction in food production in the country, leaving 25 percent of the population food insecure. Moreover, climate change continues to exacerbate land degradation while also impacting on marine resources.

Additionally, as water-borne sewerages are the main sanitation system in urban areas of Namibia while dry sanitation system is mainly used in rural areas,

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

nationally only 54 percent of the households have access to improved sanitation. The problem is particularly acute in rural areas where only 28 percent of the households have access to improved sanitation facilities and an alarming rate of 71 percent of households practice open defecation. Low access to improved sanitation therefore constitutes a serious public-health problem.

### **Strategies to address challenges**

Some of the strategies adopted by Namibia to address challenges with regards to the achievement of the various SDG goals are as follows:

#### **Economic progression, inequality and end poverty in all its forms everywhere**

In its efforts to address poverty, Namibia has undertaken numerous initiatives to promote value addition in order to grow the economy and thereby create employment. This is complemented by initiatives to invest in education and skills development to ensure that a large number of the population have access to employment opportunities. In addressing rural poverty which remains high, Namibia has a strategy to develop and promote community based and social enterprises through incentivising the private sector to invest in the rural economy.

#### **Achieve gender equality (including equity) and empower women and girls**

In empowering women and girls, the main initiative being undertaken is to mainstream informal businesses led by women to ensure financial inclusion for women in micro, small and medium enterprises, especially in agri-business and extractive industries.

#### **Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education**

In addressing access to higher education, Namibia has instituted measures to widen access to higher education through equity and inclusion by focusing on increasing higher education institution intakes from rural areas and marginalized groups. This is done through intensified public awareness programs and availability of student financing.

#### **Ensure healthy lives to promote well-being for all**

Namibia is strengthening the implementation of regional extension centres to ensure outreach to all districts countrywide for various types of immunization. Developing a multi-sectoral approach for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases is another strategy which Namibia is taking in an effort to promote the wellbeing of its people through strengthening medicines supply management systems and health training institutions.

#### **Promote and build effective, accountable and inclusive public institutions for efficient governance and public service delivery**

Efforts to improve public service delivery are being implemented through initiatives to accelerate some basic services such as land servicing and housing supply. As part of its current plans, Namibia aims to accelerate the provision of housing processes and delivery through embracing Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and sourcing new financial resources for rural housing schemes.

#### **Promote sustainable agriculture, combat climate change, and ensure sustainable management of water and sanitation**

Namibia is committed to building resilience to climate change through enhancing preparedness to natural disasters such as flood and drought impacts. In addressing sanitation challenges, Namibia promotes coordinated investment in sanitation infrastructure (both procurement of new and maintenance of existing infrastructure) by ensuring that resources are allocated accordingly and that advocacy to stimulate behavioural change around hygiene, especially at the community levels, is strengthened.

#### **Affirmation of Commitment**

Namibia remains committed to the realisation of the SDGs and will continue to invest resources to ensure that targets, as set for the specific goals, are achieved. Domestic resources and international support, in the spirit of the Global Partnership for the SDGs as embedded in Goal 17, continue to be mobilized to ensure effective implementation of national developmental programmes which will enable the attainment of the goals.

# INTRODUCTION

Namibia has embraced sustainable development as its national planning approach, and is fully committed to the Global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its principles, goals, targets and indicators. This Review provides an overview of Namibia's progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since their adoption in 2015, with a particular focus on the theme *'Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies'*.

The content of this VNR is extracted from numerous local development planning instruments (inclusive but not limited to NDP5 and Harambee Prosperity Plan) which resulted from diverse stakeholder consultative processes championed at both the highest level by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr Hage G. Geingob, and at the technical and grass-roots levels through the NDP5 stakeholder consultations.

Amongst those engaged, through multi-stakeholder consultative exercises, were the public sector, private sector, civil society, development partners, UN, academia and other interest groups. The data therein was collected and validated by the duly mandated national statistical authority (Namibia Statistical Agency –NSA) and also through key informer interviews and literature reviews.

The Review mainly highlights the positive experiences to date and the challenges encountered in the efforts made to eradicate poverty as the overarching theme for national development and the SDGs relevant to Namibia as well as the strategies developed to achieve these goals.

Namibia's SDG National Review 2018 report follows the globally recommended guidelines and is structured as follows: The introduction which provides background and context, the assessment of the means of implementation, analysis of thematic issues which tracks the status of selected SDGs in Namibia, the evaluation of policies and strategies, a conclusion, and recommendations.

# NAMIBIA'S DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT AND THE SDGs

Namibia's economy has grown rapidly since independence in 1990, reaching Middle Income Country (MIC) status in 2009 and Upper MIC status in 2014. Its economy has matured to one which has reduced poverty significantly providing economic and livelihood opportunities for a critical mass/targeted population, yet it remains marked by extreme inequalities.

During the period between independence in 1990 and 2017 the country notably reduced poverty, increased access via free education at both primary and secondary school levels, broadened health services coverage (including stabilizing the HIV and AIDS epidemic), increased the coverage and value of old age, disability and OVC social safety grants, safeguarded biodiversity and ecosystem services in protected areas, adopted legislation to improve good governance and environmental management, and created specific institutions to target support for the poor.

Yet, Namibia still faces many development challenges predominantly due to an unequal society with huge social and economic inequalities. Namibia's Human Development Index (HDI) for 2015 stood at 0.640 which represents an improvement from 1990 when it recorded 0.578, ranking Namibia at 125 out of 188 countries. However, when the value is discounted for inequality, the HDI falls to 0.415, a loss of 35.2 percent due to inequality in the distribution of the HDI dimension indices. Thus, despite good economic advancement and progressive transformations through deliberate policies, strategies and programmes, there are major gaps in all three spheres of sustainable development.

For instance, the capital-intensive nature of the sectors driving the economy such as the extractive industries, especially diamonds, uranium, and gold (with its vulnerability to external shocks and the exhaustible nature of the commodity), created an economy with structural rigidities that restricted significant employment generation and impacted on the levels of inequality. Government's major shareholding in diamond mining increased revenues meaningfully through diamond export earnings. Consequently, this allowed the government to invest heavily in development projects and recurrent expenditure. Yet without robust revenue sharing formula in extractives not much has been achieved in reducing the gaps between the poor and rich, nor addressed the high inequities. These scenarios further constrained participation and, coupled with limited private sector growth (which itself is heavily dependent on Government spending), affected the country's potential for inclusive growth and prosperity.

The economic slowdown and reduced donor funding forced the treasury to contain public expenditure in 2016, including the reduction of budget allocations to essential sectors such as health and education, freezing public service recruitment and halting major public works. It is expected that going forward, in the medium term, recovery in agriculture and diamond mining will support economic growth. There is also potential for improved growth in the uranium mining, manufacturing and transport and communication sectors.

Namibia joined the Common Monetary Area in 1991, which pegged its currency to the South African Rand. This arrangement has been beneficial in terms of price and currency stability, but the recent weakening of the Rand has had adverse effects on the Namibian economy, which is associated with volatile inflation rates. This notwithstanding, the net-export base for Namibia is very small, which makes it insignificant to accrue sufficient benefits from a devalued Rand. On the contrary, the domestic economic activities are affected as a result of the high dependency on the import of essential goods and services (e.g. Namibia currently imports 61 percent of the food consumed locally as per the Annual Vulnerability Assessment Report 2017).

# ASSESSING THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs

Namibia has domesticated Agenda 2030 and requisite indicators and targets in its national development planning documents. This will provide the basis for monitoring and measuring of progress on the implementation of the national programmes which encompass the SDGs.

## **Creating Ownership at all levels:**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been promoted through awareness campaigns undertaken for the Government, Local Authorities, Civil Society, Academia, Parliament and Development Partners. This was accomplished through national and sub-national level consultations on the development of the NDP5, which also reflected on the SDGs and the AU Agenda 2063. These consultations focused more on the sensitization of communities using community radio stations. More awareness campaigns are envisaged including support for the planned translation of the SDGs into local languages.

## **Alignment of SDGs with the National Vision and National Development Planning**

Namibia is committed to Agenda 2030 and has fully absorbed the SDGs into the NDP5, and the corresponding accelerating tool, the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) 2016–2020. The NDP5 was launched deliberately a year after the adoption of the SDGs so as to ensure that national processes benefit from the global discussions on the new development agenda. Accordingly, in implementing Namibia's national development agenda, Namibia is simultaneously working toward the realization of the global Agenda 2030, Africa Agenda 2063 and the SADC's Regional Integrated Strategic Development Plan (RISDP).

## **Institutional Mechanisms for SDG implementation, coordination, review and reporting**

In terms of coordination of SDGs as implemented within the framework of the NDP5, the pre-existing three-tier mechanism has been re-adopted. This consists of the Development Partners Forum at the highest level to provide coordination oversight; a multi-stakeholder National Steering Committee composed of senior officials from both government and development partners at implementation level to provide tracking of implementation; and lastly the coordination of all developments pertaining to SDGs, through the NDP5 vehicle, which rests with the NPC as the Secretariat.

The responsibility for the collection of data for analysis and reporting thereof lies with the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA).

The monitoring of SDGs' progress, as embedded into the NDP5, remains the principal responsibility of National Monitoring Evaluation Office in collaboration with the UN Development System's Coordination Unit, which necessarily must be kept abreast with all developments pertaining to SDGs as it is ultimately responsible for coordination, review and thereafter reporting such progress to the institutional mechanism alluded to earlier. Both the latter Offices are respectively housed under the National Planning Commission (NPC).

## **Analyzing Thematic Issues**

### **Tracking Progress: Status of selected SDGs in Namibia**

#### **SDG 1: END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE**

##### *Economic Growth*

Namibia continued to register significant progress regarding economic growth over the past ten years (2008 – 2017) averaging 3.7 percent annually. However, over the past two years (2016 and 2017), economic growth has slowed and is projected at 1.2 and 2.1 percent in 2018 and 2019 respectively, thereby negatively impacting on industrial and investment growth. To counter this the country is engaged in efforts to stimulate economic activities through government expenditure and foreign investment.

##### *Poverty Trends and Levels*

The national poverty rate has continued to decrease over time falling from 28.8 percent in 2010 to 18 percent in 2016 and by 2017 poverty reduced to 17.4 percent. This is attributed, amongst others, to the pro-poor policies and programmes that target the poor segments of society, whereby people are provided with tools that build resilience and self-sufficiency to break the cycle of poverty. Social safety nets are one of the measures that have lifted people out of poverty to sustainable livelihoods.

The adopting of a social welfare approach that is based on promoting the human rights and dignity of people and achieving social justice has also contributed to the reduction of poverty in the country. Namibia has furthermore adopted economic policies that are aimed at providing opportunities for the poor, where several credit schemes and seed support programmes are implemented to allow for micro and medium enterprise development and in turn improve their income. Namibia continues to invest in the education sector to improve the skills of its people in order to provide the skilled labour required to propel Namibia to its desired aspiration of an industrialised Nation by 2030.

Despite progress made in reducing rural poverty, recording a reduction from 34 percent, poverty levels still remain high at 25.1 percent. Government therefore needs to invest additional resources to ensure that the rural communities are emancipated. A substantial segment of the population remains extremely poor, suffering from multiple deprivations in the domains of material, employment, health, education and living environment.

##### *Human Development Index (HDI)*

The human development index improved from 0.578 in 1990 to 0.640 in 2015. This can be attributed to the huge investment which Namibia has made in the social sectors of health and education

##### *Inequities Trends and Levels*

The Gini-Coefficient has improved from the past measure of 0.58 in 2010 to 0.56 in 2016. This can be attributed to the pro-poor policies and programmes which the government has put in place. Even though inequality seems to have slightly reduced there are still huge disparities in terms of who has access to sustainable income, productive assets, food, water, energy, and other basic services. Inequality is still high with Namibia ranked amongst the top ten most unequal countries in the world.

##### *Unemployment Trends and Levels*

Unemployment has increased from 28 percent in 2016 to 34 percent in 2017. The increase in unemployment is a consequence of poor performance in the key employment sectors such as mining, agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure development and tourism. In addition the mechanization of production in these sectors has also

contributed to a reduction in the demand for labour. The growth in employment opportunities subsequently fell short of the number of new entrants in the labour market, thus there is now a high unemployment rate (34 percent), impacting certain vulnerable groups more severely, including women, youth, people with disabilities, and the poor.

*Current challenges to attaining the Goals' aspirations*

Even though Namibia is investing a great deal of resources to address poverty, there are still challenges that impact the implementation of interventions aimed at eradicating poverty. These include, amongst others:

- a. Lack of industrialization and infrastructure, which have contributed to economic imbalance
- b. Lack of proper skills which can be attributed to the education system which focuses on theoretical subjects with limited focus on technical and vocational training and limited investment made in early childhood development. This has led to a skills mismatch between what the system produces and what the job market requires
- c. The spread of communicable diseases such as HIV has also impacted on productivity across all sectors of the economy
- d. The global financial crisis has affected the Namibian economy and contributed to an increase in unemployment, in particular the extractive industry, which employs a significant number of people.
- e. Recurrent natural disasters such as droughts and floods have impacted mostly agricultural productivity, leading to a decline in GDP contribution from 30 percent in 2015 to 20 percent in 2016 and consequently reducing the number of people employed in the sector

*Strategies*

Namibia has set five year targets aimed at addressing the key challenges under SDG 1 and has also put in place strategies that will enable the government to reach these set targets, as outlined below:

Strategies for attaining the targets	Set national targets
<p>A strong work ethic to be encouraged through incentives that seek to ensure that those who are capable graduate and seek employment to ease the burden on the program and avoid propagating a culture of dependency.</p> <p>Foster collaboration and partnerships across various sectors and institutions.</p>	<p>Gini coefficient- 0.500</p> <p>Head count poverty rate (extreme poor) - 5 percent</p> <p>Head count poverty rate (poor) -10 percent</p>
<p>National Comprehensive Social Protection Program being expanded, with added investments, to provide integrated support to the poorest and vulnerable households.</p> <p>Strengthen social safety nets through expedited registration for national documents and other means.</p> <p>Strengthen social protection system so that it is harmonized with existing programs, policies and laws relating to social protection.</p> <p>Enhance disaster risk governance through increased understanding of and investment in its varied dimensions, including assessment, prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation</p>	<p>Gini coefficient- 0.500</p> <p>Head count poverty rate (extreme poor) - 5%</p> <p>Head count poverty rate (poor) -10%</p>

## **SDG2: END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

Namibia is fully committed to ending hunger; this commitment is reflected across all key development documents where zero hunger stands as a key priority. Amongst these key national development instruments – which includes the Vision 2030 initiative, the HPP and the NDP 5 – the Zero Hunger Strategy recognizes the importance of food and nutrition security and appreciates the contribution therein embedded in Namibia's drive to achieve SDGs 2 and 17.

In order to understand the extent of food and nutrition security in Namibia, one has to examine it from the context of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and its five pillars as indicated below:

### **Access to adequate food –**

#### *Food access and sufficiency*

Food insecurity affects 25 percent of the population: most low earners spend 57 percent of their incomes on food (Zero Hunger Strategic Review 2016). Poverty, income inequality, high unemployment – particularly in urban areas –, high food prices, and HIV prevalence at 13.3 percent are all major factors limiting access to food. As a result of structural food deficits, Namibia relies on food imports – which are susceptible to price and currency fluctuations – for up to 61 percent of needs (Emongor and Kirsten 2008).

#### *Impact on Women*

Despite the national commitment to gender equality, women remain more disempowered and excluded than men. For example, there are higher rates of unemployment and poverty among women when compared to men and women have lower access to resources and technologies, leading to higher levels of food insecurity among women. Women play a major role in supporting household access to food by generating income from agricultural labour, production and sale of cash crops and other means, and by performing the vast majority of unpaid care and domestic work (ILO statistical database ILOSTAT).

#### *Food Markets and Prices*

A total of 83 percent of the population is reliant on markets for food and access to food by vulnerable households is limited by high prices. Food price inflation averaged 8.1 percent between 2012 and 2016, with a record low of 4.1 percent in June 2015 and a high of 12.5 percent in December 2016 ([www.tradingeconomics.com/world](http://www.tradingeconomics.com/world)).

#### *Food Support*

Food assistance, remittances and social grants are an important part of peoples coping strategies and sometimes accounts for a significant proportion of their income. The annual need for emergency food relief has increased as a result of droughts and in 2016/17 the Government supported 214,170 people with emergency food relief (OPM 2016/17).

## Ending all forms of malnutrition

### *Stunting*

Between 2006 and 2013, child stunting was reduced from 29 to 24 percent, wasting from 8 to 6 percent and underweight from 17 to 13 percent. However, in rural areas and among the 31 percent of households in the poorest quintile, stunting remains at 28 percent; in Oshanaana region rates reach 37 percent (Zero hunger strategic review 2016).

Malnutrition challenges, particularly stunting, are rooted in various socio-economic and environmental factors, including limited support for pregnant and lactating women, poor dietary diversity, insufficient consumption of micronutrients, inadequate care practices, and limited access to potable water and sanitation.

### *Breast-feeding*

Breastfeeding is common, but the average duration is decreasing as a result of insufficient institutional and social-cultural support to breastfeeding mothers and the promotion of breast milk substitutes. Of children aged 6–59 months, 48 percent suffer from anaemia; on the other hand immunization has increased to cover 90 percent of children (WHO 2015). Micronutrient supplementation increased from 52 percent in 2006 to 84 percent in 2015 (WHO 2015). To address iodine deficiency, Namibia launched an iodine supplementation campaign and passed legislation mandating the iodization of salt for household use.

### *Smallholder productivity and income*

Most smallholder and subsistence farmers live in communal areas where access to land and water is challenging. Smallholder producers' account for 54 percent of total agricultural producers of whom a share of 45 percent entities registered for communal areas are under women. In addition three-quarters of agricultural labourers are women.

Food insecurity affects smallholder farmers who depend on rain fed agriculture because their resilience to weather-related shocks is limited; food shortages affected 76 percent of rural agricultural households in 2013 (Census of agriculture report 2013/14). According to the census of agriculture report 2013/14, production of food and livestock in communal areas has remained significantly low, mainly as a result of limited access to modern farming technologies and practices, poor soil fertility, over-grazing and prolonged dry spells. Recent studies in the maize and mahangu regions showed cereal harvest losses of 15 percent among smallholder farmers resulting from limited skills and access to harvest and post-harvest technology.

## Sustainable food systems

### *Disaster Risk Management*

Namibia is mainly a dry land country with a semi-arid to arid climate. Agricultural land accounts for only 47 percent of the total area, of which only 34 percent supports economic crop and livestock production; agriculture accounts for 3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) and provides only 40 percent of cereal requirements (<http://www.tradingeconomics.com/World>). The agriculture sector has been negatively affected to date by the seven major floods and eight droughts that occurred between 1999 and 2016. The number of people affected by drought has since increased from 25,000 in 1998 to 798,384,000 in 2017 (OPM 2016/17).

### Gaps and Challenges

There are several gaps and challenges linked to food security in the country. The Zero Hunger Strategic review conducted in 2015 identified five key challenges. These include the following:

- 1. Lack of coherent policy.** The legal and policy frameworks are sufficient to aid Namibia's development agenda, but coherence among sectors managed by different government agencies is a major issue. There is a need for cross-sector and inter-sector synergies and coherence to be created, together with a national system to monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies. The current food and nutrition security policy is not addressing all aspects of food security as stipulated in SDG 2 and therefore there is no framework to guide social assistance programmes in the country. The majority of the social protection interventions are sector-specific and are not addressing cross-sectoral issues: they are neither comprehensive nor integrated.
- 2. Capacity constraints.** Institutional and human resource capacity for policy and programme design and implementation are limited. The implementation of food security programmes is affected by challenges impacting prioritization and gaps in technical and managerial capacities in government bodies at the national and regional levels. The capacity of government institutions and personnel involved in designing, planning, resourcing and monitoring must be improved to ensure higher quality, cost-effective, equitable and empowering assistance to vulnerable households and individuals.
- 3. Weak evidence and monitoring.** Weak research and evidence collation combined with programming challenges makes it difficult to quantify the interactions among food and nutrition insecurity, poverty and HIV. There is no food and nutrition security baseline from which to measure progress in addressing hunger. The limited information on food consumption patterns, both overall and by population group, and fragmented data collection tools, approaches and systems among sectors and ministries, makes it difficult to obtain a comprehensive outlook of the food and nutrition security situation so as to inform programme design, policy and provide timely government response.
- 4. Fragmented social programmes.** Namibia has one of the most comprehensive social protection systems in sub-Saharan Africa: it supports elderly people, orphans and vulnerable children, people with disabilities, war veterans, school children, marginalized communities and populations affected by hunger. However, the registration and targeting procedures are not efficient, monitoring needs strengthening as well as beneficiary selection, which leads to exclusion and inclusion errors. This inefficiency continues to contribute to high administrative and delivery costs and limits scalability. Social protection programmes must be consolidated under a single registry and coordinated by a single institution to enhance their effectiveness in ensuring food security.
- 5. Weak coordination.** Poor coordination among ministries, sectors, agencies and public and private organizations limits progress towards zero hunger in Namibia. Coordination mechanisms such as the Namibia Alliance for Improved Nutrition (NAFIN) that promote the scaling up of food and nutrition initiatives have not been effective at either the national or sub-national levels. Communication among sectors and institutions is inadequate and there is no momentum to reinforce such linkages. It is essential to enhance the coordination of programme and policy implementation at the national and sub-national levels to address food and nutrition insecurity.

**Agriculture Sector and Food Security Strategies and targets amongst others:**

Strategies for the attainment of the targets	Set national targets
1. Increase agricultural production for cereals, horticulture and livestock.	Decrease food insecurity from 25 percent to 12 percent by 2022.
2. Develop agro-processing industries by utilizing local produce and regional value chains.	National food storage capacity increased from 22900mt to 39400mt.
3. Increase smallholder or communal farmer's productivity.	30 percent increase in food production.
4. Enhance animal health and production.	Share of national livestock production marketed increased from 4 percent to 10 percent.
5. Improve communication and stakeholder engagement (research, health promotion and stakeholder round table).	Reduce stunting to 12 percent by 2022 Reduce anaemia to 10 percent by 2022
6. Scale-up essential high impact nutrition specific and sensitive interventions. Strengthen enabling environment for effective action, coordination, integration and implementation of food and nutrition programmes.	

**SDG 3: ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES**

Namibia recognizes that health is fundamental to human rights and is committed to achieving health for all Namibians. The main health and wellbeing issues for Namibia are Child and Maternal Mortality, HIV and TB related deaths, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Roads Accidents' deaths.

*Maternal Mortality*

According to the National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) of 2013, Namibia's maternal mortality ratio is at 385/100,000 live births, a decrease from 449/100,000 live births in 2006-7. This could be attributed to the investments made in health systems strengthening and the establishment of maternal waiting homes which enable women from remote rural areas to deliver at health facilities.

*Antenatal Services – Births attended to by skilled health Professionals*

Antenatal services are available in all health facilities in the country, resulting in 87 percent of all births occurring in health facilities and 88 percent attended to by skilled birth attendants.

*Fertility Rates and Trends*

Total fertility in the country in the 1970s was estimated at about 6 children per woman but has gradually decreased over the years and stagnated at 3.6 between 2006-7 and 2013.

*Contraceptives Use*

The contraceptive prevalence rate increased from 46.6 percent in 2006-7 to 50.2 percent in 2013.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs**

### *Teenage Pregnancy*

Teenage pregnancy increased from 15.4 percent in 2006-7 to 19 percent in 2013 according to Namibia Demographic Health Survey (NDHS).

### *Child Mortality (including under-fives and infant mortality)*

The neonatal mortality rate is 20 deaths per 1,000 live births which is a decline from 24 per 1 000 live births. This shows no significant decline in the five years preceding the survey. The under-five mortality rate has declined from 69 (2006-7) to 54 (2013) in the past five years and infant mortality rates does not demonstrate a significant decline for the past ten years which by global standards still remains high.

### *Immunization against Measles*

Namibia embarked upon several immunization campaigns and other strategies which led to improved coverage of 90% for measles in 2013.

### *Combating communicable Diseases – HIV/AIDS*

HIV/AIDS prevalence in the general population currently stands at 13.3 percent<sup>1</sup>. Prevalence among pregnant women has declined from a peak of 22.5 percent in 2002 to 17.2 percent<sup>2</sup> in 2016. In 2016, new HIV infections have reduced by over 50 percent since 2001, while AIDS-related deaths by 48 percent since 2001.<sup>3</sup> The overall mother to child transmission (MTCT) rate declined from 23.7 percent in 2005 to 4.1 percent in 2015, with HTC and ART coverage for PMTCT at 95 percent by 2016. MTCT rate at six weeks dropped from 13.3 percent (2005) to less than 2 percent in 2015. HTC coverage of pregnant women has increased to 95 percent and treatment of HIV positive women is estimated to be more than 95 percent.

### *Combating communicable Diseases – TB and Malaria*

Whilst there has been success in curbing communicable diseases such as TB, the progress that was seen in Malaria has been since been reversed due to the recent floods and cross border movements between Angola and Namibia in particular.

### *Combating Non-communicable Diseases*

Non-communicable diseases accounted for 43 percent of the 14,000 total deaths in 2012 with Cardio-Vascular Diseases (CVD) being the most common NCD in Namibia accounting for 21 percent of mortality in 2012. High Blood Pressure rates range from 57 percent in the Khomas Region to 30 percent in the Kavango Region (NDHS 2013). Diabetes accounted for 4 percent of all mortality in Namibia in 2012. As of 2015, Namibia has a Health Adjusted Life Expectancy of 65 years.

### *Gaps and Challenges*

As the country moves into the era of the SDG, a number of ambitious targets have been set to address the high burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases and reduce maternal and child mortality over the next five-year period of the National development plan.

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<sup>1</sup> MOHSS 2016 Estimates

<sup>2</sup> MOHSS 2016 HIV Sentinel Surveillance among pregnant women

<sup>3</sup> MOHSS 2016 Estimates

**The key challenges to achieving these targets are:**

As the country moves into the era of the SDG, a number of ambitious targets have been set to address the high burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases and reduce maternal and child mortality over the next five-year period of the National development plan.

The key challenges to achieving these targets are:

1. Free cross-border movement of people seeking health care
2. Grazing presents a challenge to the elimination of communicable diseases
3. There has been a noted increase on mental health
4. There is a shortage of human resources, especially in the rural areas compelling the country to rely heavily on expatriates
5. There is inadequate health research conducted in the country due to limited capacity. Availability of essential drugs is affected by:
  - 5.1 Protracted procurement processes
  - 5.2 Lack of access to pharmaceuticals
  - 5.3 Irrational uses of pharmaceuticals and wastage
  - 5.4 Insufficient storage capacity
  - 5.5 Limited warehousing space at CMS
6. Maintenance of medical equipment is a major challenge
7. Double burden of under-nutrition and overweight or obesity is a challenge

**Key Strategies and targets for SDG 3, amongst others:**

Strategies for the attainment of the targets	Set national targets
1. Accelerate health infrastructure development and resource management (equipment, physical building, maintenance, pharmaceutical and finance)	Health adjusted life expectancy rate to increase from 58 percent (2015) to 67.5 percent by 2022
2. Ensure the wellbeing of Namibian people	Reduce TB mortality rate from 73 percent to 47 percent Reduce Maternal Mortality from 385/100 000 to 200/100 000 by 2022 Reduce Under-Five Mortality from 54 to 39
3. Improve talent management (human resource development, recruitment and retention)	Improve doctor per population ratio from 1:2485(2015) to per population ratio to 1:1457 by 2022 Improve Registered nurse/population from 1:328(2015) to 1:270 by 2022 Improve pharmacist/population from 1:4095(2015) to 1:2289 by 2022

### **SDG 4: ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**

The main thrust under SDG 4 in Namibia are Early Childhood Development; Basic Education, Technical, Vocation Education and Training (TVET) and Higher Education.

#### *Early Childhood Development*

In terms of early-childhood development, by the expiry of the MDGs, only 13 percent of children aged 0–4 years were enrolled in ECD programs (2011 National Population and Housing Census). Children in urban areas (19 percent) were more likely to receive ECD services than children in rural areas (9.8 percent).

#### *Basic Education*

Pertaining to basic education, Namibia has made great progress in providing access to education to over 95 percent of the learner-age population. Nevertheless, the quality of instruction is often unsatisfactory, especially in schools serving poor communities. In 2015, only 45 percent of grade 5 pupils achieved proficiency in English, whilst 63 percent of the same grade achieved proficiency in Mathematics. Grade 7 pupils fared even worse with just 48 percent and 41 percent achieving proficiency in English and Mathematics respectively. At the secondary school level, there are unacceptably high rates of repetition. Of grade 8 pupils, about 30 percent repeat that grade. More than one-third of all students drop-out by grade 10.

In the most remote, rural areas, drop-out rates are an extreme concern. Only 49 percent of first graders in extremely remote areas will attend school up to grade 5. The quality of teaching is a major issue. More than 20 percent of teachers have no formal teaching qualifications. The low performance of students on end-of-year tests suggests that teaching is not having the intended impact on student learning. The transition from secondary to higher education is very low, currently estimated at 19 percent of the grade 12 learners.

#### *Technical, Vocation Education and Training*

With regards to Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET), the percentage of TVET graduates currently stands at 55 percent of total higher education graduates. Namibia is committed to increasing that share to 65 percent by 2022. The vocational education completion rate stands at 60 percent.

However, the TVET sub-sector is affected by a number of challenges notably that TVET provision is inadequate in terms of access and, in many cases, quality. Furthermore, many potential TVET learners are either unable to enrol due to negative perception of TVET generally or lack of a desired course to attend.

#### *Higher Education and Training*

With reference to Namibian higher education, quality and relevance of university education has been a serious concern for both private and public sector employers. Post-graduate education continues to be underdeveloped and its contribution to research and innovation remains negligible. Considerable inequalities of access to university education remain in terms of social class, geographical location, marginalized groups as well as those with special needs and disabilities.

The country has only two public universities and one private university besides other private higher education institutions. Enrolment has grown exponentially since the late 2000s to almost 44,000 in 2013. As a consequence, Namibia's gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (16.3.0 per cent in 2016) is high by sub-Saharan African standards (8.2 per cent for the region). Admission criteria, however, exclude a large share of applicants, although public universities have established bridging programmes to facilitate access by young people from disadvantaged background or with previous work experience.

Public universities suffer from severe shortages of qualified academic staff (the student/academic staff ratio at the University of Namibia was 26.5 in 2016, and only 21 per cent of academic staff had PhD degrees). Internal quality assurance systems have been introduced in the public universities and in some of the private higher education institutions, but they need to be harmonized.

Internships or entrepreneurship training have been introduced, and a few tracer studies conducted, but there are no sound policy frameworks and strategies to systematically guide these arrangements. Public universities conduct research and provide outreach services, but they lack consistent research agendas and partnerships with industries appear weak.

*Science, Technology and Innovation*

Namibia has a comprehensive policy and institutional framework for STI. The national system of innovation has grown in size and complexity but lacks scientific and technological dynamism. **Investment in research and development (R&D)**: Dominated by public institutions, R&D suffers from low levels of funding (gross expenditure on R&D represented 0.14 per cent of GDP in 2010) and staffing (Namibia had 433 R&D personnel in 2010), and files limited numbers of patents, industrial design registrations and trademarks.

A weak entrepreneurial and innovation culture is a barrier to job creation and economic diversification in Namibia. The incoherence of policies, their long gestation and poor implementation undermine the system. Meanwhile, private sector participation in R&D and innovation is limited and often not linked to universities and R&D institutes.

The policy review identifies six strategic priorities, each associated with a set of policy options: (1) transform and expand VET, and diversify higher education; (2) improve quality; (3) promote research, innovation and entrepreneurship; (4) reduce inequality; (5) engage employers and enhance responsiveness to labour market needs; and (6) review the institutional structure and fill policy gaps. The sixth strategic priority, on governance and policy making, is most urgent as it conditions the effective implementation of policy options towards the other five priorities.

**Key Interventions Supporting SDG 4**

**Strategies and targets**

Strategies for the attainment of the targets	Set national targets
1. Increase access to quality Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD):	Improve percentage of children 0-4 who access ECD from 13 percent (2011) to 40 percent by 2022
1. Improving the provision of appropriate educational facilities, teaching-learning resources and increasing child health and nutrition.	Improve percentage of children 5-8 who access ECD from 38 percent (2016) to 80 percent by 2022
3. Upgrade the curriculum for 0-4 years and its implementation.	Increase the number of qualified caregivers from 2 862 (2016) to 3 800 by 2022
4. Enhance the quality of teaching at pre-primary level.	Improve percentage of qualified pre-primary teachers from 45 percent (2016) to 60 percent by 2022
5. Develop a strong framework to enhance core skills of literacy and numeracy.	Improve percentage of learners qualifying for university from 36 percent (2015) to 60 percent by 2022 Improve NSSCO Mathematics pass rate from 45 percent (2015) to 65 percent by 2022

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs**

6. Develop comprehensive planning and administration systems.	The execution of all yearly targets through each Annual Plan, with the aim to achieve the overall implementation of the Strategic Plan
7. Improve learners' transition to higher education.	Improve NSSCO English pass rate from 28 percent (2015) to 50 percent by 2022 Improve NSSCO Physical Science pass rate from 47 percent (2015) to 57 percent by 2022
8. Create a pool of competent and skilled workers through the transformation, upgrading and expansion of TVET institutions.	Increase Enrolment (number) from 25 137 (2015) to 50 000 by 2022
9. Make TVET more accessible. Expand existing training centres (VTCs, COSDECs and SOE providers) and create new ones in areas where there are none.	Improve Percentage of TVET graduates to total higher education graduates from 55% (2014) to 65% by 2022
10. Offer TVET courses that improve the employment prospects of learners.	Improve Completion rate (%) from 60 (2015) to 80 by 2022
11. Widen access to university education through equity and inclusion. 12. Improve quality of teaching and learning. Develop quality assurance systems and raise learning outcomes by providing professional development to lecturers. 13. Strengthen research capacity at HEIs. 14. Promote private sector investment in higher education by creating conducive environment for the establishment of new institutions and by promoting and facilitating internship programs.	Increase percentage of tertiary education completion rate from 50 percent (2015) to 70 percent by 2022

## **SDG 5: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Namibia registered significant improvement in the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment (GEWE). This is largely credited to existing legislative instruments that have been put in-place to ensure gender equality and women empowerment. In addition, there are number of programmes that have been developed for the implementation of the policy provisions. These include Article 10 of the Constitution of The Republic of Namibia which guarantees equality before the law and the right to non-discrimination on the basis of sex.

Namibia ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1992 and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 2000. Namibia also ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa in 2004. Accordingly, it implemented several new policy measures, including an update of the National Gender Policy. In addition to the gender policy, Gender Responsive Budget Guidelines were adopted in 2014 alongside the National Gender Mainstreaming Programme of 2003.

### *Women's access to economic and productive resources*

Women's access to economic and productive resources has improved since independence. To date according to the Global Gender Gap Report of 2015, women account for 35 percent of the wage employment in the agriculture sector and 51 percent of women are employed in the informal sector. In terms of business, 41 percent of the firms registered are owned by women and they fully participate in such firms. In terms of access to land, the Namibia Beijing +20 report (1995-2015) shows that 45 percent of the land rights in communal areas are registered under women

### *Women's Poverty*

Poverty rates among women have dropped from 22 percent in 2010 to 19 percent in 2016. However, 12 percent of female headed households are severely poor.

### *Women's participation in the labour market –Unemployment rate*

The labour participation for women is currently at 55 percent compared to 65 percent for men. Women's unemployment stands at 33.1

### *Support for Rural Women and General Empowerment of Women*

There has been improvement in access to support services for rural women and increased participation in decision-making processes, due to several laws and policies that remain relevant and continue to address women issues such as the Communal Land Reform Act (Act No. 5 of 2002), which ensures that equity is achieved.

### *Inheritance Rights and Financial Inclusion of Women*

The Married Persons Equality Act (No. 1 of 1996) also provides women married in community of property with equal access to bank loans and equal power to administer joint property and stipulates that immovable property should be registered in both spouses' names.

### *Female Representation in Decision-Making Bodies and Occupation of Positions of Authority*

Namibia is doing well in relation to other countries when it comes to women in leadership and influential positions. To date 27 percent of privately owned firms have female top managers and 43 percent of parliamentarians are women which is an improvement from 25 percent in 2010. In addition in the public sector, women in management position accounts for 43 percent in relation to 57 percent of men. There are currently 22 women Ministers (Ministers and Deputy Ministers). This improvement is attributed to local efforts manifested in the 50/50 representation quota system adopted in the main by the governing party SWAPO across all areas of public representation, including representation at regional and local authority's levels.

### *Wellbeing of Women*

In general women live to a greater age than men, with a life expectancy of 60 years compared to 58 years for men. Statistics from the Global Gender Gap Report of 2015 shows that malnutrition for children under five years of age is lower for females at 11.3 percent compared to males at 15.1 percent. Maternal mortality is at 130/100 000. More men tend to die from HIV/AIDS at 158/100 000 compared to women at 138/100 000. The same applies to TB where the death rate stands at 37.5 percent for men and 14.0 percent for women. This situation calls for more increased effort by all actors to address issues of health from a gender perspective, to understand that factors contributing to disparities reflected in terms of effect.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs**

### *Women's Access to Food (save and secured nutritious food)*

Food insecurity affects mainly rural women who depend on rain-fed agriculture given the arid nature of the country. As small holder farmers, women are mostly affected in terms of drought and flood due to limited resilience. This affects their yield as production decreases, leading to a food deficit. In terms of government efforts, the government has put in place three food safety net programmes to provide nutritional needs for vulnerable poor and which are none discriminatory in nature (urban food bank, drought emergency food for rural areas and school feeding for grade 0-7 learners).

### *Girls' access to education*

Overall, Namibia has recorded an increase nationally in terms of enrolment of girls at primary school and secondary school levels. The 2013 Education Sector Management Information Report (EMIS) shows that 102 girl's per 100 boys in primary school and 113 girls per 100 boys in secondary school were enrolled, indicating higher enrolment among girls at secondary school level. Enrolment statistics from two tertiary institutions follow the same trend, with an increased female enrolment from (4397 in 2007 to 10389 in 2012-University of Namibia), which records higher than male enrolment at (3137 in 2007 to 6430 in 2012 University of Namibia). Primary education enjoys an enabling policy environment, through which education from Grade 0 (pre-primary) to Grade 7 has become free for all since January 2013, and budgetary provisions have been availed in pursuit of this objective.

Even though it is still too early to assess the full impact of the introduction of free primary education, the resultant effect on enrolment shows significant milestones that could be attributed to greater access to education. In 2015, free secondary education was made possible. The Education for All Policy also addresses issues related to accessing education, which specifies actual distance from home clusters to schools, ensuring that primary and secondary schools are built within 5km walking distance.

### *Girls' education cycle completion trends ( drop-outs) and levels*

Significant number of girls still drop-out due to lack of conducive learning environments in some remote schools where sanitation facilities, long distances from home to school and teenage pregnancy are obstacles to girls completing secondary school level.

### *Teenage Pregnancies*

The effect of learner pregnancy is particularly pervasive, despite the implementation of the Sector Policy on the Prevention and Management of Learner Pregnancy which encourage pregnant girls and young mothers to continue their schooling. The teenage pregnancy rate stands at 36 percent among teenagers between 15-19 years (DHS 2013) and is attributed to poverty, lack of sex education, peer pressure, substance abuse, and lack of parental guidance together with limited use of contraceptives and access to family planning services.

### *Female Enrolment in Science and Mathematics*

Boys/men still dominate enrolment in the traditionally masculine fields which are associated with better paying jobs. Hence the need for consistent efforts to provide opportunities and encouragement of girls to take up such fields, this can be through career fairs, guidance in schools, scholarships for girls in science and other fields of profession.

### *Gender-Based Violence against women and girls*

Namibia has a high rate of gender based violence (GBV) according to SAFAIDS (<http://safaid.net/content/status-gender-based-violence-namibia>). According to records from the Namibia Policy Weekly Crime Bulletins, out of 16 reported cases of GBV, the average are five rape charges, one murder of a partner and the remainder other forms of GBV in 2015. The fact that such a high proportion of cases are due to GBV is a matter of concern.

The Legal Assistance Centre report (LAC 2012) estimates one-third of all rape cases are withdrawn. Considering that there are approximately 1 600 cases of rape and attempted rape per year, this means that approximately 1 000 victims of rape do not have access to justice each year. It is estimated that only one in five rape cases result in conviction of the perpetrator.

Gaps exist in terms of inefficient case investigations and lack of necessary services to support victims of rape and other forms of GBV. Withdrawal of cases is attributed to family pressure, fear of social isolation, stigma, shame and bribery. Community led initiatives are needed to address the problem involving men as well as duty bearers such as police and court officials to increase access to a functional justice system.

Namibia is operating 15 Woman and Child Protection Units across the country but according to the latest review of poverty and inequality in Namibia (published by the Central Bureau of Statistics in), the average distance from a household classified as 'poor' to a police station is 24.1 km. Laws and policies are in place, such as the Combating of Rape Act and the Combating of Domestic Violence Act, but high levels of violence against women and girls continue to prevail.

**SUMMARY OF KEY GAPS**

**The following summarises the key gender gaps:**

- Unequal access to economic resources for women and men
- Unequal access to land for women and market access for their produce
- Weak gender analysis that addresses cultural norms, poverty, and power relations
- Lack of disaggregated data to inform programme planning
- Teenage pregnancies linked to poverty and lack of resources which affects girls leading to high rates of drop-outs among girls
- The country has strong and well-articulated policies, but there are challenges with regard to implementation and insufficient capacity for government to do so
- Limited capacity to investigate and provide substantial evidence on GBV cases

**Key Interventions Supporting SDG 5**

**Strategies and targets amongst others:**

Strategies for the attainment of the targets	Set national targets
1. Increase financial and human capacity of service providers in police, justice, security and education for integrated prevention, protection and response services for victims of GBV, human trafficking and violence.	Reduce GBV prevalence rate from 33 percent (2013) to 20 percent by 2022
2. Strengthen implementation of gender responsive budgeting and planning to mainstream gender in all sector policies, programmes and budgets of OMA's.	Improve percentage of women in politics and decision making from 47 percent (2015) to 50 percent by 2022
3. Mainstream informal businesses led by women by ensuring financial inclusion for women in MSME, especially in agri-business, blue economy and extractive industries.	Increase employment rate of women from 68 percent (2014) to 76 percent by 2022

# **SDG 6: ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL**

### *Safe Drinking Water Access*

Namibia's arid climate coupled with high evaporation rate makes it the driest country in sub-Saharan Africa. This has a great impact on water availability and reliability. Water scarcity continues to be a serious constraint in achieving economic, environmental and social development objectives. With highly variable and unpredictable rainy seasons, the priority is given to water for domestic purposes including livestock; and the second priority are water for economic activities such as mining, industries and irrigation. Water demand for 2015 was estimated at about 334.1 million cubic meters per year and is projected to reach 583.4 and 771.7 million cubic meters per year by 2025 and 2030 respectively. Irrigation accounts for about 60 percent of water consumption and will remain the main consumer over the next ten years. Given the trend of migration, urban domestic water demand (including manufacturing and industry) is estimated to increase.

### *Sanitation*

Water-borne sewerages are the main sanitation system in urban areas of Namibia while dry sanitation system is mainly used in rural areas. Nationally, only 54 percent of the households have access to improved sanitation. The problem is particularly acute in rural areas where only 28 percent of the households have access to improved sanitation facilities and an alarming rate 71 percent of households practice open defecation. Low access to improved sanitation constitutes a serious public-health problem. Since 2012, over 3855 sanitation facilities were constructed in all regions, except Khomas, in rural communities at household and public places.

### *Challenges around Water Accessibility*

Aging water infrastructure and the development of the water infrastructure is one of the challenges which need to be addressed urgently. Furthermore, pollution of water courses and groundwater aquifers is a challenge that needs to be prevented to avoid contamination of potable water sources.

The biggest challenge facing the country is to make significant improvements in water demand management and promote water saving measures that influence changes in consumer behaviour. There is room to minimize water losses in pipelines, treatment facilities and distribution networks. Namibia's four perennial rivers are located at the borders with neighbouring countries and form part of shared watercourses. This makes it difficult for Namibia to fully access the watercourses for its own use.

Moreover, due to the erratic rainfall conditions, the river flow in the country's interior is irregular and unreliable. For example, an important part of Namibia's desert ecosystem is a phenomenon known as ephemeral rivers which flow for short periods of time following severe rainstorms. Historically, these rivers, which have been dammed, have been able to produce surface water. However, in times of drought, they do not exist at all and neither does their contribution to Namibia's water supply or ecosystem.

### *Challenges around Sanitation*

Amongst the key challenges in the sanitation area is poor coordination, lack of accountability, and spreading efforts and resource too thinly. Furthermore, there is lack of knowledge and understanding of the impact of sanitation on public health, the environment and ultimately to economic development.

**Key Interventions Supporting SDG 6, amongst others:**

Strategies for the attainment of the targets	Set national targets
1. Upgrade Existing Water Infrastructure. 2. Construct new water supply infrastructure 3. Improve management of existing water sources. 4. Enhance transboundary water cooperation	Improve percentage of urban access to safe drinking water from 98.3 percent (2016) to 100 percent by 2022 Improve percentage of rural access to safe drinking water from 84.0 percent (2016) to 95 percent by 2022
5. Strengthen advocacy and create strategic partnership to tackle sanitation challenges.	Reduce percentage of HHs practicing open defecation in rural areas from 72 percent (2016) to 60 percent by 2022
6. Coordinate stakeholders across national, regional and local levels.	Improve percentage of rural HHs with access to sanitation from 28 percent (2016) to 40 percent by 2022
7. Promote coordinated investment on sanitation infrastructure (new and maintenance of existing infrastructure).	Reduce percentage of HHs practicing open defecation in urban areas from 22 percent (2016) to 12 percent by 2022
8. Promote self-build approaches by providing relevant technical guidance and market link-ages.	Improve percentage of urban HHs with access to sanitation from 76.9 percent (2016) to 87 percent by 2022

## SDG 7: ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

### *Energy Demand*

The current domestic production of energy is 484 MW, even though the energy demand is anticipated to increase to 755MW which Namibia sets to achieve by 2022. Accordingly, lack of access to energy remains a critical barrier to poverty alleviation and industrialization efforts. In 2015, 63 % of the energy requirement in Namibia was imported from neighbouring countries.

It is an expensive problem to solve. The mining, water pumping, agriculture and construction sectors, together with urban growth are expected to be major drivers of the energy demand.

### *Access to Electricity*

While nearly 75 percent of Namibians in urban areas enjoyed access to energy in 2015, only 24 percent of their fellow citizens in rural households have electricity in their homes. As a result, only 50.4 percent of Namibian households nationwide have access to electricity.

The Namibia electricity demand is around 656 MW while at most only 484 MW is produced domestically. Full capacity of local generation was not achieved due to climatic and economic factors such as drought, refurbishment of machines and intermittency of solar system.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs**

### *Renewable Energy*

Use of renewable energy is still at a small scale and is contributing only 19.5MW (solar photovoltaic power) to the grid.

### *Challenges*

There are many obstacles to delivering energy, among which include the vastness of the country; small size of the country's power sector; and the low load densities and long distances between major load centres. Moreover, the economic spending power of the majority of the rural population reduces the business case for private investment in this area.

### **Key Interventions Supporting SDG 7, amongst others:**

<b>Strategies for the attainment of the targets</b>	<b>Set national targets</b>
1. Expand bulk transmission and distribution infrastructure to avoid overreliance on imports:	Improve Local Generation Capacity (MW) from 484 (2016) to 755 MW by 2022
2. Harness indigenous resources for generating energy. .	Improve percentage of National Electrification Rate from 34 percent (2010) to 50 percent by 2022

## **SDG 8: PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL**

### *Economic Growth*

Over the past ten years (2008–2017), Namibia continued to register significant progress regarding economic growth averaging 3.7 percent annually. However, over the past two years (2016 and 2017), economic growth has slowed and is projected at 1.2 and 2.1 percent in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

The growth trend has however not translated to significant job creation due to increased mechanisation of the productive sectors, this has led to an adoption of a capital intense system that replaces labour significantly, resulting in less jobs created.

### *Employment Creation*

Namibia continues to demonstrate its commitment towards job creation, which has been reflected in its macroeconomic policy that significantly increased government expenditure on public goods and services. Consequently, most of this expenditure has gone to infrastructure development with the aim of stimulating both domestic and foreign investment.

### *Decent Jobs*

In recognition of the need for decent work, Namibia has put in place several policies that protect the workers to ensure that the minimum working standards are maintained. These include among others minimum wage for the key industries and sectors; safety standards; adherence to suitable environmental practices; and employee's ownership.

### *Entrepreneurship*

Namibia's unemployment rate currently stands at 34 percent which increased from 28 percent over the past five years. In an effort to create employment, the Namibian government continues to invest in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and to date around 129,500 people are employed in these sectors. The growth of enterprises is currently inhibited by the lack of innovation and creativity owing to the absence of a culture of entrepreneurship and particularly risk averseness. Further SMEs are unable to access the business development services due to lack of financing and information.

### *Youth Empowerment*

The Namibian youth constitutes 37 percent of the population; however youth unemployment is still high at 39.2 percent. Because Namibia is currently undergoing a demographic transition, the country has an opportunity for an accelerated economic growth if it can leverage its large number of young workers to help build the economy. In this regard, Namibia developed initiatives such as the youth credit schemes, increased investments in vocational education and training and have also put in place measures that give youth preference in skills development and employment.

### *The Demographic Dividend*

The Demographic Dividend (DD) Study concludes that the key immediate obstacles to Namibia's opportunity to maximise the full potential of its youthful working-age population are the twin priority challenges of inadequate skilled human capital and job creation.

The large groups of youth joining the labour market in the country require to be sufficiently skilled, yet the quality and relevance of education and skills training they are receiving are not satisfactory. To maximise its DD, Namibia will need to improve the quality of education at all levels, expand access at higher and tertiary levels, and make relevant vocational and skills training attractive for the youth.

The economy also urgently requires a sustained diversification push in labour intensive sectors that can absorb the burgeoning numbers of young people joining the labour market annually. In addition, efforts have to be stepped up to create decent work opportunities for many young adults who have already exited the education and training system yet they are not currently gainfully employed. If this is not done, then their potential to support the socio-economic development of the nation may go to waste as will the opportunity to maximise the demographic dividend.

### *Rural Development*

Since the majority of the poor and those that are unemployed live in rural areas, government continues to commit resources for rural economic development. Amongst others, these include rural electrification which currently stands at 34 percent with government setting itself to reach a target of 50 percent by 2022; expansion of water services to improve access to 100 percent; sanitation to be improved from 28 percent for 2016 in rural areas to 40 percent by 2022; and road infrastructure improvements and resilience building for rural communities. As a particular challenge that not only affects rural economy transformation, access to land remains a challenge. Other challenges are lack of skills and recently reduced capital expenditure by government.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs

### Key Interventions Supporting SDG 8, amongst others:

Strategies for the attainment of the targets	Set national targets
1. Increase manufacturing and value addition: 2. Creating Value-Chains of production. 3. Import Substitution for agro-processed goods. 4. Improve labour productivity 5. Develop a Comprehensive Economic Incentives Framework	Improve manufacturing sector GDP from N\$17.8 billion (2016) to N\$ 20.6 billion by 2022
6. Create a conducive business environment.	Reduce number of days to start a business from 66 (2016) to five by 2022
7. Optimizing and Securing sufficient and available Policy tools:	Improve percentage of MSME contribution to GDP from 12.0 percent (2014) to 19.9 percent by 2022
8. Accelerate SME Development	Improve MSME employment contribution (micro and small) from 129 500 (2014) to 177 600 by 2022
9. Enhance collaboration	Improve Real GDP growth rate from 0.2 percent (2016) to 6.2 percent by 2022
10. Market access of local goods	Reduce unemployment rate from 28 percent (2014) to 24 percent by 2022
11. Improve access to financing for entrepreneurs	Improve percentage of manufacturing and non-government services contribution to GDP from 45 percent (2016) to 60 percent by 2022

## SDG 9: BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

### Industrialization

Manufacturing activities in Namibia remain highly dependent on inputs from the primary industries. The whole sector contributes just about 11 percent of GDP. The sector contracted by an average of 1.4 percent during the closing five years of the MDGs and there was a contraction of about 2 percent in manufacturing products exports over the 2012-2015 period.

### Diversification of Economy

In order to break out of the middle income trap, Namibia needs to diversify its economy while also producing a diverse range of exports at increasingly high levels of sophistication. In this regard, critical to structural transformation, are aspects of diversification, sophistication of exports, and not least good governance that projects a sound investment climate and business environment.

### Research and Innovation

In terms of innovation, Namibia has made progress in expanding its research and innovation system since the early 1990s. The Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) as a percentage of GDP has grown from below 0.02 percent in the 1990s to 0.35 percent in 2016. The human resources base for R&D and innovation in the country has grown to about 750 full-time equivalent personnel in R&D of which about 350 are full-time equivalent researchers. The country has increased the number of trademark registrations, patent applications and registrations, and industrial design registrations since the beginning of the 2000s from one patent in 2004 to eight patents in 2014.

*Expansion and modernization of Infrastructure*

In terms of the expansion and modernization of the physical infrastructure, Namibia has made substantive investments in the energy, water, transport/logistics infrastructure and, through the five-yearly national plan, commits to continuing this trend in the first five years of the SDGs. A signature investment that attests to this commitment is the Neckartal Dam in the south which to date stands as the single biggest public investment in the water sector since the dawn of independence and which has the potential to multiply its benefits into increased rural communities' access to power and other related services.

Inadequate infrastructure in tourism, agriculture and information and communication technology is however a significant impediment to economic growth and poverty alleviation.

*Challenges and Gaps around Industrialization ( Manufacturing)*

Amongst the key challenges to research and innovation is the weak performance in innovation indicators, inadequate funding for research and development, lack of equipment and facilities and limited collaboration between learning institutions and industries.

*Challenges and Gaps around Research and Innovation*

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**Key Interventions Supporting SDG 9**

**Strategies and targets, amongst others:**

Strategies for the attainment of the targets	Set national targets
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creating an enabling environment for Science, Technology and Innovation</li> <li>2. Development of National Research and Innovation Infrastructure</li> <li>3. Building Research and Technical Competencies</li> <li>4. Building strategic partnership</li> </ol>	<p>Improve Gross Expenditure on research and development (percentage of GDP) from 0.35 percent (2016) to 1.0 percent by 2022</p> <p>Improve Namibia's innovation ranking in the Global Innovation Index from 93 (2016) to 80 by 2022</p> <p>Improve fulltime equivalent researchers/ 1000 population from 0.35 2016 to 0.70 by 2022</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Improve rural development through sustainable infrastructure</li> <li>6. Develop and promote community based and social enterprises.</li> <li>7. Train rural communities in the sustainable use of natural resources.</li> <li>8. Strengthen planning structures to foster sustainable rural economic development.</li> <li>9. Improve the land tenure system</li> </ol>	<p>Reduce Rural poverty rate from 37 percent (2010) to 25percent by 2022</p> <p>Reduce rural unemployment rate from 30 percent (2014) to 20 percent by 2022</p>

### **SDG 10: REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES**

The Republic of Namibia recognizes the role that social protection plays in wealth and income redistribution. Namibia has several 100 percent state-funded protection systems ranging from grants to none-grants safety nets, all of which have a direct positive impact on inequality and empowering the most vulnerable to transform their lives.

To date 17.3 percent of Namibians depend on social protection, and without it, poverty levels could have been higher than the current 17.4 percent. In addition, there are several economic transformative policies and programmes that Namibia has put in place to ensure equal access to economic resources. Namibia continues to invest resources to ensure that the community is more resilient to climate change; this is more particular to the largest employing sector in the country which is agriculture.

#### *Rural/urban divide*

Inequality remains a challenge and its impact is more in rural areas as compared to urban areas. The larger segments of the affected population which includes rural women, the elderly, uneducated youth and the minority groups are mainly in rural areas. This is mainly due to skewed development, where the urban areas are the most developed when compared to rural areas.

#### *Inequalities within and between communities*

On comparison, even though as mentioned earlier, rural communities are more affected by poverty, minority groups (i.e. San, Ovaherero, and Ovambo) still remain the most affected.

#### *Gini Coefficient*

With a Gini Coefficient of 0.56, Namibia remains one of the most unequal societies. These high levels of inequality could largely be attributed to the structure of our economy which, as anchored on the capital-intensive extractive sectors (whose ownership and control strongly remains foreign-based), continues to induce jobless growth, and thus consequently fails to evenly distribute wealth across the broad spectrum of society.

#### *Access to basic services (including coverage of social protection system) by the marginalized Communities*

Whilst massive public investments in education and health services provided year-to-year-on-count increased, this has not yielded commensurate benefits in terms of improved outcomes in these key social sectors. For instance, about 55.4 percent of the San population has not attended formal education at all, thus, are unable to read. Being without abilities to read could negatively impact their access to other basic services, such as having a national identity document (with correct age and information) that is necessary to make them for example eligible to receive social pension for old age or other social protection measures in times of need.

#### *Structure of the economy and rigidity that inhibits it from creating employment for the poor*

Besides that, the mainstream structure of the economy remains centrally anchored on the capital intensive extractive sectors which only cater for a minority. Despite supporting some of the vulnerable groups through employment to generate incomes through jobs, it is limited (less than 3 percent). Women, the poor, unemployed graduates/ youth (men and women), the marginalized and those living in rural areas remain vulnerable in terms of high social inequalities and inequities.

### *Corrective Policies and Programmes*

Namibia legislation enables the negative discrimination on the basis of gender, previously disadvantaged, marginalized, and vulnerability. There are specific strategies and policies to redress the social, economic and environmental inequities which cut across many levels of society. Economic enabling frameworks such as the proposed New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework NEEEF ; the Affirmative Action Loan Scheme (AALS) for agricultural farmers in commercial and resettled areas; the zebra (i.e. 50/50) political listing, the free education to enable all children to have equal access to education at both primary and secondary levels are all directed at redressing the inequalities.

However, there is a need for increasing targeting of those being left behind. These include the CBNRM enabling access for those who suffer losses from human wildlife conflict, and to benefit from initiatives such as joint venture/ concessions or trophy hunting in conservancies; and the Access Benefit Sharing to enable use and benefits to accrue to those with longevity and generational attributes with a focus on prior informed consent. These and other initiatives also aimed at redressing the imbalances have not been adequate in reaching out. Hence, there is a need to apply the SDG frameworks of LNOB nationally and at regional level where the inequities are more clear, based on data available.

### *Challenges*

Despite the proposed interventions, there are other several interlinked challenges that also need targeted interventions to ensure that SDG 9 and 10 are achieved without leaving anyone behind. These are: access to productive assets; capital; land; and skills which has a negative impact on the prospects of youth to obtain employment thereby disempowering them and making them feel left behind. As there is a direct link between the goals, youth are particularly exposed to high risky behaviour and have been impacted by high teenage pregnancies (girls are most vulnerable due to the productive roles). This makes the youth-adult dynamics particularly challenging as the former may lead to social issues that can impinge progress made on reducing inequality, poverty and prosperity later in life.

## **SDG 11: MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE**

### *Housing and Serviced Plots*

The lack of housing remains an issue in Namibia. There is a scarcity of serviced municipal land and consequently high prices are charged for property in urban areas. In 2016, 19 percent of households lived in informal settlements. Provision of housing provision is more concentrated on urban areas which has resulted in an urban-rural imbalance.

The housing sector in Namibia could be categorized into three market segments, namely: low-income; middle-income and the upper-class upper-income sector. The low and lower-middle earners earn less than N\$4,600 per annum and constitute the income groups that are hardest hit by housing shortages. These groups do not qualify for housing loans due to a lack of collateral and low disposable income and are thus ideally suited to benefit from low-cost/ affordable and adequate housing.

Namibia still has a long way to go in achieving sustainable housing. Since access is affected by the high prices of houses in urban areas, more still needs to be done to ensure that housing is more affordable for the majority of the poor. Additionally, the concept of "green" or eco-friendly housing needs to be encouraged in order to promote self-sustained houses. The use of solar energy for heating and electricity will help to reduce the pressure on imported energy and in turn reduce the cost associated with housing services in towns and cities.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs**

### *Challenges*

One of the main challenges impeding socio-economic development in the country relates to the high rate of urbanization, which contributes to the burgeoning of informal settlement areas and pressure on the financial and technical capacity of local authorities to provide basic services needed in order to meet the high demand of the increased urban population. A further challenge is the high cost of servicing urban land and the provision of housing in comparison to the income and affordability levels of the majority of the residents, especially the lower income groups. From independence to date the housing industry has not been well regulated, leading to collusion on property prices and a rapid rise in housing prices.

Recently through the Bank of Namibia, however, regulatory measures have been put in place which has led to a reduction in property speculation. It is expected that house and land prices will stabilize in future. The lack of proper coordination and harmonization of capacities among stakeholders and role-players in the urban and housing development sector can also lead to housing shortages. In addition, severe shortage of critical technical skills in urban/regional and housing planning and development, as well as lengthy urban, regional and housing planning and development approval processes, have proven to be a major challenge.

### **Strategies and Targets for SDG 11, amongst others:**

<b>Strategies for the attainment of the targets</b>	<b>Set national targets</b>
1. Accelerate Housing Delivery through Stakeholder Involvement, Research and Development of Alternative Housing Construction Models.	Reduce percentage of HHs living in impoverished houses from 19 percent (2016) to 12 percent by 2022 Improve number of new houses constructed nationwide to 36,000 by 2022 Formalize and upgrade ten informal settlements with basic services by 2022
1. Develop public-private partnerships to provide land servicing	Improve number of erven serviced to 32,500 by 2022 Establish a housing statistics database by 2022
2. Monitor national progress in housing provision	Develop a National Spatial Development Framework by 2022
3. Ensure coordinated Urban and Regional Development	Develop a National Urbanisation strategy by 2022

## SDG 13: TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

### *Arid Climatic Conditions of Namibia*

Namibia is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change. Climate variability over the medium and long term is likely to further reduce the productivity of agricultural land, fisheries, and forestry and threatens the growth of the tourism sector.

### *Management of Human Activities for environmental preservation and conservation : EIAs*

In terms of managing human activities which could adversely impact the environment and trigger negative change in our climate, there has in recent years been an increase in the demand for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). Approximately 322 EIAs were processed in 2015/6 compared to merely 120 in 2012/13. There is unfortunately limited capacity in place to enforce and inspect adherence to Environmental Management Plans (EMPs), with 57 percent compliance currently. With industrialization on the increase and towns growing faster than ever before, the management of waste and pollution has become a serious concern.

Climate change presents Namibia with an incentive to move towards low-carbon and climate-resilient development. This transition must include the sectors of energy, transport, industrial production, agriculture, water and waste management.

### *High Propensity for Natural Disasters*

Namibia is prone to floods, droughts, veldt fires, and disease outbreaks. These have had adverse effects on the communities, the economy, infrastructure and the environment, as well as the development priorities of the country. Between 1992 and 2004 the country experienced at least 12 events of natural disasters, while between 2009 and 2015 there has been at least two major flood events and three years of continues drought, resulting in increasing food insecurity, displaced population, malnutrition and entrenched poverty. Hazards such as floods, drought and desertification are hampering progress in human development.

The net result of these crises is that limited resources intended for development have to be diverted to disaster response, which delays planned developmental programmes. There are ongoing efforts on the part of the government to identify durable solutions to the socio-economic challenges faced by communities including disasters. Specifically to disaster risk reduction, the government has led the development of various instruments including: The National Disaster Risk Management Act (2012) and associated Regulations set up the national DRM system in Namibia.

### *Remedial Measures and Adaptation Strategies*

All these initiatives are expected to help guide and lead disaster risk reduction and management in the country. The National Policy for Disaster Risk Management in Namibia (2009) clearly states that there is a paradigm shift from the culture of responding to disasters after they have occurred. Instead, a holistic approach to disaster risk management is being promoted aimed at reducing the impacts of natural disasters and increase resilience thereto. In Namibia all spheres of public service acknowledge that the impact of some emergencies could be particularly severe or widespread and exceed the capability of a single sector, region or municipality.

Namibia's disaster risk management systems (NDRMS) brings together the efforts of government, development partners, private and civil society organizations and agencies to deliver coordinated disaster risk management across all hazards. It takes into account all the phases of disaster management from prevention through to recovery. This is a marked shift from the traditional approach to disasters which had focused mostly on disaster response.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs

### Strategies and targets for SDG 13, amongst others:

Strategies for the attainment of the targets	Set national targets
1. Strengthen environmental protection.	Improve Greenhouse gas emissions (30 percent reduction against BAU projection) from 5,240 (Gg CO <sub>2</sub> eq) (2015) to 8,708 (12,441 (BAU scenario) by 2022
2. Promote environmentally-sound investments and production systems	Improve Number of approved waste disposal sites as per the Environmental Management Act from 0 (2015) to 15 by 2022
3. Enhance preparedness for effective response, recovery, and reconstruction to disasters	Improve percentage of adherence to Environmental Management Plans from 57 percent (2015) to 80 percent by 2022
4. Promotion of planting of drought resistance crop varieties	Improve Revenue generated from environmental levies for reinvestment in environmental protection from 0 (2015) to N\$ 160 million by 2022

## SDG 14: CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### *Ocean Fish Stocks*

The fisheries sector is the third largest earner after mining and tourism and contributes about 15 percent of the total exports. The annual marine landings of about 550,000 Metric Tonnes MT) valued at an average of N\$10 billion (about U\$800 million) rank Namibia as the nation with third largest fishery capture in Africa, after Morocco and South Africa, and 30th worldwide. About 16,300 people are directly employed in the fishing sector while others are indirectly employed in related activities such as stevedoring services, fisheries-related supplies and logistics. Fisheries also constitute a vital component of domestic food security by providing a source of protein.

Namibia's share of the South Atlantic Ocean provides valuable goods and services. The Blue Economy is an important resource for Namibia and includes key industries and resources such as fisheries and aquaculture, water resources, shipping and transport, tourism, marine renewable energy, minerals genetic resources, pharmaceutical, blue carbon trading, biotechnology and general sea based products.

### *Exclusive Economic Zones*

Namibia's territorial waters and its Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) can significantly contribute to its economic transformation agenda. This is particularly important because Namibia's EEZ could be enlarged significantly based on the country's submission of an application to the United Nations through the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for the extension of its continental shelf. In order to capitalize on the potential of the blue economy it is essential to create a governance framework that strengthens linkages and minimizes conflict between fisheries, transport, environment, mining, tourism, and logistics since they all operate in the same coastal area.

### *Management of Marine Resources*

Namibia has put into place regulations and strategies to ensure the sustainable use of marine resources. These include the introduction of fishing quotas to control the amount of fish catchable at any given time, the control of

fishing by introducing fishing seasons, and the policing of Namibian waters to control overfishing and unauthorized fishing in Namibian waters. More still need to be done as some of the key fish species such as pilchards are on the brink of extinction in Namibia.

*Challenges*

One of the key challenges to be addressed going forward is the enhancement of the fisheries' market's access to lucrative export destinations by ensuring compliance to more stringent SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary) standards. This will involve strengthening current certification systems on export, including stronger official control measures on HACCP, fisheries and aquaculture health systems.

Currently Namibia is importing fish such as small pelagic fish for canning and Patagonia squid for value addition and re-exports. Such fish importation needs to be encouraged in order to achieve the substantial volumes needed for economies of scale in value addition activities such as canning. Lack of coordination and integration between sectors due to lack of regulatory and legal frameworks which ensure appropriate planning, management, and governance also remains a challenge.

**Strategies and targets for SDG 14, amongst others:**

Strategies for the attainment of the targets	Set national targets
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enhance market access</li> <li>2. Sustainable Fisheries Management</li> <li>3. Increase value addition and investments in on-shore processes.</li> <li>4. Incentivize fish import for sustainable value addition.</li> <li>5. Develop retail ready products in the Hake and other white fisheries such as monk.</li> <li>6. Promote investment in Mari-culture</li> </ol>	<p>Improve value addition (horse mackerel) from 5 percent (2015) to 70 percent by 2022</p> <p>Improve volume of fish handled, canned or processed from 5 percent (2016) volume to 40 percent by 2022</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Intensify value addition to make the sector more profitable and resilient to commodity price shocks.</li> <li>8. Establish mining value chain activities.</li> <li>9. Promote industries that will produce mining inputs and services.</li> <li>10. Institutionalize marine spatial planning</li> <li>11. Identify ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs)</li> </ol>	<p>Improve Share of Value Added Mining in total Mining Exports from 23 percent (2015) to 46 percent by 2022</p>

## **SDG 15: PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS**

### *Community wildlife conservation*

Namibia continues to champion high levels of community participation in the management of her natural resources, which has led to an increase of communal conservancies from 66 in 2012 to 82 in 2016, covering over 54 percent of communal land. Community conservation generated approximately N\$91.2 million for local communities and has facilitated the creation of 5,808 jobs in 2014, benefiting about 170,000 local community members.

### *Preservation of Community Forests*

Community forests (CFs) on the other hand cover a total area of 3 019 592 ha. Namibia has thus far gazetted 32 community forests covering mainly the northern communal areas with another nine to be gazetted in the near future covering a total area of 1 902 434 ha. About 160 000 people are benefitting from the forest resources which they are managing through the Community Forest Management Bodies. The communities in CFs generated income through issuing permits, selling of poles, droppers, thatch grass, seedlings, wood carvings, firewood and devils claw. In total N\$ 1 306 031.00 was collected in all community forests that participated in income generation activities.

### *Freshwater fisheries*

Namibia's freshwater fisheries have the potential to generate 5,000 tonnes of high quality protein a year through sustainable fisheries management. In addition, healthy fish stocks in the northern rivers of the country contribute to ecosystem functioning and biodiversity conservation. However, there has been a collapse of the inland fisheries of the Zambezi and Chobe Rivers due to overharvesting and commercial fishing.

### *Wildlife Threats: Poaching and Human-Beasts' Interaction*

Poaching, human-wildlife-conflicts and the unsustainable utilization of natural resources remain threatening to environmental sustainability.

### *Wildfires*

Namibia's wild fires are directly linked to the amount of rain received for a specific year. The total area burnt during 2015 vs 2016 has reduced from 2 689 883 ha to only 762 320 ha. The main contributing factor for this enormous reduction of 352.8 percent was the drought Namibia has experienced during the 2015/16 rainy season. The incidences of unwanted fires was addressed through fire management practices such as establishment of fire breaks (3568 km of firebreaks cleared and maintained), establishment and training of community-based fire management units, and acquiring of firefighting equipment.

## Key Interventions Supporting SDG 15

### Strategies and targets, amongst others:

Strategies for attaining the targets	Set national targets
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthen sustainable land management</li> <li>2. Safeguard ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</li> <li>3. Enhance value addition and the sustainable utilization of biodiversity</li> <li>4. Sustained natural environmental awareness campaigns</li> </ol>	<p>Annual revenue generated from protected areas and CBNRM programme from N\$147.4 million (2014) to N\$296.3 million by 2022</p> <p>Percentage reduction in cases of poaching from 27 percent to 5 percent by 2022</p> <p>Total area burned by veld fires reduced from 3.7 Mil ha (2015) to 1.3 by 2022</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Strengthen environmental protection</li> <li>6. Promote environmentally-sound investments and production systems</li> </ol>	<p>Percentage adherence to Environmental Management Plans from 57 percent (2015) to 80 percent by 2022</p>

## SDG 16: PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

### *Peace through regular and credible elections cycles for democratic governance*

Over the last 26 years the country has maintained peace, stability and the rule of law. All elections were declared free and fair. The 2016 Global Peace Index ranked Namibia 55 out of 163 countries in the world. Namibia is a multiparty democracy holding regular and credible elections which, through a system of proportional representation, ensures that minority political parties are amply represented in the national Parliament. Namibia ranked eight out of 44 nations in sub-Saharan Africa, and second among the five nations in the South African Customs Union.

### *Rule of law*

In terms of rule of law, Namibia's score has improved on the Ibrahim Index of Africa Governance from a score of 81 in 2012 to a score of 83.9 in 2016. This places it as the nation with 5th highest score in good governance out 54 African nations.

Amongst the key challenges is the low case docket clearance rate that has led to an increase of backlog of criminal cases. Further, there are inadequate offender and victim rehabilitation programs leading to high rates of re-offences.

### *Accountability and Transparency*

In terms of Accountability and Transparency, Namibia has a free press. The international organization Freedom House awarded Namibia the status of 'free' with a score of 77 out of 100 on the 2016 Freedom on the World Index. Namibia is recognized as the third most transparent country in Africa and ranks 53 out of 176 countries on Transparency International's 2016 Corruption Perception Index. Nevertheless, there is a perception among many citizens of continuing government corruption. In 2015, 65 percent of Namibians surveyed expressed the opinion that the government was doing badly in fighting corruption, while 34 percent felt that government was doing well.

### *Strong Institutions for public service performance and delivery*

As regards strong institutions for public service performance and service delivery, the Namibian public service, due to a high concentration of authority at the centre, is suboptimal for speed and accuracy of service delivery.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs

### Inclusive Democratic Governance

Notwithstanding the above successes, there is moreover need for expedited decentralization to enable the devolution of functions from central government to Regional and Local authorities. This will enhance participatory democracy, sustainable development, and the capacity of regional and local government councils to manage and monitor delivery of services for their constituencies.

Strategies for the attainment of the targets	Set national targets
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthen Anti-Corruption Measures</li> <li>2. Strengthen public sector auditing by aligning autonomous legal framework to the State Finance Act.</li> <li>3. Strengthen corporate governance for Public Enterprises (PEs)</li> <li>4. Strengthen the Monitoring and Evaluation System</li> </ol>	<p>Improve reduction of corruption perception (percentage) from 65 percent (2015) to 20 percent by 20 22</p> <p>Improve percentage PE Compliance to Governance Framework from 15 percent (2015) to 70 percent by 2022</p> <p>Improve percentage PE Performance Improvement from 10 percent (2015) to 35 percent by 2022</p> <p>Improve transparency international index (score) from 53 (2015) to 65 by 2022</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Encourage a “service mentality” in the public service sector.</li> <li>6. Reduce overlapping roles in the public sector by streamlining it for organizational efficiency.</li> <li>7. Ensure that key information about public services is available online.</li> <li>8. Annual customer satisfaction survey by business community:</li> <li>9. Empower and Build Capacity in Regional and Local Authorities</li> <li>10. Design and implement a Decentralization Implementation Plan</li> </ol>	<p>Number of decentralized functions from 11 (2015) to 39 by 2022</p> <p>Improve citizen public service delivery satisfaction rate from 50 percent (2015) to 70 percent by 2022</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Creating dedicated statistics units</li> <li>12. Develop national infrastructure for statistics and spatial data</li> <li>13. Enhance statistical capacity</li> <li>14. Improve planning, production and reporting of statistics</li> </ol>	<p>Improve World Bank Capacity Indicator from 58.9 percent (2016) to 90 percent by 2022</p> <p>Improve percentage of OMAs with a dedicated Department of Statistics from 26 percent (2016) to 100 percent by 2022</p> <p>Improve data user satisfaction level from 78 percent (2016) to 98 percent by 2022</p>

### Further Strategies includes:

- Strengthening anti-corruption measures by educating all stakeholders on the prevention and reporting of corruption. Strengthening public sector audit by aligning the autonomous Legal Framework to the State Finance Act to ensure that the AG Office has the capacity to deliver audit reports and hold departments to account for no-compliance
- As regards the rule of law and specifically re-offence rate, which is worryingly high, there are concerted efforts promoting multi-focused rehabilitation services and the development of adequate offender and victim mediation programs through the expansion of reintegration services and policy frameworks development
- As regards Public Service Performance and Service Delivery, there are efforts aimed at reducing overlapping roles through streamlining for organizational efficiency
- Through online-service, greater accessibility and convenience for the citizenry seeking public service is being given due consideration
- Building the capacity of Regional and Local Authorities is very important to service delivery and critical to the delivery of decentralization of key functions to all 14 political regions and their respective governing structures

## SDG 17: STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### *Implementation of Agenda 2030 at home*

Namibia has domesticated Agenda 2030 in its development documents and as such results are tracked in terms of indicators and targets. A National Indicator Framework is being developed in this regard with a baseline report mapping the status of the indicators mapped. This will provide the basis for monitoring and measuring of progress on the implementation of the national programmes which encompass the SDGs. This means that the strengthening of the statistical system is key, for which Namibia continues to commit resources. This will ensure the regular monitoring and collection of data on the indicators mapped, to provide accurate updates on the status of implementation in relation to the SDGs.

An already existing national development coordination mechanism has been adopted for effective implementation of development programmes, including but not limited to the implementation of the SDGs. Namibia is a signatory to the Paris Declaration since 2007 which compels it to advance effectiveness of development efforts. This will be accomplished based on the principles of ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results, and mutual accountability.

### *Challenges*

There is a general society-wide phobia for data (low levels of numeracy) that limit data usage among planners, decision-makers, and legislators. Furthermore, inadequate infrastructure and resources for statistical production affects timely production of statistics. There is further limited usage of administrative data as they do not meet the requirement for data soundness and 'fit-for-purpose.' Coordination still remains a challenge as reflected in the fragmentation of government programmes.

### *Accurate and Reliable Data/Statistics Development*

In terms of the state of Namibian statistics, as measured by the World Bank Statistics Capacity Indicator, in spite of the establishment of a statutory body dedicated to statistics and massive public investment there has not been any improvement since 2005. According to the said World Bank Indicator Namibia's average score for the past 13 years is 55.1% with the minimum of 47% in 2015 and maximum of 58.9% in 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2016. Not only is Namibia's score on that Indicator low and lower than the average score for Sub-Saharan Africa, but has been declining over the period.

This low score is largely due to inadequate development of administrative data in sectors. Such a national state of affairs does not augur well for informing evidence-based policy, planning, decision-making, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national development plans, programs and projects at every level.

### *Global Partnership(s) for 2030*

Namibia aims to strengthen access to available global resources through non-financial sources such as South-South and North-South cooperation mainly for skills, knowledge and technology transfers, drawing from technology banks and personnel experiences. The country has established institutions and infrastructure through which it can access and adapt to such technology. These include the National Council on Technology, the University of Namibia's Centre for Innovation, the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), and a number of other local institutions of higher learning.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs**

### *Partnerships at Home: Public-Private Partnerships*

In terms of public-private synergy initiatives or partnerships, it is acknowledged that private sector growth and participation in the implementation of the SDGs will be key to poverty eradication. This requires a conducive policy environment and genuine partnerships with government and non-state actors. Government-business platforms are thus critically important and the country is thinking deeply about prioritizing and scaling-up such interactive avenues already taking place in various sectors. On the policy front Namibia has created a conducive macroeconomic environment which encourages local and foreign private sector investment.

### *Investments and Promotion Export-led Growth*

The country has also set up the Namibian Investment Centre which is aimed at attracting investment and promoting exports. Initiatives to promote economic activity and foreign investment in specific areas include the establishment of hubs to promote economic growth in the agriculture, diamond, education, health and transportation sectors.

# EVALUATING POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Namibia has ratified seven core international human rights treaties in the realm of The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), The Convention Against Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the two Optional Protocols, and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Optional Protocol.

## CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

Namibia acknowledges that more needs to be done to ensure that all government and civil servants as well as all citizens as represented in various formations of society are aware of what the SDGs entail. More needs to be done to ensure that the SDGs are being implemented at all Government levels, and by all stakeholders including civil society, the private sector and the community in general. The government recently launched NDP5 (2017-2022) which is fully aligned to Agenda 2030, including at the Reporting level. Many sector plans are now beginning to integrate SDGs. A pre-existing national structure has been re-adopted to coordinate the implementation of the SDGs and to ensure that an "all of government approach" to SDGs and a Roadmap for their rollout has been internalized. There is recognition that the SDGs are not the business of government alone, but involve all players, including the private sector and all communities.

The main challenges which the government face are related to the shortage of financial resources, human capital, and the absence of high quality disaggregated data which can enable it to design targeted programmes to address poverty. Nonetheless, the building blocks needed for Namibia to increase the pace of SDGs implementation, not only for poverty but for all other goals, are firmly in place.



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